

Page 10- BASSETT, Wm. (died 1672) New Kent Co. son of Wm. Bassett, yeoman of Newport, Isle of WIGHT, He had been an officer in the English Garrison at Dunkirk, probably in Alsops regiment, until it was evacuated in 1662.

KEITHS Ancestry of Benjamin HARRISON, pg 27-29,  
(the book was not in our library)

929.3-D448 English Duplicates of Lost Va. Records by Louis des COGNETS Jr.

pg. 248. New Kent Co.

John LIGHTFOOT Esq. & Commander in Chief.

Joseph FOSTER, Lieut. Col.

William BASSETT, Major

This was year of 1699, Colonels and Commanders in cheif. The Lieutenant Colonels, and Commanders in Chief-of the Militia in the several counties in this, his Majestys Colony and Dominion of Va.

Pg. 157 Quit Rent Roll of King Wm. CO. 1704

Coll. BASSETT, 1550 acres

pg. 163, New Kent Co. Rent Roll, a rent roll of the lands held of her Majesties in the Parish of St. Peters and St. Paul Anns. 1704

Thomas BASSETT, 350 acres

Wm. BASSETT, 550 acres

pg. 164, New Kent Co. Cont'd.

Wm. BASSETT Esq. 1100 acres.

pg. 115-Extract out of the Council Journal of the we 23rd of Dec. 1720 of the quantity of land licensed to be taken up in the County of Spotsylvania.

Wm. BASSETT & Garvin CORBIN esq. 15,000 acres.

pg. 75. List of Patents signed in April 1704, King Wm. Co.

Wm. BASSETT 1000 acres

pg. 10 . New Kent Co. List of Co. Officers 1699

Wm. BASSETT, sheriff 17 June 1699

pg. 16. List of the quantity of land, number of Tithables and Civil Officers in the Dominion of Va. 8 July 1702

New Kent Co. Burgesses-Wm. BASSETT

pg. 56. Her Majesties Royall Colledge of Wm. & Mary in Va. 8 July 1702

Governors elected by virtue of the charter,

Benjamin HARRISON, Wm. BASSETT.

pg. 256. Persons qualified to be of his Majestys Honorable council here, and are recommended.

Wm. BASSETT

pg. 258-undated(1716?)

Wm. BASSETT, marr. Mr. LUDWELLS half neice.

3 Jan. 1973.

1790 CENSUS FOR UNITED STATES

State: va.

County: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Page: \_\_\_\_\_

Head of Family	Free white male		Free white female		Others	Slaves	Remarks
	16 & up incl. Head of families	Under 16	16 & up incl. Head of family	Under 16			
Dassett, Richard	9 white		1 Black				1782. Gloucester Co. pg 53
, William	6 white						29
, <sup>Wm</sup> Jr.			no details				68
, <sup>Wm</sup> Jr.	6 white		1 Black				53
, <sup>Wm</sup> Jr.	9 white						54
Dassett, Miss			no details				118
, Durwell	10 males		2 females		33 blk.		1785 New Kent Co. 93
, Durwell	3 white		133 black				1782 36
, ✓			no white		23 black		1782. 36
, ✓			no details				92
, Nathaniel	6 males		1 female		5 black		1785. Prince Edward Co. 100
, Richard	6 males		1 female		4 black		✓ Gloucester Co. 68
, <sup>Wm</sup> Jr.	5 males		1 female		4 black		✓ 68



New England immigrant, who married Peregrine White, the first born of English parents in New England, who was born on board the "Mayflower," in Cape Cod Harbor, in November, 1620. They lived in Marshfield, where Sarah Bassett White died in 1711.

#### EARLY NEW YORK CLEMENT WILLS

(Contributed to Genealogy)

JAMES CLEMENT of Flushing, 5 May, 1724.

- To wife Sarah
- To son John
- To son Samuel
- To son Thomas
- To son Jacob
- To son Joseph
- To daughter Mary Bate
- To daughter Sarah, wife of Thomas Henchman

JOSEPH CLEMENT, 16 September, 1748.

- To wife Sarah
- To son Joseph
- To son James
- To son Charles
- To daughter Sarah
- To daughter Mercy Willis
- To daughter Martha Carpenter

#### A WITTY BARON

Baron Frederick William Steuben, major-general of the American Army, who died 1794, aged 61, was a guest at the house of Mrs. Livingston, mother of the chancellor of New York, and was introduced to a Miss Sheaff. "I am happy," he said, "to be presented to you, though at a great risk; from my youth I have been cautioned against *mischief*; but I had no idea, that her attractions were so powerful."

#### EARLY VIRGINIA WILLS

Abstracts from Recently Discovered Records

(Continued from page 59 Vol. 5)

EAKIN, JAMES

- Rockbridge Co., Va. Will filed 5 Oct., 1785.
- wife Esabell
- two sons
- two daughters

EDGE, JOHN

- Prince William Co., Va. Will filed 26 June, 1738
- kinswoman Etz. Maguire
- friend Rachel Spiller

EDMONDSON, WILLIAM

- Rockbridge Co., Va. Will filed 5 Feb., 1782.
- s. William Edmondson
- s. Robert Edmondson
- s. John Edmondson
- d. Isabell Edmondson
- d. Ann Edmondson
- d. Mary Edmondson

EDMUNDSON, JAMES

- Rockbridge Co., Va. Will filed 4 March, 1783
- wife Agnes
- s. David Edmundson
- d. Jean Edmundson
- d. Sarah Tedford
- g. d. Elizabeth Tedford
- g. d. Agnes Tedford
- g. d. Jean Tedford
- g. d. Sarah Tedford

EGER, GEORGE

- Bedford Co., Va. Will filed 22 Oct., 1765.
- s. John Eger
- s. James Eger
- s. George Eger

25-8-75  
Genealogy Vol. 6.

### THE BASSETT FAMILY IN AMERICA

(Contributed to Genealogy)

The Bassetts were originally from Cornwall and Devonshire. The first English colonist to reach America was William Bassett, who arrived in the ship "Fortune," in September, 1621. He settled in Duxbury, Mass. Another early arrival was John Bassett, who located in New Haven, Conn., in 1643.

There are in this country upwards of 50,000 descendants of William Bassett, the first immigrant, and at the present time over 2000 American families bear the name of Bassett.

The Bassetts and Burwells were among the most prominent of Virginia families in Colonial days. On 9 March, 1713, Governor Spotswood declared: "The greater part of the present Council are related to the family of the Burwells. If Mr. Bassett and Mr. Berkeley should take their places, there will be no less than seven so near related that they will go off the bench whenever a cause of the Burwells comes to be tried."

Colonel William Bassett was son of Captain William Bassett (an officer in the English garrison at Dunkirk until it was evacuated in 1662), and Bridget, daughter of Colonel Miles Cary and Ann Taylor.

Joanna Burwell was daughter of Hon. Lewis Burwell and Abigail Smith (who was niece and heiress of Hon. Nathaniel Bacon, and whose great grandfather, Sir James Bacon, was first cousin to Lord Francis Bacon.)

Colonel William Bassett and Joanna Burwell were the great-grandparents of President William Henry Harrison, for it was Elizabeth Bassett, who married Benjamin Harrison, the father of President Harrison.

The name "Eltham," the home of Colonel William Bassett, suggests that Colonel Bassett descended from James Bassett, gentleman, of the royal chamber, who died in 1558, and his scholarly wife, Mary, daughter of

William Roper, of Eltham, in Kent, England, Mary's mother was daughter of Sir Thomas Moore, Lord Chancellor of England.

Col. William Bassett's tomb bears the arms of the family: Or, three bars wavy gules. Crest: A unicorn's head coupled argent. Motto: Pro rege et populo.

The coat of arms borne by the falconer, Thurstine de Basset, was: Argent, a chevron between three bugle horns, sable. Crest: A stag's head cabossed, between the attires, a cross fitchee, all argent. Motto: "Death before dishonor."

In New England, there was a Nathaniel Bassett of Chatham, or Harwich, Mass., born 1755. Nothing is known of him unless this is he: "Captain Nathaniel Bassett," "killed by pirates," left sons Nathaniel and Joel and probably "Ellery"?

One of the revolutionary heroes was Abraham Bassett, who was in the battles of Long Island and White Plains. Near one hundred Bassetts from Massachusetts alone were in the Revolution.

Ebenezer Bassett, served in the sea coast defense of Martha's Vineyard in 1776. After the Revolution he removed to Washington Co., New York state. He married Abigail Adams, and had a son Ashahel.

Richard Bassett, senator and governor of Delaware, 1798, was born in Delaware, and lived in his native state during all his life. He was always in active practice, and while the articles of Confederation were in force in the American colonies, was a member of the Continental Congress. He was in active correspondence with many of the leading men of his day.

In November, 1689, in the Province of Maine, Capt. William Bassett took prominent part in a Council of War, held at the Point Garrison, in Scarborough.

Among the females of the family, the place of honor falls to Sarah Bassett, the daughter of William, the first



book. During the night the Federal army withdrew to their base at Harrison's Landing (see below).

In the GLENDALE NATIONAL CEMETERY (R), 3.1 m., are a vertically mounted cannon and symmetrically circular rows of headstones. Of the 1,192 buried here 958 are unknown.

GLENDALE, 3.9 m., a hamlet where several roads converge, was the central point during the Battle of Glendale, or Frayser's Farm. On June 30, following the Battle of Savage Station, Lee's divisions encountered the Federals at Malvern Hill, at White Oak Swamp, and at this crossroads. Though several Federal divisions maintained their ground throughout the afternoon, fighting stopped as darkness came on, and the Federal forces withdrew to Malvern Hill.

At WHITE OAK SWAMP, 6.5 m., General W.B. Franklin held Jackson. Reaching the north side of the stream about noon and finding the bridge destroyed, Jackson remained here until Franklin withdrew after nightfall.

At 10.4 m. is a junction with US 60 (see Tour 8a).

At 14.7 m. on State 5 is a junction with a dirt trail.

Right here through woods to another trail, 0.3 m., and R. to the RANDOLPH MONUMENT, 0.5 m. This area—Park Woods—was part of the Turkey Island estate and maintained by the Randolph family as a park. The obelisk, 18 feet high, relates that, 'The Foundation of this Pillar was laid in the calamitous year 1771 when all the Great Rivers of this Country were swept by inundations never before experienced which changed the face of Nature and left traces of their violence that will remain for ages. In the year of 1772 this monument was raised to the memory of the first Richard and Jane Randolph of Curles.'

At 17.5 m. on State 5 is a junction with County 607.

Left here to County 605, 1.3 m., and R. to the SITE OF THE FOREST (R), 1.5 m., where Thomas Jefferson and Martha Wayles Skelton, widow of Bathurst Skelton, were married New Year's Day 1772.

At 19.6 m. on State 5 is a junction with County 608.

Right here 1.5 m. to (R) SHIRLEY (gardens open week days, adm. 50¢; house open April Garden Week), one of the largest Tidewater mansions, built between 1720 and 1740; it is on a lawn sloping to the river. Large outbuildings are behind it. The square three-story brick structure is unusually high and has a deep denticulated cornice. The double-hipped roof has no ridge; there is a single fineal at the peak, and plain gabled dormers are packed closely about its four sides. Glazed headers, now almost black, laid in Flemish bond, make a checkered pattern against the dull pink of the stretchers. The entrance fronts are half hidden by large two-story porches with plain columns and low pediments, added in 1800.

The asymmetrical interior is notable for its woodwork especially for the number of completely paneled rooms. In the very large hall, occupying more than a quarter of the main floor, is a 'hanging stair,' which seems to have no support as it swings out over the center of the chamber on its way up a square well three stories high. Deep cornices, mantels, overmantels, and broken pediments—each different—over doors that connect the hall and three large reception rooms have carved details. Besides old furniture, the house contains a large collection of portraits. In the great hall hangs an oil of 'King' Carter, elegant in bright red coat and other eighteenth-century finery; and in the parlor are crayons of a later Robert Carter and his wife, and of William Carter, by Saint-Mémin.

The estate was settled in 1613 as a hundred called 'West-and-Sherley,' owned by Thomas West, third Lord Delaware, and his brothers, Francis, Nathaniel, and John—all, except Nathaniel, in turn, governors of Virginia. It was early patented by Colonel Edward Hill. Commemorating in its name Sir Thomas Sherley, the father of Cecily, Lady Delaware, Shirley passed to Colonel Edward Hill II (1637-1700), treasurer of the colony, attorney-general, and also councillor and speaker of the house of burgesses. In 1720 the estate was inherited by Elizabeth Hill, who in 1723 married

John Carter (1690-1743), eldest son of 'King' Carter (see Tour 16b). Their grand daughter, Ann Hill Carter, was married here to 'Light Horse Harry' Lee in 1793 (see Tour 16b).

At 20.8 m. on State 5 is a junction with State 36.

Right here to HARRISON'S POINT, 1.1 m., terminus of the HOPEWELL-CHARLE CITY FERRY (see Tour 19) (hourly service 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; car and driver 65¢; round trip \$1, each passenger 20¢, round trip 30¢).

The highway crosses Kimage's Creek, 21.5 m., which flows by CAWSEY'S CARE, patented by Nathaniel Causey in 1620. The estate was owned during the time of Bacon's Rebellion by Colonel Thomas Grendon, whose wife Sarah took so prominent a part in the uprising against autocratic rule that she had the honor of being the only woman excepted under the act of 1677 for 'indemnitie and free pardon.'

At 23 m. on State 5 is a junction with a dirt road.

Right here to BERKELEY (R), 0.2 m., the birthplace of a signer of the Declaration of Independence—Benjamin Harrison—of a president of the United States—William Henry Harrison—and ancestral home of another president—Benjamin Harrison. Berkeley stands between detached dependencies at the head of low terraced gardens above the James. Its warm red brick walls rise two stories to a deep cornice beneath a massive gabled roof. Two tall chimneys pierce the ridge near the ends above widely spaced dormers.

The chalk white of an unusual quantity of interior hand-tooled woodwork is accentuated by plaster-tinted walls. The spacious, deeply corniced, transverse hall is broken midway by a broad elliptical arch springing from fluted pilasters. A pair of drawing rooms are attractively joined by double-arched openings that flank their common chimney. A glass panel in the wall now reveals 'B. Harrison,' traced undoubtedly by the builder in the temptingly wet base plaster.

The estate was a part of Berkeley Hundred, a grant made to Sir George Yeardley, Richard Berkeley, and others in 1619. The proprietors instructed the settlers of the 'Town and Hundred' that 'the day of our ships arrival . . . shall be yearly and perpetually kept as a day of Thanksgiving.' The *Margaret* landed her passengers at Berkeley, December 4, 1619—a year and 17 days before the Pilgrims arrived to establish their Thanksgiving Day.

Abandoned after the massacre of 1622, the Hundred was later acquired by John Bland, whose son Giles lived here until executed for his part in Bacon's Rebellion. Confiscated by Governor Berkeley, the land was purchased by Benjamin Harrison (1673-1710), attorney-general of the colony, treasurer and speaker of the house of burgesses. Benjamin Harrison, his son, began to build this mansion in 1726. With two daughters, he was killed by lightning during a 'violent Thunder Gust' in July 1745. His son, Benjamin Harrison (1726-91), who installed the handsome interior woodwork, was the signer, a governor of Virginia, and father of William Henry Harrison (1773-1841), who emigrated to the Ohio Territory. William Henry Harrison achieved his distinction in the Northwest Territory, of which he was the first secretary, and which he represented in Congress. The victory of Tippecanoe in 1811 gave him a lasting epithet and 19 years later the campaign slogan that won for the Harrison-Tyler Whig ticket success at the polls. He died, however, one month after his inauguration. His grandson, Benjamin Harrison visited his ancestral home as President of the United States.

Benedict Arnold plundered Berkeley in 1781, and the estate, called Harrison's Landing, served as a base and camping-ground for the Federal army after McClellan's withdrawal from Malvern Hill. Near his transports and under protection of gunboats, McClellan was safe from attack by pursuing Confederate infantry, who stopped short of the river. Though McClellan remained in this position until mid-August, Lee began to withdraw his army on July 13, to oppose General John Pope in northern Virginia.

On the same road WESTOVER, at 2.3 m. (grounds open daily, adm. \$1; house open

State 30 branches east from US 360 (see Tour 20a) at CENTRAL GARAGE, 0 m.

RUMFORD, 2.7 m. (20 pop.), is at a junction with County 600.

Left here to RUMFORD ACADEMY (R), 0.3 m., a dilapidated brick building that held one of the many private schools for boys operated before the inauguration of a State high school system. It was established in 1804.

The entrance to MOUNT PISGAH (R), is at 1.4 m. The large brick house is in a grove, and its lawn sweeps toward the river. Thick walls, recessed windows, wide floor boards, the trim, and a basement containing kitchen, dining room, and storage pantries attest its age, as does a brick in a fireplace bearing the date 1760. The house has been beautifully restored. Its builder was Henry Robinson, a brother of Speaker John Robinson (see Tour 1B).

In 1870 Miss Fannie Page Robinson opened a seminary here for young ladies and had the roof of the house lifted to provide more bedrooms for her students. Just what 'Miss Page' taught is not a matter of record; yet from Mount Pisgah and other such seminaries students were prepared for the early women's colleges of Virginia, which patterned their curricula after 'The University' and Richmond College.

At 3.9 m. on State 30 is a junction with County 616.

Right here to CHERRY GROVE (R), 1.1 m., a remodeled frame house on a slight eminence. Ambrose Edwards, who came to Virginia in 1745, built the house and lived here until his death in 1810. Wealthen Butler was his first wife. Late in life, he married a rich widow, Barbara Finch, who, like many another woman of her day, managed to evade the rigors of the Common Law through a prenuptial contract stipulating that her husband should not interfere with the management of her property and in turn agreeing to make no claim upon his.

Close by the house is the family burying ground, now a tangle of vines and mulberry shoots. Because seven Negroes died soon after working among the graves, it is now well nigh impossible to employ men to clear away the underbrush.

At 6.6 m. on State 30 is a junction with County 629.

Left here to ENFIELD (R), 1.8 m. (see Tour 1B).

At 6.7 m. on State 30 is a junction with County 629.

Right here to ACQUINTON CHURCH (R), 1.8 m., gaunt ghost of another day. Its flagstone flooring is gone; its brick walls are now covered with stucco; its pews and pulpit have been taken away. Yet Acquinton, built in 1732, was one of the four Colonial churches in the rich Pamunkey Neck area, embraced originally by St. John's Parish. Of the Reverend Henry Skyron, rector from 1773 to 1787, Bishop Meade wrote, 'He was an elegant scholar . . . alike remarkable for his eloquence and piety, never participating in any of the worldly amusements so common with the clergy . . . When Mr. Skyron preached Acquinton Church was always so crowded that the people used to bring their seats and fill up the aisle after the pews were full.' The Bishop added, 'His widow, who was too amiable to refuse a favor . . . allowed the ministers of the neighboring parishes to pick over and take away his sermons, which were never returned.'

For a time after the Revolution Acquinton Church was abandoned; later it was used by Methodist and Baptist congregations.

At 3.5 m. is a junction with County 623; L. here 3.9 m. to a private road and R. to ELSING GREEN, 5.1 m., a large brick house in a wide lawn near the Pamunkey River. This large, solid Georgian Colonial building, built in part about 1719, has a pair of gable-roofed dependencies. Large halls form a cross. At each end of the side hall is a fine stairway with such an easy rise that a daughter of William Browne, one of the owners, once rode her pony up one flight and down the other.

Captain William Dandridge, captain in His Majesty's Navy and uncle of Martha

Washington, built part of the structure, which was the home of (below) from 1758 to 1767.

At 5.3 m. on County 629 is a junction with County 600; L. her road, and R. 1 m. to CHERICOKE, a square hip roofed brick house sheltered by trees and surrounded by hedges of mockorange. The house was burnt by Braxton, gutted by fire during the Revolution, restored, but stored.

Cartier Braxton (see Tour 1B) lived here until 1786. He was educated at William and Mary; served in the house of burgesses almost continually until 1775; was a member (1774-76) of the Virginia Conventions at the first Congress in 1776; and signed the Declaration of Independence.

KING WILLIAM, 7.8 m. (50 pop.), seat of King William County, has its few scattered stores and homes, bustles mildly on country roads larger than it was in Colonial days and only slightly changed in pace and way of life. The automobiles parked outside seem an anachronism. Most prominent in the enclosure is the COLONIAL BRICK WALL, one of the few still standing in Virginia. The HOUSE, a T-shaped building, with hip roof, end chimneys and a loggia across its façade. On the court green are also the COURT and JAIL, both built since 1885, and the usual CONFEDERATE

King William County was formed in 1701 from King and Queen counties and named for William III. King and Queen had been cut off in 1691.

At 8.5 m. is a junction with State 293.

Right on this road, which becomes County 633, to a junction with County 629; R. here to the PAMUNKEY INDIAN RESERVATION, 8 m. Indians whose tribe has lived on this neck since the land was first settled in 1677. The treaty announced that 'The Respective Indian nations do henceforth acknowledge their immediate dependency on, and their allegiance to, the great King of England, Our now dread Sovereign.' The Queen (see Tour 6A), then ruler of the Tidewater Confederacy, signed a symbol that resembles a script capital U. Charles II sent a gift to her and the English Queen 'decorated' the Queen of the Pamunkey with a silver chain. This 'crown' is now preserved by the Society.

On the reservation the wards, supervised by the State and exempt from taxes, and continuing a semblance of their tribal customs, are governed by a council of their own choosing. They live in small frame houses along dirt roads, a church affiliated with the Baptist General Association, and their needs provided by the State, and gain their livelihood through farming and fishing. The women make and sell pottery, shape beads, and fashion watch fobs, and other articles. Following custom, the chief and his family bring gramage to Richmond each Thanksgiving and on the steps of the State House a freshly killed game—quail, rabbits, turkeys, and occasionally a deer of Virginia, whom they address as 'Great White Father.' For the occasion they wear beaded doeskin suits and feathered headgear. They are frequent visitors to legislative halls, particularly when they fear that the passage of a bill of miscegenation will result in classifying them as negroid.

At 13.1 m. is a junction with County 640.

Left here to County 625, 1.1 m., and L. to the MATTAPONI INDIAN RESERVATION, 2.3 m., home of another small remnant of the former Tidewater Confederacy. After the massacre of 1644, the Mattaponi were driven to the Neck by William Claiborne to a site near the Rappahannock, but in 1668.

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At 3.5 m. is a junction with County 623; L. here 3.9 m. to a private road and R. to ELSING GREEN, 5.1 m., a large brick house in a wide lawn near the Pamunkey River. This large, solid Georgian Colonial building, built in part about 1719, has a pair of gable-roofed dependencies. Large halls form a cross. At each end of the side hall is a fine stairway with such an easy rise that a daughter of William Browne, one of the owners, once rode her pony up one flight and down the other.

Captain William Dandridge, captain in His Majesty's Navy and uncle of Martha

Washington, built part of the structure, which was the home of Carter Braxton (see *below*) from 1758 to 1767.

At 5.3 m. on County 629 is a junction with County 600; L. here 1 m. to a private road, and R. 1 m. to CHERRICOCK, a square hip roofed brick house shaded by old locust trees and surrounded by hedges of mockorange. The house was built in 1767 by Carter Braxton, gutted by fire during the Revolution, restored, burned, and again restored.

Carter Braxton (see *Tour 1B*) lived here until 1786. He was educated at the College of William and Mary; served in the house of burgesses almost continuously from 1761 until 1775; was a member (1774-76) of the Virginia Conventions and of the Continental Congress in 1776; and signed the Declaration of Independence.

KING WILLIAM, 7.8 m. (50 pop.), seat of King William County, with its few scattered stores and homes, bustles mildly on court days. It is no larger than it was in Colonial days and only slightly changed in appearance and way of life. The automobiles parked outside the court green seem an anachronism. Most prominent in the enclosure formed by the Colonial brick wall, one of the few still standing in Virginia, is the COURTHOUSE, a T-shaped building, with hip roof, end chimneys, and an arched loggia across its façade. On the court green are also the CLERK'S OFFICE and JAIL, both built since 1885, and the usual CONFEDERATE MONUMENT.

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Right on this road, which becomes County 631, to a junction with County 623, 7.8 m., R. here to the PAMUNKEY INDIAN RESERVATION, 8.8 m., home of the Indians whose tribe has lived on this neck since the land was assigned to it by the colony in 1677. The treaty announced that 'The Respective Indian Kings and Queens doe henceforth acknowledge their immediate dependency on, and Owe all Subjection to, the great King of England, Our now dread Sovereign, the Queen of the Pamunkey (see *Tour 6A*), then ruler of the Tidewater Confederacy, signed the treaty by a symbol that resembles a script capital U. Charles II sent a gift to each of the signers; and the English Queen 'decorated' the Queen of the Pamunkey with a velvet hat adorned by a silver chain. This 'crown' is now preserved by the Virginia Historical Society.

On the reservation the wards, supervised by the State and exempted from taxation and continuing a semblance of their tribal customs, are governed by a chief and council of their own choosing. They live in small frame houses along dirt roads, worship in a church affiliated with the Baptist General Association, send their children to a school provided by the State, and gain their livelihood through farming, hunting, and fishing. The women make and sell pottery, shape beads, and fashion pocketbooks, watch fobs, and other articles. Following custom, the chief and his men make a pilgrimage to Richmond each Thanksgiving and on the steps of the capitol present freshly killed game—quail, rabbits, turkeys, and occasionally a deer—to the governor of Virginia, whom they address as 'Great White Father.' For the occasion the Indians wear beaded doekin suits and feathered headgear. They are frequently seen about the legislative halls, particularly when they fear that the passage of bills aimed to stop miscegenation will result in classifying them as negro.

At 13.1 m. is a junction with County 640.

Left here to County 625, 1.1 m., and L. to the MATTAPONI INDIAN RESERVATION, 2.3 m. Home of another small remnant of the former Tidewater Indian Confederacy. After the massacre of 1644, the Mattaponi were driven from Pamunkey Neck by William Claiborne to a site near the Rappahannock, but returned here in 1668.

gotiations between the Indians and the settlers in 1613, had been on land that was later part of Eltham.

At 23.3 m. on State 33 is a junction with County 623.

Right here to a private road, 2.3 m.; L. to the SITE OF CHESTNUT GROVE, 3.4 m., birthplace of Martha Dandridge, who became the wife of George Washington. The house burned in 1927.

Martha Dandridge was born on June 2, 1731, the first child of Colonel John Dandridge and Frances Jones. Her father came here from Hampton, following his brother William (see *Tour 20A*), and built his house about 1722.

NEW KENT, 24.1 m. (50 pop.), seat of New Kent County, is no larger now than it was in 1691, when it became the county seat.

The tiny COURTHOUSE (1906), upon a neat green, with the Confederate Monument before it, houses portraits of Martha and George Washington, executed by David Silvette, after Stuart. New Kent County, formed in 1654 from York County, was reduced in size in 1691 when its territory north of the Pamunkey River became King and Queen County.

The TAVERN, once a low brick building with dormers, has been given two full stories by a frame addition. When General George B. McClellan established communication headquarters here during the Peninsular Campaign of 1862, the town, for the only time in its history, heard the click of telegraph keys. It is told that a tavern keeper of ante-bellum days, a Mr. Howle, was so unwilling to cater to guests that the Reverend Mr. Jones was moved to reprove him with the grace: 'God bless the Owl that ate the fowl and left the bones for Servant Jones.'

At 26.1 m. is a junction with County 608.

Right here to County 609, 4.3 m., and R. 0.3 m. to a private road; R. here to the SITE OF THE WHITE HOUSE, 0.8 m., home of Martha Dandridge Custis at the time of her marriage to George Washington. The house was burned by Federal soldiers in 1862.

The estate was acquired by the eccentric John Custis IV (see *Tour 2*), who gave it to his son, Daniel Parke Custis, as a home for Martha Dandridge, his bride of 1749. Eight years later he died, leaving her with two children, John Parke Custis and Martha Parke Custis. Thus, when Martha Dandridge Custis met George Washington in May 1758, she was mistress of a large plantation.

The bride's home was probably the scene of her wedding with Washington, celebrated on January 6, 1759, 'at candle light.' Home weddings had become the custom because no church was ever lighted at night—a law of the colony prohibiting meetings of any kind at churches after sundown—and no church had any means of heating in winter.

White House passed to John Parke Custis, then to his son George Washington Parke Custis, George Washington's adopted son, who left it in 1857 to his grandson, William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, second son of General Robert E. Lee.

Not long after General Lee's family left Arlington (see *Tour 12*) in 1861, Mrs. Lee came here to stay with her daughter-in-law, Charlotte Wickham Lee, and she was here when McClellan's army began the march up the Peninsula. On May 11 the women left the White House, pinning on the front door a note: 'Northern soldiers who profess to reverence Washington, forbear to desecrate the home of his first married life, the property of his wife, now owned by her descendants.' A few days later there was penned under the note: 'Lady, a Northern officer has protected your property in sight of the enemy, and at the request of your overseer.' Though the Federal army stored supplies on the estate, General McClellan gave specific protection to the White House. None

the less, in the confusion after McClellan's defeat at Gaines' Mill June 27, the White House was set afire and burned.

At 4.4 m. on County 608 is the entrance to a private dirt road; R. here 1.2 m. to POPLAR GROVE, a two-story brick house formerly L-shaped but now square with a hip roof. The house was built about 1725 by Colonel William Chamberlayne, whose son, Colonel Richard Chamberlayne, was owner in May 1738 when Colonel George Washington, attended by his body servant, Bishop, crossed the Pamunkey River by the ferry on his way to Williamsburg with dispatches. Colonel Chamberlayne, who happened to be at the landing, invited Washington to dine at his home. Acceptance of the invitation was impossible, Washington explained; the mission in Williamsburg was urgent. But when Colonel Chamberlayne promised an introduction to the 'prettiest and richest widow in Virginia,' George Washington yielded. He 'would dine—only dine'—and by 'borrowing of the night' could be in Williamsburg the following morning. While the faithful Bishop waited, holding by the bridle the handsome charger presented by General Braddock, Washington lingered on. At sunset Colonel Chamberlayne declared that no man left his house at such an hour. So Washington stayed the night. Though he went to Williamsburg the next day, he returned to visit Martha Dandridge Custis at White House before he set forth on the expedition against the French. And by July he was able to write to her that he embraced the opportunity 'to send a few words to one whose life is now inseparable from mine. Since that happy hour when we made our pledges to each other, my thoughts have been continually going to you as to another self.'

At 30 m. on State 33 is a junction with State 155.

Right on this road to County 614, 0.9 m.; L. here 0.6 m. to a junction with County 606 and L. again 6.2 m. to HAMPSTEAD (L), a large brick house among old trees and shrubbery. It has a hip roof with a platform and a parapet balustrade. There are tall-columned porticos on both fronts and pilasters adorn the walls. Ornamentation is even more elaborate in the interior. From the great central hall, a stairway winds to an observatory.

Hampstead was built in 1820 by Conrad Webb. Among the Webbs prominent in Colonial Virginia was George Webb, author of *The Office and Authority of a Justice of the Peace*, published in Williamsburg in 1736 and called 'Webb's Justice.'

On State 155 is ST. PETER'S CHURCH (R), 1.6 m., with its graveyard in a grove on a knoll. Though not built until 1701-03, its style is that of the low-pitched early-Colonial rectangular church, with arched windows. The arches of the huge tower, which was added in 1722, rise to the level of the eaves. The pyramidal steeple was erected in 1740. In 1719 a brick wall, since removed, was ordered built around the churchyard, 's'd wall . . . in all respects as well done as the Capitol wall in Williamsburg.' Except for mellowness of age, St. Peter's looks much as it did in the eighteenth century. Though St. Peter's survived the Revolution, its furnishings were destroyed during the War between the States. On the walls of the chancel remain two mural tablets, the only objects approaching ornamentation. One commemorates the Reverend David Mossom, who officiated at the marriage of George Washington; the other Colonel William Chamberlayne of Poplar Grove. Both are buried beneath the chancel. St. Peter's was the first brick church to be built in the parish and was called the 'Brick Church.' Only once in records of the Colonial era—in 1752—was it referred to as St. Peter's Church.

St. Peter's Parish, formed in 1679 from Blissland Parish, had four churches in 1794 when St. Paul's Parish was cut from it.

Here as elsewhere the colonial vestry concerned itself with matters material as well as those spiritual—one reason for the unpopularity of the Established Church at the time of the Revolution. But the Reverend Nicholas Moreau, rector from 1696 to 1697, wrote the Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry: 'I don't like this Country at all, my Lord . . . Your clergy in these parts are of a very ill example . . . I have got in the very worst parish of Virginia and most troublesome . . . An eminent Bishop . . . sent over here . . . will make Hell tremble and settle the Church of England in these parts forever.'

Of the 17 rectors that served the parish from 1680 to 1789, the Reverend Mr. Mossom is the most noted—for longevity of service and irascibility of temper. He came to

Dandridge

river. Daniel Colley built the two-story brick house in the first half of the eighteenth century and named it for his home in England.

The dirt road continues to BEECHWOOD (L), 0.9 m., almost demolished during the War between the States and subsequently restored. Situated on an eminence, it is surrounded by a sweeping lawn. This plantation was the home of Edmund Ruffin, whose writings on agriculture and experiments in scientific farming were the means of reclaiming impoverished lands in Virginia and who fired the first gun at Fort Sumter. Federal gunboats, cannonading along the river, took pot shots at the home of the man who was connected with the beginning of hostilities. On the hillsides are remnants of the marl beds that played a major role in Edmund Ruffin's efforts to redeem the Tide-water soil. Here Ruffin wrote many of the articles that might have revolutionized farming throughout the South. His later years were spent at Marlbourne (*see Tour 200*).

On County 641, at 1.5 m., is the junction with another dirt road; L. here 2 m. to COGGIN'S POINT, where piles of bricks, a burying ground, and flowers and shrubbery mark the site of a house in which lived George Ruffin, the father of Edmund Ruffin. The Ruffin estate once covered more than 1,300 acres. From this point on January 10, 1781, Baron von Steuben observed Benedict Arnold retreating down the James after his raid on Richmond. On July 31, 1862, from the same place, General D.H. Hill bombarded the camp of General McClellan on the north bank of the river.

At GARYSVILLE (25 pop.), 34.5 m., the RUINS OF GARY'S MILL and two old houses beyond the creek constitute the only evidence of the community's antiquity. The mill was built in the middle of the seventeenth century. Powell's Creek, at the edge of the scattered settlement, gives nominal honor to Nathaniel Powell, acting governor of the colony in 1619.

At 34.9 m. is a junction with County 639.

Left here to County 640, 2.1 m. and L. 1.3 m. to MAYCOCK PLANTATION. Near the river are breastworks thrown up during the War between the States. Samuel Maycock (or Maycox), one of the settlers slain in the Indian uprising of 1622, patented the land in 1618. It was bought in 1774 by David Meade, of whose garden a commentator reported, 'Forest and fruit trees are here arranged as if nature and art had conspired together to strike the eye most agreeably.' From the jutting point of the plantation Cornwallis crossed the James, on May 24, 1781, advancing northward in pursuit of La Fayette.

On County 639 is FLOWER DE HUNDRED, 4.1 m., on an elevation above vestiges of terraced lawns and gardens. This frame plantation house, despite many years of neglect, has not lost its quiet charm. A two-storied central section with end chimneys is flanked by matching wings. In 1618 Sir George Yeardley patented and named the plantation and on it in 1621 built the first American windmill.

In 1862 to prevent the landing of Northern troops on the south side of the James, the Confederate Government ordered the burning of the new wharf here. In 1864, when General Grant crossed the river here, soldiers trampled standing corn, camped in fields and on the lawns, and destroyed woodwork and old furniture in the house; one of them gaily marched off wearing the bridal veil of a newly married daughter of the house.

BURROWSVILLE, 40 m., has allowed filling stations and general stores to obscure its few old homes.

Left from Burrowsville on County 616 to the SITE OF FORT POWHATAN and HOOD'S FORT, 4.9 m., on a high bluff above the James. Still visible are the piles of an early wharf and earthworks of the fortifications. This place at which tobacco was received, inspected, and shipped began its military career on September 13, 1776, when the Council of Virginia ordered the 'whole amount of cargoes of salt, medicines, clothing for the Army . . . also 90 hoghead of tobacco and 900 barrels of flour to be stored at Hood's' and had fortifications thrown up for their protection. With the outbreak of

the War of 1812 the fortifications were strengthened. Toward the end of the War between the States the point was occupied by a regiment of Negro troops under command of General E.A. Wilde.

At 40.6 m. on State 10 is a junction with County 611.

Left here to BRANDON CHURCH (L), 0.2 m.; a nineteenth-century successor to the church in the part of Weyanoke Parish that in 1720 was added to Martin's Brandon Parish.

On County 611 is a junction with County 600, 1.2 m.: L. here 5.6 m. to UPPER BRANDON (L), on a slope above the James River. Boxwood in untutored growth surrounds the house, and the lawn is shaded by enormous willow oaks, ashes, and magnolias. Like its older neighbor, Brandon (*see below*), the red brick house differs in design from other plantation homes in Virginia, and resembles those of early Maryland. A two-story central unit, with one-story wings and square portico, is linked with separate two-story buildings on high basements.

Here are portraits of Maria Byrd by Charles Bridges, and of Martha Blount, reputedly the sweetheart of the misogynistic Alexander Pope.

The estate is part of the original Brandon grant. William Byrd Harrison, the son of Benjamin Harrison of Brandon and Evelyn Taylor Byrd—niece of the beautiful Evelyn whose ghost still lingers at Westover (*see Tour 24*)—built the house early in the nineteenth century. Along with Ruffin, Harrison was a pioneer in the use of lime to counteract the acidity of impoverished lands.

On County 611 is BRANDON, 5.7 m., among old trees, high above a broad expanse of the river. The house looks toward the river through a vista bordered by a formal garden, outlined by dwarf boxwood that has grown to gigantic proportions. In one garden, faithfully preserved, are ancient cucumber trees, yews, and a pecan more than 300 years old and 30 feet in girth.

The house, measuring 210 feet from end to end, consists of a central unit two stories high and flanked by one story wings, connected with separate two-story rectangular buildings by hypheens. On the one-story porch are four fluted Corinthian columns. A large pineapple, symbolizing hospitality, caps the peak of the hip roof. A hall, from which rises a graceful stairway, separates the living room and the dining room. The mahogany balustrade is decorated with shell carvings, and the rooms of this unit are trimmed with carved paneling. Exquisite simplicity is the dominant characteristic of Brandon.

This land was patented in 1616 by John Martin and subsequently, with Merchant's Hope, came under the joint ownership of Quiney and Sadler, brothers-in-law. Quiney's moiety passed to his son Thomas, and then to Thomas's great-nephew, Robert Richardson. By 1720 the property was in the hands of Nathaniel Harrison. The oldest part of the house, the east wing, was built in the first half of the eighteenth century. The main section shows the influence of Thomas Jefferson. British ships fired on the house in 1776, and Federal forces in the 1860's burned outbuildings and tore away wainscoting.

CABIN POINT, 44 m., a cluster of houses and filling stations, is the 'Cabin Point' of commercial importance as early as 1639. In 1753 a town called Guilford was laid out here by John Cocke. In time it became a cross-roads stage stop.

SPRING GROVE at 47.9 m. is a few stores and scattered houses.

Left here on State 40 to County 610, 0.3 m., and R. 4 m. to FLOOD HOUSE (L), a tiny frame structure in poor condition, on land that John Flood patented before 1639. In October 1646 it was enacted 'that Captain John Flood be interpreter for the colony and that for his service therein and transporting such Indians as shall be employed from tyme to tyme to the Gov'r in message or otherwise, he be allowed from the publicke the salary of four thousand pounds of tobacco yearly.'

On County 610, at 4.6 m., is the entrance to EASTOVER (L), a weatherboarded

The swamp has inspired many legends. Thomas Moore, the Irish poet, visited it in 1803 and wrote *The Lake of the Dismal Swamp*, based on the local legend of a young man who became mentally deranged when his sweetheart died, and who imagined she was not dead but in the swamp. The poem describes his wanderings in search of the girl who had

... gone to the Lake of the Dismal Swamp,  
Where all night long, by firefly lamp,  
She paddles her white canoe.

Fresh-water fish in fair quantities are in the lake and other waters of the swamp. (Hunting and fishing subject to regulations of Federal Government in some parts of the swamp, of State in others.)

At 63.2 m. US 17 crosses the North Carolina Line, 22 miles north of Elizabeth City, N.C. (see *North Carolina Guide*).

## Tour 6A

Glenns—West Point—New Kent—Bottom's Bridge; 37.6 m. State 33.

Asphalt-surfaced roadbed throughout.

Accommodations at a few tourists camps and in West Point.

This highway crosses the Mattaponi and the Pamunkey and traverses wooded lowlands and elevations. The countryside has a charm derived from old homesteads, old churches, and neat farmhouses.

State 33 branches from US 17 (see *Tour 6a*) at GLENN'S, 0 m.

CENTERVILLE, 8 m. (50 pop.), is at a junction with State 14 (see *Tour 1B*).

State 33 spans the Mattaponi River, 11.8 m., cleared and improved after 1788 by order of the Virginia Assembly as far as the 'Mattaponi Trustees' believed necessary to give it 'a sufficient depth and width of water to navigate boats, batteaus, or canoes, capable of carrying four hogsheads of tobacco.'

WEST POINT, 12.7 m. (1,800 pop.), on the peninsula made where the Mattaponi and the Pamunkey unite to form the York, has developed since the completion of the railroad between West Point and Richmond in 1861. The town, which has a few industrial plants, is characterized by neat, shaded streets, bright residences, and steepled churches. Baltimore boats of the Chesapeake Steamship Company stop regularly at the West Point wharf.

West Point was named for the West brothers, Thomas, Francis, Nathaniel, and John—three of them governors of Virginia—but especially for John, who patented the land embracing the town's site. In 1607 West

Point was called Pamunkee or Pamunkey and was the chief village of the Pamunkey of the Powhatan Confederacy. From Pamunkey, Powhatan's brother and successor, Opechancanough carried out the massacres of 1622 and 1644. In 1646 Governor Berkeley led a company of soldiers against the chief, captured him, and bore him wounded on a stretcher to Jamestown, where he was shot by a sentry appointed to guard him. Opechancanough was succeeded by Necotowance, son of Powhatan's eldest sister, then by the Queen of Pamunkey, who was reigning in 1676. In that year, when trouble with northern Indians was threatening, she was invited to Jamestown to confer with the governor and council. The chairman asked her how many men she could furnish the colony in the war that seemed impending. At first she declined to speak, but finally uttered vehement reproaches against the English for their injustice and ingratitude. Her husband, Totopotomoi, had been slain with many of his men while assisting the settlers against the Rikahecreans, and she had never had 'any compensation for her loss.' After further parley, she 'abruptly quitted the room.'

In 1691 the general assembly directed that West Point be created a port of entry and in 1705 the burgesses authorized the town to qualify as a 'free borough' and named it Delaware, for Governor Thomas West, third Lord Delaware. The old name was resumed when the railroad was constructed.

The pulp and paper plant, western edge of town, odoriferously changes native pine wood into sulphate pulp and paper board. The olfactory nerves of local residents seem immune to the odor that other York River people, who have suffered because polluted water has brought about decline of the once profitable oyster business, find objectionable.

West Point is at a junction with State 30 (see *Tour 20A*).

State 33 crosses the PAMUNKEY RIVER, 13.1 m., which was also an early transportation route. The traffic on the river was disturbed in June 1862, when boats conveying McClellan's supplies hurried upstream in the drive on Richmond, and later hurried down. A correspondent of the *New York Times* wrote: 'The river was crowded with descending crafts of all sizes and shapes laden with provisions and stores, barges lashed together and crowded, jibbering contrabands [Negroes] looking like flies upon a pancake . . .'

At 14.7 m. is a junction with a dirt road.

Right here 1.0 m. to the SITE OF ELTHAM, on the bank of the Pamunkey. The house, destroyed by fire in 1876, was built about 1730 by Colonel William Bassett, who married Martha Washington's sister, Anna Maria.

Washington often stopped here on his journeys between Mount Vernon and Williamsburg. In the spring of 1771 he was escorting his wife and her daughter, Martha Custis, whom he called 'Patsy,' to Williamsburg to obtain medical treatment for Patsy. On the journey Washington paid 'for 4 bottles of Fit Drops' for the invalid, who died two years later at the age of 16.

To Eltham General Washington galloped from Yorktown on November 5, 1781, to the bedside of his stepson, John Parke Custis, who had contracted camp fever during the Yorktown Campaign and lay here dying.

John Smith's map indicates that Matchot, an Indian village and scene of peace ne-

in 1705 under Henry Cary. The bulk of the work was accomplished under the direction of Governor Spotswood, and the building was completed by 1720. The palace was the hub of Virginia social life—convivial symbol of royal prestige and fount of royal authority until 1775. Governor Fauquier held intellectual bachelor dinners with Dr. William Small, George Wythe, and Thomas Jefferson. Here Sy Gilliat, slave violinist to Governor Botetourt, played for entertainments. Possessed of 50 suits, Gilliat usually wore a 'powdered brown wig, with side curls and a long cue,' and 'His manners were as courtly as his dress.' The building burned in 1781, while in use as a hospital for American soldiers wounded at Yorktown. Two smaller structures facing the forecourt were torn down in 1863.

The entire establishment and extensive gardens have been reconstructed since 1930 upon their excavated foundations according to a plan drawn by Jefferson; an illustration of the buildings as they appeared between 1732 and 1747, which was found on a copperplate in the Bodleian Library at Oxford; and almost 300 pages of source material. Minute inventories taken by three governors and many contemporary descriptions have made possible accurate restoration and refurnishing.

51. The ST. GEORGE TUCKER HOUSE (*private*), though large and built in the Early Republican period, has the simplicity of an earlier day. From the central portion the white clapboard structure rambles pleasantly beneath dormered gable roofs at descending levels. The restored kitchen, with its massive chimney at the western end, is again in use. St. George Tucker, a native of Bermuda, bought the property from Edmund Randolph in 1788 and enlarged the house to its present size. Tucker, successor to George Wythe as professor of law at the College of William and Mary, wrote the *Annotated Edition of Blackstone's Commentaries* (1804), first American text on law.

53. SIR JOHN AND PEYTON RANDOLPH HOUSE (*adm. by arrangement*) is a long rectangular frame dwelling erected about 1715. Built as two dwellings, the house was bought in 1724 by Sir John Randolph, whose 'person,' according to *The Virginia Gazette*, was 'of the finest turn imaginable.' Sir John was an enlightened economist whose services as Virginia's representative in London ushered in the colony's greatest period of prosperity. His mission in 1729 resulted in a loosening of restrictions on colonial trade, and led, through passage of Virginia's tobacco inspection law in 1730, to the vast expansion of tobacco trade during the next half century. On his trip in 1732 to present 'The Case of the Planters of Tobacco in Virginia' he played an important part in the controversy over Sir Robert Walpole's tobacco excise bill. His grasp of the theory and advantages of excise taxation so impressed Walpole that he was knighted—the only native Virginian ever so honored—by George II, then under Walpole's thumb. He was the first to report legal cases in Virginia and collected papers used later by William Stith, his nephew, as sources for the first comprehensive Virginia history.

Sir John's son, Peyton Randolph, who inherited the home, was chairman of the first three Virginia conventions and first president of the First Continental Congress. His service in the cause of revolution ended by his

death in 1775. Rochambeau, La Fayette, and Washington had headquarters here before the Siege of Yorktown. Mrs. Mary Monroe Peachy, owner of the house in 1824, entertained La Fayette. 'When he left the tavern nearly all the company followed him to his quarters at Mrs. Peachy's where a number of ladies assembled to see him.'

56. The PUBLIC GAOL (*open 10-6 daily summer, 10-5 winter; adm. 50¢*), an irregular red brick building, restored to its appearance in 1773 for exhibition only, was Virginia's first 'penitentiary.' Its thick walls, partly original, with small barred windows—unglassed during the eighteenth century—extend around a narrow exercise yard. The cells, behind stout nail-studded doors, were formerly crowded with prisoners who suffered sometimes fatally from winter cold. Early in the eighteenth century the gaol was called a 'strong, sweet prison for criminals'—far too 'sweet' in 1718 for nine of Blackbeard's pirates, whose term ended on what was afterwards known as Gallows' Road. In front of the building stand reproductions of the original pillory and stocks. Built simultaneously with the capitol and enlarged several times, the public gaol, where important political prisoners were held during the Revolution, served the colony as general prison until 1779, when it became the city jail.

57. The COKE-GARRETT HOUSE (*private*) is a rambling white frame building 90 feet long in landscaped grounds including a large wheel-shaped rose garden. The severe porch on the center section is supported by five square, fluted columns. The oldest part, the west wing, built before 1750, has a fine Chinese Chippendale staircase. John Coke, a goldsmith, owned the house from about 1750 until his death in 1767, when it was inherited by his son Robey. Shortly after the Revolution it passed to the Garrett family.

61. BASSETT HALL (*private*), approached by an avenue of fine old elms, is a white frame building in Georgian Colonial style; its attractive outbuildings, partly original, stand in an extensive garden. Built before 1753, Bassett Hall was owned until 1800 by Colonel Philip Johnson, a burgess, who sometimes let it as a tavern. He sold it to Burwell Bassett, a nephew of Martha Washington. While visiting here in 1804 the Irish poet, Thomas Moore, wrote 'To the Firefly,' after seeing lightning bugs for the first time. Thought until recently to have been owned by President John Tyler, the house actually belonged to Abel P. Upshur, a member of his cabinet. Damaged by fire in 1930, the restored hall is now the Williamsburg home of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

64. The SEMPLE HOUSE (*private*), fully restored, a dignified white frame building in early Federal style, shows the restraining influence of the Adam mode. The two-story central portion with an unusually high ceiling presents its gable to the street and opens on probably the finest porch in Williamsburg—small, gabled, and supported by two slender Doric columns. The home of two judges of the general court—James Semple, professor of law at the College of William and Mary, and John B. Christian—and perhaps of a third, Hugh Nelson, it was long identified as the home of Peyton Randolph until his will was discovered in 1929, locating his house on Nicholson Street.

Among the graves in the churchyard are those of William Paul and of \* John Dandridge, Washington's father-in-law. Colonel Fielding Lewis and two of his children are buried beneath the steps of the church.

3. The PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (*open daily*), SW. corner Princess Anne and George Sts., built in 1833, is a red brick building with a recessed portico having two Tuscan columns between anta walls, a plain pediment, and a square white cupola. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, attended the wounded here when the church was used as a Federal hospital. Two cannon balls have been built into the left column of the portico, where balls struck during the bombardment of Fredericksburg.

Presbyterianism was established in Fredericksburg in 1806 by Dr. Samuel B. Wilson. Annoyed at the Rising Sun Tavern by men 'drinking, cursing, and gambling,' he believed the town needed regeneration and started his church.

4. The WALLACE LIBRARY (*open 3-6 weekdays*), SE. corner Princess Anne and George Sts., a small tan brick building containing more than 6,000 volumes, was opened in 1911.

5. The COURTHOUSE (*open 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat.*), Princess Anne St. between George and Hanover Sts., built in 1852, is a two-story butressed gray stucco structure in Victorian Gothic style. The bell, in a central domed tower, was made in the Paul Revere Foundry at Boston.

This site has been the court green since 1732, when Fredericksburg became the seat of Spotsylvania County. Before and during the Revolution it was the rendezvous of patriots and soldiers. Among the debtors confined to the green on their honor was 'Light Horse Harry' Lee. During the battle of Fredericksburg in 1862, Federal General D.N. Couch had headquarters in the courthouse, and the tower was his signal station. Records in the vault include the will of Mary Washington, Augustine Washington's commission (1742) as a trustee of Fredericksburg, and the official bill of expenses for the entertainment of La Fayette in 1825.

6. The MASONIC LODGE (*open 8:30-5 weekdays, 1:30-5 Sun.; adm. 25¢, large groups 15¢*), NE. corner Princess Anne and Hanover Sts., is a plain two-story building of brick painted gray, with twin end chimneys, erected in 1815. Having functioned under a dispensation after 1752, when George Washington 'entered apprentice,' Lodge No. 4 was chartered in 1758 by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts under the Grand Lodge of Scotland and accepted a charter from the newly organized Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1778. The Scottish charter is still displayed. An interior doorway and two canopies from the old building on Caroline Street are preserved here, as well as the Bible on which Washington was sworn, the minute book with a record of three degrees conferred on Washington, and a Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington.

7. MASONIC CEMETERY, NW. corner Charles and George Sts., a half acre of turf dotted with mossy tombstones and enclosed by a stone wall, is one of the oldest Masonic burial grounds in America. The land was bought in 1784 by Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. Here is an impressive array of chiseled names, virtue-claiming epitaphs, and coats of arms. Basil Gordon (1768-1817), one of the first millionaires in North America, Robert

Lewis, private secretary to his uncle, George Washington, and twice mayor of Fredericksburg, and officers of three wars are buried here.

Covered with wild vines in a far corner is the grave of Lewis Littlepage, born in Hanover County in 1762 but a resident of Fredericksburg during his early years. As a boy of 18, after writing poetry at the College of William and Mary, he went to Madrid as protégé of John Jay, American minister to Spain, with whom he later quarreled. He joined the Duc de Crillon, distinguished himself in the storming of Gibraltar, and met La Fayette. He visited Poland, was knighted by King Stanislaus, made minister in the Polish cabinet, and sent to conclude a treaty with Catherine of Russia. The Empress 'borrowed' him and sent him against the Turks in the Black Sea, where his fellow townsman, John Paul Jones, was an admiral in the Russian fleet. He served against Russia during the Polish revolution of 1791 and joined Kosciusko in storming Prague in 1794. After an unfortunate love affair with a princess of North Poland and the capture of King Stanislaus by the Russians, Littlepage retired to Fredericksburg, where he died in 1802.

8. The JAMES MONROE LAW OFFICE (*open 9-6 daily; adm. 25¢, large groups 15¢*), Charles St. between George and William Sts., is a long, story-and-a-half red brick building with small, green-shuttered windows, two simple doorways, three chimneys, and three dormers along the low gabled roof. The whitewashed rear wall faces a little old-fashioned garden. Built in 1758, the building is little altered since the days of Monroe, who practiced law here from 1786 to 1790. The house contains original Monroe furniture of the Louis XVI period, purchased when he was minister to France in 1794, and later used in the White House when Monroe entered it as President in 1817, following its burning by the British in 1814. The Monroe Room in the White House is furnished with reproductions of these original Monroe pieces, copied by craftsmen under the direction of Mrs. Herbert Hoover.

In the building are the desk on which Monroe wrote his message to Congress in 1823 enunciating the principles of American foreign policy known as the Monroe Doctrine; his Revolutionary gun, dueling pistols, and sword; a portrait of him by Rembrandt Peale, a portrait by John Trumbull (painted on a wooden panel), a miniature by Semé, a bronze bust of La Fayette presented by him to Monroe; letters from La Fayette, Adams, Madison, Jefferson, and others; the dispatch box Monroe carried while negotiating the Louisiana Purchase; the court dress he wore at the court of Napoleon; and many other belongings. The collection also includes Mrs. Monroe's court dresses, jewelry, wedding slippers, dressing table, and other possessions.

9. The SLAVE BLOCK, NW. corner Charles and William Sts., is a circular block of sandstone three feet high, but taller before the street level was raised. One side is hewn to form a step to the top, from which, in ante-bellum days when the Planters Hotel stood behind it, ladies mounted their horses and slaves were auctioned.

10. HUGH MERCER'S APOTHECARY SHOP (*open 9-6 weekdays; adm. 25¢*), SW. corner Amelia and Caroline Sts., is assumed to have been in this small story-and-a-half clapboarded structure. The southern portion

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*Federal Waters Project - Virginia  
a guide to the old Dominion*

*TOUR 24 633*

*April Garden Week*), once home of the Byrd family and one of the earliest houses built on the grand scale in Virginia, stands at the end of a road that winds between woods and fields. Gates of wrought-iron, made in England long ago, swing between simple posts on which are perched two leaden eagles with half-spread wings. The over-throw is probably the finest piece of old English ironwork in America. The dark red brick mansion looks upon the James across a semi-elliptical lawn framed by great tulip poplar trees. Flanked by a pair of story-and-a-half wings connected by passages, the central rectangular mass rises two stories to a steep hipped roof, with dormers. Windows with shutters and low-arched headings of brick are evenly spaced in two tiers, separated by a string course of brick painted white. The extremely tall chimneys, in pairs at both ends, are important features of the composition. But the exterior chiefly depends for accent on the centered entrances, which are framed by pilasters that support a frieze, cornice, and elaborate pediment. The pediment over the north portal is segmental, while the cornice of the pediment over the garden door is of the broken scroll type with the scrolls framing a pineapple. Within, four large rooms are divided by a transverse hall. The walls are paneled between high dados and deep cornices. At the back of the wide hall, an open-string stairway with scroll step-ends ascends behind delicate spiral balusters in sets of three. On the east side, next to the library, where once reposed Colonel Byrd's outstanding collection of almost 4,000 volumes, is the drawing room. Tall pilasters frame the doors and the mantel, which is faced with black marble having a white marble trim—imported from Italy.

Westover Plantation was selected by Captain Francis West in 1619 for his nephew Henry, son and heir of Thomas, third Lord Delaware. At the time of the massacre of 1622 Francis, John, and Nathaniel West had separate plantations here; the Indians killed two men at each. In 1633 Thomas Pawlett represented the plantations in the house of burgesses and in 1637 purchased the Westover tract. The Bland family in 1688 conveyed 1,200 of these acres to 'Will Bird' for £300 and 10,000 pounds of tobacco. This first William Byrd, son of a London goldsmith, had settled at 'The Falls,' where he founded a business fortune. His son, William Byrd II (1674-1744), built the present mansion and a tradition of abundant living. Construction, begun about 1730, was completed before 1735. Westover suffered early from two fires, the last in 1749. Most of the fine interior trim was probably installed during the second renovation. The 'Black Swan,' as Colonel William Byrd II was called, wrote amusing records of his travels about Virginia and spent a good deal of his life in London, where, as a grandee from the 'new wilderness,' he astonished society with his elegance. He thwarted the romance of his eldest daughter with the Catholic son of the dissolute Earl of Peterborough and the beautiful Evelyn Byrd returned to Westover, where she died at the age of 28, a disconsolate spinster. The other five cygnets, four daughters and a son, offspring of two marriages, married well into the 'closed corporation' of Tidewater society. Byrd's tomb in the garden bears his long, self-composed epitaph, which leaves a reader equally impressed by the record of his remarkable accomplishments and his serene egotism in thus advertising them. The son, William Byrd III, was a prodigious gambler and dissipated the family fortune.

During the Revolution Benedict Arnold landed here more than once and corresponded regularly with the Byrd family, whose Tory sympathies are clearly shown in letters written later by Cornwallis. He said in part to the Lords of the Treasury in 1780, 'She [Mrs. Byrd] had, to my knowledge, reason to expect that she should receive reimbursement at New York for the supplies which were furnished from her plantation to the various corps of British troops which passed by Westover, but she was utterly disappointed [in her claim for £6,600].' Cornwallis refers also to the Byrds as 'sufferers of a certain description.' But Arthur Lee guessed correctly when he wrote to Colonel Bland in 1781: 'I have reason to think she [Mrs. Byrd] will not be tried at all, because care having been taken to keep the witnesses out of the way.' Sales and good marriage alliances dispersed a large collection of portraits belonging to a family that has been an outstanding contributor to Virginia's tradition of expansive social life.

During the War between the States, the fields and lawns were frequented by Federal troops, who destroyed the east wing and damaged the main building. The house has, however, been restored, fairly well, on the whole, though the symmetry of one dependency has been altered.

At the site of the church are horizontal slabs—one of them covering the dust of the first Benjamin Harrison of Berkeley—and Evelyn's elaborate tomb. Here also is the tombstone of Captain William Perry, who died the '6th day of August Anno Domini 1637.'

At 24.4 m. on State 5 is a junction with County 609.

Left on this road, which at 3.3 m. becomes County 607 and leads to SALEM CHURCH (L), 3.8 m., a small frame building in a woods. Sheridan, returning from Trevilian Station (see Tour 9), picked up a supply train of 800 wagons at White House Landing (see Tour 6A), and set out for the James. At Nance's Shop, north of this church, Hampton attacked the train but was held at bay by General D. McM. Gregg's division of the Federal cavalry while the wagons escaped to the river. Hampton pursued them. The wounded soldiers were brought to this church for care and some of the dead were buried in the churchyard.

At 24.8 m. on State 5 is a junction with a narrow flower-and-shrub-bordered lane.

Right here 0.2 m. to WESTOVER CHURCH (open 9 to 6), on the bank of Herring Creek in a wide yard dotted with tombstones and shaded by old trees. Built in 1737, the church was before restorations a notable example of Georgian Colonial design—low-pitched, with gabled roof, wide overhanging eaves, arched windows at the sides, a main door in the west end, and a door in the south wall. The walls, laid in Flemish bond, are specked with glazed headers to display the quincunx patterns. Modern interior arrangements have caused the south door to be replaced by another arched window, and one of the narrow windows in the east end has been made a door. The modern-oval-topped window in the front gable lights the gallery. Modern furniture has replaced the high-backed pews, but in the gallery old 'stalls' remain. After the Revolution, Westover Church was used as a barn and during the War of the 1860's it was used by Federals as a stable.

The first Westover Church was at Westover. The Byrd family gave this site that the congregation might be remote from the house, because—tradition says—all would remain after services for dinner.

GREENWAY (L), 29.8 m., on a wide lawn among old trees and old out-buildings, was built before 1790. The story-and-a-half frame structure on a brick basement, has dormers and outside chimneys. John Tyler (1747-1813), governor of Virginia from 1808 to 1811, described it as 'a genteel well-furnished dwelling-house, containing six rooms all wainscoted chair-board high.' His son John, who became President of the United States, was born here March 29, 1790.

CHARLES CITY, 30.3 m. (25 pop.), a hamlet with a few houses and stores clustered about the grassy court square, is the seat of Charles City County. Named for a proposed city (see Tour 10), the county is part of one of the oldest political units in America—the four 'incorporations' into which settlements in Virginia were divided in 1619. This 'Incorporation' in 1634 made it one of the eight original counties.

The COURTHOUSE, facing the Confederate Monument and away from the highway, was built in 1730. It is a T-shaped brick building with a gabled roof, low-pitched, and with the bar forming the façade.

The CLERK'S OFFICE, erected in 1902, contains—except for some volumes taken away by Federal soldiers in the 1860's—early records of the county as well as subsequent documents.



## Basset

ARMS EMBLAZONED ON THE TOMB OF COLONEL  
WILLIAM BASSETT, IN HOLLYWOOD CEME-  
TERY, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Colonel Bassett came to Virginia before 1665. He was  
a Burgess, Councillor, and County Lieutenant.