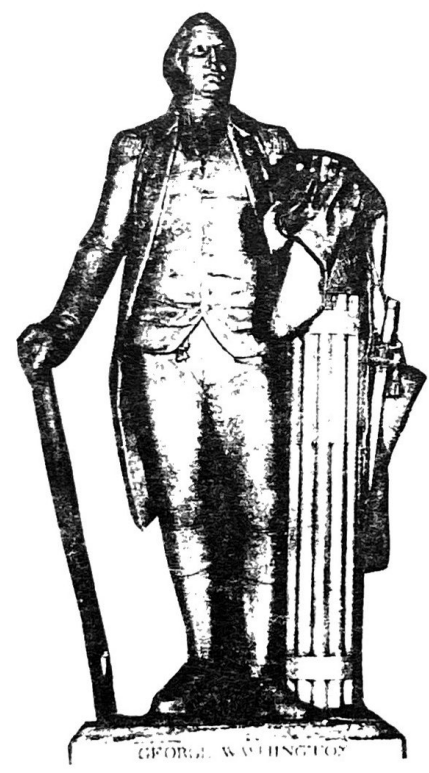


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FOUR CENTURIES
OF LITTLE KNOWN
WASHINGTON PARISH HISTORY
PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

BY CARL F. FLEMER JR.



Carl F. Flower Jr.

FOUR CENTURIES
OF LITTLE KNOWN
WASHINGTON PARISH HISTORY
PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

*Mrs. Virginia Clapp
September 23, 1991*



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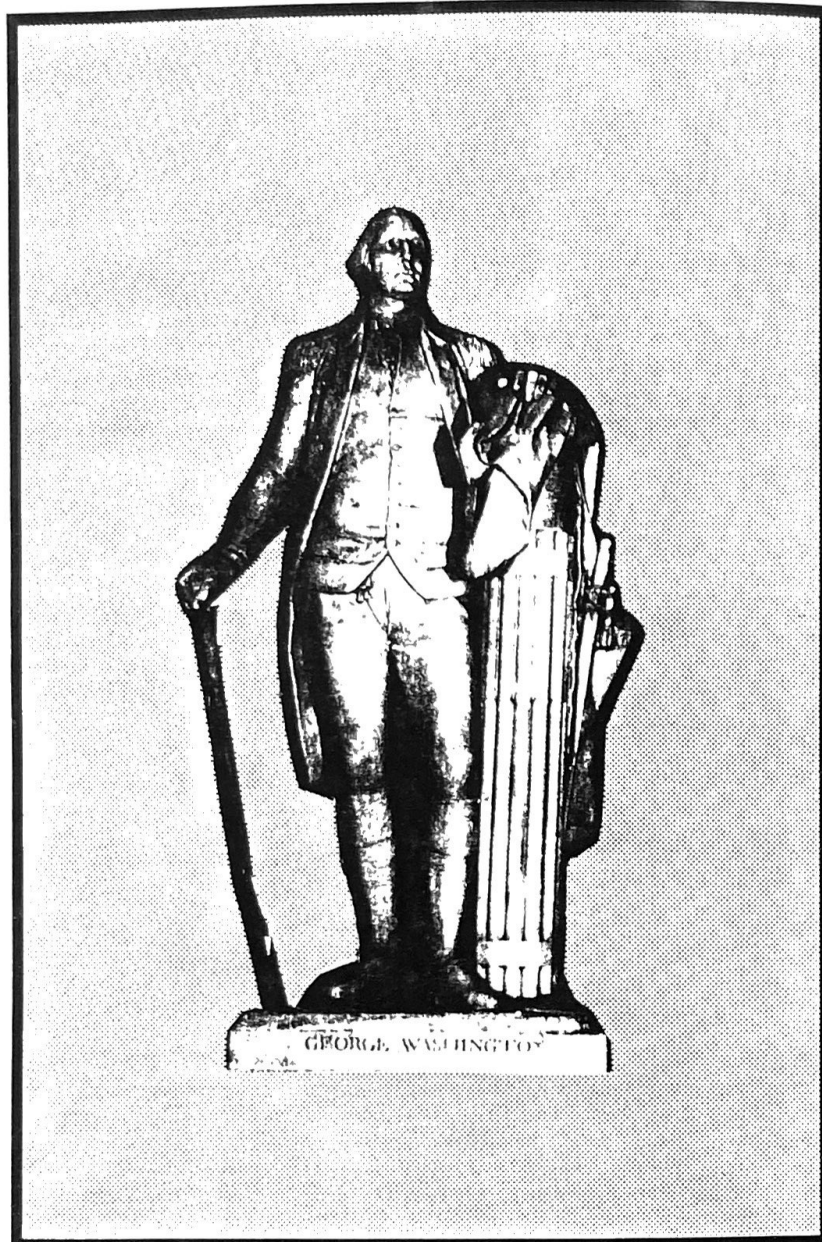


Figure 1 Statue of George Washington by Jean Antoine Houdon

WASHINGTON PARISH
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
IN THE HEART OF THE
NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA

A FOUR CENTURY

CHRONICLE

OF

PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

COMPOSITION

WAS

RESEARCHED, SELECTED AND WRITTEN FOR
MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS; FLETCH, SHERRI,
DOUG, SARA AND CHRIS, WHO SHARE WITH
ME AND OUR FAMILY THE PRIVILEGE AND
PLEASURE OF CALLING THIS HOSPITABLE AND
HISTORIC PARISH, HOME FOR OVER A CENTURY.

BY

CARL F. FLEMER, JR.

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FOREWORD

Washington Parish of Westmoreland County is located on the peninsula of land lying between the great salt tidewater rivers, the Potomac and Rappahannock. For four centuries this 100 mile long peninsula has been known as the "*Northern Neck*."

Because of its easy access by water the Northern Neck peninsula was settled early by the English colonists. They found the land rich, climate moderate, and rainfall adequate, all leading to a bountiful agricultural plantation lifestyle for the immigrants and their descendants.

I have assembled in the foregoing, in chronological order, people, places, and events of *Washington Parish* for the past four centuries, with very brief sketches on those events which appear to hold importance or interest. This is only part of the story and hopefully leads the reader towards further, more intimate and more detailed investigation of the fascinating subjects mentioned.

From this single small parish in the center of the *Northern Neck*, a few immigrant settlers produced the leadership, without which it may have been impossible to establish the United States of America as we know it today. The most prominent of these immigrant founders were the Washingtons, Monroes, Madisons, Lees and Marshalls. Others, too, made outstanding and important contributions.

Washington Parish, indeed, has an unusual and remarkable history!

Carl F. Flemer, Jr.
1991

THE 1600's

The Seventeenth Century brought settlement to the virgin *Northern Neck*. The English colonists by the mid-1600's were patenting lands of their choice along the tidal rivers and creeks. The virgin timber was cut, fields were cleared, and crude houses were built.

The native American Indians were plentiful during the early part of the 1600's, however, they were all but gone by the end of the Century. The loss of their habitat, the white man's diseases, and war with the settlers had decimated them.

Westmoreland County was formed in mid-century. The parishes were named and law and order was established.

The Church of England firmly fixed itself in the life style of the Virginia colony. Financial support through forced taxation of all colonists enabled the clergy to assume a prominent and powerful position in church and parish life.



Figure 3 Captain John Smith, first Englishman to explore the Rappahannock Valley (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH

On **April 26, 1607**, the first British colonists to establish a permanent American Colony landed at Cape Henry, Virginia. They established their settlement on an island in the James River.

1608

The first event of history involving the English colonists within the present bounds of *Washington Parish* occurred **in 1608**, when Captain John Smith, exploring the Rappahannock River, landed at what is now *Leedstown*. Captain Smith was traveling on a barge with six gentlemen and six soldiers. They landed at the ancient and large Indian settlement of *King Passesseck*. They were attacked by the Indians, and one of Smith's men, Richard Featherstone, was killed.



Figure 4 The Habit of a Nobleman of Virginia (Courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society).

THE INDIANS

There may have been as many as 1,000 American Indians, in what is now Washington Parish, at the time of Captain Smith's landing in 1608. Included in this figure are the *Passesseck*, *Rappahannock*, *Appomattox* and the *Patowomeke* tribes.

The conflict between the settlers and the American Indians was not just a dispute over territory, but a devastating clash of two different cultures.



Figure 5 The gathering of clams, on the Chesapeake Bay in the 1600'S (Courtesy of the Archeological Society of New Jersey).

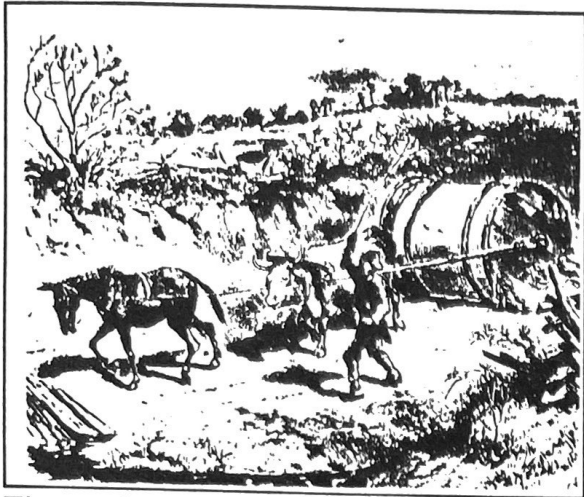


Figure 6 Tobacco in a Hogshead, rolling to a Neck wharf (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

1600's

In the early 1600's, roads as we know them were non-existent. The courses the roads take today in many of our rural areas were largely formed by centuries of wild animal paths and Indian trails. These paths were generally along the ridges or the highest dry ground.

So it is with the course of County Route 638 from *Leedstown*, through *Ingleside Plantation* and *Oak Grove* to *Mattox Creek*. This route was a centuries old Indian trail.

This is undoubtedly the same route taken to *Leedstown*, over a century later, by revolutionary patriots Richard Henry Lee, George Washington, Thomas Marshall, James Monroe, Daniel McCarty, and many others.

1634

In 1634, the Virginia colony was organized into eight shires. By the next year, the House of Burgesses organized these shires into eight counties under the jurisdiction of county courts.

1647

In 1647, Andrew Monroe, the immigrant from Scotland, settled on the Potomac River. The next year, Monroe was summoned back to Scotland. While in Scotland, Andrew Monroe fought in the Battle of Preston. Monroe was captured in this battle and was sentenced to banishment.

1648

By 1648, there was a sufficient number of immigrants in the *Northern Neck*, then known as *Chicacoan Indian District*, to warrant the organization of a new county. This county was named Northumberland County. It was named after the shire in England where many immigrants originated. Northumberland included all of the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers to their sources.

1649

On September 18, 1649, King Charles II, in exile, granted the Proprietary of the Northern Neck to Lord John Culpeper, Lord Thomas Culpeper, Lord Ralph Hopton, Earl Henry Jermyn, Lord John Berkeley, Sir William Morton, and Sir Dudley Wyatt.

1650

In 1650, Andrew Monroe patented the large tract of land that he had previously settled. On *Monroe Creek*, Andrew Monroe built *Monrovia*. This was to become the birthplace of the fifth President of the United States.

Also in 1650, Nathaniel Pope patented 1,300 acres of land known as the *Cliffs*. This was to become part of *Stratford Plantation*.

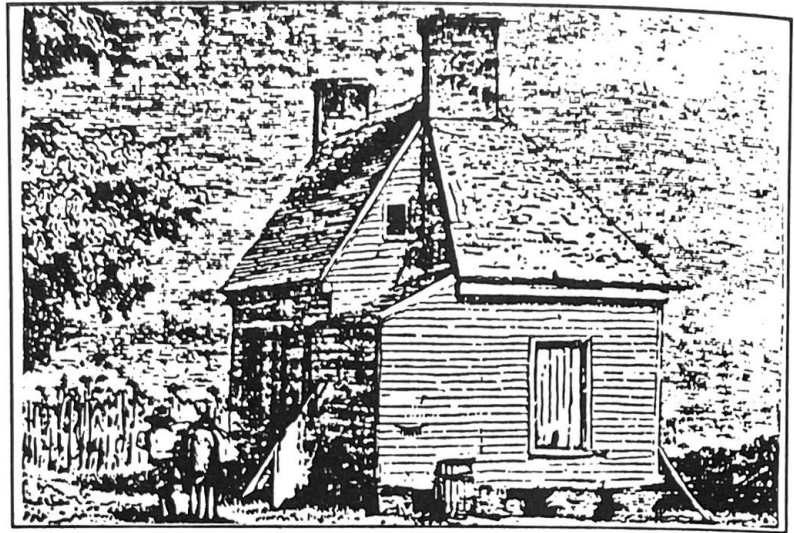


Figure 7 MONROVIA, this 19th-century engraving is thought to represent the birthplace of James Monroe (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

1651

In 1651, Richard Lee I, the immigrant, patented a large tract of land near *Kilmarnock*, which he named *Ditchley* for his family home in England. He became the grandfather of Thomas Lee, builder of *Stratford Hall* in *Washington Parish*.

1653

By 1653, three years after the arrival of Andrew Monroe, there was a sufficient number of immigrants in Northumberland County to organize a new county. In 1653, Westmoreland County was formed from Northumberland County. Westmoreland County was named for the English shire of the same name. By 1755, the Westmoreland County Seat was known as *Montross*.

In 1653, John Madison, immigrant carpenter, settled near *Mattox Creek* in *Washington Parish*. John Madison was the progenitor of the American Madisons and the grandfather of the fourth President of the United States.

1655

John Washington, the progenitor of the American Washingtons, made his first voyage to the Virginia colony about 1655.

John Payne, the immigrant, was born about 1615, in England. John Payne settled near *Leeds* around 1655. In 1662, Payne acquired the high land overlooking the Rappahannock River. John Payne's plantation was known as *Red House* and later, by 1840, known as *Cedar Hill*.

1657

In 1657, the English merchantman *Seahorse*, out of London, foundered in the Potomac River after leaving Colonel Nathaniel Pope's wharf. The *Seahorse* was refloated and brought into Mattox Creek for repairs. The ship's Second Officer was John Washington. Washington was quartered at Colonel Nathaniel Pope's while the *Seahorse* was being repaired. When the *Seahorse* was ready to sail again, John Washington decided to remain in the Virginia colony, in order to be near Pope's daughter, Anne.

1658

In 1658, John Washington and Anne Pope were married. As a wedding gift, Colonel Nathaniel Pope gave them a 700 acre tract of land on *Bridge's Creek*.

Also in 1658, William Underwood, the immigrant, patented 3,667 acres of land near *Leeds* on the Rappahannock River.

1661

Appomattox Parish was established in 1661. A new church was built near the mouth of *Mattox Creek*. John Washington and Andrew Monroe were among the first vestrymen of *Appomattox Parish*.

1664

By 1664, John Washington's plantation was prospering. He was elected a Burgess and had become actively involved in the affairs of the parish and county. Only nine years after the arrival of John Washington, *Appomattox Parish's* name was changed to *Washington Parish* in his honor, making this the first geographical division in America to be named after a Washington.

In 1664, Stafford County was formed from Westmoreland County. This new county was named for Staffordshire, England.

1670

By 1670, Major Underwood had built, on his land, a water mill later known as *Foxhall's Mill*.

There were several thousand Indians existing in the early part of the century in Westmoreland County. By 1670, there were only ten *Appomattox Indians* left in the entire county.

1678



Figure 8 Tobacco Landing. Small tobacco landings dotted the Northern Neck by the late 1600's (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

By 1678, there were no Indians left on the ancient *Passasseck village site* on the banks of the Rappahannock River. This is where, by 1678, Edward Bray had built a brick church, an ordinary, ferry, and wharf at the present Leedstown. Up to this date, the site was known as *Rappahannock*. After 1678, it was known as *Bray's Wharf* or *Bray's Church*. By 1742, it was known as *Leeds*.

Leeds was the name of the family castle of Lord Thomas Culpeper, the Royal Governor of the Virginia colony. Then later, *Leeds* was known as *Leedstown*.

1690

One year after the death of Lord Thomas Culpeper, in 1690, his daughter, Katherine, married Lord Thomas Fairfax, the fifth Baron of Cameron. With this marriage the five-sixths' interest in the Proprietary of the Northern Neck held by Katherine was then managed by Lord Fairfax.

Also in 1690, John Birkett, the immigrant, died. Birkett was buried on his property near *Leeds*. John Birkett and his wife's tombstones remain today, as the oldest inscribed tablestones in Westmoreland County.

Birkett's descendants still live in the Leedstown area and maintain the cemetery. In this ancient graveyard are also buried two officers of the *Continental Army*, four officers of the *War of 1812*, and one cavalry officer of the *War of 1861-1865*, with their wives and families.

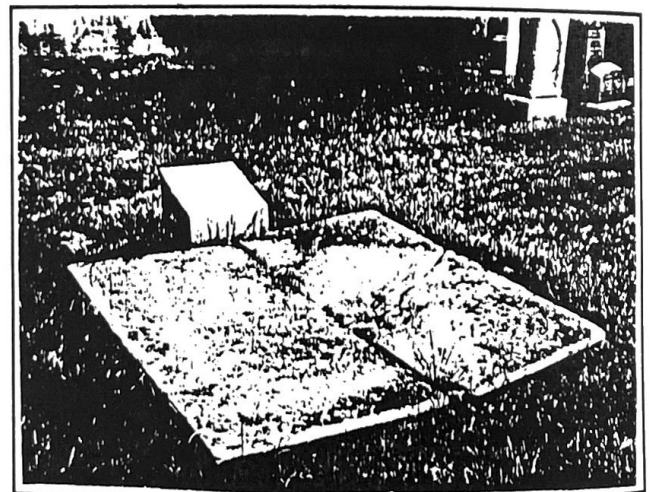


Figure 9 Birkett's tombstones, near Leedstown.

THE 1700's

During the Eighteenth Century, ambitious and powerful men began to establish their families and plantations. They based them upon their recollection of traditions and lifestyles of the *English Country Manor System*.

The colony's agriculture was based on the production of tobacco. Tobacco was a highly profitable exportable crop. It became the financial backbone of the *Virginia Tidewater Plantation System*. However, before the century was over, tobacco cultivation, as practiced, with its terrible depletion of soil, was to prove unable to sustain such a grandiose lifestyle.

In mid-century, families of these Washington Parish plantations had produced sons of remarkable ability. They would develop into the leaders of the future revolution. Also, they would be the authors and framers of the new government.

Mid-century saw more substantial church construction. Also, towns were being laid out, fashionable taverns proliferating and horse racing was being developed as a sport. Fine household needs, including china, silver, furniture, and clothing were being imported. The apex of the elegant tidewater plantation life was at hand.

Thoughts of independence began stirring, critical rumors about the *mother country* became outspoken words, fiery words finally becoming swords and guns. The revolution began and freedom from England, the world's most powerful country, was won with *Washington Parish*, Westmoreland County, Virginia, leading the way, with General George Washington as Commander-in-Chief and many other parishioners as responsible participants.



Figure 10 The Dunking Stool was used to punish disorderly women.

1700

In the 1600 and 1700's, dunking stools were used for punishing gossips, scolds, disorderly women, and common troublemakers. The offending woman was ducked in and out of the cold, icy, pond water.

In the early 1700's, the Westmoreland County justices ordered several dunking stools to be built in Westmoreland County. One dunking stool was to be located at *Washington's Mill*.

1711

In 1711, Thomas Lee, at age 21, was appointed to succeed Robert *King* Carter of *Corotoman* as resident agent of the Northern Neck for Lady Fairfax.

TWIFORD

Twiford, the estate of the Hodge family, is conjectured to have been built around 1711. *Twiford* was to become, over the years, the estate of the Fitzhughs, Beverlys, Hungerfords, Griffiths, and Boddies.

Twiford, with its commanding view of the Rappahannock Valley at Leedstown and its sophisticated architectural detailing for such an early house makes it one of the most interesting in Washington Parish. George Washington visited *Twiford* as a babe-in-arms in the mid 1730's.



Figure 11 Twiford, estate of the Hodge, Fitzhugh, Beverly, Hungerford, Griffith, and Boddie families.

1716

In 1716, Thomas Lee purchased the *Cliff's Plantation* on the bank of the Potomac River. This property now makes up most of Westmoreland State Park.

1717

In 1717, Daniel McCarty Sr. (1679-1724), the immigrant, and his son, Daniel McCarty Jr., purchased several thousand acres on the Potomac. This tract was east of Pope's Creek and was part of Nathaniel Pope's plantation. Here on the Potomac, father and son developed an extensive estate known as *Longwood*. The estate included the brick manor house, outbuildings, horse barns, and a race track. Daniel McCarty Sr. was a member of the House of Burgesses, serving from 1706 until 1723. McCarty was the powerful Speaker of the House of Burgesses from 1716 to 1720.

Daniel McCarty Jr. was educated in England. He was a member of the House of Burgesses from 1736 until his death in 1744. The McCarty estate, *Longwood*, exists no longer. It was located at the present site of *Horner's Beach* and *Muse's Beach*.

1718

Washington Parish did not include the Leedstown area until 1777. Before this date it was in Rappahannock, Richmond, and King George Counties; therefore, Burgesses residing in the area

were listed as representing these counties and not Westmoreland. From within the historic bounds of *Washington Parish* came more than the usual share of Representatives or Burgesses. From this list came at least two men who held the powerful position of Speaker of the House of Burgesses. According to Eaton, these men were Daniel McCarty of *Longwood* on Popes Creek and Maxmillan Robinson of *Bunker Hill* near *Leedstown*.

In 1718, Augustine Washington purchased 200 acres on Popes's Creek. This tract of land was located about a mile from his father's plantation.

Edward Teach was an English born, ferocious, and greatly feared pirate. He was notoriously known as *Blackbeard*. He terrorized the Virginia - Carolina coasts for years until captured and killed, in 1718, by orders of the Virginia governor. The Potomac River and *Washington Parish* did not escape his raiding. It has long been reported that Blackbeard buried a "great treasure" somewhere along the shore near Stratford Hall.



Figure 12 Blackbeard, buried treasure near Stratford Hall.

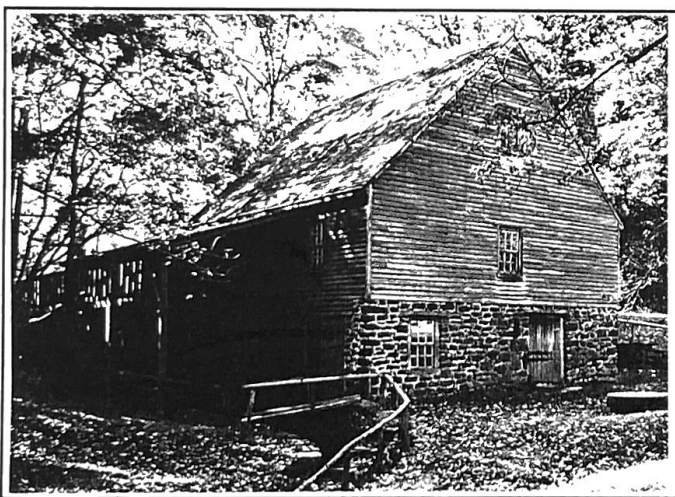


Figure 13 Stratford Mill.

By 1718, water powered grist mills performed an important and very necessary service providing freshly ground meal and flour while sometimes acting as commodity trading centers for the colonists. In addition to Stratford, Foxall, and

Washington Mills there were over 20 other mills in the county. Many of the dam remnants, mill ponds and several mills remain as evidence of this once thriving industry.

Tobacco was the principal Virginia export, far exceeding other commodities of corn, wheat, skins or iron. Annually Virginia tobacco values amounted to three quarters of a million pounds sterling, five times the combined value of all other products. Over 330 ships were in the tobacco trade alone, plying between Virginia and England during the mid 1700's.

1720

King George County was organized in 1720 from Westmoreland County. This new county was named for the ruling, *Hanoverian*, King of England, King George I, of Germany.

By 1720, there were ten settled counties in the Virginia colony. All of these were along the lower tidewater rivers of the Chesapeake Bay.

WAKEFIELD

The manor house, later known as *Wakefield*, was started by builder David Jones in 1720 for Augustine Washington. This was on Washington's *Pope's Creek Plantation*.

Wakefield was completed between 1722 and 1726. It was named for the Washington family's ancestral home in Yorkshire, England.

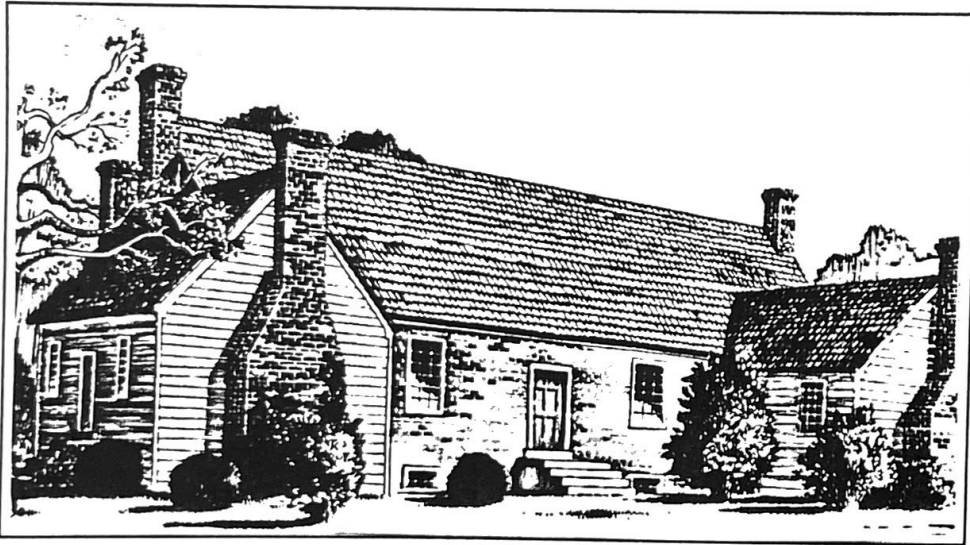


Figure 14 Wakefield on Pope's Creek was the birthplace of George Washington. This is a conjectural graphic restoration (Courtesy National Park Service).

1722

In 1722, builder David Jones constructed *Round Hill Church*. This church was known as the *Upper Church* of Washington Parish. This site is now located in present King George County. The only remaining artifact of *Round Hill Church* is the tombstone of the Reverend Archibald Campbell's wife, Rebecca, and their son. The tombstone records their deaths in 1754.

1723

By 1723, the Reverend Lawrence DeButts was the Rector of *Washington Parish*. The county at that time extended only half way across the Northern Neck. It was five miles wide and thirty

miles long on the Potomac. There were two churches in *Washington Parish*. According to Bishop William Meade, communion was administered three times a year, with up to two quarts of wine used at one time.

1724

In 1724, the *Bristol Iron Works* was established near Oak Grove and *Foxhall's Mill* for the *John King Company of Bristol*, England. Augustine Washington, George's father and John Tayloe of *Mt. Airy* became interested in it. Low-grade Westmoreland iron ore was smelted into pig iron by the *Bristol Iron Works*. This was shipped to England where it was made into iron goods. These iron goods were then shipped and sold back to the Virginia colony. By 1730, the *Bristol Iron Works* had been abandoned.



Figure 15 Thomas Lee

THOMAS LEE

In 1729, *Machodoc*, the Lee family ancestral home, "burned to the ground." The name was taken from the *Machodoc* Indian tribe whose village was in the vicinity. The Lee family ancestral burial plot for years had been at *Machodoc*. After the manor house burned, the family burial plot became known by its location in *Burnt House Field*.

In 1729, Thomas Lee was leasing *Machodoc* from his brother, Richard Lee III. Thomas Lee was the Magistrate for Westmoreland County and ordered the arrest of "a pernicious crew of transported felons." Before the felons could be seized by the Sheriff, they set fire to *Machodoc* late one night. Thomas Lee, his wife, and three children just escaped the fire.

Thomas Lee was a Burgess from Westmoreland County, a member of the Council, and acting Governor of the Virginia colony. Lee was the father of five patriot sons who were instrumental in the successful outcome of our revolutionary efforts from England. Two of his sons became the only brothers to sign the Declaration of Independence.

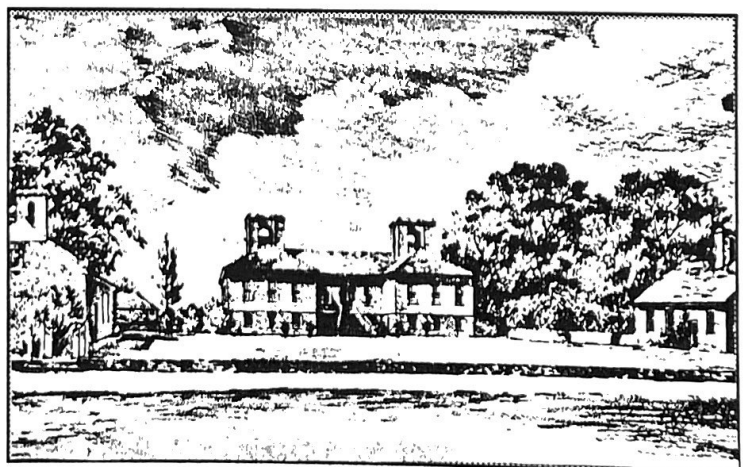


Figure 16 Stratford Hall, in Westmoreland County, is unique in its construction in America. Thomas Lee began construction around 1738.

THE MARSHALLS

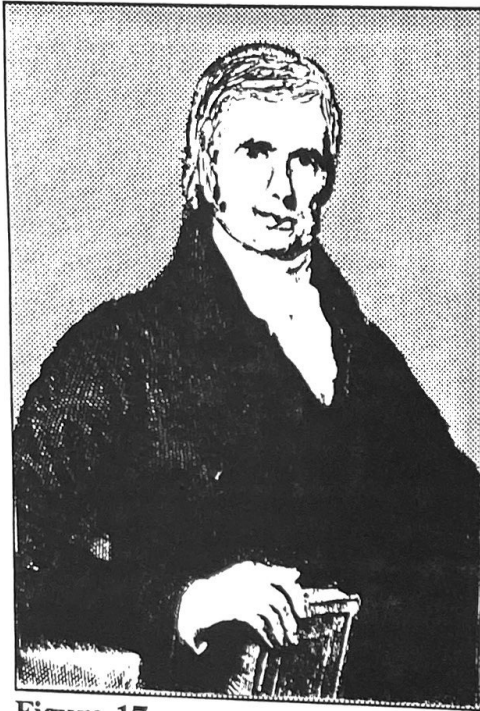


Figure 17 Chief Justice John Marshall, the son of Thomas Marshall of Washington Parish (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

In 1730, Thomas Marshall was born in the vicinity of present Oak Grove. The exact location is not known. Thomas Marshall attended Henry Williams' School at *Church Point* with George Washington. It was here they both learned the rudiments of surveying, and became life-long friends. Thomas was the father of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall.

John Marshall (1755-1835) was a Revolutionary soldier, U.S. Congressman, Secretary of State and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He presided over many landmark decisions that gave the Constitution strength and meaning.

RICHARD HENRY LEE

On January 20, 1732, Richard Henry Lee, the son of Thomas Lee, was born. He became an ardent revolutionist and was the author of the famous *Leedstown Resolves*.

Richard Henry Lee was also the author of the resolutions that were adopted in 1776 by the Continental Congress, which declared the Thirteen Colonies free of Great Britain. Lee was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, the Committee of Correspondence, Continental Congress, Virginia Legislature, U.S. Congress, and U.S. Senate. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

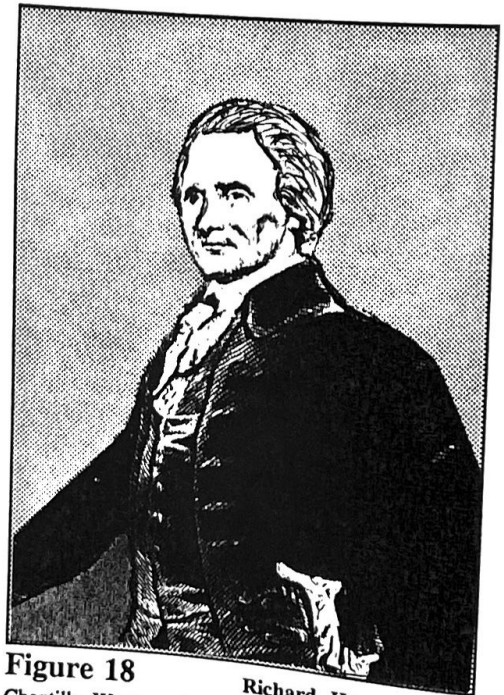


Figure 18 Richard Henry Lee, at Chantilly, Westmoreland County (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).



Figure 19 George Washington, portrait by Chappel.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

On February 22, 1732, George Washington was born at *Wakefield*. George was the son of Augustine Washington and Mary Ball. George Washington was baptized, at *Wakefield*, on April 16, 1732, by the Reverend Roderick McCulloch.

LORD FAIRFAX

In 1732, Lord Thomas Fairfax, the sixth Baron of Cameron, arrived in the Virginia colony to look after and defend his interest in his Proprietary of the Northern Neck. The boundaries of the Northern Neck were not exactly established, but it contained over five million acres. Lord Thomas Fairfax, trying to promote the settlement of his western land, chose a site near present Winchester to build his manor house, *Greenway Court*. The property contained over ten thousand acres. Later, George Washington was contracted to survey much of Lord Thomas Fairfax's western lands and visited often at *Greenway Court*.

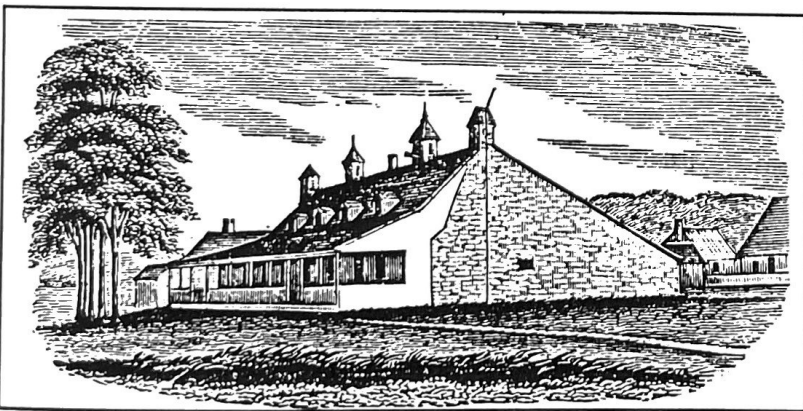


Figure 20 *Greenway Court*, Lord Fairfax Built his fortress-home near Winchester (Courtesy Howe's Historical Collections of Virginia).

1738

David Eaton states, in his *Historical Atlas of Westmoreland County*, that *Washington Parish* extended from *Upper Machodoc Creek* along the Potomac River to the eastern boundary of *Stratford Plantation*. This placed Lee's *Stratford Plantation* within *Washington Parish*. There were four prominent colonial families that owned a vast stretch of land contiguously along the Potomac River. They were: the Lee's at *Stratford*, extending west to Daniel McCarty Sr.'s *Longwood*, then across *Pope's Creek* to Augustine Washington's *Wakefield*, then to the Monroe's *Monrovia* west of *Mattox Creek*.

1742

In 1742, *Pope's Creek Church* was built. This new church succeeded *Appomattox Church*, which had probably been destroyed by river erosion. This church was also known as the *Lower Parish Church*. It was here that the Lees, McCartys, Washingtons, and Monroes worshipped.

Thomas Lee had a monument at *Pope's Creek Church*. Frederick Alexander states in his 1912 book, *Stratford and the Lees*, that there was a stone slab now at *Stratford* in "perfect condition" with the following inscription:

"Here lies buried the Honorable Colonel Lee, who died 14 November 1750, aged 60 years, and his beloved wife, Mrs Hannah Lee. She departed this life 25 January 1749/50. Their monument is erected in the Lower Church of *Washington Parish* in this County, five miles above their county seat, *Stratford Hall*."

This stone monument erected in *Pope's Creek Church* and alluded to in Alexander's book cannot be found today. It may have been removed or destroyed when *Pope's Creek Church* was burned about 1838.

In 1742, an act of the House of Burgesses created the colonial riverport town of *Leeds*. This act authorized a Board of Trustees to govern the new town, lay off lots, and dispose of them. Daniel McCarty Jr. and Thomas Lee were members of the first Board of Trustees. By this time, *Leeds* was a thriving seaport, a ferry crossing, had a customs house, armory, church, three taverns or ordinaries, tobacco warehouse, and numerous residences. *Leeds*, at the time, was located in King George County.

EARLY SCHOOL DAYS

George Washington, from 1745 to 1747, lived at *Wakefield* with his brother, Augustine Washington.

George Washington attended Henry Williams' School at *Church Point*, near *Oak Grove*. Here, young George Washington learned the rudiments of surveying. One sheet showing practice surveys along *Mattox* and *Bridges Creeks* is still in existence. This survey indicated considerable mapping skill for an early teenager.



Figure 21 Colonial School Days (Sketch by Sidney King).

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL

Also during the time period from 1745 to 1747, the Reverend Archibald Campbell had arrived in the Virginia colony from Scotland.

He was to become the Rector of *Washington Parish*. The Reverend Mr. Campbell served as Rector for about thirty years until death, about 1775. He ran a school at his home, probably at the site of the *Upper Glebe* of the Parish. Mr. Campbell taught the future President James Monroe and future Chief Justice John Marshall in the same classroom in this school. Campbell became a powerful influence on people and events leading up to the American Revolution. The location of The Reverend Archibald Campbell's grave site is not known.

The Reverend Archibald Campbell's brother, Alexander Campbell, a merchant in Falmouth, was not in sympathy with the Revolution and returned to England. Alexander Campbell was the father of the celebrated English poet, Thomas Campbell. Poet Thomas Campbell was honored with burial in the famed *Westminster Abbey*, in England.

HORSE RACING

On September 17, 1749, *Leedstown* was the scene of a horse race with a purse of thirty-five pounds. The next day's purse was one hundred pounds.

One of the most famous racehorses of the Virginia colony was named *Monkey*. Nathaniel Harrison, of *Brandon*, imported *Monkey* to Virginia in 1737.

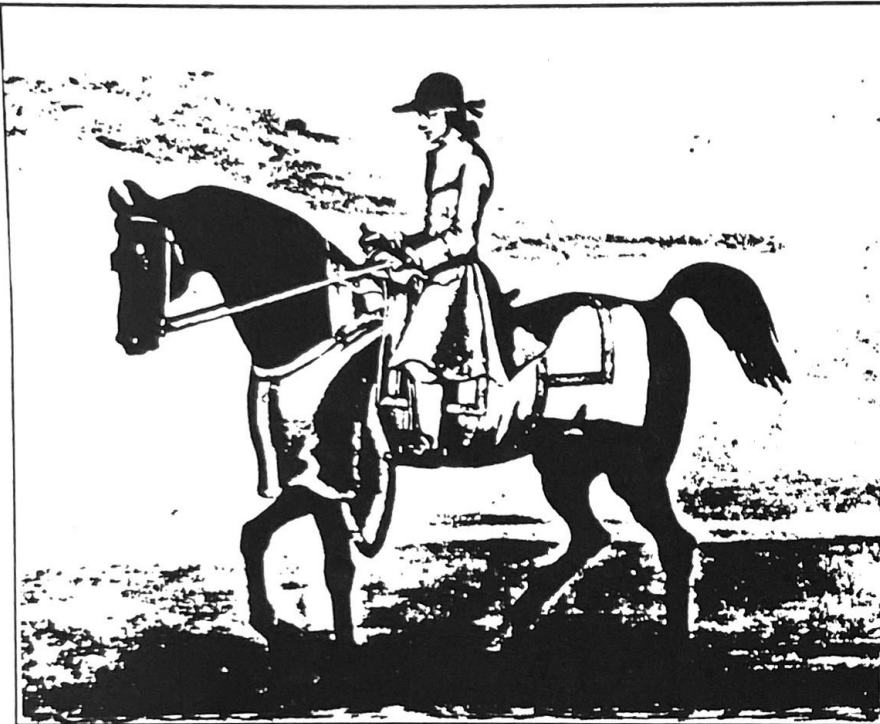


Figure 22 *Monkey*, this watercolor by James Seymour is one of the few pre-Revolutionary paintings of American owned racehorses (Courtesy Collection of the late Willard S. Martin).

JAMES MADISON II

On March 16, 1751, just a few miles up the Rappahannock River from *Leedstown*, the fourth President of the United States, James Madison II was born at *Conway*.

James Madison II was born while his mother, the former Eleanor Rose Conway, was visiting her parents.

He became a lawyer, Virginia Delegate, member of the Revolutionary Committee, Continental Congress, U.S. Congress, Secretary of State, and a two-term President of the United States. James Madison II was known as the "*Father of the Constitution*."

Today, *Conway* is known as Port Conway in King George County.

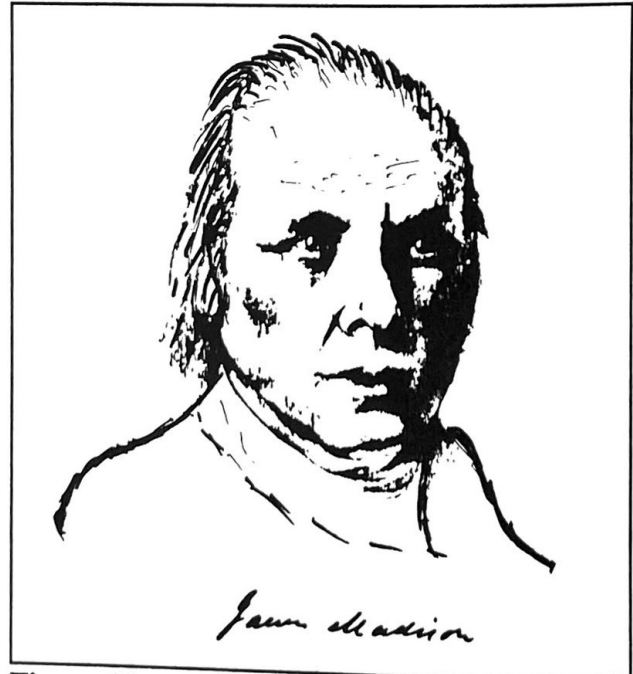


Figure 23 James Madison II (1750-1836) (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

1751

By 1751, the most noted ordinary of Westmoreland County was at *Leedstown*. It was operated by Mrs. Tate. George Fisher described *Tate's Ordinary*, in 1751, as follows: "I put up at what is esteemed the best ordinary; indeed, the house and furniture have as elegant appearance as any I have seen in the Country, Tinney's or Wetherburn's in Williamsburg not excepted. The chairs, tables, etc., were all of mahogany. The copper plate prints so fine I fancied myself in Jeffries or another elegant print shop."

1752

In 1752, George Washington was twenty years old. George had visited for several days at *Wakefield*, then crossed the ferry at *Leedstown*. The fare at this time was six pence for a man and six pence for a horse.



Figure 24 A Ferry Crossing.

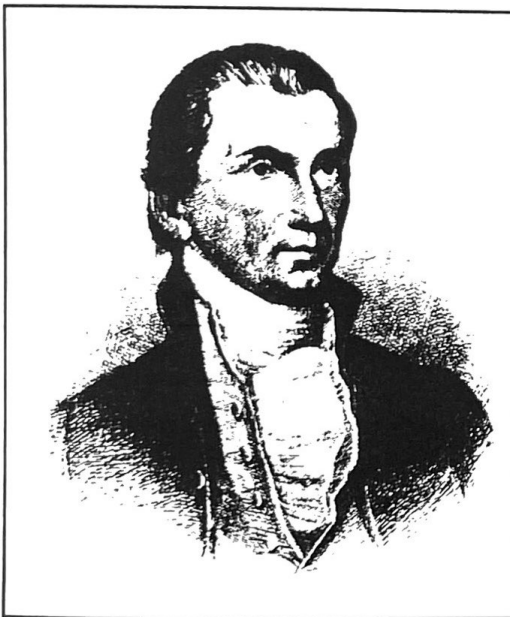


Figure 25 James Monroe (1758-1831) (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

JAMES MONROE

On April 28, 1758, James Monroe, the fifth President of the United States, was born at *Monrovia* in *Washington Parish*. He was the son of Spence Monroe and Elizabeth Jones.

James Monroe was a student for five years of the Reverend Archibald Campbell, then entered the College of William and Mary at the age of sixteen. He left college when the *American Revolution* broke out, entered the army, and was seriously wounded in action at the Battle of Trenton, New Jersey. After his recovery he was made a Captain and later a Major in the Continental Army.

When the *American Revolution* ended, Monroe became a member of the Continental Congress, U.S. Senator, Ambassador to France, twice Governor of Virginia, Ambassador to England, Secretary of State and War, and finally President of the United States. He was elected President for two terms, during which he promoted the adoption of the famous *Monroe Doctrine*. James Monroe held more government offices than any other President before or since.

MARTHA DANDRIDGE CUSTIS

On **January 6, 1759**, George Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis, widow of Daniel Parke Custis.

In **May of 1759**, George Washington and his bride, Martha, dined at *Leedstown*. This was before crossing the ferry on their return to Williamsburg to the House of Burgesses. This had been Martha's first trip to Mount Vernon.

1763

In **June of 1763**, George Washington must have missed the ferry at *Leedstown*, because it is noted in his diary that he spent the night in *Leedstown*.



Figure 26 Martha Dandridge Custis (1731-1802) (Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

1764

In **1764**, Richard Henry Lee moved into his new manor house, *Chantilly*, which was located just east of the Lee estate, *Stratford Hall*. Richard Henry Lee's *Chantilly* was named after the French estate of the *Duc de Bourbon*. Richard Henry Lee lived at *Chantilly* for thirty years, until his death in **1794**. His son married George Washington's niece, and two of his daughters married George's nephews. The last Washington descendant owner of *Mount Vernon* was a great-grandson of Richard Henry Lee.



Figure 27 Leedstown Seal, by W. Jefferson

LEEDSTOWN RESOLVES

On **February 27, 1766**, a group of Westmoreland County residents formed the *Westmoreland Association*. They adopted a resolution against the imposed *Stamp Act Tax*. The *Leedstown Resolves* were drawn up by Richard Henry Lee, of *Chantilly*, and signed by 115 patriots at *Leedstown*.

The signing probably took place in *Bray's Church* at *Leedstown*. The *Leedstown Resolves* were one of the first written protests against the *Stamp Act Tax*. These Resolves influenced public opinion in several other Colonies, by its directness and daring.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION PATRIOTS

In 1776, the *American Revolution* began. Probably no other small geographical area in the colonies produced as many leaders, patriots, and soldiers for the American cause as did Westmoreland County, and in particular, *Washington Parish*.

It has been noted that many of the best officers and troops in the *Continental Army* came from the Virginia tidewater areas. In 1776, Westmoreland County had over 700 men in it's militia, making up ten companies.

From *Washington Parish* or associated with it or Westmoreland County, Virginia, the following extraordinary list of patriots served our Country before, during, and after the *American Revolution*:

General George Washington (1732-1799), born at *Wakefield*, was Commander-in-Chief of the *Continental Army* and first President of the United States.

Lt. Colonel James Monroe (1751-1831), born at *Monrovia*, was wounded at the battle of Trenton, New Jersey, served as Military Commissioner under Governor Thomas Jefferson and fifth President of the United States.

2nd Lieutenant John Pratt Hungerford (1761-1833), of *Twiford*, served in Harper's Company of the Westmoreland Militia. He was later a Brigadier General in the *War of 1812*.

Thomas Ludwell Lee (1730-1778), son of Thomas Lee, was born at *Stratford Hall*, a Signer of the *Leedstown Resolves*.

Colonel Richard Henry Lee (1732-1794), of *Stratford Hall* and *Chantilly*, Colonel in County Militia, member of the Continental Congress and a Signer of the *Declaration of Independence*.

Francis Lightfoot Lee (1734-1797), of *Stratford Hall*, was a Signer of the *Leedstown Resolutions* and the *Declaration of Independence*, member House of Burgesses, Continental Congress, Board of War's Special Committee, Committee of *Articles of Confederation*, U.S. Congress, and the Virginia Senate.

William Lee (1739-1795), born *Stratford Hall*, was a merchant, sheriff, alderman, served in diplomatic posts in France, Austria, Prussia and Netherlands, helped bring about alliances in finance, trade, and the military which were indispensable to the *American Revolution's* outcome.

Samuel Washington (1734-1781), brother of George and Signer of the *Leedstown Resolves*.

Charles Washington (1738-1799), brother of George and Signer of the *Leedstown Resolves*.

Doctor Arthur Lee (1740-1792), was born at *Stratford Hall*, a doctor, lawyer, political author, and member of the Committee of Secret Correspondence of the Continental Congress. He served in diplomatic posts in France, Spain and Prussia. He was a Signer of the *Treaty of Alliance* with France. He was a member of House of Delegates, Continental Congress and the Treasury Board.

Major General Henry Light-Horse Harry Lee (1756-1818), resident of *Stratford Hall*, was one of the most brilliant generals of the American Revolution. He was one of General Washington's favorite officers. He was a member of House of Delegates, Continental Congress, State Legislature, Governor of Virginia, and Commander of the troops against the Whiskey Rebellion. He was the father of Robert E. Lee.

Brigadier General George Weedon (1734-1793), was born in *Washington Parish*. He was probably educated at Archibald Campbell's *Washington Parish* school. He served at Valley Forge and later became the Commander of Virginia's Militia and played an instrumental part in the victory at Yorktown.

Colonel Thomas Marshall (1730-1802), was born in *Washington Parish*, lifelong friend of George Washington, commanded 3rd Virginia Regiment during the American Revolution, father of Chief Justice John Marshall.

Captain John Marshall (1755-1835), was educated at Campbell's *Washington Parish* School, served as officer in his father's regiment, U.S. Congress, Secretary of State, and Chief Justice for 34 years.

Lt. George Augustine Washington (1763-1793), was an Aide-de-Camp to General Lafayette.

Colonel John Augustine Washington (1735-1787), a brother of George Washington, was a member of the Westmoreland Militia and Signer of the *Leedstown Resolves*.

Brigadier General William Augustine Washington (1757-1810), George Washington's nephew, was the owner of *Wakefield Plantation*. William was wounded at Trenton in the same battle as James Monroe. William was also wounded at the Battle of Long Island.

Captain William Payne, of the Westmoreland Militia, participated in the Siege of Yorktown.

Daniel McCarty III (c1740-c1780), of *Longwood*, was a Signer of the *Leedstown Resolves*.

Spence Monroe (1727-1774), father of James Monroe, was a Signer of the *Leedstown Resolves*.



Figure 28 Henry Light-Horse Harry Lee (1756-1818) (Courtesy of Virginia State Library)

1779

On December 25, 1779, George Washington's birthplace *Wakefield* burned to the ground. *Wakefield* had been inherited by William Augustine Washington, George's oldest nephew.

1780

In 1780, James Monroe advertises in the *Virginia Gazette* his *Monrovia Plantation*, consisting of about 500 acres in Washington Parish, for sale. *Monrovia* was recorded as being sold in October of 1783. Two hundred years later, in 1979, James Monroe's birth site of *Monrovia* was added to the Register of National Historic Places.

1789

On April 20, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States of America. The inauguration took place in New York.

1794

In 1794, Richard Henry Lee died at *Chantilly*. In later years, *Chantilly* burned to the ground. Richard Henry Lee requested to be buried between his two wives, Anne Aylette and Anne Gaskins Pinkard, in the family plot at *Machodoc*. His grave in *Burnt House Field* in *Cople Parish* remained unmarked for well over a century, until 1932.

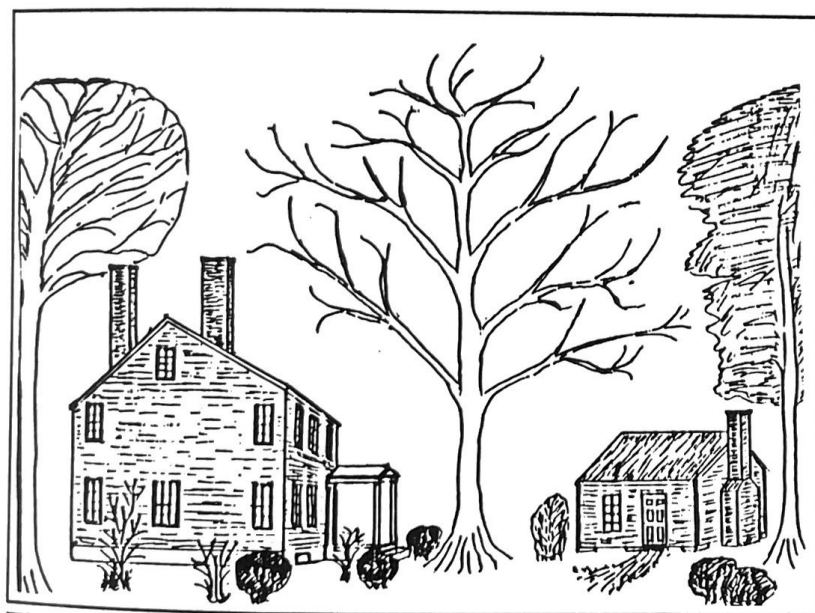


Figure 29 Mont Rose, circa 1797 (Sketch by C.F. Flemer Jr.)

1797

About 1797, *Mont Rose*, a frame Federal-styled mansion, was constructed by John and Margaret Rose. It was on the ridge overlooking the Potomac River, four miles from *Leedstown* and two miles from *Oak Grove*. Margaret Rose's two orphaned granddaughters, Anne and Elizabeth McCarty, were the inheritors of the Daniel McCarty and William Robinson fortunes. These two sisters came to live with the Roses at *Mont Rose* and were the county's wealthiest heiresses. Eventually

Anne married Henry Lee, the owner of *Stratford* and the older brother of Robert E. Lee. Elizabeth later married Henry Storke who purchased *Stratford* in 1822, after Henry Lee lost it.

1799

On December 14, 1799, George Washington died at the age of sixty-seven, at Mount Vernon.

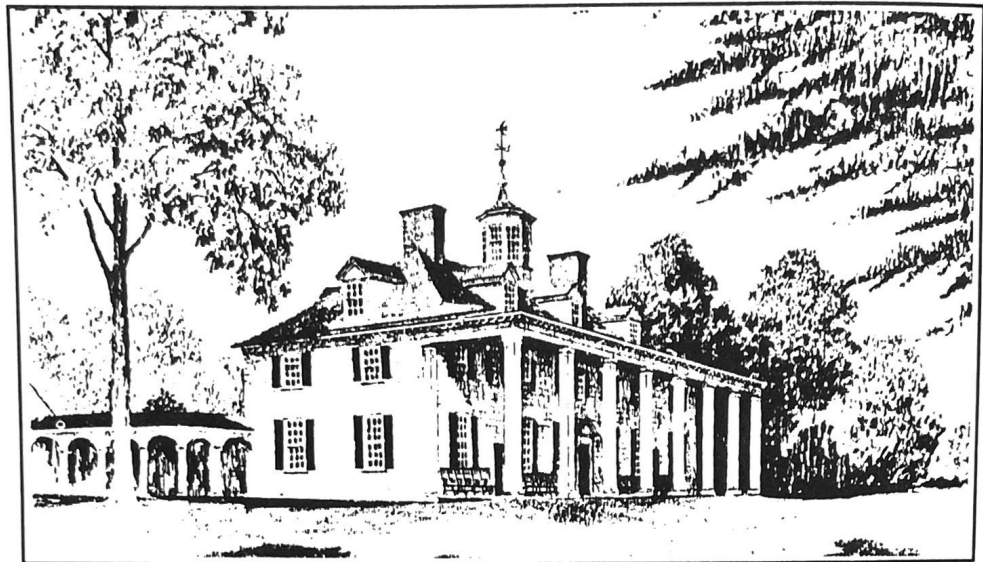


Figure 30 Mount Vernon (Courtesy of Mount Vernon Ladies Association).

THE 1800's

The 19th Century brings two more wars in which major leadership roles were held by sons of *Washington Parish*. James Monroe was Secretary of State and War under President Madison during the *War of 1812*. Robert E. Lee was the Commanding General of the Confederate Armies in the *War of 1861-1865*.

For several decades before and even longer after the *War of 1861-1865*, agricultural over-cropping resulted in impoverished soil, serious erosion, forest depletion, and general plantation decline. There was no supplemental industry, no other trade, meager educational facilities, and an indolent attitude and perspective by the general populace. All of this led to a general decline from the elegant and expensive lifestyles achieved before the *American Revolution*. Great estates, owned for generations by prestigious families, were disbursed, with the families moving to the western counties or western states.

The Monroe family lands had already been sold. George Corbin Washington, a son of William Augustine Washington, who was George Washington's nephew, sold *Wakefield* in 1813. Major Henry Lee sold *Stratford*, in 1822. The McCarty estate, *Longwood*, was disbursed. The Payne family seat for 200 years, *Cedar Hill*, was sold in 1860. Many other farms, lands, and plantations left the hands of their immigrant family owners. An old order was dissolving and disappearing.

THE PAYNES

The estate of the Payne family from 1662 to 1860, nearly two centuries, was *Red House*. *Red House*, since about 1840, has been known as *Cedar Hill*. The earliest gravestone in the ancient cemetery at *Cedar Hill* reads, in part, "sacred to the memory of Mr. Daniel Payne who is interred here with his ancestors." Daniel Payne was born in 1728 and died in 1796. His ancestors in unmarked graves probably include John Payne, the immigrant who purchased *Red House* in 1662. He was listed as vestryman of the church in 1665. Numerous members of his family rose to importance in the county during the 1700's and 1800's including:

John Payne a merchant at *Leedstown* in 1750, and the inspector of tobacco at *Bray's Wharf*; William Payne, in 1780, the Captain of the Westmoreland Militia; Daniel Payne (1728-1796) a *Leedstown* merchant; Daniel Payne (1790-1835) a Justice of the Peace of Westmoreland County, *Leedstown* merchant and Trustee of Washington Academy. He was an extensive land owner, including *Cedar Hill*, *Wakefield*, *Laurel Grove*, *Bleak Hall* and others; James H. Payne (1812-1854) of *Payne's Point*, a Trustee of Washington Academy and Vestryman of *Washington Parish*; John Payne (1815-1874), Bishop of Liberia, Africa, and Rector of *Washington Parish*; Betty Selena Payne Wirt (1827-1909) the daughter of Daniel Payne. She inherited her father's large estate, and married Doctor William Wirt.

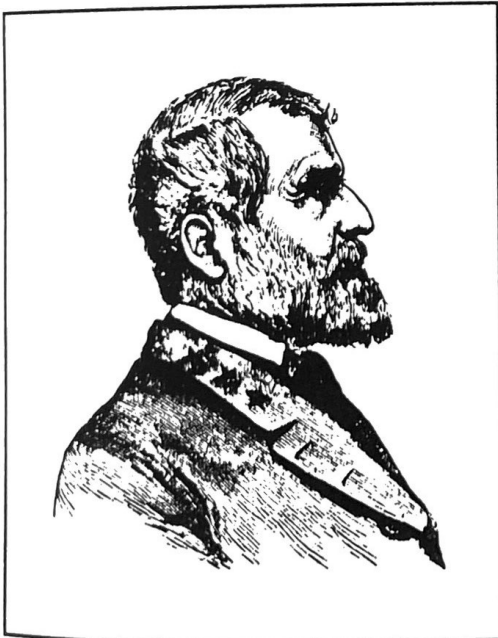


Figure 31 Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870)
(Courtesy of Virginia State Library).

THE LEES

In January of 1807, Robert Edward Lee was born at *Stratford Hall*. He was the son of Henry Lee and Anne Carter. Robert E. Lee was to become one of the most respected, loved and well-known military leaders in the history of America.

A little known fact about Robert E. Lee is that his father, Major General *Light-Horse Harry* Lee was also a highly respected military officer under General George Washington in the Revolutionary War. It was this Lee who delivered the famous words, "*First in War, First in Peace, First in the hearts of his Countrymen*", during the funeral oration in Philadelphia upon the death of President George Washington. Though respected as a military and public serviceman, Lee could not overcome the serious financial problems, mostly of his own doing, at *Stratford Hall*.

In April of 1809, a long dreaded event occurred, Henry *Light-Horse Harry* Lee was imprisoned for debt in the Montross jail. He was confined for nearly two years during which he wrote his *Memoirs of the Revolutionary War in the Southern States*. Major General Henry Lee died March 25, 1818, at Cumberland Island, Georgia.

WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

In 1810, William Augustine Washington, George's oldest nephew and master of *Wakefield* when it burned in 1779, died in Georgetown. William had been an officer in the *American Revolution*. President George Washington willed him his sword and a share of his residual estate. William was buried at Mount Vernon. William built *Blenheim* and *Haywood* after the *Wakefield* fire. William Augustine Washington's descendants still live on these farms in *Washington Parish*.

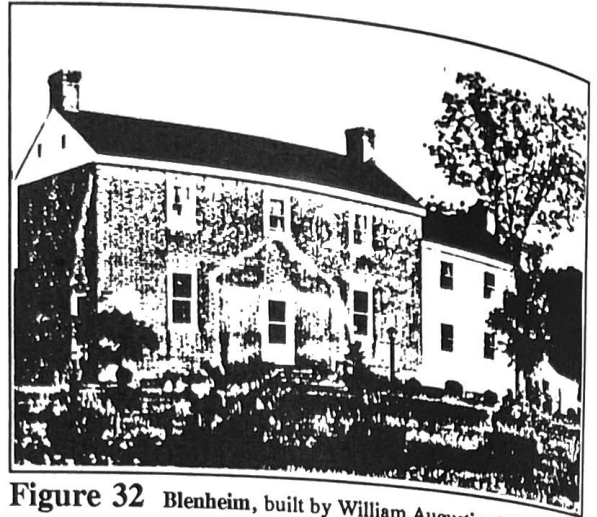


Figure 32 Blenheim, built by William Augustine Washington.

THE WAR OF 1812

The *War of 1812* with Great Britain has somehow come across as of not much consequence. However, for *Washington Parish* and Westmoreland County, with over thirty miles of shore line on the Potomac River, it was indeed a perilous time. The Westmoreland Militia Regiment was poorly equipped and trained for the defense of such a vast shoreline against the large and powerful British Navy. Brigadier General John Pratt Hungerford of *Twiford* was in command of the troops in Westmoreland County. James Monroe was Secretary of War, and James Madison was the President of the United States.

7
'
In mid-July 1814, a large flotilla of British warships, sloops, tenders, and barges appeared in the Potomac River off *Blackstone's Island*. A few days later, over one thousand British Troops landed and took possession of the Westmoreland County Courthouse at Montross. The greatest damage was to the village of *Kinsale*, where over thirty houses were burned. The ransacking of plantation houses by the British for food, supplies, and plunder was indeed serious.



Figure 33 British Flotilla (Courtesy Virginia State Library).

1813

In 1813, it was reported to the County Board by a *Leedstown* land owner that wolves were playing havoc on sheep flocks in the area.

1821

In 1821, Henry Lee of *Stratford Hall* appealed to Charles Carter of *Sabine Hall* for three or four good hounds to help control the wolves that were relentlessly preying on his livestock.

SCANDAL AT STRATFORD HALL

In 1817, Major Henry Lee Jr., the son of *Light-Horse Harry Lee*, married the wealthy heiress Anne McCarty of *Longwood* and *Mont Rose*. Anne McCarty was nineteen and brought to *Stratford Hall Plantation* a dowry of fine "silver, linens, china, books and every kind of household goods to replenish the scant supply" there. Major Henry Lee Jr. also accepted the guardianship of Anne's young sister, Elizabeth McCarty's estate. Henry Lee Jr. was required to place a penalty guardianship bond in the amount of \$60,000.

With General *Light-Horse Harry Lee*'s death in 1818 in Cumberland, Georgia, his life tenure at *Stratford Hall* ended. *Light-Horse Henry Lee*'s son, Major Henry Lee Jr. became the new Master of *Stratford Hall* at age thirty-one. Henry Lee Jr. had just seen service in the *War of 1812* as a Major of the 36th United States Infantry. Major Henry Lee Jr. was even more careless about expenditures than his father. While acting as guardian of the McCarty sisters' estate, he continued to live in an elegant and expensive style, apparently unmindful of the steady dissipation of his wife's and ward's inheritance.

In 1820, a tragedy put an end to all the Lee's merrymaking. Major Henry and Anne Lee's two-year-old daughter was killed in a fall down *Stratford Hall*'s front stone steps. Anne was inconsolable and, in efforts to deaden her grief, she became a victim of the drug, morphine. Others tragedies occurred. Henry and young sister-in-law Elizabeth McCarty were thrown into a state of "unguarded intimacy" in Henry's words. Elizabeth bore Henry's stillborn child at *Mont Rose*.

This scandal and the necessity for funds induced Henry to sell *Stratford Hall* and move from the county. William Sommerville, a Maryland friend of Henry's, bought *Stratford Hall Plantation* in June of 1822, for \$25,000.

Anne McCarty Lee apparently never overcame her morphine dependency. Henry and Anne Lee died in Paris, France, "friendless and penniless." Henry died in 1837 and Anne in 1840.

On February 26, 1821, Elizabeth McCarty petitioned the Westmoreland County Court to appoint Mr Richard Stuart, her stepfather, as her guardian in place of Major Henry Lee.

In 1826, Richard Stuart, the stepfather and guardian of Elizabeth McCarty, made arrangements

for her protection, by marriage to Henry D. Storke of Leedstown.

Elizabeth did not permit this marriage to change her custom of wearing mourning attire in public. Elizabeth's atonement lasted for 58 years, until her death in 1879. Henry Storke and his wife moved to the McCarty plantation, Longwood.

1825

By 1825, Baltimore had become the center of commerce for the entire Chesapeake region. It was reported at this date that Baltimore was twice the size of Washington D.C., Alexandria, Georgetown, and Richmond put together. Baltimore remained the leading trading center for more than another century.

To the County Court of Westmoreland
Gentlemen
My Indisposition is such as to prevent my attendance in person on you, but I must beg of you to take the Guardianship of my Estate from the hands of Maj. Henry Lee, & be so good as to nominate my respected father in law Mr. Richard Stuart my Guardian, and oblige your Obedient
Elizabeth McCarty
Mont Rose
July 26th 1825
Test Joseph C. Dade
Am. W. R.

Figure 34 Guardian Petition, by Elizabeth McCarty (Westmoreland Court Records).

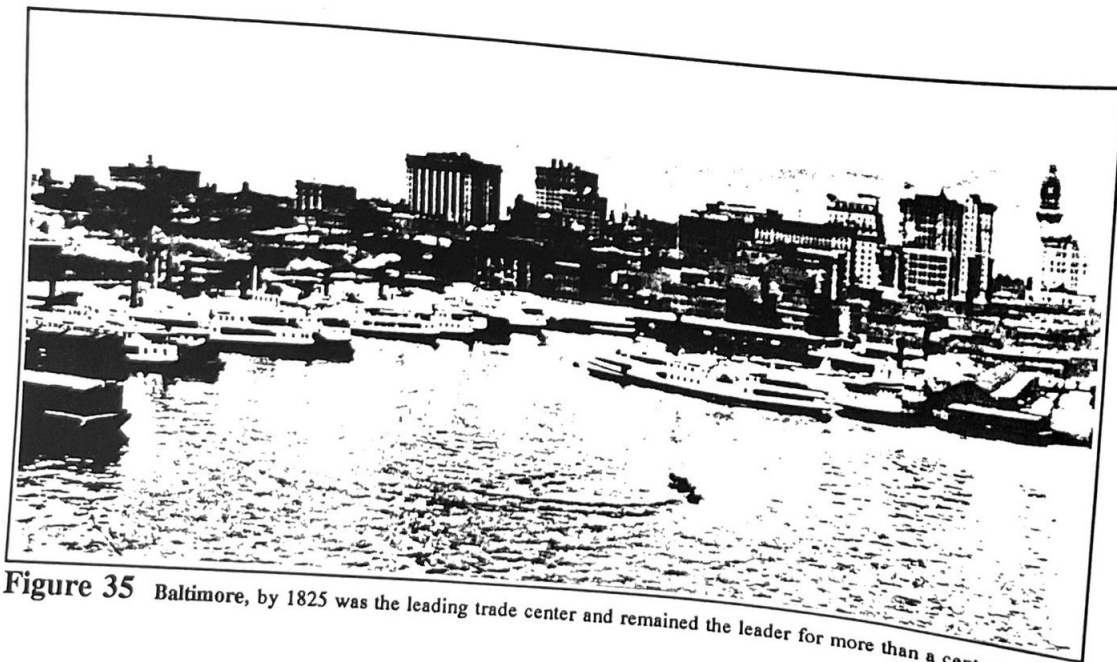


Figure 35 Baltimore, by 1825 was the leading trade center and remained the leader for more than a century.

1827

On November 9, 1827, Elizabeth Selena Payne was born at *Bleak Hall* on Mattox Creek near *Oak Grove*. She was the daughter of Daniel Payne and Selena Washington. Elizabeth's mother died in 1828, when she was one year old. Elizabeth's father died in 1835, when she was eight years old. With the death of her parents, Elizabeth Selena Payne inherited *Wakefield*, containing 1,360 acres, *Cedar Hill*, containing 382 acres, *Bleak Hall*, containing 1,000 acres, *Laurel Grove*, and other property along Mattox Creek and elsewhere. Elizabeth was to become known as *Bettie Payne*, and was an extremely wealthy local heiress. She met and married Doctor William Wirt when she was seventeen.

1828

Major Henry Lee Jr., the last of the Lees to own *Stratford Hall*, had previously sold the plantation to William Sommerville of Maryland. William Sommerville died before certain judgements against the plantation, as security for Major Henry Lee Jr.'s obligation as trustee of Elizabeth McCarty's large estate, could be settled. In 1828, the County Court ordered *Stratford Hall* to be sold at public auction to the highest bidder. Henry D. Storke's bid of \$11,000 bought the plantation. Out of this amount, \$9,647 plus interest was due to Elizabeth McCarty. In effect Storke bought *Stratford Hall* with Elizabeth's inheritance.

1829

In 1829, Henry and Elizabeth McCarty Storke moved to *Stratford Hall* from *Longwood*. As an heiress of means, Elizabeth was able to refurbish *Stratford Hall* and restore it to some semblance of its old grandeur. Elizabeth lived in *Stratford Hall* for 50 years and became an important part of the 19th Century history of the *Great House*. Elizabeth was an avid gardener and devoted much of her garden to medicinal herbs, which she used throughout her lifetime for the care of sick babies and children of Westmoreland County.

Elizabeth Storke was particularly devoted to her Stuart half-sister and brother of *Cedar Grove* in King George County. They spent much time with Elizabeth at *Stratford Hall*. Elizabeth McCarty Storke died, at the age of 78, on August 9, 1879. Elizabeth willed *Stratford Hall* to her Stuart grandnephews.

One of Elizabeth Storke's nephew descendants, in 1929, sold *Stratford Hall* to the *Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation*. The McCarty-Stuart family owned *Stratford Hall* for over 100 years. This was longer than the Lee family ownership.

1831

On July 4, 1831, former President James Monroe died at the home of his son-in-law in New York City. His tomb is in *Hollywood Cemetery* in Richmond, Virginia.

WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF WESTMORELAND

In 1833, a Board of Trustees was formed for the establishment of the *Washington Academy of Westmoreland*. This board included such illustrious local gentry as Daniel Payne, Lawrence Washington, Henry Taylor, Henry T. Garnett, Charles Jett, and Doctor Patrick Robb. They conceived of, planned for, and constructed the buildings for the new *Washington Academy of Westmoreland*. The Board stated, "We believe from long experience that the site selected is as healthy as any in all lower Virginia."

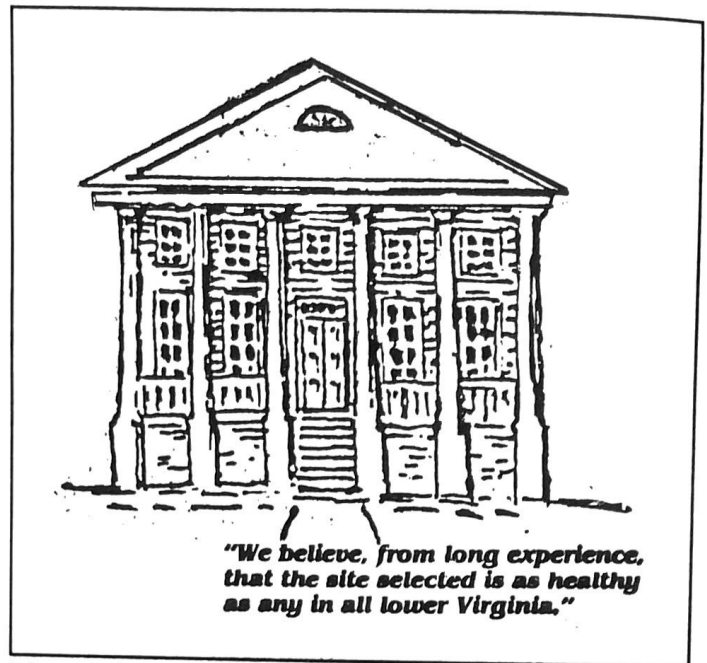


Figure 36 Washington Academy of Westmoreland

The academy's first school session began in February 1835, with Henry Jefferson Foster as the Headmaster.



Figure 37 Ingleside, as it appears today.

The facade of the main structure was reputed to be patterned after Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Capitol in Richmond.

Headmaster Foster left after eight years and the academy failed shortly thereafter.

By 1849, *Washington Academy of Westmoreland* had been renamed *Ingleside Plantation*, and was now used as a private residence.

In 1979, *Ingleside* was registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark and National Historic Place.

SKETCHES

Elizabeth Washington Foote Cheves, a relative of the Washingtons and Stuarts, in 1849 published *Sketches in Prose and Verse*, which she had written between 1845 and 1849. The following two passages are quoted from Cheves' *Sketches*, probably written in July of 1847.

"The County Fair": "A few aristocratic families have united with the illiterate for the avowed purpose of raising, by a fair, the means to build an Episcopal Church in Oak Grove." - - - "In the yard of the Oak Grove Tavern, were erected arbors. Long tables, richly supplied with fruit, confectionery, flowers, and delicious productions of the adjacent rivers, all vying, on this Anniversary of Independence, for the means to build, what has long been projected." - - - "This was no cold water business, the spirit of the fiery waters held undisputed sway over the congregated mass."

"Oak Grove": "Oak Grove and its vicinity can only boast of what it once was, the birthplace of a Washington, Lee, Monroe and many distinguished men". - - - "everywhere one sees immense piles of wood, corded, ready for export. It seems wrong to cut so rapidly the forest second growth". - - - "No village school house adorns the grove and yonder stately edifice, Washington Academy, is closed and sold as a private residence". - - - "All invariably, is on the decline". 'O!' shame upon such a community possessing so little public spirit".

1845

By 1845, sawmills and logging camps dotted *Washington Parish*, cutting trees to be exported from wharves on the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers.

On **March 21, 1845**, Dr. William Wirt married Elizabeth Selena Payne of *Bleak Hall*. Dr. Wirt continued his medical practice in Baltimore until **1849**. Yielding to Bettie's desire to return home, they moved to *Bleak Hall*. They were listed as communicants of Saint Peter's in **1849**, but were not confirmed until **June 17, 1854**, by Bishop Meade.

1846

In **1846**, Dr. and Mrs. Wirt sold her inherited Payne estate property, *Wakefield*.

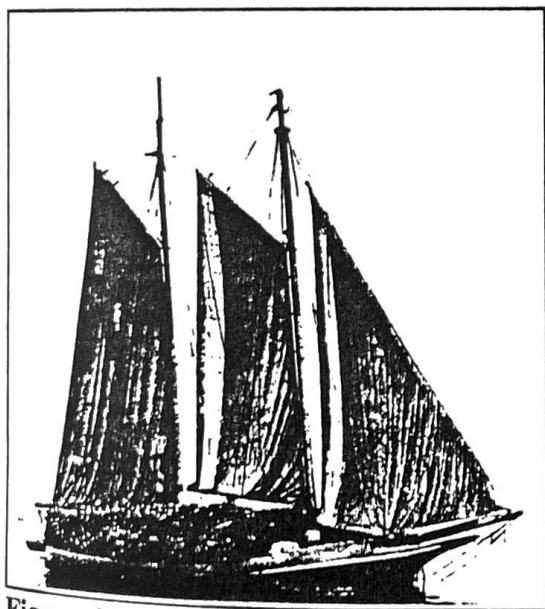


Figure 38 The Schooner Oscar, with a deck load of cordwood (Courtesy Mariners Museum).

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

By 1847, a new church building for *Washington Parish* had probably been in the planning stage for several years. On **October 1, 1847**, the Reverend William McGuire arrived in Westmoreland County. William McGuire was the new *Washington Parish* Rector. He reported that there was no church building in *Washington Parish*.

The construction of Saint Peter's must have been accomplished **during 1848**, as the building was consecrated by Bishop Johns on **May 31, 1849**.

The original building may have been of a Federal-style similar to the present day Nomini Church in *Cople Parish* of Westmoreland County. Vestry records indicate a round arched ceiling which, with the roof, began to sag and push the side walls out. This was corrected with an entirely new roof style and roof, along with a chancel and vestry room addition in later years, according to plans and specifications by Dr. William Wirt.

It appears doubtful that Dr. William Wirt, as noted by others, was involved in the initial planning for Saint Peter's, though he may have provided money or land. Dr. Wirt became acquainted with *Washington Parish* only after meeting and marrying Elizabeth Selena Payne.

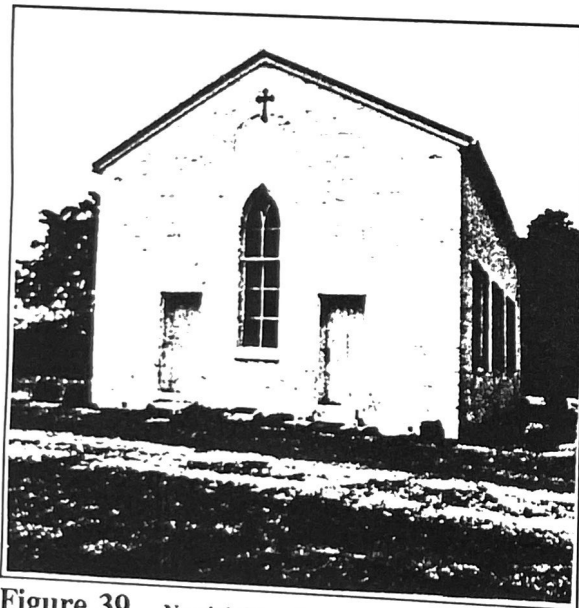


Figure 39 Nomini Church, Cople Parish, Westmoreland County.

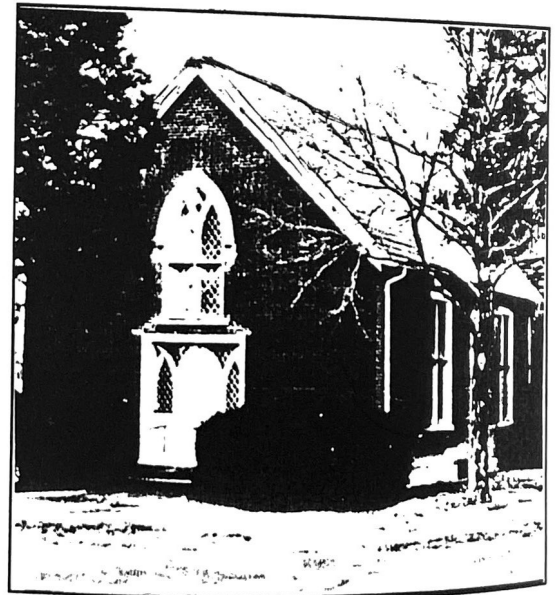


Figure 40 Saint Peter's Church, Washington Parish, Westmoreland County.

1851

The Reverend John Payne, kinsman of the *Red House* Payne family, for 33 years was missionary to Liberia, Africa. He was consecrated Bishop in **1851**. He later returned to become Rector of *Washington Parish*. This was an unusual position for a Bishop of the Church. A marble plaque was erected in Saint Peter's Church in his memory.

THE WIRT FAMILY

In 1852, Dr. William Wirt built *Wirtland*, a structure which has been acclaimed by architects as the "finest Gothic Revival residence in Virginia." *Wirtland* is now a Registered National Historic Place.

Dr. and Mrs. Wirt sold her inherited property, *Cedar Hill*, in 1860.

Dr. William Wirt's father was William Wirt Sr. (1772-1834), a noted jurist, statesman and author. William Wirt Sr. was born in Bladensburg, Maryland, but spent much of his life in Virginia. He served as Clerk of the House of Delegates, Chancellor of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, United States Attorney for the District of Virginia, and Attorney General of the United States under Presidents Monroe and John Adams.

William Wirt was a good friend of Thomas Jefferson. He was offered, by Thomas Jefferson, the first Presidency of the University of Virginia, which Wirt declined. He was also a lifelong friend of Jefferson's nephew, Dabney Carr. Wirt and Carr named sons for each other.



Figure 41 *Wirtland*, the finest Gothic Revival residence in Virginia (Courtesy Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission).



Figure 42 William Wirt Sr.,
Attorney General

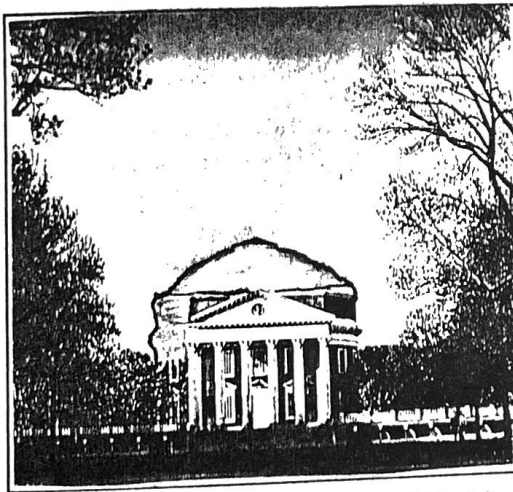


Figure 43 Rotunda, University of Virginia.

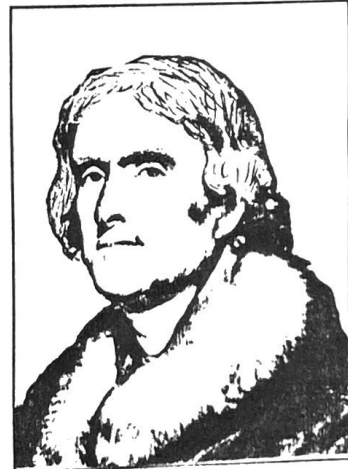


Figure 44 Thomas Jefferson

William Wirt Sr. (1772-1834), was offered, by Thomas Jefferson, the first Presidency of the University of Virginia.



Figure 45 Roxbury (Courtesy Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission).

1861

In 1861, Dabney Carr Wirt, the son of William Wirt Sr. and the younger brother of Dr. William Wirt, completed the construction of *Roxbury*. This fine estate is also listed as a National Historic Place.

Dabney Carr Wirt married Julia Augusta Washington, the daughter of William Augustine Washington, Jr., who had owned and resided at *Haywood*.

THE WAR OF 1861-1865

The *War of 1861-1865* did not bring battles to *Washington Parish*, as were fought in nearby Fredericksburg. But the effects of the War were seriously felt. In the vestibule of Saint Peter's Church, many names of both Southern and Northern cavalymen are still visible in the broom closet.

Northern gunboats patrolling the two rivers fired on many plantation houses. The Taylor mansion, *Bunker Hill*, near *Leedstown*, was burned to the ground by a patrol boat landing party. They were foraging the neighborhood for food.

Many of the young men were off to war. Many of them were killed in action including Brigadier General Thomas Stuart Garnett at Chancellorsville, son of Henry T. Garnett of *Ingleside*. Captain John Washington Hungerford of *Twiford* was killed in 1865, while serving with the 9th Virginia Cavalry. William Augustine Washington's son, Richard Bushrod Washington, was killed during the retreat from the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

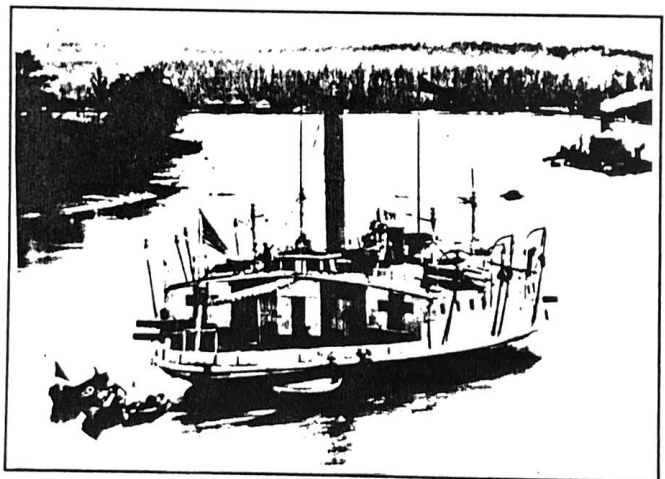


Figure 46 Federal gunboats, such as this were the scourge of the Rappahannock and Potomac (Courtesy Museum of the Confederacy).

ANTE-BELLUM

In 1866, after the *War of 1861-1865*, *Ingleside* became the Court for the Military District. There was a contingent of Northern troops stationed on the plantation. Lieutenant Lawrence Washington (1838-1926), a former Confederate officer, told the story, **in the 1920's**, that he had been ordered to appear in court at *Ingleside* for some minor law infraction.

For the next several decades, it was a bleak time in *Washington Parish*. Loved ones had been wounded or killed. The *cause* for which they fought was lost, no one had money, credit or finances to start over. Life settled into a barely tolerable, humdrum existence. No earthshaking events were to occur during this time period.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL MONUMENT

For many years *Wakefield* was neglected until George Washington Parke Custis, the grandson of Martha Washington, marked the site of the birthplace of George Washington. A stone tablet was set in place. The U.S. Congress for years had discussed placing a suitable marker over the birth site of George Washington. **In 1879**, action finally began with a survey and a study to consider how to deliver a monument to the *Wakefield* site.

In 1881, Congress appropriated \$30,000 to erect a monument to mark the birthplace of President George Washington. **In 1896**, a fifty-foot granite obelisk was erected on the birth site. This monument was moved **in 1930** to its present location, in the circle, at the entrance to the George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

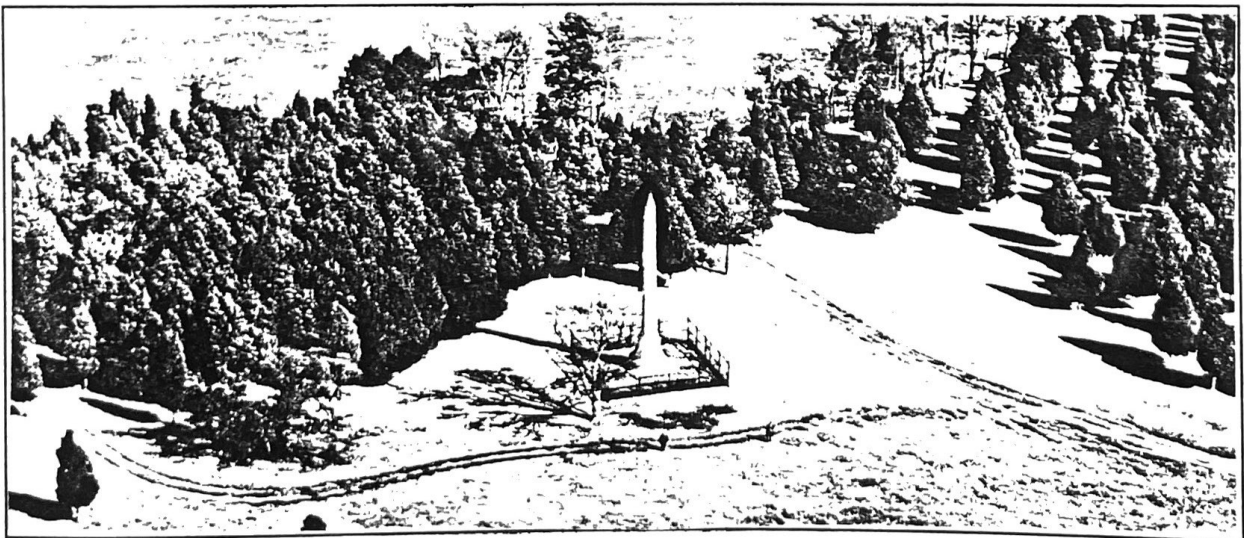


Figure 47 George Washington Birthplace National Monument, a circa 1927 aerial view of the 1896 Monument (Courtesy of National Park Service).

A TRAGIC EPISODE OCCURS IN THE COMMUNITY

In 1882, the Marx family from New York purchased the old Payne family property, *Cedar Hill*.

A nineteen-year-old member of this family, Herbert Marx, a recent graduate of the New York Law School and a young man of good reputation, was visiting at *Cedar Hill* alone, to recuperate his strength. His mother was visiting in New York.

Herbert Marx accompanied Rose Taylor, an attractive fourteen-year-old from adjacent *Bunker Hill*, to Saint Peter's Church on a Sunday night. The next day Rose confided to her cousin that Herbert had acted in an improper and insulting manner. The cousin told Rose's brother, William Taylor. William conspired with four other young men, William Heflin, James Stiff, George Thompson, and R. H. Douglass to take some violent action to teach Marx a lesson. It was decided Herbert Marx should be tarred and feathered for his actions.

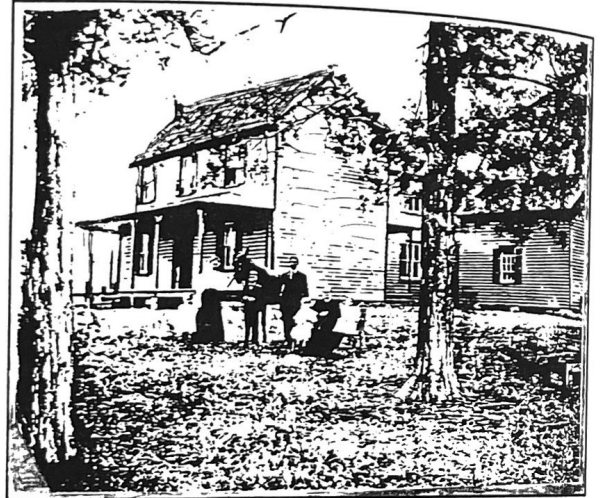


Figure 48 Cedar Hill.

On Tuesday night at 8:00 p.m., the five left Oak Grove in a wagon with the necessary tar and feathers. They were armed with revolvers and a Winchester rifle. Arriving around 9:00 p.m., they tied the horse in a nearby thicket so as not to attract attention. William Heflin approached the house and smashed a window pane. Herbert Marx, seated at his desk writing, called out "*Who is there?*", no answer, another window was smashed. Herbert Marx grabbed his revolver and fired, William Heflin fell to the ground, shot through the abdomen. James Stiff, hearing the shot, ran to the house and forced open a side door. A second shot from Marx's revolver entered Stiff's neck, paralyzing him. Not understanding what was going on, Herbert Marx runs outside to see a third person standing near a pear tree with a rifle. Marx fires a third shot, hitting William Taylor in the heart. By this time the remaining two men decided to get away from there.

Herbert Marx aroused several neighbors and did what he could to save the lives of Heflin and Stiff. The two wounded men were sent by boat from Wirt's Wharf to Alexandria. There William Heflin died upon arrival, and James Stiff died several months later.

Herbert Marx denied that he made any insulting remarks to Rose Taylor. Rose's family knew nothing of the alleged improprieties. Marx was exonerated by a jury of inquest.

Three young men lost their lives, and another must have harbored a lifelong guilt complex. There must be a moral to this story!

THE 1900's

The 20th Century is more close at hand and familiar to us. But do we realize what has happened and is happening to our land between the rivers? Most probably the automobile, developed in the early half of the 20th Century, followed with its hard surface road system, and the four major bridges to the *Northern Neck* have become the major influence in our land and our lives. We are no longer isolated!

The Lee, McCarty, Washington, Monroe, Payne, Wirt, and other lands along the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers and their creeks are now major housing developments. In 1980 over one third of the County population was made up of newcomers, and the percentage is rapidly increasing. The old order is not going; it is gone!

Even so, some very interesting events have occurred during the 20th Century. The first three decades of this century were to become the last great years of steamboat travel on the Chesapeake Bay and its river tributaries. The center of commerce was Baltimore, each locality had its local river landing, such as *Leedstown* on the Rappahannock and *Wirt's Wharf* on *Mattox Creek*. From these small ports were shipped local produce, while manufactured goods were received.

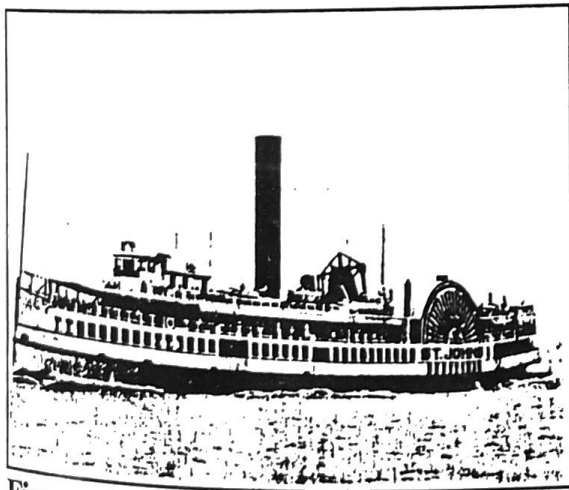


Figure 49 The Saint Johns (Courtesy Mariners Museum).

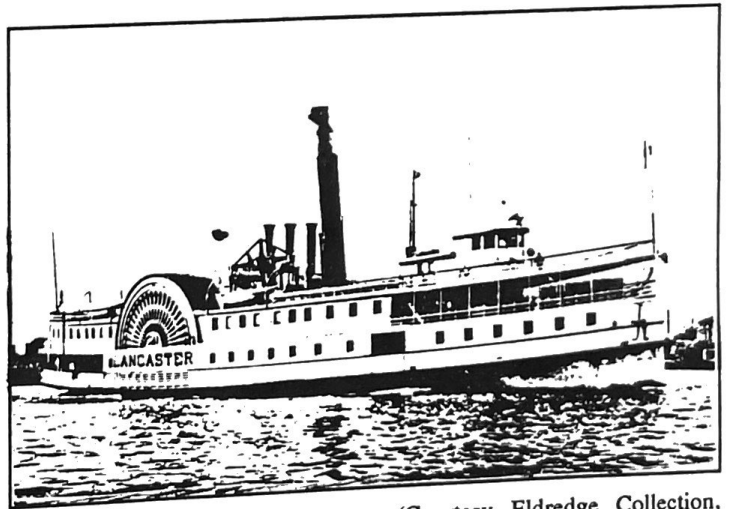


Figure 50 The Lancaster (Courtesy Eldredge Collection, Mariners Museum).

The *Saint Johns* was a typical Potomac River excursion steamer and the *Lancaster* was a freight steamer which ran chiefly to the Rappahannock River.

Washington Parish communication, mail, and travel all were served and evolved around the scheduled boat arrivals and departures. So called luxury, paddlewheel steamboats brought hundreds of pleasure seeking vacationists from Washington, D.C. to Colonial Beach.

The Parish survived three centuries without a bank! The first bank to appear in the County was the Bank of Westmoreland located in Colonial Beach in 1904. The bank opened with H.W.B. Williams as its cashier. Saint Peter's Church was one of the fourteen original stockholders when the bank was incorporated in 1907. The Bank of Westmoreland was soon followed by the Bank of Montross in 1908 and the Peoples Bank in 1913.

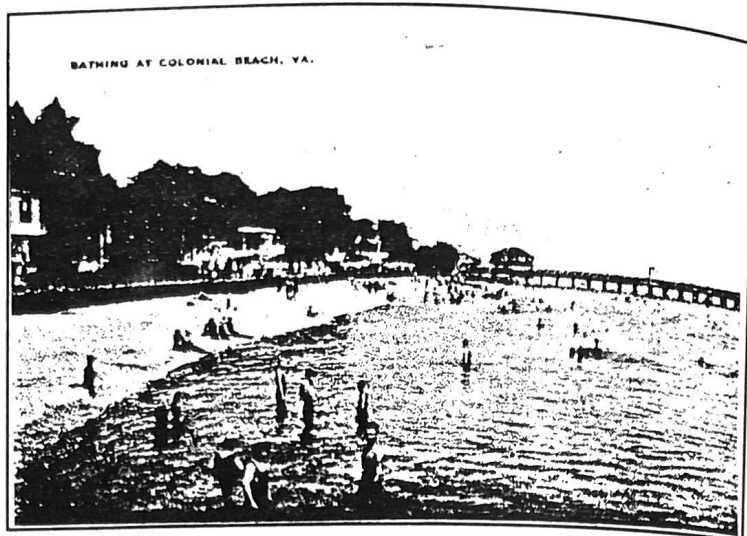


Figure 51 Bathing at Colonial Beach.

A little-known fact about the early half of the century in Westmoreland County is that between Oak Grove and Leedstown, numerous authors wrote and published a wide assortment of books.



Figure 52 John Adolph Flemer (1859-1957)

1906

In 1906, John Adolph Flemer (1859-1957) of *Ingleside* wrote *Phototopographic Methods and Instruments*, considered a masterwork on phototopography.

1912

In 1912, Frederick Alexander of *Roxbury* wrote *Stratford Hall and the Lee's*, and spearheaded a movement to acquire and restore *Stratford Hall* as a memorial.



Figure 53 Frederick Alexandria

1923

Josephine Wheelwright Rust, born at *Exeter* near *Oak Grove*, and whose mother was Eleanor Hungerford of *Twiford*, in 1923, organized and became the first President of the *Wakefield National Memorial Association*.

1925

In 1925, a cache of Indian trade beads was found at Leedstown. This stirred tremendous interest by local, state and national students and authorities on the American Indian. The result was a study of the Rappahannock Indian Sites by the Smithsonian Institute and a publication in 1937, by David Bushnell Jr. of the *Smithsonian Institute*, entitled *Indian Sites Below The Falls Of The Rappahannock*.



Figure 54 Paul Kester, noted playwright

1928

By 1928, Paul Kester, a noted playwright, had purchased and was residing at *Wirtland*, while writing his plays, including the popular *Diana Dauntless*.

1929

In 1929, Paul Wilstach compiled information and wrote his *Tidewater Virginia* from his headquarters at *Wirtland*.

1930's

There is not much information available on this subject and few people around remember the facts; but, for quite a period of time, there were held nationally recognized quail dog field trials at Leedstown. In the 1930's, as many as a hundred horses, recruited from local farms, would be gathered at *Leedstown* for hunters to ride. Local organizations prepared food for the hundreds of hunters and guests over a period of several days. The result was recognized Championship Quail Dogs.



Figure 55 Championship Quail Dog

1933

The *Washington Parish Rectory* was built circa 1855. It was located on a fifteen-acre parcel on the ridge adjacent *Roxbury* and *Mont Rose*. In a cooperative consolidation move with *Montross Parish*, the Rectory was sold. The entire proceeds were invested in the new rectory in the town of *Montross*.

1934

In 1934, H. Ragland Eubank, a former principal of the *Oak Grove School* and brother-in-law of Frederick Alexander of *Roxbury*, wrote his *Guidebook of Historic Northern Neck*.

1941

Up until World War II, the local economy was sustained by the farm, forestry, and seafood industries, resulting in a very modest living standard for the vast majority. After the War the lure of easy money encouraged the promotion of waterfront developments.

By the 1990's the old waterfront plantations were the sites for thousands of vacation, retirement, and permanent homes.



Figure 56 Old waterfront plantation.

1942

In 1942, David Eaton published his *Historical Atlas of Westmoreland County*.

1966

In 1966, Westmoreland County celebrated, at *Leedstown*, the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the *Leedstown Resolves*. A bronze marker was placed at the site and an award was presented for the best paper on the *Signing of the Leedstown Resolves*.

1980

In May of 1980, Westmoreland County Supervisors approved the plans for the area's first commercial winery. It was to be operated by *Ingleside Plantation, Incorporated*, in *Leedstown*.

1984

Fox hunting over hill and dale by hunter, horse, and hounds has not been done in *Washington Parish* for centuries. George Washington loved the sport. Started in 1984, an organized hunt, *The Commonwealth Foxhounds*, with Robert Hoyer as Master, holds its October opening hunt at *Ingleside Plantation*. There are regular weekly scheduled hunts carried on in season. This is a welcome addition to the sporting life of the community.



Figure 57 Washington's introduction to English style fox hunting
(Courtesy Virginia State Library).

The sport of English style fox hunting was first introduced with the arrival of Lord Fairfax. George Washington's "interest in the sport can only be described as passionate. It became one of his favorite amusements, and his diary is filled with reference to days spent riding across the countryside in pursuit of a fox, frequently followed by a leisurely dinner with a group of neighbors."

WHERE WE STAND

As we enter this last decade of the 20th Century, winding up four centuries of recorded English History, some good, some mediocre, some bad, we might ask ourselves where we stand today? and what lies ahead?

Saint Peter's Church *may be an indicator* of the strength, stability, determination and future of *Washington Parish*. If so, the indications are positive and good! The 140-year-old structure is in its best repair ever and has an exciting building program for the immediate future. It has accumulated, through the years and with great effort, an endowment program for the perpetual care of the building and grounds and the community cemetery it is operating.

It has a music program with a choir master and a master musician as organist, using the rebuilt *Henry Erban Organ*, given by Bettie Payne Wirt over a century ago. Saint Peter's has an enthusiastic congregation and a Parish Rector devoted to a sympathetic ministry and capable of delivering masterful, stirring sermons. These positive and encouraging signs at Saint Peter's are all indicative of the bright and growing future of *Washington Parish*.

There are many ancient family cemeteries, relics and reminders of the past, for years untended and forgotten. Several are being maintained in fine condition, using income from endowments established in recent years for that purpose.



Figure 58 Old Family Cemetery.

HISTORIC MUSEUMS

Two publicly operated historic museums are nationally recognized. One is *Wakefield*, George Washington's birthplace. Since 1932, it has been a National Monument and is operated by the National Park Service. It is open daily to the public, attracting over 100,000 visitors each year. *Wakefield* is a tremendous community asset.

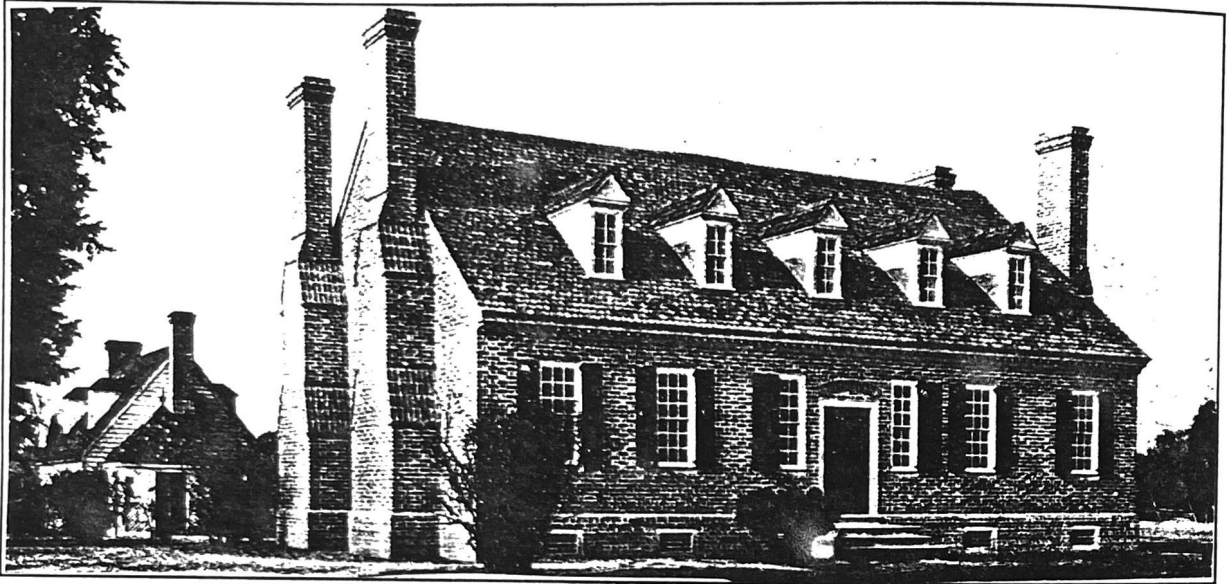


Figure 59 Wakefield, Front towards the Potomac, also showing the Kitchen in the back ground (October, 1931, Photo, by Frances Benjamin Johnston)

Stratford Hall was originally in *Washington Parish*. It is now operated by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation as an Historic Plantation Museum. Its originality, architectural excellence, and peaceful rural setting make it one of the finest visitor attractions of its kind in America.

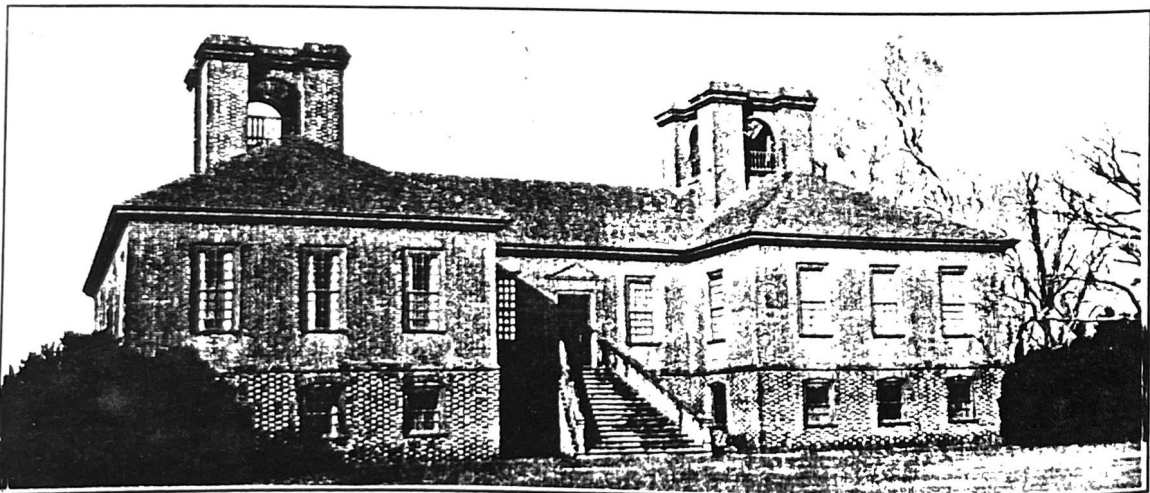


Figure 60 Stratford Hall, (Courtesy Virginia State Library).

OTHER HISTORIC HOUSES

Many privately owned historic houses of *Washington Parish* are indeed in better condition today than when first constructed. They have been rebuilt, modernized, and lovingly cared for during the last fifty years. These include *Pomona*, *Blenheim*, *Claymont*, *Roxbury*, *Roxbury Cabin*, *Mont Rose Cottage*, *Wirtland*, *Ingleside*, *Walnut Hill*, *Liberty*, *Bunker Hill* and *Twiford*. In recent years, several of these houses have been added to the Register of State and National Landmarks.

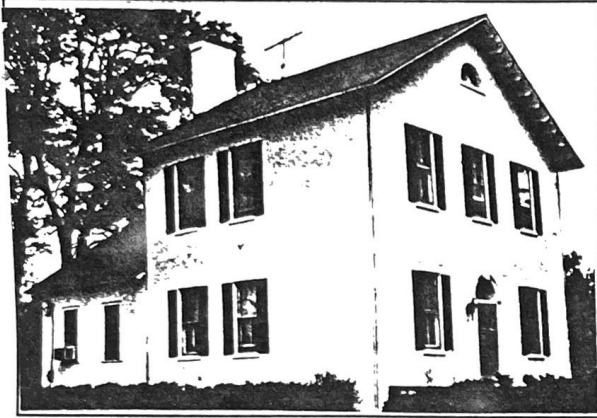


Figure 61 Pomona

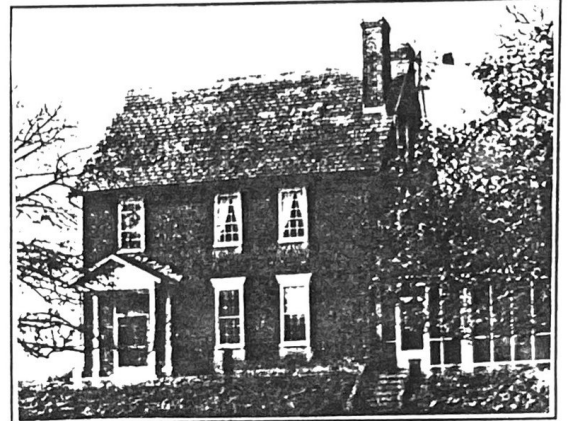


Figure 62 Liberty

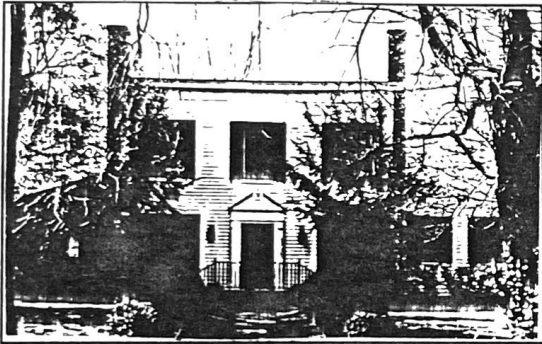


Figure 63 Claymont.



Figure 64 Bunker Hill.

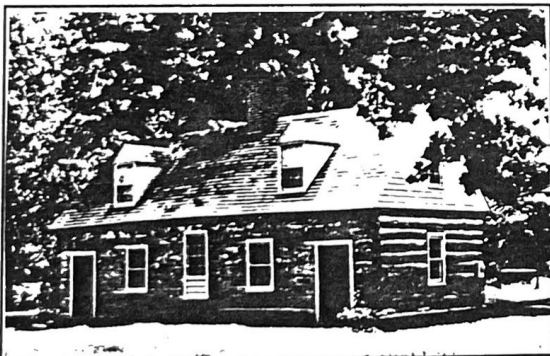


Figure 65 Log Cabin at Roxbury.

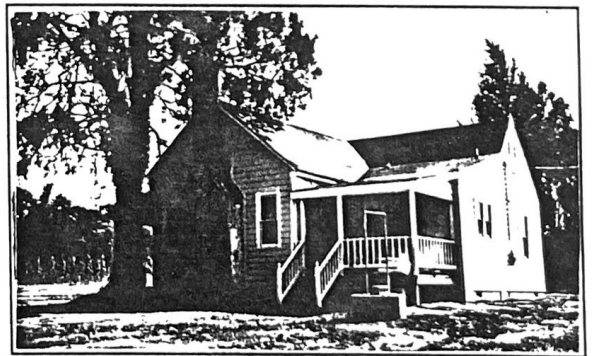


Figure 66 Mont Rose Cottage.

INGLESIDE PLANTATION

Perhaps it is fitting to finalize *Four Centuries of Washington Parish History* with a brief historical sketch on *Ingleside Plantation*. *Ingleside's* occupants, almost without exception, through the centuries have participated in Parish and County activities.

In the Colonial Era, *Ingleside's* history begins in 1658, with William Underwoods's 3,667 acre land patent adjacent the Rappahannock River. Out of this patent evolved *Walnut Hill Plantation*. This plantation was eventually owned by William Ball who married William Underwood's granddaughter.

Still later, Thomas Jett became the owner of *Walnut Hill Plantation*. Thomas Jett was a prominent merchant in nearby *Leedstown* and became involved in the Revolutionary War events that occurred at *Leedstown*. Thomas Jett was a signer of Richard Henry Lee's *Leedstown Resolves*, in 1766.

From part of *Walnut Hill Plantation*, forty-six acres were purchased in 1833 by the Trustees of *Washington Academy of Westmoreland*. They were to erect a building and establish a classical school on this land. Within a few years the academy failed. The academy was then acquired by Henry T. Garnett. He added acreage and began plantation operations. By 1849, *Washington Academy* had been renamed *Ingleside Plantation*.

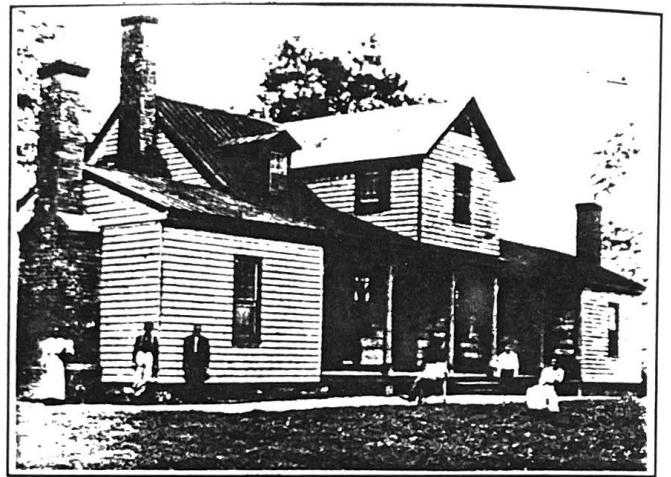


Figure 67 Walnut Hill Circa 1885

The *War of 1861-1865* interrupted whatever plans Garnett may have had for the plantation. Henry Garnett's three sons became officers in the Confederate Army. One son, Brigadier General Thomas Stuart Garnett, a medical officer, was killed during the Battle of Chancellorsville.

In 1866, *Ingleside* became the Military Court for the Military District. There was a contingent of Northern troops stationed on the grounds of *Ingleside*.

For two decades after the war, *Ingleside* was unoccupied, uncared for, and seemingly forgotten by various owners. *Ingleside* and adjoining *Walnut Hill* were purchased in the 1880's by Carl H. Flemer, ancestor of the present owners.

After over a century of family ownership, *Ingleside Plantation* stands today as a model agricultural business in this highly technological, computerized, and mechanized world. *Ingleside Plantation*, with its unified and cooperative family spirit, its highly qualified and

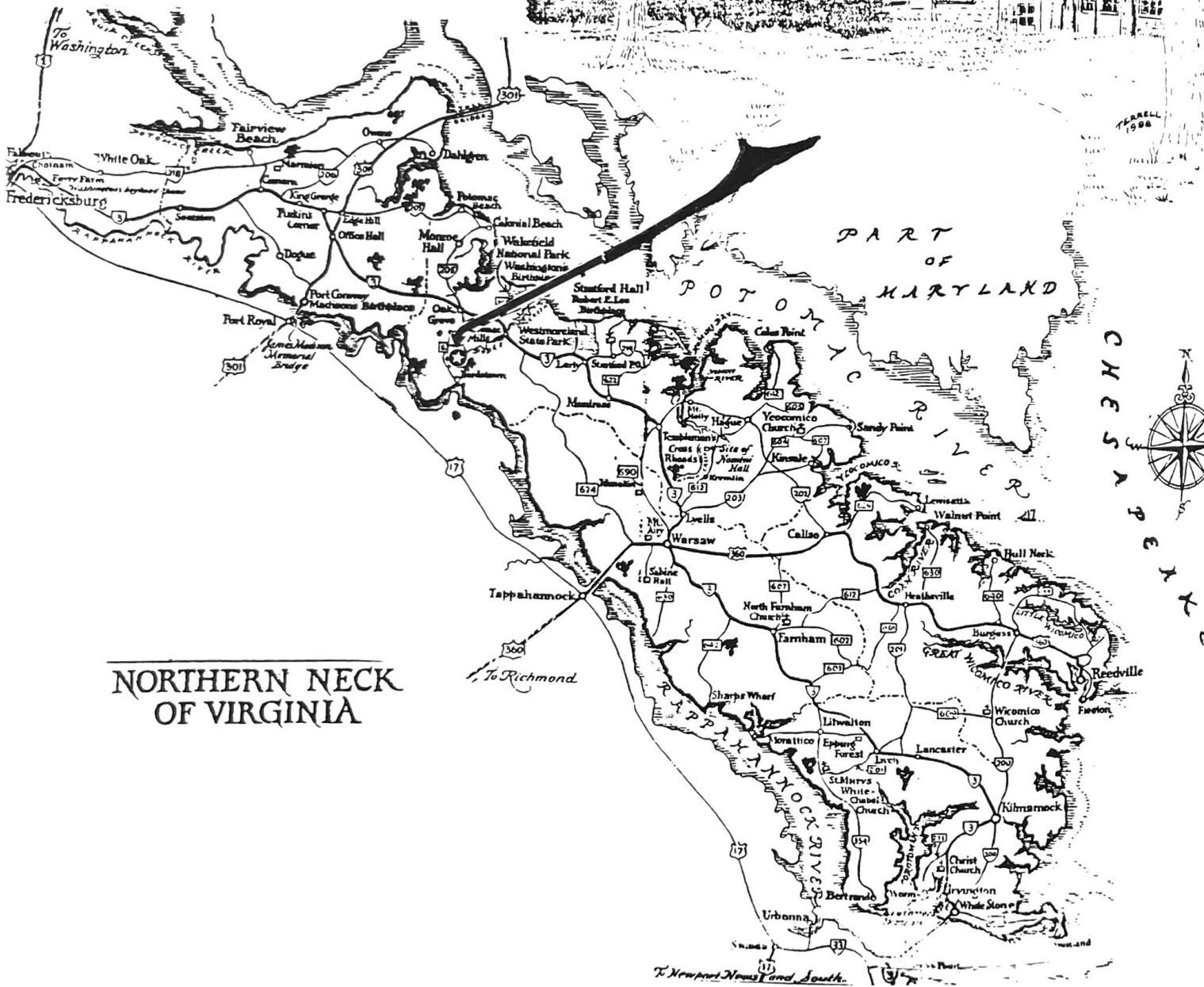
dedicated personnel, its land resources, equipment, facilities, techniques, and skills, is prepared to, and does, produce the finest quality products.

The customers, visitors and friends of *Ingleside* comment not only on the superb products but, also, on the rare nostalgic feeling of *Ingleside Plantation's* Ante-Bellum atmosphere. *Ingleside Plantation* is mindful that it has a responsibility to the community and it intends to fulfill its commitment of helpfulness to all people of *Washington Parish*. Further, *Ingleside Plantation* accepts the challenge to properly and vigorously conserve its natural soil, water, and forest resources, as guided by the *Chesapeake Bay Act of 1990*.



Figure 68 Natural Habitats. Will we be able to preserve one of the last great natural habitats of the American Bald Eagle and other wild life?

Ingleside Plantation



NORTHERN NECK
OF VIRGINIA

Figure 69 Ingleside and the Northern Neck of Virginia.

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