

OLD NEW KENT COUNTY  
SOME ACCOUNT

OF

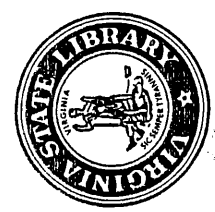
THE PLANTERS, PLANTATIONS,  
AND PLACES

IN

KING WILLIAM COUNTY  
ST. JOHN'S PARISH

Volume II

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CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

BOOK \_\_\_\_\_

during the ministry of the Rev. Mr. John Munro, who had a Christian sister of the Rev. Dr. James Blair, there was a division of the controversy between the Governor, Francis Mounro and the Commissary, Dr. Blair. Naturally, in the argument, Mounro was a staunch supporter of the Commissary, his brother-in-law, and soon after this, on a Sunday, the Church was boarded up by the people out. The right or wrong of the controversy is still a matter of interpretation of the few remaining records relating to the differences of opinions, in which the clergy were involved, between the Governor and the Commissary.<sup>6</sup>

The settlement of the county of King William had extended into the present county of Caroline, and the necessity of erecting a new line was realized by the year 1720 when, by an Act of the General Assembly the parish of St. John's was divided by a line from Old's Ferry on the Mattaponi River, towards Crenshaw's Ferry to Pamunkey, to Mumkeying Bridge and up the swamp to the line of Bray's land to Marial's Swamp also Queen's Swamp, on Pamunkey River." This line has been the upper boundary of St. John's Parish to this day.<sup>7</sup>

The Vestry of St. John's Parish on 22 December 1729 considered the two churches then standing in the parish beyond repair and ordered the erection of two new churches of "equal size and cost." These two churches were built and were completed in 1730 and were the Lower Church, now called St. John's or West Church, and the Upper Church, known as Aquinton. Both of these churches are standing; the Upper Church is in ruins and the Lower Church is undergoing restoration by the St. John's Restoration Society. The Lower Church is the last of the colonial churches under the control of the Episcopal Church in King William County. The most momentous and extended controversy which occurred in the parish in all of its history began about 1768 when a schism in the Vestry of St. John's Parish, which finally ended in an ecclesiastical hearing in the House of Burgesses, ending in the dissolution of the vestry and the election of a new vestry for the parish. This dissolution is recorded in the Minutes of the House of Burgesses and reveals many details concerning the vestry and other persons who were involved in the dispute.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> *Journal of the Council of State*, Vol. 4, page 272

<sup>7</sup> *Journal of the Council of State*, Vol. 4, page 272

<sup>8</sup> *Journal of the House of Burgesses 1772-1776*, pages 297 et seq.

The disestablishment of the church following the Revolution deprived the church of income to pay the ministers, and were compelled to go into other fields to support their families. Many spent their time in teaching. In time the Act of the Assembly for disposing of church property, ended in the sale of the glebes and then the churches.<sup>10</sup>

The two churches were for many years used by the various denominations that met the needs of the people. The Baptists used the St. John's Church for many years and the congregation became known as the Lower College Church, which later came into being as the Colosse Church and, after the new meeting house was erected in 1852, the church organization moved into the new church building and held their first service on May 1, 1853.

The Aquinton Church was used by a Methodist congregation and ultimately appears to have been at a later date conveyed to the Methodist Church, which holds title to the site to this day.

After the War (1861-1865) the county was sorely pressed for funds, so the old St. John's Church was put up at public auction and sold to the highest bidder, Capt. R. E. Lee and Doctor Buchanan Richards bid the church property in and later conveyed it to the Diocese of Virginia. This is the story of saving St. John's Church, which has in the last half century been undergoing a Restoration Program which really has been a program to preserve the building.

## (2) THE WEST FAMILY

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

It is a small wonder that Lady Cecelie, widow of Thomas, Lord de la War, in a petition to the King asking for the restitution of a pension which she had received for thirty-one years, declared that her husband Sir Thomas West, Lord de la War, had "at his own expense advanced funds for the plantations in Virginia, when they yielded nothing," and, in the consideration of the needs of her daughter, Jane West, she prayed that the pension would be resumed, for it had been allowed until the troubles began in 1640, leading to the Civil War and finally to the death of King Charles.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Shepherd, *Statutes at Large*, Vol. 2, page 314

<sup>11</sup> 18 VIMM 290, July 1910

Thomas West, the third Lord de la Warr, was the first resident Governor of the Colony. He arrived in Jamestown in June 1610 after a two months voyage, and just in time to prevent the colonists, who had survived the first year, from setting sail for England.

Sir Thomas West was a son of the Second Lord de la Warr and a member of the Privy Council of Queen Elizabeth I. He married Anne Knollys, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys and Katherine Cary, who was a first cousin of Queen Elizabeth I. This brought the West family in close kinship to the Royal family.

Thomas West, the third Lord de la Warr, the first resident Governor of Virginia 1609-1618, was born in 1577. He was educated at Oxford, knighted on July 12, 1599, and was a member of the Privy Council of Queen Elizabeth and King James. He was untiring in his efforts to preserve the colony and make the plantations in Virginia profitable.

Thomas West married Cecelie, daughter of Sir Thomas Shirley of Wiston, Knight.

In 1618 he made another voyage to Virginia; but a violent storm off the coast of Delaware capsized his vessel and he was drowned on June 7, 1618. This accident gave to the Bay his name, Delaware.<sup>12</sup>

Capt. Francis West, his brother, came to Virginia in 1608. He was commandant of Jamestown 1612-1617 and was the second West to act as Governor of Virginia 1627-1629. He lived at Westover, married his second wife, Dame Temperance, widow of Sir George Yearlley, Governor of Virginia, and for his third wife, Jane Davye. He died testate in 1634 and his will named one child.

Captain Nathaniel West, also a brother, born in 1592, married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Hinton. After her death she married, for her second husband, Abraham Piersey and later, for her third husband, Samuel Mathews. Capt. Nathaniel West died at West and Shirley Hundred and left one son, Nathaniel West.

John West, the fourth brother to come to Virginia, was born on 14 December 1590. He was educated at Cambridge and received the Bachelor's degree in 1613. He came to Virginia in 1618 in the *Bony Bass*. He was active in the military and commanded a company of soldiers against the Indians. He was elected to the House of Burgesses from the "other side of the Water 1629-30," was a member of the Council, 1631, a Justice in York County in 1634 and was acting Governor while John Harvey was in England from May 1635 until January 1636/37 when Harvey arrived in Virginia.

<sup>12</sup>Chart of Thomas West, Lord de la Warr, compiled by George C. Gregory, Esq., Richmond, Va.

Thus it was, that John West was the third son of Sir Thomas West, the Second Lord de la Warr, to become Governor of Virginia.

Capt. John West married Anne and they had a son, John West, who was the first white child born on York River and, at his birth, Capt. John West was granted 2,000 acres of land. Later, Capt. West was given 10,000 pounds of tobacco annually in appreciation of services rendered by the Wests to the colony.

He established his home at "Belfield" on the York River which was later the seat of the Digges family.

He later was granted the large tract in the forks between the Maltapony and Pamunkey at the head of York River which became the West Point Plantation, to which he moved. He established his home at the head of York River, where he died in 1659. It is believed that he was buried in the churchyard of the Chapel, which stood where the First Baptist Church now stands.

John West, his son, was only seventeen years of age when his father died, and when he was of age he came into possession of the large landed estate which his father had possessed.

John West was named in the Commission of Justices for New Kent County; he was an officer in the militia, and later in life was a Colonel and he enjoyed the honors and prestige which his family had enjoyed for he was the only male left to perpetuate the name in Virginia.

He married Ursula (Unity), daughter of Major Croshaw of York County.

At the time of Bacon's Rebellion, Col. West suffered at the hands of the Rebels, who had a large camp at West Point to which they brought a great deal of plunder from the surrounding area. Col. West sat on the court-martial which tried the Rebels.

Col. John West was appointed the first Sheriff of King and Queen County in 1691. His son, Nathaniel West, was his deputy and it was he who published the facts of his father's death which required a new election of a Burgess. Col. West had made a will on November 15, 1689. His death occurred in March 1691/2.<sup>13</sup>

The heirs of Col. West were named in his last will which has long been lost in the records of the county of King and Queen but are found in other records and were: John West, son and heir; Thomas West and Nathaniel West, and a daughter, Ann, who married Henry Fox.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Hening, Statutes at Large, Vol. VI, page 3210

<sup>14</sup>Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. I, page 424; Vol. II, page 338

John West, the third, succeeded his father and came into possession of the home at West Point. He and his brother, Nathaniel West, were elected the first Burgesses to represent the county of King William in the General Assembly. He was named in the first Commission of Justices for King William which convened in 1702.<sup>15</sup>

John West married Judith Armistead, daughter of Anthony Armistead of Elizabeth City County. He had an only son, Charles West, who inherited the whole West Point estate which he, in 1734, devised by will to his cousin, Thomas West, son of Thomas West, reserving for his mother lifetime rights in the large plantation.

The loss of records leaves some of the West family unidentified. William West was named in the Commission of Justices for 1729 and in 1732 there was an Act of the General Assembly which named William West as the owner of lands contiguous to the town of Delaware.

The second son of Col. John West, Thomas West, had established his residence on a tract of land lying on the south side of Bull Swamp, which had been given him during his father's lifetime and which his father had purchased of the Pamunkey Indians. He was elected a Burgess, was a Justice and often appears in the early records of the county.

Thomas West married Agnes, whose last name is not known. Thomas West joined, in 1714, with his brother, Nathaniel West, and nephew in conveying the land on the Pamunkey River to Capt. William Dandridge and Unity West, his wife, later known as Elsing Green.

The children of Thomas and Agnes West who are of record are: Nathaniel West (W. 1727), Thomas West (d. 1742), Francis West (1704-1796) and Agnes West who married Richard Gregory of Mount Pleasant.

The third son of Col. John West and Unity, his wife, Nathaniel West, married Martha Woodward Macon, widow of Gideon Macon and they had an only daughter, Unity West, who married Capt. William Dandridge of Elsing Green.

When Nathaniel West, son of Thomas West, died, he devised his estate by a will made in 1727 which gave to his brother, Thomas West, the home house tract, which was the home of his father on Bull Swamp, and to his brother, Francis West, a tract containing 615 acres called Apperchanking's Old Field, which was a part of the

<sup>15</sup> Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, Vol. 2, page 228; Journals of the House of Burgesses 1695-1702, pages 332 and 370

<sup>16</sup> Henning, Vol. 7, page 439

1,615 acres given to Thomas West by deed of gift from his father, Col. John West.

Thomas West married Martha, daughter of Col. William Cole of Warwick County and after his death, she married for her second husband, Ferdinando Leigh.

On the death of Judith Butts, the mother of Charles West, Thomas West moved from his place on Bull Swamp to the West Point home of his ancestors.

Thomas West and Martha Cole had among others, John West, who as oldest son, came into possession of the West Point plantation. John West petitioned the General Assembly for the right to dock the entail on some of his West Point land to help provide for the support of his younger brothers and sisters.<sup>17</sup>

John West, son of Thomas West of West Point, married Elizabeth, daughter of George Seaton and Elizabeth Hill, his wife, of King William County. They lived at West Point after their marriage. He was a vestryman in St. John's Parish and was named in the Commission of Justices issued for the county in 1773.

John West was a Colonel in the militia.

On the 8th of February 1787, Col. John West was reported to have died testate, by his oldest son, Col. Thomas West. An appraisal of his estate was filed in the counties of Amherst and Warwick during the year 1788. Col. John West and Elizabeth Seaton were reported to have had ten children but not all of them can be identified. His wife, Elizabeth Seaton West, survived him for many years and, in 1812, when she died, she was buried in the Cornick Cemetery in the County of Princess Anne.

Died on 8 May 1812, Mrs. Elizabeth West, relict of Col. John West of West Point, aged 72 years or in her 72nd year. She was interred on Sunday at Mr. E. Carnick's in Princess Anne County.<sup>18</sup>

Col. John West, the son of Col. John West and Elizabeth Seaton West, had resided in Norfolk where he had been a leading citizen. He was for many years, Captain in the 54th Virginia Militia, and, in 1815 was elected to the General Assembly of Virginia. He died on 16th of April 1818.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Journals of the House of Burgesses 1756-1766, page 10

<sup>18</sup> The Norfolk Herald, 11th and 12th May 1812.

<sup>19</sup> Notice in Norfolk Ledger Dispatch; Courtesy of G. H. S. King, Esq.

Delaw. West, son of Col. John West, died at the residence of his brother, Col. John West, in 1810.

There was a daughter, Lucy West, who is said to have married a Mr. Walker and moved into the South.

Martha West went with some of her family to Amherst County and there married George Gilbert.

George Gilbert and Martha West, spinster, March 3, 1783. Security: Daniel Gaines, Gent. John Stewart, aged 53 years, deposed that she was of his certain knowledge was over 21 years of age and a daughter of John West. On the 5th she deposed that she was 21 or 22 (years) in June last from a Register kept by her Father. Rev. Charles Clay officiated

March 7, 1783

Amherst County Order Book 1782-1784, page 107

### (3) THE WEST PLANTATION

The peninsula formed by the Mattapony and Pamunkey Rivers emptying into the York River is unique. This was known in colonial times because of the Indian Towns, which, by the Treaty of 1646 with the Powhatan Confederacy, forbid the English settling within the Indian Ring, a three mile limit of the towns.<sup>20</sup>

In 1652, Capt. John West, Esq., a Councillor of State, was granted 850 acres of land lying at the tip of the peninsula and extending up the Pamunkey River, and a year later, in 1653, he was granted an additional 3,000 acres of land which lay next to the former patent. These two grants of land invested the lower part of the peninsula, below Cypress Swamp, Maddegum Creek, and a line which ran from its headwater to the Mattapony River.

Capt. John West Esq: 850 acres at the mouth of the Narrows of the York River, being a neck of land on the north side of the York River, to a creek called tanks Maddegums, toward the Mattapony, on the east, and down Arnotteague Creek, which empties into the Mattapony. 3 July 1652.<sup>21</sup>

Capt. John West Esq: one of the Council of State, 3,000 acres on the north east side of the York River and southwest side of the Mattapony, beginning at the mouth of tanks Maddegums running up the main branch of same to Warranuncock path & to the mouth of a creek beneath the ancient Indian Ferry on Mattapony River, and thence down the river to the point of severing the Mattapony from York River.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Henning, Statutes at Large, Vol. 1, page 225

<sup>21</sup> Patent Book 3, page 93

<sup>22</sup> Patent Book 3, page 291

This large tract composed the West Plantation, and when Capt. John West (1590-1659) died, it passed to his son, John West (1632-1692), who kept the bounds intact during his lifetime, and when he died in the Spring of 1692, he devised the landed estate by will and confirmed several deeds of gift which he had made to his sons and grandsons. The West Point land descended to his oldest son, John West.<sup>23</sup>

The Act of the General Assembly which formed the county of King and Queen, provided for the town lands at West Point, and ten years later, was charged to the county of King William, to refund the county of King and Queen for its loss.<sup>24</sup>

When Col. John West died around 1723, his estate descended to his only son and heir, Charles West, who made his will in 1734, leaving all of his lands to his mother, Judith who had married for her second husband, John Butts, for her lifetime and after her decease to his kinsmen, Thomas West and Francis West. The estate contained around 4,000 acres.<sup>25</sup>

Thomas West moved into the West Point Estate on the death of Mrs. Judith Butts and, in 1742, he died unexpectedly and left a will in which he named his wife, Martha West, his Executrix and devised to his son, John West, the entire plantation at West Point. In 1761, John West petitioned the General Assembly to dock the entail on a part of the West Point land in order that he might sell a part of it to help support the younger children. The Act was passed and it permitted the sale of land lying along the Mattapony River and the money derived therefrom was to be invested in negroes, by trustees named: Bernard Moore, Peter Robinson, Philip Whitehead Claiborne and Carter Braxton, Gentlemen.<sup>26</sup>

Martha West married after the death of her husband, Thomas West, Ferdinando Leigh, and they lived at the West home for a number of years after her marriage.

John West sought to have the entail broken in 1761 and again in 1775, at which time he stated that the plantation contained 2,610 acres and that he was in financial difficulties.<sup>27</sup>

In the correspondence between Wm. Black and George

<sup>23</sup> Henning, Vol. 6, page 428

<sup>24</sup> Henning, Vol. 3, page 41 & King William Records 1700-1785, page 350

<sup>25</sup> Henning, Vol. 7, page 489

<sup>26</sup> Henning, Vol. 7, page 489

<sup>27</sup> Journal of the House of Burgesses 1772-1776, page 179

Washington, black mentioned that Col. John West was thinking of selling his West Point Plantation.<sup>28</sup>

Carter Braxton was in need of a home after Cherokee burned and he purchased of Col. John West the West Point Plantation. There is no record of the conveyance, but it probably took place about 1777 or 1778. Braxton was in financial straits after the Revolution and he gave a deed of trust to Charles Carter of Shirley and William Fitzhugh of Chatham, on the West Point lands.

The mortgage on the West Point plantation was sold by the trustees in March 1788 to Charles Carter of Shirley and William Fitzhugh of Chatham.

On October 18, 1802, an advertisement of the sale of that tract of land called West Point, lying between the Mattapony and Pamunkey Rivers, containing 3,000 acres was published in the Richmond newspapers. The notice of the sale was subscribed to by Charles Carter of Shirley and William Fitzhugh of Chatham.<sup>29</sup>

A similar advertisement had appeared in the Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette on June 21, 1802.

For Sale: The West Point Tract in the Lower end of King William County, beautifully situated at the confluence of the Pamunkey and Mattapony Rivers, containing 2,200 acres of high land and 700 acres of marsh and meadow. The subscribers warrant title to the property.

It is evident that Charles Carter at this time purchased the entire tract for when he made his will on May 3, 1806, he stated in the will that he wished the land at West Point to be sold and his daughters should have the proceeds.

Whereas the tract of land in King William called West Point was mortgaged by Carter Braxton to William Fitzhugh of Chatham and myself to secure us for money paid for said Braxton which mortgage was foreclosed By a Chancery decree March 1799, and the said tract ordered to be sold, which I bought for 7,000 £, I desire the said land to be sold and the bequest to daughters, Mildred and Lucy, 3,000 £ to be paid out of the proceeds.<sup>30</sup>

Charles Carter's Executors conveyed to John Taylor of Caroline County, the West Point tract. In 1805 Charles Carter had been charged with 3,601 acres of land in King William County and in

1806, John Taylor was charged with the same amount of land.<sup>31</sup>

In 1812, John Taylor of Caroline and Lucy, his wife, conveyed to his son, William Penn Taylor, by deed dated October 31, 1812, the land called West Point in the forks of the Pamunkey and Mattapony Rivers, purchased by the said Taylor of Carter & Fitzhugh and confirmed by the Richmond Court of Chancery, containing 3027 acres and also 30 negroes.<sup>32</sup>

William Penn Taylor lived at West Point for many years and during his residence here, purchased the Lots in Delaware Town from the several owners, and in this way restored the original plantation of West Point to one ownership. The last of the lots were transferred to William Penn Taylor in 1846.

In 1855, the West Point Land and Developing Company purchased of William Penn Taylor 500 acres of land which was laid off for a town. The Town lands invested the high land between the rivers at the tip of the peninsula.

A decree of Court appears in the records at King William which brings the title down to the post Civil War Period. This was the balance of the Taylor Estate.

The Court doth declare and decree that some time in the year 1852 or 1853, William P. Taylor made, executed and delivered a deed conveying to Wm. A. Stuart, Geo. W. Palmer, and John G. Spotts, 2800 acres, more or less, of arable land, in the lower end of King William County, known as the Taylor Estate, being the same land described in the Bill etc.<sup>33</sup>

### THE TOWNS AT WEST POINT

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

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

It was during the winter of 1608, while on a tour of exploration

<sup>28</sup> Letters to Washington, Vol. III, page 375

<sup>29</sup> Richmond Paragoner, Oct. 13, 1802

<sup>30</sup> 22 VHL, pages 352, 353

<sup>31</sup> King William County Land Tax Returns 1782-1810

<sup>32</sup> King William Record Book No. 6, page 113

<sup>33</sup> King William Records, Deed Book 9, page 170

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

#### (4a) CINQUOTECK

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

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

Smith gives a description of his meeting with the Indian Chief, of their deceptions and promises. On the following day their promises to deliver food was not kept but they were surrounded by seven hundred Indians, and then Smith discovered that they plotted to murder him. He seized the Chief by his forelock and pressed his pistol to the Chief's chest and led him before the people.

The Indians laid down their bows and arrows and brought baskets of corn, for which the English gave them presents and "all were well contented."

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

Later, the marriage of Pocahontas and John Rolfe brought a peaceful time to the Indians and the colonists. In 1618, Powhatan died at the chief town, Orapax in New Kent County on the Chickahominy River.

Opechannough succeeded his brother, Powhatan, as Chief of the Pamunkeys and as Emperor of the Confederacy.

In April 1620, *The London Merchant*, which brought to Virginia a number of maids who were claimed as wives, also brought to Virginia, Capt. George Thorpe of his Majesty's Privy Chamber, a member of the Virginia Company's Council and its deputy for the

College Lands. This gentleman was a devout churchman and soon was a close friend of Opechannough and his people. It was this same Capt. Thorpe who built for the Chief, an English house (the first one) at Cinquoteck after the English fashion, "in which the Chief took much delight, especially in the lock to the door, which he locked and unlocked a hundred times each day."

It was likely in this same house, that the plans were made for the terrible Massacre of 1622, on Good Friday, which took the lives of more than two hundred and forty-seven persons, including Capt. George Thorpe. If it had not been for the timely warning of the Indian boy, Chanco, the whole English settlement would have been destroyed. All those living in remote areas were lost but the survivors came through with a renewed determination to carry on.<sup>3 4</sup>

For many years the Indians kept the peace with an occasional foray on the outlying settlements, until Good Friday, in the year 1644. While the English were hearing prayers for King Charles, the wily Chief, Opechannough, nearing a hundred years of age, and almost blind, led his warriors once more to a massacre, this time determined to kill every settler. Five hundred died on that day. Prayers for the King were forgotten, while colonists turned to the defense of their homes and the subjugation of the Indians.<sup>3 5</sup>

After these troubles subsided and Necatawance succeeded Opechannough as head of the Powhatan Confederacy, the Indians and English signed a treaty of peace in 1646. By this treaty the Indians were restricted to the lands above the York and Pamunkey Rivers and the tribute of twenty beaver skins were each year to be brought to the Governor. This gesture of compliance has been carried on by the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Indians down through the years.<sup>3 6</sup>

#### (4b) THE TOWN LANDS OF KING & QUEEN COUNTY

The county of King and Queen was erected in 1691 by an Act of the General Assembly. This act divided New Kent by the York and Pamunkey Rivers and all the territory above the rivers fell into the new county.<sup>3 7</sup>

<sup>34</sup>History of the Colony and Ancient Dominion of Virginia, Charles Campbell, 1650, page 160

<sup>35</sup>Campbell, page 203 et seq.

<sup>36</sup>Hening, Vol. 1, page 323

<sup>37</sup>Hening, Vol. 3, page 94

The same year another act was passed by the General Assembly providing for the purchase or condemnation of fifty acres of land at West Point for town lands, to be laid out for the County of King and Queen. There are no details of record as to the actual conveyance, but the land was derived from the West Plantation. It is known that a wharf was built on the Mattapony side and it was designated to be used by the upper parts of York River.<sup>38</sup>

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

#### (4c) DELAWARE TOWN

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

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

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

There are among the old records at King William about thirty deeds from the Trustees of Delaware Town to purchasers of the lots. These deeds bear the date June 20, 1707 and set forth that "the grantee pay to the Trustees 480 pounds of sweet scented tobacco, and an annual rental on the 10th day of October of each year one ounce of flax seed and two ounces of hemp seed and build one good house twenty feet square in one year from the date of the deed or forfeit the right of sale without the consent of the Trustees."<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Hearings, Vol. 3, page 227

<sup>39</sup> King William Records, Books 1700-1705, No. 1, page 353 et seq.

The following grantees on June 20, 1707 received from the Trustees of Delaware Town, deeds to the lot numbers, purchased by the grantee:

Lot No.	1. Phillip Whitehead	2. Thomas Carr
	3. William Bassett	4. Nicholas Merryweather
	5. Randolph Platt	6. George Clough
	7. Stephen Willis	8.
	9. William Anderson	10.
	11.	12. Charles Fleeming
	13.	14.
	15.	16. George Dabney
	17. Abraham Willaroy William Dickerson	18.
	19.	20. Thomas Claiborne
	21.	22.
	23.	24. Henry Fox
	25.	26. Richard Roy
	27. Larking Chew	28. James Terry Thomas Terry Daniel Miles
	29. James Higgonson	30.
	31. William Bassett	32. Thomas Walker
	33.	34.
	35. William Burford Thomas Sears	36. Col. James Taylor
	37. James Taylor	38. Wm. Merryweather
	39. John Walker	40. John Braxton
	41. John Waller	42. John Waller
	43. Richard Littlepage	44. Richard Wyatt
	45. John Fox	46. Unity West
	47. Thomas Pickles	48.
	49.	50. George Pretley
	51. William Chadwick and 80. John Munro	52.

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

To be sold the 20th of March next at West Point pursuant to the last will and testament of Mary Lambeth, deceased, all of her estate consisting of a new sloop, Burthen 70 or 60 hogheads with her tackle; two negro fellows, very capable of going by water, one has been a skipper and a good house wench, Stock and Household Furniture; also two other Negroe Fellows, capable of going by water, are to be hired out. Credit will be allowed.

William Meredith  
John Martin<sup>40</sup>

<sup>40</sup> King William County, Virginia from Old Newspapers and Files, Ryland, Feb. 27, 1752



The same year Ferdinando Leigh advised the public that there was a large gray mare in his pasture near West Point and the owner could have her by applying to the Subscriber.<sup>41</sup>

Col. John West advertised for an Indentured Servant Man named William Read, who was a brick layer, and offered to pay a reward for his return. A week later a notice in the news offered passage to London:

West Point. Any Gentlemen that want to go to London may have an opportunity of going in the ship Middleton, at West Point, a very fine, large commodious vessel.

Henry Clark—Commander<sup>42</sup>

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

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

The ferries which crossed the Mattapony to Dudley's above the Mattapony River, landed at the quay or near to it. This was the ferry landing down through the years, as long as the ferries were employed.

The ferry commonly known as Graves' Ferry over York River near West Point formerly kept by Robert Willis, now kept by me the Subscriber.

John Waller<sup>43</sup>

There were a few small businesses within the town which changed hands over the years. In 1770, John G. Frazer and Richard

<sup>41</sup> Virginia Gazette, July 24, 1752

<sup>42</sup> Virginia Gazette, February 10, 1771

<sup>43</sup> King William County, Virginia from Files of Old Newspapers and Files, March 10, 1739

Tremlett announced in the news that they were dissolving their partnership.

The partnership between Frazer and Tremlett being now dissolved, all persons indebted thereto are requested to come forward.

John G. Frazer  
Richard Tremlett<sup>44</sup>

About six months later, John G. Frazer offered for sale his storehouses in West Point.

To be sold on Tuesday, the 18th of June before the Raleigh Tavern My Stores and Lot at West Point, which I advertized some Time ago, but did not describe them. The Storehouses are new, twenty eight Feet by Sixteen each, stand close to the Water side, and are as well finished as any in the Colony. One of them is intended for wet goods, Grain, &c and has an exceeding good dry cellar; the other is for dry goods, and has a lodging room with a brick chimney at one end, plastered and whitewashed. There is also a very strong new stable, twelve feet by sixteen with an eight foot sised at one end, and a necessary House Eight feet square, quite new. The Lot is Poasted and railed in. Fifty Pounds of the purchase money to be paid down, and two years Credit will be allowed for the Remainder on giving Bond and Security.

John G. Frazer<sup>45</sup>

The site of Mr. Frazer's store is not known, but was likely near the Quay on the Mattapony River.

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

The French Army was stationed here before and after the capitulation at York in October 1781.<sup>46</sup>

The Land Tax Returns for 1782 show that lots in the town of

<sup>44</sup> King William County, Virginia, Old Newspapers and Files, page 42, September 13, 1770

<sup>45</sup> Virginia Gazette, May 30, 1771

<sup>46</sup> Copy of French Map in files, which was given to me by Dr. Earl G. Swernm

Delaware were charged to: Stephen Bingham 7 lots; Carter Braxton House and Lots; James Roscow, 2 lots; Ambrose Lipscomb, lots; Thomas Moore, Marsh and Lots; Meridith Lambeth, Lots; Gilbert Leigh, Lots, but there were no numbers assigned to the lots.<sup>47</sup>

On the 18th March 1784, Carter Braxton conveyed to his son, Carter Braxton Junior five lots in Delaware town, where the family had lived for some years, which had been purchased of Thomas Moore. These lots were Lots Numbers 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.<sup>48</sup>

Stephen Bingham ran an ordinary in West Point during the Revolution and after. Baylor Hill visited here, (Sunday, May 7, 1779) from Rulfin's Ferry to West Point that night. 8th. After breakfast went from Bingham's Tavern to Col. Braxton's, from there to Mr. Moore, where I stayed two hours, from there to Frazer's Ferry, from there to King & Queen C. H.<sup>49</sup>

The Bingham's owned these lots until after 1820 when they were charged to Elizabeth Bingham, two lots and Ann Bingham, 6 lots.<sup>50</sup>

In 1787, J. J. Otter purchased two lots, which he owned in 1820. The owners of the West Point Plantation had purchased lots whenever they were offered for sale and the last were purchased by William P. Taylor in 1846.

#### (4d) THE TOWN OF WEST POINT

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

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

The only house which was standing in the town at this time was the Tavern which was occupied by Mr. New, in which the Directors of the West Point Land and Developing Company held its organiza-

<sup>47</sup> Land Tax Returns for King William County 1782

<sup>48</sup> Deed Book 3, page 325

<sup>49</sup> C. A. Fleet, Vol. 53, page 65 et seq.

<sup>50</sup> King William Land Tax Returns, 1820

tional meeting. Mr. and Mrs. New had an only daughter, Miss Carlie, and she was the first white child born in the town of West Point. She later married Mr. Lipscomb who was editor of the local paper.

The plan of the Town of West Point was made by J. M. Daniel and bears the date 1860. The cross streets are numbered from the York River upward, and the parallel streets were originally lettered, but in recent times, names have been assigned.

It was a short time later, the War brought to West Point a number of Volunteer Companies who were in a Regiment, under the command of Col. B. H. Tomlin and during the summer of 1861, General R. E. Lee came to West Point to inspect the troops. They were fortifying the river front and using, in part, some of the same breastworks which had been thrown up by the French during the Revolution.

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

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

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

Another episode took place along Kirby Street when a soldier shot another in the leg, trying to kill a pig that was running to escape the inevitable.

Some of the wounded soldiers were brought into town and Mr. Bolivar Starke's store and home was used by the Yankees for a hospital. This old house stood until 1966 when it was removed and the Baptist parsonage was erected on the site.

The railroad bed from Whitehouse to West Point was graded before 1851 but the railway was not completed until after the war. The trains came into town and ran down across town to a terminus

on Lee Street near Second Street. This was the route until the wharves were built on the Pamunkey to load and unload the ships which came for cotton. A picture made of the waterfront about 1890 has no less than a dozen steamers and sailing vessels in the York and Pamunkey.

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

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

In 1895, the Southern Railway moved its terminus to Pinners Point and took from the town a large part of its inhabitants and a larger part of its income. It was the second severe reverse the town had suffered in a decade. The deserted cotton presses and vacant houses were sold for little and the only source of income was the amusement park and the Terminal Hotel facing the York River, which brought excursions in the summertime. In 1903 a second disastrous fire broke out which destroyed fifty-two buildings, homes, churches, stores and the Grove Hotel, which was the last tie between the town of Delaware and West Point. The amusement area escaped.

##### (5) THE CLAIBORNE FAMILY

There has been no family in the annals of Old New Kent that has contributed more towards the making of its long and eventful history, than that of the Claibornes.

The ancestry of William Claiborne, the Secretary of State for Colonial Virginia, has been definitely established in a recent factual report of researches made in England, and has settled for all time the origin and birth of this distinguished early settler of New Kent County.

William Claiborne was baptized in the parish of Crayford, County Kent, England, on 19th of August 1600, he being the second son of Thomas Clayborne and Sarah James, his wife.<sup>51</sup>

William Claiborne came to Virginia after attending Pembroke College in the year 1621. Soon after his arrival in Virginia he was named Surveyor for the Virginia Company of London. Later he served as Treasurer of the Colony and a member of the Council.<sup>52</sup>

William Claiborne had established a trading post on the Island of Kent in Chesapeake Bay and had adjacent to it, a plantation which he called Crayford. It is strange that it took so long to unearth the parish of his birth in Crayford, County Kent, which he honored by naming his home in Maryland after his birthplace in England.<sup>53</sup>

The Calverts claimed the land on the Island of Kent and it was not long before a small war had been started, which forced William Claiborne, in 1631, to leave his property. He continued a life long effort to regain his plantation without success.<sup>54</sup>

In 1629 he led an army against the Indians who were defeated at Candyack on the Pamunkey River some five miles north of West Point.

In 1653, twenty years after, he was granted the Romancoke Estate in Pamunkey Neck, where he had landed his army and, on this plantation, he resided the rest of his lifetime.

It has been stated that he named the county New Kent after his native county in England which, in keeping with his previous attachment, is likely true.

William Claiborne married Elizabeth, daughter of John Butler of Litle Burch Hall, Essex County, England. They had four sons: William Claiborne, Thomas Claiborne, John Claiborne and Leonard Claiborne, and one daughter Jane, who married Thomas Brerton.

There were probably other children. Elizabeth Claiborne, Jr. indicates a daughter by that name in 1665. Further, there are several family accounts which strongly suggest without proof, their descent from William Claiborne. The loss of the early records of New Kent County probably prevents a proved record, which is not to be had and never will be found.<sup>55</sup>

William Claiborne was one of the Commissioners appointed to turn over the Colonial government of Virginia to the Commonwealth under Cromwell. Later, he was appointed Secretary of State for the Colony and named Treasurer for life. He was loyal to King Charles and loyal to the King during the Bacon's Rebellion.

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52-21 V 247

53-10 V 264

54-8 V 398

55-35 V 445. See also, G. M. Claiborne, The Claiborne Family.

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<sup>51</sup>The English Ancestry of William Claiborne of Virginia, by Clayton Torrence. This is a definitive account of the family of Claiborne and the first two generations of the family in Virginia. There are many notes from the records, which prove the correctness of this account 56 V 32

The last record of this remarkable man was a petition that he made to the King in 1677, asking that he be reimbursed for his losses to the Rebels under Nathaniel Bacon, who made waste of his plantation.<sup>56</sup>

The sons of Col. William Claiborne were equally ardent in their support of Sir William Berkeley; Capt. William Claiborne, the son, sat on the court-martial which tried and condemned several of the Rebels for their part in the uprising. Among those condemned to be hung was Thomas Hall, Clerk of New Kent County, who was succeeded by Thomas Claiborne who served until his death.

The second William Claiborne, the oldest son and heir to the Romancoke Estate, married Katherine (her last name is not known) and they had two children: William Claiborne (1671-1705) and Ursula who married William Gooch.

Col. William Claiborne Jr. was a member of the County Court, an officer in the militia, and was in command of the Fort at Mattaponi. The activities of Col. Claiborne were recorded in a citation which was among the records at New Kent and were later, at the request of his son, William Claiborne, the third of the name, entered in the records of King William.

This was authorized by Sir William Berkeley and recorded at New Kent in 1677.<sup>57</sup>

By the Governor and Captain Genll of Virga: Although and Indian War and the late Rebellion in Virga hath been a Greate Affliction Yett it hath given the country and excellent expression of the Splended Loyalty and Fidelity of Sundry Gent; who hath appeared in the country's service amongst whom Collo. William Clayborne Jun. hath given testimony of all the World of his singular Courage, Prudence and most remarkable loyalty to his Majesty and his Govnr. of Virginia as well as in his Service agt. the Indians as agt. the late Rebellion not regarding the hazard of his person or his estates so that he might promote his Majesty's and Country's Service which for the encouragement of those do justice to his merits and good Deservings I have this day given this Certificate under my hand at Green Springs this 29th day of March 1677

as witnesses to  
Nathaniel Bacon  
Philip Lodwell  
William Col  
Ralph Wornaley

Signed: William Berkeley  
of the  
Henry Cicheley

Re ordered at the request of  
Col. Wm. Clayborne & Thos. C.  
Clayborne.

Copis Testu: George Clough Cl Ct

<sup>56</sup> 23 V 152, Petition of Wm. Claiborne 1677

At a Court held for King William County 20th July, 1703 The within copy upon the motion of Collo. Wm. Claiborne sonnes to the within record mentioned Collo. Claiborne decd. was committed to record

Test Wm. Aylett C. C. 58

William Claiborne (1671-1705) was as far as known the only son of William Claiborne and Katherine, his wife. His father died when he was fourteen years of age and he was left to the guardianship of his uncle, John Claiborne.<sup>59</sup>

William Claiborne (1671-1705) came into the possession of Romancoke plantation in 1692. He enjoyed the honors which had come to his father. He was a militia officer, Justice of the Peace, and in 1705, he made a will in which he named his son, William Claiborne, his sister, Ursula, who married William Gooch, and his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth.<sup>60</sup>

The name of the wife of William Claiborne (1671-1705) is not known. In his will of which a fragment remains, William Claiborne, a son, and Mary and Elizabeth, his two daughters were named as stated above. These children were all infants at the time of his death.<sup>61</sup>

William Claiborne, the fourth of the name, married Elizabeth, daughter of Philip Whitehead of King William County.

In 1733, he reentered a patent of the Romancoke plantation which included the marshes adjacent thereto. This patent gives the mated and bounds of this part of the original patent which was granted his great-grandfather, Col. William Claiborne 1600-1678).<sup>62</sup>

William Claiborne was named in the report of the county officials for 1726 and 1729 for King William County.<sup>63</sup>

In 1748, William Claiborne published his intentions of going to England and within six months he died in London.

<sup>57</sup> 37 V 279

<sup>58</sup> 37 V 279

<sup>59</sup> Essex County Records, Book 7, page 439

<sup>60</sup> 4 V 318, Will of William Claiborne. This is an abstract of the record which varies from others in some details. See also Essex Co., Records Book 7, page 431 & 443; Power of atty. of Catherine Claiborne to her brother-in-law, John Claiborne.

<sup>61</sup> 4 V 311

<sup>62</sup> Land Patent Book 15, page , 3 October 1733

<sup>63</sup> English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records, des Cognets, pages 36 and 48

the home of Col. Richard Corbin with orders to arrest him. When his command arrived at Laneville, it was found that the Colonel was not at home, so they hastened through West Point to join the militia at Doncastle's Ordinary.

He was made a Captain on February 27, 1776 of a company which he led on several excursions through Virginia in pursuit of the British Army. He was commissioned a Major on November 11, 1776 and, on October 4, 1777, was made a Lieutenant Colonel. He resigned his commission on May 10, 1779.

He had married Susanna, daughter of Col. Francis West of Drury Lane in 1763 and, after her death on December 5, 1780, he married for his second wife, Miss Catherine Hogg of West Point. The two wives bore him a dozen children.

He was elected to the General Assembly as delegate from King William County in 1777. Edmund Pendleton wrote that "I wish that Holt Richeson may prove as good a legislator as he was a soldier. Some people think that he had injudiciously changed his proper element. Col. Syme declined in Hanover. Mr. Garland Anderson and my brother are chosen there."<sup>30</sup>

Col. Holt Richeson resided at "Kentuckie" until he sold his plantation to John Quarles, the Deputy Clerk of King William County.<sup>31</sup>

After this, for a time, he is said to have resided at "Tuckoman" and later, he purchased the plantation at Cohoke on which he spent his remaining years, and here he died in 1800. His will, made on 14th March 1800, was proved at King William on 27th October 1800.<sup>32</sup>

The year after his death there was a Chancery Suit begun by the State of Virginia to recover funds due from the sheriffalty under Col. Holt Richeson. The plantation at Cohoke Mill was offered for sale in July 1862.

The property was purchased by Wm. D. Claiborne.

It was his son, John B. Richeson, by the second marriage, who became a brilliant scholar and an outstanding educator. When thirteen years of age he was sent to Richmond where he lived in the home of Mr. Samuel Pleasanta, the Editor of the Virginia Argus, under whom he learned to set type. He was an excellent student and excelled in Latin, Greek, and Mathematics.

<sup>30</sup>Letter Edmund Pendleton to General Wm. Woodford, 26 April 1779 Edmund Pendleton Letters: Microfilm Colonial Williamsburg from Southern Historical Papers. Courtesy of Gov. H. S. King, Esq.

<sup>31</sup>Land Tax alterations for 1765

<sup>32</sup>Tyler 33, page 48-53. G. H. S. King, Esq.

He returned to King William and married Mildred, daughter of Drury Ragsdale, and they soon established their home across the road from Drury Lane, a mile above, toward King William Courthouse.

He moved from King William to Charlottesville. His son was tutored by his father and, at the age of 18, was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree. (The only person to do so at the age of 18.)

In 1831, the Richeson family moved to Washington, Kentucky, four miles from Maysville, to which they later moved, and established the Maysville Seminary, which was standing in 1974.<sup>33</sup>

### (17) THE WEST DIVIDEND ON BULL SWAMP

Col. John West in his lifetime, in the year 1654, had purchased of the Pamunkey Indians, 4,000 acres of land which began at Palmer's line and extended upward on both sides of Bull Swamp, between the Claiborne lines and the Mattapony River. During his lifetime, Col. John West made deeds of gift to his sons, John West, Thomas West and Nathaniel West, and his grandsons, John Fox and Thomas Fox, to each a part of this land which they had seated and occupied in good faith.

Some twenty years later, it was discovered that Col. John West did not have a recorded title to the land and, in consequence, Henry Fox presented a petition to the Council asking that they might be granted the said tracts as set down in Col. John West's Deeds of Gift which were confirmed by his last will and testament.<sup>1</sup>

A year later, on October 19, 1713, William Douglas and William Craddock petitioned for lands which had been purchased of Col. John West, deceased, being a part of the 4,000 acres said to have been granted to John West, deceased, by patent.<sup>2</sup>

William Douglas stated that his father had purchased 200 acres of land from Col. John West, decd., about fifty years before and William Craddock, son of Mr. Samuel Craddock, also had purchased 100 acres of the same land, which was later conveyed by Nathaniel West to Richard Phillips.<sup>3</sup>

The four tracts into which this large body of land was divided

<sup>33</sup>Taken from paper written by Chas. B. Ryan, a grandson of J. B. Richeson. (My files M. H. H.)

<sup>1</sup>Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, Volume No. 3, page 327

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, page 254

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, page 326, 353, 417

can be followed with a reasonable degree of accuracy down through the years and will be followed as separate plantations.

### (17a) BRICKHOUSE

This tract lay between the old King William Road and Bull Swamp, from Major's Corner upward to the lines of Thomas West, next to land of Claiborne and Palmer and down Bull Swamp to include the mill which is now known as Custis Mill. This was the land given by Col. John West to his grandson, John Fox.

John Fox was a London Merchant. He went to London in an effort to advance his business, suffered financial reverses, and was put in a debtor's prison. While in prison he wrote "The Wanderer" which he dedicated, without permission, to William Byrd of Westover who was in England and Mr. Byrd replied with a sharp letter and a Guinea, hoping that there would be no more publications by Fox. There are a few copies of "The Wanderer" still in existence.<sup>4</sup>

The Justices of the King William Court sought relief in behalf of John Fox who was in prison for debts due the Crown for Customs on Tobacco. In time it had some benefit, for John Fox returned to Virginia.<sup>5</sup>

In 1723, John Fox sought to get clear title to a tract of 750 acres of land in King William County which his grandfather had purchased of the Pamunkey Indians, which was a portion of the large dividend of land under discussion.<sup>6</sup>

This land lay next to the land issued Thomas West in 1715 and definitely fixes the location of the Fox tract.<sup>7</sup>

The Fox plantation, at the death of John Fox, passed to his eldest son, Rev. Mr. John Fox of Ware Parish, Gloucester County, who, a few years later, conveyed the land to Col. Augustine Moore.

By his last will and testament, Col. Augustine Moore devised the land which he "bought of Rev. Mr. John Fox called and known by the name of the Brickhouse," to his son Thomas.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup>William Byrd and the Virginia Author of *The Wanderer*, Murdock Harvard Studies and Notes in Philology and Literature Vol. xvii, page 119

<sup>5</sup>Journals of the House of Burgesses 1712-1726, page 146

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, pages 367, 370

<sup>7</sup>Land Patent Book No. 10, page 220

<sup>8</sup>Will of Augustine Moore, Junkin Papers 1900

Thomas Moore evidently conveyed a part of the Brick House land to his half brother, George Seaton, but there are no records as to how Seaton came into possession of the tract which was held by several generations of Seaton's.

Later, William Seaton drew the lucky prize in Col. Thomas Moore's lottery and came into possession of the mill and one hundred acres of land adjoining it, which had been a part of the Fox plantation. This led to a lengthy effort to clear the title when Black conveyed the Romanecke Estate to George Washington for the Custis heirs. Therefore, it seems probable that Col. Thomas Moore reserved the mill property at the time of conveyance of the Brick House tract to Seaton.

The Brick House tract had been the home of the Fox family for many years and it seems probable that Henry Fox, Gent. and Ann West, his wife, had made their home here during their lifetime in King William County and, naturally, it passed to their oldest son, John Fox.

### (17b) THE SEATONS

The place name, Brick House, is definitely supported by the fact that there are, under the old house, which stands near Major's Corner, in the basement, brick walls which were laid in English Bond and these walls are earlier than the present house which was said to have been built by the Seatons who were residents here for many years.

George Seaton was a son of Mrs. Augustine Moore, by her first husband, Henry Seaton. He was reared at Chelsea and, after his marriage to Elizabeth Hill, he moved into the Brick House which had been purchased by Col. Moore from Rev. Mr. John Fox. George Seaton died in 1750 and left his wife and several children who were under age.<sup>9</sup>

He was succeeded by his son, Augustine Seaton (1737-1794) who married, in 1776, Mary, daughter of Samuel Winston of Louisa County. The Seaton's lived here and, in 1782, were charged with 403 acres of land. Augustine Seaton is said to have died at the home of his sister, Mrs. John West, at West Point on the 10th of October 1794.<sup>10</sup>

The family records of the Seaton family were taken from Bible Records which were probably the property of William Winston

<sup>9</sup>Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Volume 25, page 432

<sup>10</sup>The Seaton Family, O. A. Seaton, 1906

Seaton of Washington, D. C. It has the minute details of births and deaths which point to a written record at some previous time.

George Seaton, born 11 December 1711, Died 1750, married 27 December 1734, Elizabeth Hill, daughter of Leonard Hill of Essex County.

Elizabeth Seaton 19 December 1735-9 December 1739  
Augustine Seaton 17 October 1737-10 October 1794

George Seaton 8 February 1733-1791

Elizabeth Seaton 20 March 1741-

Augustine Seaton married Mary Winston, daughter of Samuel Winston of Louisa County. He died 10 October 1794, at West Point, Virginia, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John West. (Sister)

Lucy Seaton 10 December 1778 married Thomas Rose of Richmond, Virginia

Augustine Hill Seaton 15 May 1780-Feb. 1810 S. P.

Leonard Hill Seaton 13 October 1782-April 1826 d. s. p.

William Winston Seaton born at Chelsea, 11 Jan. 1785. Died at Washington D. C. 10 June 1866. Mayor of Washington. He married

30 March 1809 Sarah W. Gales.

Elizabeth Seaton 9 October 1786-5 Sept. 1815 m. Samuel Scott of Richmond, Va.

John Seaton 18 August 1788-18 July 1809

It seems that Mary Winston Seaton died before her husband and left several orphans who were brought up by the Moores at Chelsea.

Augustine Hill Seaton married in 1807, Catherine, daughter of Lottin Newman. In 1808, A. H. and Catherine Seaton made a deed of trust deed to Frances Newman, who had married, on March 1, 1807, Henry L. Savres. The two tracts of land conveyed in the deed after the death of Frances were conveyed to Robert Pollard.<sup>11</sup>

#### (17c) HUNTSVILLE

In 1820, this tract of land belonged to Charles Edwards and contained 331 acres, which lay between the lands of Holt C. Richeson and George W. P. Custis.<sup>12</sup>

Robert Myrick, who came from King and Queen and, in 1837, engaged in cutting timber on the Muddy Hole tract, purchased the land which lay between Richeson and Custis.<sup>13</sup>

After Myrick completed his operations, he sold the land, on

which he lived, in 1839, to Benjamin Hart of King and Queen County. These two gentlemen had married daughters of Dudley Digges. Myrick returned to his home, Liberty Hall, in King and Queen County.

In 1841, Benjamin Hart and Hollom, his wife, by deed dated in 1841, conveyed this tract of land to Ambrose White of King William County.<sup>14</sup>

Ambrose White had possession of this property until 1847 when he exchanged it for the interest of his stepson, (Preston Lipscomb's interest) in the plantation of his father, Temple Lipscomb. Ambrose White had married the widow of Temple Lipscomb, Margaret Lipscomb.<sup>15</sup>

Preston Lipscomb established his home on the land and called it "Huntsville." He married Margaret Lipscomb, daughter of Capt. Sterling Lipscomb of Sweet Hall. This was their lifetime home and, when they died, they were buried on the edge of the yard.

The property was divided into three parts and became the homes of the Majors, the Lipscombs, and the Martins.

#### (17d) CAPT. THOMAS WEST'S HOME HOUSE TRACT

This was a part of the West Dividend along Bull Swamp and had been occupied by Capt. Thomas West for some twenty years when it was discovered that the title lacked the original patent.

Thomas West, on 10th October 1713, represented to the Council of State, that for twenty years he had had quiet possession of 1600 acres of land, lying in King William County devised to the heirs of Col. John West, his father, being part of a tract of 4,000 acres long since granted to the said John West, but no patent could be found and he prayed that he be permitted to enter Rights and take out a new patent, in his own name, for the said 1600 acres and enter Rights and Survey for same as claimed by him.

It was ordered that leave be given him to enter Rights and Survey the land claimed by him after due process and production of a Certificate from the Clerk of King William County, and that a patent then would be granted.<sup>16</sup>

The patent was duly issued to Thomas West and recorded on the

<sup>14</sup> King William Records, Book No. 11, page 154

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, Book No. 13, page 135

<sup>16</sup> Executive Journals of Colonial Virginia, Volume No. 3, page 356

<sup>11</sup> King William Records, Book No. 5, page 298

<sup>12</sup> Land Tax Returns for King William Co. 1820

<sup>13</sup> Letter - Pollard to Jolub B. Richeson, Fleet's Abstracts, Vol. , page

23rd day of December, one thousand seven hundred and fourteen.

The patent gives a description of the land granted. It lay along the southwest side of Bull Swamp and the lands of Capt. Nathaniel West, east of the swamp, west along the lines of Capt. John Fox, to the Ferry Road, to Capt. Martin Palmer, by Col. William Claiborne's by an Indian Field to the east side of a small branch issuing into the Pamunkey River. The further description gives metes and bounds that lead back to the beginning.<sup>17</sup>

Thomas West had lived here since around 1690 and had been given the land by a deed of gift from his father, Col. John West, which was confirmed by his last will and testament made in 1689.

Capt. Thomas West was one of the first Burgesses from the County of King William and he was a Justice of the County Court of King William County.

Capt. Thomas West married Agnes (her last name is not known) but she may have been a Claiborne for some of her descendants claimed descent from the Claibornes.<sup>18</sup>

Thomas West and Agnes, his wife, had three sons and one daughter who are known to have lived in King William County. Nathaniel West, the oldest son, made a will in 1727 in which he devised the lands left him by his father, to his two brothers, Thomas West, 1000 acres—the Home House Tract, and to Francis West, 615 acres—Apperhanking's Old Field. There was a daughter, Agnes, who married Richard Gregory.<sup>19</sup>

After the death of Nathaniel West, son of Capt. Thomas West, his brother, Thomas West, came into possession of the Home House Tract. A few years later, Thomas West learned that he would be heir to the West Point land on the death of Mrs. Judith Butts and, according to the record, he let the Home House tract run down.

It seems probable that Thomas West, when he moved to West Point, sold his land on Bull Swamp. The next known owner of the lands was James Richeson.

#### PETER RICHESON'S PLANTATION

James Richeson conveyed by deed, dated 13 July 1774, a tract of land to Peter Richeson, his son, on which he had resided for many years.

<sup>17</sup>Land Patent Book No. 10, page 226

<sup>18</sup>King William Records, Book No. , page 126-130

<sup>19</sup>Printing Statutes at Large, Vol. No. 5, page 297

Peter Richeson, a brother of Holt Richeson, married Susanna Frazer, daughter of William Frazer of Sandy Point. They had a number of children to whom he conveyed his land, which he had been given by his father, James Richeson. The children were named in the deed.

Peter Richeson to Jas. R. Richeson, Holt C. Richeson, Polly C. Richeson, Susan F. Richeson, and Eliza H. Richeson, all children of Peter Richeson of St. John's Parish. Dated 4 Sept. 1802.<sup>20</sup>

Holt C. Richeson acquired from his brothers and sisters, their part of the Richeson Plantation which, in 1820, contained 348 acres and joined the lands of Mr. Wm. Ring and Christopher Johnson.<sup>21</sup>

James Richeson to Holt C. Richeson of Frederick County, 21½ acres of land which James Richeson heired from (his sister) Mary Richeson, 23 June 1821.<sup>22</sup>  
George Slaughter and Elizabeth his wife deed to Holt C. Richeson, part of a tract of land of Peter Richeson, deed, by intermarrying with his daughter (Elizabeth Richeson), a tract of 87 acres on February 22, 1812.<sup>23</sup>

Sometime after 1838, Holt C. Richeson sold this tract of land to Samuel D. Pilcher and his wife, Lucy Richards and they established their home here and reared their family.

Mrs. Lucy Pilcher survived her husband for many years and her son, Samuel Dawson Pilcher, lived with her.  
The Pilchers sold the farm to John Zodun.

#### THE HOUSE

The story and half house which stands several hundred yards from the King William Road was the Pilcher home. It may have been the dwelling in which the Richesons lived during their tenure. It is an example of the plantation house erected in Virginia around 1800.

The upper part of this tract was bought by Christopher Johnson.

<sup>20</sup>King William Record Book No. 5, page 202

<sup>21</sup>Land Tax Returns for King William County 1820

<sup>22</sup>King William Records Book No. 8, page 82

<sup>23</sup>King William Records, Book No. 6, page 1 (2)



### (17.) DRURY LANE

This was the home of Col. Francis West, son of Capt. Thomas West, who was born in 1702 and died in 1796, having lived in King William County ninety-four years. There has been no one who has been a more interesting figure in the history of the county.

This plantation was within the early Dividend, which Capt. Thomas West was given by his father, Col. John West and for which he received a patent in 1713, which at his death, descended to Nathaniel West who, by his will in 1727, devised the land to his brothers, and the 615 acres, Apperchanking's Old Field passed to the younger brother, Francis West.<sup>24</sup>

The meager details of his early life are based on the records which state that Francis West was under the tutelage of his brother, Thomas West, which suggested a tendency to extravagancy. Certainly, his lifetime career bears out his independence and a lack of conformity.

There have been many conflicting statements made as to his wives and descendants, which can be in part resolved by accepting records concerning this remarkable man. The main discrepancy has arisen from the statement of his granddaughter, Mrs. Elizabeth West Richeson Moss, who stated that he had no sons.

As far as is known, there are no family records of the children of Col. Francis West and his wife, Susanna, and the children who are attributed to him have been derived from various sources.

It has been widely accepted that he had three daughters who were Agnes West who married William Dandridge of Huntington; Susanna West who married Col. Holt Richeson; and Frances West who was the first wife of Col. William Langborne. These three daughters were intimately associated with the Drury Lane Plantation and, when the first one died (Mrs. Frances Langborne) she was buried in a vault, which her father built for her interment.

There is no record of the death or burial of Mrs. Susanna West but she was probably buried at Drury Lane where the depression of the vault stood and still exists. (1974)

Now, the problem of his sons has been for a long time a debatable problem in the West family.

The large tract of land in upper King William which Capt. Littlepage was granted, was divided between the Taylors and the Wests. The Taylors received the Ferry Farm and other lands beyond the quarter; Susanna West's sons were living on a tract called

"Wales" which was her part of the early grant.

A patent to lands issued Nelson in 1762, gave the lands of William West, John West, and Francis West as bounds to this tract which shows that the Wests were owners of the land at that time.

It has been stated that Col. Francis West was married three times; it has been proved that he had two wives: Susanna Littlepage of Cumberland, and Mrs. Jane Cole Claiborne Bingham.

The facts relating to his marriage with Susanna Littlepage are clear. Susanna was the daughter of Capt. Richard Littlepage and Frances, his wife. She was born in 1717 and, after her father's death in the same year, she was brought up by her mother at Cumberland. Her mother died in 1732 when Susanna was in her sixteenth year and she was then under the care of her sister, Alice, who had married the Rev. Mr. Daniel Taylor, minister in St. John's Parish and who was then living at the Ferry Landing which belonged to Thomas Claiborne, across the Pamunkey from Cumberland.

It is not hard to picture Francis West paying court to this young lady and, being of suitable background, marrying her between 1732 and 1735. Drury Lane lies about two miles up the old Ferry Road from the Ferry Plantation.

Susanna Littlepage had a share of the immense landed estate of her father, Capt. Richard Littlepage. He had, in 1702, been granted 4238 acres of land on the Pamunkey River in King William County which appears to have been divided between Alice, the wife of Mr. Daniel Taylor and Susanna, wife of Francis West.

The birth date of William West in 1735, son of Francis West and Susanna, is well established, and his family have records since that date. The brother, Francis West, sometimes noted as Francis West Junior, owned land here in 1762 and in 1782, he was charged with 250 acres, and William West was charged with 250 acres. These are the only Wests charged with land in King William in the first Returns of Land Assessment for tax purposes.<sup>25</sup>

It seems that the sons had been directed to the land which had come down through the Littlepages and, for many years, the Wests owned the plantation commonly known as "Wales" in King William County. The Littlepages owned "South Wales" in Hanover and "North Wales" in Caroline.

Capt. Francis West was named in the Commission of Justices in 1737 and served until the Revolution. He was a Tory and was violently opposed to the Revolution and is said to have sipped his tea in a closet at Drury Lane.

<sup>24</sup> Hearing Statutes at Large, Vol. 5, page 297

<sup>25</sup> Land Tax Returns for King William County 1782

in time he became a Colonel in the county militia and served in other official positions.

He was living at Drury Lane during the period 1768 to 1770 when the Dissolution of the Vestry of St. John's Parish took place and he testified that he watched the road from his home, Drury Lane, to see the Moores, Bernard and Thomas, go by on their way to the Vestry meetings at the Courthouse.<sup>26</sup>

Col. Francis West was, for many years, a Justice and from long service on the Court, for many years was the presiding Justice. He was first in the East Commission of Justices for King William named by the Council and Governor.

He sold his Drury Lane Plantation to Drury Ragsdale and, having married his second wife, Mrs. Jane Cole Claiborne Bingham, he moved into her home which had been the Bingham Plantation in which she had life rights.

Col. Francis had rented the Gibe Land and had had a squabble with the Vestry regarding its management and the payment of rent.

After the Revolution, he was appointed, with William Cowne, to receive Specific Tax and his signature to the returns is the same: Francis West, with a little evidence of a shaky hand, in a man of near eighty.

In 1788, after his second wife died, he was threatened with eviction by his stepsons, the Bingham's, but he lasted a few more years but where he lived is not known.

In 1796 he died in King William County and was buried at Drury Lane.<sup>27</sup>

#### (17) THE RAGSDALE FAMILY

Col. Francis West sold the Drury Lane Plantation to Major Drury Ragsdale during the Revolution, who, in 1782, was charged with 808 acres of land in King William County.

The Ragsdales were Welch who came to Virginia before 1700 and settled in Henrico County where Geoffrey Ragsdale left a will which was dated in 1697 and proved in 1703. He named, in his last will, his wife, Rachel, and sons, Godfrey, Peter and Daniel and a daughter, Rachel Ragsdale.<sup>28</sup>

It was the son Peter Ragsdale who married Alice Drury and brought that name into the family. Peter Ragsdale made his will in

1742 and he named, in that will, his sons: Godfrey, Drury and Joseph and a daughter, Frances Ragsdale.<sup>29</sup>

This first Drury Ragsdale, son of Peter and Alice Ragsdale, made a will in 1749 leaving his estate to his wife, Margaret, in trust for a child expected after his death. This child was Drury Ragsdale, born in 1750 in Dale Parish.<sup>30</sup>

Drury Ragsdale was a student at William and Mary College and in 1774, by mutual consent with his mother and her second husband, Mr. Puryear, the property left by his father was sold.

He purchased the Drury Lane Plantation of Col. Francis West and moved to King William County.

During the Revolution, Drury Ragsdale was made a Captain of Artillery, on February 1777. He served through the war and retired on 1 January 1783. For his years of service, he was awarded a large tract of land in Kentucky, first as a Captain of the King William Militia in 1775 and 1776, and later as a Major in the new Legion organized by authority of the General Assembly.<sup>31</sup>

After the War he practiced law in King William and the surrounding counties. He was added to the Commission of Justices; served as a Trustee to the Pamunkey Indians.

He was active in politics and supported Jefferson in his Presidential canvass and stoutly defended him against the charges that Jefferson had acted in a cowardly manner, to escape the British at Monticello. He replied with sharp retort that he would have advised Jefferson, who was then Governor, that he should, as head of the Virginia Government, avoid capture.

Major Ragsdale had his plans for marriage in mind when he purchased Drury Lane: in a short time he married Barbara, daughter of Joseph Fox and Mildred Fenton of Rosegarden.

The Ragsdales had four daughters: Frances Ragsdale, who married for her first husband, John Pamull of Cohoke, and for her second husband, Benjamin Quarles; Ann Catherine married Alexander Frazer; Mildred married John Brett Richeson, son of Col. Holt Richeson and his second wife, Elizabeth Hogg; Elizabeth married for her first husband, Francis West Richeson, son of Col. Holt Richeson and his first wife, Susan West.

Major Ragsdale made his last will on 21st of February 1804 and it was proved at King William Court on 23rd of April 1804.

<sup>26</sup> Journal of the House of Burgesses 1770-1772, pages

<sup>27</sup> The Virginia Gazette & General Advertiser, 6 July 1796

<sup>28</sup> Henrico Records, Deed Book 1697-1703, page 317

<sup>29</sup> Henrico Records, Deed Book 1744-1748, page 255

<sup>30</sup> Henrico Records, Deed Book 1749-1757

<sup>31</sup> Virginians in Revolution, Gwathmey, page 647

The death of William Johnson was reported on the 12th day of August 1832. He left a widow and young children. He was 48 years of age.<sup>53</sup>

The plantation which belonged to the Johnsons lay along the west side of Cohoke Swamp between the swamp and the road leading from Cohoke to Laneville. This tract of land is still called Johnsons.

It was the home of Mr. James Johnson until he moved to Rose-garden and later it was owned by C. T. Neale and, in the division of his estate, it passed to his daughter, Alice Hamnett who sold it to The Chesapeake Corporation of Virginia.

### (21) RIVERVIEW

This was the name of the plantation of Pemberton Johnson after 1819 and it remained in the family until it was sold by Mr. Thomas J. Harwell who married Miss Lilly Johnson.

Pemberton Johnson established his home here and built the dwelling house which was used by his family. Later his son, James H. Johnson built a frame house about a half mile below facing the river and this house was the home of his family. Here he reared his daughters, Mrs. Charles Denmead, Mrs. Waller Denmead, and Mrs. Lilly Harwell, and a son, J. H. Johnson, who built a frame house near Cohoke Pond where he kept bachelor's quarters.

About forty years ago, Mr. Thomas J. Harwell developed an orchard of early variety of apples and later he erected the imposing brick house which he occupied for a short time before he sold it to Mr. Roth.

The name of the place was changed to Exmore and the property was sold in recent years to Mr. J. M. Kambourian.

### (22) BEN LOMOND

Across the road from Riverview and on top of the hill, overlooking the Cohoke Pond, was the story and half frame dwelling which was probably the residence of Thomas King who owned the land along the west side of Cohoke Pond.

Samuel Robinson was buried at this place during a severe winter, and his wife was buried at Mt. Pisgah.

### (23) THE SHOOTING BOX

This was built for a hunting lodge by Mr. Sandlass and it was

<sup>53</sup> Richmond Enquirer, August 1832

close to the site of the early home of Pemberton Johnson.

The Johnson Family Cemetery is at this place and the graves are marked with stones which have legends.

This is now the home of Mrs. J. F. Allison.

### (24) THE PLANTATION OF CAPT. NATHANIEL WEST

The land decded to Capt. Nathaniel West lay on the upper side of Bull Swamp and extended to the Mattapony River, except for the tract which was devised to Thomas Fox. This land had been patented with the permission of the Council, and Capt. Nathaniel West was issued his patent on the 13th of November 1713. This land was within the bounds of the West Dividend of 4,000 acres.

Some of this land had been claimed by Capt. Roger Mallory, who vacated the land as he had no valid title. The lines run about the patent of William Douglas, revealed the previous lines of the Mallory lands. This land had been seated by the Douglas family for many years.<sup>55</sup>

Capt. Nathaniel West, who married Martha Woodward, widow of Gideon Macon, operated this plantation as an outlying Quarter and, when he died around 1727, it passed to his only daughter, Unity West who had married Capt. William Dandridge, who was at that time, living at Elsing Green on the Pamunkey River.

### (24a) THE HUNTINGTON ESTATE

Mrs. Unity West Dandridge survived her husband until 1753 when she made her last will in which she disposed of her large estate.<sup>56</sup>

It is not known when William Dandridge took up residence at "Huntington." He was married to his cousin, Agnes, daughter of Col. Francis West and Susan Littlepage his wife of "Drury Lane," King William County.

During his long residence here, he operated the large plantation and also, a store near his seat on the Mattapony River at which he sold both wholesale and retail.

Lately imported by the Subscriber in King William County, a General Assortment of printed Calicoes, Cottons and Hollands to the

<sup>55</sup> Executive Journals of the Colonial Virginia, Vol. 2, page 354

<sup>56</sup> Henning Statutes at Large, Volume No. 7, page 296

amount of Eleven hundred pounds Sterling, which are to be disposed of Wholesale and retail.

William Dandridge<sup>57</sup>

It appears that he prospered and his prosperity led him to build himself a large brick dwelling house which became known as "Huntington."

The depression which followed the Robinson Affair brought many of the planters into financial distress. It is evident that William Dandridge did not escape, although he was not indebted to John Robinson.

Wm. Black to Geo. Washington, April 25, 1774  
Now Mr. Dandridge would sell and some say he must, a body of near 3,000 acres of land and a very fine new brick house, which joins your mill. (Custis Mill)<sup>58</sup>

William Dandridge does not appear to have held any official position in the county. He died at Huntington between 1774 and 1782 when his son, Col. William Dandridge, was charged with 1,000 acres of land.<sup>59</sup>

The estate of William Dandridge was divided between his two sons: William Dandridge the third, and Francis Dandridge who married Lucy Webb, and their two sisters who married neighbors: Elizabeth married Byrd Chamberlayne and Agnes married Edward Pyc Chamberlayne.

William Dandridge the third, generally known as Col. William Dandridge, was never married. He lived at Huntington and his brother, Francis, lived with him. Both of these men served as Justices of the County Court.<sup>60</sup>

Col. William Dandridge died in 1798 and devised his landed estate to the two sons of his brother, Col. Francis Dandridge: William and John, all of his land in King William County. The report of the Settlement of Col. William Dandridge's estate was recorded in 1800.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>57</sup>The Virginia Gazette, June 18, 1767

<sup>58</sup>Letters to Washington, Volume IV, page 378

<sup>59</sup>Land Tax Returns for King William Co. 1782

<sup>60</sup>Calendar of State Papers, Vol. 3, page 526

<sup>61</sup>King William Records, Book No. 4, page 340

Col. Francis Dandridge had married, on April 16, 1779, Lucy, daughter of George Webb of New Kent. As stated, they had two sons: William and John and a daughter, Nancy, who married Bowler Cocke. When Col. Francis Dandridge made his will he named Bowler Cocke, his son-in-law, his Executor.<sup>62</sup>

William Dandridge, the fourth of the name, son of Col. Francis Dandridge, became sole heir to the Dandridge lands between the Mattapony and Bull Swamp. In a short time he sold the land to Ambrose Dudley, 642 acres; to Mary Sutherland the Huntington tract, later known to have 4 acres.

William Dandridge and his wife, Sally Webb, moved to Henrico County.

The deed of conveyance from William Dandridge and Sally, his wife, to Mary Sutherland gives the bounds of the Huntington tract; the Mattapony River, Custis Mill Creek, Ambrose Dudley, Nathaniel Fox, and a tract of fifty acres on the south side of Custis Mill creek adjoining the lands of Peter Richeson, James Johnson and others, conveyed by the late Col. Francis West, decd. to the late Francis Dandridge Esq: decd., father of the said William Dandridge by his last will and testament, 3 June 1804, the date of recordation.<sup>63</sup>

There are scarcely no records relating to the county during the period 1810 to 1825. It is known that Mrs. Mary Sutherland died at Woodbury, the home of her daughter, Mrs. Eliza Quarles, wife of Major Isaac Quarles, during 1818.

In 1820, the plantation at Huntington was charged to Thos. W. S. Gregory, son of Nathaniel Gregory and Mary Ann Bickley who, for a long time, ran the Tavern at King William and who had married Mary, daughter of William Gregory and Ann Sutherland, his wife. Thomas W. S. Gregory and his wife were first cousins.

Thomas S. W. Gregory resided at Huntington during his lifetime. He was a prominent attorney in King William and later served as Judge of the District Court.

Their son, William M. Gregory died at Huntington in 1868.

For many years after the Gregory's residence, the property was rented and the fine brick house became a dilapidated old building.

#### (24b) THE HUNTINGDON HOUSE

In 1774, William Black wrote George Washington that "Mr. (William) Dandridge would sell and some say he must, a body of

<sup>62</sup>King William Records, Book No. 4, page 312

<sup>63</sup>King William Records, Book No. 4, page 312

3,000 acres of land and a very fine new brick house, which joins your mill (Custis Mill),<sup>64</sup>

It was a quarter of a century later when Bowler Cocke, Executor of the will of Col. Francis Dandridge, on 4 August 1799, offered Huntington for rent.

To be rented—Huntington, on 4th August next (1799) at King William Courthouse for three years—Huntington that beautiful seat on Mattapony River where Mr. Francis Dandridge formerly lived—Land was described as good for grain etc. An apple orchard—very good—under therefrom—Buildings: An elegant two story brick house with eight rooms and every other outhouses that is necessary for a great family.

Apply to Mr. Robert Dugar who lives on the place as it is necessary for me to go over the mountains for my health, I gave Mr. Edmund P. Chamberlayne to attend to this business for me.

Bowler Cocke  
Executor for Mr. Francis Dandridge<sup>65</sup>

This fine brick house stood for a hundred years after it was offered for rent by Bowler Cocke, for it was after 1900 that it was dismantled by Mr. James Cobb, and the brick and panelling were moved to the shore of the Mattapony River, for shipment, which never took place, and the brick and woodwork were lost.

Mr. James Cobb gave an accurate account of the place, and his description of the house agreed with the description in the advertisement. It was a large brick house, two stories over a shallow cellar, in which Mr. Cobb stalled his oxen, while cutting timber on the place. It had been deserted for some time and was then in a ruinous state.

There were two rooms on each side of a hallway on each floor, above the basement, which was not deep and it also had several rooms and a hallway in the basement.

The footings of this old place rest in the ground at the site, which can be easily found.

There have been no gravestones found on this plantation.

## (25) FOXES

At some time before 1700, Thomas Fox established his home on a tract of land which had been given him by a deed of gift from his

grandfather, Col. John West. He had occupied this plantation and, about 1712, it developed that the West Dividend had no patent issued and the deeds had not been recorded.

Thomas Fox joined with the other heirs who were concerned with having a valid title to their land and petitioned the Council. Henry Fox, his father, presented the petition and the various legateses under the will of Col. John West were authorized to have surveys made and get the proper certification from the Clerk of King William Court and consent would be given to have a patent issued.<sup>66</sup>

Thomas Fox had his land surveyed and the 296 acres of high land and the marsh land along the Mattapony between his land and the river was granted him by patent.<sup>67</sup>

Thomas Fox had married Mary, daughter of Edmund Tunstall who lived at King and Queen Courthouse. In fact, his home was the Courthouse. He established the Ferry which later became Fox's Ferry, crossing the Mattapony to the land of the Wyatts.

Thomas Fox lived here until his death and the small plantation passed, at his death, to his son, Thomas Fox. The son married for his first wife, Philadelphia, daughter of Philip Whitehead Claiborne and Elizabeth Dandridge, his wife. They had a large family and, about 1760, he moved to Spottsylvania County and became interested in the iron furnaces which were owned by Alexander Spottswood's family.

Thomas Fox purchased from his old neighbor, George Scaton, a large tract of land on North East Creek in that county.<sup>68</sup>

During the Revolution, John Gustavus Frazer wrote to Carter Braxton in behalf of John Paul Jones, with whom he was associated, and asked Braxton to secure for John Paul Jones a modest plantation on the Tidewater section of Virginia to which he might retire after the War. Carter Braxton and William Frazer purchased the plantation called "Foxes" with the intention of securing it for John Paul Jones.

There was no land charged to Thomas Fox in King William in 1782 but in the Alterations of Lands for 1785, Thomas Fox received, from the estate of William Frazer, deed., 350 acres of land which was the tract called Foxes.

It is evident that the land was returned to Thomas Fox because it had not been paid for, and it was an easy way to clear the estate of this land.

<sup>66</sup>Journals of the Executive Council of Colonial Virginia, Volume 3, page 326

<sup>67</sup>Land Patent Book No. 10, page 90

<sup>68</sup>Crozier, Spottsylvania Co. Records, page 287

<sup>64</sup>Letters to Washington, William Black to George Washington, dated April 25, 1774, Vol. 4, page 373

<sup>65</sup>Virginia Gazette and Advertiser, 31 July 1799, VSL:AD

Thomas Fox made his last will, which was proved in 1793, in which he appointed William B. Wallace, his Executor. In this will he provided a trust for his children by the first wife, Philadelphia Claiborne; the children of the second wife, Philadelphia Herndon, were given the land which he had purchased of George Seaton.<sup>69</sup>

Capt. William B. Wallace, in the course of time acting in his capacity as Executor, advertized the King William land of Capt. Thomas Fox, in September 1793.

The house, which stood here, overlooking Boardley Marsh across the Mattaponi, was a very old house and it was built, it is thought, by the first Thomas Fox before 1700.

It was a frame house, a story and a half with dormers and end chimneys which is described in the advertizement.

This house stood until 1950 when it was in such a state of decay that it could not be restored. It has been entirely removed from the site and a modern house has been erected a short distance below.

Pursuant to the last Will and Testament of Mr. Thomas Fox, deceased, will be Sold to the Highest Bidder, at King William Court-house on Monday the 28th of October next (1793) if fair, if not the next fair day.

#### TWO VALUABLE TRACTS OF LAND

In the said county lying on Mattaponi River two miles below Frazer's Ferry and warehouses, ten from said Courthouse, nine from West Point and thirty from Richmond, adjoining the lands of Messrs. Francis Dandridge and John Perrin. One tract containing about 500 acres on which is a commodious dwelling house, with two brick chimneys, two rooms on a floor, with a fireplace in each, and some outhouses; about 80 acres of cleared and enclosed with a good fence, the balance covered with excellent timber. The other tract adjoining contains about 80 acres all of which is well timbered. Both of these tracts of land lie level and the soil excels for almost every kind of produce, particularly wheat. There is annexed to this land a very extensive firm and valuable marsh supposed to contain 3 or 400 acres which might be reclaimed and will now afford a sufficient quantity of the best natural grass to support at least 500 head of cattle; and almost any number of hogs may be raised on it at little expense.

It is a beautiful seat which commands an extensive prospect of the river above and below the house near which is an excellent spring and a good fishing store, where may be caught among other fish a plenty of fine sturgeon, and excels for wild fowl of every kind. The levelness and fertility of the soil together with the great facility of conveying produce to market renders it immensely valuable. A credit of two years will be allowed the purchaser for one half the purchase

money, and twelve months credit for the other half, on giving bond with approval security. Mr. John Fox of Stafford County who is empowered to sell and convey this land to the purchasers will attend on the day of sale.

William Brown Wallace  
Executor<sup>70</sup>

September 13, 1793

The property was purchased by Capt. Nathaniel Fox of Rose-garden. The deed of conveyance from the Executor, Capt. William B. Wallace, of the Thomas Fox, decd. estate, in 1793, conveyed 350 acres of land lying on the Mattaponi River, called Foxes Ferry, along the lines of Francis Dandridge's Estate and Burford Creek.<sup>71</sup>

Capt. Nathaniel Fox died before 1809 and his son, Nathaniel Fox, fell heir to this tract of land on the Mattaponi River, in the settlement of his father's estate.

It passed from Nathaniel Fox, the younger, to his son, Bailey Fox, and Bailey Fox and his wife, Sally, sold the land to William Gregory. The deed stated that it was the land on which Bailey Fox then lived, containing 300 acres of high land and 400 acres of marsh adjoining the lands of Mary Sutherland (Huntington), William Dandridge, and Christopher Johnson. The deed was dated 25th of February 1811.<sup>72</sup>

Soon after this deed was made, William Gregory gave a deed of trust to William Fox and Mary Fox, infants of Sarah Fox, in consideration of Sarah Fox releasing her dower rights in the land where Bailey Fox, her husband, had lived during his lifetime. This deed was dated 25 March 1811.<sup>73</sup>

#### (26) PERRIN'S PLANTATION

In 1782, this tract of 270 acres of land was charged to John Perrin who owned an extensive area of land in the St. David's Parish. At that time John Perrin was disposing of the land by sale and exchange and it is probable that he exchanged the land. It was given

<sup>70</sup>Fredericksburg Virginia Herald of Sept. 19, 1793, in Warrenton, Va. Public Library, Courtesy of Mr. George H. S. King of Fredericksburg.

<sup>71</sup>King William Records Book 1700-1785, page 343

<sup>72</sup>King William Records, Book No. 6, page 7

<sup>73</sup>Ibid., Book No. 6, page 16

West

PERSONAL HISTORIES OF BEDFORD COUNTY.

JORDAN WATSON—was born in Bedford county, May 15, 1830, a son of Barnet A. and Polly (Wheat) Watson. His father died in January, 1802, and his mother in November, 1880. At Peaksville, this county, October 28, 1851, he married Nancy Ellis, who was born in Page county, Virginia, September 21, 1810. She was a daughter of Joseph Ellis, who was born in Fauquier county, Virginia, and who died September 18, 1850. Her mother, whose maiden name was Rachel Jones, was born in Page county, and died on the 9th of April, 1854. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Watson, and death has taken three: Their record is: Alice Laura, born August 10, 1852, lives at home; Rachel Ellis, born April 9, 1854, died April 14, 1882; Hubert F., born January 4, 1856, lives at Liberty; Araminta Irvin, born February 24, 1858, died October 19, 1892; Mary Josephine, born December 17, 1859, died January 24, 1892. Jordan Watson was a soldier of Virginia, and paid a heavy price for his loyalty to his native State. He enlisted August 12, 1861, Company E, 84th Virginia Infantry, went into service August 20, and was in all the engagements around Petersburg and Richmond, until three days before the surrender; was then taken prisoner and sent to Newport News, and there held until June 15, 1865. Within twelve months of the time he left home two of his children died, his stables were set on fire and burned, with his only horse, best cow and all his plowing gear. From that time until he was released and returned home, his wife, with her little children, had to struggle along alone, making as brave a fight for their lives and her own as he was making in the field. Mr. Watson has a farm of 180 acres of land in a high state of cultivation, and peace and plenty are now the reward for the sacrifices of himself and his worthy wife in earlier years. His postoffice address is Peaksville, Bedford county, Virginia.

OWEN W. WATSON—son of James F. and Cynthia (Wilkerson) Watson, was born in Bedford county, October 29, 1830. His father died in 1869, and his mother died in August, 1881. He has been three times married. His home has always been in Bedford county, and he is engaged in the avocations of farm life. His first wife, who was Mary Clarke before marriage, died in 1853. He married secondly Virginia C. Painter, who was born in 1835, and died March 19, 1878, leaving him two daughters: Lillian, born September 4, 1869, and Maggie, born May 4, 1871, both in Bedford county, May 20, 1874, Rebecca M. Burkholder became the wife of Owen W. Watson, and their daughter Minnie was born April 20, 1875. Rebecca M., wife of Mr. Watson, was born in Botetourt county, Virginia, September 14, 1835, a daughter of Isaac and Martha R. (Douglas) Burkholder. Her parents were born in Botetourt county, and her father died in August, 1882, her mother in April, 1866. July 21, 1862, Owen W. Watson enlisted in Company A, 28th Virginia Infantry, and he was wounded at Sharpsburg, September 17, 1862. He participated in a number of other battles unharmed, and served till the surrender. His postoffice address is Sedalia, Bedford county, Virginia.

WILLIAM N. WATSON—son of James F. and Cynthia (Wilkerson) Watson, was born in Bedford county, June 8, 1825. In this county, September 12, 1840, he married Louisa Coleman, and they have one daughter, Sarah Lee, born December 10, 1851, a resident in this county. The wife of Mr. Watson was born in Bedford county, October 20, 1825, a daughter of Leroy and Sally (Wilkerson) Coleman. Her father died April 6, 1856, and her mother died April 8, 1858. The father of Mr. Watson died April 22, 1869, and his mother died in August, 1881. In the war between the States, William N. Watson was represented in the army by a substitute, Captain William V. Jordan, in the 34th Virginia Infantry. He had seven brothers in the service: James M., Owen W., Joseph P., Calvin F., Benjamin P., Barnett C., and Charles E. All served through the war with credit, and returned home unharmed, after taking part in most of the battles in which the army of Northern Virginia was engaged. During the war, General Lee visited the Peaks of Otter, and expressed a wish to visit James F. Watson, "the father who had given seven sons to defend Virginia's honor and rights." William N. Watson owns and cultivates a farm of 218 acres, near Peaksville, in Liberty district. His postoffice address is Peaksville, Bedford county, Virginia.

JAMES M. WELLS—is a native of Mecklenburg county, Virginia, born March 31, 1844, and a son of John D. and Martha (Harris) Wells. His mother died in 1847. Alexander Wells, grandfather of James M., was a soldier in the war for Independence, and James M. was a soldier of the war between the States. He was a participant in the battles of Bluntville, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and many others of less importance. In Campbell county, Virginia, April 25, 1866, he married Armita Phillips, who was born in Nelson county, Virginia, April 25, 1844. Nelson Phillips, her father, died in 1855, and her mother, whose maiden name was Anna Phillips, died in 1876. In 1868 James M. Wells settled in Bedford county, engaging in mechanical pursuits, and in the home he has here established are six of the seven children of his marriage, death having taken one: John Nelson, born February 1, 1867; Martha Rosanna, December 8, 1868; Robert Edward, February 10, 1871, died in 1872; Robert Edward, born December 6, 1873; Ella Lee, June 9, 1876; Anna Lowry, June 26, 1879; Carrie Belle, April 5, 1883. James M. Wells' postoffice address is Bufordville, Bedford county, Virginia.

CHARLES H. WEST—is of the West family, eminent in the early settlement of Eastern Virginia. His great-grandfather, Obadiah West, came from Tidewater Virginia to Bedford county, and his grandfather and father made their home here. He is a son of John and Judy (Howell) West, were both born in Bedford county, and are still living here, and his birth in Bedford county, on the 8th of March, 1860. Two of his mother's brothers were soldiers of the Southern army, Alex. F. and Moses W. Howell. The first was wounded, had a finger shot off. Charles H. West is blacksmithing, postoffice address at Kigna, Bedford county, Virginia.

S. A. WEST—was born in Prince Edward county, Virginia, December 9, 1843, a son of Dr. Robert and Ann E. (Scott) West. He is of English descent, his ancestors early settlers at West Point, King William county. His father settled in practice in Appomattox county, and there died. His mother is now the wife of R. B. Holliday, of Winchester. S. A. West was a student of Randolph Macon College when Virginia severed her relations with the Federal government. In 1862 he answered her call for troops, enlisting in the 25th Battalion of Virginia Infantry. During his service he was commissioned lieutenant. He was captured at Sailor Creek and held at Johnsons Island for three months. A brother, G. M. West, served in the 2d Virginia Cavalry, and a younger brother, Robert, joined the Reserves, at the age of sixteen years. In Mecklenburg county, January 10, 1872, S. A. West married L. D. Hinton, who was born in that county December 5, 1850. Their children were born: Annie S., October 28, 1872; Robert, May 16, 1874, deceased; Robert, October 15, 1875, deceased; Minerva H., July 1, 1878; Janie H., May 18, 1880; J. Frank, March 24, 1883. The wife of Mr. West was a daughter of P. L. and Minerva (Davis) Hinton, both of whom died in Mecklenburg county. Her father went from Petersburg to make his home in Mecklenburg county, and his family had long been residents of Dinwiddie county, where they made their home on coming to this country from Wales, in the early days of Virginia settlement. She had two brothers in the Southern army: William E. Hinton, in Good's Cavalry, twice wounded and afterward captain in the infantry service, and Dr. P. L. Hinton, Assistant Hospital Surgeon in Georgia. In 1877, S. A. West settled in Bedford county, on an estate of 180 acres. His postoffice address is Goodes Crossing, Bedford county, Virginia.

THOMAS S. WEST—is a native of Appomattox county, Virginia, born January 28, 1842, a son of John W. and Maria F. (Scott) West. In 1857 he came with his parents to Bedford county. The first of the name and family of Mr. West to settle in Virginia were of English birth, and settled near West Point, in King William county. As soon as Virginia cast in her fortunes with the Southern Confederacy, Thomas S. West entered its army, and he served in Company A, 2d Virginia Cavalry, until the close of the war, receiving deserved promotion to the rank of lieutenant. His marriage was solemnized in Bedford county, May 21, 1868, and his wife is Sallie R., daughter of Thomas and M. Eliza (Burton) Poindexter. She was born in Bedford county, January 18, 1840. Her father was born in Louisa county, Virginia, and died in Bedford county. Her mother is now the wife of Dr. R. H. Thompson. The children of Mr. and Mrs. West are: Thomas P., John F., Eugene R., Cornelia C., Sidney D., Maria J., Edgar M. In 1873 Thomas S. West served as commissioner of revenue in Bedford county. He has a farm in Otter district, and his postoffice address is Bellevue, Bedford county, Virginia.

CHARLES W. WHARTON—is a son of John A. and Isabella (Brown) Wharton, who have been many years honored residents of Bedford county, and he was born in this county. In Augusta, Georgia, December 10, 1879, he was united in marriage with Estelle, daughter of Lafayette and Maria (Watson) Steptoe. They have two children, Charles W., and Marie L. The parents of Mrs. Wharton are no longer living. Her birth was in Lynchburg, Campbell county, Virginia. L. B. Wharton, brother of Charles W., was two years chaplain of the 59th Virginia Infantry, Confederate States Army. Charles W. Wharton is a trusted officer of the bank at Liberty, Bedford county, Virginia.

FOREST D. WHEAT—is a farmer of Liberty district, Bedford county, and was born in this county, January 10, 1840. He was a son of Forest Wheat, who died in August, 1864, and Jane (Dooley) Wheat, who died in 1870. April 10, 1861, Forest D. Wheat enlisted in Company A, 2d Virginia Cavalry, and from that time till the close of the war he was in active service with his company, except when disabled by a wound received at Charles City C. H., June 24, 1864, which kept him from the field five months. His regiment was a part of the gallant Army of Northern Virginia. In Bedford county, August 9, 1852, was born Eudora N. Everett, daughter of Anderson and Mildred A. Everett, of this county. Her father died in 1893. In Bedford county, June 24, 1874, she became the wife of Forest D. Wheat, and they have two children: Eleanor S., born June 25, 1876; Carey C., October 6, 1878. Mr. Wheat has held the office of magistrate, ably discharging its duties for the term of one year. His postoffice address is Peaksville, Bedford county, Virginia.

JOSEPH F. WHEAT—born in Bedford county, September 10, 1842, and Rebecca F. Bramlette, born in this county, August 8, 1849, were in this county united in wedlock on the 5th of September, 1865. Six children bless their marriage: James C., born June 28, 1866; Eva M., March 21, 1868; Ella B., January 5, 1871; Charley C., November 16, 1873; Mary E., September 5, 1875; Eddie H., September 22, 1881. Hazel Wheat, born in Bedford county, and Eliza M. Wheat, born in Amherst county, are the parents of Joseph F. Wheat, and his wife is a daughter of C. F. and Frances M. Bramlette, formerly of Bedford county and now deceased. Her father died in July, 1873, and her mother died in October, 1865. From July 10, 1861, until April 9, 1865, Joseph F. Wheat was a member of Company E, 34th Virginia Infantry, participating in all the engagements of that gallant regiment, among them: Seven Pines, the battles of the Peninsula, around Petersburg, and many others. Between Petersburg and Richmond, May 12, 1864, he was wounded by a ball through the left leg and disabled for active service but was on detached duty until the close of the war. At the close of the war he returned to farming, which still occupies his attention. He has a beautiful farm lying at the foot of the Blue Ridge range, in full view of the Peaks of Otter. His postoffice address is Otterville, Bedford county, Virginia.

JOHN M. WHITE—was born in Bedford county, July 27, 1829, and was married in this county December 9, 1852. He married Mary Virginia White,

Bedford County, Virginia