

The Family Tree Searcher

Volume 6 - Number 2

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The Editor's Page — Gloucester at Large!

This issue takes a broad sweep at Gloucester County rather than focus on a specific area. Of special interest to long time residents will be the "retirement" of C. B. "Buck" Rowe and the establishment of the C. B. Rowe, Jr. Memorial and Guinea Museum Foundation, Inc. The generous contributions to his community and friends will be remembered in many ways. Buck's friendship, kindness and "folklore humor" touched the hundreds of people who crossed the threshold into his store. So many years and friends and stories!

My special thanks to Judy Rowe Mays for her interview of Buck and help in writing this special article. Also, our appreciation to Harriet Cowen for the use of her pen and ink drawing of Buck's store.



At the "Village" we remember Beverly Jones, an African-American, who emerged after the Civil War as a landowner and businessman and became a part of the court house community with his livery stable.

Old bones and artifacts are revealed as David Brown and Thane Harpole tell us about archaeological digs on the VIMS campus at Gloucester Point. The overlay map of 1707 shows "Gloucester Towne" as an ambitious dream and exposes early history, surnames and land use of the Point.

Robert Plummer reveals family history of his Sears and Plummer family connections and brings a grave marker home. Other articles of interest are the History of Bellamy United Methodist Church, The Confederate War Memorial at Gloucester, the grave of Mary Massey Sibley and the story of Elias Holder Grinnell of Mathews County.

My trip to Wilbur Templeman's barbershop proved an interesting visit with some "old timers" at a local landmark. When I found myself sitting next to Raymond West, it led me to write about Big Island and find pictures of the area.

Once again, we all owe Roane Hunt a loud applause for his ability to take these stories and pictures, stuff them into the computer, tolerate Roger's foibles and produce such well ordered copy ready material for the printer. All the while, Phyllis is searching to correct our text, for which we are very grateful.

These are your stories, your families, and our community of friends. Thank you for serving Gloucester and being a part of this rich heritage.

Roger Caldwell Davis, Editor
The Family Tree Searcher
olddad@inna.net



**Pen and ink drawing of C. B. "Buck" Rowe at his Bena, VA, Store
by Harriet Cowen, Artist, 1999, Box 81, Bena, VA 23018**



**Inside the store, July 12, 2002, Photos by R. C. Davis
Left- Buck and Gwen Basta; Center- Cousin John Lawson; Buck and
Roger Davis; Right- Buck and James Hardee**

C. B. Rowe & Son...Shop on the Corner

*By Judy Rowe Mays
Photographs by Roger C. Davis
July 12, 2002*

“C. B. Rowe & Son since 1920,” the sign above the store reads. The store is the result of a partnership formed between a father and his son and a continuation of a legacy between fathers and sons.

Clarence Benjamin Rowe, Sr. was born in 1876 to Benjamin T. Rowe (1838 - 1878) and Dolly Minor Rowe (1847 - 1919). He was the grandson of Benjamin Rowe and Elizabeth Purcell Rowe and John W. Minor (1815-1898) and Sarah J. Mouring Minor (1824-1888). His ancestors were lifelong residents of southern Gloucester and among those who first received land grants from the King of England when Gloucester County was first established in 1651. Benjamin and Dolly Rowe were the parents of six children; however, Benjamin did not live to see his children grow to adulthood. He succumbed to tuberculosis at an early age leaving his young wife alone to raise their six children.



C. B. Rowe & Son, Bena, VA

One of Benjamin and Dolly's sons, Clarence B. Rowe, grew up to follow in the Rowe family footsteps by becoming a merchant. For generations the Rowes had produced many sons who set up small mercantile businesses in Gloucester, and Clarence was no different. As a young adult Clarence started out as a clerk in one of his uncle's stores located at Achilles. This particular store had been run by a Rowe for generations before Clarence and was the place where the young men of the area lined up to enlist in the Confederate Army of General Robert E. Lee. This store was later sold to Mr. Frank P. Ashe who operated the store for many, many years.

In 1920 Clarence decided to start his own mercantile business a little farther up the road at Bena. He was just a young man when he purchased the already existing store from two brothers, Moody and Paul Hall, whose father, Joseph W. Hall, of nearby Oak Hall Plantation, had built the store for his sons around the end of the Civil War. Mr. W. G. Walker originally owned the land upon which the store now sits. Local legend has it that it was one of the Hall brothers who was responsible for giving the name “Bena” to the post office located in the store and subsequently the surrounding area. Apparently, young Paul Hall had fallen in love with a young lady from England by the name of Bena Phillips. They developed a long-distance romance, communicating by letters. Bena came to visit Paul in Gloucester soon after he became postmaster, and he chose her name to be the official name of the new post office.

By this time the enterprising Clarence had met a young woman from Hanover County, VA, by the name of Ruth Payne (1893-1976). Ruth had come to Achilles as a young schoolteacher fresh out of Fredericksburg State Teachers' College. She began her teaching

C. B. Rowe & Son... Shop on the Corner

career at the old Severn School, but lived with Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ashe until her marriage to Clarence. Clarence and Ruth lived with his mother, Dolly, until they were able to build their own house on Mark Pine Road. They set up their business at Bena and raised their two children, Buck and Christine.

C. B. Rowe, Jr. or "Buck," as he is affectionately known, grew up in a happy family of hardworking parents. He began helping his father in the store at the age of ten. When he wasn't helping his father in the store, Buck played ball with his friends, fished, clammed, and did a little hunting. During Buck's youth our country was going through the Great Depression and he and children like him were expected to help out in the family business as well as on the small "farmettes" that most people had. They raised chickens and grew vegetables for their own consumption as well as to sell in the store. His family was among those who owned a car, a 1927 Chevy. It was also at the ripe old age of ten that Buck first learned to drive the family car, there being no minimum driving age requirements at that time.

Buck attended Achilles School from first grade until his graduation in 1939. Some of his early teachers were: Lesbia Rowe, Bertha Hayes, Elsie Bristow, Thelma Thomas, and Margaret Bunting. Among his classmates and school friends were Morris Hogge, William King, Edward Hogge, Edgar Pointer, Jr., Kenneth Jenkins, Bessie Ambrose, Juanita Williams, Tennis King, and Lydia Hogge.

Buck enjoyed his school friends, but also enjoyed spending time engaged in activities with the young people from Union Baptist Church where he was a member. One of those friends was a pretty young lady with big brown eyes, brown hair and an impish smile named Doris Belvin. Doris was the oldest daughter of Hazel and Howard Belvin from Severn. Doris' younger sister, Hazel Marie, was responsible for introducing them, and they began to see each other on a regular basis forming the foundation to a relationship that lasted almost fifty years.

At the outbreak of World War II in 1941, Buck traveled to Richmond and enlisted in the Navy SEABEES, the division of the Navy responsible for overseas construction. He stayed in the Navy until the war ended in 1945. During his tenure in the Navy he visited such places as the Aleutian Islands, Guam and several of the Pacific Islands.

While Buck was away serving his country, he decided that when he returned home he would ask the lovely young Doris to marry him. She was the only girl that he had ever dated, and he felt that he wanted to share his future with her. So, in July of 1948, Buck and Doris were married in a small ceremony at the home of their friends, Mary and Ernie Mitchell, in Newport News, VA. After their marriage, Buck's father made him an equal partner in the store, and it was then that the business officially became C. B. Rowe & Son.

Buck and Doris lived with her parents for about a year while their house behind the store was being built. He also built a brand new colonial style house for his parents situated adjacent to the store, where they lived for the rest of their lives. The father and son, along with their wives, worked side by side in harmony for many, many years guiding their business through the changes and challenges of the day and continuing to modernize with the times. The young couple raised their daughter, Antoinette, in the store along with them, much as Buck had been raised when he was a child.

Through the years the store underwent many changes among which was the actual physical move of the building itself. The state had decided to widen and better pave Rt. 216 thus precipitating the relocation of the two stores on the corner of Mark Pine Rd. and Rt. 216. The original location of this 135-year-old building was where the stop sign is currently located at the corner of Mark Pine Road and Rt. 216 (Guinea Road). In 1952, the

C. B. Rowe & Son... Shop on the Corner

building was moved over to the corner, and the Pointer Store across the street was moved to its present location, which originally was situated closer to Rt. 216. Prior to 1937 these were dirt roads. The move was made without having to close the store for even a single day nor was there any interruption of electrical service during the process. Both stores simultaneously co-existed and thrived virtually right across from each other on the dirt-paved Rt. 216 for many generations.

The old Rowe store has seen many changes throughout its long life. In 1932 electricity was brought in through FDR's Rural Electric Administration, and prior to that, in the 1920's, a telephone was installed. For many, many years Buck's store was the dispatching center for the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Department. Whenever a fire broke out someone would call the store to report a fire and Buck or a helper would run across the street to the fire station and write on a blackboard outside the fire truck bay the location of the fire. The local men would leave their work and report to the station, note the location all the while donning their gear, and off they would go in the fire truck.

The advent of seafood as a local industry also took off during this time period. Prior to World War I and World War II, local citizens farmed and dabbled in seafood as a food source and small additional income. After that time, improved transportation methods made transporting perishable food to far-off places possible, and many of the fathers and grandfathers of today's watermen started earning their living by farming the land and the waters and sending their foodstuffs via trucks to distances previously accessible only by boat.

The steamboat provided transportation for both cargo and passengers to Maryland, Norfolk, Delaware and other ports of call, and the Rowes continued to modernize their inventory to keep up with the rapidly changing needs of the local industries. Rt. 216 changed from a dirt road into a paved highway around 1940, thus making it easier for the local people to shop at the store on a more frequent basis. As a result the two Mrs. Rowes conceived the idea of offering fabric and sewing notions for the ladies and seamstresses of the area. The store inventory by that time had expanded to include boat and marine supplies, hardware, seeds and garden supplies, groceries and dry goods.

For many years Doris and Buck unlocked the back door of their store and turned on the first lights of the day at 4:00 a.m. in order to better serve the watermen of the area whose days started before the sun rose in the sky. His parents before him had unlocked this same back door and lit the kerosene lanterns that hung in the store and the old wood stove in order to provide light and warmth for their customers and themselves.

In 1948, Buck's father legally formed the business into an equal partnership between the two of them. Over subsequent years Clarence gradually decreased his presence in the store, and at his death in 1960, Buck became the sole owner. His mother, Ruth, continued to help out in the store a few hours each day until her death in 1976.

For many years Buck and Doris employed the help of a clerk by the name of Porter White, but after



Doris' back counter



John Lawson at lunch table

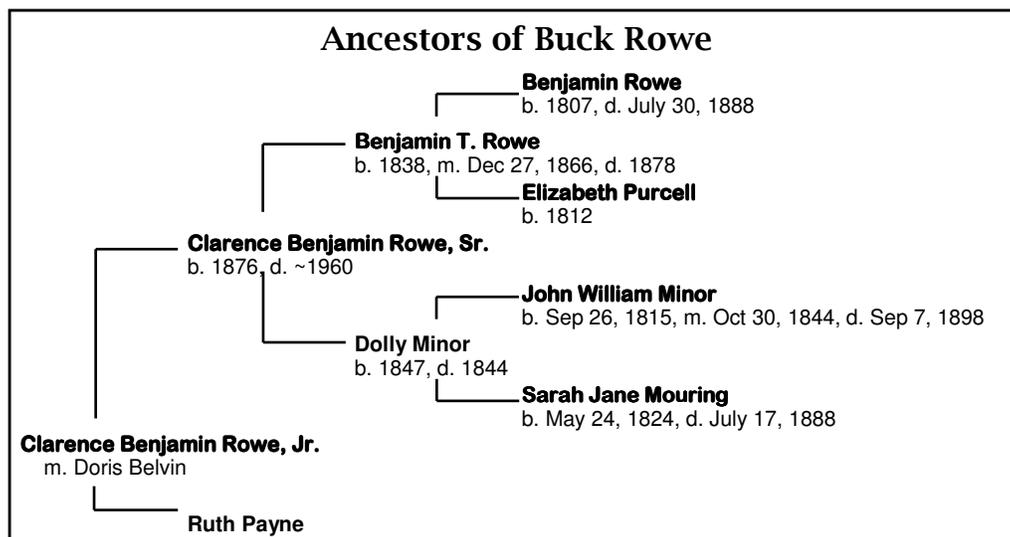
C. B. Rowe & Son... Shop on the Corner

his retirement they ran the store by themselves. Doris converted a back corner of the store into a small kitchen and had a sink, small hot water heater, and stove installed so that she could prepare their meals in-between waiting upon customers.

Today C. B. Rowe & Son Store doesn't see the hustle and bustle of busy lives that it once did for so many years. Buck is alone now. Long gone are his parents and Doris, his devoted wife of nearly fifty years. Their daughter, Antoinette, is ill and confined to a nursing home. Buck continues to unlock the back door each day and turn on the lights much the same way he has done all of his life, as did his father and grandfather before him.

Gone is the crowd of watermen that gathered at his counter each day grabbing a bite to eat for breakfast, purchasing food and supplies for their boats, before heading for the river and their work. The seafood business isn't the prolific industry that it once was in the area. Grocery store chains have sprouted up all over the county which have replaced a great deal of his once thriving business. Buck is semi-retired these days; however, he continues to enjoy the company of old friends and loyal customers for a few hours each day but closes and locks his doors, returning home soon after lunch to rest in deference to his health.

As a legacy to the people of the area whom he has served for so many years as well as to his loved ones in whose steps he followed, Buck has established the C. B. Rowe, Jr. Memorial and Guinea Museum Foundation, Inc. He has been slowly depleting his inventory while at the same time turning the store into a living museum of sorts. Where shelves and display cases once housed inventory sold by the store, he now displays antique tools, vintage equipment, old books and ledgers, photographs and other memorabilia loaned by people with long ties to the area. He has very lovingly placed them throughout the store so that visitors can stop in and take a look at bits of history in a setting that hasn't changed all that much for many generations. It is his dream that the store that has stood for more than a century remain as it is; as a living tribute to his family and to the people of the area. He has named a board of directors for his foundation. In addition, he has donated to the foundation the parcel of land upon which it stands. With both financial and physical help from the Abingdon Fire Department and the Abingdon Ruritan Club, he hopes that his museum will live on for generations to come and serve as a monument to the past and as an example of perseverance and hard work.



Buck Rowe's Fall Sausage

By Roger Caldwell Davis

Friendly folks like to meet and gather at “Buck” Rowe’s store in Bena at the south end of Gloucester County, Virginia. Recently (July 12, 2002) my neighbor, John Lawson, and I paid a visit to “Buck” to talk old times. John is a cousin of “Buck’s” and used to roller skate with him at the rink that used to be at the Gloucester Emporium building.

John would spend his summers (back in the 1930’s) with his grandparents, John Backhouse Lawson and Lucy T. Minor at their farm, “Forest View,” off Glass Road.

Long before Hardees even heard of the “sausage biscuit” there was a Fall tradition at Bena to stop in for “Buck’s” famous sausage! Most of the locals remember taking home packages of his “home prepared sausage” or having him fry up a sandwich at the store. We talked of these good eating experiences. Naturally, as an avid eating enthusiast, I asked “Buck” how he prepared his delicious sausage. With a sparkle in his eyes he replied, “Get your pencil and I’ll tell you.”

So here is “Buck” Rowe’s recipe for country sausage.

INGREDIENTS

22 pounds pork meat — 1/3 must be fat. (boneless pork butt from the store if you don’t kill your own hog).
5 oz. table salt
6 tbs. rubbed sage (Sours or McCormick)
2 tbs. granulated sugar
Black pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Mix salt, sage and sugar.
Shake well in a brown paper bag to mix.
Rub each side of the meat with half of the dry mix. Rub in real good!
Cut up the meat for grinding and trim fat to assure about 7 pounds in mix.
Grind the meat mix into an aluminum bowl.
Separate into 1 to 2 pound packages or form into 2 to 3 inch diameter, 1/2 inch thick patties.
Separate with wax paper and pack in freezer bags.
Freeze for short-term storage. Best if not stored for more than three months.

TO COOK—Simmer over medium heat in iron skillet until brown and cooked through—about five to ten minutes. Serve with your choice of biscuits, eggs, apples, grits, hash brown potatoes and coffee. Out of this world!!



Buck Rowe and his cousin, John Lawson, at front entry

Wilbur Templeman's Barbershop Bena, Gloucester County, Virginia

By Roger C. Davis

One of the unique landmarks of south Gloucester has got to be Wilbur Templeman's little wood building at the intersection of Mark Pine Road (route 643) and Guinea Road (route 216). The little barbershop was built in 1947 by his father, a waterman who operated a "buy boat" in the local waters. The shop has been in continuous operation since May 4, 1948, when Wilbur finished barber school in Richmond, VA, after his World War II service in the Navy.

Wilbur's wife is Florence Moman, and they have two children, Linda and James. Wilbur's parents were James A. Templeman, who died in July 1975 and Sarah Thomas, who died in October 1982. His grandparents were Edward Templeman, who married Lucy Lewis, and Edward Bunyan Thomas, who married Lucy May Brown. All lived in the Guinea area.



**Wilbur Templeman's
Barbershop
Bena, VA**



**Raymond West
gets shaped up**

James A. Templeman operated a "buy boat" with the Isaac Sass & Company out of Portsmouth, Virginia. James would make up to six trips a week to Portsmouth during the fishing seasons with loads of fish he collected from the watermen's boats in the York River, Mobjack Bay and Chesapeake Bay. His boat, the "Irene and Pearl II," was a familiar sight from July 12, 1931 to 1961. There had been an "Irene and Pearl I" before that, but Wilbur was too young to remember about that boat.

Today, at age 78 years, Wilbur Templeman is still styling and cutting hair at his one chair barbershop after 54 years of continuous operation. His shop is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to about 2:00 p.m. with a break for lunch and chance to rest his feet.

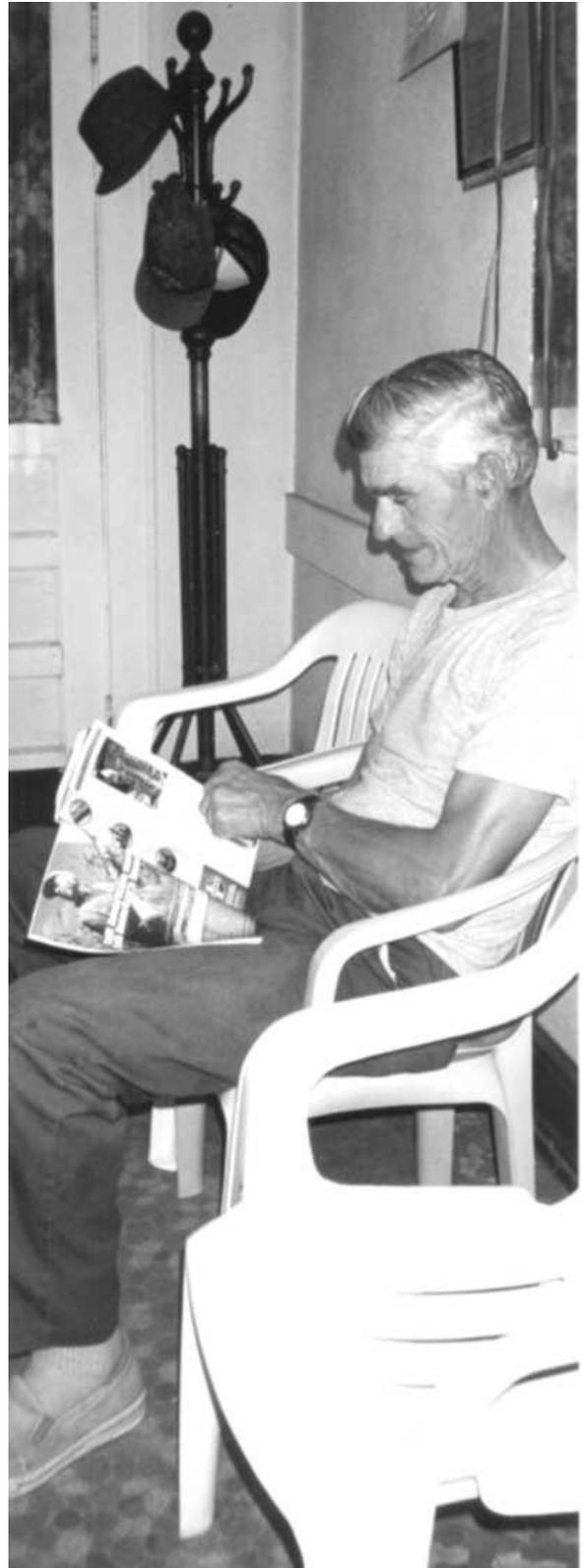
Wilbur Templeman's Barbershop

Many of the locals still pass through the shop each month to get shaped up. On October 3, 2002, I met 88-year-old Walter Walker, who still drives himself to the shop; Raymond West, who was born and raised on Big Island until he was 16 years old; and a knowledgeable Bobby Brown, who told me stories about the past. The shop has always been a place to meet and socialize with a friendly and skilled Wilbur Templeman plus a steady stream of interesting customers.

(See Ancestor Chart on page 25.)



Walter Walker, now 88 years old, is one of the "old timers." He still drives himself to the shop.



Bobby Brown waits his turn. He was willing to swap stories about Guinea with Raymond West and gave Roger Davis "the facts."

From Bondage to Business: The Life of Beverly Jones An African-American at Gloucester Court House

by Debra J. Smith

Making the leap from slavery to freedom was a tremendous transition. Many of the newly freed slaves found themselves completely unprepared for all that freedom had to offer. Many did not realize that though freedom is everyone's God given right, one must work to maintain it. Not surprisingly, some ex-slaves thought slavery was a better option. But my great-great grandfather, Beverly Jones, was different. He was prepared. He had a plan.

Beverly Jones was born a slave in Gloucester, Virginia, in October 1848 to slave parents, Jack Jones and Cordelia (aka Ardenia) Henderson. He most likely worked on Goshen or Enfield farms. At the age of 16 he ran away to fight for freedom. He joined the Union Navy, enlisting at Yorktown on February 13, 1865. Because of his age, Beverly was not allowed to participate in combat, however he served as 1st Class Boy on the USS Mystic and USS St. Lawrence, doing what he could to support the older sailors. Joining the Navy was a fantastic thing for Beverly to do. It allowed him to leave the bonds of slavery, fight for the freedom he so desired, and earn an income to help keep that freedom.

After the Civil War, Beverly returned to Gloucester. Living at home with his mother, he was able to save his pension, depositing it in the Freedman's Bank. By 1874, Beverly had enough money to purchase property from Perrin Kemp. But, when it was time to relinquish the title, Kemp gave the ex-slave a hard time. Beverly admitted the land wasn't very good for farming, but he had his heart set on it. Kemp offered him twelve acres for twelve dollars. When Beverly was ready to make the deal, money in hand, Perrin Kemp went up on the price. After a few days of arguing, Kemp gave the deed to Jones at the original price. ¹

During the course of his life, Beverly Jones bought and sold several parcels of land. These included a small tract adjacent to the courthouse circle on the east side of the circle perimeter behind the jail. His daughter recalled hearing the shouts from the prisoners from their cells, in fact, she remembered as a young girl flirting with the prisoners from her front porch. Beverly's property was also located adjacent to both the Masonic Lodge Building and the Presbyterian Church. Here Beverly ran a livery stable to serve the public needs. Those who came into the Village for business or shopping left their teams of horses with him, and he tended the horses until the owners returned.



Beverly Jones

From Bondage to Business: The Life of Beverly Jones

Another insight into the life of Beverly Jones was remembered by his granddaughter concerning his personal hygiene. He cleaned his teeth with gravel, and he died with all his natural teeth. He would pick up a handful of gravel, swish it around in his mouth, then spit it out. Success is the best proof of a method.

Beverly Jones married four times. His first marriage was to Lucy Carter, daughter of Gabriel and Ann Carter. They were married May 2, 1872, by the Reverend David Coulling.² Lucy died in 1875.

On June 21, 1876, Beverly married Polly Henley (my great-great grandmother), daughter of Frederick and Clarissa Henley. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Samuel S. Harden.³ Polly was also referred to as Polly Marshall, taking the name of her stepfather, Parker Marshall. The union of Polly and Beverly Jones resulted in the births of five children, Lucy (my great grandmother), Elizabeth, Mathew, Willie, and Virginia. In 1911, Beverly buried his wife and eldest daughter, Lucy. Daughter Lucy, widow of Joseph Gardner, left to her father the task of raising her four children, Ruby, Eugene, Vivian, and Edrena, my grandmother.

Raising four children would prove to be an enormous task for the sixty-three year old businessman who was recently widowed. It didn't take him long to realize he needed a wife. On February 7, 1912, Beverly married Miss Julia Cook, daughter of Addison Cook and Olivia Lewis.⁴ They remained married until her death in 1929.

Now, at the ripe old age of 81, Beverly found himself alone. The four grandchildren he'd raised had moved to New York City and Philadelphia. He was in need of a companion and a business partner. On June 8, 1930, Beverly Jones married for the fourth and final time. He married the divorcee, Mary Elizabeth Carter Stubbs.⁵ Mrs. Stubbs was an accomplished business woman in her own right, owning and running a Bed and Breakfast in Gloucester. Mary was indispensable to Beverly as his health began to decline. She managed his properties and was nurse and companion to him.

Beverly Jones died on February 27, 1938, of colon cancer. He had lived a full and productive life leaving behind many in town to mourn his loss. The community loved him, and I am very honored to be a descendant of such a great man.

References:

¹Compiled by Workers of the Writer's Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Virginia, "The Negro In Virginia," John F. Blair, Publisher, 1994, p. 242-243

²L. Roane Hunt, Editor, "Marriage Records of Gloucester County, Virginia, Book 1", The Gloucester Genealogical Society of Virginia, p. 63

³Hunt, p. 79

⁴Register of Marriages, 1912

⁵Register of Marriages, 1930

[Editor's note: The 1850 Gloucester Census showed a white population of 4,258 souls, free blacks at 694, and blacks in bondage at 5,557. Forty percent of the population owned slaves. The 1870 Gloucester Census lists Beverly Jones, age 20 years, occupation-oysters].

Plummer Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

By Robert William Plummer

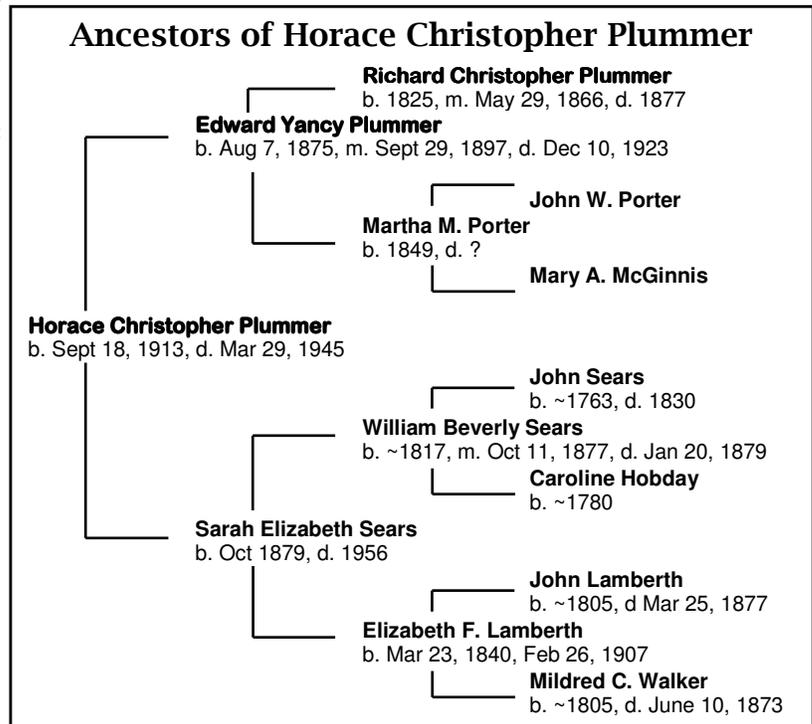
The Plummer family first appeared in Gloucester County between 1878 and 1880. The trip to Virginia from Maryland began in 1877 after Richard Christopher Plummer died. (My great grandfather was Richard Plummer; my grandfather was Edward Plummer; and my father was Horace Plummer, as shown below.) Richard was about 52, lived in Talbot County, and was married to Martha M. Porter of Talbot County Maryland. She was the daughter of John W. Porter and Mary A. McGinnis. When they married on May 29, 1866, she was 18 and Richard was 41. Martha was Richard's third wife. Richard and Martha's son, Edward Yancy Plummer, was born August 7, 1875, in Maryland.

About a year after Richard Plummer's death, Martha married William W. Leager on September 18, 1878, and by 1880 Edward Yancy Plummer was living in Gloucester County, Virginia, with his mother, Martha, and his stepfather, William W. Leager. The Leager family rented for a few years, and on July 15, 1886, William Leager, my step-grandfather, bought 20 acres of land for \$150 from Miles H. Booker and his wife. (See Gloucester Deed Book 12 page 277.) In the deed book, it says that it is the land where William Leager now resides, formerly belonging to W. C. Dutton. It is bounded on the east by the land of M. H. Booker, on the north by land of John Sears, on the west by land of J. E. Bland and on the south by the main road leading from Salem Church to Turks Ferry. Miles H. Booker is the father of Eugene Booker who will marry Georgia Plummer and they will live at Woods Cross Roads. John Sears is Edward Plummer's future brother-in-law; John is a half brother of Sarah Sears. William Beverly Sears is their father.

Why they moved to the Turks Ferry region of Gloucester is still a big question, but I think it has something to do with Elizabeth Leager who married Benjamin Pratt and moved to Gloucester County. My thought is that Elizabeth may be William's older



**Martha M. Porter
Plummer Leager**



Plummer Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

sister. Elizabeth's daughter, Sarah Catharine Pratt married Phillip Hersey Mason in 1883. The Pratts are buried at Ebenezer Church. Finding out if William and Elizabeth are related is a project for the future.

The 1880 census shows Edward Yancy Plummer as living in Gloucester. The 1900 census shows Edward Plummer living in Gloucester County as head of household and born in August 1876 (The family bible says 1875). His age is 23 and his occupation is farming. His wife is Sarah (Sears) Plummer who was born October 1878 and is 21, they have two children. The oldest is Georgie Plummer, a daughter who was born August 1898, and the second daughter is Mary Plummer born September 1899. Living with them is Elizabeth F. Lamberth Sears, Edwards' mother-in-law who was born in March 1840.

Descendants of Edward Yancy Plummer

- 1 **Edward Yancy Plummer**, b. August 07, 1875, d. December 10, 1923
+**Sarah Elizabeth Sears**, b. October 1879, d. 1956
 - 2 **Georgia May Plummer**, b. August 02, 1898, d. December 25, 1968
+Eugene Phillip Booker, b. November 22, 1887, d. June 02, 1971
 - 3 Rachael Lee Booker, b. June 26, 1932
+Wade Kemp Roy, b. June 29, 1931, d. October 03, 1977
*2nd Husband of Rachael Lee Booker:
+John P Burnette, b. December 20, 1931
 - 2 **Mary Elva Plummer**, b. 1899, d. January 13, 1932
 - 2 **Bertha Elothia Plummer**, b. October 14, 1902, d. February 02, 1989
+Herbert Hope Moore, b. May 18, 1898, d. February 17, 1991
 - 3 Herbert Atwood Moore, b. 1920
 - 3 Elva Moore, b. 1923, d. 1925
 - 3 Wilson Plummer Moore, b. February 06, 1925, d. December 12, 1994
 - 3 William Boyd Moore, b. 1928
 - 3 Mildred Elaine Moore, b. July 04, 1930
+Richard Rahl DeBolt, b. 1928
 - 2 **Lillian Beatrice Plummer**, b. May 06, 1904, d. October 23, 1988
+William Henry Clements, b. August 03, 1897, d. July 28, 1961
 - 3 Amada B. Clements, b. 1922, d. 1922
 - 3 Muriel Violet Clements, b. July 06, 1924,
+Charles Garrison
 - 3 Helen Beatrice Clements, b. July 18, 1926,
+Robert Wiatt Duval, b. July 20, 1925, d. September 1982
 - 3 Emily Rae Clements, b. January 13, 1930
+Vivian Hope Callis, b. December 11, 1929, d. July 29, 2001
 - 2 **William Edward Plummer**, b. 1910, d. May 09, 1959
 - 2 **Horace Christopher Plummer**, b. September 18, 1913, d. March 29, 1945
+Billie Evalin Wellborn, b. May 05, 1919
 - 3 Donald Horace Plummer, b. May 24, 1939
+Francis M. Zitkevitz, b. May 16, 1943
 - 3 Robert William Plummer, b. September 16, 1940
+Mary Sharon Hurka, b. Abt. 1942
*2nd Wife of Robert William Plummer:
+Ming Chai Carrie Lam, b. Abt. 1945
*3rd Wife of Robert William Plummer:
+Barbara Ann Escher
 - 3 Christine Mary Plummer, b. September 01, 1945
+Boyd Morris, b. June 14, 1942
*2nd Husband of Christine Mary Plummer:

Plummer Family of Gloucester County, Virginia



Edward Y. Plummer

Edward Plummer married Sarah Sears, the daughter of William Beverly Sears and Elizabeth F. Lamberth, on September 29, 1897. I think they married in Talbot County, MD. At least, that's the story I heard as a youngster. Elizabeth Lamberth, Sarah Sears' mother, was William Beverly Sears' third wife. He was about 60 and she was 37 when they married.

From over a hundred old receipts belonging to Edward, we found out that he made a living by farming, cutting timber, and fishing. He planted fruit trees and he bought the lumber to build his house, so he may have built it himself. In 1905 Mr. Phillip Hersey Mason and his wife, Sarah C., sold my grandfather, Edward, 100 acres for \$450. The land sold was bounded on the north by the Piankatank River, on the west by the Piankatank River for a distance of about half a mile to a point at which a line constituting the southern boundary of the said land and being a boundary between the said land and the land of P. H. Mason on the south by a straight line running for a point as the river on the west to a Spence pine tree near the road leading to Turks Ferry Bridge, thence across the said road straight to a holly tree near the marsh, thence by the north sides of an island in the marsh straight to a point on the river and on the east by the Piankatank River. Eddie died in 1923.

Edward and Sarah had six children. Georgie or Georgia May was the first-born. She grew up and married Eugene Phillip Booker, the youngest child of Miles Henry Booker and Rosa Ann Fisher Mason and they had one daughter they named Rachael Lee Booker. She is Rachael Burnette of Woods Cross Roads. Rachael contributes a great deal of her time and energy to many Gloucester County civic organizations. With Rachael's first husband, Wade Roy, she had two children, Kenneth Wade Roy and Karen Elaine Roy. Georgia died in 1968, Eugene died in 1971 and Wade Roy died in 1977. Eugene farmed many, many acres. They had pigs, hogs, and chickens, and they sold thousands of chicken eggs. They grew flower bulbs, corn, and cut timber for sale. When my brother and I came down to visit, we got the chance to vaccinate those chickens - a dirty, nasty job.

The second child is Mary Elva Plummer, who never married, and probably attended Farmville State Teachers College (now Longwood College) in Farmville, VA, about 1918. The Gloucester County, VA, newspaper listed the teachers for the sessions and for the Petsworth District. Miss Mary Plummer, who wrote poetry, was listed in the local newspaper as the teacher at Pinero for 1921-1922. In the book "Gloucester's Past in Pictures", on page 110, Miss Mary Plummer was listed as a fifth grade teacher at Botetourt High School, circa 1925. In 1923, Mary was diagnosed with an unspecified neurological



Eugene and Georgie Plummer Booker (center) celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1966. Daughter Rachael Booker Roy (left) shown with family from L-R Wade Roy, Karen Roy, and Kenneth Roy.

Plummer Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

disease and died 9 years later. Mary's obituary from the Gloucester Gazette dated January 21, 1932, disclosed that Mary died on Wednesday, January 13, 1932.

The third child is Bertha Elothia Plummer, born October 14, 1902. She married Herbert Hope Moore. Bertha and Herbert had five children: Herbert, Elva, Wilson, William, and Mildred. Herbert Atwood Moore, born in 1920, served in WWII. He was wounded twice, and today he lives in the Southwest. Elva Moore was born in 1923 and died in 1925. Wilson Plummer Moore was born February 06, 1925, and died of cancer on December 12, 1994. William Boyd Moore, born in 1928, lives in Norfolk and still works daily. The only child to marry, Mildred Elaine Moore, was born July 4, 1930. She married Richard Rahl DeBolt. They live at Zanoni in Gloucester County, where they enjoy their eight children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Bertha died in 1989 and Herbert died in 1991. When my brother and I first visited Gloucester County, Bertha and Herbert lived off Indian Road in a neat old house that had an outhouse, and they went to the spring to get their water.



**L- Mary Plummer
R- Lillian Plummer Clements**

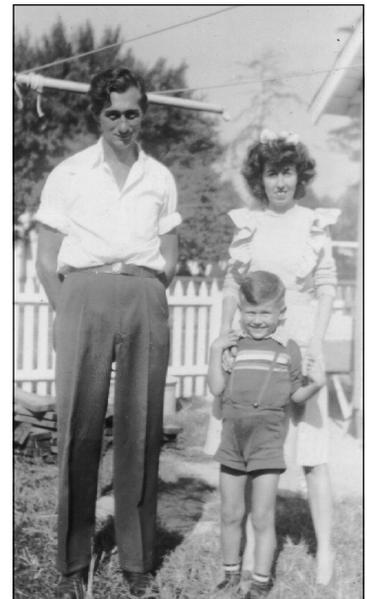
The fourth child is Lillian Beatrice Plummer, born May 6, 1904. She married William Henry Clements. Bill was one of the eight Clements boys born and raised on Indian Road. The old homestead is still there. Lillian and Bill had four daughters: Amada, Muriel, Helen, and Emily. Amada B. Clements was born in 1922 and died in 1922. Muriel Violet Clements, who was born in 1924, married Charles Garrison, and had a son Charles. They live outside of Gloucester County. Helen Beatrice Clements, born in 1926, married Robert Wiatt Duval, and they had two sons, Robert and Michael. Robert Duval died in September 1982, and



**L- Lillian Plummer Clements
R- Bertha Plummer Moore**



**L- William Plummer
R- Sarah Sears Plummer**



**L- Horace Plummer
R- Billie Wellborn Plummer
with son Donald**

Plummer Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

Robert died in 1998 of cancer. Helen now lives in Deltaville. Emily Rae Clements, born in 1930, married Vivian Hope Callis, who died in 2001. They had three children: Vivian Hope Callis, III, William Clements Callis, and Faith Ann Callis. Emily Rae and the boys live in Saluda and Faith lives in Williamsburg. William Henry Clements died in 1961, and Lillian died in 1988.

The fifth child is William Edward Plummer born in 1910. Edward worked on the local ferries for a while, but he ended his career as a plumber at the Norfolk Ship Yard. He never married and died in 1959. Bill worked on the steamer, "City of Baltimore." On July 29, 1937, the ferry burned to her waterline off Seven Foot Knoll, Maryland. The burning of the "City of Baltimore" prompted a congressional investigation that led to the "Safety at Sea" bill that imposed strict regulations and financial constraints on steam boat operators. I have a picture of Bill Plummer standing on the deck of the burned out "City of Baltimore."



**L- William Plummer
R- Horace Plummer**

The sixth and final child is my father, Horace Christopher Plummer, born September 18, 1913. Horace worked on local ferries and Standard Oil ships. He had his pilot's license for ships and planes. Although he was very bright, he did poorly in school, but later he did well when he sought education as an adult. He married Billie Evalin Wellborn, of Deepwater, New Jersey, and they had three children: Donald Horace Plummer, Robert William Plummer (me), and Christine Mary Plummer. We lived in Glen Burnie, Maryland, and Horace was a supervisor at Bethlehem shipyards at Sparrows Point. In March 1945, he was killed in an accident while working. In September of that year his daughter was born, Christine Mary Plummer.

Eventually, Christine returned to Gloucester and participated in the Bi-centennial celebration of 1976. Her son, William Albert Morris (Bill), graduated from Gloucester High School. She and her husband, Gary Anderson, now live in Florida. In about 1984 Billie Plummer, Horace's wife, returned to Gloucester and lives here today. And recently in 1999, I (Robert William Plummer) came home to Gloucester County.

Sears Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

By Robert William Plummer

There is documentation to show that the Sears family was in Gloucester County, Virginia in 1677. George Parker, of the Sears family, shows on his web site <http://pages.prodigy.net/g.c.parker/searstable.htm> that in the Abingdon Parish Episcopal Church Records of Gloucester, Virginia, it was recorded that John Sears, Jr. was born on January 1, 1677. He was the son of John and Catherine Sears. The first William appears in the records on December 8, 1702, William Sears Jr., the son of William & Mary was baptized. The first Sears names were from Abingdon Parish, Gloucester; then we see the Sears name in Christ Church Parish in Middlesex; and then Petsworth Parish, Gloucester. George's information notes that a John and Catherine Sears and William Jr. and Sarah Sears are in the Abingdon Parish, and he notes that James and Sarah Sears and William and Sarah Sears are in Petsworth. For the period 1677 to about 1763, there were at least four families mentioned. And, since John, Joseph, Richard, Sylvester, Thomas, J.C., William, and John were the sons born during this period, one would think that there were other Sears families living here during that 90 years or so.

Now let me go to what I know. My grandmother is Sarah Elizabeth Sears, her father was William Beverly Sears and her mother was Elizabeth F. Lamberth. (See pedigree chart on page 14.) William Beverly's father and mother were John Sears and Caroline Hobday. I think John's parents are William Sears and Sarah Waggener Sears. (Why her maiden name is Sears is an interesting story - see below.) I believe that William Sears was the son of James and Sarah. (You have to start somewhere!) Elizabeth Lamberth's parents are John Carey Lamberth and Mildred D. Walker; and her father's parents were R. Thomas Lamberth and Elinor.

From Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. II, p. 352, King and Queen County:

"Bond of 19 July 1748 (or 1749). William Sears of Drisdale parish, King and Queen County, for 200 pounds, to Elizabeth Waggoner of South Franham parish Essex County. That he will pay 50 pounds by 19 July next year For the keeping the Child Sarah Waggener one year."

"Witness: Nathaniel Pendleton, Thos Waggener, Reuben Waggener."

It appears that William Sears is paying Elizabeth Waggoner money so that she can support her child, Sarah. It is witnessed by her brothers, Thomas and Reuben Waggoner, and by Nathaniel Pendleton, an apparent neighbor of the Waggoner's in Essex County.

William Sears of King and Queen County mentions Sarah Waggoner Sears, daughter of Elizabeth Waggoner, Junior, in his will dated May 17, 1752, and probated June 16, 1752 (Essex County Will Book #9, p. 190). He also mentions his son Albert Sears. In the will, he asks that his estate of "Negroes, Cattle, and hog be kept together for six years after my decease and what money is raised from it to be apply'd to the keeping, maintaining, and the Education of my Beloved son Albert Sears and Sarah Wagoner Sears, daughter of Eliz'a Wagoner, Junior, of the same county." He also mentions that after the six years, all that is left of his estate is to be divided between his son Albert and Sarah Waggener Sears.

It is not mentioned what exactly the relationship was between this William Sears and Sarah Waggoner. It sounds like she was a daughter of his by Elizabeth Waggoner. Since he was apparently an older man near death, perhaps she is the daughter of William's older

Sears Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

son. However, it is interesting that he mentions "his son," but notes Sarah by name without indicating the relationship. This is what makes life interesting. My guess is that the older William Sears from King & Queen County and Elizabeth Waggoner had a child out of wedlock.

Another William Sears of record, who was from Gloucester, was probably not the same William Sears from King & Queen County, mentioned previously. The following information from Essex County was forwarded to me by Lynn VanDerherchen, a Sears family member.

From the Essex County Deed Book #29, pages 239-240: It is an indenture made October 5, 1763, between "William Sears of Gloucester on the one part and Elizabeth Waggener Junior of the County of Essex of the other part." Elizabeth's mother was also named Elizabeth, her father is Herbert and her grandfather is John born in England about 1647. The document mentions that "Where there is a marriage already agreed upon and by Gods Grace Shortly to be had and Solemnized Between the said William Sears and Sarah Waggener Sears the Daughter of the said Elizabeth Waggener Junr." The document says that upon the consummation of this marriage, this William is "entitled to possession of Sundry Slaves named Gloucester, Sarah, Davie, Ester, Ange, Pender, Judy, the sole property of the said Sarah Waggener Sears." The agreement is that Sarah "shall have free liberty to dispose of the one half of the said slaves and their increase by her last Will and Testament in writing or otherwise as she pleaseth." It further says that if she and William have no children, then the slaves and their children are to revert to Sarah exclusively.

My William Sears ancestor or the William Sears that I claim as my ancestor from Petsworth Parish, Gloucester, was William Sears who was first mentioned in the Vestry Book for Petsworth Parish on December 1, 1767. (pp.337 in original book or pp. 334 in transcribed records) "Ordered that Rh [Richard] Wiatt Royston & Wm Sears see the lands possessioned in the eighth precinct to begin on the land of Augustin Smith on the fourth Thursday in February." He was also mentioned in the transcribed records on page 355 to see the lands of ... and for attending a vestry meeting, twice on page 356 for vestry meetings, twice on page 358 for vestry meetings, replaced as church warden on page 359, for two vestry meetings on page 360, and vestry meeting on pages 362, 363, 368, 370, 373, 375, and 376 of the transcribed records. On August 24, 1775, he is elected a Vestry Man to replace Major Jonathon Watson who has moved out of the colony (p. 371 original page 355 in transcribed records).

(What is a Vestry Man? "Anglicanism In America" by Michael Hines says: "Many Anglican churches appointed a board of 12 congregationally selected men to act as trustees. This board then selected the readers. As their power grew, they nominated and presented new preachers to the Virginia governor for approval. This is the **vestry** and gradually it's power expanded. Since they called ministers to one congregation for life, the vestry tended to be extremely careful. Vestries discovered that, while the state set the basic salary requirements for ministers, they could pay an interim minister whatever they deemed proper. The vestry could appoint a reader and pay them a pittance. The state of the Virginia church depended entirely on the quality of its vestry. A good vestry selected ministers carefully. Others simply chose men from convenience or careless choice.")

Further references to William Sears of Gloucester are listed below.

On September 13, 1775, at a meeting of the committee for Gloucester County at the Courthouse, William Sears is nominated as a Lieutenant in the militia for the County of Gloucester (Virginia Gazette, October 1775).

He is listed in a small book entitled "Virginia Publick Claims - Gloucester County" - Iberian Publishing Company. On page 25 it shows that "Wm. Sears donated 1321 #beef,

Sears Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

cat. team & driver 1 day.” This was to help the colonial army.

In the 1784 census, William Sears was living in Petsworth Parish. He had 9 white, 1 dwelling, and 5 black souls.

He is listed as a vestryman until 1785

In 1787, the tax records show William with 172 acres of land. (Not sure if these tax records are for William Sears, the father or the son; I think the son because of the next fact.)

In 1788, William Sears’ estate is listed as having 400 acres.

The records proceed over the years to show that Sarah Sears, William’s wife, inherited the land, and after her death, it was split between the sons Henry, William, Thomas, and John Sears. Sarah shows up on the 1800 land tax list as having 170 acres. Elizabeth Wagoner shows up on the 1800 land tax list with 128 acres. This Elizabeth Wagoner may be Sarah’s mother.

William Sears and Sarah Waggener had six children: John, Thomas, James, William Jr., Henry and Anne. It appears that James and Anne were left out of the will. This family history will cover the family through William and Sarah’s son John. (See descendants chart on page 23.) I cannot assure you that all of this information is correct, however, it is the best I have been able to find with a lot of help from other Sears family members.

John Sears was born about 1763 and died about 1830. John did not appear in the 1794 census, only his father, William, appears as head of household. John does show up in the 1810 and 1820 census but not in the 1830 census. Logic suggests that John was married twice. In 1810, John was about 47 and had a woman in his household (probably his first wife) that was over 45. Also listed was a son 10-16 and a daughter under 10. This would mean that the son was born between 1794-1800, and the daughter was born between 1800-1810. His first wife must have died after 1810. About 1814, John married Caroline Hobday, and I think they had two sons and a daughter: a son born about 1815, William Beverly born about 1817, and a daughter born about 1819. In the 1820 census he has two sons under 10 (one of which was William Beverly), and he had one daughter under 10. There were also two women between 26-45. One of these women was most likely his second wife, Caroline Hobday.

William Beverly Sears, the only child of John Sears on which I have information, was born about 1817. His household as recorded in the Gloucester census from 1850 to 1870 is presented below. He and his first wife, Louisa Brookings, are shown with their children living at home. Louisa was the daughter of William U. Brooking and wife unknown. William and Louisa married about 1836 and had six children: Henry Thomas, William A., John R., Richard Cary, and Alexander Peterson.

Gloucester Census for William Beverly Sears household					
1850		1860		1870	
Beverly	33	Beverly	43	Beverly	53
Louisa	30	Louisa	40	Louisa	50
Henry T	13	Henry J	23	Henry	33
William A	11	William A	21	?	?
John C	8	John	18	?	?
Richard C	6	Richard	16	?	?
				Alex P.	7

Sears Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

Henry Thomas Sears was born about 1837 and died about 1898. Henry enlisted in February 15, 1862, at Gloucester Pt. into Company B of the 26th Virginia Infantry. He was captured on June 15, 1864, at Jordan's Farm and was a prisoner of war at Pt. Lookout, MD, and Elmira, NY. He was released upon giving the oath on June 19, 1865. His description was: Florid complexion, light hair, blue eyes, 5 ft. 3 in. After the war, he resided in West Point, VA.

On page 152/Line 11 of the original records of Gloucester County marriages, it notes that Henry T. Sears, age 36y, farmer, s/o Beverly & Louisa Brooking Sears; married Julia M. South, age 18y d/o Hugh A. & Julia A. E. Bland South; February 10, 1879, by Rev. S. Harvey Johnson. This would indicate that Henry Thomas was born in 1843 not 1837. But since he was marrying such a young lady, maybe he shaved a few years off his age.

The 1880 Census lists Thomas Henry Sears, 40, married, farmer, and Mildred Sears, 21 wife, keeping house. Living with them is Alexander P. Sears, 18, his brother. I believe his name is Henry Thomas Sears, but he also went by Thomas Henry. The CSA marker at Salem Methodist Church shows Thomas H. Sears, Co. B, 26 VA INF., but the military records show Henry Thomas. The 1880 census indicates that Henry was born in 1840. There is no Henry or Thomas in the 1900 census, so I think he died before 1900.

Henry Sears and Julia South had six children: Henry, Emma Louise, Lucy Mildred, Cora Ellen, Mary Olivia, and Boyd Lee. Henry was born after 1880 and died about 1888; Emma Louise was born after 1880 and married Mr. Rathman; Lucy Mildred was born after 1880 and married Mr. Faircloth; Cora Ellen was born in 1888 and married Mr. Mallet; Mary Olivia was born 1895 and married Mr. Allmond; and Boyd Lee was born in 1897. After their parents died in 1898, Cora E. lived with the Williams family in Petsworth as a boarder. Mary Olivia lived with her great uncle Harry P. Bland and his wife Sarah. The Dixon family adopted Boyd Lee, and at some point, he changed his name to Dixon and married Gaynelle Dillehay.

William A. Sears was born about 1839. The book entitled, "26th Virginia Infantry" by Alex L. Wiatt notes that Sears, William A.: enlisted February 7, 1862, at Gloucester Point into Company B. He was captured on June 15, 1862, and was a prisoner of war at Pt. Lookout, MD, and Elmira, NY. He was released upon giving the oath on June 19, 1865. I do not have anything on his wife or children.

John R. Sears was born about 1842. Page47/Line470 of Gloucester marriages shows that John Sears, age 21y, farmer, s/o Beverly & Louisa Sears married Eliza Ellen Haynes, age 18y, d/o William & Fanny Haynes; Dec 27, 1866, by Rev. J. L. Shipley (Methodist) at William Haynes' [home]. The marriage information states he was 21 and would have been born in 1845. However, the 1850 census shows him as being John C. who is 8 years old, and therefore, born in 1842. John and Eliza had four children. William born 1867, daughter born 1869, Ellen J. born 1871 and married William C. Kemp, and Virginia born 1871.

Richard Cary Sears was born about 1844, died in 1912, and he and his wife are buried at Salem Methodist Church. Richard was a Confederate Veteran, captured at Burksville (near Amelia Co) and sent to Point Lookout Prison in Maryland near the end of the war. He was released June 30, 1865. (Source: Wiatt, Alex. L. 26th Virginia Infantry. 1st Edition. H.E. Howard, Inc. Lynchburg, VA 1984.) In 1909, Richard C. Sears applied for a Confederate pension. In Sept 12, 1912, Mary V. Sears requested the official records of Richard to apply for a Confederate pension. In 1909, Richard said he was 65, this would mean that he was born in 1844.

In "Gloucester Marriages" Page 45/Line456, Richard Cary Sears, age 22y, farmer, s/o Beverly & Louisa Sears married Mary Virginia Ann Nuttall, age 17y, 9m, 20d, d/o William &

Sears Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

Emily Ann Nuttall on November 17, 1866, by Rev. W. G. Hammond (Methodist).

Richard's headstone at Salem Methodist shows Richard B. - Per Jane Goodsell this should read Richard C.

Alexander Peterson Sears was born about 1862. In the Gloucester marriage records it states that Alexander, age 21, was a farmer and that he married Lelia Cole South, age 16, on January 31, 1882. The Rev. D. G. C. Butts (Methodist) married them. They had a daughter Marion L., born in 1884 and another daughter, Otelia Lee, born and died in 1888. Lelia may have died from childbirth. He then married Annie Maria Wilson (1875-1960) on June 14, 1893, in Gloucester, VA. They had a son Lester born in 1905, an unnamed son, and a daughter Beulah born in 1910.

William Beverly Sears' second wife was Lucy A. South. I cannot find any children of this union. His third and last wife is Elizabeth F. Lamberth. Listed in the "Marriage Records of Gloucester County, VA, Book 1, 1853-1895," original record is Page 141/Line 64: Beverly Sears, age 60y, widower, farmer, s/o John and Caroline Hobday Sears married Elizabeth F. Lambeth, age 37y, d/o John and Mildred Walker Lambeth, on October 11, 1877. The marriage was performed by Rev. O. Littleton (Methodist). Although the marriage records show Lambeth, all family members' tombstones show Lamberth (the "r" is included). William and Elizabeth had one child, Sarah Elizabeth Sears, born in October 1879. "Death Records of Gloucester Virginia 1856 to 1890" show that Beverly Sears died January 20, 1879, in Gloucester of pneumonia at age 62. His parents are William & Caroline Sears (the father should have been listed as John not William). He was a farmer, his wife was Elizabeth, and his son Thomas H. Sears reported his death. Elizabeth Lamberth died February 27, 1907. On June 21, 1901, Eddie Plummer (who married Sarah Elizabeth Sears) paid G. W. Brown, M.D., fifteen dollars on account of Mrs. Bettie Sears and five dollars on account of Wm W. Leager (Eddie's step father). This indicates that Elizabeth Lamberth may have been living with them in 1901. Eddie and Sarah bought land in 1905 at Turks Ferry Farm, so they must have been renting in 1901 or living with his mother, Martha Leager. This seems plausible since his stepfather died in 1901. In 1906, Eddie and Sarah bought lumber to build their new house. Eddie's mother, Martha, came to live with them in 1908, and she died in 1930.

Elizabeth Lamberth's tombstone is at Salem Methodist Church, a short distance from the rest of the Lamberth family, but there is no tombstone for William Beverly. Rachael Burnette believes that Elizabeth's husband is buried next to her. I have not found the gravesites of William Beverly's first wife.

Sarah Elizabeth Sears was born October 1879 (almost nine months after her father died). She married Edward Yancy Plummer, my grandfather. Similarly, Sarah's granddaughter, Christine Mary Plummer, was born six months after her father died. Sarah's family details are in the Plummer family article on page 13.

As I mentioned earlier on in this article, I cannot assure you that everything written here is correct. I'm quite confident about much of it, but do not have the documents to back it up. I, as with all who attempt to trace their families, dream of one day finding that box with all the old documents that prove the family line. However, until that time, I hope you find this family tree interesting and helpful.

Sears Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

Descendants of William Sears

- 1 **William Sears**, b. abt 1743, d. abt 1783
+**Sarah Waggoner**, b. abt 1742, d. aft 1800
 - 2 **John Sears**, b. abt 1763, d. bef 1830
+**unknown**, b. November 22, 1887, d. June 02, 1971
 - 3 Dau Sears, b. abt 1794
 - 3 Son Sears, b. abt 1796
 - *2nd Wife of John Sears:
 - + **Caroline Hobday**, b. abt 1780
 - 3 Son Sears, b. abt 1815
 - 3 **William Beverly Sears**, b. abt 1817, d. January 20, 1879
+ **Louisa Brooking**, b. 1820, d. abt 1871
 - 4 **Henry Thomas Sears**, b. abt 1837, d. abt 1898
+ **Julia Mildred South**, b. abt 1861, d. abt 1898
 - 5 Henry Sears, b. abt 1880, d. abt 1888
 - 5 Emma Louise Sears, b. aft 1880
+Mr. Rathman
 - 5 Lucy Mildred Sears, b. aft 1880
+? Faircloth
 - 6 Robert Sears Faircloth, MD
 - 6 Edward Bland Faircloth, Dr.
 - 5 Cora Ellen Sears, b. October 1888
+Mr. Mallet
 - 5 Mary Olivia Sears, b. October 1895
+Mr. Allmond
 - 5 Boyd Lee Sears, b. February 1897, d. February 1961
+Gaynelle Esterbrook Dillehay
 - 6 Boyd Sears Dixon. b. June 1919
 - 6 Mary Bland Dixon. b. February 1921
 - 6 Jacqueline Brown Dixon. b. February 1923, d. 1985
 - 6 John Waverly Dixon. b. October 1931
 - 4 **William A Sears**, b. abt 1839
 - 4 **John R. Sears**, b. 1842, d. bef 1876
+ **Eliza Ellen Haynes**, b. 1848
 - 5 William Sears, b. 1867
 - 5 Dau Sears, b. 1869
 - 5 Ellen J. Sears, b. 1871, d. 1955
+**William C. Kemp**, b. 1853, d. 1931
 - 6 Eddie F. Kemp. b. 1895, d. 1974
+ **Edna H ?**, b. 1891, d. 1983
 - 6 Normie K. Kemp. b. abt 1900
 - 5 Virginia Sears, b. 1871
 - 4 **Richard Cary Sears**, b. 1844, d. 1912
+ **Mary Virginia Ann Nuttall**, b. January 24, 1848, d. February 21, 1938
 - 5 Sarah Jane Sears, b. 1869, d. 1918
+**Elmore Toss Burton**, b. 1870, d. 1910
 - 5 Mary E. Sears, b. 1871, d. August 1886
 - 5 Minnie Sears, b. 1875
 - 5 William C. Sears, b. 1880, d. 1954
+ **Lillian South**, b. 1888, d. 1932
*2nd Wife of William C. Sears:
 - + **Evelyn H. ?**, b. 1909, d. 1994
 - 5 Richard Beverly Sears, b. January 25, 1888, d. March 03, 1977
+ **Minnie M. Bew**, b. February 22, 1894, d. January 25, 1929

Sears Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

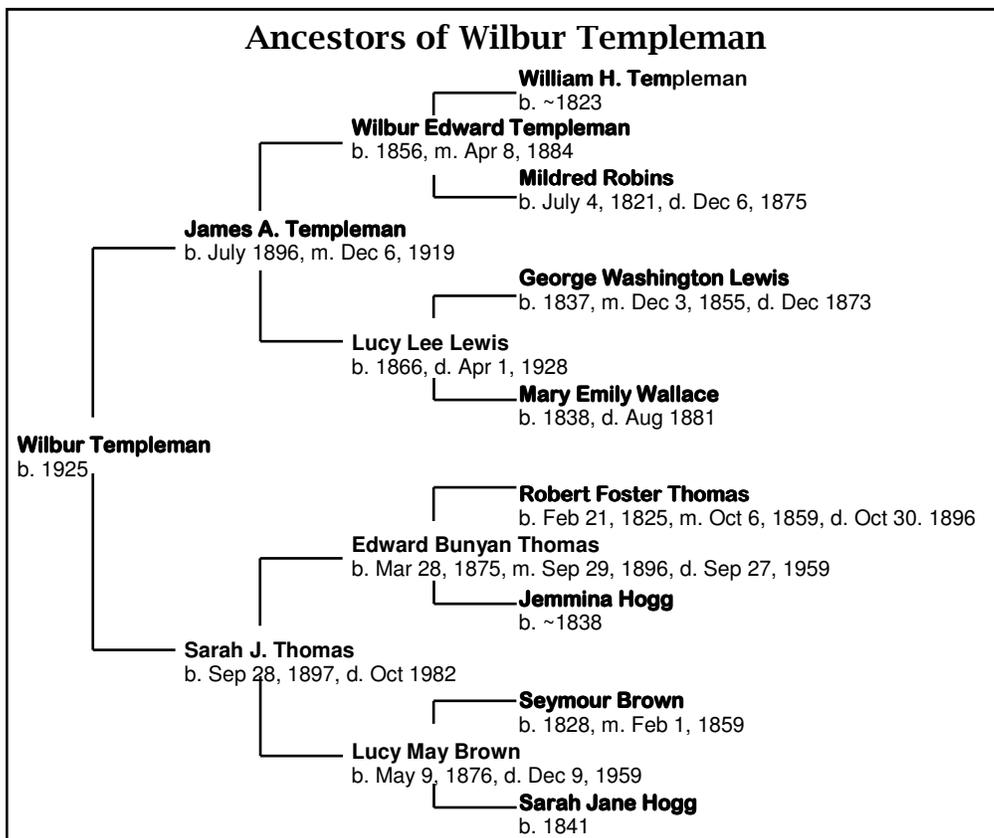
- 6 Dau1 Sears
 +Woodford Wilson
 - 6 Dau2 Sears
 +Frank South
 - 6 Dau3 Sears
 +James Roy
 - 6 Edward Sears
 - 4 **Alexander Peterson Sears**, b. 1862, d. 1915
 +Lelia Cole South, b. 1868, d. abt 1888
 - 5 Marion L Sears, b. 1884
 - 5 Otelia Lee Sears, b. 1888, d. 1888
 - *2nd Wife of Alexander Peterson Sears:
 - + Annie Maria Wilson, b. 1867, d. 1960
 - 5 Lester P Sears, b. 1905, d. 1986
 - 5 Unnamed Sears
 - 5 Beulah L Sears, b. 1910, d. 1979
 - *2nd Wife of William Beverly Sears:
 - + Lucy A South, b. abt 1828, d. bef 1877
 - *3rd Wife of William Beverly Sears:
 - + **Elizabeth F. Lamberth**, b. March 23, 1840, d. February 26, 1907
 - 4 **Sarah Elizabeth Sears**, b. October 1879, d. 1956
 - + Edward Yancy Plummer, b. August 07, 1875, d. Dec 10, 1923
 - (See the descendants of Edward Y. Plummer and Sarah Elizabeth Sears on page 14)
 - 3 Dau Sears, b. abt 1819
 - 2 Thomas C. Sears, b. abt 1779, d. bef 1820
 - + Catherine ?, b. abt 1779
 - 3 Henry Sears, b. bef 1822
 - 3 Catherine Sears, b. bef 1822
 - + Kemp Dillard
 - 4 Jacob A. Dillard, b. 1846
 - + Mary Catharine Johnston, b. 1849
 - 3 James C Sears, b. bef 1820, d. bef 1850
 - + Arena Frances Dutton, b. January 14, 1820, d. September 23, 1898
 - 4 Martha E. Sears, b. 1843
 - + Robert P. Simmons, b. abt 1826
 - 4 Ernestine Sears, b. 1849
 - 4 John Richard Sears, b. November 28, 1849, d. October 16, 1913
 - + Harriet A. Booker, b. August 06, 1859, d. March 25, 1944
 - 5 Bertha May Sears, b. May 1884, d. 1955
 - + Charles Passwater
 - 6 John Passwater, d. 1999
 - + Peggy ?
 - 5 Annie Folks Sears, b. February 21, 1889, d. March 23, 1969
 - + Alfred Augustus Treadwell, b. June 03, 1876, d. June 16, 1939
 - 6 Leona Treadwell, b. August 28, 1908, d. August 14, 1977
 - + Aloysius Carroll, b. August 05, 1897, d. July 1978
 - 6 Margaret Treadwell, b. July 19, 1912, d. February 24, 1986
 - + Robert Briele
 - 6 Alvin Augustur Treadwell, b. June 19, 1919
 - + Margaret Ann Warren, b. Nov. 03, 1921, d. September 1984
 - *2nd Wife of Alvin Augustur Treadwell:
 - + Frances V. McParland, b. August 19, 1920, d. May 01, 1981
 - 6 Walter Lawrence Treadwell, b. February 09, 1922
 - 6 Raymond B. Treadwell, b. July 06, 1929, d. January 29, 1932
- 5 Luther Boardman Sears, b. December 27, 1892, d. November 1973
 - + Flora Geneva Willing, b. October 17, 1896, d. March 15, 1926

Sears Family of Gloucester County, Virginia

- 6 Ruby Lee Sears, b. January 06, 1914, d. October 1996
+ Leroy Frederic Rust
- 6 Richard Denwood Sears, b. May 23, 1920
- 6 Lois Mildred Sears, b. June 17, 1915
- 6 Hazel Marie Sears, b. June 23, 1923
+ William Dykes
- 6 William Dykes, b. March 14, 1926
- 6 Leonard Boyd Sears, Sr., b. December 20, 1916, d. May 05, 1992

- 2 James Sears, b. 1781
- 2 William Sears, Jr., b. 1782
- 2 Henry Sears, b. bef 1795, d. bef 1860
- 2 Anne Sears, b. 1795, d. abt 1850

Continued from page 10



A. C. Lamberth's C.S.A. Marker Comes Home!

By Robert W. Plummer

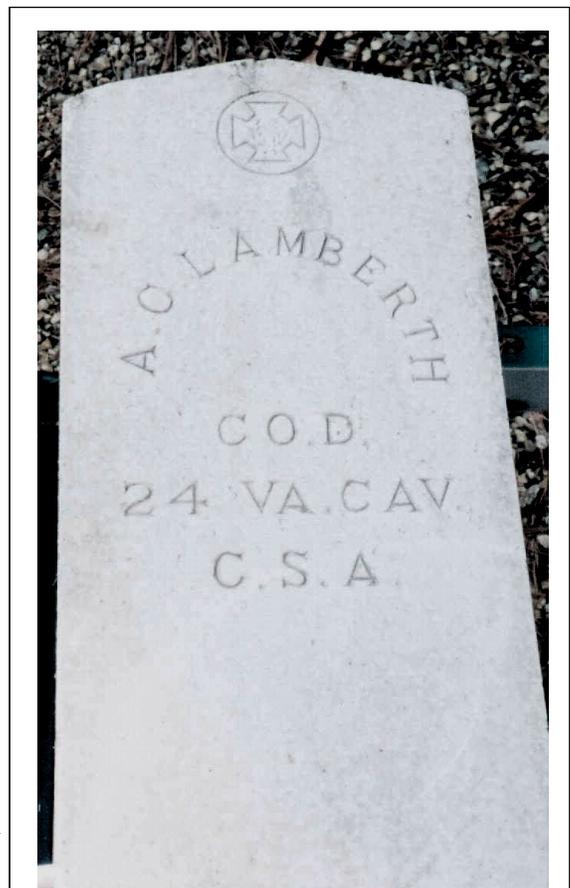
In Mary Wiatt Gray's book published in 1936, "*Gloucester County (Virginia)*," she notes that in 1927, the Sally Tompkins Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy placed stone markers at the graves of those who had served in the Confederate services. No stone marker was placed at the gravesite of A.C. Lamberth (my first cousin three times removed). However, some time between 1927 and today, a small metal CSA marker was placed at his gravesite. I have not been able to locate the old records of the Gloucester Sally Tompkins Chapter which some say was ended in the 1950's. Maybe they had applied to the government and found that a marker had already been placed for A.C. Lamberth.

In 2002, Mr. William Danny Lamberth of South Boston, VA, discovered that the CSA marker for A.C. Lamberth had been placed as a headstone at Charles William Lamberth's gravesite by mistake. Charles (born in 1847 and died in 1924) was Danny's great grandfather.

Danny sent me the following message by email: "my great-grandfather was Charles William Lamberth, and he served in the 1st VA. Reserves. He had a headstone on his grave of an A.C. Lamberth. After research, I found they had the wrong information on the headstone so I replaced the headstone. The one I removed is for an A.C. Lamberth of Gloucester, VA, of the VA cavalry. I would like to get the headstone to the right family."

I asked Danny to include a short note on how he found the problem, how he verified it, and how he got a new stone. Mr. Lamberth's reply follows:

"I got started in research about 30 years ago when I had a school project on my genealogy. I started asking all my aunts and uncles all kinds of questions about our family. They suggested I talk to my great-aunt, Annie Lamberth O'Brien, who will be 100 years old this September. She said that Charles William Lamberth served in the Civil War and his job was tending horses. She said that her dad told her that he lied about his age to get into the army. I was living in Roxboro, NC, at the time and she told me that he was buried at Hunting Creek Baptist Church in Halifax County, VA. So I made a trip to the cemetery and took pictures of the grave. The headstone was a government issue stone with the engravings: A.C. Lamberth, CSA, 24th Va. Calvary. So, I researched and could never find where a Charles Lamberth served in the 24th. Va. Calvary. I knew that the C on the headstone stood



Marker

A. C. Lamberth's C.S.A. Marker Comes Home!

for Charles. About 2 years ago, I visited Aunt Annie in the nursing home and started asking questions again. I asked her if she knew what the initial "A" on the headstone stood for, but she said she never knew. So last year while searching the Virginia Digital Library records on the internet, I came across, Civil War pension records for widows. I then started looking for my great grandmother's name and found it listed in four places. I pulled each up, and the pension record form listed her husband as Charles William Lamberth and that he served in the civil war in the 1st VA Reserves. The 1st Virginia Reserves was a unit that was for soldiers that were too young or too old to serve. I then looked up pension records for A.C. Lamberth and found that he & his wife lived in Gloucester Co., VA, and he served in the 24th Virginia Calvary. So this is when I found out that the information on my great grandfather's headstone was incorrect. I then filled out a US Government request for a headstone for my great grandfather, one with the correct information. It took about 8 months to receive it. The government told me that they have about 300 requests a day for markers, and it would take some time. When the headstone arrived, my wife and I placed it at the cemetery. I didn't know what to do with the [incorrect] headstone so I took it home and placed it near my shop. About a month ago, I was searching the internet and located on a genealogy forum that Robert Plummer had posted and it stated: "*In tracing my Lamberths I have found it spelled as Lambeth in old census records, as Lamberth on the family tombstones, and as Lambert for those in Norfolk, VA, about 1920. Have others found the same situation? The pictures of Lambert family members in Norfolk were not known to my Lamberth cousin here in Gloucester, VA. I wonder if this is all one big family or different families.*" I replied asking if he was related to an A.C. Lamberth from Gloucester Co., VA. Bob emailed me and that's how we got started."

On Saturday, July 13, 2002, I drove to South Boston (399 miles) and picked up the CSA marker for A.C. Lamberth. I hope to have it placed at A.C. Lamberth's gravesite this fall.

Who is A.C. Lamberth? ALBERT CARY LAMBERTH was the son of William and Elizabeth Lamberth and the grandson of R. Thomas Lamberth and his wife Elinor. Albert Cary or "A.C.," as was shown on his tombstone, was born January 06, 1831, in Virginia and died on January 14, 1918, in Virginia. He married Sarah C. Liall, who

| Census Records for Albert Cary Lamberth Household | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Surname | Given Name | Age | Sex | Occupation |
| 1850 Census, household, #75 | | | | |
| Lamberth | William | 39 | M | Farmer |
| Lamberth | Elizabeth | 45 | F | |
| Lamberth | Albert | 19 | M | |
| Lamberth | Sarah F. | 18 | F | |
| Lamberth | Lucy | 12 | F | |
| Lamberth | Susan | 10 | F | |
| 1860 Census, household, #240 | | | | |
| Lamberth | A. C. | 39 | M | Farmer |
| Lamberth | Sarah C | 24 | F | |
| Lamberth | Emily J | 6 | F | |
| Lamberth | Georgiana | 4 | F | |
| Lamberth | Columbus R | 1 | M | |
| Lawson | William | 23 | M | Farm Laborer |
| 1870 Census, household, #P315 | | | | |
| Lamberth | Albert | 39 | M | Farmer |
| Lamberth | Sarah | 37 | F | Keeping House |
| Lamberth | Emily | 16 | F | No Occupation |
| Lamberth | Georgie | 14 | F | No Occupation |
| Lamberth | Coleby | 12 | M | No Occupation |
| Lamberth | Otelly | 9 | F | |
| Lamberth | Susan | 4 | F | |
| 1880 Census, household, #PF456 | | | | |
| Lamberth | Cary | 49 | M | Farmer |
| Lamberth | Sarah | 45 | F | Keeping House |
| Lamberth | Columbia | 18 | F | Home |
| Lamberth | Otelia | 15 | F | Home |
| Lamberth | Susan | 14 | F | Home |
| Lamberth | Lucy | 7 | F | |
| Reade | William A | 11 | M | Attend School |
| 1900 Census, household, #PE277 | | | | |
| Lamberth | Albert C | 69 | M | Farmer |
| Lamberth | Sarah C | 47 | F | |
| Lamberth | Sousan N | 34 | F | Helps Mother |

A. C. Lamberth's C.S.A. Marker Comes Home!

was born February 22, 1833, and died February 23, 1908. He and his wife are buried at Salem United Methodist Church in Gloucester County, VA. As best as I can tell, they had six children: Emily, Georgianna, Coleby, Columbus, Rosa, and Susan.

In the Gloucester census for 1850, 1870, 1880, and 1900, Albert is listed at age 19, 39, 49, and 69, respectively. In 1860, he was listed as 39, but should have been 29 to be consistent with those records before and after 1860. In 1850, he was living at home with his parents. All members of the family were born in Virginia. In 1860, he was married with three children, and in 1870, they have five children.

Albert served in the CSA 24th Virginia Cavalry. In the Virginia Regimental Histories Series he is listed on page 182. A.C. Lamberth enlisted January 8, 1863, as a private for three years at Saluda, VA. He joined Company D (Clopton's Partisan Rangers), commanded by Captain Thomas E. Clopton, on the same day it was organized, January 8, 1863. It consisted of men primarily from Middlesex County. Other officers in Company D were Lieutenants John H. Sears, William V. Heywood, and R. H. Hudgins. A.C. seemed to have had a perfect attendance record without any absences recorded. His first roll call was Oct. 31, 1863, and his last of record was Nov. 1, 1864. He was paroled Apr. 9, 1865, after Gen. Lee surrendered at Appomattox. The 24th VA Cavalry book by Darryl Holland also notes that when A.C. came home he became a teamster. He drew a disability pension of \$36 per year, and after his death, his widow applied for a pension.

My brother, Donald H. Plummer, wrote, "*It has taken 84 years for A.C. Lamberth to get the recognition he so richly deserves. And soon, anyone walking through the Salem Methodist Church Cemetery or reading this history will know that Mr. Lamberth served during the American Civil War, one of the most dreadful blights on our nation. They will be reminded of this terrible event and pause to reflect that they must never contribute to such a similar disaster. We need these reminders of where we were to make us more sure of where we are going...and to pay homage to those who helped us enjoy the life we now possess.*"

What is Genealogy

One of our prospective visitors asked me, "What is genealogy?"

I tried to give a short answer that would encourage her to attend our meeting and at the same time justify spending so much of my time with this activity. This was my somewhat philosophical answer.

Genealogy is a pursuit of understanding ourselves as related to family. This activity on our part should become an unbiased, compassionate search for events of the past and people that were our ancestors; as well as our living relatives. This information package of places, events, and names will form our family heritage. It all becomes the history and events that we pass on to descendants in hopes they will better understand the richness of family.

We diligently search our past and explore our present. We can enhance and share our lives with our known relations and ultimately we can pass on this history and family heritage to our descendants. I call this genealogy.

Roger C. Davis
March 27, 2000

History of Bellamy United Methodist Church

Gloucester County, Virginia

Submitted by Wyolene S. Pointer

Bellamy Church was founded in 1795 by the Rev. Joseph Bellamy in his home which stood in a field adjoining the lot upon which the first building later was erected. The date is taken from the headstone placed at the grave of Parson Bellamy in the church yard. He and his wife, Nancy, donated the land upon which the first church stood. The first building, a frame structure measuring 18 x 20 feet, was constructed in 1810, but misfortune struck in 1831 when, according to a quarterly conference report, the building was burned to the ground by a "vile incendiary."



Old Bellamy completed by 1833

The Rev. William Eastwood, a local preacher, stood by the burning embers and led the challenge to build a new brick church by pledging the first dollar for that purpose. The project was completed and ready for use in 1833. The building still stands behind the present sanctuary as a monument to the religious zeal and spiritual concern of our predecessors.



Present Bellamy Church Building in 2002

"Old Bellamy," as it is frequently called, was remodeled a number of times in the 19 century. For about 100 years it had a frame-built vestibule and steeple, however, with the wooden addition removed, its exterior appearance today is about the same as when first built over 200 years ago. There is no record of the original cost, but it is presumed much of the material was donated. An interesting sidelight is given in the record which states that a certain Isaac Brownley contracted to do all of the carpentry work for the sum of \$248.

Around the turn of the century, just before the age of the automobile, three chapels were established in neighboring communities of Signpine, Cappahosic, and Clay Bank and were served by the church. All were closed in 1936, and it is assumed most of the members came back to the present church.

In the latter part of the 1920's, the need was recognized for a new, larger church. Under the leadership of the Rev. O. M. Clarke and the building committee (J. H. Martin, chairman; H. H. Howard, Jack Teagle, W. H. Trevelian and W. D. Weaver) a new edifice was constructed and the first service was held in the building in July 1930. The building contains the present sanctuary and forms the central part of the total building today.

History of Bellamy United Methodist Church

For a decade, the old church building was neglected, then altered on the inside and used as a museum for many years. The building was later renovated to provide classrooms. These served well for several years until replaced by an addition to the new building. Planning began in 1994 to enable the Methodist Youth Fellowship to use the old church for its meetings and activities.

Since building the new church in 1930, there have been several significant building additions and land acquisitions. In 1970 it was envisioned that two wings on both sides of the sanctuary would be needed. The east wing containing classrooms was completed in 1971 during the pastorate of the Rev. C. Katon Gray. The west wing was added during the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Earl D. Martin. It included additional classrooms, a large fellowship hall and kitchen, pastor's study and administrative offices. Dr. Martin and his successor, the Rev. Ronald T. Davidson, were untiring and effective in their leadership to see the project completed and paid for. The total cost was about \$320,000, and the membership displayed its usual generosity and dedication in bringing all of these things to fruition. A new parsonage was purchased in 1976 at a cost of \$37,550, and the old parsonage was sold to the Rev. C. Katon Gray upon his retirement. The new parsonage was sold in November 1999 and the money placed in the Parsonage Fund with proceeds to provide for the pastor's housing/heating allowance.

Bellamy's Sunday School, organized in 1828, continues as a strong and vital influence in the life of the church. In recent years, new classes have been formed to meet the ever-changing needs and interests of the congregation.

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

Renovation of the old church, built in 1833, was begun in the summer of 1998 and was ready for occupancy by early summer of 1999. The first floor is handicapped accessible and has a large meeting room with a small kitchenette; the second floor provides three extra classrooms. Some area of this building is used almost daily.

The church Sanctuary sound system has been modernized to meet audio/video needs, and monitors have been installed in the Nursery and Fellowship Hall. The church acquired a van which meets the transportation need of youth to church related activities. Paving of the grass covered parking lot was begun in 2001 and completed in 2002. A new, highly visible, sign has been placed in front of the church and the old granite stone marker moved to a location beside the Old Church.

Pastors of Bellamy Church from 1869 to 2002

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| James C. Martin | 1869-1873 | W. R. Crowder | 1906-1908 | Clarence England | 1947-1951 |
| Oscar Littleton | 1873-1876 | W. E. Sawyer | 1908-1912 | V. B. Anthony III | 1951-1955 |
| George E. Booker | 1876-1880 | M. S. Elliott | 1912-1913 | B. T. Clarke | 1955-1961 |
| H. C. Cheatham | 1880-1881 | B. E. Hudson | 1913-1916 | L. K. Knowles | 1961-1964 |
| James C. Martin | 1881-1886 | R.T.Clark | 1916-1917 | M.E. Wooten | 1964-1968 |
| Thomas H. Campbell | 1886-1887 | L. D. Stables | 1917-1920 | C. K. Gray | 1968-1974 |
| C. C. Wertenbaker | 1887-1890 | J. W. Fizer | 1920-1924 | Randy Rilee | 1974-1980 |
| W. O. Waggener | 1890-1891 | O. L. Haga | 1924-1927 | Earl D. Martin | 1980-1986 |
| W. H. Gregory | 1891-1893 | O. M. Clark | 1927-1933 | Ronald T. Davidson | 1986-1994 |
| J. D. Hank | 1893-1894 | D. G. Trent | 1933-1936 | James B. Grimmer | 1994-1998 |
| J. E. Potts | 1894-1898 | F. O. Briggs | 1936-1941 | Robert I. Woodfin | 1998-2001 |
| D. G. C. Butts | 1898-1902 | R. L. Moore | 1941-1944 | Robert F. Justis | 2001- |
| J. E. DeShazo | 1902-1906 | R. E. Cardwell | 1944-1947 | | |

Updated: 8-31-2002

The Mystery of Gloucester Town: Discovering a Forgotten Virginia Town

By: Thane Harpole and David Brown*

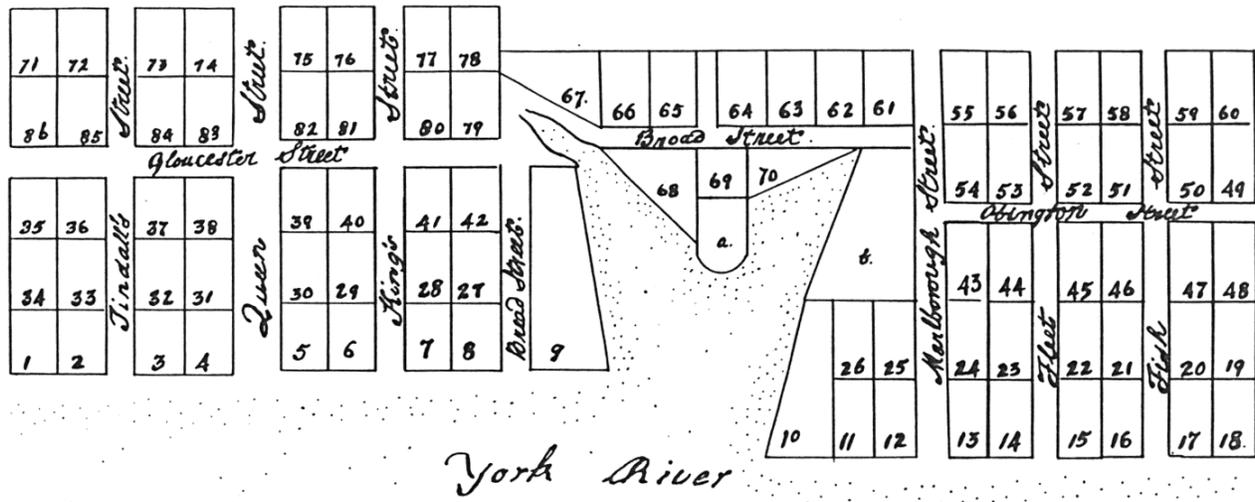
Visitors to Gloucester Point see only a small part of its complex and storied past - the remains of a Civil War fort sitting adjacent to Route 17 and the campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Residents and visitors often wonder “where is Gloucester Town?” without realizing it is right beneath them. More pertinent questions now are “what was Gloucester Town,” and “where has it gone?” The answer to these questions has been the focus of archaeologists for over twenty years, and slowly the town is coming back to life. To step back into historic Gloucester Town is to close your eyes and imagine a past literally buried beneath the surface.

Images of colonial port towns often consist of a ship’s coming to port, farmers delivering tobacco for inspection, and the hustle and bustle of colonial commerce. Gloucester Town’s everyday life was no different, but its beginnings were very humble. A tobacco warehouse, fortifications, and a small, dispersed community of middling tobacco farmers had been established there by the late 17th century (McCartney 1986; Brown 2001). Gloucester Town was first created on paper by the Town Act of 1680, which authorized the division and sale of lots at this very strategic point (Hening 1969:2:473). The Town Act was an attempt to centralize and control the tobacco trade and other commercial ventures, while encouraging settlement in a more urban form. Although Gloucester Point had been referenced as a possible location for the new State House following its destruction during Bacon’s Rebellion, nothing came of that measure. A plat of the town was completed by 1682, and a number of lots were sold, but the lack of incentives to build a town, coupled with the repeal of the act several years later, proved detrimental to town development. As far as can be determined, settlement was sparse before the early 18th century, but the fortifications were repaired sporadically throughout this period, and there are several documented residents who made Gloucester Point their home (McCartney 1986).

After a second attempt to establish towns in 1691, Virginia’s governing elite passed the almost identical Act for Establishing Ports and Towns in 1706 (Hening 1969:3:404). This time they provided additional support and regulations necessary to catalyze the settlement of Gloucester Town and other proposed towns throughout the colony. It was at this point that a new plat, assumed to be similar to the first, was drafted, listing the lot owners of the time (Fig. 1).

Many prominent individuals and families owned lots in the town, including the Warners, Burwells, Whittings, Bristows, Thrustons, Smiths, and Lewises. The fates and fortunes of two of these families, the Burwells and Thrustons, were later mixed at Fairfield (Brown, Harpole and Smith 2002). The development of the town was intrinsically connected with Gloucester County’s major plantations. Many landowners had an economic stake in the growth of the town, fostering interdependency with the surrounding countryside. Prominent merchant families, such as the Thrustons, were among the first residents in town, but they soon pursued acquiring plantations in the county. The

Figure 1.— Gloucester Town — 1707



Corresponding Lots Owners of Gloucester Town in 1707

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 8 | William Dalton | 51 | Thomas Perrin |
| 9 | William Dalton | 52 | Thomas Perrin |
| 12 | Edward Porteus | 61 | John Lewis |
| 13 | Major Lewis Burwell | 62 | John Lewis |
| 14 | John Smith | 63 | John Lewis |
| 15 | John Mann | 64 | John Lewis |
| 16 | William Buckner | 65 | J. Skelton & William Gordon |
| 17 | Thomas Perrin | 66 | J. Skelton & William Gordon |
| 20 | Thomas Perrin | 67 | J. Skelton |
| 21 | John Perrin | 68 | Richard Bath |
| 22 | John Perrin | 70 | Richard Bath |
| 23 | Nathaniel Burwell | 70b | Richard Booker & Mrs. Roydes |
| 24 | Nathaniel Burwell | 71 | Major Lewis Burwell |
| 27 | G. Braxton | 73 | G. Braxton |
| 28 | Nathaniel Burwell | 74 | G. Braxton |
| 29 | Nathaniel Burwell | 75 | Mr. D. Beddors |
| 35 | James Terry | 76 | Mr. D. Beddors |
| 36 | James Terry | 78 | William Dalton |
| 41 | Dr. William Kemp | 79 | William Dalton |
| 47 | John Dunbar | 80 | William Dalton |
| 48 | John Dunbar | 81 | Mr. D. Beddors |
| 49 | Richard March | 82 | Mr. D. Beddors |
| 50 | Richard March | 85 | J. Martin |
| | | 86 | Nathaniel Burwell |

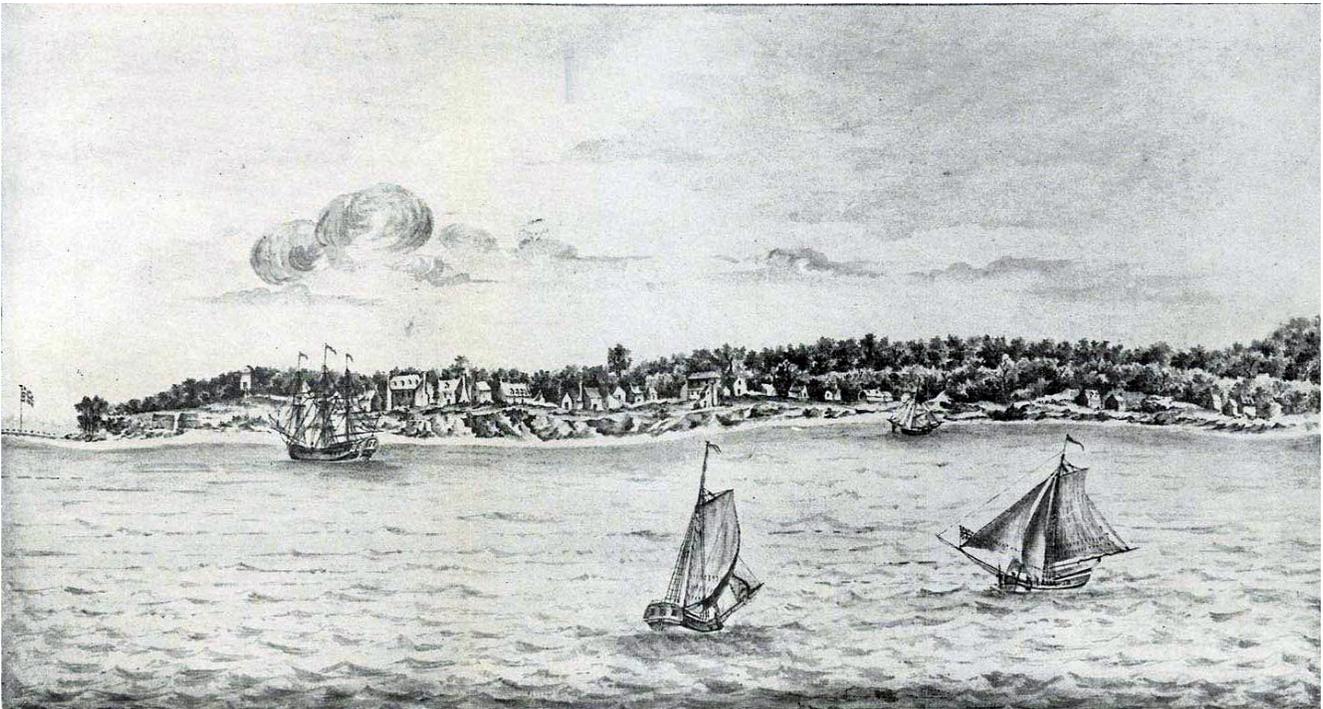


Figure 2.— *A View of the Town of Gloucester, York River Virginia*

opportunity for growth and profit that lured these individuals to Gloucester Town was secured by the support of the county's merchant-planters who, already owning impressive plantations with large homes, numerous slaves, and vast landholdings, invested in the town to diversify their economic resources, gain better access to imported goods, encourage the growth and status of their community, or simply to rival wealthy friends and neighbors.

According to the 1706 act, lot owners were required to "improve" their lots by constructing residences, warehouses, or craft buildings within a year or forfeit their town land. This requirement was intermittently enforced and became moot after the Town Act was repealed in 1710, but it appears that this final Town Act provided real incentives for growth. William Dalton was one original lot owner who must have built on his property within the required time as he retained his lots until his death in 1733. While most of the records for the early occupation of the town have been lost, the few that remain and a painting of the town from 1755 suggests that much of the town was developed within the initial decades of the eighteenth century (Fig. 2, McCartney 1986).

A tobacco warehouse was operational by 1714, and by the middle of the 18th century, dozens of buildings lined the streets of Gloucester Town, overlooking the mouth of the York River. The community was nestled around a small cove containing the docks, but development appears to have concentrated in the west half of the town. Several visitors to Gloucester Town mention the presence of houses and fortifications, and the 1755 watercolor reveals a definite town perched upon sandy banks above the York River. A visitor in 1781 mentioned "the place consists of some thirty houses which, however, generally belong to wealthy people who have great plantations in the country" (McCartney 1986). Though it was never a very large community, by the mid-18th century Gloucester Town had become a thriving port and trading center. The tobacco warehouse continued to anchor the town's commercial purpose and sustained the merchants conducting business in town. The presence of a fort on the western edge of town provided protection from pirates and other

The Mystery of Gloucester Town

threats, helping to ensure the town's usefulness as a center for commerce and communication.

Gloucester Town was one of many tidewater port towns that flourished and declined during the 18th century. Some have been wiped out by urban development, or forgotten in old fields, while others, like Yorktown, Urbanna and Port Royal enjoy a quaint survival. Most of these towns were small, limited to a handful of developed lots mostly with warehouses and taverns, but they served as important social and commercial centers for the developing colony of Virginia. In Maryland, several similar towns have been undergoing a renaissance through archaeological study. Dubbed the Lost Towns Project, this ambitious program is documenting, protecting, and excavating the remains of early Maryland towns that were all but forgotten. While the remains at Gloucester Point have not received this kind of sustained focus, the results of 20 years of archaeology are substantially rewriting its history.

When fortifications at Gloucester Point were enlarged during the Revolutionary War, the western half of the town was included within the new fort. The ensuing conflict with England marked the beginning of Gloucester Town's demise. Damage claims after the war reveal that many town buildings were damaged or destroyed and some were used to quarter troops (Mason II:59). Remnants of fortification ditches, burned buildings and soldiers' graves are some of the clues that archaeologists have found illustrating this important period.

At the end of the 18th century, the adverse effects of war and declining importance of tobacco had diminished the fortunes of Gloucester Town's residents and landowners. The silting in of the town cove by the late 18th century made it unrealistic to expect continued reinvestment, and the economic instability of the early 19th century forced entrepreneurs and craftsmen to look elsewhere. Begun chiefly as a mercantile venture, without a parish church or courthouse to support the floundering town, Gloucester Town effectively ceased to exist by the mid-19th century. Town lots were slowly consolidated as the ruins of buildings fell in upon themselves. The landscape reverted to a small group of farms, similar to the community of dispersed properties that existed before the town was settled.

While the town had mostly disappeared, the strategic importance of Gloucester Point ensured that it would remain active in other ways throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The ferry continued to connect the Middle Peninsula to Yorktown, and the Civil War brought the construction of extensive fortifications, destroying the town's few surviving 18th-century buildings. Steamships plying the Chesapeake during the mid-19th century revitalized economic activity at the tip of Gloucester Point near the present-day beach, resulting in a cluster of buildings by the early 20th century. However, this small settlement, ravaged by the Hurricane of 1933, the death of the steamship network, and finally the construction of the Coleman Bridge, would also vanish.

But the disappearance of what existed above ground has left a signature that still remains beneath the surface, now covered by roads, manicured lawns, homes, and the VIMS campus. Salvage excavations prior to the construction of VIMS Waterman's Hall in the early 1980s provided archaeologists with the first major glimpse of Gloucester Town and the secrets it contained. Previous excavations by the Gloucester County Archaeology Project (GCAP), Gloucester Historical Society, and the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology (VRCA) in the mid- to late 1970s, had only scratched the surface of this mammoth archaeological site (Hazzard and McCartney 1987:75). The excavations uncovered a treasure trove of information, including the remains of pre-1707 buildings and fortifications, 18th-century town houses and warehouses, and the remains of soldiers from the Revolutionary War.

The Mystery of Gloucester Town

The importance of this site to both state and national history was recognized by the inclusion of the Gloucester Point Archaeological District on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register (Hazzard and McCartney 1981). Archaeology continued under the direction of the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) during the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s, confirming the breadth of well-preserved history covering the entire occupation of Gloucester Point, both in prehistory and leading up until the present day. Installation of sewer and utility lines throughout the VIMS campus gave archaeologists their first look at additional parts of the 18th-century port town. From 17th-century fort and warehouse, to colonial town, to Revolutionary War fort, to Civil War fort, the complicated history of Gloucester Town is written in the ground, through brick foundations, massive earthworks and the soil stains of fences, ditches, trash pits, and burials.

Today, archaeology continues to uncover the discarded artifacts and features of colonial Gloucester's past. Recent work has focused on areas identified as colonial lots 8 and 27, near the center of this port town. These lots were owned by merchant families throughout the 18th century, and the owners played a significant role in the development of Gloucester Town (Fig. 3). While no buildings were uncovered, thousands of artifacts discarded by residents of the area revealed a wealth of activity spanning the 18th century. In 1707, these lots were the property of a merchant named

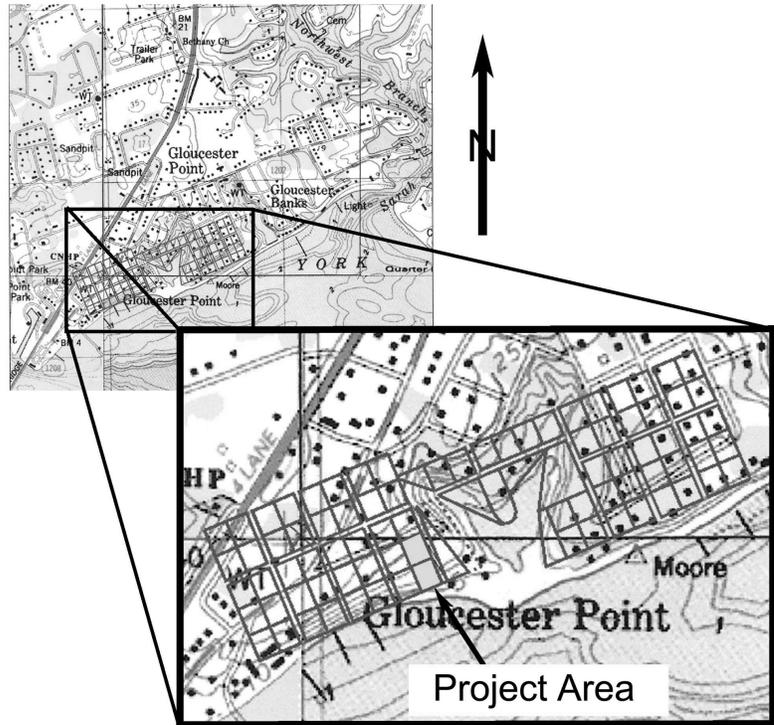


Figure 3.— Recent Archaeological Project Area location corresponding to 1707 Gloucester Town layout



Figure 4.— Wine bottle seal found at Gloucester Town site.

William Dalton. He married Sarah Mynn in 1730, and she received the property upon his death. In 1737 Sarah married John Thruston, and the lots remained in the Thruston family through the early 19th century.

John Thruston was a prominent merchant in Gloucester Town, who quickly expanded his holdings by acquiring small plantations outside of town. He originally lived in Yorktown, but moved across the river around the time of his marriage. As a merchant, it is highly likely that Thruston lived in town, to be near his business, and the recovery of a wine bottle seal bearing his initials is strong evidence of his presence in town (Fig. 4). A 1782 damage claim submitted by Thruston's son lists several buildings

The Mystery of Gloucester Town

that were burned or pulled down during the war, including a dwelling, storehouse, dairy, and smoke house, that were likely on the lots he owned in town. Not only is the scale of damage indicative of the ravishing effects of war, but the fact that so many buildings were located on just a few of the town's lots proves how developed the town had become by the 1770s. Further work in this area will hopefully shed more light on the exact building layout, and the lifestyles of Gloucester Town's residents.

Scholars are just beginning to understand the potential of archaeology at Gloucester Town. More than two decades of research have proven the need for sustained excavation and mitigation to investigate specific buildings, lots, and owners with the goal of understanding how the town developed and changed. The construction of additional research facilities at VIMS over the next several years will provide archaeologists with the fascinating opportunity to explore more of Gloucester Town's buried past. The growth of VIMS has caused delight and frustration among residents and researchers, but in terms of Gloucester Town's history it has been invaluable. The types of data that archaeologists uncover are seldom found in historic documents, and with the destruction of much of Gloucester County's written history during the Civil War, the archaeological record has become increasingly important. Hard data, such as building and road locations, construction dates, and the presence of undocumented craftsmen, are being uncovered with every new project. But the true value of the excavations lay in their ability to write, and re-write, the history of this extremely significant site. Reconstructing the lives of the slaves, tenants, craftsmen, travelers, merchants, and others who passed along the streets of this small port town is essential to understanding Virginia's history and the story of America's past.

Visitors to Gloucester Point today, whether they are enjoying the beach, fishing off the pier, or conducting research at VIMS, would be hard pressed to find visible evidence of Gloucester Point's history, unless they notice the well-maintained Civil War fortifications beside the road. However, archaeology has proven that centuries of settlement lie just beneath the surface, silently awaiting discovery. Renewed interest in Gloucester County's history following the 350th anniversary celebration last year should focus more attention on the important contributions that Gloucester Town and the fortifications at the Point made to Virginia history.



Gloucester Point, Virginia in 1925
(Courtesy of Ann Thruston Scott)

(Continued on page 39)

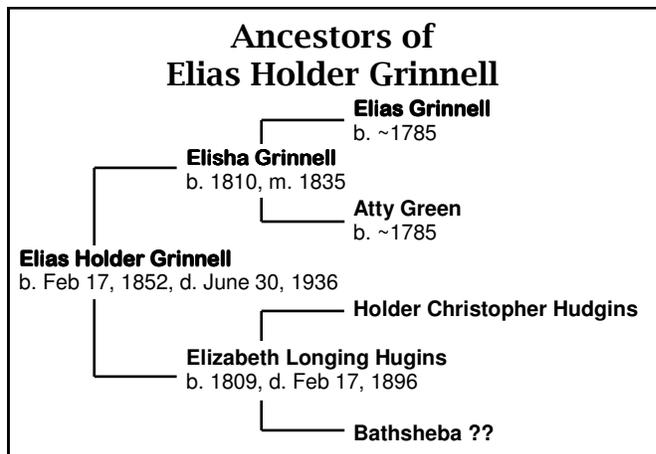
Elias Holder Grinnell Of Mathews County, Virginia

By Prof. Jay Hoar
Submitted by Hartley West

Prof. Jay Hoar of Maine wrote the following article. The intent was to use it in a book he was writing "Children Who Served In War." The information was provided by Aubrey Brown of Mathews County from stories given to him by his great-grandfather, Elias, and his research on the Grinnell Family.

Elias Holder Grinnell was born in Mathews County, Virginia, on Feb. 17, 1852, the son of Elisha Grinnell and Elizabeth Hudgins (daughter of Holder Christopher Hudgins and Bathsheba). Elias was one of five children, his siblings being Bathsheba, Elizabeth, John, and William Grinnell.

One way or another, the Grinnells for generations made all or part of their living from the sea. As a boy of ten and eleven, Elias helped the family income by culling oysters and taking care of fishing equipment. The peaceful routines of the family's maritime livelihood were severely compromised by the onset of hostilities in the late spring of 1861. Situated as they were quite between the North and South, expected to be pro-southern for all their local ties, friends, and in-laws, they "faced their conscience." Great grandson Aubrey Brown of Mathews County in his letter Apr 7, 1997, sketches in their situation.



Mathews County was a beehive of activity during the 1862-3 period. Confederate Calvary were using this county as a training site even as blockade runners were busy supplying shoes, clothes and blankets from the Eastern Shores of Virginia and Maryland. Privatizing blockade runners sponsored or owned by businessmen would bring materials into the county; then it would be taken by horse and cart to West Point, Virginia; then conveyed by train to Confederate headquarters in Richmond. Units of the Confederate Navy command of acting Master John Yates Beall were in charge of operations. Serious damage to Union shipping in the Chesapeake Bay and along the coast caused the federal government to impose a blockade of Mathews County by land and sea during the spring and summer of 1863. As a result of this occupation of the county, two families took refuge aboard Union ships in our harbor.

The Grinnells were one of these homes that decided to join the Union; thus, they took a Union steamer for Baltimore where they remained during the war. They returned to

Elias Holder Grinnell

Mathews County in the summer of 1865. It is hard to understand why they left Mathews County, especially with numerous cousins in the Confederate army.

Elias lived in the family home on Fleet Street in Baltimore until his enlistment. This he accomplished at Old Point Comfort, Hampton, Virginia, on September 1, 1864, when he signed on as mess boy aboard the U.S. Revenue Cutter the PHILIP ALLEN assigned to performing on the Chesapeake Bay and waters tributary thereto, chiefly about Fort Monroe. Elias, on the day of his enlistment, was 12 years 6-1/2 months old. His entire service tour was spent aboard the PHILIP ALLEN as mess boy until his honorable discharge on September 9, 1865, at Old Point. Essentially a waiter in the officer wardroom, Elias often worked under the immediate supervision of the ship's cook. Youth billet and personnel aboard and his experience were to remain a favorite time to look back upon during his 70 post-bellum years.

Edmund T. Girard, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard and retired fireman of Lynn, Massachusetts, directs us to Florence Kern's U.S. Revenue Cutters of the Civil War that discloses historical details on mess boy Grinnell's vessel.

PHILIP ALLEN was built by Page & Allen at Portsmouth, Virginia, in 1855, and named for Senator Allen a Tariff, Democrat, Governor of Rhode Island and builder of the first steam engine in his state. Captain Hudgins supervised PHILIP ALLEN and her sister ships, topsail schooners HENRY DODGE and LEWIS CASS, built for the Revenue Marine Service at Portsmouth. The PHILIP ALLEN, stationed at Baltimore, normally carried a crew of three officers and ten crew. In December 1860, her officers were Captain Thomas Sands, Lt. R. A. Morsell, and Chas. R. Bertr.

Much of the international and coastwise traffic that came into Baltimore had already been boarded and inspected in Norfolk. The PHILIP ALLEN inspected outward-bound vessels and the almost limitless numbers of canoes, pungies and bugeyes that crossed the bay carrying fish, oysters, produce, and lumber. On December 11, 1860, she boarded 18 of them at Drum Point on the Paxtuxent River and inspected an abandoned American schooner at Point Lookout. Her crew was treated to a rare sight August 5, 1860, at Annapolis as recorded in her journal. "At 5 pm the steamship GREAT EASTERN anchored in Annapolis Roads. His Excellency the President of the United States Buchanan passed out of the harbor on the U.S. steam vessel ANACOSTIA to visit the GREAT EASTERN." The PHILIP ALLEN fired a 21-gun salute as the President passed.

Captain William Howard, as early as May 1861, wrote to the Treasury Secretary Chase that the PHILIP ALLEN was totally unworthy of repairs, but she remained on Chesapeake Bay duty throughout the war until November 1865 because Chase did not go along with abandoning the PHILIP ALLEN. She was thoroughly overhauled at the Philadelphia Navy Yard at great expense in the summer of 1861. Captain Howard was ordered to sail to Harve de Grace where, on the 27th of October 1861, she was visited by Assistant Secretary of Treasury Harrington. The PHILIP ALLEN was decommissioned in 1865

Four and a half years after his Civil War service, Elias, now 18, married Ellen Marie Jarvis (October 22, 1848 - October 20, 1910), daughter of Edward and Delila Ripley, on February 20, 1870. They would have 11 children: Edward M., John B., William C., Albert, Hattie, Amanda, Mae, Sophia, Bailey, Richard, and Charles.

Elias was a fisherman by trade and he cruised about mainly on the Chesapeake Bay. He was still fishing in 1915, and living in New Point when he first applied for a Civil War pension. He fished until a weak heart and rheumatism no longer permitted him.

We are pleased to see a veteran of the old Revenue Cutter Service here among the youths who bore a hand in our American Crisis since there were very probably a few others

Elias Holder Grinnell

of his tender years in that vital service. Grinnell performs double duty here by representing those others like him. In the early 1860's each cutter had a drummer and a fifer aboard. He occasions a further long faded memory that the G.A.R. declared as ineligible for membership officers and men who had been in the Revenue Service or Revenue Marines during 1861-65. Proven wounds acquired while in the employ of the Treasury department may have qualified a rare G.A.R. admittance of a revenuer, not that Grinnell's brethren were clamoring to get in. Nonetheless, as linseed oil is added to a ship's final coat of paint so does their redeeming legacy shine brightly to this day for they were the forerunners of our United States Coast Guard.

Elias Holder Grinnell, b. Feb 17, 1852, m. Ellen Marie Jarvis, b. Oct 22, 1848
Edward Martin Grinnell, b. Sep 11, 1871, m. Churickley Elizabeth Hudgins, b. 1872
John Berdeal Grinnell, b. May 25, 1873, m. George Della Hudgins, b. 1874
William Constantine Grinnell, b. 1874, m. Maude Grace Tomlinson, b. Jan 9, 1876
Richard Grinnell, b. 1875
Sophia Grinnell, b. 1877, m. Gilbert Seth Hudgins, b. 1874
Amanda Grinnell, b. Jun 1881, m. Richard H. Taylor, b. 1874
Bailey Grinnell, b. 1886
Albert Grinnell, b. 1887, m. Marion Jarvis, b. 1885
Charles L. Grinnell, b. 1888
Mae Grinnell, b. Feb 10, 1889, m. William Owens
Hattie Grinnell, b. Aug 25, 1894, m. Henry Owens, b. 1892

I was fifteen years old when my great granddad, Elias, heard and answered eight bells. I remember him well as a tall man, a family man, and a fisherman all his life. Elias was living with his daughter, Mrs. Mae Owens, in Peary when he died on June 30, 1936. He was laid to rest in the family burial grounds in New Point.

(Continued from page 36)

Note: There are a number of useful sources for more information about the history of Gloucester Town and excavations that have occurred there. Some of these include Karen Fisher's 1986 William and Mary Anthropology masters thesis *Community in Gloucestertown, Virginia: The Context and Archaeology of Town Development in 17th and 18th Century Virginia*; David Hazzard and Martha McCartney's 1981 National Register of Historic Places nomination form and 1987 article in *American Archaeology*, "Rescue Efforts to Save the Vanishing Traces of Gloucester Town" (Vol. 6, No. 1, p. 68-80); Martha McCartney's unpublished manuscript "History of Gloucester Point, Virginia" at the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) in Richmond; William Hening's 1969 *The Statutes at Large, Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia ...*; David Brown's 2001 University of Massachusetts, Boston masters thesis entitled "To the place where it began;" Brown, Harpole and Smith's 2002 article "Fairfield Foundation: Home of the Burwells (available at the Fairfield Foundation) and 2002 report on recent excavations at the Wilson House which, along with numerous archaeological reports, is available at the DHR.

Acknowledgments: We'd like to thank the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for giving us the opportunity to conduct archaeological research on their property. They are stewards of one of Virginia's most important archaeological districts and we are honored to contribute to the effort to uncover this significant information. We'd also like to thank Roger and Roane for prompting us to write up our research, and their patience in gently reminding us about deadlines.

* David A. Brown & Thane H. Harpole, Co-Directors
Fairfield Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 157, White Marsh, VA 23183-0157
(804) 694-4775 - Lab Phone
http://www.rootsweb.com/~vaglouce/glou_rec2.html

Headstone of William Thornton, The Younger (1699-1745) Hill Cemetery, Gloucester, Virginia

*By Robert M. Thornton
Duluth, Georgia
August 2002*

Thanks to the efforts of Ed Thornton of Richmond and Jim Thornton of New York, the headstone of William Thornton, The Younger (1699-1745) has been placed in Hill Cemetery near Gloucester Point in Gloucester County, Virginia. He was buried in the Thornton family cemetery near Clay Bank in Gloucester, and his headstone was removed from that location and "...used as a doorstep at a gristmill, and, later, in the same way at a home near Clay Bank." (Ref. 1) This same reference details the inscription, now only partially readable on the much-abused headstone:

Here Lyeth
The Body of Mr Wm Thornton born [erased] [1699?]
Who married the youngest
Daughter of Mr John Meaux
By whom he had eight children
Two of whom lyeth on his left
Hand, the rest are as follows,
Elizabeth, Ann, William, Meaux,
Richard and John. He was a loving husband
A tender father
And kind neighbor
He dyeth May y^e 3d 1745
Aged 46 years

This William Thornton was the son of William Thornton, Jr. (1649-1727) and the grandson of William Thornton, The Gloucester Immigrant (1620(?)-1708/9). This headstone is the oldest surviving grave marker of the Gloucester Thorntons.

References

1. "Epitaphs of Gloucester and Mathews Counties in Tidewater Virginia Through 1865," The Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia, 1959. p. 40.

Locating the Grave of Richard H. Sibley

By Beth Maxwell

My Sears repairman husband is forever coming home asking if I've got relatives buried in the cemeteries he finds as he travels the countryside on his appointed rounds. He keeps promising that "one of these days" we will tour Gloucester County so that he can show me some of these off-the-beaten-path graveyards.

Recently, we did just that, spending a day driving around the county. As the two o'clock sun beat down on us on the hot August day, I began to think I'd go home with only the few notes I'd made at Union Baptist Church, Benea.

We turned off of Route 17 at Glenss and drove on Route 33 to County Line Road (Route 609), to New Hope United Methodist Church, where I knew some of my King and Queen County GREGG's were buried.

Much to my dismay and surprise, we found the grave of an ancestor whom I believed had been buried in Middlesex County alongside her husband. His grave is in the woods in Warner, Middlesex County. It had been left unattended for many years until it was discovered by a teenager walking in the woods behind his home. He had ventured into the woods because he'd heard a bulldozer and was curious. To his horror, he witnessed tombstone pieces being ripped apart by the bulldozer. He hastily went to get his parents, and they were successful in stopping further disturbance of the graves. The only one left undisturbed was the grave of **Richard H. Sibley**, my great-grandmother's brother. We naturally assumed that Richard's wife, Mary, had been buried alongside him; we were mistaken.

Mary Massey Sibley outlived her husband by 23 years, so she apparently returned to her native Gloucester County after his death. For reasons we may never know, she was not buried with Richard but was buried at New Hope Church beside her daughter, Blanche Sibley Bland.

Praise be.

Editor's note: We welcome this type of information concerning grave sites in and around the county.

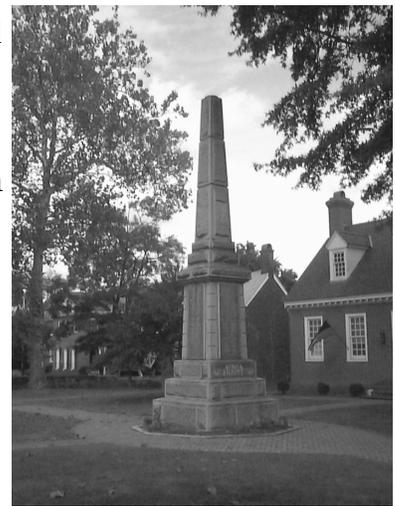
Gloucester Court House Confederate Memorial

The Two Missing Men

Compiled by Robert W. Plummer

On September 18, 1889, the monument to the Confederate Dead of Gloucester was unveiled. Major General William Booth Taliaferro said the following in his introduction, "After years of weary waiting, that tribute which in our hearts we have so unceasingly rendered to the heroic virtues of our fallen comrades, at last today, finds expression of material manifestation in a completed monument of Virginia granite to stand as a sentinel witness of their unsurpassed patriotism and of our admiration and love."

We have this information because of the work of Mr. C. Todd Field. Mr. Field, a Gloucester native, a historian, and a man who knew Gloucester County and her history well, discovered the collection in the County Clerk's Office and he undertook the task of organizing and publishing the "Reminiscences." The information presented here is from the documents Mr. Field found. The documents are essays and related materials gathered sometime during the 1930's by Nellie Shackelford Smith, historian of the Sally Thompkins Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy of Gloucester, Virginia. It is with a sad heart that I mention that Mr. Field was murdered this year in his front yard.



Major James N. Stubbs of Gloucester, Virginia, was on General Magruder's Staff and was the Secretary of the Gloucester Monument Association. He was requested to prepare a history of the Association. The following is a direct quotation from "Reminiscences" pages 113-115.

HISTORY OF THE GLOUCESTER MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

The Executive Committee requested the Secretary to prepare a history of the Association to be read at the unveiling of the monument. I have prepared this paper and crave the indulgence of the audience while I read it. Gloucester County, with a population of about ten thousand people in 1861, furnished her full quota of soldiers to Virginia and "The Confederate States" in the late war of 1861-65. When the conflict was over and the survivors returned to their homes, the first question asked was, who are absent? On calling the roll of soldiers who enlisted in the fight from this County, we found a large number absent; one hundred and thirty-two failed to respond to their names; but they were "accounted for" they had given up their lives for "The Confederate Cause." Some had died in our hospitals from wounds and disease; some had died in Northern prisons. While we stood with sad hearts and moistened cheeks because they were absent, yet we knew they had died at the post of duty, had died for Home. Very soon, the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the brave heroes conceived the idea that a monument be erected to their memory. It required money to do this.

Gloucester Court House Confederate Memorial

How can this money be raised? Was asked by all. From tournaments, concerts, tableaux, dinners, lectures and voluntary subscriptions a large sum was realized. It soon became necessary to have an organization to take charge of the funds and carry out the grand object. On March 25th 1875 the General Assembly of Virginia incorporated "The Gloucester Monument Association": see Acts of Assembly 1874-5, chapter 212, pp 259.60. The incorporators therein named and many other ex-Confederate soldiers organized the Association and elected a president, three vice-presidents, a treasurer, a secretary and nine other members as the Executive Committee of the said Association, which under the charter had to transact all the business of said Association. The funds on hand at the date of the organization were placed in the bank, on interest and when any addition was received it was also deposited in bank; slowly, patiently, but surely we moved on, hoping at last to have funds sufficient to build a monument. Repeated enquiries were made about the monument from 1875 to 1886. On March 17th 1886 notice was given by me as secretary of the Association, by order of General William B. Taliaferro, President, that "The Gloucester Monument Association" would meet at Gloucester Court House, on 17th April 1886 to attend to important business. Then it was our funds were sufficient to warrant us in making a move towards the erection of the monument, as the committee has determined not to move until the money was in hand. On 17th April 1886 a large number of soldiers met, with Major Wm. K. Perrin as president pro tern, and on that day, the Association elected the present Executive Committee - viz., William B. Taliaferro, President; W. E. Wiatt, first Vice-president; J. N. Stubbs, Secretary and J. M. Nicolson, Treasurer; William V. Heywood, William ap W. Jones, Charles Catlett, Maryus Jones, William H. Martin, F. H. Wolfe, J. B. Donovan, John E. Bland and J. W. Diggs.

Steps were immediately taken to find out the names of the dead. Various committees were appointed for the purpose. The President and Secretary repeatedly through the local paper published here, urged the importance of having every name reported. We did not want a single hero to be unnoticed. We regret that two names were not reported in time to have them placed on the roll of fame. Their names appear on the memorial card and the executive committee will have Robert F. Liall, Company H 26th Virginia Infantry and Charles Vaughan, Company K 34th Virginia Infantry, cut in the Monument at no distant day, if possible to be done. The committee advertising for plans and price of the Monument. After receiving many plans, the Committee finally contracted with George Lumsden of Petersburg, Virginia on September 8th, 1886. A little more than three years ago there was a reunion of the Confederate Soldiers of Gloucester, under the management of the Executive Committee of the Gloucester Monument Association. On that day we had with us Governor Fitzhugh Lee. Major Baker P. Lee was the orator of the day.

Ever since the contract was made for the erecting of the Monument the Committee had done everything that could be done to hurry up the work and let this day come as soon as possible. We have heard complaint, but now we hope all are satisfied.

George Lumsden, the contractor, has completed his work. 'Tis done, and the Committee think 'tis done well. As to the cost of the Monument: Mr. Lumsden's bill amounts to \$1477.70. We have paid him \$1100, and now owe him \$277.70 (author's note - there seems to be \$100 missing). We are anxious to pay off this balance today from voluntary contributions, from refreshments furnished by the ladies, and from the sale of our memorial cards.

We are under many obligations to Hon. Warner T. Jones, Judge of the County Court of Gloucester, and Board of Supervisors of our County, for appropriations made out of county funds to aid in building the Monument.

We have selected the public square at our county seat as the most appropriate place to erect the Monument.

There stands the Monument. A larger list of dead from Gloucester than any county in Virginia in proportion to population. Read the list and every rank from Colonel down through commissioned and non-commissioned officers are there found. Also a long list of

Gloucester Court House Confederate Memorial

privates, who led the charge to victory or death. Every native born white citizen of Gloucester, in reading over those names, will let the eye rest longer on some one name than on others. The affectionate wife will read husband's name and recall the last words she whispered in his ear, "go, and do your duty." A devoted mother will read the name of her brave boy and remember how he looked in Confederate gray as she told him that "Virginia called him" and gave him the farewell kiss. An affectionate daughter will read father's name and bring back the hour he stooped and kissed her and said: "good bye" for the last time. A loving sister will see brother's name and think of the happy hours they have spent together at home, and while the tear moistens the cheek, she remembers that brother died defending his sister's home. Yes, some of the little ones in this audience may read grandfather's name on yonder slab. Thus it is, that strong ties, from that list of heroes, will run through all coming time and our children's children will love to linger around and read the lesson that that shaft will tell as long as one stone is piled on another and until the granite wastes away and mingles with mother earth which surrounds its base.

How appropriate it is that this granite should be brought from Petersburg. The battlefields around Petersburg on which so many of those heroes died, have furnished the material to perpetuate their memory and brave deeds. The purpose of the Association here have not been completed. More work is before us. We are to keep and protect that shaft. We are to preserve it and that long list of names whose deeds will ever live in song, whose achievements will be admired as long as Virginians can list the name of Stonewall Jackson or repeat the brilliant exploits of the Immortal Lee.

The ladies of Gloucester will do their part in keeping alive the memories of our dead comrades. They will plant the evergreen around yonder base. Flowers of the purest kind will bloom and blossom around the shaft, planted there by tender hands, cherished and nurtured by loving hearts and watered by affection's tear. Let us keep this Association and turn it over to our children that they may preserve and protect the Monument, "erected by their surviving comrades and friends, To the Confederate dead of Gloucester."

These documents about the Confederate Soldiers of Gloucester County, VA, were rediscovered a number of years ago by Mr. Field. And in 2002 it was rediscovered that Robert F. Liall and Charles Vaughan's names had been omitted from the monument. After a wait of 113 years, this error will be corrected. Their names are to be added to the Monument that honors Gloucester sons who gave the ultimate, their lives, during the War Between the States.

Why their names were not added before this may never be known. A review of the records at our courthouse did not provide the answer. If you examine the monument you find that the spot where the names would have been placed is full. So my guess is that it was decided that there is not space for their names. But, there are two small spaces on the Roane Building side of the monument where these names might be placed.

A point of interest is Mr. Liall. In the above document his name is listed as Robert F. Liall. In The Virginia Regimental Histories Series, "26th Virginia Infantry," by Alex L. Wiatt, he is listed as Robert F. Lial. The entry notes: enlisted May 14, 1862 at New Kent into Company H, died August 28, 1862 in Brigade Hosp. I believe the family name is also spelled Lyell (1810 census), Lyall (1820, 1830 & 1840 census), Lial (1850 & 1870 census) and Lyall in the 1900 census. Robert's parents are William Lyall and Rosa Fary. His sister is Sarah C. Liall who married A. C. Lamberth.

The Virginia Regimental Histories Series "34th Virginia Infantry," by Johnny L. Scott notes that Charles R. Vaughan, Company K, enlisted May 15, 1862 in New Kent County. Present until he died from typhoid August 4, 1862. He was a resident of Gloucester County.

Gloucester Court House Confederate Memorial

Both Private Liall and Private Vaughan enlisted in May 1862, and within three months both were dead. I believe that Private Liall also died of disease. I base my belief on the following:

The Civil War Society's "Encyclopedia of the Civil War" states:

"During the Civil War about 360,000 Northerners and 260,000 southerners died. Of these numbers, they estimate that about 250,000 Northerners and 167,000 Southerners died from disease. About half of these deaths were caused by intestinal disorders, mainly typhoid fever, diarrhea and dysentery. The remainder died from pneumonia and tuberculosis."

In the "26th Virginia Infantry" by Mr. Wiatt, he notes that of the 26th Virginia Infantry men, 138 died of disease and 113 died in prison camps. The major cause of these deaths was the filth of the army and prison camps. Mr. Wiatt also notes that the company was formed about May 1861, that they saw no action during their first year, and that they were stationed at Gloucester Point. By August 1862, measles, mumps, malaria, and typhoid had reduced the 1500 men to 250 fit for duty.



**Early photograph of the Monument included in the "History of Gloucester of the Commonwealth of Virginia," by Sally Nelson Robins
The Photograph was taken by Miss Blanche Dimmock, of Sherwood**

Gloucester Court House Confederate Memorial

TO THE CONFEDERATE DEAD OF GLOUCESTER
ERECTED BY THEIR SURVIVING COMRADES AND FRIENDS
"THE FAIR COLUMN O'ER THE VACANT GRAVE,
A SOLDIER'S HONORS LET A SOLDIER HAVE"
1889

| EAST SIDE | NORTH SIDE | WEST SIDE | SOUTH SIDE |
|--|--|---|--|
| COL POWHATAN R. PAGE,
26TH VA INF
LT COL FIELDING TAYLOR,
12 [TH]VA INF
MAJOR JOHN W. PULLER,
5TH VA CAV
MAJOR PATRICK H.
FITZHUGH,
26TH VA INF
MAJOR JOHN EELLS,
5TH VA CAV
CAPT JOHN L HIBBLE,
26TH VA INF
CAPT THOMAS A. ROBINS,
CO A 34 TH VA INF
1ST LT WM J. BAYTOP,
CO A 34TH VA INF
2ND LT ROBERT D.
MILLER,
CO A 34TH VA INF
2ND LT JAMES W. ROWE,
CO F 26TH VA INF
SERGEANTS
WM AP CATESBY JONES,
SIGNAL CORPS
THOMAS W. BANKS,
CO A 34 TH VA INF
FRANK G. BRIDGES,
CO A 34 TH VA INF
THOMAS J. HIBBLE,
CO A [26TH VA INF]
HORACE HARWOOD,
CO A [26TH VA INF]
JOHN H. WHITE,
CO B [26TH VA INF]
THOMAS ROBINS,
CO F 26TH VA INF
CORPORALS
WM J. POINTER,
CO A 5TH CAV
RICHARD AHERN,
CO A [26TH VA INF]
ELDRIDGE ROWE
CO F 26TH VA INF
1ST LT WM BAYSE,
ARTILLERY | PRIVATES
JOHN W. DEWS,
LEWIS HOGG,
JOHN W. STUBBLEFIELD,
CLAIBORNE WILLIAMS,
JOHN W. LEIGH,
JOHN W. ROBINS,
JAMES H. WOODLAND,
HENRY HARWOOD,
JOHN W. POINTER,
CO A [26TH VA INF]

J. N. SOUTH,
R. J. FARY,
W. SUMMERSON,
T. HOWARD,
J. BOSS,
A. SUMMERSON,
R. DUTTON,
A. DUTTON,
W. MASON,
H. BRISTOW,
C. KEMP,
JOHN EDWARDS,
T. J. GOODE,
WASHINGTON GOODE,
E. C. BRUSHWOOD,
JAMES LAWSON,
PETER BRISTOW,
MATHEW KEMP,
GEORGE SOLES,
J. RILEE,
R. H. GWYN,
J. B. FOSTER,
A. C. GROOME,
JOHN WHITE,
C. COATES,
W. SHACKLEFORD,
GIFDEON RILEE,**
JOSEPH WORRELLS,
JAMES BRISTOW,
JAMES WARE,
CO B [26TH VA INF]

ALBERT ROWE,
SAMUEL C. SMITH,
JAMES WEST,
CO E [26TH VA INF] | PRIVATES
WM H. HEYWOOD,
JAMES H. RANSONE,
ALEXANDER DEAL,
CHARLES THOMPSON,
CO E [26TH VA INF]

JOHN W. ROWE,
JAMES P. MESSEREAU,
AMBROSE WEST,
THOMAS BELVIN,
DAVID WEST,
WM H. FREEMAN,
JOHN J. COOPER,
THOS. MASON,
JAMES F. ELLIOTT,
VINCENT JENKINS,
JAMES F. HOBDDAY,
THOMAS J. HENERSON,
JACOB SPARROW,
LORENZO ROWE,
AARON WALKER,
WM F. HOWARD,
JAMES BELVIN,
JOHN FLEMING,
CO F 26TH VA INF

EDWARD AMORY,
WM P. BRISTOW,
JOHN BELOTE,
AUSTIN BROWN,
ROBERT COX,
MILES B. COOKE,
THOMAS C. EDWARDS,
THOMAS A. MASSEY,
RICHARD A. NORTON,
JOHN H. PATE,
JAMES H. WADDLE,
CO A 34 TH VA INF

JAMES H. BUTLER,
CO K 34TH VA INF

MARCUS SIMCOE,
JEFFERSON DUNSTON,
GEORGE W. CARY,
ISAAC EVANS,
CO A 5TH VA INF | PRIVATES
R. BROOKE JONES,
JEFFERSON DUTTON,
ELIJAH DUTTON,
HENRY T. BOOKER,
JAMES CAVAN,
GEORGE GLENN,
V. D. EDWARDS,
SERGT C. J. WARE,
J. C. ROWE,
WALTER F. LEIGH,
JAMES B. HUGHES,
CO A 5TH VA INF
JAMES B. COOKE,
CO H 55TH VA INF

R. C. WALKER,
S. R. MEDICOTT,
M. C. HIBBLE,
CO C [24TH VA CAV]
JAMES H. RANSONE ,
THOMAS CORR,
CO D 24TH VA CAV

R. A. MOORE,
HOWITZER BATTALION

JAMES ROBINS,
INFANTRY
WARNER LEWIS SELDEN,
ASHBY'S CAV

HENRY C. SELDEN,
CO B 3RD VA CAV

WM KIRKMEYER,
ROBERT HOGG,
NELSON ARTILLERY

JAMES W. PITTS,
CO A 6TH VA CAV
ARCHIBALD WEBSTER,
UNKNOWN

B. P. NEWCOMB,
W. H. GERMAN,
CO A 34TH VA INF

P. H. WRIGHT,
INFANTRY |

** GIDEON RILEE

Big Island

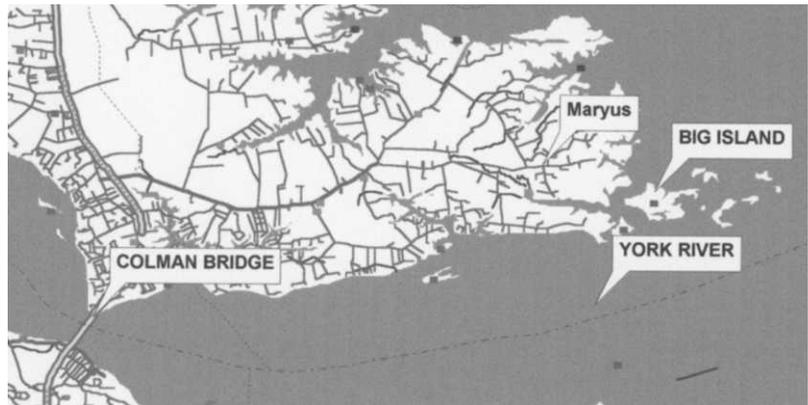
Gloucester County, Virginia

By Roger C. Davis

Big Island is located just east of Jenkins Neck on the north shore of York River. This low-lying land is part of the Guinea Marshes with a small area of protective trees just a few feet above normal water level.

Tradition has it that the West family had been living on the island sixty to sixty-five years prior to the last of them leaving about 1992-1993. It was around this time that Victor Ligurori purchased the high land portion of the island. For a time Elbert Williams used to do a lot of fixing and repair work on the houses for Mr. Ligurori. The plan was to use them in good weather as a vacation summer camp.

One of the last inhabitants to move away from the island was Mrs. Edna Pearl West. When Harry R. Jordan was compiling his book, *"Cemeteries of Lower Gloucester County, Virginia"*, his wife, Esther, talked with Edna Pearl about the Big Island cemetery, located on a small plot there on the island. After the storm in the 1980's all of the markers are gone. It is believed that during the 1933 storm is the only time all of the residents left the island for the safety of the mainland. The entire island was underwater during the height of this storm as was much of the Guinea area!



**Location of Big Island in the Guinea Area
of Gloucester County**



**Aerial photo of Big Island taken between
1990-1995 by David and Linda Grow**

Members of the West family that are buried on the island, according to Mrs. Edna Pearl West, and shown in Harry Jordan's book on page 17 are listed here.

Willie West
James Lawson West

Julia West
William "Bill" West

Bill West
Elwood West

Julia West

Big Island

The largest of the houses on the island burned (prior to 1980-date not known). This was the home of Bill West and his wife.

During the fifty-some years that the West families lived there, they earned a living crabbing and fishing. In season, some of the women worked at the fish processing plant of Calvin and Vernon Haywood located nearby on the mainland. The usual access to



Raymond West was born on Big Island and lived there until he was sixteen

the island was by small, shallow draft boats from Jenkins Neck or down the road from Maryus. All roads were dirt then and electric service did not reach the area until the late 1930's.

I met Raymond West one day recently (October 3, 2002) at Wilbur Templeman's barbershop. He told me he was born and raised on the Big Island until he was sixteen years old. Today he lives in the Guinea area. His mother was Lilian May West and his father was George David West, a son of Bill West and Sara Jane West (Miss Sara). He had a sister, Sarah Jane West, who married a Jenkins.

For some years now there have been no year round residents on the island except an aggressive band of mosquitoes. Mr. Ligurori, a sociology professor at the College of William and Mary, still owns the property and hopes to preserve it as an environmental sanctuary.

The aerial photographs were taken sometime between 1990 and 1995 by David and Linda Grow and provided to me for this article. I appreciate this courtesy to help us better understand the island.



Aerial view of houses on Big Island



Aerial close-up view of houses on Big Island