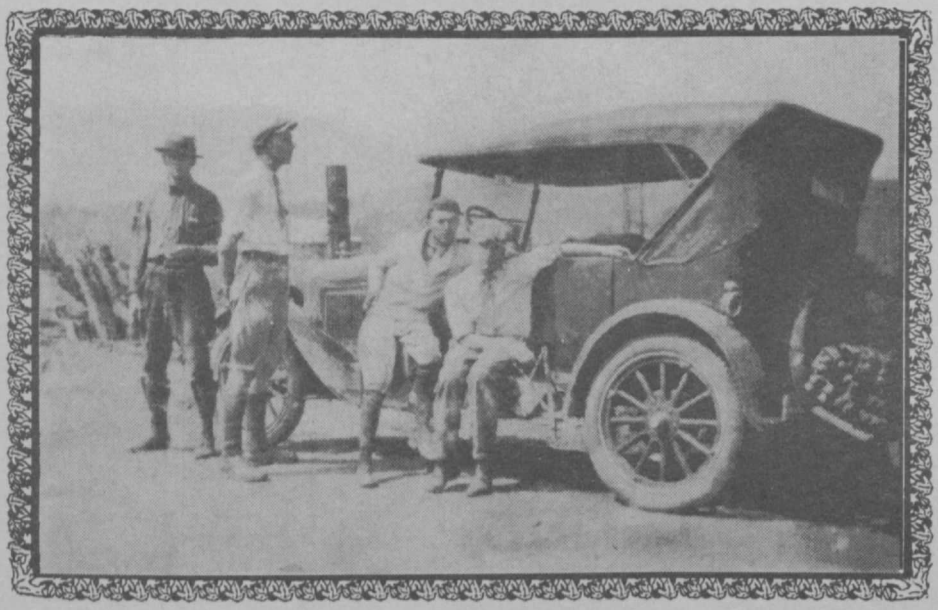
Williamsburg
Facts & Fiction
1900 -1950



Ed Belvin

Williamsburg

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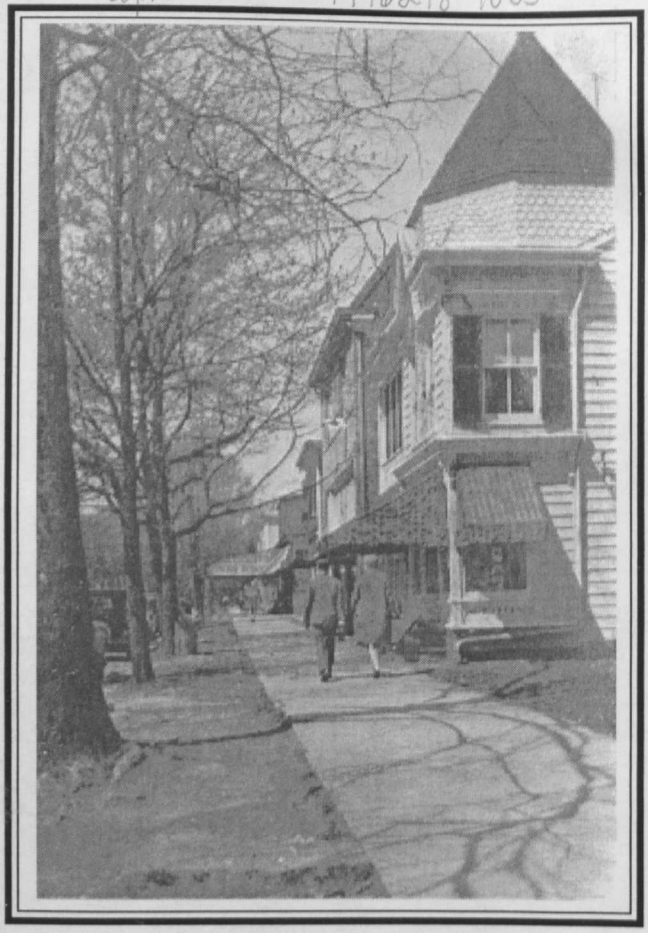
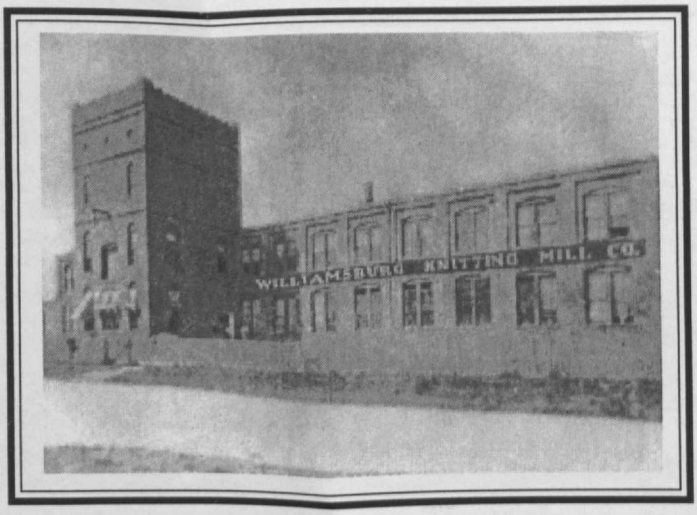


Geneva Mullens Hat Shop
Early 1920's
Site of Present
Bruton Parish House

Courtesy of Virginia Garrett

Bozarth Store
The Bozarth family moved to
Williamsburg at the turn of the
Century. Most of them were active in business and
local affairs.
Southeast corner of
Henry & Duke of Gloucester Sts.



Original Knitting Mill
before alterations

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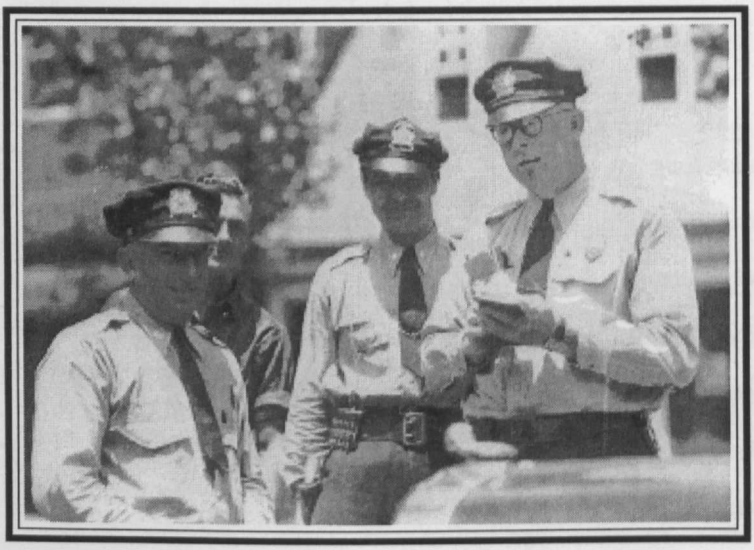


Chief William Kelly and his officers - 1940's

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This small volume could not have been written without the help and encouragement of my friends, family, and fellow Williamsburgers. They include James Bowery, who provided photographs from his collection, and Julia Woodbridge Oxrieder and her book ***Rich, Black and Southern***. Special thanks go to Will Molineux for encouragement, advice, and editing of the manuscript. Steve Haller was helpful with information from the archives of Colonial Williamsburg.

Helpful publications were the two-volume history of the College of William and Mary; ***Cows on the Campus*** by Parke Rouse, Jr.; Dennis Montgomery's biography of Reverend W.A.R. Goodwin; the Masters Thesis of Mary Sawyer Molineux on the Williamsburg Library; and the ***Memories of the Early Years of the Williamsburg Public Library*** by Gladys Bennett Guy.

I am grateful for a great volume of information from the ***Virginia Gazette*** and the ***Daily Press***.

My wife, Mae Holmes Belvin, was the source of most of the encouragement I received in this effort.

The cover shows Clyde Holmes, the Williamsburg photographer who produced many of the photographs shown in this book. It portrays him with his first automobile on a camping trip with three of his friends. (Clyde is the one wearing the hat.)

Typing was done by Megan Hoerr and Diane Abbott.

This work is dedicated to the Memory of my late brothers, Clarence, Billy, Bobby, and my sister, Dorothy.

INTRODUCTION

This book is a direct outgrowth of my first book "Growing Up in Williamsburg, From the Depression to Pearl Harbor." Several people informed me of things I had omitted from it and I continued to collect information that I believed would be of interest. This book is an attempt to include things about by gone days in Williamsburg. The first book showed me that people were interested in periods of Williamsburg history other than the Colonial era.

It is not intended as a complete history of the little city during the stated period, but is an effort to tell interesting and little known events and stories and to give some account of the people who lived here in the first half of the Twentieth Century.

My memories begin in the late 1920s, so I remember when the restoration of Williamsburg was getting started. Some people have described the town as " dilapidated," but I'm sure it was no more so than any other small town of the 1920s. The neglect and decay of the old buildings was due to the economic hardship of its citizens and not from any lack of pride in their past. World War I was responsible for an accumulation of trashy additions to the buildings - a corrugated iron garage, and a few lean-to shacks around the ancient Powder Horn. Also adding to the un-colonial look were two ribbons of concrete, divided by a strip of green laid over the main street and including a row of telephone poles down the middle. This view greatly saddened Rev. W.A.R. Goodwin when he returned in 1923 for his second stay in the former colonial capital.

This book begins with the turn of the century because I believe that period provides a good place to begin to understand the kind of place Williamsburg was when the restoration began officially in 1926.

Although it became a city in 1722 there never were more than a few thousand people living here. There are a variety of statistics on population, some include William and Mary students and Eastern State Hospital patients and some do not. Generally it seems that during the 18th century there were about 2,000 people in town until 1779 when it was decided to move the Capitol to Richmond. The population then declined and then began to slowly rise during the nineteenth century. It rose slowly until the Civil War and then declined again. It was the same story during and after World War I and World War II. In 1930 there were 3,778 people within the boundaries of Williamsburg. This increased to 3,942 in 1940 and jumped up to 6,735 in 1950. It has increased to 14,000 today, 2002

I remember the buildings as they were before they were restored as indicated in the photos printed herein. I remember the streets - some since removed, altered, or added. I remember the people, neighbors, schoolmates, teachers, merchants, physicians, dentists, and other professional people. If you ask almost anyone who lived here in those days you will find that it was an unusual place. There was a special bond between people that is somehow missing today. It is this special feeling that I try to recall in the following pages to remind those who were here and inform those who were not.

Chapter 1

TURN OF THE CENTURY

Williamsburg has often been described as a sleepy little village, from its decline as a center of government in 1779 after the removal of the Capitol to Richmond, until 1928 when it was publicly announced that John D. Rockefeller, Jr. would provide for its restoration. After the Battle of Williamsburg in 1862 the town sank to its lowest point but before the century ended it showed signs of revival. With the arrival of the twentieth century there were more stirrings of life.

In 1900 the Business Men's Association of Williamsburg published a booklet "Facts About Williamsburg and Vicinity" by which they obviously hoped to attract people and business to the little city. The association, headed by J.B.C. Spencer included Henri Mouquin, a retired merchant who lived in nearby Magruder; Professor T.J. Stubbs of William and Mary; Cary B. Armistead, Steward of Eastern State Hospital; and W.C. Johnson, Editor of *The Virginia Gazette*. This booklet sang the praises of Williamsburg, going so far as to give figures to prove that the death rate in town was less than the surrounding area and lower than the average U.S. city. It announced that there were only two doctors to serve the 2,145 people of the city and surrounding area and that they were not getting rich from their efforts.

Attempts at instilling life in the old town were found all through the years from the 1890s to the 1920s. In 1897 the Peninsula Bank was established in temporary quarters, a large building owned by B.D. Peachy (the Peachy Block). On the first board of directors were C.P. Armistead, H.S. Bird, Arthur Denmead, R.L. Henley, H.T. Jones, L.W. Lane, Jr., J.L. Mercer, D.W. Marston, R.L. Spencer, E.W. Warburton and Judge H.B. Warren. H.N. Phillips was the cashier with an annual salary of $1,000.00. Mr. Denmead objected so strongly to this amount as excessive that he resigned from the board.

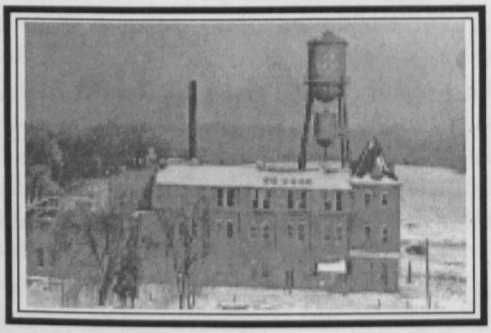
In 1899 business was doing so well that it was moved into a new building diagonally across the street from its first location. It was hardly settled in the new building when it was robbed. The robbers made off with $5,500.00. A witness, W.D. Powell, said there were four men but only one of them was ever apprehended.

In 1898 an ice plant was built by Arthur Denmead. It had a capacity of four tons a day. It was later taken over by Galba Vaiden whose descendants still live in the Williamsburg area.

In 1910 the Williamsburg Creamery was established at the junction of North Henry Street and the C&O railroad tracks. It was a cooperative venture organized by local farmers and fresh country butter was its specialty. The operator was Francis O'Keefe who in 1908 built his own concrete block house

In 1899 the Williamsburg Steam Laundry was organized and prospered until the 1960s when it was put out of business largely by the popularity of home washing machines.

In 1900 the Williamsburg Knitting Mill Co. was established, employing about 200 people. Its product was men's underwear. Its president was Col. Levin Winder Lane, Jr. Professor Hugh S. Bird headed the board of directors. However, it only lasted until 1910 when the company went bankrupt. Several attempts were made to revive it but they were unsuccessful. Professor Bird had resigned from the faculty of the college to go into business in 1904 and was crushed by the failure of the knitting mill. He and his family owned a good number of shares of stock, which they lost along with their home on Francis Street. Prof. Bird then went to Richmond to teach but soon moved to Fredericksburg and then to Fairfax County. He was superintendent of schools in the latter two places. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Williamsburg Canning Company, organized in 1898.



Built in 1900 for Williamsburg Knitting Mill. Later used as hotel, Williamsburg Power Co. and Virginia Electric & Power Co. Site of present Palace Gardens

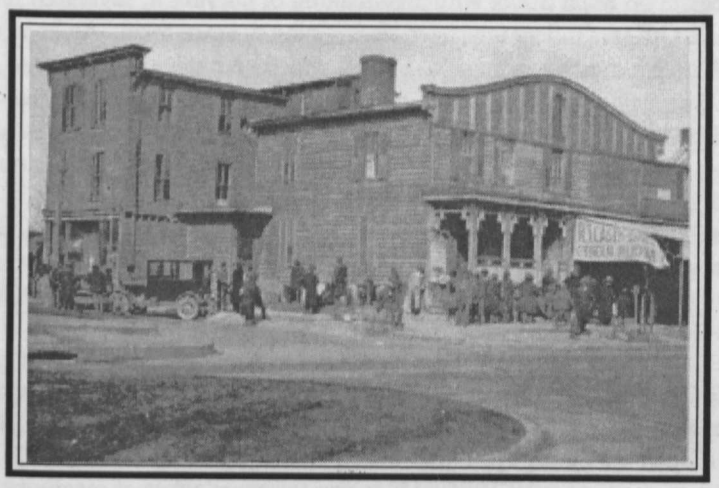
In 1908 South England Street only went as far as the present Williamsburg Lodge. At the end of this short street stood Tazewell Hall which was moved so as to be parallel to the street. England was thereby extended for approximately two blocks. A development company was established and called Colonial Extension Company. The company built what today would be called a housing development. It was called Colonial Extension.

Mayor E.W. Warburton was a leader of the company having bought the land for developing.

A dirt road ran south from the end of South England Street to Halfway Creek near which was an area called Delks. And old map shows that it was called Delk's Land in 1818. The area was apparently named after a plantation which once stood in the area between Halfway Creek and College Creek and was owned by the Delk family.

Ads in *The Virginia Gazette* around the turn of the century showed efforts to bring people and business into the area. Some of the ads also revealed more than efforts to promote progress. Kingsmill must have been thought to be a growing town as indicated by this ad from an 1898 copy of the *Gazette*. "Read the *Virginia Gazette*. In order that northern & western people, who are thinking of coming south, may keep posted on the great fertile and prosperous Peninsula and its growing towns, Kingsmill & Williamsburg, we will send the *Gazette* 9 months for only 30 cents." Another ad of the same period also mentioned Kingsmill. "Free sites still offered at Kingsmill on the James. A free site will be given to any person who will come and locate a stave factory at Kingsmill - Big money and a snap. Contact C.H. Boyee, Coldwater, Michigan." There must have been a big demand for barrels to justify a "stave factory." Another advertiser was located in Williamsburg. "Mrs. W.H. Braithwaite Furnishing Undertaker. Complete line of caskets and burial robes. Will send hearse to any distance in County."

On the site of the William and Mary Bookstore was located the general store of Chas. E. Dean who placed this ad in an edition of the *Virginia Gazette* of 1897. "Chas. E. Dean's General Store. I also keep a line of fine liquors in my bar on Henry Street in rear of general store. Beer, sarsaparilla, soda & ginger ale kept on ice."



Charles Dean Store – built in late 1800's. Later acquired by R. T. Casey. Present site of William & Mary Bookstore.

Eastern State Hospital was supervised by Dr. Littleberry S. Foster during the turn of the century, from 1899 to 1907. He had supervised the schools of Mathews County before coming to Williamsburg. His son Merritt became postmaster in Williamsburg in the early 1930s. The Fosters were good citizens and were active in community affairs.

In 1906 E.H. Clowes made attempts to become a member of the Board of Directors of Eastern State Hospital. Dr. Foster strongly opposed his confirmation apparently on the grounds that he was unqualified. Both men hired lawyers and a lengthy court battle followed. Mr. Clowes brought out every negative aspect of the Foster administration and charged Foster with being unfit to head the hospital. However, he lost the case. The clamor brought on an investigation by a legislative committee into the operation of the hospital. One of Clowes' relatives told of his frequent fights with Dr. Foster. He claimed that the attendants were often drunk in the wards and that they beat the patients. Two of them were fired for their behavior. An intern, Dr. Williams, was said to burn patients with caustic and creosote. He also had them ducked in a tub of cold water with their hands tied, as punishment.

Dr. John Henderson, assistant physician for the hospital, testified that bed bugs were present but that every effort was made to get rid of them. He admitted that patients were sometimes ducked but he declared that it did them more good than harm.

Many of Williamsburg's leading businessmen testified on behalf of Dr. Foster but apparently the Clowes family was not the only one who disagreed with Dr. Foster's management of the hospital. One day in 1906 a crowd of boys and a few men had paraded a coffin up Main Street with the intention of burying it, saying Dr. Foster was inside. Police Officer Gilliam interfered, threatening to arrest them. An appeal was made to Mayor Warburton for permission to burn the coffin but the mayor refused, telling the crowd that it could not be done within the city limits. When the crowd arrived at the Executive Building of the hospital on Frances Street, Dr. Foster came out with a pistol, threatening to shoot. The crowd thereby dispersed but reassembled later downtown and burned the coffin.

This ill feeling probably contributed to the upshot of the investigation by the general hospital board. In 1907 Dr. Foster and the entire medical staff were removed. Foster was replaced by Dr. O.C. Brunk. He next became superintendent of Protestant Hospital in Norfolk.

The College of William and Mary was slowly reviving at the turn of the century. Dr. Lyon G. Tyler had become president in 1888 after Benjamin S. Ewell had kept hope alive for seven years after it was closed in 1881. Ewell had convinced the Board of Visitors to reopen the College just after the Civil War but its financial position was very unstable and grew worse until 1881. All during the seven years of inactivity Ewell drove his horse and buggy to the college from his farm a few miles to the west of town and rang the bell to signal the new school year. After his many pleas to the state and

federal governments, help finally came from the state in 1888. The Virginia General Assembly appropriated $10,000 annually. Ewell thereby retired and turned the presidency over to Lyon G. Tyler.

The new president was faced with the task of building up the College. He had the Main Building (Wren) and Brafferton repaired. Holes in the yard were filled and fences replaced, enrollment was increased, professors were found to join the faculty, and wealthy and influential people were approached to help rehabilitate the College. However, there remained a great deal to do to bring the old school back to full health. A big step was taken in 1893 when Congress finally voted $64,000 to repair the Civil War damage to the Wren Building. After this gradual process was made. In 1906 an act of the General Assembly of Virginia made the College a state supported institution.

Dr. Tyler was aided in reviving William and Mary by six teachers he hired. Together they were called "the Seven Wise Men" by students. The youngest of the group was Hugh S. Bird, already mentioned as being active in business in Williamsburg. He taught pedagogy or teacher training and philosophy. William and Mary's Department of Education was established in 1894 with Professor Bird at its head. The

Palace Theater – Open to public by Dr. Lyon Tyler – Jan. 23, 1913. Owned by B.F. Wolfe. South side of Duke of Gloucester – facing Palace Green

training of teachers was done at the College's Grammar and Matty School. (More of this will be dealt with in the chapter on schools.)

John Lesslie Hall acted as dean of the faculty and taught English and history. He was one of the most popular professors at the College in spite of his strictness in grading. His knowledge and technique in teaching English and Anglo Saxon literature earned him a fine reputation during his forty years at William and Mary.

Van Franklin Garrett, a Confederate veteran, became a physician after the Civil War, like his father, Dr. Robert M. Garrett. He taught science and was well liked for his easy-going manner and helpful attitude. He was born in Williamsburg in the Coke-Garrett House, which the Garrett family acquired in 1810.

Another Confederate veteran was Lyman B. Wharton who taught Greek and Latin. He was a chaplain in the army and was rector of Bruton Parish in 1888 and 1889.

The third Confederate veteran was Thomas Jefferson Stubbs. He was from an old Gloucester County family and was recruited to teach mathematics. A kind man, he was succeeded by his son, T.J. Stubbs, Jr.

Last to join the other wise men was Charles E. Bishop who taught French and Greek. He lived in a house on the western side of the Palace Green.

Probably the greatest event to happen in Williamsburg around the turn of the century was the arrival of the new rector of Bruton Parish Church, William Archer Rutherfoord Goodwin. Of course, his fame was to come more than twenty years later. Goodwin arrived in 1903 to replace William T. Roberts who had resigned under fire in 1902. Goodwin was born in Nelson County and graduated from Roanoke College and Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. He became minister of St. John's Church in Petersburg in 1893. It was there that he received the call to come to Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg.

Chapter 2

WORLD WAR I

The years between the turn of the Century and the beginning of World War I were slow in Williamsburg. After a few flickers of life in the 1890's and a few more in the first decade of the 1900's, the little town went back to sleep. After the Jamestown Exposition of 1907, Williamsburg's slumber went undisturbed until 1916 when the rumblings of war aroused it once more. News was so scarce, the guests of the Colonial Inn were listed in the *Virginia Gazette*. This practice continued into the 40s. Once a story about mosquitoes breeding appeared on the front page. Again an article on preserving fruit was placed on the first page.

In 1913 the Businessmen's Association gave a vote of confidence to the plan of an electric light plant. The city had been maintaining a gas plant for lighting. It was called the Acetylene Light System. Acetylene gas is made from calcium carbide and Williamsburgers called the lights carbide lights. The old lamplighter approached each light along Duke of Gloucester Street every evening about dusk with a ladder, a rag, and a pocketful of matches to light each lamp. Most of them were extinguished by midnight. The public owned the gas plant and would own the franchise for electric lighting. Articles in the *Gazette* pointed out that there would be competition between the two systems but one news item stated that the cheaper of the two would win out.

It was believed that the Williamsburg Knitting Mill building would be the best place to house the new power plant but the building was bought and sold several times before this became a reality. After the knitting mill ceased to function, several enterprises were set up in the building. Most of them, however, were short lived, such as the Stag Hotel.

World War I came along before the Williamsburg Power Company was finally established. VEPCO absorbed it in the mid-20s. The Knitting Mill building was indeed the site of the power company beginnings. It remained there until about 1933 when a new building was begun on the corner of Boundary and Northington Streets. The latter was a short street which was later merged with Lafayette Street. John T. Blacknall was the first manager of Williamsburg Power Company. The old building was torn down to make way for the Palace Gardens.

In 1916 Williamsburg was anticipating the United States' entrance into the war. Business had begun to pick up since more people were passing through town. Only one policeman was keeping law and order but now another was hired.

Two of the town's prominent citizens died in 1916. One was B.D. Peachy, a local attorney, born in 1857 into an old Williamsburg family. The other was his mother-in-law, Mrs. L.W. Lane, Sr.

A news item in the *Gazette* told of a patient who escaped from Eastern State Hospital by cutting attendant James Bowry. He was recaptured with the aid of R.B. Watts and C.C. Armistead. In the September 7, 1916 issue an article discussed the school board. The writer stated that they are doing a fine job considering the difficulties with which they have to contend. First there was criticism and then the buildings and equipment were inadequate. "But for the College, it would be the poorest system in the state."

The *Gazette* ran an ad selling Grant autos for $875.00. A new Oldsmobile sold for $635.00. Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was advertised for the ladies and Fletcher's Castoria was good for constipation and diarrhea in children. Black Draught was for everybody's head, stomach, and liver problems. Wrigley was selling Spearmint, Doublemint, and Juicy Fruit gum, with a slogan, "If pleasure made price, its cost would be thrice." Carter was selling Little Liver Pills for constipation.

The greatest effect of World War I on Williamsburg, other than the loss of its sons, was through the establishment of a shell loading plant by the E.I. DuPont Company. Early in 1916 rumors began to circulate around Williamsburg that somebody was buying up land on the York River. By March newspapers on the Peninsula began to print rumors that the DuPont Co. might build an ammunition factory on the land. Before the month was over the company announced that it would open a dynamite factory eight miles from Williamsburg. At first it was proclaimed that the workers would number about 200. As the pace of the work picked up,a rail spur was built and then homes and factory facilities were added. The factory town was named Penniman after Russell S. Penniman, an explosives expert.

Work continued at a frenzied pace until November when it came to a sudden stop. DuPont declared that the demand for dynamite dropped. However, by spring of 1917 the United States declared war on Germany and the munitions base sprang into action once more.

DuPont operated the revived facility under a government contract. Explosives were loaded into shells and shipped to Newport News. Some employees were housed on the premises while most commuted from Williamsburg.

It was reported that there were 10,000 workers and 5,000 family members joining them. Workers were divided into two groups, those loading shells and those expanding the facilities. Most work was done in buildings three stories high with reinforced basements.

In 1918 the company estimated that it would spend ten million dollars enlarging the factory town.

Penniman had its own churches, hospital, school, YMCA, police, and movie theater, as any town would with a population of 15,000.

At the peak of its production an international tragedy struck Penniman. It was the great influenza epidemic of 1918-19 which killed 5,999 Virginians and close to 20

million worldwide. Thousands of soldiers from newly created Ft. Eustis were sent to help care for the victims of the flu. Many paid with their lives for the care they gave. Old-timers remember seeing coffins stacked ceiling high at the rail depot.

Penniman provided many benefits for the Williamsburg area, not the least of which was the boost to the economy. The facility was dismantled soon after the Armistice, more quickly than it was constructed.

The area was considered ideal for another wartime facility. Thus in 1942 the Federal Government bought the land and established Cheatham Annex for the Fleet Industrial Supply Center. Some foundations and a few ghostly looking concrete skeleton buildings can be seen today, as the only reminder of what once stood there.

An article of April 26, 1917 told of 700 Marines parading in Williamsburg. Lieutenant Colonel McGill was to address them, but due to his illness Major C.H. Lyman substituted. The troops camped in tents on the William and Mary campus. A ball was given in their honor at the Colonial Inn, courtesy of Jack Spencer.

D.R. Norment of York County, Superintendent of Roads, conferred with city representatives to plan a road to Penniman. A rail spur was constructed to shuttle freight in and shells out. The plant had its own C and O depot. Houses were built to hold workers. Others commuted by bus from town over old dirt roads. Dr. J.M. Henderson resigned from Eastern State Hospital to become one of three or four Penniman physicians. His salary was paid by the U.S. Government. The Student Army Training Corps was established at William and Mary in September 1917. The War Department sent officers to instruct students in military tactics.

Poles went up around town for the new electric power. Some people who were using small gas generators soon converted to the power of the Electric Company. It was during this time that Duke of Gloucester Street was paved with two concrete strips separated by a grass plot with light poles running down the middle. The paving and poles lasted until the early 1930s when the Restoration began to change the town. The street was then altered to appear as it does now.

The prosperity brought on by the war made this possible and the new paving allowed the increased traffic to flow more smoothly.

Land was being bought up on Mulberry Island by the government which was to become Camp Eustis, (later Ft. Eustis).

More prominent people died. The August 1st issue of the 1918 *Gazette* announced the sudden death of its publisher in Baltimore, Robert D. Scott. He was the owner of Green Spring Plantation where he maintained a machine shop. He was a wealthy industrialist who was president of Sinclair-Scott of Baltimore and was a stock holder in other enterprises. He had invented a pea hulling machine which could also hull castor beans. The oil from these beans was being used in some engines as it was for the well known laxative. The U.S. Government was interested in the machine as were some corporations.

The August 8 edition contained this item: "Mr. J.T. Blacknall, new manager of Williamsburg Power Company tells us that barring unforeseen accidents, the water will be turned on again this week. The tank has just been painted and put in first class repair and it is possible that for a week the water will taste like turpentine and paint. But we should be glad to get it, even with this, besides it is recommended that people use a little turpentine at this season for the health's sake."

The September 19th issue told of the death of William T. Clowes, a Confederate veteran from an old Williamsburg family. He was the son of David Clowes and was survived by his widow, a brother, and two sisters. The September 19 issue announced the death of Robert T. Casey, prominent merchant, aged 70. He was the father of Carlton, Jerome, Roy L., Clarence, Julian, Milton, and Mrs. R.K. Harwood.

The May 2 issue related that a plane from Langley tried to land behind the Female Institution on Scotland Street due to engine trouble but there was not enough room so it was forced down on the nearby Bozarth farm. This area was once called Palace Farms and is the present site of Colonial Williamsburg's information center.

An August issue of the *Gazette* first mentioned that 11,000 acres of land below Penniman was being "taken by Uncle Sam." Later issues reported that a sub base was to be built near Yorktown. Actually, a Presidential Proclamation of August 7, 1918 established what was first called The Navy Mine Depot. The name was changed to Naval Mine Depot in 1932. Its present name, Naval Weapons Station, was acquired in 1958. Before the Depot was complete the war ended, November 11, 1918. The Depot continued to develop and became a permanent facility.

Early in 1919 the death of former Mayor E.W. Warbarton was announced. Later in the year his former home at the plantation of St. George's and The Main was sold by his estate to Mr. O. LaBounty of Chicago. In the closing month of 1919 this item was published in the *Gazette*:

> 'The Williamsburg' is the name of a new hotel, if the plans of the Williamsburg Businessmen's Association go through, at the home of the late E.W. Warburton facing Court Green. The price is $10,500. Officers of the Hotel Corporation are W.A. Bozarth, president; Frank G. Liniken, secretary; and F.R. Savage, treasurer. Directors are the above and J.T. Blacknall, N.L. Henley, Dr. J.A.C. Chandler, Ashton Dovel, S.L. Graham, Frank Armistead, C.J. Person, L.B. Ferguson, and C.C. Hall. A fifty room building is planned. Arrangements have been made to remove the bodies of the cemetery on Chesapeake Street just in the rear of the proposed hotel. It is the Peachy Family burial ground. The bodies are to be re-interred at Cedar Grove.

The bodies were transferred a few months later but the plans for the hotel must have fallen through since no more was heard of them.

The *Gazette* of February 27, 1919 had this item: "The Red Circle Club has rented the brick building opposite the Court House, known as DuPont Hotel and will fit it up as a home for visiting soldiers and sailors." This building on the corner of England and

Duke of Gloucester Streets was believed to have been built in 1854. (England Street between Duke of Gloucester and Francis Streets was eliminated January, 1966.) It was used in various capacities including a hospital during the Civil War until 1920 when it was bought by George S. Martin and converted into The Williamsburg Hotel. In 1926 he sold it to Dr. Baxter J. Bell, Sr., who opened his first hospital here. Dr. Bell sold it to Colonial Williamsburg in the early 19 30s and it was demolished.

Courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg

World War I Tank on
Duke of Gloucester St.

Chapter 3

WILLIAMSBURG BUILDINGS

The colonial history of the buildings of Williamsburg is well known through many publications. However, little is told about these buildings during the 18th century and early years of the 20th century. The Vest Mansion is an example of this situation. Colonial Williamsburg calls this "The Palmer House" after the owner from "sometime before 1749 - until his death in 1760." First built by Alexander Kerr apparently in 1736 it was rebuilt after a fire destroyed it in 1754.

The most well-known owner of the building in the 19th century was William W. Vest, treasurer of Eastern State Hospital (Eastern Lunatic Asylum) and wealthy merchant. He came to town in 1828 and put a store on the north side of Duke of Gloucester Street.

Vest bought his mansion from Carter Burwell in 1836 and lived in it until 1862 when the Battle of Williamsburg convinced him to flee toward Richmond.

The home was occupied briefly by General John B. Magruder and then by his superior officer, Joseph E. Johnston. It was coveted for headquarters because of its ample size and prime location on the south side of Duke of Gloucester Street across from the site of the colonial Capitol.

Johnston was chased from the building in the spring of 1862 when General George B. McClellan, fighting his way up the Peninsula on his way to Richmond, established Union headquarters there. It remained as the local nerve center of the Union Army until 1865.

Most of Williamsburg's involvement in the Civil War centered around the Vest Mansion. McClellan described it in his writings: "I have taken possession of a very fine old house which Joe Johnston occupied as headquarters."

Miss Harriette Cary kept a diary during the spring of 1862 in which she described some of the events centered around the Vest House and expressed the sentiments of many Williamsburgers: "The repudiated Stars and Stripes are now waving over our town, and humiliated I feel, we bow our heads to Yankee despotism. God grant our Southern Patriots may soon relieve us of this degrading yoke. General McClellan's Army took possession this morning about nine o'clock." She must have lived near the Vest Mansion since she wrote, "Gen. McClellan is a neighbor of ours - has taken possession of Dr. [sic] Vest's house occupied by Gen. Johnston, CSA yesterday."

She went on to describe her visits to the wounded at the various hospitals set up around the town:

> "Mr. Vest's store is a sick hospital, and I imagine is very nearly filled - ambulances were discharging their burdens for several hours this morning - coming from the direction of Richmond. . . . I visited this morning the Episcopal church and College Hospitals from which they were moving our wounded very rapidly to Fortress Monroe -

The Confederate wounded have been concentrated at the Baptist Church Hospital - only such as were mutilated allowed to remain . . . Ambulances we hear are bearing the wounded from above, besides hundreds that have been sent by the boats."

Miss Cary wrote about rumors of battles, victories and defeats, heard in Williamsburg and showed the bitterness and frustration she felt at Union occupation:

"The Federal Gun Boats, it is said, have appeared on James River - The Army is fast approaching Richmond was said in my hearing this morning, and just as near said I, as it will ever get! - Bowden, the Traitor, is Mayor of our Town, as reported in this 'Reign of Terror'. Whispers of victory occasionally reach us, for which we look to God for strength to gain!

. . . Visited the Hospital (Baptist Church) for a few minutes this morning, found one corpse, one dying, and some two or three very ill but the majority improving - amputation is determined on without deliberation, consequently many limbs have been unnecessarily lost - the object of these Yankee surgeons being to disable and kill, the opinion of many - there is a retributive God and to him we look for vengeance . . ."

Another somewhat lengthy account of the activities in the Vest home was written by a Union officer stationed there. His name was David E. Cronin. He was an illustrator before the war but served as provost marshal in the Vest Mansion. He wrote:

"The Vest Mansion, known to Unionists as Vest House was first occupied by Magruder. It has three stories including the attic. Its size made it attractive. Probably no other building was retained during war so long. There was contemplation of early withdrawal because of gunboats flanking the Confederates on the Peninsula in the James and York Rivers. College buildings, the Courthouse and the spacious Baptist church and many private dwellings were converted to temporary hospitals. Dr. R.M. Garrett did noble work of caring for the wounded of both sides as brought to him on the lawn of his handsome colonial residence not far from the Vest Mansion. McClellan's first orders were that the inhabitants of the town and their property were not to be molested."

Cronin wrote about a raid on the Vest Mansion by Confederate officers under General Henry A. Wise. The general was easily irritated and would sometimes make sudden night raids into town. On one such raid his men captured the provost marshal, Colonel Campbell in the Vest house. Another instance of Wise's exploits was related. "Some of Wise's men seized and carried away the supply of provisions at the Insane Asylum - food and medical supplies. Evidently the Rebels cared no more about lunatics than the Yankees cared for collegians . . ."

Another tale was told about the death of Lt. W.W. Disosway, who was highly regarded by the townspeople for his courtesy and for keeping control of enlisted men. One night he came to the door of the Vest Mansion to see about a noisy disturbance. It was caused by a group of drunken enlisted men who refused to be quiet. One of them pulled out a pistol and shot Lt. Disosway, killing him instantly. The drunken murderer was Private William Boyle, who had come to town, apparently from Ft. Magruder, to seek revenge upon Disosway. The lieutenant had disciplined him earlier for drunkenness. Boyle was imprisoned for the crime but allowed to escape. "His guard was Private Abraham who filed off his manacles. He was executed but Boyle escaped to unknown parts. He was seen in New York after he was reported killed in a western mining accident."

In 1907 two aging sisters of Lt. Disosway came to Williamsburg to see the town where their brother was killed.

After the war Vest reoccupied his house and lived there until his death in 1893. He again became a wealthy merchant. After his death his daughter, Willie, inherited the house and sold it to Arthur Denmead in 1897. In 1903 he sold it to Chandler B. Chapman. In 1913 it was acquired by a trustee for Estelle H. Christian, who sold it to Dr. Goodwin in 1927. He was acting for Williamsburg Holding Corporation, the forerunner of Colonial Williamsburg.

The Vest Mansion

Another colonial building that has some interesting 20th century history is the present-day Brush-Everard House. Colonial Williamsburg named this house after its builder, John Brush, and one of its prominent colonial owners, Thomas Everard. He was clerk of York County, auditor of Virginia, and Mayor of Williamsburg. It was also once called the John Page House after John Page of Rosewell who was Governor of Virginia from 1802-1805. This is said to be his townhouse. He was the father of twenty children and must have left them at Rosewell in Gloucester since they would have overflowed the relatively small Brush-Everard House.

The last name the house had before its acquisition by Colonial Williamsburg was the Audrey House, so called for a romantic novel written by Mary Johnston around the turn of the century. She lived in the house with the Smith Sisters, Cora and Estelle. They were the daughters of Sidney Smith and are not to be confused with the Israel Smith family who lived in Bassett Hall.

The Travis House is a colonial building that is not on display to the public since it is being used for office space. It has the unique distinction of having been moved three times, including its return trip to its original site where it now stands. Built by Colonel Edward Travis about 1763, it subsequently was owned by several other families as is the case with most colonial buildings. In 1839 it was acquired by the well-known Baptist minister, Scervant Jones, who bought it from William Edloe. In 1846 he sold it to Eastern State Hospital. In 1929 the hospital gave it to Williamsburg Holding Corporation, with the provision that it be moved. The Corporation moved it to a site on the south side of Duke of Gloucester Street across from Palace Green and restored it to its 18th century appearance. Here it was used as one of the early restaurants of Colonial Williamsburg and acquired a reputation as a good place to eat until 1951. It was then moved up Francis Street next to the Griffin House. It remained here until 1968 when it was returned to its original site.

The Griffin House still stands where it was built in 1769 near the southwest corner of Francis and Boundary Streets. It was owned by Samuel Griffin, a Revolutionary War officer who became a member of the Continental Congress. He died in 1810 and left the property to his daughter, Eliza Corbin. After the Civil War it was known as the Galt House for the well-known Galt family who were so long connected with Eastern State Hospital. Miss Gabriella Galt (called Gibbie by most people) operated a school here for a few years. Her partner in this venture was James Griffin, a grandson of Samuel. In 1872 Miss Galt was forced into bankruptcy due to the poor economic conditions brought on by the War. In 1874 she and her sister Sally sold the house to William W. Vest.

In 1895 the house was bought by the Marshall family of New York. Miss Marie Marshall was a patient at Eastern State Hospital and her wealthy parents wanted a place near the hospital where she could live and entertain friends. Thereafter the house was called Marshall Lodge. Marie died in 1922 and in the following year her sisters

established The Marshall Foundation, which donated the house to Bruton Parish Church as a memorial to Marie Marshall. She was fond of attending services at the church.

In 1935 the church sold the house to Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., and it is now called the William Byrd House and is presently rented by Colonial Williamsburg to Mason and Legg, Financial Advisers.

Brown Hall, a William and Mary dormitory on the southeast corner of North Boundary and Prince George Streets, was built in 1930 as a Methodist Church home fo college girls. Money to build it was provided by Mrs. Edward Brown of Lynchburg, V She left $70,000 for the purpose to the church but the land was owned by the College which operated the dormitory. The building on the spot before 1930 was also called Brown Hall, to honor Mrs. Brown, who must have provided some money before 1930. It had been bought by the College in 1926 from Mrs. Alice Polland Stryker and was moved across the street where it is still used by the College in a greatly altered state. Originally it was the home of Dudley Digges, friend and compatriot of Patrick Henry an Lieutenant Governor of Virginia under Jefferson.

In 1934 the Lula V. Britt Scholarship was established by the trustees of Brown Hall and was awarded each year to a woman student who was a member of the Methodist Church and was to cover the cost of a room in Brown Hall for the school year.

The Bright House, the original name of William and Mary's Alumni House, has n known date of construction. However, it is believed to have been built before the Civil War. It would seem from the records that the College owned the Bright House property before 1847 when it was sold to Samuel F. Bright, owner of Porto Bello. According to his account book it contained 132.5 acres. This was included in the 463 acres he later sold in 1866, to his son, Robert Anderson Bright, of Civil War fame. The latter's son, Robert Southall Bright, in 1923 sold 274 acres to the College for $33,000. It was all the property left except for 10 acres fronting Richmond Road, including the brick house.

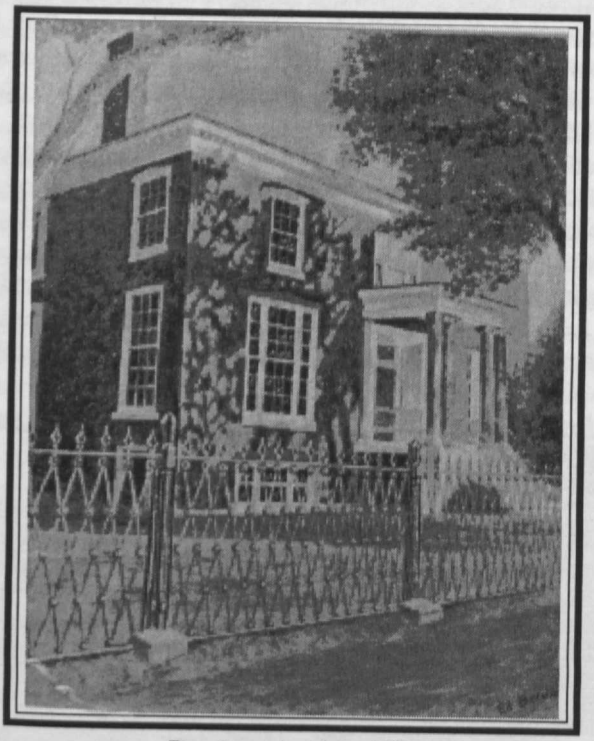
Robert S. Bright died in 1943 and his second wife sold the property to George Nea and his wife Anne Hall Nea in 1944. George and Anne sold the house and land to William and Mary in 1946 for $25,000. Thus the College once more owns all of the Bright property except that sold to St. Bede Catholic Church. In 1932 Robert S. Bright sold the site of the present church to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Richmond and in 1947 the College sold a parcel of land adjacent to the church to St. Bede.

The Bright House became the Alumni House in 1972 and was dedicated in 1975.

Another Bright House once stood on the southwest corner of South England an Francis Streets. In 1932 the Williamsburg-James City County Courthouse was built her because at that time it was believed that the historic area would not cross to the south side of Francis St. It was removed in 1982 to prepare for the restoration of the Nicholas Tyler House, built in 1770. It was so called by Colonial Williamsburg for its builder and

irst occupant, Robert Carter Nicholas and the 10th President of the United States, John Tyler. The latter was living here in 1841 when he received word of the death of President William Henry Harrison. Tyler was Vice President at the time.

Of course, there were several other residents here through the years. One of them was Samuel F. Bright who married Jessie Cole's widow. Bright was living here when he house burned in 1873. Cole acquired the house in 1844 and was the grandfather of Henry Dennison Cole.

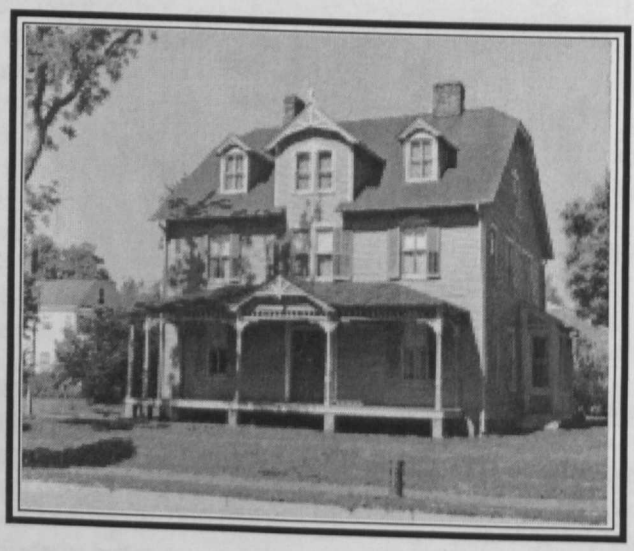


Bowden – Armistead House

There are two Armistead houses in Williamsburg. Both were on Duke of Gloucester Street and were owned by members of the same family. One of them has been moved in recent years. The older of the two is called the Bowden-Armistead House. It was built by Lemuel Bowden on a lot he bought from Bruton Parish Church in 1856. It is just west of Bruton's graveyard. The architecture is Greek Revival and has some features found nowhere else in Williamsburg. It's also called antebellum. Bowden was a Union sympathizer and was called by many the "Virginia Yankee," though they recognized him as an able lawyer.

When Union forces overran the town in 1862 they made Bowden mayor. This added to the hatred of the townsfolk. When McClellan retreated from the Peninsula soon after, Bowden went to Norfolk and then to Washington where he died of smallpox. Thus, he never lived very long in his elaborate home. His heirs sold it in 1874 to Robert Travis Armistead, a Civil War veteran. His son Frank lived his life there as did Frank's son, another Robert Travis Armistead. This one, called "Bob" by most of the folks who knew him, died in 1999.

The other Armistead House, which was moved in recent years, was built in 1890, within a stone's throw of the Colonial Capitol site. The builder was Cary Peyton Armistead, a lawyer who practiced law there. It has been described as an American Queen Anne house of Victorian style. He left it to his children, none of whom were married. Cara and Dora were the last survivors and lived their lives there. Cara preceded her sister in death and thus it was called the Dora Armistead House to distinguish it from the Bowden-Armistead House. Dora left it to her cousin, Bob Armistead, his wife and sister Mrs. Letitia Hanson of Washington D.C. Bob leased it to the APVA which opened it to the public in the spring of 1986. It was decorated by a noted English designer, Laura Ashley. Its public viewing, however, lasted only a few years. Then it was sold to Colonial Williamsburg, which moved it to North Henry Street. It was discovered to have been built over the foundations of Mr. Charlton's Coffee Hou



Dora Armistead House

Chapter 4

THE SCHOOLS OF WILLIAMSBURG

This chapter will attempt to review as much of the story of local schools as possible within the confines of a relatively short space. It is not intended as a complete history of Williamsburg's schools.

The first school was the Grammar School of The College of William and Mary which goes back to 1693 with the founding of the College. Since there were no secondary schools, the Grammar School was vitally important. In fact, the school was in operation for at least a quarter of a century before the College was recognized as something more than a grammar school. Through the years as other schools developed, the need for William and Mary's Grammar School diminished but never completely vanished. It was abolished several times only to be reopened. In 1911 a normal academy was organized. The instructors were from the regular faculty and a three-year course was offered which enhanced the teacher-training courses of the College. The Academy was discontinued in 1917 due to World War I and thus ended all instruction below the college level.

Tied to the development of William and Mary's Grammar School is the story of Matthew Whaley. The present school standing at the corner of Nassau and Scotland Streets is the third school with that name in Williamsburg.

In 1705 a boy, Matthew Whaley, died at the age of nine. His mother, Mary Whaley, had founded a school for him and his friends on the west side of Capitol Landing Road, called Mattey's School. When she died in England in 1742 she left in her will:

> I give divise and bequeath to the minister and church Wardens for the time being of the said parish of Bruton in the county of York in the said Colony of Virginia and their successors a certain piece or parcel of land in the said parish of Bruton containing by estimation ten acres little more or less, together with Matteys Schoolhouse and a Dwellinghouse lately erected and built thereon for the use of the School-master (to teach the neediest children of the same parish who shall be offered in the art of reading, writing and arithmetick) and bounded by the main road leading to Queens Creek . . .
>
> I give to Matteys School aforesaid the sum of Fifty pounds sterling to be paid to the said Minister and churchwardens for the time being and their successors at the rate of ten pounds a year for the use of the same School.

This land, school, and fifty pounds were left to the church wardens of Bruton Parish but due to legal technicalities, none of it was received by them. The money was invested by an English bank in South Sea annuities and in 1865 the English Court ordered the money turned over to The College of William and Mary. By now the fifty pounds had grown to $8,470 after all lawyer's fees had been paid.

The College and Bruton Parish Church were closely allied. The College was equipped to operate a school and had been for many years while the church was not.

The name of William and Mary's grammar school was changed to "Grammar and Mattey School" and in 1867 it began to operate in the College's Brafferton Building. In 1870 the College erected a one-story four-room brick building on the site of the Governor's Palace. The site had been given to the College in 1779 by the Virginia Assembly. Some of it was sold to the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway previous to 1881 to help pay the College's debts.

In 1873 the school was leased by the city which agreed to fulfill the provision of the College's responsibility to Mary Whaley's will. In 1894 this arrangement was dissolved and the College reorganized the school as a "Model and Practice School" in connection with the Chair of Pedagogy at the College. This chair or department was established in 1888 by an act of the Virginia legislature to prepare Virginia teachers. It was later changed to the Department of Education. Mr. Hugh S. Bird was made Professor of Pedagogy and Philosophy in 1888 and supervising principal of the Model and Practice School with its name change in 1894. Miss Lucy Davis was his assistant and later her sister, Miss Nannie, became Principal. Mr. Bird left in 1904 to become associated with Williamsburg Knitting Mill Co. In 1907 he again entered the school system when he became superintendent of Williamsburg's schools. He held this position until 1910.

The Mattey School became crowded and rooms were rented around town for school purposes. Three rooms were rented in the Armistead House on Green Hill, which covered most of the block bounded by Scotland, Nassau, Prince George, and Henry Streets.

In 1894 a school had been built on Francis Street for Negro children. It was located behind the Market Square Tavern near the Powder Horn.

It was obvious that a new school was needed. After some discussion with the College about a site and unsuccessful attempts to locate on the Palace Green, a site was bought on Nicholson Street and a four room brick building was constructed. It opened in the fall of 1897. This was the first school building wholly owned by the city of Williamsburg. It was called Nicholson School after the street on which it was located.

With the coming of World War I a shell loading plant was built by the DuPont Company on the York River nearby and was called Penniman. The thousands of people who came to work there caused Williamsburg to become crowded and the schools felt some of this pressure. This was one of the factors which led to the building of a high school which opened in 1921. It was built between the Palace Green and the Mattey School in spite of objections by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) who felt that the former site of the Governor's Palace was sacred ground. It was called Williamsburg High School.

The need for a better Negro school was now felt more than before. Efforts had been made in 1919 to raise funds for such a school. Rev. L.W. Wales, Jr., was a leader in these attempts. In 1922 a joint meeting of the school boards of Williamsburg and James City County was held to consider building a training school for Negroes and in the following year plans were submitted and bids were advertised to build a school on the corner of Nicholson and Botetourt Streets. It opened in the fall of 1924 and was called James City County Training School.

In 1928 it was publicly announced in the Williamsburg High School auditorium that John D. Rockefeller was the financial power behind Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin who had quietly been buying up property around town. Williamsburg was to be restored to its colonial appearance and the Palace would be rebuilt on its original site. This meant removal of the Mattey School and the Williamsburg High School which now stood on "sacred ground." They were sold to Williamsburg Holding Corporation along with the remainder of the Palace Green. The money along with funds appropriated by the State through the College amounted to $400,000. This money was used to build a new school which was owned jointly by the city of Williamsburg and The College of William and Mary. It was completed and first used in 1930. The city controlled the eastern or elementary half while the college controlled the western or high school side. This arrangement lasted until 1949 when the College turned over its half of the building to the school board. The joint ownership had been somewhat awkward and the school board was happy to assume total responsibility. Provisions were made to continue the teacher training program.

In the same year that the upcoming restoration of the town was announced, 1928, a man was made superintendent of schools who was to have a long lasting impression. He was Rawls Byrd, a William and Mary graduate. He worked long and hard to have Williamsburg's schools combined with those of James City County. His efforts finally paid off in 1953. He retired in 1964 and died in 1979.

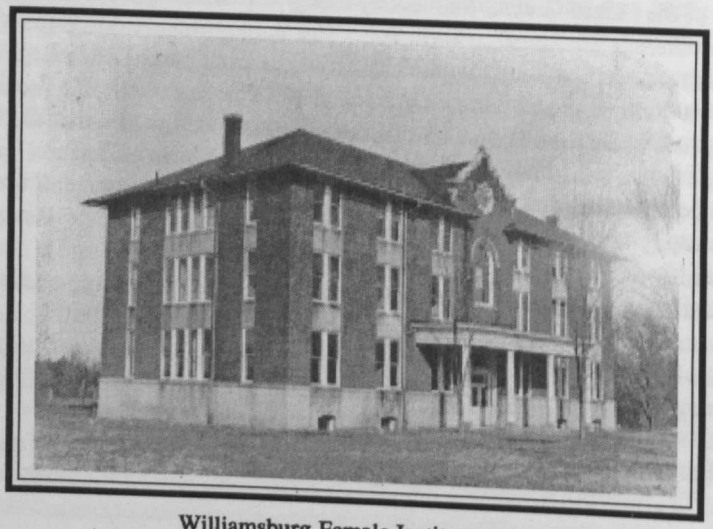
Through the years enrollment increased at the James City County Training School and pressure mounted for a new Negro school. In the late 1930s funds were obtained from the Federal Public Works Administration and John D. Rockefeller donated 29 acres of land off the western side of Capitol Landing Road for a new school. It was built and opened in 1940 as one of the better schools in the state. Its name was Bruton Heights.

In a thesis for a Masters Degree, Carra Garrett Dillard wrote in 1951 the following statement:

> It is interesting if not entirely relevant to this study, to note that during the second half of the eighteenth century, examples of all the forms of education that existed in Virginia could be found in Williamsburg. There was Mrs. Whaley's school for the neediest children, Miss Hallam's school for young ladies, a school for Indians in the Brafferton, and also one there for the younger boys of the

town. At the Grammar School were the older boys, and at the college, the young Gentlemen. There was also a school for Negros which was supervised by President Dawson. (Thomas Dawson, President of William and Mary - 1755-1760).

Apparently there had always been private schools in Williamsburg. Most of them seem to be small groups taught in private homes but there were two larger ones with buildings built for school purposes. In 1906 the Presbytery of Norfolk came to town to select a site on which to build a Female Seminary. Attempts to acquire land in various sections of town, including one to buy Tazewell Hall on South England Street, were not successful. Finally a site was acquired on the corner of Nassau and Scotland Streets, the present site of Matthew Whaley School, and a building was built. The Seminary opened in 1908. It only lasted a few years and the building was acquired by the College and used as a dormitory for men.



Williamsburg Female Institute

Another female institution was called Williamsburg Female Academy. This lasted much longer than the Female Institute. No exact date has been found for its beginning. The earliest mention of it was in the *Richmond Enquirer* of 1805 which stated "Mr. Anderson's institute for instruction of young ladies enjoys peculiar advantage of situation. At the feet of a justly celebrated university, Williamsburg presents a scene, propitious in the highest degree to mental and personal accomplishment . . . No place has a superior claim to attention. The severity of the past winter occasioned a temporary

suspension of the exercises of the school but they are now resumed."

In a copy of the *Richmond Enquirer* of 1810 George Blackburn, head of the English department of the Academy wrote:

> Ten years experience in Virginia and more in other countries, had taught me that females are as capable of acquiring that kind of learning which demands patient investigation, as the other sex.

Apparently the Academy was not operated continuously from 1805 to the 1860s but was operated intermittently through the years by different men. In 1820 Mary Page wrote a letter to her son, John in Monroe County, stating that a Mr. Morse was preparing to open a school for young ladies in Williamsburg.

No mention is made of the location of the Williamsburg Female Academy until 1853. This is the approximate date of construction on the site of the Capitol given by *Tyler's Quarterly*. The latter building burned in 1832. An Act of the General Assembly of Virginia in 1839 stated: "The corp. Authorities of Williamsburg are empowered to convey to the trustees of the said Female Academy and their successors the lot of ground in said city whereupon the Capitol formerly stood." At least one wall of the old Capitol survived the fire since in 1853 the Academy was built using "a part of the wall of the Capitol."

A *Virginia Gazette* flyer of 1849 announced the services of Hubert P. LeFebvre with endorsements from other academies. It stated: "French being the native language of the Principal, it will be spoken by all who board with me." Its catalog was a small ten page booklet published in 1852. The pupils listed were from most of the old families of Williamsburg. Among them were: Bucktrout, Deneufville, Ewell, Graves, Mahone, Maupin, Peachy, Vest, and Waller. Also listed was Harriette Cary, the diary writer, as were old names from the counties of James City, York, and Gloucester. The board of trustees included some of the most prominent men of the town. Among them were Dr. R.P. Waller, Samuel F. Bright, Dr. John M. Galt, William W. Vest, and G.W. Durfey.

There is reason to believe that males were taken into the Female Academy before the Civil War forced it to close. Another *Virginia Gazette* flyer entitled Male and Female Academy, was published by C.J.D Pryor, the principal, in 1855. It listed endorsements from several William and Mary professors and President Thomas R. Dew. The latter wrote: "Mr. Pryor's school has been established in Williamsburg for several years during which time I have been well acquainted with its discipline and the character of the instruction imparted." The flyer also stated: "Males and females shall not be allowed to enter or leave together. No association whatever will be allowed between male and female pupils."

Mr. John S. Charles described the school and its location in his writings of 1928 with no mention of males.

On the lot at the eastern terminus of Duke of Gloucester Street where formerly stood the stately "House of Burgesses," there was, when the "cruel war began," a large rectangular house fifty feet from the street. It had two stories and a basement, with double front porch, and metal roof. The lot faced the Duke of Gloucester Street and was of some width in front but the sides ran obliquely to the north and east and to the southeast. It was enclosed in front by an ornamental fence and attractive gates to the front grounds, with beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers. The rest of the lot was enclosed by a high close-fitting board fence, with cap. Inside of this fence are the grounds used by the girls for exercise and amusement. This fence was once the cause of much fun among the young people of the city. The boys, on the outside being shut by the high board fence from getting a view of the girls on the playgrounds, knocked the knots out of some of the boards of the fence and used the opening as "peep holes," through which they got a look at the girls. This was reported to the principal, who swore out a warrant for the boys, charging them with "stealing knot holes" out of his fence. The old principal was high up in "book-learning" but, it is said, was woefully lacking in common sense, which Shakespeare said is a very uncommon thing.

The case came up for trial before the mayor, a gentleman of "which learning and full of fun," who discerning, as soon as the case was called, the ridiculousness of the situation, called upon the principal to explain to the court how it could be possible for those care-free boys to steal the "knot holes" out of the fence without taking away the boards as he admitted that the holes were still in the fence, but the knots were gone. The dignified and erudite mayor announced that the case not being proven was dismissed at the cost of the complainant. The court adjourned, amid the shouts of the assembled crowd.

In the early part of the War the academy was used as a hospital by the Confederates, and later wounded soldiers from the battle field of Williamsburg were put there. After the War it was used by the Union Soldiers stationed here. Later on, it got into bad condition and was abandoned, and in 1881 it was sold to the Old Dominion Land Co., pulled down, and the brick were removed from here by the C. And O. Railway Co. . . .

The Old Dominion Land Company gave the site to the APVA in 1897 and the latter organization turned it over to Williamsburg Holding Corporation in 1928.

While the girls were enrolled in the Female Academy, their brothers were attending the Williamsburg Military School. In a catalogue for the session 1852-53 W.J. Morrissett and W.Y. Peyton were listed as principals. The former had glowing credentials from Hampton Academy. Some of the pupils listed from Williamsburg were: Robert J. Armistead, William, Thomas, and John Barlow, Jr., Decimus Barziza, Thomas and Lemuel Bowden, Robert and Bushrod Bowry, George and Alex T. Clowes, William Christian, Ben Gilliam, Pompey Lawson, Sam and John M. Maupin, Henry Wise, and John Taylor.

The bulk of the space in the small catalogue was occupied by an Address to Our Patrons, which included the following lament:

> Why are there so many weak-minded young men in our colleges who, when they enter upon life, are incapable of discharging its simplest duties, and whose names will never extend beyond the limits of their father's households.

Cynthia B.T.W. Coleman circulated two printed flyers, advertising a Female Seminary, one in 1866-67 and the other for the 1867-68 school session. Classes were held in the Coleman House, Cynthia spent the Civil War years in Clarksville and came back to the family home in Williamsburg after the war. Her letters show a difficult financial situation and opening the school was apparently a way to support her family while providing a much needed public service.

The flyer of 1867-68 included the statement:

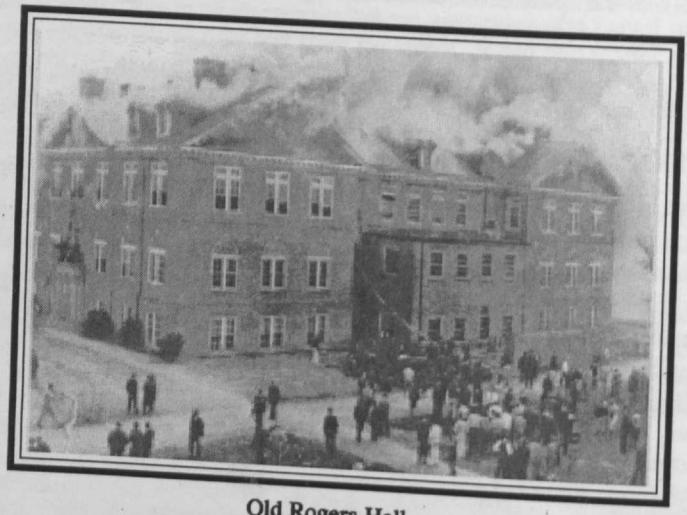
> Through the kindness of Col. Ewell of the College of William and Mary, the young ladies will have the benefits of experiments in chemistry and natural philosophy.

A few words must be written about the public schools nearby. From the *Virginia Gazette* of November 11, 1909 we find: "Patrons of Bruton District are considering several locations for a central school. It will probably be at Magruder." In a copy of the *Gazette* dated August 1910 was recorded: "Schools in Bruton District are at Lightfoot, Ewell, Oaktree, Porto Bello and Biglers. Three of them didn't have enough pupils for lawful daily attendance." Oaktree and Biglers were both within the present limits of Camp Peary as was Porto Bello.

In 1930 an unusual school began to operate from a ship docked at Jamestown. At least its base was unusual for the local area. The school was operated for young men by Raymond Riordan of New York. Colonel Earl Popp taught aeronautics there and was soon the leader of the newly founded aeronautics department of William and Mary. This resulted from a bargain made between Riordan and President J.A.C. Chandler of William and Mary. Riordan used the labs of the College for his school and he had Popp teach four young college men to fly.

The ship was quite large and well supplied. Apparently it was docked at Jamestown to take advantage of the local historical setting. The adventure of attending school on board ship obviously was an attractive proposition and we can assume the novelty of the idea attracted enough students to make it economically worth-while. However it only lasted through 1931.

One of the local affairs in which the school became involved was the laying of the cornerstone of the Williamsburg James City County courthouse in the spring of 1931. The cornerstone contained a "time capsule" to be opened in the future which was removed without fanfare when the courthouse was demolished by Colonial Williamsburg in 1982.



Old Rogers Hall
(Now Chancellors Hall)
Roof and First Floor Burned – 1930
Damage - $70,142

Ladies Softball Team
Coached by George Kidd
Late 1940's

Chapter 5

THE PEOPLE OF WILLIAMSBURG

A. EDWIN KENDREW began to work on the restoration of Williamsburg in 1926, two years before he came to the old town. He was a draftsman with the architectural firm on Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn in Boston, Massachusetts and helped prepare the sketches, drawings, and reports for the proposed restoration of Williamsburg for Dr. Goodwin. He was first sent to the town in the spring of 1928 to investigate the roofs of four old buildings. To insure them against fire it was necessary to cover the roofs with fire resistant shingles. Kendrew found that the roofs were not strong enough to hold the weight of the heavier fireproof shingles. He designed a truss for each building which was installed in the attic to strengthen the roof.

After this, he returned to Boston but was sent back to Williamsburg in 1929 to take charge of the drafting room which Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn had set up. He was to be responsible for increasing the force, and coordinating architecture and construction. He remained in this position for six years. This was the first phase of the restoration and during this time some of the most important existing buildings were restored such as the Wren Building, the President's House, the Brafferton, and the Courthouse of 1770. Several buildings were reconstructed during this period, the Raleigh Tavern, The Governor's Palace, and the Capitol being the most important ones.

This first period was considered to be the architectural phase after which activity slowed down. It was then felt that an educational phase was necessary to interpret colonial life. Direction of this effort also fell to Kendrew. The staff was enlarged and building increased until halted by World War II. Kendrew became Vice President during this period and was given responsibility for supervising all departments involved in the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings and gardens.

After the war he became involved in future planning which included restoration and related facilities such as an information center, hotels, maintenance shops, warehouses, and shopping centers. He was then appointed Senior Vice President. In 1963 he suffered a heart attack and in 1968 he retired, after forty years on the job.

Mr. Kendrew participated fully in the restoration and preservation of buildings outside of Williamsburg from Bacon's Castle and Chippokes Plantation south of the James River to projects in New York, Illinois, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. Among the many restoration projects in which he has partially participated with advice and reports are those to be found in Arkansas, Utah, Kentucky, Vermont, and Wyoming.

He was a consultant to the National Park Service on many historical properties. He spent years on the Williamsburg City Planning Commission and took an interest in and participated in enough projects to exhaust a man of half his age, even after retirement.

PAUL M. GRIESENAUER made early contributions to the cultural and economic development of the Williamsburg area. His efforts in archeology, pottery, and brick making came at a time when these skills were sorely needed on the local scene. However, misfortune prevented him from receiving the recognition he so richly deserved for his work. He was frequently torn between gainful employment and his own creativity. His inquiring mind led him to seek out what made things go and grow.

He was born in Dardenne, Missouri in 1886 and arrived in Williamsburg in 1919. He had been sent by his employer, Walter E. Flanders, to buy a riverfront plantation. He was instructed to keep the buyer unknown, reminiscent of the way Dr. Goodwin bought property for John D. Rockefeller. Flanders was a Detroit auto manufacturer and grocery chain owner with various other financial interests. Griesenauer bought St. George's and the Main, adjoining plantations on the James River near Jamestown. Later, Spratley's Farm was added to the other two. He was made manager of all three.

One night in 1923, Flanders was host to a party of friends at St. George's. He had been a patient at Elizabeth Buxton Hospital in Newport News and the party was given for the nurses and doctors associated with the hospital. It was decided to continue the party in Newport News and a caravan of cars set out along Rt. 60. Before they had got very far, a race developed. Flanders was driving a Maxwell and was about to pass the lead car when they met another car around the sharp curve at Lee Hall. In the panic to avoid a collision Flander's car overturned, pinning him underneath. The other passengers were only shaken up but Flanders was badly injured. He died in the hospital before morning.

Before the death of Flanders, Griesenauer was offered more money to supervise Pine Dell, a plantation adjoining St. George's. He accepted the job which meant responsibility for more than 2,000 acres. It was owned by a coal company in Pennsylvania. Hay and grain were grown there as well as timber. The company especially needed the latter for props in its mines. The props were constantly decaying, causing cave-ins. Seeing the urgent need for wood preservation, Griesenauer was led into developing a process for this purpose. In his memoirs he described the way a large rubber bag was put over the end of a freshly cut tree. A copper sulphate solution was then fed into the bag through a tube and the solution was drawn into the tree while it still had its great pulling power. This is the natural pull which draws liquid from the ground and distributes it throughout the tree. He tried to patent this process but found that it had already been done in Germany in 1878.

In 1924 he helped the president of the company, Clarence Sturges, buy the 2,300 acres of nearby Green Spring. This land included the ruins of the palatial former home of Governor Sir William Berkeley. Besides the main building, described by the governor's wife as "the finest seat in America," there were several out buildings including a jail. The latter was the only building still standing in 1927. Griesenauer discovered Governor Berkeley's glass furnace and helped excavate the ruins of the mansion. This discovery

inspired another associate, Jesse Dimmick, to search his land at Glass House Point where he found remains of the Jamestown glass factory. This was soon restored by the National Park Service.

There was an abundance of clay around the excavations at Green Spring and Sturges asked Griesenauer to try to find a use for it in the work just beginning in Williamsburg. Griesenauer had found pottery fragments and other artifacts buried in the earth at St. George's and had become interested in pottery making. A need for colonial type bricks was apparent in Williamsburg so he began to experiment with the clay of Green Spring. He found that he could control the color of bricks through the amount and duration of heat with which they were fired, kinds of wood used in the firing, and various things added such as salt. The latter substance made one of the glazes used on the end of some bricks called glazed headers.

After developing the process which duplicated colonial bricks he revealed his secrets to a man who was working for the contractors doing the building for The Restoration, his names was Hedgecock. After a disagreement with Griesenauer over the price of bricks they had Hedgecock make bricks and Griesenauer was out of the picture. However he did produce bricks for several buildings being built in the late 1920s and the early 1930s. His work can be found in the Presbyterian and Catholic churches, on Richmond Road, in the Masonic Lodge on Francis Street, and in the bridges crossing the Colonial Parkway to Yorktown.

After losing the Restoration brickwork he turned to pottery making and made reproductions of pieces found in Williamsburg and Jamestown. He had better luck in this venture and sold a great deal of pottery to The Restoration. The name of his brick and pottery was copyrighted as "James Towne Colony." Some of the pottery was sold worldwide.

In 1941 a Sturges relative who had gotten control of the Pine Dell Land Company, foreclosed and Paul Griesenauer lost everything, including his home and kilns. This forced him out of the pottery business. He then went to work at the Naval Mine Depot and later transferred to Cheatham Annex. He retired in about 1964 and died in 1969.

EDWARD M. SLAUSON brought his family to Williamsburg in 1904, coming from Iowa with several other families. Soon after arriving he bought an old farm home known as Powhatan Plantation, located on Ironbound Road a few miles from town. It included 360 acres.

The date of construction of the house has been estimated to be between 1723 and 1750. The original land grant in 1643 was for 10,000 acres. The first owners were Richard and Benjamin Eggleston. After several generations of Egglestons lived there it passed to Richard Taliaferro who had married an Eggleston. Taliaferro was the father-in-law of George Wythe and was known as a "most skillful architect." The walls of the house are 28 inches thick at the bottom and 16 inches at the top. There are fifteen

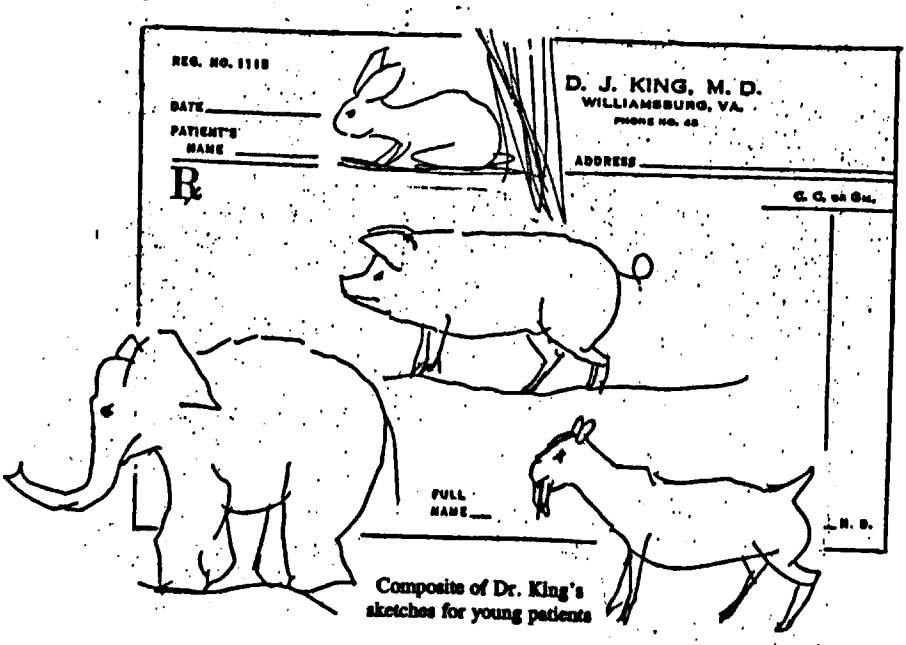
rooms and eight fireplaces. The construction of the house has been compared with the Brafferton at William and Mary built in 1725 and to Westover built in 1730.

Mr. Slauson built the plantation into a thriving enterprise. He did experimental farming and increased crop yield with his methods. It was the practice in Virginia in 1904 to burn off last year's growth to prepare the fields for new planting. However Edward Slauson convinced local farmers that valuable nutrients were lost this way and that plowing under returned nutrients to the soil and was more economical. He was the first man in the local area to harvest 100 bushels of corn per acre. Other crops planted with equal success were soy beans, sorghum, and alfalfa. The demonstration of sound principles applied to his farming led to an offer to be County agent. Mr. Slauson accepted and kept the position for 28 years. His son Jessie operated the farm while he was occupied with duties as County agent.

Thirteen head of cattle were kept on the farm through which the College was supplied with milk. Jessie attended William and Mary in the 1920s and studied engineering.

In 1911 the elder Slauson was elected manager of Williamsburg Cooperative Creamery, enterprise started the year before which specialized in selling fresh country butter. The organization gave local dairy farmers an outlet for their products. It lasted until World War I.

Williamsburgers living here before 1935 remember DR. DAVID J. KING with great affection and respect. A native of Canada, he came to Williamsburg in the early years of the 20th century. In Canada he was the editor of a newspaper. With his earnings from this occupation he studied medicine.



Composite of Dr. King's sketches for young patients

He was interested in people and had several hobbies. Fishing was one of his favorites and he would travel a great distance to indulge in it. He was an amateur naturalist and could name most tree leaves, flowers, insects, or reptiles brought to him. He played the violin and was an artist of sorts. He sketched animals on his prescription pad for his younger patients. (I was one of those patients.)

Dr. King was dedicated to his medical practice without being devoted to making money. He would travel all over the Williamsburg area to see a patient in all kinds of weather at any time of day or night. He was never known to have sent a bill for his services and would pay for medicine for his poorer patients. He would sometimes stop acquaintances on the street and prescribe for their ailments. He always had time for a chat or a friendly word. He became the college physician and the college infirmary was named for him when he died in 1935.

GEORGE S. MARTIN was well known to old time Williamsburgers as a hotel owner and later as the owner of Martin's Beach. Born in England in 1882, he came to the U.S. when he was three and landed in New York City. He lived there until 1891 when he moved to Florida with his family. He worked as a house painter there. In 1904 he moved to Norfolk where he continued in the painting business. He stayed for 16 years and was married during this time. Her name was Clara and she died in 1938. In 1920 he moved to Williamsburg and opened the Hotel Williamsburg. It was in an old building built in 1854 near the Powder Magazine. He said his was the first hotel in town to have steam heat and running water. He discovered that the old building had been used for several purposes through the years before he bought it.

SAMUEL HARRIS was probably the most successful black man ever to live in Williamsburg. He was born in Richmond and came to Williamsburg in 1872. He was married the same year. He soon bought a lot near the eastern end of Duke of Gloucester Street, on which he opened Harris' Cheap Store. He sold everything from groceries to building supplies. His inventory included jewelry, furniture, and clothing. He also sold building lots and rented horses and wagons.

> Samuel Harris' own vessel and crew supplied his store and other enterprises in close proximity which he owned: a stable, a barber shop, coal and lumber yards, a blacksmith's shop, and a saloon. This man's success can be shown best by noting the comparative size of his business license in 1901. That year when 50 of 57 merchants were paying $10 or less for their business licenses, Harris was paying $203. The two men who tied for second place were J.B.C. Spencer, the owner of the Colonial Inn, and C.E. Dean, a white merchant. These two men were each paying $187.50.

Harris was known to own property in various areas of Williamsburg, Newport News, and Richmond as in other areas of Virginia.

The man was interested in education. He paid the expenses of his adopted daughter, Fannie Pierce, to attend Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. His oldest son, Samuel, studied medicine at Harvard and practiced in Boston.

Samuel Senior's family lived in part of the store with ten children, two of whom were adopted. Several employees also lived in the building, so it was rather large. He was active in community affairs and must have been an outgoing and generous man. He died in 1904 and is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

MRS. FANNIE PIERCE EPPS was part of the early 20th century history of Williamsburg. She was born on Francis Street in 1895 and attended a two room school there. The school was behind the Market Square Tavern near the Powder Magazine. Her father was the janitor for the Post Office, that was in a building with the Peninsula Bank and Trust Co. This was on the present site of the Greehow-Repiton House. Her mother lived in the Samuel Harris house until she married in 1891. The Reverend Lewis Wales Sr. performed the ceremony in the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church on Francis Street. Fannie was adopted by the Harris family and lived with them.

In 1917 she married Fred Epps and gave birth to four sons. They attended James City Training School on Nicholson Street. Mrs. Epps was a member of Mt. Ararat Church when it was on Francis Street near her home but she changed her membership to First Baptist Church on Nassau Street in later years. She lived for a time on Franklin Street near the present site of Mt. Ararat Church.

Mrs. Epps remembered Dr. King and his predecessor, Dr. Hankins. She remembered the Knitting Mill and could remember almost everyone who lived in the town during her childhood and youth.

In 1978 Colonial Williamsburg Foundation bought the house on Franklin Street where she raised her children and gave her life rights to live in the George Reid House on Duke of Gloucester Street.

She was widely known for her knowledge of her town, her friendliness, and her willingness to serve. She worked in the emergency room of Williamsburg Community Hospital as a volunteer and served nineteen years as a foster grandparent at Norge Elementary School. She was the oldest school volunteer when she retired at age ninety. She died in 1997 at age 101.

THE GOODWIN FAMILY. Much has been written about Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin and his family. Most accounts relate that he had two families. His first wife was Evelyn Tannor who he married in 1895 in Petersburg, Virginia. From this marriage came four children, two girls born before the end of the nineteenth century and two boys after the turn of the century. The girls were Evelyn (after her mother) and Mary Katherine. The boys were Rutherfoord and William Archer. The latter only lived for one year. Goodwin's Wife, Evelyn died in 1915 at the age of 46. She was buried in Bruton's graveyard to be beside her son William Archer.

Dr. Goodwin met and married his second wife in Ashland, Virginia in 1918. She was Ethel Howard. From this marriage came three boys. They were Howard, born in 1919, Billy in 1921, and Jack in 1924. Billy's given name was William Deane but he

Dr. Goodwin and his sons, Howard,
Billy, and Jack
Mrs. Goodwin in inset

changed it to W.A.R. Goodwin Jr. Jack's given name was John Seaton.

Jack was a schoolmate of this writer. We were friends from grade school until the day Jack died in 1983. He often talked about his father and other members of his family. Next to Jack it was Ethel, his mother, whom I knew best, because she most often was home when Jack and I came from school. Their home was less than a block from Matthew Whaley School at the corner of Nassau and Scotland Streets. The house had been bought and moved by Dr. Goodwin in the early 1930s when so many houses were moved. It had been on Francis Street near the corner of South England Street. I seldom saw the good Doctor himself. He was always too busy to stop and talk. Howard and Billy were seldom home when I was there. Billy was away at the University of Virginia when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was killed in 1943. His P-40 was downed in Italy. I came home from Europe after V-E Day, without enough points to be discharged. I was sent to Richmond Air Base (Byrd Field) to help discharge others. Howard Goodwin was one of the others. After the war I saw him when he came to visit Jack and his mother. Of course I had long since become acquainted with Ruddy (Rutherfoord) and his wife, Mary, who lived next door to Jack and his mother in the Timson House. Ruddy was always friendly and outgoing. Mary was the quiet one. Ruddy had joined his father working for the Restoration. He was assigned research, writing, and other tasks.

Those who knew Jack would say that he was very different than his brothers. As a child he was somewhat brash but like most of us he grew out of most of that. He was heavy-set and somewhat clumsy but I always thought he compensated for his negative characteristics by being kind, thoughtful, generous, and by having a good sense of humor.

His mother was a friend to his teachers who were often at his home. As a consequence, Jack, like his mother, called all the teachers by their first names, somewhat to the chagrin of mother as well as teachers.

My house was about three blocks from Jack's and sometimes he would walk home with me and was often at my house. We remained friends while growing up. When I left for Army service in World War II Jack was one of the friends who kept me abreast of news on the home front. After my return and into my days at William and Mary we sometimes traveled together. The longest trip we took was to Cuba.

ANNIE MARTIN (PARR) BOBBITT was born in 1891 in Lanexa, Virginia and came to Williamsburg in 1907 to work in Williamsburg Knitting Mill. Her job was as an inspector of its product -- men's underwear. It was located where part of the Palace gardens is now. Soon after she began work she met and married Bertram Lionel Parr, and Englishman who was a spinner at the mill. They bought a home on Spottswood Street near the Mill and became the parents of four children.

Mr. Parr later worked at the Post Office and died on the job of a fall while

delivering mail. Shortly after, Colonial Williamsburg bought their home and the family moved to Scotland Street. In 1931 Mrs. Parr became Mrs. Benjamin Bobbitt and gave birth to two more children.

She became a member of Williamsburg Baptist Church in 1918 and remained active most of her life. She had a pleasant outlook on life and was known to many as "Mom" Bobbitt. She died in 1986 at the age of 95, leaving behind five children, seventeen grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren. One daughter is deceased.

One of the surviving daughters lives in Williamsburg. She is Fay Parr and once wrote for The Daily Press.

WILLIAM WASHINGTON was one of the friendliest, most pleasant people this writer has ever known. Of course, he was much more than that. I knew him for at least forty years.

He was born in Brooklyn and moved to York County as a youngster. While still in high school he began to work in a gas station in Yorktown. He enjoyed the experience and it became a dream to own a station and become a top dealer. His dream came true.

From the middle of his high school days he worked part-time in Yorktown. During World War II he was in the Navy and served in the Philippines. After he returned home he worked for Robert Haynes' Esso station on Old Yorktown Road for twelve years. In 1961 Esso officials asked him to go into business for himself as a dealer. He then became the owner-operator of Terrace Esso on Route 143 east of Williamsburg. When this highly successful station was condemned for the construction of Route 199 he was offered the station on Jamestown Road. He accepted with some hesitation due in part to the oil embargo. His management soon overcame all the problems. Exxon modernized the station in 1983.

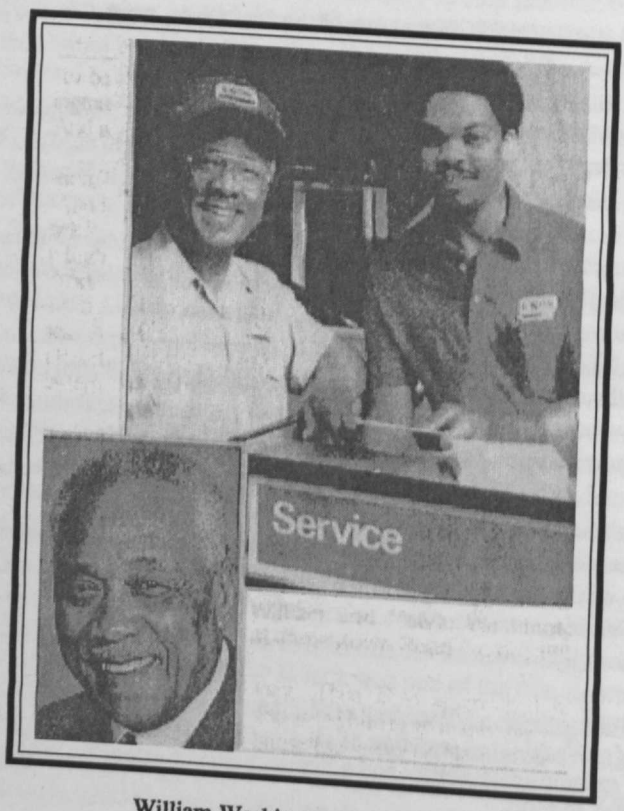
To shorten a long story, before he turned the station over to his son Melvin in 1998, it was one of the top producers in the Eastern Region of the Exxon Corp.

William Washington died after a short illness on March 8, 2001. Here are some of the comments made by his customers and friends and printed in the Virginia Gazette:

> Timothy Sullivan, President of William and Mary:
> "Mr. Washington was first of all a gentleman. He was also a business man of extraordinary ability and a human being of integrity, compassion, and good humor."
>
> Delegate George Grayson:
> "I called him 'Mr. Hustle'." He never walked. He moved at double-or-triple speed and he infused that sense of efficiency and hard work into his employees. He always had a smile on his face and a can-do positive attitude."

Lawrence Whitehurst, retired senior marketing manager for Exxon and long-time friend:
"He was an outstanding dealer who had the admiration of the company he represented and the customers he served."

He was a member of Rising Sun Baptist Church, a member of the men's chorus, and was on the church Board of Trustees. He was a lifelong member of the NAACP and a member of the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce.



William Washington and son, Melvin

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE. In 1902 Francis O'Keeffe moved his family, wife and seven children, to Williamsburg from Wisconsin. His main business seems to have been the operator of a creamery. He was remembered for buying up cement left over from a road building project going from Williamsburg to Jamestown in preparation for the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. He made building blocks from the cement and built an ugly looking block house on a corner of Henry and Scotland Streets. He sold a lot on the corner of Scotland and Nassau Streets to the builders of the Female Institute. This was built and opened in 1908, on the present site of Matthew Whaley School.

The O'Keeffe family was an active one, but none of them achieved the fame equal to that of Georgia. She became America's most well known female artist. She was apparently quite different from her siblings. Described as solemn, monastic, and eccentric, she played alone and seemed to prefer solitude. She sketched and painted at an early age and attended Chatham Hall in Virginia. At age 17 she went to New York where she studied at the Art Students' League. This didn't last long since she didn't like the way European painting was emphasized.

Her family soon left Williamsburg for Charlottesville and Georgia took art classes there before going to Texas and becoming an art supervisor in the public schools of Amarillo. There she met Alfred Stieglitz, a photographer. He became very enthusiastic about her work and soon showed it in New York. This brought her so much admiration that she moved to the big city and painted with renewed vigor.

In 1924 she painted a flower called "Light Iris" which was the turning point in her career. From this time onward she painted large flowers. It was another big day in 1924 when she married Stieglitz, but it was a troublesome union. Their personalities clashed. They apparently had little in common except their love of art.

In 1938 she visited the College of William and Mary where she was given an honorary degree. It was the first honorary degree in fine arts the College had ever given and the first one Georgia had received. This visit generated little fanfare, especially considering the action of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller in presenting one of Georgia's paintings to the Department of Fine Arts at William and Mary.

The painting hung for years in the old Phi Beta Kappa building (now Ewell Hall), little noticed until it was pointed out to President Thomas Graves who headed the College from 1971 to 1985. He had it moved to a more secure location.

It was the centerpiece of a recent exhibition of Georgia's work in the Spring of 2001. It was an image of a large magnolia and was called, simply, "White Flower."

After her husband's death she moved to New Mexico and began to paint desert scenes, featuring dry bones, cattle skulls, and such. She remained there until her death in 1988 at the age of 98. At this time her paintings were valued at over 72 million dollars. This was left to her friends and caretakers and generated civil law suits for several years.

Former home of Georgia
O'Keeffe who lived here on North
Henry St. – early years of 20th
Century

Chapter 6

GOODWIN AND THE RESTORATION

Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin accepted a call to come to Williamsburg in 1903 to be rector of Bruton Parish Church. He replaced William T. Roberts who was judged by his parishioners to be unfit to lead them. He divided them by his criticism of William and Mary, his expressions of racism, and unsuitable attitude and behavior.

Dr. Goodwin united the people and pushed repair and restoration. He authored a book -- *Sketch of Bruton Church* -- by which he collected donations from such men as Andrew Carnegie and J.P. Morgan. The church's restoration was consecrated October, 1907 at the same time as the church's national convention in Richmond and the celebration of the three hundredth founding of Jamestown.

By 1909 Goodwin felt he had completed his mission in Williamsburg, so when he was called to come to Rochester, New York to the much larger St. Paul's Church, he accepted.

Dr. Goodwin returned to Williamsburg in 1923 to teach religious education and to build up the endowment fund at the College. He was dismayed by the further deterioration of some of the old buildings for which he had developed a fondness during his tour of duty at Bruton Parish Church from 1903 to 1909. The unsightly additions resulting largely from the boom years of World War I also disturbed him. He had long been interested in the restoration of old buildings. He once called Williamsburg the most interesting place in America. In seeking ways to preserve some of the town's older structures he was led to deal with the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

This group, formed by a few women in 1888, had sought to preserve certain historical sites throughout Virginia. They had procured the Powder Horn and the site of the colonial Capitol in Williamsburg.

Goodwin had some experience in restoration during his first stay in the colonial town when Bruton was first restored in 1907. In 1926 he helped to restore the George Wythe House after it was acquired by the church.

In 1924 Dr. J.A.C. Chandler was invited to address a Phi Beta Kappa banquet in New York in the interest of a proposed memorial hall at William and Mary. He was unable to go, so he sent Dr. Goodwin. In the latter's address he dwelt on the glories of Williamsburg's past. This attracted the attention of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. who was present at the gathering. He expressed the hope of coming to Williamsburg some day. This encouraged Goodwin in his dream of restoring the town. In 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller were visiting Hampton Institute and decided to come to Williamsburg. When Dr. Chandler learned of their proposed visit, he arranged to have Dr. Goodwin show them through the town. This was the opportunity for which he had long waited.

He eagerly pointed out as many of the historic sites as possible and expressed his hope of restoring them to their former colonial grandeur. The Rockefellers showed interest but no commitment was made.

Goodwin later arranged a trip to New York for an interview with Rockefeller's associate, Col. Arthur Woods, to outline his plan to restore the town, but again no commitment was made.

In November of 1926 Rockefeller came to Williamsburg to attend the dedication of the Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall. Goodwin then invited him to spend more time touring the town, and that night at a banquet, Rockefeller agreed to finance preliminary sketches of a limited number of buildings with the understanding that he was to remain completely anonymous.

In December of the same year the Ludwell Paradise House was for sale and Goodwin informed Rockefeller as soon as he heard it. A telegram came back from New York authorizing the purchase. It was signed by the cryptic "David's Father." Thereafter, all messages from Rockefeller were signed "Mr. David."

Dr. Goodwin was allowed to hire an architect to make the preliminary sketches. He had earlier met a well qualified man who was visiting in Williamsburg. He was William G. Perry, senior partner of the Boston firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn. Goodwin now invited him to Williamsburg to prepare sketches of the town. He assured Perry that he had substantial backing and that a restoration of the town was possible. Perry was overjoyed at the idea and accepted the proposal.

Dr. Goodwin was now consumed with the task of gathering information to use in the restoration. His office in the Wythe House became a busy place. To avoid arousing curiosity, he measured the buildings and streets at night with the aid of college boys. He made a valiant effort to abide by the wishes of Rockefeller to keep the project low-key and to avoid publicity. If it was known that his financial backer was one of the wealthiest men in America, real estate prices would skyrocket, making further purchases prohibitive. The project would be nipped in the bud.

The townspeople began to wonder how a poor minister could buy so much property, and curiosity began to grow. Finally Goodwin felt that something must be done to relieve the pressure. He inserted a notice in the Newport News *Daily Press* explaining that he had been able to arouse the interest of financial backers in the restoration of the town's buildings. He warned that this interest would die out unless the people cooperated. He was later congratulated by Rockefeller on taking the public into his confidence without giving away the town's benefactor.

Goodwin felt that once Rockefeller decided to go ahead with the restoration ide that someone else should be selected to buy the property. He complained to Col. Woods that he was rector of a busy church and head of the College's department of religious education. However, one of Rockefeller's aides thought he was doing a good job and should stay at the task.

In 1928 one of the most important steps taken by Goodwin was the acquisition of the site of the colonial Capitol. This meant that important decisions had to be made. Land had to be bought and cleared to return some of the main portions of the town to its colonial appearance. Rockefeller approved more plans. The scope of the project continued to widen. Williamsburg Holding Corporation had been established with Arthur Woods at its head in the previous year.

As activities increased so did public curiosity and pressure on Dr. Goodwin. By 1928 it was clear that the time had come to make a public announcement giving the town's benefactor and the scope of the project. On June 12 a meeting was held in the Williamsburg High School auditorium, and the plan and its financial backer were revealed. Applause broke out at the announcement.

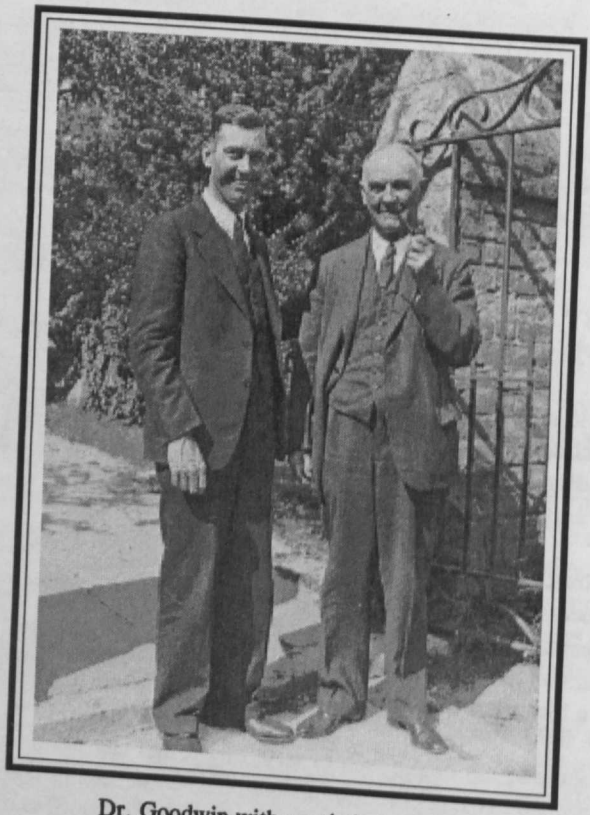
Some people didn't like the idea, feeling that the town would lose its character as outsiders moved in and buildings would be altered or removed. However, most people felt that a new era had arrived. Especially happy were those who sold their property to the newly formed "Restoration" as they called it and retained "life rights." They could continue to live in their homes after they were restored, rent free.

One of the first tasks to be dealt with was to hire people with skills to get the project underway. Some of the people needed were draftsmen, architects, lawyers, engineers, archeologists, and historians. Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn brought their own draftsmen and architects during the early years. The contractor selected was Todd and Brown. The buildings were no ordinary structures. Each was a pains-taking project, watched over carefully by the architects. Each board and brick was placed with unusual care.

Colonel Arthur Woods headed the organization until 1935 when his ill health required his replacement by his assistant, Kenneth Chorley. Williamsburg Holding Corporation, established in 1927, was soon changed to Williamsburg Restoration Incorporated. Parallel to this Colonial Williamsburg was established to handle financial affairs, but after a few years they were combined to form Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Edwin Kendrew, an employee of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn, headed up the Architectural Staff and became chief trouble shooter. Other architectural experts brought in were Fiske Kimball, Walter Macomber, Harold Shurtleff, and A. Lawrence Kocher. Singleton Moorehead was a draftsman with great artistic abilities. He made sketches of the buildings which were a big help to Goodwin and Rockefeller in visualizing the completed work. He also married Mayor Coleman's daughter, Cynthia. Arthur Shurtleff was hired as the landscape architect to design the gardens. He later changed his name back to the original spelling, Shurcliff, to avoid confusion with Harold Shurtleff.

Dr. Goodwin hired his son, Rutherfoord, as a writer and interpreter and his cousin, Mary Goodwin, as a researcher. She was the one who found the "Bodleian Plate," a copper engraving which provided essential information about the Capitol, the Palace and the Wren Building. Mary found this item in the Bodleian Library in Oxford, England.



Dr. Goodwin with protégé, the future Bishop John Bentley of Alaska.

Chapter 7

WILLIAMSBURG LIBRARY'S DEVELOPMENT

This chapter is dedicated to the ladies of Williamsburg. It is difficult to imagine a library without the input and leadership of our fair sex.

Our library had its origin in the early years of the 20th century through the interest and devotion of a group of "Remarkable Young Women." They seemed to be sponsored by another group of women, The Williamsburg Civic League. This group apparently adopted the library as its main interest.

The first leaders of the group were Mrs. George P. Coleman (Mary Haldane Begg), Miss Jeannette Kelly, Miss Elizabeth Coleman, and Miss Anne Chapman. The latter lady was the constant flame keeping the library alive. She devoted her life to its development. Of course there were many other helpers, leaders, and librarians through the years. Besides Miss Chapman the one sustaining the longest interest in library matters was Gladys Bennett, later Mrs. William Guy. She was an early patron of the Tucker House, then an active helper, and finally a librarian. Two of the early helpers were Edith Smith and Lucy Vaiden. Edith was referred to as the "Daffodil Lady" for her practice of picking and selling these flowers for the benefit of the library. An ad was placed in the *Virginia Gazette* each spring and the sales became increasingly profitable for the Civic League's library committee.

In 1908 there were traveling libraries on loan from the State and one was procured and sent to the home of Mrs. Coleman, the St. George Tucker House. In 1910 the books were moved to an old store on the present site of the Market Square Tavern. Lack of patronage caused it to close in a short time. It was set up next in part of the Peachy Block, next to the Norton-Cole House.

Also in 1910 a real bonanza came into the life of the library. Mr. Percival Bisland, then owner of Carter's Grove, died and his widow, beset by financial burdens, auctioned the estate. The library group was able to buy a part of Mr. Bisland's library, 250 volumes for 20 dollars. His sisters had collected 300 books and, according to their brother's will, were looking for a worthy place to donate them. When they heard about the growing library's purchase at the Grove they sent their collection. The year 1911 could begin with a "full grown library." The sisters and their friends continued to send books and money.

In 1916 the landlord, Bathurst D. Peachy, Jr., decided to sell his property including the two rooms in use by the library. So the ladies were forced to seek new quarters once more. Bruton Parish Church came to their rescue with an offer of rooms in the Parish House. This building was then located in a corner of the churchyard, which was only a short distance from the former rooms in the Peachy Block. Early in 1917 the move was made. The collection had now grown to 1,400 books. So they were all

moved but the arrangement proved to be only temporary since circulation dropped. The Library Committee sought a more permanent home. Late in the year the owner of the Paradise House, Kate Slater, offered two large rooms there. This proved to be a longer stay than any of the previous locations, probably because it was a historic home on Main St. and convenient to many local people. Circulation soon doubled. Some of this was likely due to the influx of people at nearby Penniman. Wartime activity and increased population accelerated the pace of life in the town. The book collection was kept at about 1,500 in spite of donations to military facilities. By 1919 the number of books rose to 2,000 and a welcome bounty came from the City Council. Remaining funds from "a woman's lounge" were diverted to the library -- $ 117.50.

After the war books continued to come in. In 1922 there were 2,826 on the shelves and the next year the total was over 3,000.

In 1925, amid rumors that the Paradise House was to be sold, the library committee began to look for new quarters again. The problem was soon solved. Penniman was demolishing and selling the buildings there that were no longer needed. The Civic League acquired and moved a small house to property belonging to Elizabeth Coleman. She agreed to have it put there adjacent to the Paradise House. It was called the "little green house" as its color indicated. This house had its problems but the staff was happy to have the first building that they owned. 1925 was to be an eventful year in the life of the library.

A request to the City Council was granted and $250 henceforth was given for that purpose. At the same time the Civic League's Library Committee established an endowment campaign to pay for a permanent librarian. The first lady was hired in the late spring of the year but only lasted a year. Her replacement only lasted two months. The next librarian was Lucille Foster who remained in her position for the next three years and was praised for her work. When she resigned in 1929, Gladys Guy applied for the position and was gladly accepted. She worked under the general supervision of Anne Chapman. They worked well together. As Gladys wrote in her "Memories of Early Years ---"

> So began a close association with the Library and with Miss Chapman that lasted a number of years.
>
> I was paid twenty dollars a month, for which I "kept the library open" on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. I used quotes there because I really did not do much else -- except to make a fire in the stove, sweep the floor, dust the books and furniture, and, of course, keep track of the borrowers.

Mr. Rockefeller bought the Paradise House in 1926. It was the first colonial building to be bought for the Restoration. This was done through Dr. Goodwin, as were others to come. The Little Green House was on the lot west of the Paradise House and had to be moved. It was bought and demolished by the Restoration. However, it was 1931 before the library moved into the Methodist Church "uptown" on the corner of Main and Boundary Streets. Two large rooms on the second floor were loaned.

The library remained here until 1933 when Colonial Williamsburg built a new Court House on a corner of Francis and South England Streets. Its motive was to acquire the 1770 Court House. One of the smaller buildings on the new court-house complex was offered to the library. This building was on the eastern corner of the complex. The original probably was built by Robert Carter Nicholas. Roscoe Cole owned it from 1819 to 1835. It was called the Nicholas-Tyler Office. President John Tyler owned the property from 1837 to 1842. The similar small building on the west side of the complex was the Nicholas-Tyler Laundry.

The library moved into the new building in June, 1933, with 3,500 books where there was space for 10,000, More good news was that the City Council would provide utilities and continue to contribute $250 toward expenses. Colonial Williamsburg charged only a token rent of one dollar per year.

This writer lived about two blocks west of the library and often walked this distance to take books from the little building. Anne Chapman was usually present, but her assistant, Fannie Nightengale, checked out the books for me. She became librarian in charge when Chapman retired in 1942.

The present library on Scotland Street was opened to the public July 23, 1973, with 18,000 books. Of course, today, in 2002, there are many more books, computers and other modern equipment, unheard of in the early days of the library.

Ann Chapman,
Gladys Bennett Guy
and Mary Coleman

Courtesy of William and Mary Archives

Chapter 8

WILLIAMSBURG TALES

There are always stories circulating in any small town about the people and events of the past. Williamsburg is no exception to this custom. Some of the citizens were specially good at story telling and one of these was Willard Gilley. There was one tale told about Mr. Gilley by my sister, Dorothy, who worked in Casey's Department Store before she was married.

Gilley entered Casey's one day and was informed about a sale by one of the sales ladies. She went on to ask, "Can't we do something for you today, Mr. Gilley? Our pants are half off." His reply shook her up to some extent, "No thanks," he said," I'll come back when they are all the way off!"

The next story is told by Mr. Forest Griffin, who was born in Williamsburg and was retired from many years of service in Colonial Williamsburg's Commissary.

> William Herring worked on the farm behind Eastern State Hospital when the hospital faced Francis Street. His nickname was 'Herringbone'. One day he was driving a wagon full of manure up Henry Street from the farm. When he was opposite the Thurman Building (one of the men's facilities) on the corner of Henry and Francis Streets a patient yelled out. "Hey, Herringbone, where you goin' with that load of manure?" Mr. Herring answered, "I'm taking it home to put on my strawberries." The patient then informed him, "You should be in here. We get sugar and cream on ours!"

Another of Williamsburg's tale tellers was Lloyd H. Williams, a graduate of William and Mary who was for many years the *Daily Press* representative in Williamsburg. In 1937 he had a book published called *Pirates of Colonial Virginia*. He was interested in local color and one phase of that was the bootleg liquor activities which once were quite prevalent on the local scene. He wrote what he called a treatise on Brewin' Bootleg Booze, in which he said:

> Profits are large, the risk small, and the investment is little. A sack of meal, some molasses and a little sugar is all that is needed after the makeshift still has been set up. Should the mash be slow working, a dead rat, some lye or a little chicken manure will soon start it boiling. Somebody gets mad or somebody else doesn't get a kickback and the 'law' is informed but most raiders find no one at the still. Few get caught.
>
> Stills used to be large affairs. Big vats were used to hold the mash. I knew of one in which a pig fell, got drunk and drowned. That just made the mash work better. Boilers were regular steam boilers taken from old sawmills.
>
> On one occasion, nine 5 gallon jugs were landed in a gut off the Thorofare (near Jamestown) at Neck-o-Land. The story is that it was intended for one of the members of the bar. He never got it. Some duck hunters found it and the jugs nearly sank the boat but the voyage was successfully made up Powhatan Creek and the liquor hidden in a sawdust pile on Green Spring. The jugs ended up in Neck-o-Land, Ironbound Road and on the shores of the Chickahominy.

The wife of one of our friends wouldn't let him bring the stuff in the house. He kept it hidden in the corn shocks in the field. One day he sent the hands to get some corn. Later in the day he found them gloriously drunk. The first shock they took uncovered the joy juice.

Recently a friend came to his sawmill to find the whole crew on a big bender. They had found several kegs of white lightning. In years past it had been stored there and forgotten. It was said to be smooth as silk.

Once they jailed for a liquor law violation the pianist for the Saturday night dance. The dances went on; he was released Saturday nights and returned to jail Sunday mornings.

Stories about the town's benefactor, John D. Rockefeller, were numerous. Once he discovered a young fellow sleeping in a spot where it was clear he should have been working. When John D. asked him about it he replied, "Oh, I don't have to work, 'cause I work for the richest man in the world." When the feller's employment was terminated he probably never knew why.

Another story about Rockefeller included Miss Emma Lou Barlow, a somewhat eccentric lady. Colonial Williamsburg bought her house on lower Duke of Gloucester Street and she enjoyed life tenancy there. Mr. Rockefeller often invited people whose property was bought up, to dine with him at Bassett Hall. He maintained a residence here since the house was restored in the early 1930s. He thus invited Miss Emma Lou but never repeated the invitation. It seems she was hard of hearing and John D. became hoarse from raising his voice to converse with her.

When television first became popular Rockefeller heard that she wanted a set so he gave her one. However, the first time she saw something on it she didn't like, she threw a hard object at it, breaking the picture tube.

A final story about Rockefeller involves the Morecock sisters and Edwin Kendrew. Three of the four Morecock sisters lived in the Waller House on Francis Street next to Bassett Hall. They had sold their home to Colonial Williamsburg and retained life tenancy. They kept Guinea fowl and as anyone knows who has been around these birds for any length of time, they can sometimes be quite noisy.

John D. called Edwin Kendrew, who had gotten to be his chief trouble shooter along with his job as chief architect. Rockefeller asked him if he knew why the Guineas arose so early in the morning and sat in the trees to make noise. When Kendrew declared that he didn't know much about Guineas, he was asked if there was any way wire could be put up to prevent them from ascending to the trees. Kendrew asked the sisters about this and they agreed that it should be done.

However, the newly installed fence did not keep the Guineas in and they continued to disturb Mr. Rockefeller's rest. Mr. Kendrew then suggested that they be shot. Nothing else was heard about the problem for several weeks until one Sunday morning Kendrew received a call from Kitty Morecock to please come to the Waller House. He arrived immediately with some misgivings about the latest development in the Guinea saga. The sisters acted somewhat mysterious while carrying on polite

conversation. Finally they brought out a large silver platter containing four roasted guinea hens garnished with potatoes and parsley. Miss Kitty, the spokesman for the group, said, "These are for you and Mrs. Kendrew!"

In 1920 Robert Kyger established Williamsburg's first funeral parlor on Richmond Road. Before this there were only undertakers or people providing only burial services. In 1923 Kyger moved his business downtown on the south side of Duke of Gloucester, across from the present Chowning's Tavern.

Up the street from Kyger's business was the old Williamsburg Hotel, near the Powder Horn, where a guest died. A member of his family called Mr. Kyger to get the body but a hotel employee called Mrs. Braithwaite, who was also in the undertaking business. She arrived first and took away the corpse. Business, being somewhat slow in those days, had to be pursued aggressively, so Kyger sued Mrs. Braithwaite and won the case.

A story reported by the *Virginia Gazette* goes back to 1899. It involved William and Mary students who were hanging around the jail. One of them tried on a pair of handcuffs and couldn't get them off. He naturally created a scene since the man on duty didn't have the keys. Sgt. Spencer, who did, was not present and the student had to remain cuffed until the sergeant was summoned.

One of the most publicized deaths in the Williamsburg area in 1923 was that of Walter E. Flanders. He was a Detroit car manufacturer and a grocery chain owner with a variety of financial interests. In 1920, he had bought St. George's Farm on the James River.

On the night of June 13, 1923, he hosted a party for a group of doctors and nurses from Buxton Hospital, Newport News. The guests included Dr. Robert Davis who, seeing that some of the guests were getting restless, suggested that the party be continued in Newport News.

A parade of expensive cars then proceeded away from St. George's and headed south along Route 60. Flanders, who was driving a Maxwell, had been a race car driver, and the journey soon became a race. The daredevil driving along the highway came to a climax when the race reached the sharp curve in the road at Lee Hall where Route 60 intersected with the road from Yorktown.

Flanders tried to pass his nearest competitor on the curve and met an oncoming vehicle. In his attempt to avoid a collison, his Maxwell flipped, pinning him under it. None of the passengers in Flanders' car were seriously injured, but Flanders was in critical condition. Dr. Davis directed that the injured man be placed in his car, and he drove him to Buxton Hospital. Three days later he died.

Flanders was buried on the river bank as he had wished, but some family members were not happy about the site, so there was a feeling among local people that he did not remain buried there very long.

It was sixty years before the burial site was confirmed; the erosion of the embankment by the James River finally exposed the vault in 1983. The manager of Bucktrout Funeral Service and his helper spent a complete day removing it from its perilous position and relocating it to a safer area of the farm. The then owners of St. George's Farm later arranged for a reburial of the vault at a local cemetery.

At this time, Jeff Finney, Flanders' great grandson, came to town to find more information about his great grandfather.

He found that few people had ever heard of Flanders. Local resident, Paul R. Griesenauer, lived on the Flanders property as a child when his father was a property manager there. He remembered that Flanders' fourth and final wife studied music at the College of William and Mary.

Because she was beautiful and young, stories abounded that she may have had a hand in Flanders' death.

Chapter 9

THE GRAVES OF WILLIAMSBURG

There are several grave sites scattered around Williamsburg. Burial customs, like other customs, have changed over the years. In days gone by people buried their dead quite often on their own property. Most churches maintained cemeteries on the church grounds, as can be seen at Bruton Parish Church, and most people attended church or had some connection thereto. However, after the Civil War the need for a public cemetery was felt and Cedar Grove was begun. No exact date can be given for the beginning of this cemetery since records are missing but most of the older graves date from the 1870's.

The oldest graves there are those of the Peachy family, which were moved into Cedar Grove from the vicinity of the Peyton Randolph House. The Peachys were a prominent family of lawyers and doctors who lived in Williamsburg since the 18th century. There was a Peachy family graveyard near the Peyton Randolph House which was formerly called the Peachy-Randolph House. The graves were moved in 1920 with one marker for eight graves. It is a flat slab raised a few inches off the ground with the following names and dates:

Col. Thomas Griffin Peachy	1734-1810
Elizabeth Peachy	1741-1781
Elizabeth Beverley Peachy	-- -1795
Thomas Griffin Peachy II	1760-1781
John Tayloe Peachy	1761-1785
William S. Peachy II	1818-1881
Virginia Daingerfield Peachy	1828-1866
Elizabeth Peachy	(no dates)

Next to this slab is an upright stone bearing the name Thomas Griffin Peachy, III and dates 1855-1918. There are other Peachy graves nearby with members of the family more recently deceased. They include Bathurst Daingerfield Peachy, 1858-1916, Mary Garnett Lane, wife of B.D. Peachy, 1871-1929, B.D. Peachy II, 1893-1953, Virginia D. Peachy, wife of Theodore F. Rogers, 1879-1951. In 1953 an iron casket with a glass window was uncovered behind the Randolph house on the present site of the windmill. It was believed to contain the remains of Mary Monroe Peachy, wife of Dr. William Samuel Peachy. She was living in this house in 1824 when Lafayette returned to town and here she entertained him. She died in 1836.

Near the Peachy graves are the tombs of the Spencer and Lane families. All three of these families were related by marriage. Next to the grave of Thomas G. Peachy III is a marker which bears the inscription:

Thomas Griffin Peachy Spencer
1885-1953
Son of J.B.C. Spencer and Sallie C. Peachy Spencer

Adjacent to his son is his father John B.C. Spencer, 1853-1944, son of William L. Spencer and Martha Richardson. John Spencer's full name was John Bacon Clopton Spencer but in spite of all these names he was called "Jack." He operated the Colonial Inn for many years which stood on the present site of Chowning's Tavern.

Evidence of local history can be seen in the tombs of Cedar Grove Cemetery from one end of it to the other. Only a few of the old families buried there have descendants still living in the area today. The majority have either died out or left the area. In a few families there are only female survivors and no males to carry on the family name. One name, prominent since Colonial days, has become rare around the world.

That name is Bucktrout. Their relatives, the Braithwaites and the Peebles are buried near them.

A dozen or so graves from the prominent Armistead family can be found. Several lawyers from this family practiced in Williamsburg. Recently a camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans was co-named after one of them, Robert Travis Armistead, who was a captain in the Confederate Army. He surrendered at Appomattox. His grandson and namesake was a retired circuit court judge living on the Duke of Gloucester Street. The SCV camp was called The Armistead-Timberlake camp. The Timberlake so remembered was Col. John Corbett Timberlake. His grave is near those of the Armisteads. Against the eastern wall of the cemetery is a Civil War monument with 221 graves of Confederate soldiers.

Only a few of them are marked by individual stones. Buried with their families in various sections of the cemetery are other Confederate veterans who died after the war. many of them have small metal markers with their names and army units.

Among the other families buried in Cedar Grove are the Cole family whose most recently remembered member was Henry Dennison Cole. From an active land owning family, Henry owned the Cole Shop on Duke of Gloucester Street. He lived next door on the corner of Nassau Street in what is now called the Taliaferro-Cole House. His grandfather, Jesse Cole, bought the shop and house in 1804. Den Cole's tombstone reads:

Henry Dennison Cole - Son of Robert and
Elizabeth Labbe Cole - Husband of
Caroline Dudley Lane - 1856-1936.

His wife's tomb reads:

Caroline Lane Cole
Daughter of Capt. Levin Winder Lane
and Martha Spencer - Wife of
Henry D. Cole. 1866-1950

If a book could be written about the graves of Cedar Grove, certainly several of them could be written about those of Bruton Parish Churchyard. Many of the graves here are much older than those of Cedar Grove. Only a comparative few will be dealt with here.

The oldest tombstone with a date is that of Thomas Ludwell who died in 1678. Even this stone seems to have been placed here after this date. There are twenty graves inside the church with stones on the floor. The marker of Nathaniel Bacon is affixed to the north wall of the tower. He died in 1692. Among the others buried inside the church are Rev. W.A.R. Goodwin, Rev. William H. Wilmer, Rev. Rowland Jones, Gov. Francis Fauquier, Col. John Page, James and Archibald Blair with members of their families, and one unknown grave. Rev. Goodwin's two younger sons, W.A.R., Jr. (Billy) and John S. (Jack) are buried on the outside of the north wall.

A short distance north of the tower entrances is a second monument to honor Col. John Page. This one is "To replace the original tomb-stone," as it states on the stone. It was erected in 1878. Both the old and new declare that he "departed this life on the 23rd of January in the year of our Lord 1691/2 Aged 65" but one side of the newer memorial puts the date of death at 1692. Gov. Edward Nott, who died in 1706, has an ornate tomb north of the tower entrance along the foundations of the original church.

It would appear that most of the Bucktrout family, attended Bruton in the 19th century since the dates of death run mostly in the second half of the century. There are two Benjamin Bucktrouts, named after their forebearer of the same name who leased Anthony Hay's cabinet shop and later went into the undertaking business. One stone is marked Benjamin E. Bucktrout who died in 1849. Another is marked Benjamin Earnshaw Bucktrout and his death was in 1846. Horatio Bucktrout, who was the last of the name to be in the funeral business, died in 1933 and is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery. He was apparently named after Horatio Nelson Bucktrout who was buried with the other members of the family in Bruton and who only lived to the age of 6. Virginia Constance Bucktrout Smith died in 1878 and is buried beside her husband, Sidney Smith. Their children and grandchildren are buried in Cedar Grove. Mary Elizabeth Bucktrout Neel is the last one of her line to be buried in Bruton. Her tomb proclaims:

Mary Eliza Neel
Died May 10, 1905
Daughter of Benjamin Earnshaw
and Lucy Talbot Bucktrout

She lived in what is now called the James Geddy House but for many years before its restoration was called the Mary Eliza Neel House. Between the ownership of Mrs. Neel and that of the Restoration it was called the Peachy House as one of the houses owned by the Peachy family.

Along the north wall of Bruton graveyard lies the body of Rev. Scervant Jones and his first wife. He was born in 1785 and died in 1854. Her dates are 1787 and 1849. His epitaph states that he was the "Late Pastor of the Baptist Church in this City." It goes on to declare that "Like the most of imperfect humanity he was not exempt from some of its frailities, but a kinder soul seldom existed. He was a zealous promoter of the

Baptist cause and many a personal sacrifice did he make to advance its interest." His wife's epitaph, composed by the poetic Reverend, sang the praises of the good woman whom he called his "Angel Wife." One of Williamsburg's legends is that the same stagecoach which brought the finished stone to town also brought the lady who was to be his second wife. Nobody seems to know why such an ardent Baptist was buried in an Episcopal churchyard.

The following is a story told of Jones with an example of his poetry.

It was the custom in the lifetime of this pastor to eat a meal with members of his congregation. One day he came to the house of a family named Howl. They were just finishing the evening meal and apologized for having little left but scraps and bones of the chicken they had just eaten. However, he sat down, bowed his head, and said the following blessing:

Lord of love,
look from above
and bless the Howl
that ate this fowl
and left the bones
for Scervant Jones.

There is a Confederate monument near the north wall among the graves of soldiers who were casualties of the Battle of Williamsburg. The church was one of several larger buildings used as hospitals during the battle in 1862.

Among the other graves in Bruton Churchyard of more than passing interest are those of Matthew Whaley and his father, James. His mother, Mary, was living in England at the time of her death and is buried there. More about the Whaleys is related in the chapter on schools.

The Tucker-Coleman family is represented by 19 graves. They descend from St. George Tucker, the immigrant who came from Bermuda in 1770. He bought and moved a small house from Palace Green to Nicholson Street and added to it over the years, thus creating the St. George Tucker House. His granddaughter Cynthia Beverley Tucker first married Henry Washington and after his death married Charles W. Coleman, a Williamsburg physician. Other members of the family were teachers, lawyers, writers, and soldiers. Dr. Janet Kimbrough is the last of the family to live here. At her death, the St. George Tucker House went to Colonial Williamsburg, who now owns it.

Twelve members of the Garrett family are buried at Bruton. In 1810 Henry Garrett bought the Coke House which later became the Coke-Garrett House. His son, Robert Major Garrett, was a physician who treated Civil War wounded from both sides on the lawn in front of his home on Nicholson Street. The latter's granddaughter Carra Garrett Dillard lived near the original home until her death. Behind the Coke-Garrett House is a

small graveyard enclosed in a brick wall which contains the grave of:

Col. Alex Garrett
1823-1854
Educated at William and Mary as a lawyer
Slab put up by S.B.M. Garrett and B.F. Garrett, his surviving brothers.

During the restoration of the Carter-Saunders House on the Palace Green and of the neighboring Elkanah Deane House several graves were found where the Deane House stables should be. In 1953, after several years of correspondence and negotiation with descendants of the Saunders family, permission was given and the graves were moved to Bruton Churchyard. There were seven people buried there according to the records, but apparently only four could be found. There were only two stones which read:

My Mother
Lucy S. Saunders
Died
March 15 AD 1849
at an advanced age

My Uncle
Robert Saunders
Died
May 16 A.D. 1835
Aged 78 years

The unknown graves were so marked and an additional stone was added reading: "The Remains of Robert Saunders and Lucy S. Saunders and those of two unknown persons from the Saunders Burial Plot were reinterred here November 27, 1953."

In addition to the graveyards of Cedar Grove and Bruton, there are several small family grave sites in the colonial area. It was difficult to move graves and most of them were not in the way of the restoration projects so they were left as found but protected by brick walls. One of these was the Jones family graveyard found between the Capitol and the Public Records Office. The latter was the home of some of the Jones family. Virginia and Mary Rowland Jones were the last of the family to live there. Colonial Williamsburg acquired the building from them and gave them life tenancy after some intense bargaining. The two sisters are buried there with their parents and three other sisters.

Between the Benjamin Waller House and Bassett Hall on Francis Street lies the graveyard of the Waller and Mercer families. The alliance can be seen by the names on the stones:

Hugh Mercer Waller
1829-1896

Dr. John B. Mercer
died 1884 age 26

Also buried here are Thomas Jefferson Stubbs, a William and Mary mathematics professor and his son, T.J. Stubbs, Jr., who succeeded his father on the faculty. The elder Stubbs married into the Waller family.

Behind the Taliaferro-Cole House on the west edge of a ravine lies a small walled graveyard containing some remains of some of the Cole family. The stone reads:

My Jesse
Son of R.F. and E.R. Cole
died 1866 - 16 years

Catherine
child of R.F. and E.R.
Cole born 1845 died 1846

In Memory of George Washington
third son of Pleasant Labby
Lynchburg 1825-1855

On the north side of the ravine, behind the Curtis-Maupin House is another small walled graveyard containing the graves of two John M. Maupins, one 24 years old, the other 43. The latter died in 1850. Also here is a stone which reads Thomas J. Harrell 21 years.

Beside the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum on South England Street can be found two graves with stones saying:

Bell Debress
wife of Edward Debress
died Dec. 11, 1901
mother of Bettie Baker
and Willie Debress

Mary Ann Debress
Died 1885 Aged 18 yrs.

Old-timers remember these as members of a black family.

Under the chapel of the Wren Building at William and Mary are buried from 9 to 12 bodies. About 1728 several crypts were built there and on the death of Norborne Berkeley, Baron of Botetourt, Governor of the Virginia Colony in 1770, he was buried in one of them. However, today the tomb is empty. Information in the College Archives says the tomb was robbed twice - once in 1862 and again in 1969. There have been rumors of tombs robbed at various times in recent years by fraternities.

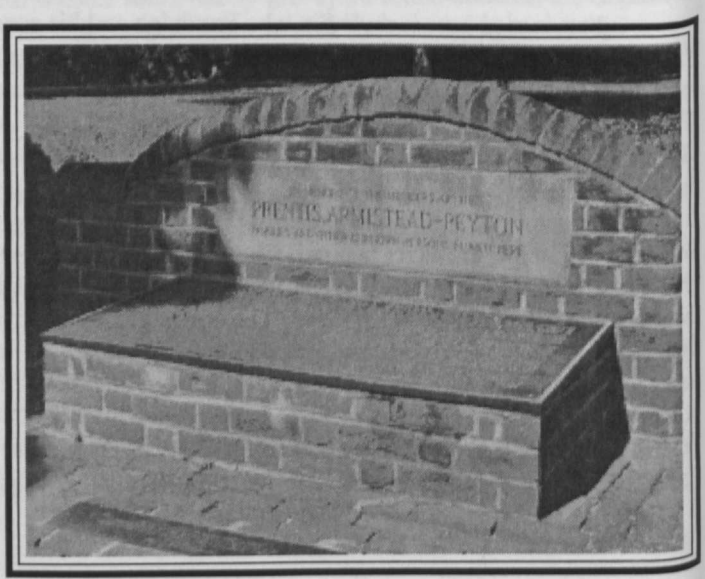
Others buried here include Sir John Randolph and his sons, John and Peyton, with their wives. Also buried here are Bishop James Madison, president of the College from 1777 to 1812; Chancellor Robert Nelson, who taught mathematics and died in 1818; a student, Gregory Page, son of Governor John Page; and, possibly Mrs. Madison. The latest burial placed the body of William and Mary President Thomas R. Dew with the others. He died in 1846 but was not moved to the chapel crypt until 1939.

Northwest of the Wren Building can be found the College Cemetery. Like the Wren Chapel crypt, the exact number of graves here is not known but it is thought to be ten. The Cemetery was marked off by Ben Ewell and he is buried there. His is one of the three headstones to be found there. The others mark the graves of Thomas T.L. Snead, a mathematics professor and captain in the Confederate Army, who died in 1872; and Lucian Minor, who taught law at the College and died in 1858. He was first buried at Bruton but was moved to the college cemetery in 1866. College records show that other members of Ewell's family are buried with him. They are his mother Elizabeth, sister Rebecca, and daughter, Elizabeth Ewell Scott, and her husband, Ben S. Scott.

Their son, Ben S. Scott II died in 1918 and is buried in Cedar Grove. Matilda Southall is buried with them but her relationship to the Ewell family is not clear. Two students are believed to be buried there also. One named Thornton, drowned at Capitol Landing, and the other was named Turner.

The wall around the cemetery was built in the late 1920's from a $550.00 gift by Mrs. Harriet S. Turner of Washington, D.C. She donated the money in 1925 but it took several more years for the College to complete the work.

During the early 1980's a small graveyard on the corner of Nassau and Scotland Streets began to be in the news and continued for six years. The story should begin in the early 1930's when Dr. Henry Davis bought a house on Palace Green. It had to be moved out of the way to make room for the expansion of the Restoration. He moved it to the corner lot across from Matthew Whaley School. He and his family lived there for many years. After his death, his widow, Mrs. Maxie Davis, sold it to Colonial Williamsburg in 1980. The officials of Colonial Williamsburg began to have the house demolished and the lot cleared. They soon had to stop since retired Judge Robert Armistead took legal action against them. He declared the corner was a cemetery for his ancestors. Colonial Williamsburg's officials claimed they had no knowledge of such and were only clearing brush. Litigation continued between the two parties for years before final resolution was reached. After extensive excavation, Colonial Williamsburg finally admitted that they found evidence of a few graves on the corner. Soon after "the smoke cleared" Colonial Williamsburg informed Armistead in a gracious letter that they felt no animosity toward him. They proved it by providing a small but impressive monument on the corner with plaques honoring the Armistead, Prentis, and Peyton families.



Prentis-Armistead-Peyton Monument

Chapter 10

NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Neighboring communities were a part of Williamsburg life in the 1930s. Yorktown was very familiar to me and my family since my mother's brother, James Rowe, lived there. After living with us in Williamsburg for a while, he found employment with the Park Service at Yorktown. He was soon married and settled there. He later transferred to the Naval Mine Depot.

We became acquainted with many of the residents of Yorktown. Among them were such people as B. Floyd Flickinger, superintendent of the National Colonial Monument. (The early name for the National Colonial Park). Jack Renforth owned Monument Lodge at the corner of Main Street and Monument Road. Amos Dadds operated a shoe shop on Main Street near the Somerwell House. There was Mrs. Armand who kept a dining room in her home where she fed lunch to working men. The home sat overlooking the river near Ballard Street. Her daughter married B. Floyd Flickinger.

Mr. Fletcher managed the golf course that reached from the vicinity of the present Park Service Visitor Center toward Moore House Road, covering some of the present battlefield.

The smallest store I ever saw was a hardware store owned and operated by Mr. Tignor. It wasn't much larger than ten feet square and was packed with almost anything one would expect to find in a hardware store. Like most stores of its kind in those days it smelled of some of its wares such as rope, linseed oil, fertilizer, and seeds. There was not much room to walk around and it was somewhat cluttered but Mr. Tignor seemed to know where everything was and never took very long to find any item requested.

Yorktown was our favorite place to go fishing. Dad was an ardent fisherman and brother Clarence and I often went with him. We fished on the Navy's fuel oil pier since Dad was a friend of Bennie Bray who supervised the pier. Dad sometimes rented a boat from the DeNeufville family (pronounced Donnervul) who kept them on the beach in front of their house which is now the Archer Cottage. They controlled Cornwallis' Cave and charged a small admittance fee. Relatives from Newport News often met us at Yorktown where we shared a picnic which was followed by swimming, games, and exploring the area. One of the things we explored was the remains of an uncompleted hotel. It was a massive thing made of concrete and steel, built in the early years of the century. It never developed beyond the framework but remained for many years as a stark reminder of a dream that failed. It was located in the vicinity of the present Park Service Visitor Center.

We were aware to some extent that the Park Service was doing on a small scale for Yorktown what Rockefeller was doing for Williamsburg. We heard that he helped the Park Service finance the restoration of the Moore House.

An Act of Congress established the National Colonial Monument in 1930. It was later changed to National Colonial Park because the word 'monument' conveyed the idea of a stone carving or structure. The contract for paving the Parkway was let in 1934. Before it was finished I took my first ride on it on a bicycle. In the following years I was to hike along this fine roadway with the scouts, camp along it, and ride to Yorktown and Gloucester and explore all the area between.

Gloucester County was frequently visited by me and my family since we kept in close contact with our relatives there. The earliest record of the Belvin people in Gloucester is dated about 1650. They lived there and in York County through the years. My parents were born and married there. My mother's father was a farmer, and my brothers, my sister, and I were exposed to the joys of a small farm at an early age without any of the labor attached thereto. When we were small Grandpa Rowe had a horse which we sometimes rode, a barn which we explored, and fields and woods through which we romped. These activities created large appetites which were satisfied by the huge country meals cooked by Grandma. Other relatives lived in various sections of the county and we enjoyed our visits to all of them.

Jamestown always fascinated me after I studied its history in school and realized that it was where the history of our country began. During my childhood there was not much to see or do there but the old church, the statues of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas, and the old ruins and tombs attracted my attention and made it an interesting place to visit. It used to be a favorite place for family picnics. We could always sit and watch the ferry come and go across the river. Many people went there to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It was a place for quiet contemplation, a place to commune with nature. At night it was somewhat of a lover's lane. Cars would be parked along the river next to the ferry slip. Some people would drive up and watch until the ferry docked and then they would drive off. There was an old pier parallel to the ferry slip which attracted a few people for fishing. After I began to paint signs in the late 1940s I became acquainted with William Harrison Smith who managed a small gift shop and post office for the APVA. He called upon me to paint signs around the old church and the tombs to guide visitors. Through him I met Miss Ellen Bagby from Richmond. She was the APVA representative at Jamestown, a small but very effective guardian of its treasures. She hired Sam Robinson to guide the visitors and narrate the history of the church and tombs which he did in a very entertaining manner for many years.

Sam was a black man from South Carolina with a strong accent. He reached the peak of his narration in the graveyard when telling about the mother-in-law tree. This tree, a sycamore, had grown between the tombs of the Reverend James Blair, founder of

William and Mary, and his wife Sarah. Her family was against their marriage because she was promised to another man. Thus the tree between the tombs was dubbed "mother-in-law" tree.

In 1893 the APVA acquired 22.5 acres of land at Jamestown from Mr. and Mrs. Edward Barney some of which was donated to the U.S. government in 1907. This was the year that the 300th anniversary of Jamestown's founding was celebrated. A monument was built there commemorating the event and a hard surfaced road was constructed giving easy access to the island.

Jamestown was changed a great deal in 1957 when the Colonial Parkway was finally completed. It was then that Jamestown Festival Park was opened and the APVA facilities were modernized. A new entrance roadway was built from the Parkway and the old road was dead-ended and renamed "Neck-o-Land."

Lightfoot is a small village three miles northwest of Williamsburg. The post office there was established January 25, 1881, and shared a building with a store owned by Lightfoot Taylor. The area was called Kelton when local merchant Langdon T. Hankins applied for a post office. He suggested that it be named Lightfoot for a prominent family owning a large amount of land in the area.

In 1982 when the post office celebrated its one hundredth anniversary, descendants of this family held a reunion in the village. The oldest member was then 92 year old Frank K. Lightfoot. It is believed that this is the same family that descended from John and Phillip Lightfoot who arrived in Jamestown from England in 1679. They trace their roots back to Richard Lightfoot of England in 1562.

The present brick post office building was built in 1975 replacing a small frame building which served from 1922.

Norge, a mile or two north of Lightfoot had its beginnings in 1882 when the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad completed a line from Richmond to Newport News. Looking for people to settle on land near the tracks, the railroad employed as one of its real estate agents Carl Bergh, a native of Norway who was brought up in Wisconsin. He set up an office in Richmond and made plans for Norge. Bergh sent pamphlets describing the area to Scandinavian settlements in the Midwest.

By 1902 there were 61 Norwegian families living around Norge, supporting themselves mainly by farming. The name became official in 1906 when the post office was established. Bergh was one of its early postmasters. In 1908 the settlers built Viking Hall, a sturdy frame building which was used as a community center. Its name has changed several times over the years but the determination of its users has remained constant, to serve the community. It remains today, little changed since its construction, as Norge Community Hall.

In 1898 a Lutheran Church was established in Norge and the present church was built in 1904 on land donated by Bergh. Later the name was changed to Our Savior Lutheran Church.

I remember Norge from my childhood days as the home of Smith's Ice Cream, a place where the best home made ice cream on the whole Peninsula could be found. People came from miles around to buy it.

Several of my school mates were from Norge and I was acquainted with others. Some of the families I remember were: Pederson, Jacobson, Rustad, Tyssen, Benson, Levorsen, Maxton, Flatten, Jenson, Kinde, Brenegan, and Anderson.

Some of my classmates in high school had attended elementary school at Magruder, in York County. This village was settled after the Civil War and was named after General John B. Magruder. He was in charge of defenses on the Peninsula which included Williamsburg. The village is not to be confused with Ft. Magruder, a series of trenches and earthworks built on the eastern edge of town to stop the advance of General George B. McClellan and his Union forces up the Peninsula. It is just east of Grace Baptist Church on Penniman Road.

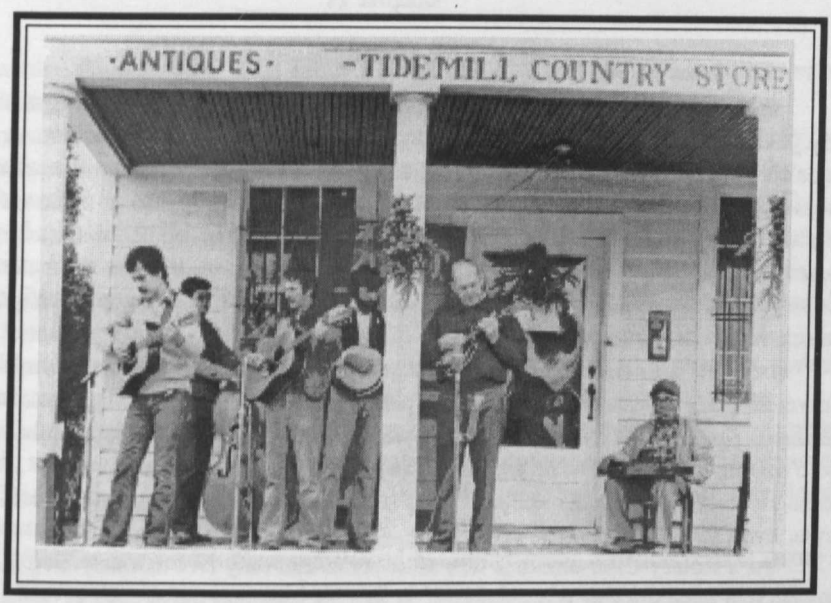
York Presbyterian Church was built and dedicated at Magruder Village in 1867 and its graveyard holds some of the residents of the area. Some of the names found in it are Maynard, Gage, Ewan, Schenck, and Norment.

Magruder was a small quiet village until 1942 when the U.S. government decided to build a Sea Bee camp there to train the Navy's builders for their part in World War II. The village was acquired with all the surrounding land between Queen's Creek on the south and Skimino Creek on the north. The York River forms the eastern boundary. Named Camp Peary after the explorer Admiral Robert Peary, it was abolished after the war. However it was soon re-established as a secret government base. Only in the middle 1970s did the people of Williamsburg discover that it was a CIA base for clandestine activities.

Some of the long-time residents profited by the government take-over but others were disturbed by it. One man was said to have died of a broken heart from losing his beloved home there.

Included in Camp Peary acreage on Queen's Creek was Porto Bello, the country home of colonial Governor Dunmore, acquired by him in 1773. His servants at the Palace in Williamsburg took sanctuary here when Dunmore fled to a ship in the York River in 1775. After he left Virginia the property was taken over by the State.

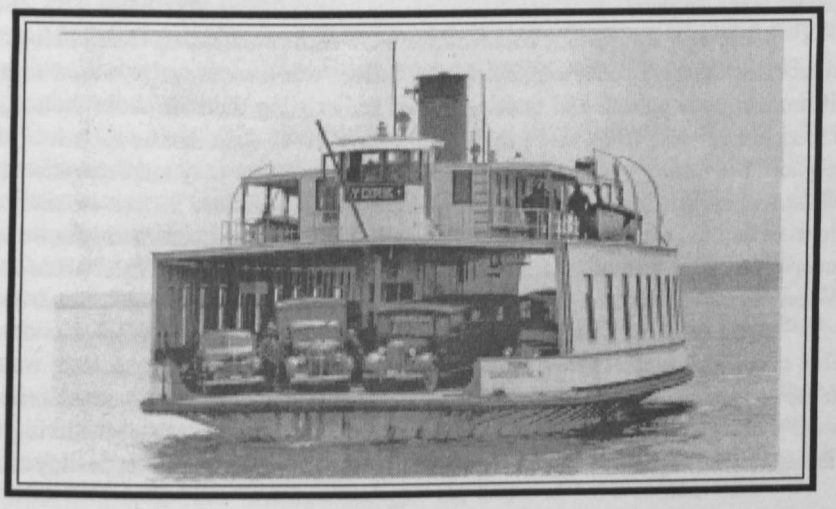
Some of the Bright family of Williamsburg lived at Porto Bello during the 19th century and are buried there. Robert Anderson Bright was born in Williamsburg and acquired some fame as a Captain on Pickett's staff during the Civil War. His father, Samuel F. Bright owned Porto Bello. Samuel's first wife, Susan, and his second wife, Elianna, are buried there. The latter died in 1839. During the 1920's and '30's it was owned by Spafford Timberlake and Richard Mahone. The last time the house was occupied was during the Sea Bee days of World War II. Today it sits like other nearby colonial homes on military bases, a sad and lonely looking relic of the past.



Courtesy of Barbara Dunston

J.D. Gilley's Bluegrass String Band performing on the porch of Tidewater Country Store in Gloucester

Left to right are Dennis Owens, J.D. Gilley, Jr., Bill Jenkins, J.D. Gilley, Sr., Ken Worrell, seated is Jimmy Belvin, guest performer.



Gloucester Pt - Yorktown Ferry
1930 s
Its last crossing was in 1952.

Courtesy of Barbara Dunston

Chapter 11

SPEECH OF THE WILLIAMSBURG AREA

Williamsburg has become pretty much of a cosmopolitan community in the past fifty years. Part of the reason for this may be found in the changes which have taken place on the Peninsula, especially during and since World War II when thousands of people poured into the area to work in the Newport News shipyard and the various military bases. Many of them settled permanently in the area. Williamsburg, however, began to change soon after its restoration brought visitors to town from all over the country and even from foreign parts in the 1930s. Some of this change is reflected in the speech of the local residents.

In 1930 Williamsburg Holding Corporation in cooperation with Columbia University, engaged two men to make a phonographic record of the speech of the Peninsula including Williamsburg. They were Cabell Greet and William Meloney. They were hoping to isolate a Williamsburg accent but the population was not as homogeneous as they had expected. Too many newcomers had taken up residence in town, even then.

At a Rotary Club dinner it was discovered that only five of thirty-five men present had been born in Williamsburg. It was decided that the speech of Williamsburg was very similar to that of nearby counties and the cities of Richmond, Norfolk, and Petersburg. The typical speech of Williamsburg was "rather rapid."

Examples were given using such descriptive words as diphthongs and palatalization. Most of these examples were too technical for the casual reader, being more for a determined philologist. However, there were several noteworthy points. Many similarities were discovered between the speech of Tidewater Virginia and that of coastal New England.

Some very interesting observations were made concerning Guinea Neck in Gloucester County. After explaining that Guinea was a small isolated area with a different speech pattern and quoting one of the existing theories about the origins of the "Guineamen," Mr. Greet and Mr. Meloney went on to describe the speech of the local people. The theory of the origin of the Guineamen is that they are descendants of Hessian soldiers disbanded at Yorktown after the Revolution. However, since no German names remain in the area nor any trace of German accent, this is not a widely accepted theory. A more plausible one is that they originated in Wales since so many Welsh names can be found there such as Green, West, Williams, and Jenkins.

A bit of Guinea history was mentioned when the "Oyster War" was described. This event took place in the 1920s. Watermen from Hampton and Norfolk waters began to move into tributaries of the York River which the men of Guinea considered their own. (Waterman is a term used locally to describe a man who makes his living from fishing, clamming, oystering, crabbing, etc.) They armed themselves, destroyed markers,

and threatened the outsiders. This show of force soon repelled the invaders and the men of Guinea once more had sole access to their traditional territory.

Another observation was made about the location of Guinea, still heard today. If you ask a local resident where Guinea is, the reply is always, "Five miles down the road." Actually the name applies to one of several necks of land off of Mobjack Bay which opens on the York. Guinea Neck is bounded by the York and Severn Rivers and Mobjack Bay. The capitol of Guinea is said to be Maryus, a small village named after a highly respected lawyer who taught Sunday school there at the turn of the century, Maryus Jones.

After these observations were made an attempt was made to describe the speech of the Guineamen. Diacritical marks and other symbols were used, but I shall use phonetics here to approximate the sounds described. Time was pronounced toim; pine, poin; road, roud; and boat, bout. These pronunciations and others combined with some words clipped and spoken somewhat rapidly made the speech of the area un-intelligible to many outsiders.

In 1899 Dr. Bennet W. Green of Warwick County (now Newport News) wrote a book "Word Book of Virginia Folk Speech," in which he told about the dialects of Virginia in general and Tidewater in particular. His up-front statement was that Virginians spoke English in a more original form than anyone else because it is believed there were no others of "as purely English stock." He stated that many early Virginians came from southwest England and that much of the language heard in Virginia could be found in that part of the mother country. Some of the examples he gave were: keer for care; heerd, heard; yalla, yellow; brek, break; git and yit, get and yet; aufis, office; caufy, coffee; jine, join; and kivver, cover.

Some of these examples can still be heard today but others can be found only in the mountains or other isolated areas. Some were not restricted to Virginia, but can be heard throughout the South.

Dr. Green also included in his word list words that Virginians use differently from their original meanings such as about, meaning nearly - "It is about 20 miles from here." He used afire meaning on fire - "The house is afire!" Some of his words are rarely heard today such as draggle or drabble, meaning to drag in the dirt or water.

As the world grows smaller, methods of communication become increasingly sophisticated, and the population becomes more thoroughly mixed, we shall probably speak the same way. This will be good for communication but not so good for culture, variety, or colorful speech.

In Williamsburg people have long been conscious of the way they speak, since so many people from all over have passed through town. Lt. Cronin, the Union officer stationed in the Vest Mansion during the Civil War, wrote that Southerners were quick to detect what they called the "Yankee twang." He wrote about a soldier who objected to being called a Yankee. A Williamsburg girl who referred to him as such was

promptly informed that he was from New York and that only those from New England should be called Yankees.

One Southern lady was heard to say that before the Civil War the noon meal was "dinner" and the evening meal was "supper." This was before the Yankees came and brought "luncheon" (soon shortened to "lunch") for the noon meal and "dinner" for the evening meal. Many long time Williamsburgers, as well as other Southerners, still use the older forms.

Following are some of the pronunciations heard in and around Williamsburg in recent years:

baid	-bed	Glawster	-Gloucester
bawn	-barn and born	glawsy	-glossy
cawn	-corn	haid	-head
cawst	-cost	hawse	-horse
cotehouse	-courthouse	kittle	-kettle
daid	-dead	lawst	-lost
dawg	-dog	stob	-stake
gawn	-gone	tow	-tore

Glawster is the generally accepted pronunciation of this English place throughout the South. It seems to go back to Elizabethan English. Outsiders usually say Glow-ster (rhymes with cow) or Glos-ster (rhymes with hos sound in hospital).

Chapter 12

THE DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II

Williamsburg didn't feel the effects of the Great Depression as much as other communities of the Peninsula. For two centuries Eastern State Hospital and The College of William and Mary had provided employment for a hundred or two people. Finally, soon after the Depression started, the Restoration added to the bounty of the two state institutions.

Money was scarce for many but there were no soup kitchens that I ever heard about. The more enterprising citizens worked in home gardens and canned their produce to help with the groceries. Some sold items they could spare from their homes. Young boys shined shoes and sold newspapers on the street. They also sold flowers, peanuts, and other items. Another source of income was collecting soft drink bottles to get the deposit placed on them by grocery stores. An opportunity to reap income which only a college town could offer came from William and Mary. Its biology students were required to have a collection of insects and could be seen all over town swinging their nets trying to catch them. The lazier students would hire young boys to perform this task for them.

The number of traveling peddlers increased in town. Hobos could often be seen in town looking for handouts. These were sometimes homeless men, but others had left good homes to "ride the rails" looking for jobs across the country. Strangely, there was very little crime committed by these transients. More crime was probably committed by the occasional arrival of a group of Gypsies. They usually came to town mostly in small caravans composed of several cars or trucks. They were rarely welcomed by the locals since they dressed poorly, often spoke in foreign accents, and people near their camps complained that things from their yards were often missing when they left.

With the coming of President Roosevelt's New Deal in 1933, Williamsburg felt some upturn of the economy, especially at William and Mary. Acting President Kremer J. Hoke requested help from the newly formed Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to develop a park in the College woods. Federal and state officials granted his request and Camp Matoaka was built on an athletic field at the edge of the woods, as a base from which to build the park. After almost a year Matoaka Park was completed. It was dedicated the same day as the inauguration of newly elected John S. Bryan as William and Mary President.

The new park included Players Dell, an open-air amphitheater, bridges, trails, a picnic area, and bridle paths near Lake Matoaka. President Bryan, Dean Hoke, and the faculty and students were well pleased with "the beautiful park."

When the park was completed the CCC personnel were used for other work around the local area. They excavated much of Jamestown, landscaped the Parkway, and fought forest fires. As their work tapered off with the build-up of the military at the

approach of World War II there was no longer a need for Camp Matoaka. It was finally abandoned in early 1942. The men and equipment were sent to the Naval Mine Depot at Yorktown.

The park was neglected during the War and the campus has expanded over much of its area today.

William and Mary had aid from other federal agencies besides the CCC, such as the Work Progress Administration (WPA). There were loans to build new buildings and a new stadium. The latter was called an amphitheater, but everyone knew it was to be a football stadium. By 1935 the College had managed to have a boathouse built on the lake which housed rowboats and canoes.

This writer graduated from Matthew Whaley High School in 1941, six months before the advent of Pearl Harbor. My first action toward the war effort was as a plane spotter in the tower of the Methodist Church on the corner of Main St. (Duke of Gloucester) and Boundary. I started this activity as a Boy Scout before graduation and took turns with other scouts and other groups of volunteers. The only excitement about planes took place after I was drafted out of William and Marry. A small Army plane crashed in the woods near Lake Powell. Nobody was injured.

Most of the wartime activity and the effects on the people of Williamsburg were reported to me by my family members and friends because I was in the army after January 1943.

My family had to deal with the inconveniences of civilian life. They had rationing books with stamps to regulate their purchases of items which were in short supply. On this list were meat, sugar, coffee, gasoline, and shoes. People traded stamps with each other for each of the items. Tires were on the list and scrap rubber was collected to help as well as scrap paper. Even cooking grease was collected to help in making explosives. Women united to knit socks and scarves for the troops overseas. They also rolled bandages and worked in the USO building, cooking, and entertaining.

In the summer of 1942 I worked in William and Mary's work-study program. My job was at the Naval Mine Depot, clearing land and building quonset huts for the expansion of the base as wartime missions increased. Others in the program worked in the post office, Casey's Department Store, and VEPCO (now Virginia Power). A special bus picked me up at my home on Francis Street and returned at "quittin' time."

In early 1942 the Navy confiscated 11,000 acres on the York River to build Camp Peary. The acreage surrounded the village of Magruder and included the historic Porto Bello Plantation. The residents were moved temporarily to the now vacant CCC Camp at William and Mary, Grove, and other areas. When construction was completed, the base housed 85,000 Sea Bees, the navy's Construction Battalion.

In 1943 the Chaplains School was moved from Norfolk Naval Base to William and Mary. It graduated 2,700 chaplains in two and one half years until it closed. The Army Specialized Training Program sent its first members to William and Mary in August

1943. It trained them in engineering, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and foreign languages. Classes for the soldiers were not typical of civilian college life. They marched to classes, the dining hall, and other duty areas. Reveille was 6 a.m. Then came physical education and military drill. Classes went from 8 a.m. to 5:20p.m. Those who failed would likely end up in the infantry. Both army and navy programs helped William and Mary when the draft was taking most of the male students. Many male faculty members were leaving the College for the military or other government service. This caused the administration to be shifting classes and instructors around to meet changing conditions. An attempt to help the war effort led the College to offer classes in map reading, camouflage, home nursing, and other subjects for military use.

The Colonial Parkway from Yorktown to Williamsburg had been completed by1938 and the tunnel under the town by 1942. A shortage of men and materials prevented the road's completion to Jamestown. However, the tunnel found use as an air-raid shelter for the duration of the war. It was not until 1957 the Parkway was finished to Jamestown.

My personal observation of Williamsburg after World War II started at William and Mary. When I returned to my studies there in January, 1946 after military service, I was more serious as were most of my fellow vets. As we crowded the campus we seemed to be trying to make up for lost time. We were enrolled under the G.I Bill which paid our tuition plus a little for living expenses. This diminished the struggle most of us experienced paying our way through college before the war.

Having grown up in Williamsburg, I differed from most students by knowing a majority of the local residents and by trying to keep track of the town's activities. My family and friends helped me to be aware of more than I could alone. We were always aware of local government, Colonial Williamsburg's activities, and to some extent, the lives of our neighbors.

Before the war I had worked in the A&P Store and afterward in the A&N Store. I worked with the Common Glory for the first four summers of its existence which began in 1947. This was a symphonic historic drama written by Paul Green and performed at Matoaka Lake Amphitheatre. My job was painting scenery and props by day and moving the same into position at night. We dressed in dark clothes so when the lights went out between scenes, we could not be seen moving the heavy sets. Rubber rollers helped us to move silently.

Intense study, working several jobs, and occasionally helping my family left little time for social life on campus. All I had time for was a few outings with local pals and gals.

William and Mary was expanding as was the town. A new department was added, the Department of Military Science and Tactics. Its Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was arranged by President Pomfret and commanded by Colonel Giles Carpenter.

After the veteran influx had receded more out-of-state students were admitted. More scholarships were added. Enrollment increased in Fraternities and new lodges were built. "Because of their seriousness, maturity, and determination, the veterans starred in academics and in extracurricula activities; they dominated student government, athletics, and campus organizations."

While the College was growing under the leadership of President Pomfret the town was adding new enterprises. A frozen food locker and a new skating rink were built, both on Richmond Road. Building was booming and population was increasing.

Law enforcement was improving. James City County Sheriff Wayne Lovelace found a new way to find illegal moonshine stills. He spotted them from a small plane, owned and operated by a William and Mary student.

In 1950 our country was at war again. The onset of the Korean War again affected the male students at the College. This time, however, the administration of William and Mary was better prepared. The ROTC unit was quickly available. Pomfret led the College in preparation but the most obvious change came in the athletic program.

Years after the first half of the twentieth century ended and not in the time frame of this narrative there was an occasion that may be worth telling. In 1999 during the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Williamsburg I was asked to participate in one of the events. Several members of the Pulaski Club who had grown up in Williamsburg were requested to join a selected group of College students in a roundtable discussion. The aim was to inform them of what it was like to grow up in our town when we did. We answered all of their questions but when they discovered that we were all World War II veterans they became more interested in our wartime experiences than old-time Williamsburg.

Laura Johnston and her 3 sons who served in World War II:
Ralph, Everett and Calvin

SOME WILLIAMSBURG WWII VETERANS

Clarence Belvin
U.S. Navy

Thomas E. Belvin
U.S. Army Air Corp

James Bowry
U.S. Navy

James Prosoco
U.S. Army

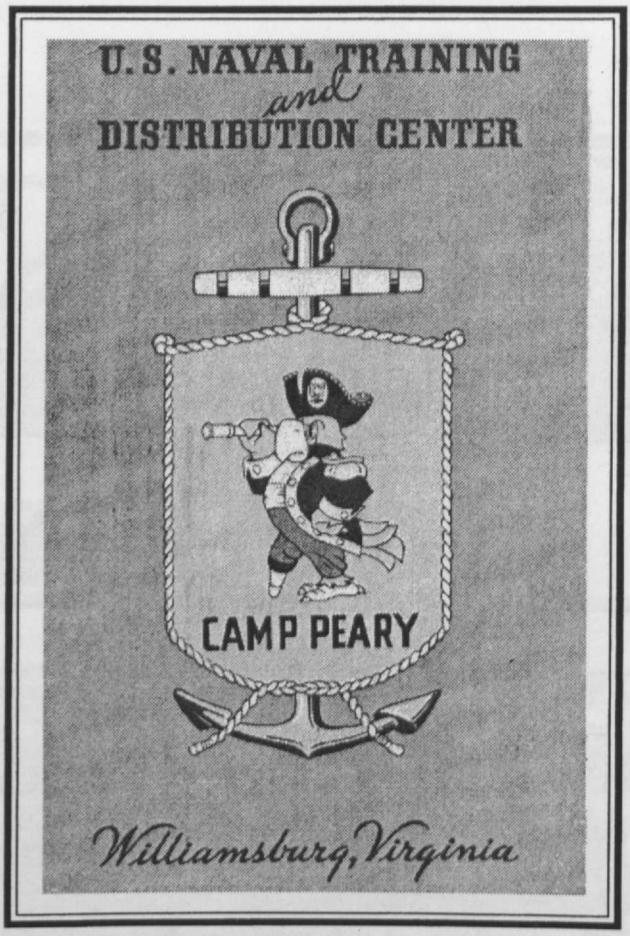
Williard Gilley
U.S. Army

Herbert Young
U.S. Marine Corp

Famous Williamsburg Visitors -
General Eisenhower and Prime Minister
Churchill
1946

Lord Botetourt Ready for War!

Sea Bee Float participates in
Williamsburg parade. (WWII)



Post Card from Camp Peary
postmarked 1945

The following inscription is found on the reverse of this card. It explains the significance of the design:

The Parrot, of the line of the Navy is the symbol indicating Camp Peary, and shows a peg-legged parrot dressed in a Naval Officer's Revolutionary War uniform. Parrots were universal on old sailing ships and at one time it was necessary to pass laws against carrying them, in order to prevent Parrot Fever to the crew aboard. The rather stern and forbidable Parrot indicates discipline, strength, and singleness of purpose.

Chapter 13

The Pulaski Club of Williamsburg, Virginia

(Founded 1779)

This club is reputed to be the oldest Social Club in the United States though there are probably clubs in other parts of the country who would be more than willing to argue the point.

The club by tradition dates back to a remark that General Washington is supposed to have made when he received news that Count Pulaski had died of the wounds he received while fighting for the American Cause at the battle of Savannah, "Something should be done to commemorate him."

We have records that go back over 100 years. It is probable that any older records were lost or destroyed during the "Late Unpleasantness" of 1862-1865.

A good definition of the Pulaski Club is: "A loosely knit group of like-minded individuals who like to see things go their way."

Traditions of the Club

1. Membership is limited to 31.
2. There are no dues, but there is an initiation fee of a quart of Virginia Bourbon Whiskey (one of these days we will have to amend the by-laws since the Government went metric on spirits on 1 January 1981).
3. The Membership Card is written out on an Octagon Soap Wrapper.
4. Two members constitute a quorum.
5. The regular meeting place is the three benches located in front of the Cole Shop on Duke of Gloucester Street in the Historic Area.
6. An "Annual Sociable" is held once a year usually for the purpose of drinking a toast to any departed members and to bring in any new members needed to bring the roster back up to 31, one member for each year of the Polish Patriot's life.
7. Tenets: Truth, Honesty and Sobriety.

The information above and on the following page is that presented by the Pulaski Club on a folder to anyone showing an interest in the club.

The Pulaski Club was organized at the Raleigh Tavern. It has no permanent quarters. Its only regular meeting place is on the three benches in front of the Cole Shop. These benches had become decrepit by 1936 and were replaced by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. He became a member of the club in 1950. In the early years the members met in the Cole Shop during bad weather. Today they meet in the homes of its members.

The club did not survive the Civil War but was revived largely by the efforts of Henry Denison Cole in the 1870s. He was then a student at the College of William and Mary, and his fellow students were likely the first members of the revived Pulaskians. This probably accounts for the benches being placed in front of "Den" Cole's family business, The Cole Book Shop.

The only social club in the country claiming to be older is one in Boston.

Count Casimir Pulaski
1748-1779

Count Pulaski was born in Poland on 4 March 1748. He studied Law and served in the Polish Army. He joined with his family in a revolt against the Polish King. The revolt was crushed and he fled the country.

Count Pulaski met Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane in France. They gave him a letter of introduction to General Washington and passage money. He fought at Brandywine and Germantown, then resigned his commission as Brigadier at Valley Forge after an argument with General Anthony Wayne.

Congress subsequently authorized him to organize an independent Corps of Cavalry and Light Infantry. He commanded French and American Cavalry at the siege of Savannah, and was mortally wounded, on October 9, 1779, and died two days later on the U.S. Brig *Wasp* enroute to Charleston, South Carolina.

The likeness of Count Pulaski is taken from a painting which may be seen in the portrait collection at Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

PULASKI CLUB

Organized 1779
Re-organized 1873

Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Pulaskians Jack Goodwin, Tommy Moyles
and Willard Gilley, entertaining tourists
on the Benches.

Courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg

The Cole Shop