

The Family Tree Searcher

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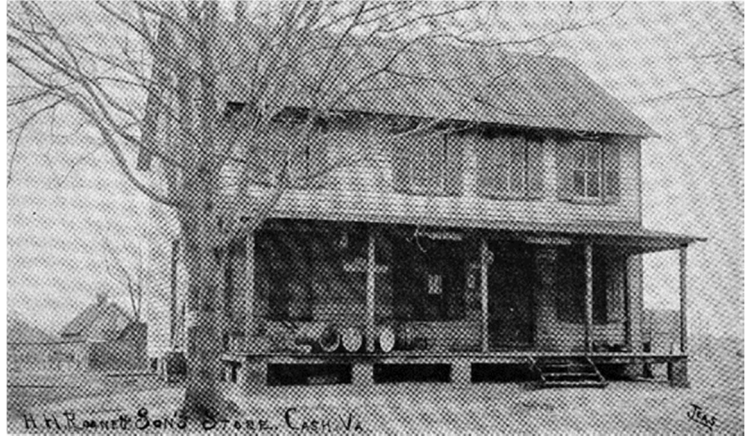
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Basil Bernard Roane

By William L. Lawrence

Basil Bernard Roane or B.B., as he was known, was the second longest serving Circuit Court Clerk in the state of Virginia. He served 55 years second only to William B. Smith of Mathews County who served 56 years. B.B. was born Jan.1, 1889, at Cash, VA, to Henry Hansford and first wife Marionette (Gray) Roane. He grew up at Cash, VA, where his dad ran a store adjacent to the house. The store is no longer standing, but some ruins of the house, called Sunny Side can still be seen.



Henry Hansford Roane's Store at Cash, VA



Sunny Side

Basil Bernard Roane

Bernard's mother, Marinette Gray, died in 1893 when he was only four years old. He had three brothers. His father later married Carrie Esther Gray, sister of his first wife. He had three half brothers from this marriage with Hilton Hundley living only a year.

Bernard attended the Cash public school right across the road from his house. After high school, he attended the Massey Business College in Richmond. The following is from the files of the *Gloucester-Mathews Gazette Journal*.

"After graduating Roane accepted a job in 1907 with Wells Bros. in Richmond. He kept books for them for one year and then went with a Richmond hotel when they bought out Wells' hotel investment. In 1909 he went with Seaboard Railroad for two months. The management wanted to transfer him to the headquarters in Portsmouth, but he refused to go, so he went back with Marshall Adkins, who ran the hotel. Later, after moving to Baltimore

Descendants of Henry Hansford Roane Jr.
Henry Hansford Roane Jr. (1860-1939)
+m. 1st Marinette T. Gray (1856-1893)
Henry Nelson Roane (1882-1967)
+m. 1st Mary Inez Rowe (1877-1929)
+m. 2nd Isabella M. Durham (1892-????)
Elva Gray Roane (1884-1885)
Hansford Gray Roane (1886-1927)
+m. Iris Orena Knight (1902-2001)
Basil Bernard Roane (1889-1974)
+m. Grace Elton Smith (1889-1976)
Robley David Roane (1892-1967)
+m. Ruth Elizabeth Duling (1897-1976)
+m. 2nd Carrie Esther Gray (1871-1957)
Woodford Octavious Roane (1899-1939)
+m. Christine Gray Fitzhugh (1894-1985)
Hilton Hundley Roane (1901-1902)
Virginius Randolph Roane (1902-19602)
+m. Katherine Hinds Wright (1905-1949)



Woodford, BB, and Virginius Roane



Robley Roane

B.B. became ill and physicians at Johns Hopkins told him he had six months to live. He returned to Gloucester and worked for R.P. Taliaferro on the courthouse Circle from October 31, 1911, until March 15, 1912. After a brief stay in Fort Meyers, Florida, he returned to the store and Gloucester. The county clerk Wiatt needed a deputy and asked him to take the position.



B.B. is on the left; others are unknown.

**BICYCLE DAYS OF
MR. B. B. ROANE**

Mr. B. B. Roane, clerk of Gloucester County, was talking the other day and mentioned bicycle travel of yesteryears.

"I'll never forget the numerous Sunday afternoons we used to be dinner guests of my aunt at Freeport and after everybody had eaten, there'd be a bicycle race to Mathews Court House and back before late afternoon. There were several ways to go and we would take the longer route just for the fun of it. All the roads were dirt, but we didn't seem to mind or didn't know any

better".

"I was courting over in King and Queen County at one time and would ride a bicycle. One late night I was coming through the deep woods known as 'Paradise' or 'Mitchell's' near Owl Trap. When I came down the hill near Poropotank, the bridge had washed out. I slept that night at the base of a big tree. The next morning I crossed the stream on a log and rode to my home at Cash".

"I have ridden from home to near Richmond on bicycles and thought it an afternoon outing. Chain drive and gear drive bicycles were both popular in those days".

From the April 20, 1966, *Glo-Quips*

Basil Bernard Roane



Hotel Botetourt and R. P. Taliaferro & Co.'s Store Looking East, Gloucester, VA

Bernard served as deputy clerk under A. T. Wiatt starting in January 6, 1914. The ailing Wiatt wanted Roane to take over the clerkship earlier than 1918, but Roane insisted that he should serve the proper four years apprenticeship. Roane worked daily at the courthouse and went by Wiatts home at night to take lessons and review the day's proceedings. In July, 1918, four years after he became deputy, he was appointed by Judge Claggatt B. Jones to fill the unexpired terms of the clerk. " He was reelected in all subsequent elections despite being opposed for the office only once and served in that capacity until his death on June 4, 1974."

He served over sixty years as either clerk or deputy clerk.

B.B. married Grace Elton Smith, daughter of Rosewell and Mary Frances (Thomas) Smith, of Westover (now called L's Island) in Zanoni on July 18, 1917. Grace was the sister to the author's grandmother. B.B. purchased a house on Main Street in



unknown, Bernard, unknown

Basil Bernard Roane

1919 that had been the telephone operators' offices and was moved in 1911 from one side of the court circle to the other. Its former location became the site of the old Bank of Gloucester. Its new location was between the Masonic Lodge and the Presbyterian church.

From the files of the *Gazette-Journal*:

"For many years he was active in numerous organizations and community activities. During World War II he served as chairman of the local selective service board, headed savings bond campaigns, was a field representative for the American Red Cross, helped to organize civil defense efforts and served as a representative of the U. S. Navy Recruiting Service. A



Home of Bernard and Grace Roane



Bernard Roane



Grace Smith

Basil Bernard Roane

member of the Masonic Lodge for more than 50 years, he was a past master and served as secretary of Botetourt Lodge No.7, A.F. & A.M., for more than 20 years. He was a past District Deputy Grand Master and a member of Khedive Temple at Norfolk and Hampton Commandery 17, Knights Templar. He served as financial secretary of the Woodmen of the World for about 35 years and was a past noble grand of Tyler Lodge 187, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.” In the mid-1930s, he was President of the Virginia Court Clerk’s Association and in 1940 was elected chief of the Gloucester Volunteer Fire Department. He also served as clerk on the draft board from 1917 to 1918 and was chairman of the draft board during World War II for 7 1/2 years. He was a member of the First Regiment of the Richmond Grays. Grace and Bernard were members of First Presbyterian Church and Bernard was elected a trustee. He also consented to act as the first chairman of the Library Association of America whose purpose was to establish libraries at the courthouse and lower Gloucester.



Jane Randolph and Bernard Roane at a 1960 Red Cross fundraiser

Basil Bernard Roane

B. B. ROANE
GLOUCESTER, VA.

June 28, 1943

Mr. Grover C. Hogg
Perrin, Va.

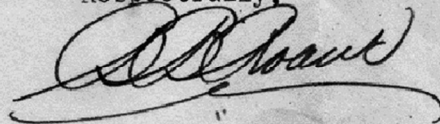
Dear Mr. Hogg:

Having filled the position of County Clerk for a number of years,-- I hope acceptably to the people of Gloucester-- at the earnest solicitation of many of my friends, I have again announced my candidacy for re-election.

Owing to the Gas shortage and pressure of War Work, I am unable to see all of my friends in person, so am taking this opportunity to thank you for your support in the past, and again solicit your vote at the election August 3, 1943, if you believe I have performed my duties as Clerk acceptably and am worthy of again doing so.

If elected, I pledge you an honest and efficient administration of the duties of the office.

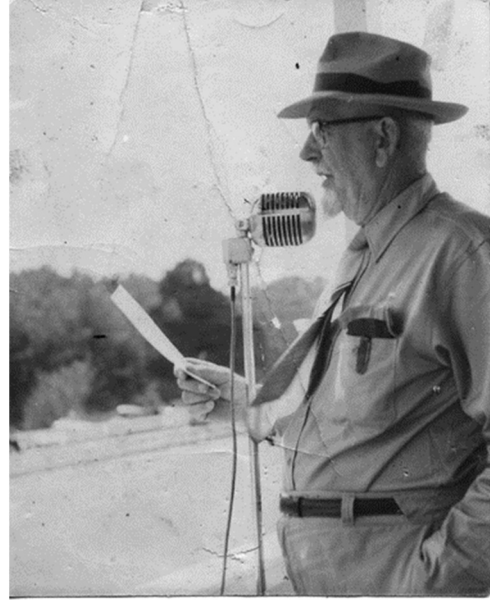
Respectfully,



Basil Bernard Roane



B.B.'s sister-in-law Iris Roane, B.B., and Grace Roane



B.B. with his Civil War centennial goatee



B.B. looking at records in the old clerk's office, now named the Roane Building in honor of him

Tough Circuit Court Clerk Is Still Going Strong at 79

By Lawrence Brown
Times-Dispatch News Bureau

GLOUCESTER —The man who is considered here to be Virginia's toughest circuit court clerk marks his 50th year in office tomorrow.

Lawyers on the Middle Peninsula — who argue for a living — don't argue with Gloucester Circuit Court Clerk B. B. Roane. It's useless.

Basil Bernard Roane, 79, is and has been the only boss of the clerk's office here for 50 years.

He got to be clerk in 1918 when A. T. Wyatt resigned and Judge Claggett B. Jones appointed the then deputy clerk Roane to fill the vacancy.

IT WAS WYATT'S advice, Roane said, that probably led him to run the clerk's office the way he does.

Roane said Wyatt told him, "Don't pay any attention to the lawyers." He said they were out to save their clients but the clerk's concern should be his records.

Public records in the Gloucester clerk's office are not as public as some might think.

"I'm the custodian of those records," Roane said, "and nobody is going to see them until I know why he wants to see them."

ROANE CITES a Virginia law which states that a person must have a personal interest in the records before he may have access to them.

The law is on the books and Roane runs his office strictly by the book.

"A woman from Richmond came in here one day and walked back to the record

room," he said. "I watched her and went in and asked if I could help her. She said she wanted to see some records and I asked why she wanted to see them.

"Well, she got all disturbed and said she had a right to see them because they were public records. Finally she said she was a lawyer and I told her if she had identified herself when she came in I wouldn't have bothered her."

DURING A RECENT newspaper interview, a secretary came in to Roane's office to remind him that it was 2:30 p.m. and he had not eaten lunch.

"Every time I try to go," he told her, "someone comes in."

He turned to the reporter and said "and they say I'm strict."

Roane said his responsibility for the records stretches even to financial liability and he doesn't take the responsibility lightly.

He said in neighboring counties record books have been damaged and entire pages have been torn out. Never in his 50 years in office has that happened here, he said.

Roane's running feud with lawyers is similar to the courtroom fight between prosecutor and defense counsel. It's all on a business level.

ROANE SAID the lawyers "grumble and they talk about me, but then they come in and ask me how a certain deed should be written and I give them \$100 worth of advice for nothing."

Roane has been opposed for election only once in the last 50 years. That was in-

1943 when he said "I got 73 per cent of the vote. The only reason they opposed me then was because I was on the draft board."

He equals John Clayton's record for the longest term in office of any Gloucester clerk tomorrow. Clayton served as Gloucester clerk in the 18th century.

Asked if he would retire now that he has set a record, Roane asked "what do you want me to do, die?"

He said "people retire and come down here and buy a place. They come in here all smiles and I record the deed. Two months later they come in and ask, 'don't you know of any place I can get a job?'"

Roane said he received a Christmas card last year which said "I hear you are going to retire. Good news for the unemployed. It will take 18 men to replace you."

Basil Bernard Roane



T-D News Photo by Lawrence Brown

B. B. Roane, Gloucester Circuit Court Clerk, With His Records
He Has Tied Former Clerk's 50-Year Record, Has No Plans to Retire

Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sunday, June 30, 1968

From the *Gazette-Journal* files:

Basil Bernard Roane, Gloucester County circuit court clerk, and one of the oldest circuit court clerks in Virginia in length of service died Tuesday in a Richmond Hospital. Mr. Roane was 85. Mr. Roane had been in poor health for the past two years. A lifelong Democrat, Mr. Roane built a reputation as one of the toughest court clerks in the state. In January 1972, after he failed to appear regularly in his official office for several months, but continue to receive his full salary, the Gloucester County board of supervisors petitioned circuit court judge John DeHardit to make "necessary changes to alleviate conditions in the clerk's office." The court failed to support the petition, and Mr. Roane refused to resign or to retire...

He had been out of the office at that time for nine months, but told the *Gazette-Journal* he kept in touch with its work, had not taken a vacation since 1954, and

Basil Bernard Roane



Uncle Bernard and Aunt Grace, as my sibling and I called them, are buried in Bellamy Memorial Cemetery.

thought he was due eight- or nine-months' leave. The court did not act on the resolution. Deputy clerk Charles E. King Jr. succeeded Roane, remaining clerk until he retired at the end of June 1999.

"Mr. Roane was one of the last country gentlemen around these parts," recalled King, "and he was hard to change." King went to work as Roane's deputy in 1963 and said, "until he died, I couldn't get him to modernize ... set in his ways, perhaps, but "most charitable," King added. "A lot of persons don't know how much he helped other in need, black or white."

While growing up, my family would visit and spend many weekends with Uncle Bernard and Aunt Grace at their home on Main Street. I have very fond memories of those visits. That's where I learned to play the card game of bridge. Uncle Bernard was always working at the clerk's office. I think he really wanted the distinction of being the longest serving clerk of court. Many an evening Aunt Grace would say to us, "Go to the clerk's office and get your uncle. Tell him dinner is ready." I've heard many stories about Uncle Bernard over the years. Many people found him gruff, but I found that while gruff on the outside, he really had a very kind heart under all that toughness. Here are some personal stories about Uncle Bernard:

1) Cary Franklin, who grew up around Gloucester Court House, remembers that all the neighbors called on each other on Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. Roane always

Basil Bernard Roane

had a table laid out for their callers including eggnog. [As kids we weren't allowed to have the eggnog since it contained rum.]

2) I think Uncle Bernard told me this story: One day the governor of Virginia came to the clerk's office to buy a hunting license. State law requires the purchaser to show an ID. The governor did not have one on him and even though B.B. knew the governor, he would not issue him the license. That's what the law stated and B.B. always adhered to the law. The governor had to leave, but did come back some time later with an ID. Only then did B.B. issue him the license

3) I've heard this story many times, but I cannot remember who told me. Many years ago, a rookie attorney came to the clerk's office for the first time to do some research using the deed books. In the process he took out several books and finishing he left the office with the books still open and without returning them to their original place. Since the light from the sun will fade the ink if the pages were exposed too long to the sunlight, Uncle Bernard was extremely strict in the practice of returning the books to their proper place when finished. He called the attorney's office and said it was extremely important that this attorney return to the clerk's office immediately, even though the attorney's office was on the other side of the York River. So, upon getting the message, the attorney turned around and headed back to Gloucester to the clerk's office where B.B. gave him a stern lecture on the proper procedure of handling the books and don't ever do that again to his records. About five decades later and not too many years ago, my friend Pete Shepherd was playing tennis in Williamsburg and was matched up with an elderly gentleman from Williamsburg. On their break the gentleman asked where Pete was from. Upon hearing that Pete was from Gloucester he asked Pete if he had ever heard of B.B. Roane. After Pete responded yes, the gentleman told him the about the first time he had gone to the clerk's office in Gloucester. He was the attorney in the above story.

4) Harvey Morgan has told me the story of the time when his father Happy Morgan was visiting in North Carolina and decided to attend a Masonic meeting while there. After entering the lodge, the tiler (door keeper) asked Happy to give the secret sign which he did but was told it wasn't correct. Being asked to do it again he gave the same sign and again was rejected. Happy then said that was what B.B. Roane had told him to give while he was in North Carolina. The tiler then said, "You know Mr. Roane. Come on in. That's good enough for me. That sign, by the way, is an old one, and we don't use anymore."

5) This is another story told to me by Harvey Morgan. There was a time each year when the local Masonic Lodge meeting would discuss giving to one of the children's charities. In this particular meeting most of the members had dozed off and were not paying particular attention to the business at hand. So, to stir things up B.B. proposed to abolish giving this year to this annual children's charity. Boy, did this cause a ruckus. All of a sudden, all woke up and started a heated debate as to why this can't happen. The lodge had been giving to this charity for years. It was an annual event. Naturally his proposal was shot down and instead it was proposed to increase the giving for that year. After the meeting, one could hear B.B. saying, "They will remember this meeting for a long time to come." He always had a way to get things done.

Continued on page 38

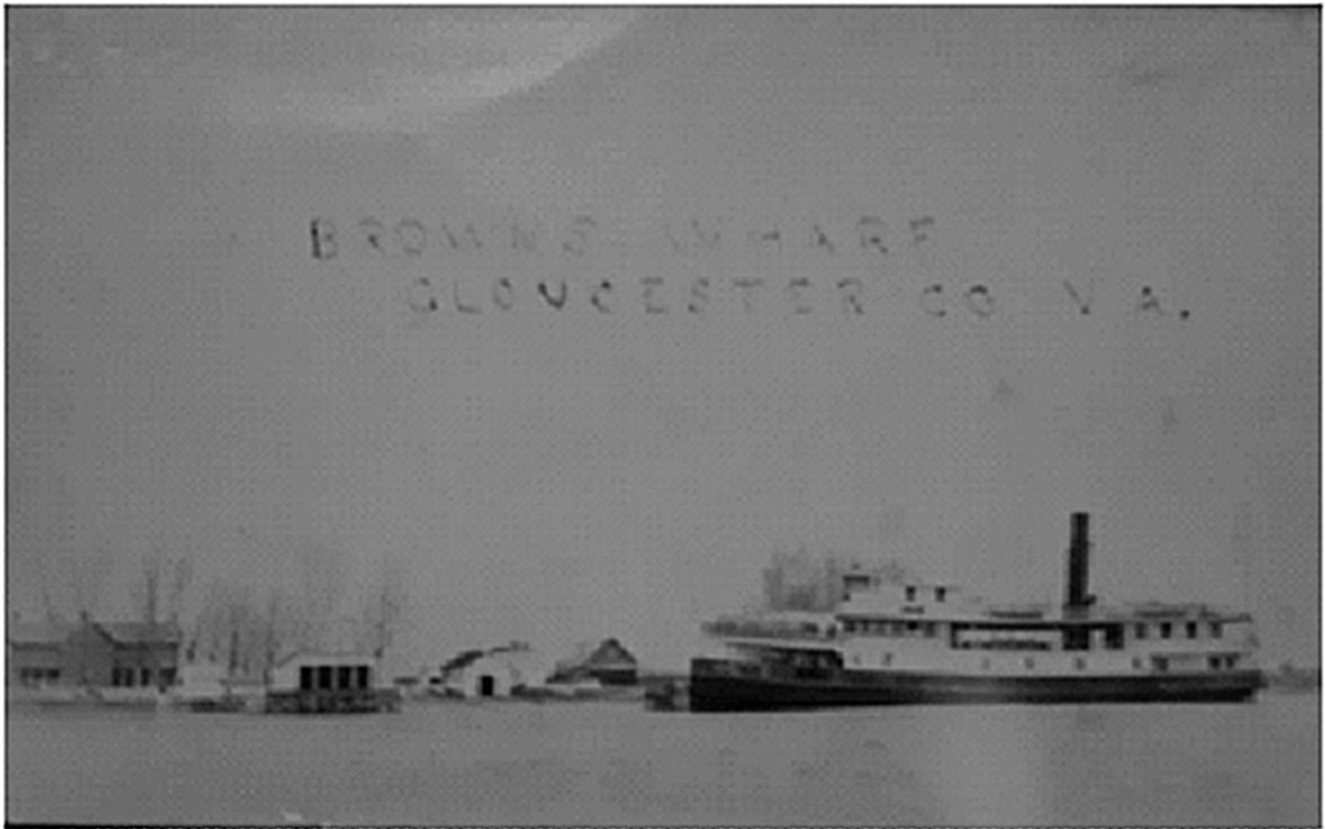
The Changing Times

By Kathryn Diggs Dawson

Dec 4, 1915—1973

Transcribed By Lauren Catheryn Dunn

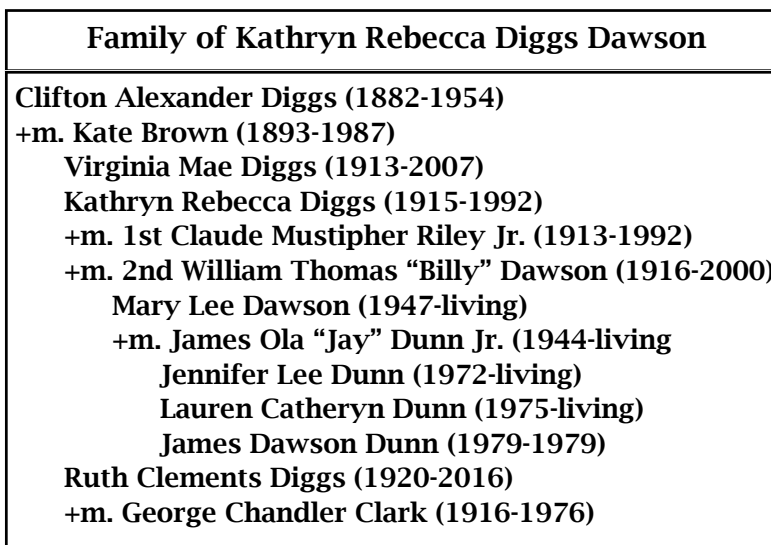
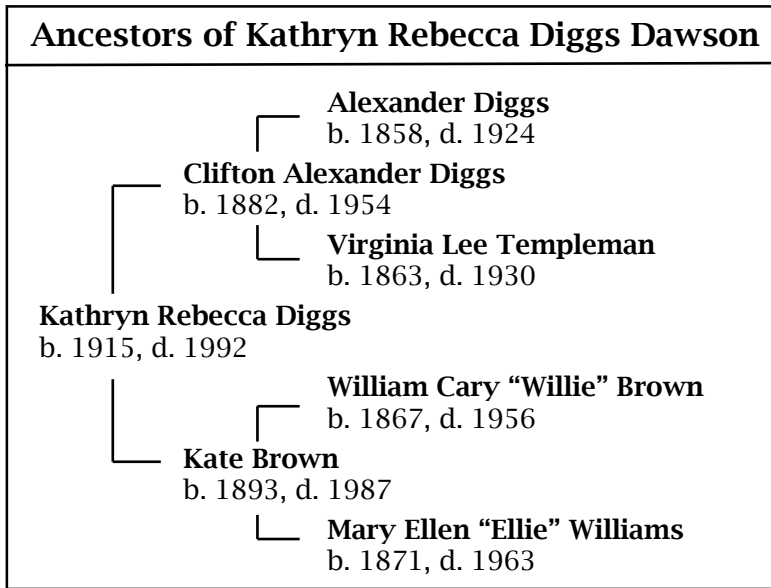
December 4, 2019



To MaryLee, Billy, Jennifer & Lauren

I thought someday it may be good for my grandchildren to know a little of
how their forefathers lived.

The Changing Times



Time changes things and we change with them. I was born Dec. 4, 1915, at home in Perrin, Gloucester Co. I was the second child of Kate and Clifton Diggs. My big sister Virginia was born Nov. 20, 1913. My little sister Ruth was born Aug. 13, 1920. We had a happy home, good Christian parents. One of the earliest things I can remember was Mama and Daddy reading to us from the book of Bible stories. The story of baby Moses and the beautiful colors of Joseph's coat were my favorite stories. Daddy and Mama had family worship each evening as we gathered for supper. Daddy and Mama, and when we were older, took our turn reading the scripture and prayer. They taught us memory verses from the Bible. We went to Sunday school and church at Union Baptist Church, Achilles, Virginia.

The Changing Times

We had a comfortable home. We had a living room, big hall, and two big bedrooms. The rooms had very high ceilings about 14 ft. Each room had three or four big windows with dark green shutters that opened back wide. These were used to protect windows from storms and also cold, and in summer to keep out sun. We had two porches front and back and a kitchen which was not connected to the main part of the house. We had a big yard with lots of shade trees. We had rope swings and big canvas hammocks between two trees; we played outside. We took turns swinging and would try to see how high we could go.

Daddy worked for Issac Fass Fish Co. [1] in Portsmouth and Mama had a young white girl named Sarah Keys who lived with us to help take care of the children. She later married and lived in Baltimore. Every summer when she came home, they would come to see us.



Kathryn Diggs on porch of her house



Clifton Diggs on Brown's Wharf Pier

1 Isaac Fass, b. 6/2/1861, d. 8/27/1922, s/o Joseph Fass & Remma Irenzel, m. Jenie Fass

The Changing Times

Memories of my Childhood

(Compilation of writings from 1970, 1973 & 1979)

Part 1: Memories of my Childhood: The Brown Side—see family chart below

By Kathryn Diggs Dawson

February 14, 1970

I could hardly believe my own eyes this February 14, 1970, as I returned from the funeral of my Uncle Rodney, at the ruins of the old home place of my mother. This eight room, white, two story, slate roof, green shutters, three porches, picket fence, big yard, the buttercups, my grandmother’s flower garden, the big magnolia tree, the fish pond we helped Hawsie build, we were teenagers then. Yes, all this in ruins. Replaced by a big seafood factory, I suppose right in the front yard. As I looked around the creek, could but ask myself, could this be the Sedger Creek, the home of my grandparents William Carey and Mary Ellen Brown? Then my thoughts turned to what Granddaddy said, “I George, what an eyesore.”

My thoughts go back. Yes, there was the smokehouse, the wood shed and tool house, the corn house, the chicken houses, the coal bin, the cove where the pigs ran. I can see the smoke now down near the cove where Grandmama and Lesbia burned the trash. Table scraps to chickens and pigs.

I often thought as a child no house was as big or beautiful as this house. We had so many good times. We had so much fun and I know we had love for one another. I stayed there so much seems like I hardly missed a day not getting there.

The farthest day back I can recall was the day Uncle Rodney came home from World War I. We were in the front yard and he came walking down the road. He had been a POW in Germany. I must have been three or four years old. I know how happy we were and he brought us silk handkerchiefs with wide lace from France. I also remember sitting on the stair steps in the hall and lots of people there. Grandmama had a supper for him.

There were so many family Christmas dinners. Cooking and

Family of William Cary Brown
William Cary “Willie” Brown (1867-1956)
+m. Mary Ellen “Ellie” Williams (1871-1963)
Kate Brown (1893-1987)
+m. Clifton Alexander Diggs (1882-1954)
Virginia Mae Diggs (1913-1992)
Kathryn Rebecca Diggs (1915-2007)
Ruth Clements Diggs (1920-2016)
Earlin Rodney Brown (1896-1970)
+m. Esther Decater Blake (1904-1976)
Doris Clements Brown (1923-2019)
+m. Harry August Pehrs Jr. (1923-1974)
Audrey Estelle “Sissie” Brown (1925-2020)
+m Robert Lee Poole (1923-2000)
Edward Dewey “Ned” Brown (1898-1955)
+m. Ethel Verona Blake (1901-1982)
Daisy Hilda Brown (1901-1990)
+m. Volesaco Franklin “Vollie” Heywood (1899-1988)
Carlton Wendell Heywood (1926-2009)
+m. Jean Gretna Oliver (1929-living)
Mary Hilda Heywood (1930-2020)
+m. Malvern Hunter Riggins Jr. (1929-living)
Lesbia Lola Brown (1903-1992)
Raymond Caspain Brown (1906-1959)
+m. Nellie Vivian Brothers (1911-1974)
Hawsie Brown (1913-1959)
+m. William Earle Penn (1911-1996)
Sylvia Joann Penn (1942-living)
Sandra Earleen Penn (1948-living)
+m. Elliott Franklin Hogge (1948-2022)
Myra Susan Penn (1959-living)

The Changing Times



William and Mary Ellen Brown



Rodney Brown and silk handkerchiefs brought from France after World War I

washing was no problem for everyone helped, that was the ladies of course. I can see the table now, the big sugar dish that also had hooks around it for the spoons. Grandmama would come to old room, she called it, and announce who was to eat at this table. The children always ate last. Food, I can see it now- country ham, roast beef, fried oysters, always had shakey jelly, red with fruit in it. Fruit cake, walnut cake, pies she would bake for several days- mince pie, coconut pies, stuck them out in the dairy house. The dairy house had two screened windows, the shutters could be opened or closed. It sat high from the ground, about table height. All food was carried out to the dairy house, didn't have ice box, especially in the winter.

Fourth of July we got ice cream. Homemade cooked custard vanilla. Yes, the only five gallon ice cream freezer, turned by hand, I ever saw, my Grandmama had. She also made good homemade pound cake.

Sunday afternoons we always went to see both grandparents. All the children came home, that was routine, to go to the creek. In the summer Granddaddy would always keep watermelons and cut them on the end of the front porch. We had a big lawn swing in front of the house. Had two seats we could swing four at a time. We had rope swings from the cottonwood trees too.

The creek was so beautiful. I can almost feel the cool southeast breeze now as we would sit on the front porch and play at the water's edge in the row boats. We played in

The Changing Times

the row boats always tied to a stake. We crabbed and caught minnow fish. We played with the little shellfish we picked from the piling and we would talk to them. This is what we said, "Horn, horn poke out your horn, I'll give you five dollars for a barrel of corn." The sand fiddler type animals in the shell would poke out and crawl around.

The creek was so beautiful. The folks on the other side came across to Granddaddy's store and post office in row boats, and the Dodson family from Baltimore who had summer homes came in Indian canoes. The children would row across the creek, and we walked to school together when weather was good. We used to row up the creek after supper, didn't stay out in hot sun for fear of typhoid fever or malaria fever. We wore clothes, black satin bloomers and a blouse or perhaps our pants, we called them drawers and dress. Sissy and Doris had bathing suits, one red and other gold. Lesbia had a bathing suit. They were all wool. I can see these clothes hanging on Grandmama's clothesline now to this day.

The flower garden had a big magnolia tree in center, white picket fence. Daisy worked the flower garden. There was a snowball bush, lilac, lily of the valley, red and white rose bush, and especially do I remember the spice pinks and the sage. The sage was grown for the country sausage.

I can smell the freshly ground coffee now. The coffee mill and brown coffee beans which were ground for every meal. I also remember as a very small child how Mama would send me down to Grandmama's to get yeast cakes. They were round and very hard. Grandmama made them. They make something they called sponge for the yeast bread. Grandmama kept these in what antique dealers today call a pie safe. Had tin doors with little tiny holes in the doors. Mary Hilda Riggins has the old pie safe now.

The house was big and bedrooms very cold. There was the big cook stove in the kitchen, coal heater in dining room and wood heater in old room, or the parlor. Sometimes would have tin wood heater in bedroom downstairs but I never saw a stove upstairs. The bedroom over dining room was warm because later years had a grate that opened for heat to go through the floor upstairs. The door could be opened in kitchen to let heat go up the narrow stairway to bedroom over the kitchen. Grandmama called the parlor the old room because she had one room, hall and a kitchen off from this part when they were first married. The big house was built around this room and hall when my mother, Kate, was a small child.

My mother told of how she went to private school until she had completed the third grade. She walked to Achilles to school and completed eighth grade. That was as high as they taught. Some of her girlfriends, Alice Thornton [2] and Hattie Ashe [3], went to Farmville to high school, what is now Longwood College. The private school was on my Granddaddy's place and Mary Templeman [4] taught school there. Daisy and Lesbia told of this also.

As I said before, the creek and the boats were beautiful. My Granddaddy sailed a schooner, the "William H. French" (Old French) to Baltimore during my mother's early

2 Alice Judson Thornton, b. 11/11/1845, d. 1/22/1930, d/o John A. B. Thornton & Sarah Elizabeth Hayes

3 Hattie Estelle Ashe, b. 2/22/1892, d. 5/26/1966, d/o George Dallas & Harriet Susan

4 Mary Mildred Templeman, b. 1/20/1885, d. 3/12/1932, d/o Henry Wilbourforce Templeman & Lucy Lee Lewis, m. William Minor Thornton. In 1910 Gloucester census, she is listed as a teacher in a public school.

The Changing Times

childhood. She told of how he sold the schooner for \$2500 when she was a teenager and built the store and became postmaster and the post office was Perrin, P.O., Gloucester Co. My mother worked in the store until she was married. This was a well stocked country store.

They say Granddaddy fished deep nets in the York River and made money, All I can remember about this is the big tar pot where the nets were dipped and laid out on grass to dry, while Grandmama and the children, Kate, Rodney, Ned took care of the store. One day the big tar pots where they dipped the nets each spring caught on fire, it was a big fire and the blackest smoke. There were two long piers in front of his property and Granddaddy owned both, located on Sedger Creek, later to be called Perrin River. Mama said they first had a telephone at her home when she was a child, later moved it to store better serve the neighbors.

There was a big iron safe and a money drawer at the store. The office and the bedroom. One of the boys slept at the store for insurance reasons. They sold everything from drugs to yard material, shoes, boats, rations. I remember so much rope and cones of string for fishing nets. Vinegar, molasses, sugar, flour all come in big barrels. The vinegar and molasses was pumped from the barrels and when it got real cold we couldn't get molasses. We carried jars to store for this. In the fall my daddy would buy a 100 lb barrel of sugar and a 100 lb barrel of flour. He also would have a barrel of salt fish for winter. Everyone lived like that. Kerosene oil for the lamp and oil cook stoves in summer came in barrels, and we had one gallon can we carried to store for the kerosene oil.

Prices were cheap. My mother raised little baby chicks and also had hens for layers. Many times I have waited for the hens to lay so we could have eggs to carry to store to buy groceries in trade for the eggs. Granddaddy shipped these eggs to Baltimore by steamer and also oranges, grapefruit, apples, bananas. The Model T truck went to Gloucester Point at 5 am to meet the steamer from Baltimore. This steamer went on up the York River to Clay Bank and West Point. There was also a steamer from Severn Wharf to Norfolk. At one time a steamer came to Brown's Wharf- Sedger Creek, but I don't remember that. My father told of how they would go to Norfolk by steamer. Mama and Daddy went to the Jamestown expedition held at the Naval base in Norfolk. They went by steamer to doctors in Norfolk: Dr. Via [5], Dr .Healey, and Dr. Taliaferro. They went by steamer if anyone was ill enough to be in the hospital.

The creek was a harbor for boats sailing the Chesapeake Bay. Boats came in for over night or if the weather was stormy. We got to see many nice people and some pretty yachts. Then the keepers on the York Spit lighthouse came in for supplies and their mail. My Granddaddy owned the wharf but never charged anyone for docking. He sold them paint, oil, gasoline at end of the pier. There was a warehouse on the end of the pier.

The machine shop and marine railway. Mrs. Esther Hall [6], Olise Hall [7], and Phil Thornton [8] worked there. Boats had to be hauled for cleaning below the water line at least once every year. We saw many boats pulled out of the water on this railway.

5 Dr. Hugh Dabney Via, b. 5/19/1889, d. 9/26/1979, s/o James Dabney Via & Celeste Jane Hall, m. Lula May Jones

6 Mrs. Esther Hall— Mary Esther Shackelford, b. 2/2/1893, d. 1/18/1981, d/o Robert Edward Shackelford & Lucy Jane Robins, m. James Olsie Hall

7 Olise Hall—James Olise Hall, b. 1/27/1894, d. 7/29/1950, m. Mary Esther Shackelford

8 Phil Thornton—Philip Taliaferro Thornton, b. 2/2/1894, d. 12/7/1952, s/o William Buchanan Thornton & Columbia America Smith, m. Annie Perry Robins

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There were many buy boats for fish. My daddy was captain of buy boat Irene and Pearl for Issac Fass Fish Co. of Portsmouth when they were married. There were oyster boats, buyers of seed oysters from the natural rocks of the James River. Many fishing parties went out from here in summer. People drove down from Richmond, rented these boats, who were licensed for fishing parties.

There was the gristmill. My daddy left Issac Fass Co. to be at home with his family and worked in the store for Granddaddy. He worked the gristmill too. I remember the day the first mill burned. People from miles away would bring their corn to be ground into meal. They gave half their corn in toll for grinding. I can smell the corn now and the mill burned that day. Had it not been for the good neighbors and the creek that day, they saved the store by carrying water in buckets to pour on the roof of the store. The mill was replaced at a different location. The building still stands and is used now as Perrin's Marina.

I can see now the traffic of horse and buggy, the Fringe Surry Mrs. Lois [Lucie] Shackelford drove. [9] The wagons and two wheel tumbler carts coming down to meet with boats from Norfolk. Issac Fass had an ice plant. He never charged anyone for ice. The men on his boats were home for weekend and brought ice. They had ice to pack the fish in 100 lb boxes in the hole of the boats. Mr. Fass visited in our home. We always got plenty of fresh fish from these boats or from the people who fished. Never did they charge you for fish.

We had two horses, Mamie and Lady. Big barn hay loft, shed for the buggies later used for automobiles and a big warehouse for grain, all this in lot back of the store. The houses were white washed every year, the grass kept short by the horses and cows. All the land was planted in grain, corn, potatoes, green peas, watermelon and potatoes main money crops. My father didn't farm much. Had one old negro man, we called him Uncle Willie Bill, a good soul, he farmed the land. He called all the children "miss" and by their first name. He would let us ride on the wagon of corn in the fall and help him unload the corn in the barn. Granddaddy was too busy with his freight boats. Daddy was captain on many different boats of my Granddaddy's, freight boats from Philadelphia, Baltimore and points along the Chesapeake Bay. Later Ned and Raymond [Brown] were captains too. Uncle Ned and Raymond were caught in a storm coming down Chesapeake Bay in freight boat one night. It was so very cold all the water from the high seas washed over the boat so bad it turned to ice, the weight of the water almost sank the boat.

Granddaddy was a very successful businessman. His education was limited, in fact he never went to school. He was what he called a "speculator". He kept his money turning. He bought timber land and boats. He bought a track of land on York River for a small sum and sold it in lots, named it Little Richmond. This is where he made his first money, and it was easy going for him after that. He had freight boats and oil tankers. He had boats named for so many in the family- Hawsie B., Verona, Ordale, Lesbia, Mary E., R.C. Brown for Raymond, and W.C. Brown. Many of these boats are still in use today. Many Sunday afternoons I have been to Middlesex Co. to Pine Top where he had so many boats built. We would cross by from our barge pulled by small boat to Twigg Ferry in Mathews Co. I can see the potato barrels trucked one by one down the wharf and loaded on his boats for Baltimore or Philadelphia. The boats loaded with the green watermelons were beautiful. The boats would carry about 5000- 6000 melons. They also loaded the boats

9 Mrs. Lois Sackelford—probably Lucy "Lucie" Truman Williams, b. 1/21/1875, d. 1/25/1942, d/o Eddward A. Williams & Sarah F. Cox, m. Joseph Henry Shackelford

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with lumber. I also remember one time he had a run of freight of sweet potatoes down the canal to Elizabeth City and Coinjock N.C. to Baltimore. He bought and planted seed oysters from James River National Oyster beds for J.H. Miles Oyster Co. of Norfolk.

Granddaddy and Grandmama were so kind and thoughtful. He carried us to so many places. Many Sunday afternoons I went to Williamsburg with them to see Lesbia, a student at William and Mary.

He always had good looking automobiles. I can't remember when he didn't have a car. The first one was a Model T Ford. I don't remember much about that. He had Buicks, Hudson & Packard in later years and traveled every year. If we needed to go anyplace he would send his car and most time Raymond would drive us.

On Sunday morning he would pick up his grandchildren for Sunday school. He would start blowing the horn by Baptism house and you better be ready or you got left. We would drive in at Daisy's long road for Carlton [Heywood]. When he got to Sunday school you got 5 cents for Sunday school offering. He was a deacon in Union Baptist Church. He told of days when church had only a dirt floor and how the slaves sat in the balcony. The Morning Star at Bena was a church or chapel for negroes from Union. Union Church was built about 1800. The homecoming every summer and dinner on the grounds. The two week revivals first two weeks in August. It was hot but hand fans were kept in the pew racks. We would go every night and twice on Sunday. The Sunday afternoon Baptismal service at Sedger Creek after the revival series, how beautiful. Everyone from all over the county would come, it was a time of seeing old friends. On high tide was the hour for the service. The church choir would stand on the end of the wharf at water's edge and sing "Shall We Gather at the River".

Granddaddy and my daddy worked so hard in PTA. In those days the citizens had to raise money to build the schools. On May Day they worked selling ice cream, drinks, the ladies cooked the food and sold it. The faculty put on three act plays to raise money.

Granddaddy gave his children one area of land to build their home on. He also gave each of his children an automobile. They were so good to us. I have heard my grandmother say she didn't know the difference in her love for my daddy and her own children.

We looked forward to the Navy fleet coming in the York River up to Naval Weapon Station to refuel. At Glou. Point there was the public wharf where the steamer landed, two hotels, a drug store and dance hall. Every Sunday evening if we could we went to Glou. Point. The first ferry dock was at the end of the Point. This was later moved to the east side of the Point. This has all been replaced by the Coleman Bridge.

We were small but the first radio Granddaddy had was put in the store. It had ear phones. I remember how they would play with the knobs and one Sunday night picked up Cincinnati, how they passed the ear phone so that everyone could listen.

All the men in the neighborhood went to the store after supper. The store hours were 5am to 9pm six days a week. If you wanted to see someone all you had to do was go to the store at night. We didn't have telephones in home. All the stores had a phone if you needed Dr. Smith [10] at Hayes or Dr. Clements [11] at Ordinary, would call from the

10 Dr. Smith—Dr. James Waller Smith, b. 3/9/1884, d. 2/26/1960, s/o Emmett Kauffman Smith & Florence Euginia Trice, m. Marie Juanita Bridges

11 Dr. Clements—Dr. David Oscar Clements Jr., b. 8/24/1892, d. 8/20/1957, s/o Dr. David Oscar Clements Sr. & Caroline Maude Miller, m. Alice Teakle Wallis

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store. It was a neighborhood public phone.

In Aug 1933 we experienced a tidal wave. Never before had anyone known the water to cover the entire land in this Guinea area. How or why this section is called Guinea I have never known. The entire peninsula was hit by this storm. The water came in all the houses. I recall it was 14 inches in our house. Daddy led our hogs from the barn to the smokehouse and they saved themselves by holding their heads up and swimming as my daddy guided them by the ear. We lost about 100 chickens. What a disaster. We had to bury them the next day. Everyone had to have typhoid shots, boil the drinking water. The Red Cross moved in to help families who lost so much. The water was waist deep in my grandparent's home. There wasn't an automobile that the saltwater didn't cover the motors. All cars had to have motors pulled down and seats dried out. I recall my daddy saying at 5am water had covered all the land, he said "High water will not be until 11am". We had no storm warnings in those days.

Yes, I saw the York River freeze from shore to shore and everyday when the tide changed we would watch the ice go down the river and come back on change of the tide. This was in late 1930 and they reported York River froze across, not real heavy ice like in 1930, again this Jan. 1970.

The ferry boat from Glou. Point to Yorktown ran only on certain tides when they could break up the ice. The ferry ran every half hour, in fact in my teenage years had two big ferries ran from 6am until midnight. The ferry laid over on the Glou. Point side. The water was rough on Yorktown side. If you missed the midnight ferry, you either drove around by Williamsburg, to West Point, and down to Glou. You would be almost as far ahead to wait for 6am ferry.

Now about my grandmother [Mary Ellen Williams]. She was a good, kind, loving, and beautiful woman. She was so good to me. I stayed with her when I was a teenager and helped her with her work. I always told her she did things the hard way. She had three big black iron pots, and she built a fire around them outdoors to heat water to wash. She had a washing machine, gasoline motor and all the children carried their clothes home to wash. She had big vinegar barrels, we called them rain barrels, that were for washing. Water was so salty from the wells, or rather we called them hand pumps. We used to get water from the artesian wells at Glou. Point and old Union church in big five gallon jugs to drink. We always washed the north end porch with the wash water and scrubbed the chicken houses. We always said she never wasted anything.

My grandmother made homemade soap from old grease, lye and water. She cooked it in the big black pots outdoors. It was poured in big wash tubs to cool and sit in the sun to dry at night. Had to carry in, out next day. I can see the green bunches of bananas hanging in her smokehouse now. Granddaddy would bring them from Baltimore. As they ripened she would cut them and see that all the children got some.

My grandmother always had candy or cake, something good to give us. I can feel the cold air from the bedroom now when she opened the door to get her box of chocolate candy. Raymond [Brown] seemed to keep her in good supply of candy. She was a good cook. Could make the best lemon meringue pie and butterscotch. She was tops in corn cakes. She never knew when Granddaddy would bring a salesman to house for dinner. She always had help in the fields in summer to cook for clerks at the store and drivers on the oil trucks. Raymond and Ned [Brown] had two huge storage tanks and sold all gasoline from Hornsby American Oil to Glou., Mathews, and King and Queen Co.

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She had a vegetable garden and many tomatoes, cucumbers had to be gathered everyday. The barrels of brine for the cucumbers for pickle she would make in the fall. She canned tomatoes, peaches, apples. In fact, my mama did all these things too. It just seemed like grandmama always had so much to share with us.

Now, 4 to 6 hogs were killed every Nov. about Thanksgiving time. I always stayed home from school if I could. Everyone went to help neighbors too. The men killed, dressed and seems like my daddy always salted the meat. Everyone helped cut up fat for lard. We cut sausage meat and turned the food grinder for the sausage. The sausage was seasoned with salt, pepper, and sage and stuffed in long cotton bags, then hung for 2-3 days on nails from roof of dairy to drip grease. Every neighbor was sent a package of fresh meat. We always had liver, cornbread, and sage gravy the day we killed hogs. Then for about two days Grandmama in her big black iron pots would cook the fat, make her lard and our hot grease in large tins. The crackling she saved for crackling cornbread. She made sauce cheese from nose, ears, the feet made pickled hog feet. We roasted the pig tails. Had enough salted and cured meat in the smokehouse to last until the next year. They also salted fish and had those in the winter by the barrel full. Grandmama had feather beds on all her beds. We did too. All the linens were taken off the beds everyday and the beds made up. She opened the windows to air her beds. She pieced bed quilts from scraps and my Mama did too. Every winter we would put these in quilting frames and the ladies would quilt one out in about two days.

They had a delco plant unit, big batteries for electricity for store and their house. The delco had to be started everyday. We had kerosene oil lamps at our house. They had to be filled and chimneys washed everyday.

It was our job to fill the wood box on porch when we got home from school. Pick up chips to start the fires and shell corn for the chickens and hogs. Sometimes on Sat. I would shuck and shell enough corn to last all week. We had a corn sheller turned by hand. Virginia and I would do this together.

We picked up Irish potatoes and got paid 25 to 35 cents a barrel. Also picked green beans for 10- 15 cents a crate. We had a good time. We used to ride on the wagon loads of corn in fall when it was gathered and helped unload it in the corn house. We had a party every Friday night at somebody's house. One of the outstanding winter ones were sugar stews. The syrup of sugar, vinegar, water was clear when ready to take from fire-pour on flat plates to cool. Then we would grease our hands and pull it. It was so good with coconut or black walnuts in it. Then the homemade fudge and George Washington candy were good. Post office was most popular game. This was kissing game many sweethearts came out of this game. Spin the bottle was another. Heavy heavy hangs over thy head. What shall the owner do to redeem it? Hay ride in summer in big flat truck to Buckroe. New Year's eve parties and oyster roasts. Easter egg hunt at church. May Day at school. When I was in first grade I was flower girl for the queen. I had a white organdy dress, white shoes and socks. It rained and had to have it inside. Wasn't as pretty.

Basketball games were played after school in afternoon. Baseball was played by boys and girls. Volleyball was one I liked. Dodgeball was another. Come spring everyone shot marbles. Football played after school. Gloucester had two high schools, Achilles one at Achilles and Botetourt at Gloucester Court House. We played some cards, rook and flinch, monopoly was a good game. Checkers and dominoes, bob jacks. We had Victrola wound by hand, played one record at time. Had to rewind each record. We had piano at my grandmother's also and an organ at our home. Had movies sometimes at school and at Red Men's Hall. Lawn parties to raise money for church and apron socials. Had little tiny

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aprons with a pocket and ladies were supposed to put a penny for every inch they were in waist. We went to Sunbeams, G.A. and YWA in church. BYPU on Sunday night. We had a children's day in spring at church and always Christmas program and prayer with children and young people. We had chairs for the children too.

My Grandmama always saw to it we had money for what we needed. She has slipped many a dollar bill in my hand folded so small she never aimed for anyone to see her give you money. When we were sick she came and stayed to take care of us. When I had diphtheria, had it not been for her I may have died. She took care of me day and night. One time I had sores on my feet and legs. Could have been dew poison. She took me home and kept me until it was healed. She knew how to cure poison ivy for Hawsie [Brown] who always had that every year.

Hawsie was the boss when we played. First of all we had to let her have all our rings. We played Mama and children. Virginia always wanted to play school and use mama's sewing machine for her desk. She wrote on the steam on windows and had one piece about "Wise Old Owl" and drew the owl as she made the piece up. I used to play horse and buggy like my Papa Diggs by sitting in the high chair and my feet in another kitchen chair and a lap robe over my feet. The reins for horse were tied to nobs of chair. One Sunday afternoon we baptised our dolls in the watering trough for the horses. They had bodies stuffed with sawdust and the paint got soft and the head and hands.

We played and we worked but we were so happy. We made games of dropping the sweet potato plants and cabbage plants also tomato and collard plants in the holes and putting little water in holes for daddy. He was such a good daddy.

Mama raised chickens, in the spring all the old hens would take to the nest. We thought it was great fun to listen to the hens cackle after they laid an egg. You exchanged 15 eggs to put under a hen and in two or three weeks would have little baby chickens. The exchange of eggs for the sitting hens were made with neighbors. Sometimes would use our own eggs but seemed like they thought the breed was better if exchanged the eggs. A good rooster was a must with a flock of chicken hens. We raised little Guinea chickens and poured boiling water over them to pick the feathers off them, all feathers had to be saved for pillows and beds.

We raised pigs, never had but two. Did I ever hate to feed these pigs. Then in fall year we had to catch the chickens, they were hens now, and take them to the big house. What a job after supper to help Mama, take a week sometimes to take them to change of quarters.

We had a cow and always looked forward to time when had little calves. When time came to sell the calves, the mama cows would be so pitiful they would make a lot of noise day and night. They called the noise loving for their baby. Our cow was named Nannie and Grandma Brown's two cows were Lily and Cherry. Daisy [Brown] used to milk some. I tried one time to milk but couldn't get a drop. When the flies and nats were bad I would fan the cows face for daddy with a branch from the trees.

Mosquitoes, had them every night. We had sliding window screens but used to have with woolen, old clothes, set fire to make smoke to get rid of them. My Mama Lee [Virginia Lee Templeman] could really make a mosquito smoke.

We had pretty flowers and locust trees. When water was dry we pumped water by bucket full and watered all our flowers. I kept the grass cut with a push lawn mower, daddy was away so much of the time.

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The out houses and picket fence had to be white washed every year. Joe Henry Williams [12], he wasn't real intelligent, but he sure could white wash. Well, daddy bought a barrel of lime, we children pumped the water for him to slack the lime. Had to have at least a barrel to start with to slack the lime, it got so hot may catch fire if didn't have enough water. This was also around the pits of outdoor toilets.

The Halloween parties were always at school. We had fortune telling, ghosts, all kinds of side shows, and prizes for funniest costumes. I never heard of Trick or Treat until I came to Newport News during World War II.

In the summer we would pump water, put in wash tubs, let it set in the sun all day, and be hot enough for a bath late afternoon.

I have washed clothes on scrub boards and always boiled the white clothes. This was the hardest work I ever helped do. Mama had a girl, Sara Keys [13], who lived with us when



Achilles High School, 1919

12 Joseph Henry "Joe" Williams, b. 8/20/1885, d. 5/10/1963, s/o William H. Williams & Mary Susan Hall

13 Sara Keys—Sarah E. Keys, b. 11/10/1896, d. 1963, d/o William Franklin Keys & Lucy Jane Jenkins, m. Clinton Gurnee

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remember that long walk up that hill in Yorktown. Granddaddy took his car over, we came back to ferry with them. I'll always remember how long it was, several hours, before we could get on the ferry, so many people.

Every summer Mama would bring Virginia to Dr. Jones in Newport News, have her eyes checked before school. This was when we would go shop and eat lunch at Woolworth's. We always got banana split for dessert.

Virginia lost her vision so gradual we hardly realized she was losing it. Dr. Hawkins, a young doctor at that time, with Dr. Jones sent her to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Mama and Daddy took her and Ruth and I stayed at Grandmamma's.

Well, this was the time I tried to milk the cow and couldn't get a drop. And also thought it would be a good time to smoke a cigarette. I have often thought of that and wondered why I picked this time to smoke. Well, I didn't like the taste so put it in the cook stove fire box and that was the last of my smoking. Virginia was about 18 or 19 now. These were sad days for all of us, however, Mr. J. Walter Kenney [16], Supt. of Schools and Mr. Sam Sparrow [17] from Portsmouth, who had a blind son, were a great comfort to us. Within a year Virginia was enrolled in the school for adults in Richmond for the blind. She adjusted well and graduated from Pan America Business College later to become a teacher in the same school. She has served 22 years and has six years before retirement. Her life has been a blessing to so many blind people.

Ruth completed school and entered nursing school at Riverside Hospital in Newport News.

I finished school two years after Virginia in June 1933. Depression years, tight money. For \$100 I took a correspondence course in practical nursing from Chicago School of Nursing. I got work in Glou. after completing the course in private duty in home. It



Kathryn Diggs, Virginia Diggs, and Ruth Diggs

16 Mr. J. Walter Kenney—James Walter Kenney, b. 6/2/1880, d. 5/31/1970, s/o Madison Kenney & Mary McGown, m. 1st Constance F. Moss, m. 2nd Elise A. Bristow

17 Mr. Sparrow—Samuel Franklin Sparrow, b. 9/12/1884, d. 4/12/1946, s/o William Thomas Sparrow & Margaret Susan East, m. Mary Elizabeth Hogge

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was alright, for I was thankful of any kind of work. Dr. Springall [18] gave me cases. I had one case on Ware River, the man died. He is to date the only person I have seen die.

Then in 1942 I began work in Newport News, C&P Tel.Co.

I had such a full and happy childhood. I could never begin to tell it all. We were a happy family, we lived by the Golden Rule and Bible was our guide. I am thankful for all my blessings, but most of all for the love and Christian parents and grandparents who laid the foundation for my life. I shall never forget the family devotions in our home.

I have written this in hopes someday my grandchildren may read this and know what life was like when they study history. They will be living in a space and jet age.

Yes, I love my mother dearly, a good Christian mother. Somehow Grandmama and Granddaddy continued to mother her and her children too, I suppose. I never thought Kate was a real pretty name, or Lillian either, that was mama Dawson's name. So after reading this and what I plan to write about my Mama Lee, I am sure you will know why I wanted to name my little girl for these two dear Christian grandmothers. Mary for my grandmother Brown and Lee for my grandmother Diggs. (See family chart on page 13.) I hope someday I may have the opportunity to be a good grandmother like they were.

P.S. Jay wanted me to tell about Hawsie & Billy the evangelist, Sunday she went to N.N. take him back preached Union. Jay wanted us to tell about the oyster war in Glou and when the militia came in. Big oyster dealer, Frank Darling tried to rent all oyster ground in Guinea from little man.

Part 2: Memories of my Childhood with my Daddy's Folks— The Diggs Side

By Kathryn Diggs Dawson

1973

This is so different as both my grandparents died when I was so young. First of all, my grandfather was Papa Diggs, grandmother was Mama Lee, and all daddy's brothers and sisters, they taught us to call them Annie Diggs, Susie Diggs, Sammie Diggs. Brother Willie had died with pneumonia just two months after mama and daddy were married. For I heard my mama say many times Willie was buried in Daddy's wedding shirt. I always wondered why?

I have many memories of being at their house when I was so very small. Papa Diggs was always on crutches, or sitting in the big green cushion morris chair, which I have in my home today in the den. Virginia and I would sit on the wide arms of his chair. The house sat back from the main road with long road in. We had to open a gate to enter and the fields on either side were always in potatoes or corn and black eye peas served in the corn. When we reached the yard there was another big gate and a yard of at least an acre or more was enclosed in a white rail fence. The big cottonwood trees. The house was two story on the front hall and front room they called it on the back of hall a big, big dining room. It was big enough for two rooms. The stairway was in the front hall and upstairs had a small bedroom front hall and a big bedroom over the living room or front room, as they called it. There was a front porch and I have never seen another porch floor like it. I had been laid with about 1/4 inch cracks between the flooring so water would not stand on it and rot the floor. The side back porch had a shed, rough and fine wood was stored

18 Dr. Springall—Rev. Dr. Herbert Swain Springall, b. 12/3/1872. d. 3/9/1949, s/o William Edward Springall & Mary A. Swain, m. Bessie Newton

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Virginia and I were small. For Ruth, the girl who lived with us was Flossie Coats [14]. Daddy always took good care of Mama and tried to keep good help for her. In the winter the clothes were carried to wash ladies who took in washing and ironing for a living.

I never liked to iron much, but we had three irons set on top of kitchen stove, kept hot, changed irons as they cooled.

We had to rake the entire yard every fall. This we most always did on Thanksgiving Day or Fri, Sat, off that time from school.

We walked to school two miles when weather was good. Bad weather Uncle Ned or Raymond would carry us. By the time we were in high school Uncle Ned's car carried us and picked us up too. My senior year in school had a paid private bus. Lloyd Jenkins [15], he was my first love, so Ruth and I rode the bus for free. He was later killed in automobile, rather truck, accident coming from Baltimore. He carried a load of potatoes to market for his dad. He was a big potato grower.

The depression years of the 30's, they were tight times. I finished high school in 1933. My daddy was never out of work because he worked with my Granddaddy. He worked for \$50 a month, five in the family. We didn't have a lot but we were rich compared to most people. I know about the bread lines and the men of PWA work and somehow when we couldn't hardly make the money go around, Grandmama and Granddaddy always seemed to have some,

Virginia and I did most everything together. With her poor vision, I was taught as a child to look out for her. I never remember when she didn't wear glasses. She was a good student and wanted so much to go on to college. There just wasn't money for it. While she made straight A's, I socialized and had a big time in school. Every month when report cards came out, Virginia would have my seat moved up front or away to a different group. I really buckled down my Jr. year in school. It was my Jr. year the Yorktown Centennial was held. There was a mob of people there, it lasted about five days, we went two days. The entire fleet was in, even the old Ironsides. We parked our car on Glou. Point side, and I'll always



**Virginia Mae Diggs, graduation from
Achilles High School**

14 Flossie Coats—Flozie Lee Coates, b. 3/15/1903, d. 4/12/1978, d/o Decatur Clyde Coates & Daisy May Brown, m. George William Camden

15 Lloyd C. Jenkins, b. 6/7/1912, d. 7/11/1934, s/o John Allen Jenkins & Cornelia Janie Brown

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just outside the door. To the left this went into the summer kitchen. After Christmas they would move into the big house dining room to cook. The big outside chimney was for the fire place in the front room and front bedroom upstairs. The house was white washed inside and out. The shingle roof on the back porch always had green moss growing on it. We always went in the horse and buggy. They were so glad to see us and Mama Lee would come to the side of the buggy, carry me in house in her arms.

They always had lots of company on Sunday afternoons. Papa Diggs was an invalid now. I remember on two occasions in the spring, Mama Lee had helped him in the buggy and he drove down to our home and the creek. He had arthritis. We went out to front gate at our house to talk to him. The horse was named Mamie and belonged to my daddy. That was the horse he had when he was courting my Mama. They lived one mile from the creek, and daddy would walk up and get the horse & buggy sometimes on Sat. We had a buggy house and stable at our house too. For some reason, Mama Lee always drove my daddy's horse.

I so well remember the Christmas dinners and Christmas trees and the fire in the fireplace but the hall was so cold. I always remember the big round dining room table, white cloth napkins and the round centerpiece in middle of table with the crackled edge at Christmas, the thumb print covered footed crystal bowl, Pat and Bacon have it now, was filled with ambrosia, orange & coconut. Every Christmas day we would have dinner at Mam Lee's noon time. She cooked on a big wood stove. Just before she cooked the biscuits she would put small wood in the fire box to get the oven extra hot. You really had to know what to do with fire to cook good food. They had turkey, baked sweet potatoes, salad greens, country ham, and sweet potato pudding, the best hot biscuits. I don't remember any cake, I'm sure they had cake, but custard pie, and peach pie for they had a peach orchard. Peach preserves and pickles. Blackberry jam, she never made any and left seed in them. She was such a good cook.

We had the most beautiful Christmas trees. We cut the fresh cedar trees out of our own woods. The tree was never decorated until Santa Claus did it Christmas Eve visit. We always left fruit cake on table for Santa Claus. Mama Lee had beautiful trees. We celebrated Christmas week and would go to have dinner at a different place in family each day that week, ended New Year's Day. They were called Family Dinings. We always had a Christmas program and got a Christmas bag from church that would have an apple, orange and hard candy in it.

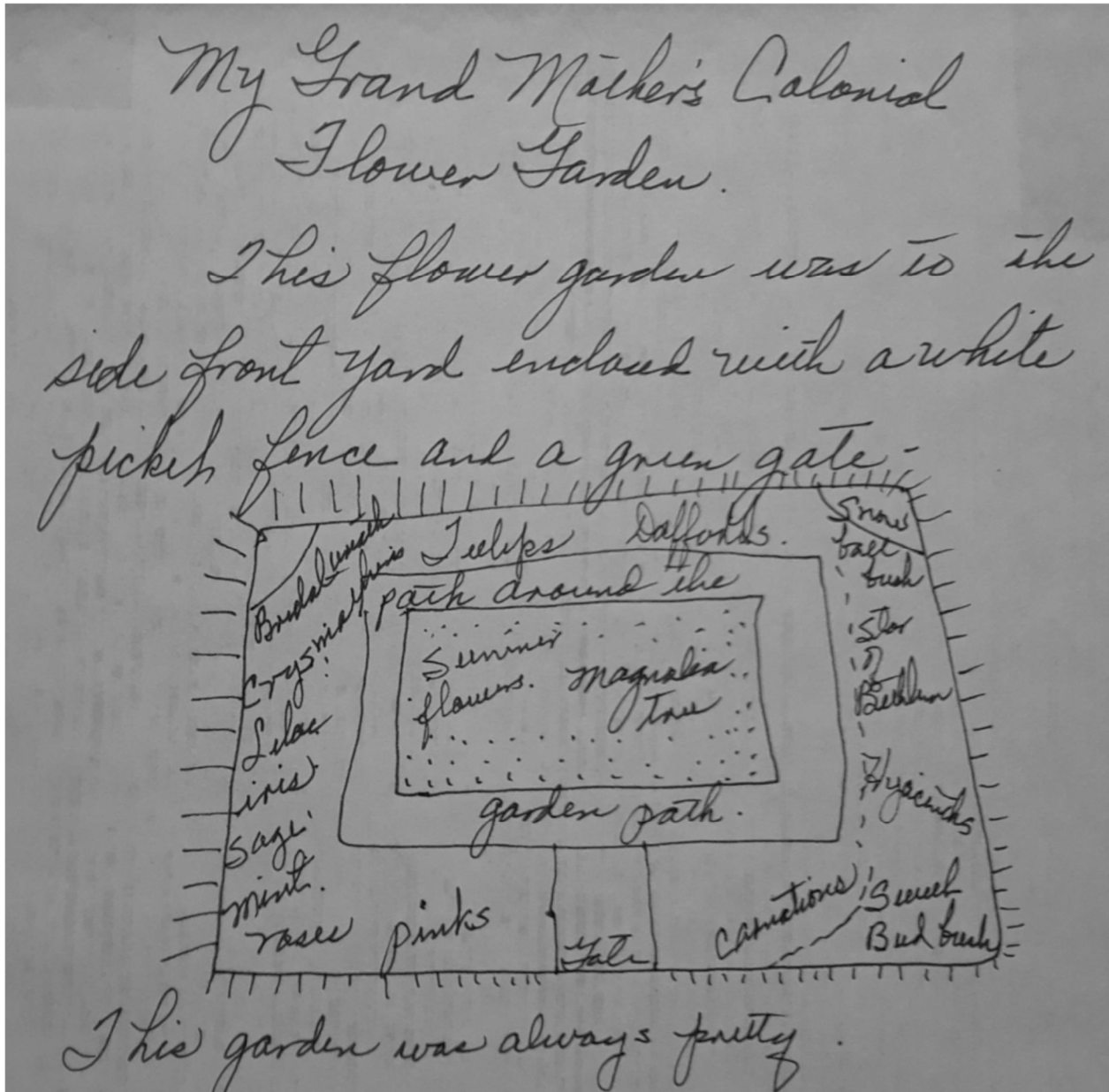
My grandmother Diggs raised turkeys, guinea hens, and baby chickens. She had chicken houses and nests for the hens to lay their eggs. In those nests she had one glass eggs to encourage the hens to lay their eggs in the next rather than go out in the fields and build their own nests.

Mama Lee had big blackberry bushes on her fence in the orchard & barnyard. She cooked on a wood stove. She had a sink to carry waste water out to the branch at the edge of the woods. Her dining room chairs were so pretty, and I have two of them, my desk chair and Virginia and Ruth have one, the other three are at Bacon's.

She had a well, all the way across the yard by the garden fence. In the summer, the butter and milk were lowered in a wooden bucket to keep cool. Every meal, Susie or Mama Lee would go to the well for the milk & butter, was kept in the dairy house just a very short distance from the back porch. Some people had ice houses where ice was cut from the pond in winter and stored. We never had an ice house.

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She had a big vegetable garden- at the gate was a huge walnut tree, every year had bushels of black walnuts and a hedge almost of Lilacs on the south fence. She had sweet peas on the fence and beautiful holly hocks, sweet williams, and lots of four o'clocks, they opened early morning and closed by four in the afternoon. All the way across the yard close to the fence near the house she had a pink rambling rose bush on one of the cottonwood trees. She had blue flags and white flags, today we call them Iris. There were three gaps in the rail fence- one on the west side, one to the orchard, and one to the front field. That was across the big ditch and bridge, a short cut to Mr. Ash's store and the other field. All the way to the back of the house was woods which went to the road.



Drawing from Kathryn Diggs of her "Mama Lee's garden"

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Mrs. Betty Hogge [19], Morris Hogge's mother, Sandra Penn's husband's grandparents, they were close friends and good neighbors. I remember how Morris [20] would come over after Papa Diggs died.

I was only nine years old when Papa Diggs died. The funeral was from home and the hearse was waiting ___ from Goode C. House. They sang "Will there be any stars in my crown when evening the sun goeth down". I remember going to the Diggs cemetery later with Mama Lee and Daddy at Christmas. They made paper flowers and put them in a case with glass top. The case was painted white, had them for all the graves.

After Papa Diggs died, Mama Lee talked to us a lot about him. She told us about the three Digges brothers that left England, one drowned on the way over, one settled in York Co., later moved to Gloucester and some years later one of the brothers moved on West, settled in California. Papa Diggs, the "e" was dropped in the name years later, from record in old family bible. Papa Diggs knew there was money in the Bank of England and always said someday he was going to claim it. She also told how the name on the pew in Bruton Parrish Church, Digges, was some of our forefathers.

The Diggs family was never a big family. My father Clifton Alexander was the oldest child of Alexander and Virginia Lee Templeman Diggs. The other children were Annie Mae, Susie Elizabeth, Willie, Sammie Templeman Diggs. Diggs family Bible, which I have, has complete record. I also have Templeman record.

After Papa Diggs died I stayed the next winter with Mama Lee and Susie Diggs, they wanted me for company. I was in third grade, Susie [Elizabeth] D. taught school at Severn, a four room

school so I went there, had been to Achilles first two years. Kathleen Templeman Long [21] taught me. Kathleen had been to William and Mary summer school and Susie Diggs had been to Harrisonburg State Teachers College, now Madison College.

Well, Mama Lee did lots of things. She had little turkeys, and guinea hens, and chickens, a cow and the horse Mamie. Everywhere we went was in the horse and buggy. The first time I went to a bank it was with Mama Lee, the bank at Gloucester Point, took me with her. The bank is still there, tall white building on top of the hill, a house now, same building. She went to church every Sunday to Bethlehem at Bena, she was

Family of Alexander Diggs

Alexander Diggs (1858-1924) +m. Virginia Lee Templeman (1863-1930) Clinton Alexander Diggs (1882-1954) +m. Kate Brown (1893-1987) Virginia Mae Diggs (1913-1992) Kathryn Rebecca Diggs (1915-2007) Ruth Clements Diggs (1920-2016) Annie May Diggs (1883-1975) +m. 1st Alpheus Milton Sykes(1860-1928) +m. 2nd Edward Lorean Fitchett (1874-1951) William C. "Willie" Diggs (1889-1912) Samuel Templeman "Sammie" Diggs (1893-1939) +m. Stella Lorraine "Della" Thomas (1900-1948) Betty Ann Diggs (1932-????) +m. James Kenneth Hogge (1927-1989) Susie Elizabeth Diggs (1900-1968) +m. Lloyd Blake (1902-1968)
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19 Mrs. Betty Hogge—Betty Eudora Haywood, b. 8/3/1875, d. 1/29/1956, d/o John Haywood & Elizabeth ann Hogg, m. Alexander Hogge

20 Morris Rowe Hogge, b. 11/5/1919, d. 7/5/1989, s/o Alexander Hogge & Betty Eudora Haywood, m. Willie Edith Adams. Elliott Franklin Hogge was his son, and he married Sandra Penn.

21 Kathleen Templeman Long—Sarah Kathleen Templeman, b. 1/28/1903, d. 4/30/1985, d/o Henry Wilbourforce Templeman & Lucy Lee Lewis, m. John Henry Long. She was Kathryn's first cousin once removed.

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Methodist. She drove her horse and had rings in the trees to tie the horse to. I like to go to her church. They had a negro sexton, she called him, and they had a bell the old negro, Uncle David we called him, rang the bell, which was the call to service. He was loved and respected by all white people. He sat in the back and about midway service would add coal to each of the stoves. Sometimes we would hear it on our way through Johnstown. There were and still has never been any negroes living below Union church. There was an organ but the organist pumped it with both feet on the foot pedals.

We walked to school in good weather through the woods. When it rained, Mama Lee took us in the buggy. She had rain equipment for the buggy and heavy lap robe for cold weather.

Mama Lee sewed real well. She had always made lots of clothes for us. Every summer Elizabeth Taylor [22] came from Portsmouth and spent two weeks with Susie Diggs. Annie D. and Mr. Sykes lived in Portsmouth. We would go home with them, Virginia and I. They had a big home, 918 Holiday St. That was our vacation. We had to cross the ferry at Gloucester Point, go to Lee Hall, down to Boat Harbor, get the ferry to Norfolk and from Naval Base into Norfolk got ferry over to Portsmouth. They took us lots of places over Norfolk, Oceanview on the street car would take all day to go to Oceanview. We went to the movies and they were days of silent movies.

Mr. Sykes had a wholesale business of grain. He had big wagons and 4 or 5 big, black horses. Negro men drove these wagons and they had big umbrellas over the driver's seat. The ice man and milk wagons were real excitement for us, two little girls from the country.

Annie D. made real pretty clothes for us. She first went to Portsmouth to work as a seamstress, that is where she met Mr. Sykes. In the evening after supper we would go for a ride out in Norfolk County and Churchland. Their house was big and we always ate in the dining room. Annie D. had a small ice cream freezer and so often she would make peach ice cream for supper. She had blue willow dishes.

One day when Mama, Ruth, Virginia, and I were there for two weeks this time, we went to Norfolk and I got a bag of peanuts. I had never seen salted peanuts, so I saved them, not saying a word. When I got home they found me on the big back porch washing the dirt off my peanuts. They told that on me many times.

Elizabeth Taylor (Knight) was Annie D.'s foster child. Her mother, father, and sister, friends of Annie D., died in the flu epidemic of 1918. All three died within a week. Elizabeth was the only survivor except for an uncle.

One Thanksgiving, Mama Lee and I went to Portsmouth on the train. Daddy took us to Lee Hall C&O train station, we rode the train, my first train ride to Newport News, got the C&O steamer over to Norfolk. Annie D. and Mr. Sykes met us in Norfolk. The ferry landed in sight of the McArthur Memorial now, was the court house building then. I remember the pretty coat I got on that trip. We shopped in old downtown Norf. We came back same way and Daddy met us at C&O station Lee Hall. That hasn't changed much in the past years.

22 Elizabeth Taylor—Elizabeth Mae Taylor, m. 1911, d/o Theodore Tilghusan Taylor & Fannie Elizabeth Manning

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Cousin John Rowe [23] , Aunt Betty's son, went as a missionary from Union Baptist Church and I remember one time he was home on furlough coming down and telling us about the Japanese children. We used to visit Aunt Betty Rowe [24] a lot. They had a piano and organ and Daddy always talked about Aunt Betty's pound cake. (Marcus Rowe Sr. [26] lives at this old home place.) She was Nora Powers' [25] mother's mother, Bobby Powers' [27] great grandmother. Yes, Fannie Mae Rowe [28], Aunt Betty's daughter lived at Clay Bank in Glou. Co. We used to visit there too.

Uncle Billy [Diggs], he was a funny man. He drove deep pump and farmed. Miss Pauline Berry [29] was his wife, she taught school. They had a pretty home and Uncle Billy, he was my great Uncle, always had his flag flown on all holidays. Eunice Diggs Rowe [30], we visited there too. I don't remember much about her.

Family of John Diggs
John Diggs (1823-1904)
+m. m 1st Elizabeth "Betsy" Williams (1818-????)
Levi Diggs (1850-????)
John Bailey Diggs (1852-1914)
+m. 1st Alice V. Howard (1852-????)
+m. 2nd Arsinthia Diggs (1860-????)
Ann Elizabeth "Aunt Betty" Diggs (1855-1923)
+m. Samuel Marion Rowe Sr. (1833-1916)
Rev. John Hansford Rowe (1876-1929)
+m. 1st Sarah Margaret Cobb (1882-1920)
+m. 2nd Carrie Hooker Chiles (1885-????)
Frances Mae "Fannie" Rowe (1884-1954)
+m. Herman Francis Rowe (1877-1970)
Alexander Diggs (1858-1924)
+m. Virginia Lee Templeman (1863-1930)
+m. 2nd Mary Ann Howard (1838-1904)
William Davis Howard Diggs (1870-1940)
+m. Pauline Mackie Berry (1874-1967)
Eunice Blanche Diggs (1875-1944)
+m. Hunter Jefferson Rowe (1874-1958)

Sammie D. [Diggs] married Della Thomas [31], Betty Ann [32] married Kenneth Hogge [33], lives at her old home place. Sammie died a very young man of TB at sanitorium in Charlottesville. Aunt Della and Betty Ann lived with Aunt Della's parents and rented her home. Aunt Della died a young woman from burns, she caught her clothes on fire. Aunt

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- 23 John Rowe—Rev. John Hansford Rowe, b. 11/13/1876, d. 8/12/1929, s/o Samuel Marion Rowe Sr. & Ann Elizabeth "Betty" Diggs, m. 1st Sarah Margaret Cobb, m. 2nd Carrie Hooker Chiles
 - 24 Aunt Betty Rowe—Ann Elizabeth "Betty" Diggs, b. 4/18/1855, d. 5/13/1923, d/o John Diggs & Elizabeth "Betsy" Williams, m. Samuel Marion Rowe Sr. Aunt Betty was Alexander Diggs's sister.
 - 25 Marcus Rowe Sr.—Marcus Lafayette Rowe Sr., b. 12/23/1895, d. 8/31/1942, s/o Lafayette Washington Rowe & Emily A. Acra, m. Annie Elizabeth Haynes
 - 26 Nora Powers—Eleanor Frances Ward, b. 2/12/1921, d/o James Kenneth Ward & Grace Elizabeth Rowe, gd/o Samuel Marion Rowe Sr. & Ann Elizabeth Diggs, m. Robert Francis Powers Sr.
 - 27 Bobby Powers—Robert Francis Powers Jr., b. 11/26/1946, s/o Robert Francis Powers Sr. & Eleanor Frances Ward, m. Susan Elizabeth Becker
 - 28 Fannie Mae Rowe—Frances Mae "Fannie" Rowe, b. 5/24/1884, d. 9/24/1954, d/o Samuel Marion Rowe Sr. & Ann Elizabeth "Betty" Diggs, m. Herman Francis Rowe
 - 29 Miss Pauline Berry—Pauline Mackie Berry, b. 5/27/1874, d. 7/25/1967, d/o Robert Roades Berry & Martha Glass. Uncle Billy was half-brother of Ann Elizabeth Diggs and Alexnder Diggs.
 - 30 Eunice Diggs Rowe—Eunice Blanche Diggs, b. 1875, d. 1944, d/o John Diggs & Mary Ann Howard, m. Hunter Jefferson Rowe. Eunice was half-sister of Ann Elizabeth Diggs and Alexnder Diggs.
 - 31 Della Thomas—Stella Louuaine "Della" Thomis, b. 5/3/1900, d. 4/17/1948, d/o Eddward Bunyan Thomas & Lucy Mae Brown, m. Samuel Templeman "Sammie" Diggs.
 - 32 Betty Ann—Betty Ann Diggs, b. 7/12/1931, d. 4/25/2004, d/o Samuel Templeman "Sammie" Diggs & Stella Lorraine "Della" Thomas, m. James Kenneth Hogge.
 - 33 Kenneth Hogge—James Kenneth Hogge, b. 5/4/1927, d. 2/21/1989, s/o William Addison Hogge & Ollie Ruth Brown, m. Betty Ann Diggs

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Della was so good to Mama Lee and Susie D. after Papa Diggs's death.

Susie D. [Diggs] and Jackson Blake [34] courted while I stayed with Mama Lee & Susie D. Minnie Snoddy [35] from Buckingham Co. boarded with Mama Lee and taught school at Severn. Susie and Jackson were married at home of Mr. Harry Corr [36] near present Glou. Co High School. We went to their wedding. I remember so many times we would go to Glou. Point to see the newlyweds leave on the Baltimore steamer for their honeymoon. These steamers carried freight, mail, and passengers.

Every summer the Show Boat would come in for a week at a Severn Wharf. I never went but Susie D. and young people went.

We lived in the big dining room. Kerosene lamps, and at bedtime Mama Lee would light the little lamp, my present dish lamp, carry up stairs. She had a lamp that burned oil and had a pump to pump air in it too. Had mantels too. Seems like that was a gas lamp that never went out of the dining room.

Cold beds and bedrooms, she had a foot warmer- her sis Sue had given it to her, was of iron, she got it hot on the stove, wrapped it in cloth and put in foot of our bed. I slept with her when I was cold.

We took out bath upstairs, had a fire in tin heater Sat night so could take bath. Heat water on top of stove, had wash bowl like mine, only one I have was my mother's.

Mama Lee liked to sit in the twilight of the evening and tell me about her family. She told me about brother Samuel who was keeper of the York Spit lighthouse, he lived in Yorktown. She also liked to tell me about the Civil War, how the carpetbagger's came through, took all the meat in her father's smokehouse.

I remember going to Eagle Point Plantation. When she was a little girl, she lived there. Her father was the caretaker at one time

She made the most beautiful braided rugs, used them in all the rooms. Used old scraps from her sewing. the wool scraps she made patchwork quilts and sometimes made them of silk. She taught me to sew and embroider.

The last doll I had she gave me. It had black hair and a jointed body. The name was stamped on her body- Violet. She had pretty little teeth and she dressed her in the nicest and daintiest clothes-pale green dress, pale pink cape & white organdy cap. The stroller was of black leather. I kept that doll and MaryLee [37] even played with it.

I loved her dearly, she spent many hours teaching me both my school work and bible work. I took part in children's day at Bethlehem as well as Union. Both my daddy and Sammie married Baptist girls and went to the Baptist church.

I only stayed with her one full winter, but spent lots of nights there after that. She died in her early 60's. Susie Diggs, Annie Diggs, and my Daddy lived fairly good ages.

34 Jackson Blake—Lloyd Jackson Blake, b. 8/10/1902, d. 6/18/1960, s/o Thomas Jackson Blake & Gamuna Adelaide Jenkins, m. Susie Elizabeth Diggs

35 Minnie Snoddy—Minnie Snoddy, b. 12/30/1904, d. 11/8/1967, d/o William Thornhill Snoddy & Nannie B. Cobb, m. Samuel Anderson Parker. Minnie was a first cousin of Bill Weaver's mother who all came to teach in Gloucester.

36 Mr. Harry Corr—Rev. Harry Lee Corr, b. 9/27/1865, d. 10/18/1951, s/o Levi Pace Corr & Ann Emily Watlington, m. Emma Rosalie Bayse

37 MaryLee—Mary Lee Dawson, b. 1/19/1947, d/o William Thomas "Billy" Dawson & Kathryn Rebecca Diggs, m. James Ola "Jay" Dunn Jr.

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I have a number of pieces of china and crystal from Annie Diggs that someday will be passed down to my grandchildren. Also Morris chair and two cane bottom chairs of Mama Lee's.

Part 3: My Grandfather's Country Store—William Cary "Willie" Brown

By Kathryn Diggs Dawson

1979

When I was a little girl, I loved to go to my grandfather's country store. You could buy so many different items. The main part of the building was the U.S. Post Office. Granddaddy was Post Master. We had a morning pick up at 8am and mail came in at 1pm. The post office was much like we have today, only 2 cents postage to mail a letter, 1 cent for post card. You could get money orders, for much of our clothes were ordered from Sears Roebuck, Montgomery Ward and National Hess. These stores, Sears was in Philadelphia, Pa, M. Ward Baltimore, Md, and National Hess, Chicago, Ill.

You could buy can food, beans, meats, fruits and on Friday a good line of beef hotdogs and once in a while pork chops. The meats came by Bay steamer from Baltimore, getting into Gloucester Point 5am on Friday morning. My Uncle Ned, Uncle Raymond, and Uncle Rodney would drive the model T to pick up the shipment from Baltimore.

They also got crates of oranges, grapefruit, and sometimes big bunches of bananas which were usually green, had to wait for them to turn yellow. Crates of cabbage and slabs of salt pork side meat. Never did you buy chickens or pork meat such as ham. You had to grow your own chickens and pigs. You could buy Eagle brand can milk and Pet milk but everyone had a cow for milk and butter.

You could buy cookies from a large square box with glass front. Some of the best cookies and could get a big bag for 5 cents. The candy case glass, so many different kinds. 1 cent a piece. Sometimes 5 pieces for a penny. Peanut bard, peppermint sticks, Tootsie Rolls, sour drops. Then Milky Way, Baby Ruth and Hershey bars, they were 5 cent a piece.

You could buy all kinds of medicine. Cough medicine, cod liver oil, cardier tablets for back pain, aspirin, bromo seltzer, castor oil, ex lax, mustard, vicks salve, vaseline, etc.



Willie Brown

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Material by yard, cotton, lace buttons. Shoes, coats, rain boots and heavy rain suits for men working on water.

The flour, sugar, vinegar, molasses all came in barrels. You could buy the sugar and flour by the pound or by the 100 lb barrel. Took quart jar for vinegar and also molasses.

Cheese came in round wooden box. You could buy that $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or 1 lb cut off and weigh it, wrap it in white paper.

Kerosene oil came in barrel. You took $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon or qt. tin can to get kerosene for cook stove and oil lamps.

The gasoline pump was in front of the store building. Tank in ground, all oil for motors inside back room.

The piles of rope and fishing net were on second floor, and all kinds of house and boat paint.

The office had a big roll top desk, telephone on wall, and big iron safe. Only a few people knew the combination to the lock on the safe.

There was a bedroom in the store. Someone slept there because of fire. Didn't have any fire protection.

The building was heated by big round, tall, pot belly stove, burned coal.

Corn meal was sold by the lb. or bushel. Granddaddy had a big mill house where they ground corn into mill. People would drive horse and buggy, bring corn by the bushel to have ground into meal. They paid by leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ meal to Granddaddy, he sold this in store.

Eggs, many folks carried baskets of eggs to store in exchange for food. Large crates of eggs were shipped to Baltimore by Bay steamer from Gloucester Point.

The large wood ice box held two big cakes of ice. Kept all meat and perishable food.

They sold salt cod fish, no fresh fish. We got all the fish we wanted from the local fisherman, they would give you fish. I never knew of anyone to sell neighbors fish.

Clams, bought 50 cents a hundred. Now I paid 15 cent a piece last week.

There was a long pier and we sold gasoline, motor oil to the boats. The work boats, crabs, oysters, clams and fish. Large buy fish boats came in who bought fish for Isassc Fass Fish Co. in Portsmouth. Large oyster boats bought seed oysters from James River for J.H. Miles Oyster Co. Norfolk. And too, they had pleasure boats come in for overnight harbor.

Many boats came from other areas to Marine Railway to be pulled out of the water to paint the boat bottoms. Boats that stay in water have to be cleaned every year of scale and bar knuckles. Granddaddy didn't own this railway, but he sold lots of paint to these folks.

Granddaddy had a fleet of freight boats. Some oil tankers named for children. Mary Ellen, R.C. Brown, W.C. Brown, Verona, Hawsie B., Old French was sailboat. The freight boats carry lumber, barrels of potatoes, watermelons to market in Baltimore and Philadelphia, Chesapeake Bay route from York River.

Post Script, 1979

Our Wonderful Life Together- Kathryn & Billy Dawson, May 1979

MaryLee will remember most of our happy life together. We have many pictures to

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show it also.

Billy grows sweeter and dearer to me every day God has so richly blessed us through the years. A kinder and more loving husband no one ever had.

MaryLee and Jay have a wonderful family. How dearly I love all of them. MaryLee has always been a good child, and the older she gets the sweeter, and her faith in God is so beautiful to me. Jennifer and Lauren are so dear to our hearts. And we look forward to our third grandchild. May God continue to bless us, and we will serve him all the days of our lives.

Concluded from page 13

6) One day while visiting Uncle Bernard and Aunt Grace, my brother Larry and I were playing outside with squirt guns. While playing, Uncle Bernard came around the corner of an old shed so we squirted him. His reply was, "Boys, have some respect. You shouldn't be squirting your elders." We just laughed and ran away. Uncle Bernard left and unbeknownst to us was filling up a two-gallon bucket with water. I was chasing Larry, and as he came around the corner of this shed, Uncle Bernard poured the bucket of water on Larry's head. Uncle Bernard just laughed and said, "That will teach you to squirt water on me!" He went off laughing. He always liked getting in the last word.

7) A young Brent Heath lived in the house that was across Main Street from Uncle Bernard's house. He said he would go many times to the clerk's office and B.B. would welcome him and said he would give him a nickel for a hug. Brent would leave the clerk's office with the nickel and then go to Dr. Gray's pharmacy. Dr. Gray would make the same offer, and Brent would end up with another nickel. With his ten cents he would then buy an ice cream. Brent said both gentlemen were always generous.

Post Office Information for Gloucester County (1837-1950) Found in the National Archives

By William L. Lawrence

While researching the National Archives for the Fairfield Foundation in November, 2022, Nathaniel Glasgow came across the post office applications for Gloucester County, VA. This microfilmed information can be found at <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/68791858>. The data is titled “Microcopy 1126 Roll 611 Post Office Dept. reports of site locations 1837-1950. Roll 611, Gloucester #668-#941.” It covers the years 1837 to 1950. The information shows correspondence between Gloucester residents and the Postmaster General. It includes the applicant’s name, location, nearest post offices, hand drawn maps, and dates.

Listed below is a compiled list of the post offices found in the archives and the earliest known date of any correspondence. In many cases the post office application was not approved on the first request.

Post Offices	Earliest known date	Post Offices	Earliest known date	Post Offices	Earliest known date
Adner	1892	Gloucester Court House	1837	Perrin	1911
Allmondsville	1888	Glenns	1866	Pinero	1896
Ark	1886	Gloucester Point	1874	Pinetta	1894
Batt (at Ash)	1897	Gum Fork	1923	Roanes(at Wayside)	1888
Bellamy	1938	Harcum	1915	Salemsville	1882
Belroi	1887	Hayes Store	1866	Sassafras	1883
Bena	1901	Hickory Fork	1866	Schley (at Browns Store)	1901
Bridges	1893	Ironclad (one word)	1884	Selden	1892
Cappahosic	1866	James Store	1878	Severn	1884
Cash	1897	Lady	1911	Short Lane	1936
Clay Bank	1875	Maryus	1875	Signpine	1894
Clements Wharf	1906	Money	1902	Tidemill	1935
Clopton	1903	Naxera	1905	Wen	1893
Coke	1900	Nest (at Gum Fork)	1897	Wareneck	1885
Crab	1901	New Upton	1866	White Marsh	1885
Dixondale	1900	Nuttall	1916	Wicomico	1900
Dutton	1908	Ordinary	1889	Woods Cross Roads	1837
Freeport	1878	Pampa	1897	Zanoni	1894
Glass	1893				

Post Office Information for Gloucester County (1837-1950)

The lists that follow show much of the information on the original PO applications. Only some of the maps are included as most were very faint and hard to read. The footnotes are on the last page of the tables.

Microfilm number	Proposed Location/ PG wants updated information/maps/ permission to move location	Post Office Name	Applicant	Date
671	Union Church	Achilles	William Cary Bland	Feb.20, 1890
673	PG to Postmaster of Gloucester C.H. wanting a list of PO in the county: 1)Cappahosic 2)Glenns 3)Gloucester C.H. 4)Haye's Store 5)Hickory Fork 6)New Upton 7)Woods X-Roads			April 6, 1866
675	move 350 yds.N	Adner	Bernard O. Bland	Nov.11, 1930
677	move 1/4 mi. S on same road	Adner	John Benson Brushwood	Nov.4 , 1910
679	Wolfe	Adner	James Roy Brushwood	April 28, 1892
681	Allmondsville	Allmondsville	W.W. Allmond	July 23, 1888
684	Central	Ark	William C. Trevilian	Mar.1, 1886
686	Bailey's	Bailey's *	Geo. W. Bailey, Jr.	April 2, 1914
688	Ash	Batt	William Temple Broaddus	March 23, 1897
690	Bellamy: formerly Belroi	Bellamy	Adner Horsley	March 22, 1938
692	move 1 1/4 mi. NE from Belroi	Bellamy	Adner Horsley	Jan.14, 1938
695	PG requests updated information	Belroi	Geo. D. Stubbs	June 12, 1896
697	Bel Roi	Belroi	Geo. D. Stubbs	Dec. 12, 1887
700	Bena	Bena	Paul W. Hall	May 16, 1901
703	move 50 ft. across highway	Bena	Clarence B. Rowe, Jr.	Jan.15, 1948
704	PG requests updated information	Bena	Maryus T. Minor	June 30, 1947
706	Tuckers-move 1/2 mi. N	Bridges	Mrs. Virginia Pointer	July 19, 1923
709	Bridges Store	Bridges	Thomas Bridges	April 20, 1893
711	map of the neighbors of Bridges P.O.			April 20, 1893
712	move 50 ft. NW	Cappahosic	Mary West Davis	July 27, 1948
713	PG requests updated information	Cappahosic	Coleman Newcomb	Oct.17, 1924
715	PG requests updated information	Cappahosic	Coleman Newcomb	Oct.1, 1920
717	Cappahosic	Cappahosic	L.J. Stewart	Oct.14, 1890
719	Cappahosic	Cappahosic	Mrs. Josephine Baytop	Aug.12, 1885
721	Cappahosic	Cappahosic	J.N. Stubbs	May 17, 1871
722	PG requests updated information	Cash	Carrie E. Roane	Feb.29,1914
724	Paradise	Cash	Hansford H. Roane	March 19, 1897
726	Clay Bank	Clay Bank	Christian K. Weaver	Aug. 22, 1879
728	Clay Bank	Clay Bank	Thomas Shackelford	May 25, 1875
729	Central [Enos Corner]	Central *	A.W. Pointer	Feb.1, 1873
730	Clements Wharf	Clements Wharf	William H. White	Dec.7,1912
732	Clements Wharf	Clements Wharf	Mrs. D. Oscar Clements	May 1, 1906
734	Clopton	Clopton	G.C. Clopton	Jan.22, 1903
736	Coke	Coke, "Shelly" crossed out	Sarah E. Haywood	Oct.11, 1900
738	Crab	Crab	J.S. Brown	Feb.19, 1910
740	Sarabs	Crab	Edward C. Lewis	Jan.11, 1901
742	PG requests updated information	Dixondale	E.K. Mott	Jan.4, 1921
744	Dixondale	Dixondale	Frederick Lucas Bussey	May 22, 1900
746	PG requests updated information	Dutton	L.B. Broaddus	Feb.28, 1914
748	Fox	Dutton	Lula B. Broaddus	Feb.19, 1908
750	Freeport	Freeport	Thomas B. Rowe	Jan.22, 1878
752	move 84 ft. N	Glass	Stonewall J. Rowe	May 29, 1923
756	PG requests updated information	Glass	J.M. Rowe	July 13, 1898
758	Glass	Glass	Henry W. Glass	Mar.28, 1894
761	PG requests updated information	Gloucester Court House	Wm. Smart	Feb.15, 1837

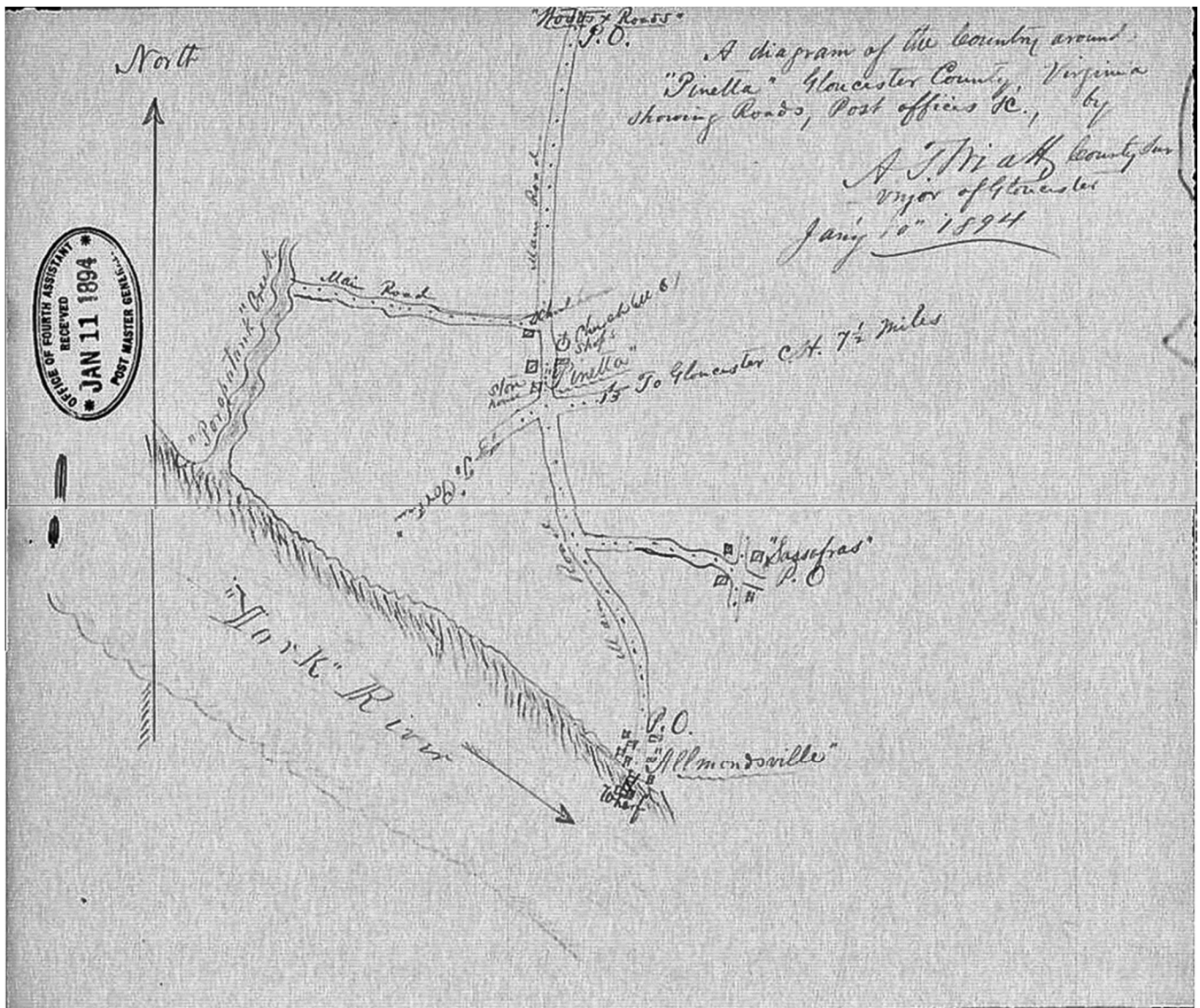
Post Office Information for Gloucester County (1837-1950)

762	PG requests updated information	Glenns	John W. Stubbs	Sept.15, 1914
764	PG requests updated information	Glenns	John R. Ross	Oct.15, 1896
766	PG requests updated information	Gloucester	David Ross	Nov. 14, 1898
768	PG requests updated information	Gloucester (late Glouceste C H)	W.S. Ware	Aug.24, 1893
769	move 1.025 mi. NE	Gloucester Point	N.H. Tillage	March 10, 1943
772	PG requests updated information	Gloucester Point	Sarah Hughes	Dec.2, 1898
774	Gloucester Point	Gloucester Point	Sarah Hughes	Aug.23, 1877
776	move 1/8 mi. SE	Gum Fork	John G. Booker	March 24, 1925
779	move 1/4 mi. NW	Gum Fork	Jessie D. Gregg	July 10, 1923
782	PG requests updated information	Harcum	Franline Miller	Jan.1, 1917
784	Harcum	Harcum	W. Roy Harcum	Est.June 6, 1916
786	New Upton	Harcum	Wm. Roy Harcum	Dec.8, 1915
787	PG requests updated information	Hayes Store	L.B. Williams	Feb.6, 1936
789	PG requests updated information	Hayes Store	Julius Landsberg	Nov.11, 1898
791	PG requests updated information	Hayes Store	J.R. Bridges	June 3, 1885
794	PG requests updated information	Hayes Store	E.A. Leavitt	March 12, 1890
796	PG requests updated information	Hickory Fork	John W. Hughes	Oct. 22, 1868
797	Iron Clad (two words)	Ironclad (one word)	Wm. H. Richardson	Oct.1, 1884
799	move 300 yds. SW	James Store	Henry Brooks, Jr.	Oct. 19, 1907
801	move 1/4 mi. E	James Store	Benjamin H. German	Sept.8, 1926
805	Brick Store	James Store	Edward W. James	Jan.23, 1879
807	James Store	James Store	David P. Sanders	Dec.22, 1886
809	move 100 yds. SW	James Store	Henry Brooks	Jan.3, 1913
810	PG requests updated information	James Store	Henry Brooks per Julie Brooks	Feb.27, 1914
811	move 337 yds. S from wharf to land	Lady	Joel B. Rowe	June 3, 1918
814	Lady	Lady	Joel B. Rowe	June 26, 1911
816	William's Store	Maryus	James Williams	June 22, 1895
818	Maryus	Maryus	J.T. Williams	April 15, 1937
821	Maryus	Maryus	C.L. Williams	June 19, 1945
824	move 800 yds. S	Money	William T. Kemp	Jan.11, 1908
826	Orania	Money	Philip H. Fitzhugh	Nov.10, 1902
828	Sterling	Naxera	Joseph Walter Sterling	May 19, 1905
831	Gum Fork	Nest	Louis O. Dudley	Aug.15, 1898
833	Centre Fork	Nest, "Booker" crossed out	L. A. Blake	June 24, 1897
836	PG requests updated information	New Upton	Richard D. Sears	Aug.31, 1947
839	PG requests updated information	New Upton	Ruth E. Ward	Dec.10, 1946
841	move 1/2 mi. SW	New Upton	V.L. Brooking	Dec.15, 1910
843	PG requests updated information	New Upton	O.J. Harcum	Apr.13, 1883
844	Scuffeltown	New Upton	Wm. H. Boulden	March 21, 1870
845	move 2/5 mi. S	Nuttall	William Stephen Field	Nov.6, 1930
848	Nuttall	Nuttall	Charles H. Blake	March 29, 1916
851	move 20 yds.NW to opposite side of main road	Ordinary	M.E. Hogg	Jan.22, 1912
853	Seawell's Ordinary	Ordinary	Mrs.R.H. Hogg	Sept.19, 1889
855	PG requests updated information	Pampa	J.H. Sears	Feb.28, 1914
856	PG requests updated information	Pampa	Carrol M. Brushwood	Dec.11, 1897
858	move 1320 yds. N (postmaster resigned-	Perrin	James H. Ash	Sept.8, 1934
861	move 3/4 mi. N	Perrin	Frank P. Ash	July 7, 1916
864	Perrin	Perrin	C.A. Robins	May 5, 1911
866	PG requests updated information	Pinero	Mrs. Clara E. Dutton	Nov.26, 1929

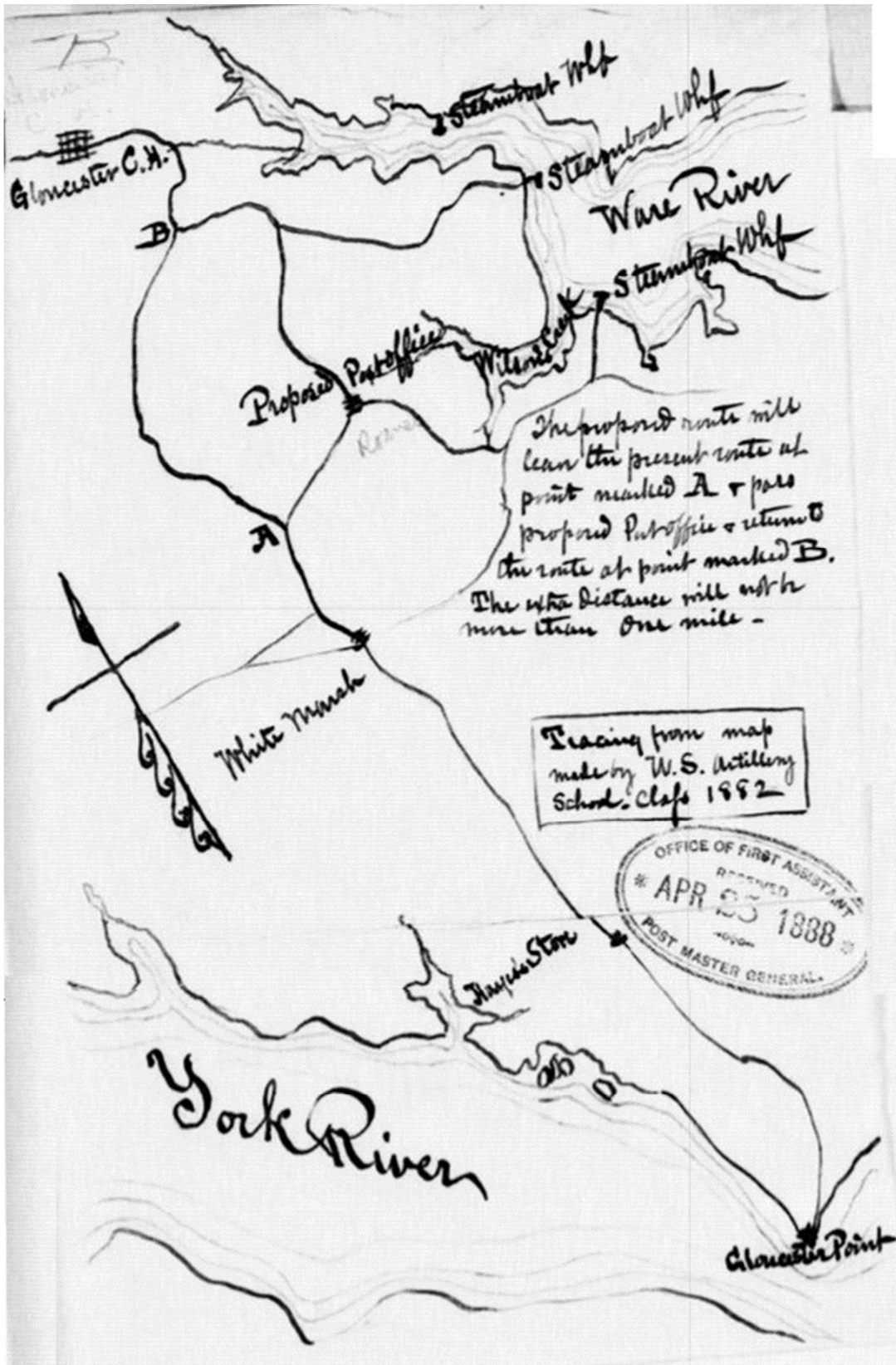
Post Office Information for Gloucester County (1837-1950)

868	Pinero	Pinero	Mrs. Clara Ethel Dutton	June 4, 1923
871	Wareham	Pinero	U. W. Dickerson	June 23, 1896
873	moved 1/2 mi. S	Pinetta	Mary Agnes Bunting	Oct.6, 1937
874	move 1000 yds. E	Pinetta	Zach L. Rilee	Dec.8, 1915
876	move 1 mi. S	Pinetta	Harry G. Moore	Oct.18, 1895
879	Pinetta	Pinetta	Harry G. Moore	Jan.10, 1894
881	map of Pinetta area by A. T. Wiatt-county surveyor-see Plat 1			Jan.10, 1894
882	map of Roanes area over 1882 artillery school map-see Plat 2			Apr.25, 1888
883	Wayside	Roane's, "Roadside" crossed out	Richard A. Roane	April 21, 1888
885	Salemsville	Salemsville	Frank B. Hudson	Feb.14, 1882
887	map of Petsworth district-see Plats 3 and 4			Feb.14, 1882
888	Sassafras	Sassafras	Benjamin C. Newcomb	March 1, 1883
890	Browns Store	Schley	Samuel Jefferson Brown	Nov.19, 1901
892	move 25 yds. SW	Selden	Mrs. Mary M. Dutton	Oct.1, 1913
894	Selden	Selden	Beauregard Burke	Oct.6, 1892
897	move 3/8 mi. E	Severn	John M. Shackelford	Dec.1, 1904
899	move 3/4 mi. NW	Severn	Wm. F. Thomas	May 13, 1898
901	move 3/8 mi. SE	Severn	James W. Thomas	April 8, 1898
903	move less 1 mi. to Rows store	Severn	William Carey Bland	July 20, 1885
905	move 1 1/2 mi.S	Severn	James W. Thomas	Nov.2, 1889
907	Severn	Severn	John B. Ash	Sept.13, 1884
909	Horsley	Short Lane, "Horsley" crossed out	C.B. Horsley	Aug.13, 1936
911	Signpine	Signpine	Zachary T. Gray	Oct.18, 1895
914	Gray [continues on film #924]	Signpine	Zachary T. Gray	Mar.8, 1894
916	Tidemill	Tidemill	William Clifford Waddell	Sept.21, 1935
919	PG requests updated information	Wen[spelled this way]	L. H. McClung	Oct.7, 1947
921	PG requests updated information	Wan	Pearle S. Callis	Dec.6, 1945
923	Todds	Wan	R.P. Taliaferro	Aug.10, 1893
925	PG requests updated information	Wareneck	T.C. Cooke	June 20, 1901
926	map of Wareneck area-shows wharves on Ware R.-see Plat 5			June 20, 1901
927	PG requests updated information	Ware Neck	R.P. Taliaferro	Aug.26, 1886
929	Ware Neck	Ware Neck	Richard P. Taliaferro	Sept.25, 1885
931	Homeville	Wayside *	Richard A. Roane	Feb.22, 1881
933	PG requests updated information	White Marsh	J. W. Hall	June 27, 1885
934	Juno	Wicomico	John Edwin Hogg	Aug.20, 1900
936	PG requests updated information	Woods Cross Roads	C.T. Roane	Nov.11, 1898
938	PG requests updated information	Woods Cross Roads	Ed. S. Amory	Jan. ? 1837
939	Zanone [spelled this way]	Zanoni	R.P. Taliaferro	Nov.12, 1894
	* denotes those post offices not approved			
	[] denotes comments by the author			
	PG denotes Postmaster General			

Post Office Information for Gloucester County (1837-1950)

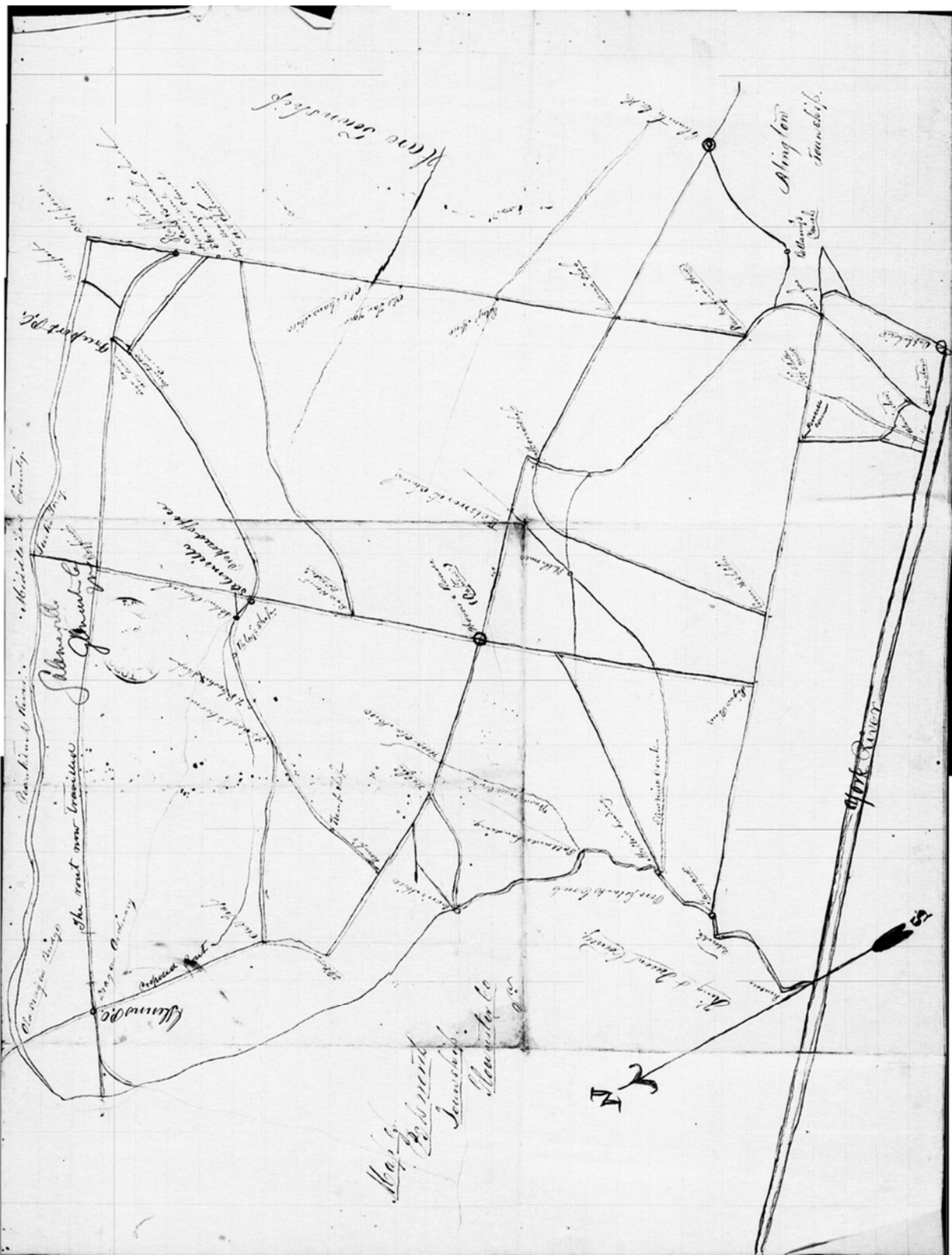


Plat 1 - This 1894 map by county surveyor A. T. Wiatt shows the Pinetta area. Also shown are the Almondsville and Sassafras post office locations and the wharf at Almondsville.



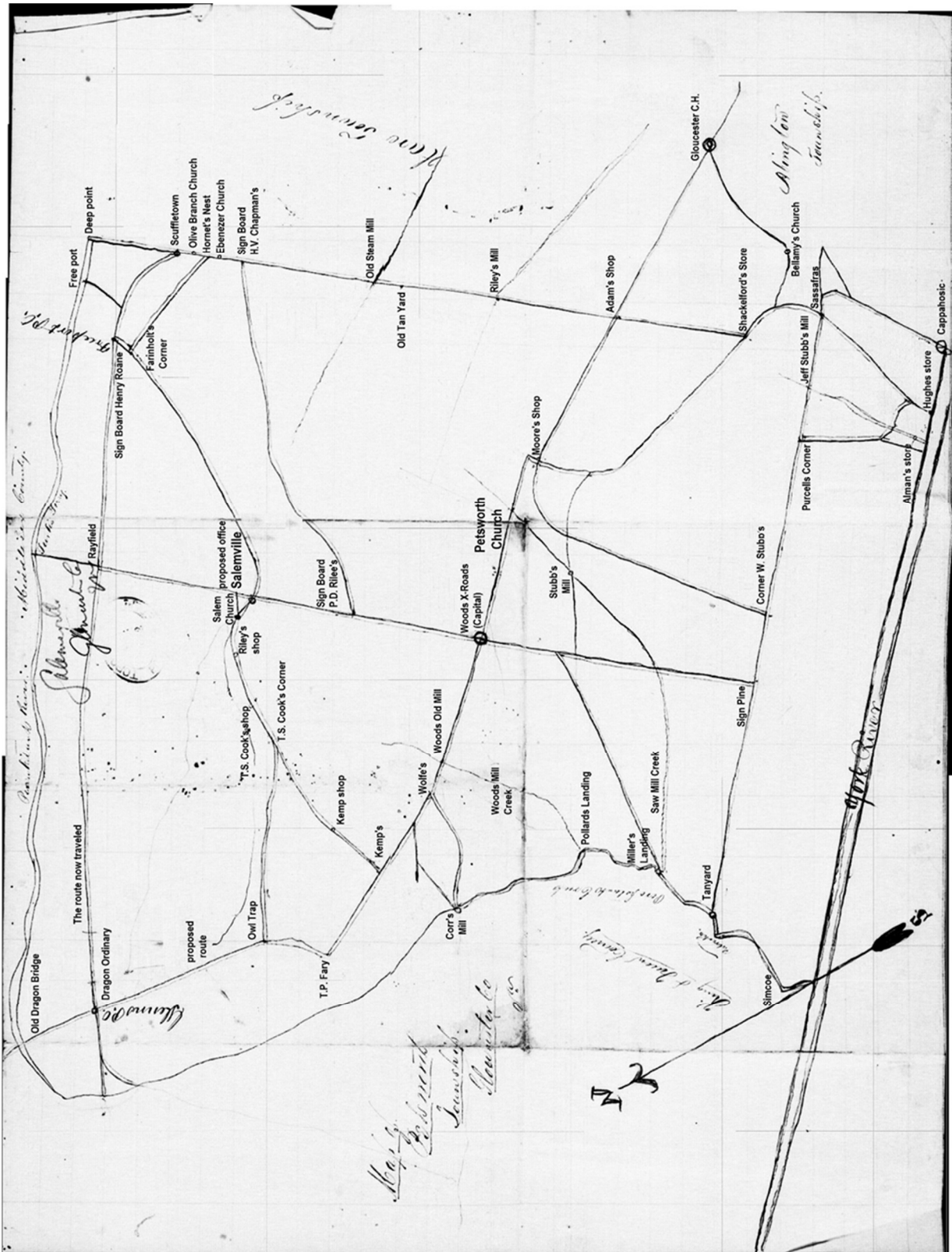
Plat 2 - This tracing on part of the 1882 Fort Monroe's Artillery School Map shows the Roanes area as well as the three steamboat wharves on the Ware River.

Post Office Information for Gloucester County (1837-1950)



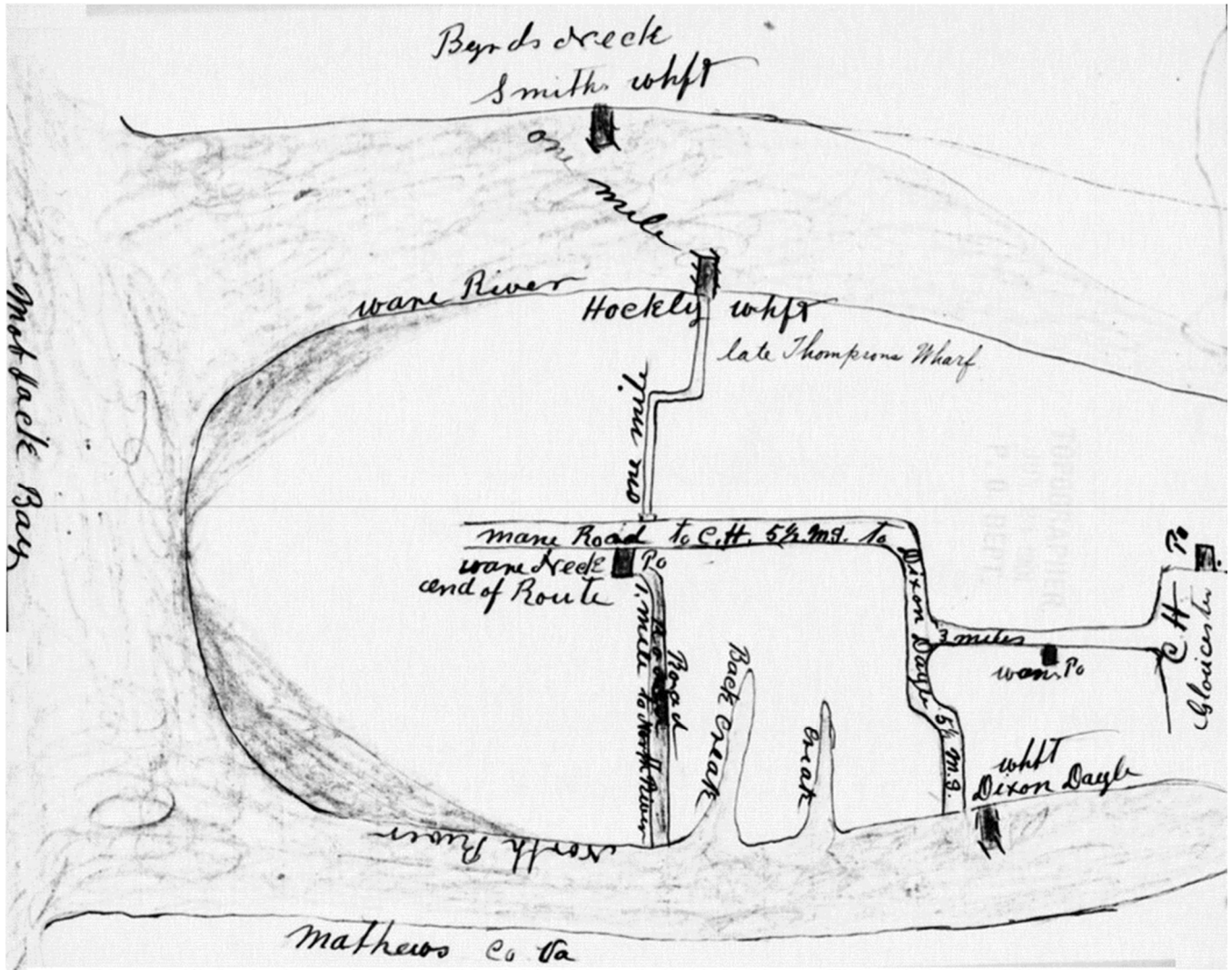
Plat 3 - This 1882 map of Petsworth District was found in the Salemville Post Office application. It shows some of the local residents and their shops. Because the writing is faint and hard to read, the next plat has most of the data typed.

Post Office Information for Gloucester County (1837-1950)



Plat 4 - This 1882 plat has the same information as plat #3 on the previous page, but it has been typed. The original was very difficult to read. However, since the website allowed you to zoom in, it was possible to transcribe the information.

Post Office Information for Gloucester County (1837-1950)



Plat 5 - This 1901 plat shows the Ware Neck area. Smith and Hockley (formerly Thompson's) Wharf on the Ware River and Dixon Dayle's Wharf on the North River are also indicated.

Old Gloucester Survey Books Digitized

By William L. Lawrence

The digitizing of the first two survey books of Gloucester County has long been the wish of many surveyors and historians over the years. It has finally been accomplished thanks to the help and assistance of Carol Steele, Gloucester County Administrator, and Kathy Dale, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Gloucester County. Carol had a large scanner moved to the basement of the court house. Kathy gave her blessings and received permission from Judge Jeffrey W. Shaw to have the record books carried to the basement for scanning. Each book took two to four hours to scan before they were returned to the records room on the third floor. Since the scanning progressed so well, it was decided to scan all the books encased in plastic. This included the first five books and covers the dates 1733 to 1926. The scanning was done by Robert Kelly, Director of Gloucester's Museum of History, and Bill Lawrence, a member of the Historical Society, Genealogical Society, and Friends of the Museum. Shown below is a list of the books scanned and the dates they cover

Survey Book A (1733-1806)
Survey Book 1 (1817-1852)
Survey Book 2 (1849-1872)
Survey Book 3 (1873-1926)
Survey Book 4 (1900-1920)

In 1998, Book A and Book 1 were sent to a conservation company to be cleaned, repaired, de-acidified, placed in plastic, and rebound. Later Book 2 (2008) and Book 3 and 4 (2009) were also done. Being encased in plastic made it very difficult to take a clear photo of a page. Thus, we needed to run the pages through a large scanner.

The data of the five survey books has been copied by members of the Gloucester Genealogical Society, the Fairfield Foundation, some surveyors, the county, and a computer in the clerk's records room. The information resides on an external hard drive housed in the archives of the Gloucester Museum of History. Anyone, seeking to copy some or all of this information needs to contact Robert Kelly, Director of the Museum of History, at 804-693-1234 for an appointment.

All the county surveyors are listed below.

County Surveyors - from Henry Hughes's notes in Survey Book 2 and updated

Robert Beverley (1669-1673)	Morgan Tomkies (1810-?)
John Lewis (1675-1676)	R. G. Morris (1817-1819)
Lawrence Smith (1683-1689)	Thomas Baytop (1821-1822)
Miles Cary (1699-1702)	Henry Hughes (1831-1853)
John Smith (1709)	T. B. Montague (1854-1861)
Thomas Cook (1712-1723)	Wm. A. Robins (1865-1866)
Ro Perry (1733-1737)	Wm. E. Wiatt (1866-1877)
John French (1740-1745)	A. T. Wiatt (1877-1896)
Thomas Mumford (1747-1753)	R.A. Folkes (1896- ?)
John Throckmorton (1751-1767)	R.F. Heywood (?-1965)
Francis Tomkies (1769-1770)	Charles J. Kerns, Sr. (Oct.22, 1965-Dec.31, 1967)
Lewis Booker (1785)	He completed the term of Mr.Heywood.
Wm. Duval (1786-1810)	There has been no official county surveyor since.