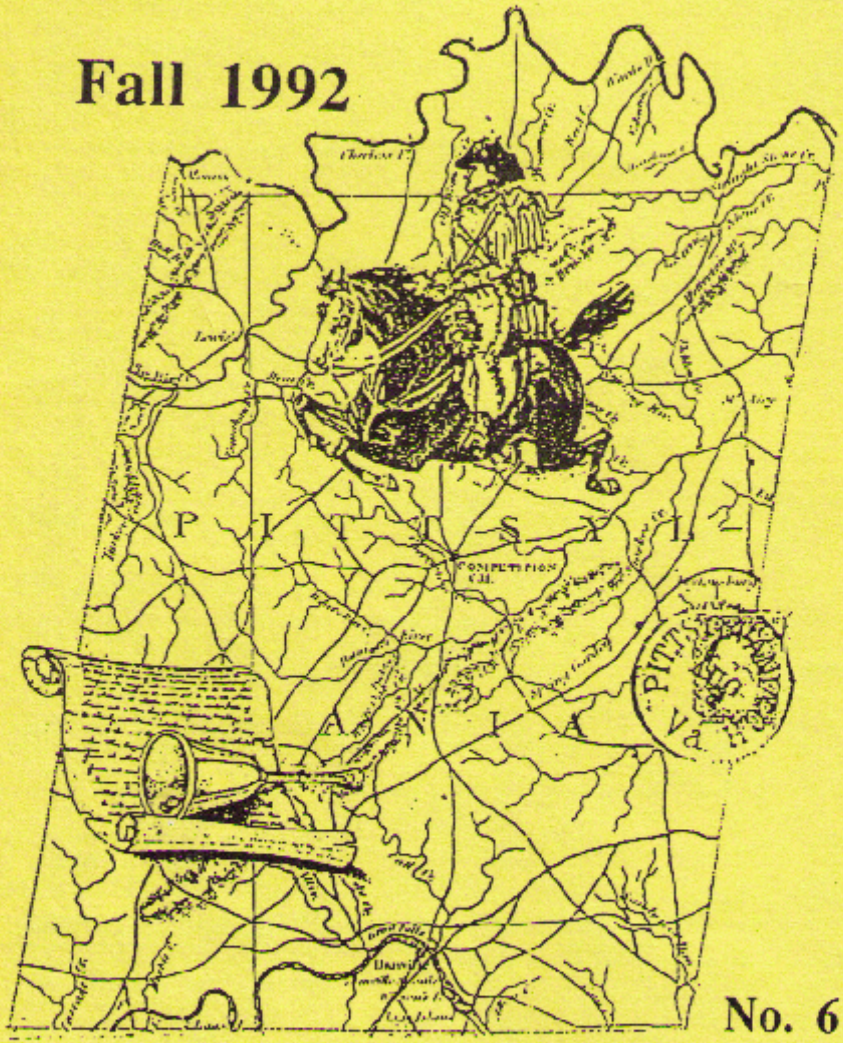


The Pittsylvania Packet

Fall 1992



No. 6

Pittsylvania Historical Society
Chatham, Virginia

REPORT BY THE PHS PRESIDENT

I am rounding out my first 12 months as President of the Pittsylvania Historical Society -- and also as the editor of "The Packet."

I do not wish to claim any special credit for myself, but I feel that we (the PHS) have had a relatively good year as reflected by the following:

We got the Virginia Department of Historical Resources to approve a historical highway marker to honor Claude A. Swanson, who as Pittsylvania's distinguished native son, was a Congressman, Virginia Governor, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Navy.

The Callands Potpourri, under the sponsorship of the PHS and directed by our committee chairman Mack Doss, had the most successful festival ever this year, with the attendance topping 15,000.

"Colonial Christmas in Chatham" spearheaded by our society and under the leadership of Frances Hurt, PHS vice-president, and Garland Turner continued to be the highlight of the pre-Christmas season at the County Seat.

Jeannette Brown, membership secretary, says the membership is at an all time high with 501 from 38 states and Tokyo, Japan, plus 44 on the exchange list. Jeannette reports that there have been 171 brand new members signed since January 1.

PHS treasurer Ivelle Saunders reports that the Society is in excellent financial condition with a tidy surplus in the treasury.

Katherine Buck, corresponding secretary, who handles the sales of the PHS publications, says she has filled 185 orders from 38 states which is well ahead of last year (see list of books on back page.)

We have been fortunate to have outstanding speakers for our quarterly meetings including a president of a large corporation, a sculptor, an author and an educator -- all bringing out full houses for our programs.

"The Packet" seems to be favorably accepted as evidenced by the number of requests to be put on the exchange lists of other historical and genealogical societies in many other states.

As editor of "The Packet" since last year, I am indeed fortunate to have Frances Hurt, Herman Melton, Henry Mitchell, Patricia Mitchell and Lucille Payne as regular contributors, and Paula Irby Bryant who sets the type and does the paste ups and Captain Copy of Danville as the printer.

As president, I am proud of the board of directors (Norman Amos, Virginia Chapin, Perry Mitchell, Alice Overbey, Catherine Overbey, and officers) plus the support of many loyal members who have been the main contributing factor to make this a successful 12 months for the PHS.

UNUSUAL PROGRAM FOR NOV. 16 MEETING

Grandmothers and grandfathers, most of whom have taken a back seat in life, will be front and center at the November 16 meeting of the Pittsylvania Historical Society. Eight of them have been taped -- telling their memories and observations of life in Pittsylvania County as they knew it -- by Curtis Cocke Whitehead.

A Williamsburg native, she grew up to respect history and to know the value of records. Mrs. Whitehead visited with eight Pittsylvanians in their 90s and even 100 to tell how it was in those earliest days. Their recollections, which will prove invaluable to historians, will be fascinating for everyone as she has woven a program with excerpts to go with her background comments for the Monday, November 16 meeting.

Pittsylvania's Unsung Hero of the Revolution

By Herman Melton

The Revolutionary War was at a critical stage when Pittsylvania County's "Shirtmen" crossed the Dan with General Nathaniel Greene en route to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. It was February 24, 1781 when the last of Greene's 1600 troops rowed to the Carolina side.

Coincidentally, at that precise moment, Virginia's Governor Thomas Jefferson sat down to write a letter to the largest landowner in Pittsylvania County.

David Ross owned 7,800 acres of land in the county and his plantation near the confluence of the Staunton and Pigg Rivers was known as Ross's Quarter which contained two overseers and 41 slaves. Virginius Dabney, the Dean of Virginia historians, characterizes Ross as an "enterprising Scotchman." Therein lies the most logical reason for Ross's absence in most Revolutionary War history.

Unlike Washington, Jefferson, Henry, Monroe, etc., or even Pittsylvania's Daniel Coleman, he was not born in America.

Neglect by historians notwithstanding, this remarkable Scot became a dedicated patriot who performed invaluable service to the cause with rare business acumen and unmatched energy. Before, during and after the Revolution he built an enormous business and industrial empire. It was because of this success and his indefatigable efforts in scrounging supplies for Virginia's troops that he received the aforementioned letter from Thomas Jefferson: The letter (from Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Volume I page 484) reads as follows:

"I do myself pleasure in enclosing your appointment as Commercial Agent for the State. The General Assembly have by their act, declared that they will make good all your engagements and thereby pledge the faith of the State to supply any deficiencies of the funds put in your hands or any accidental losses which may occur. To which I have only to add an assurance that every aid will be furnished you which are in the power of the Executive. I am with respect sir,

Your obedient Servant,
Thos. Jefferson"

The reader is challenged to produce another document among the papers of Thomas Jefferson in which such latitude was granted by the Sage of Monticello. It was while in this capacity that he devised a system that enabled farmers to pay taxes with tobacco - thus keeping Virginia solvent during the trying days of the Revolution.

Through connections in the West Indies, the intrepid Ross successfully evaded the British blockade and sold this same tobacco on the world market. Who was this remarkable Pittsylvanian? If he were that illustrious, why was he relegated to relative obscurity? Maud clement, the venerable county historian gave him little more than a footnote in her "History of

Pittsylvania County."

The answers to the puzzle lead through immensely interesting avenues. He was to eventually become Virginia's largest landowner. Ross was to own the two largest flour mills on the James above Richmond. He had extensive holdings in Bedford, Campbell, Pittsylvania, Cumberland, Fluvanna and Buckingham Counties. The empire included country stores in Bedford, the famous Oxford Iron Works in Campbell and a foundry in Buckingham.

Of most interest to Pittsylvanians is his application to erect a grist mill at the "mouth of Frying Pan Creek in 1769." (C R Book 1, page 13.) Although the foundation of a mill at the same site is still in place, it is apparently of a later origin. It is likely that Ross's mill perished in the terrible flood which struck the region in 1771.

Ross owned the land where the Point of Fork Arsenal (one of Virginia's largest) stood at the confluence of the James and Rivanna Rivers near Columbia. He had a home in Columbia which still stands. Most importantly, his name appears on the list of the original Board of Directors of the James River Company which built and operated the great canal system.

The question persists: Why has the name of the valuable Pittsylvanian not evoked patriotic fervor? Why are accounts of his many exploits missing from histories of the Revolution when those of lesser patriots are elaborated upon? To be sure, there are conjectures, not the least of which is his greed. Ross never missed a chance to "make a buck" and the term "conflict of interest" had not yet entered the American lexicon at the time of his zenith.

The truth is that he was penniless and bankrupt after overexpanding his empire by the year 1807. Thus, it seems safe to surmise that Ross's disastrous financial failure turned historians away from him. So catastrophic was his end that after his death in 1817, it took the administrator of his estate (the Pittsylvania lawyer, Thomas Bouldin) 17 years to untangle his affairs. Most of his land in Pittsylvania County (including the mill site) was eventually purchased by John Ward. Walter Coles tried to buy it earlier but could not obtain a clear title.

It is also logical that since Ross owned residences and holdings in six counties, none could claim him as their own. Other reasons are that he was not born in America and that his exploits were in the field of economics and industry as opposed to military exploits. The latter makes for more interesting reading and is consequently of more value to writers.

Despite his ignominious end, David Ross deserves a higher rung on the ladder of greatness among Pittsylvania's patriots. Who can discount the importance of his establishment of the first tobacco inspection station west of the "fall line?" Moreover, he ranged far and wide collecting food, supplies and equipment for Virginia's troops during those dark days.

It is of no small consequence that David Ross alone paid 28 percent of Pittsylvania's war assessment by the General Assembly and that he personally loaned the State 2000 pounds in currency and 1299 hogsheads of tobacco.

Finally, not enough has been written about this patriot extraordinary, and the resurrection of his memory is long overdue.

(NOTE: The above has been excerpted from Herman Melton's book: "Pittsylvania's Eighteenth Century Grist Mills," which is available from the Pittsylvania Historical Society.)

The African influence on Southern cuisine

By Patricia B. Mitchell

"Some owners, it is said, required their slaves to whistle as they carried platters of venison and fish, syllabubs, and rich plumb cakes from kitchen to dining room to ensure that no sampling occurred along the way," reported Mimi Elder in an April 1989 *Gourmet* magazine article about Charleston, South Carolina. And who would not be tempted to snatch and taste examples of Southern plantation cooking, most of which was created by able-spooned black cooks!

The slave trade brought approximately half a million Africans to the United States. These people arrived, stripped of their material possessions, but possessed of a distinctive cultural heritage, and various talents and skills. One outstanding characteristic was a seemingly innate ability to prepare food well. As Charles Gayarre stated in an 1880 issue of *Harpers* magazine, "The Negro is a born cook. He could neither read nor write, and therefore he could not learn from books. He was simply inspired; the dog of the spit and the saucepan had breathed into him; that was enough."

The southern states of America were blessed with an influx of such expertise, for the agricultural economy of this region required much manual labor. Africans could fill this need; and, happily for well-to-do Southern landowners, head-ragged black cooks filled many a platter and stomach.

Africans were accustomed to large quantities of greens and vegetables in their diet so black cooks incorporated more of these sorts of foods into the daily fare of the white man. Some historians say that the addition of such vitamin and mineral rich food plants saved white slaveholders from nutritional deficiencies.

The diet in Africa was centered around stews served over a starchy base such as rice; or "fufu," a pounded mass of boiled yams, cassava or millet. The effect of this food habit is today especially evident in Louisiana style cookery in which chicken or seafood is served with a sauce over a bed of rice. 'Cajun dishes such as gumbo and jambalaya also demonstrate the African hand.

Oftimes people destined to become slaves in the United States passed through the way station of the West Indies. Here the Creole islanders' spicy cuisine might add inspiration (and unwritten recipes) to the African cooks' repertoire. Soon Southland plantation families were enjoying black creations of cornbread, "African" vegetables, pot liquor, and sweet potato puddings; and experiencing somewhat different cooking techniques, for the Africans were fond of deep fat frying and grilling. Thanks also to black influence, certain foods were introduced to this country, or utilized to a greater extent. Black-eyed peas, hominy grits, okra, eggplant, benne (sesame) seed, sorghum, and melons were emphasized by cooks of African origin.

Elizabeth Swanson, wife of Pittsylvania County's illustrious Claude A. Swanson (Governor of Virginia, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Navy), spoke in 1911 of the continuing influence of the black kitchen queens: "It takes a big, fat negro mammy with a round shiny face to cook a ham, and the secret she can never impart. It is a sort of magic ... and when you get

Callands Potpourri great success, over 15,000 attend

The 12th Annual Callands Potpourri, sponsored by the Pittsylvania Historical Society, was another great success. This year's October 3rd event was the biggest and best ever attracting more than 15,000 for the day.

James "Mack" Doss has been the PHS Chairman of the Callands festival since its beginning. He is assisted by the Callands VFD and loyal PHS members, and they deserve credit for reviving Pittsylvania County's historical heritage with such a successful event.

Commenting on the annual festival at Callands, I'll let chairman "Mack" Doss tell you all about it in his own words as follows:

The day started in the early morning before dawn as we kindled the fire to warm the historical hearth of the 18th century Callands Clerk's Office. The fields were soon turned into parking lots by the untiring efforts of the firemen of the Callands Volunteer Fire Department.

As Whitey Akers and his family made the final preparation to make the tasty applebutter, the ladies of the auxiliary of the Callands Fire Department were donning aprons and fetching flour and rolling pins for their daylong task of making the delicious and much sought after fried apple pies. The black pots of brunswick stew whetted the appetites and pleased the palates of our friends who joined us for the day.

As the various talented artists and crafters pitched their tents under the big oak trees, spruced and trimmed for this occasion by Virginia Chapin and Norman Amos, the Mills family, our cider pressers, and Melvin Albeck, our village blacksmith were busy getting ready to ply their trade before eager eyes of our visitors. In the background Teepees were being raised by the Riflemen of Wynne's Fall, and the trappings of a day's hunt were being hung.

The doors of our old 1977 historical buildings were adorned by lovely fall

African Influence... Continued from page 5

some of that kind of dainty (a sliver of cured Virginia ham) you are eating indeed."

A satisfying Southern / "Soul Food" - style menu of this age, featuring fried chicken, sweet potatoes, black-eyed peas, turnip greens, cornbread and sweet potato pie is the direct outgrowth of plantation/African cooking.

One would probably agree with David Hunter Strother, a mid-19th century traveler who informed the female tour group which he was leading, "Girls, we will be well fed here; we are fortunate. I have just seen the cook: not a mere black woman that does the cooking, but one bearing a patent stamped by the broad seal of Nature, the type of a class whose skill is not of books or training, but a gift both rich and rare; who flourishes her spit as Amphitrite does her trident (or her husband's, which is all the same); whose ladle is as a royal scepter in her hands; who has grown sleek and fat on the steam of her own genius; whose children have the first dip in all the gravies, the exclusive right to all livers and gizzards, not to mention breasts of fried chicken"

(Editor's Note: Mrs. Mitchell is currently researching her forthcoming book, "Soul on Rice: African Influence on American Cooking of Yesteryear.")

wreaths, fashioned by the talented ladies of the William Pitt Garden Club. Perry Mitchell arranged to have our buildings cleaned and shined for this day.

Kinney Rorrer, history professor at DCC, lay down his history books to join us to make music and history come alive again as he and other members of his band played tunes handed down by generations before him. Happy feet of the young and old were soon tapping to the beat of the banjo.

The Pittsylvania Historical Society is fortunate to have Frances Hallam Hurt as a member of our organization, who, through her creative writing, helped to publicize our event and make it sound as fresh as when Callands and Pittsylvania County were as young as the days of 1777.

A special thanks to Dorothy Harris for arranging for our society's bake sale, and thanks to Kitty Turner, Katherine Buck, Jeannette Brown and the other members of our society who helped in this autumn endeavor.

There are many others who helped in so many ways. Preston Moses, Thomas Hardy, Henry Mitchell, Jonathan Butler and Dave Clark who portrayed historical characters from the colonial past. We owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the news media who were our towncriers and helped us to promote this celebration of fall.

But most of all, we thank the thousands who came to share this happening with us. You were our special guests, and we look forward to welcoming you to another Autumn Potpourri in 1993 at Callands.

Signed: James M. Doss
PHS Chairman

WE HAVE SPECIAL INTEREST IN MARK TWAIN

"Huckleberry Finn" has rounded out 108 years since Mark Twain's famous book was first published - coming out first in Canada and Britain.

We all know Mark Twain's boyhood experiences in Hannibal, Mo. and on the Mississippi River were inspiration for the immortal stories of Huck Finn, the river raft ragamuffin, and his pal Tom Sawyer.

People in this area of Virginia has a special interest in Tom and Huck and the famous creator of these beloved fictional characters.

Mark Twain's father, John Marshall Clemens, was born in Southside Virginia in Campbell County near Pittsylvania County in 1798. John and his wife, Jane, migrated west to the town of Florida, Missouri, where their son Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born in 1835.

Shortly after, the Clemens moved to Hannibal where Sam (who later took his famous pen name of "Mark Twain," from the riverboat pilot's call measuring depth of the water) grew up.

Samuel Clemens' boyhood home in Hannibal is now the Mark Twain Museum, and a statue of the author overlooks the Mississippi River, and his father's tombstone rests in the chapel of the cemetery.

All of this might have happened here in Southside Virginia if John and Jane hadn't moved to Missouri!

(From Herman Ginther's "Gems of the Sage of Sugar Hill" - Brookneal, VA 24528)

CONGRATS TO OUR SECRETARY

Congratulations to Jeannette Brown, our PHS membership secretary, who was elected Chairman of the Board of Averett College Alumni Association.

Whispers of the 1700's in Pittsylvania County

Prepared by Henry H. Mitchell

The area around Chatham and Gretna offers several unique opportunities for "time travel" back into the 1700's, and this self-guided tour is designed for that purpose. The mid-1700's was the period when Pittsylvania County was first organized as an English-speaking settlement.

Col. William Byrd was appointed by the governors of Virginia and North Carolina to survey a dividing line in 1728 between Virginia and North Carolina. Settlement was just beginning, and taxation districts had to be clarified.

By this time, the local native population (Siouan tribes) had almost entirely vacated the area, moving to Canada and to the southern Carolinas as a result of disastrous warfare with the northern Iroquois.

New arrivals through the middle decades of the 1700's created an area of tobacco plantations and small farms. Pittsylvania County's rural character continues to this day, allowing the continued existence of traces of the 1700's and its lifestyle.

To encourage the preservation of that period's legacy, the local county government has entered into working partnerships with the Pittsylvania Historical Society and the Chatham Garden Club to maintain three buildings important to that period: the Callands Courthouse and Clerks Office and Gretna's Yates Tavern.

All of these buildings are easily accessible from public highways and are open to the public at specific events.

OLD COURT BUILDINGS AT CALLANDS

After Pittsylvania County was cut off from Halifax in 1767, and before Henry County was cut off from Pittsylvania in 1777, this location was chosen as the location for Pittsylvania County's first courthouse.

Evidence of the Revolutionary era county seat has largely disappeared except for two fascinating brick structures and the rear portion of the nearby old Moorman House.

FIRST CLERKS OFFICE AT CALLANDS 1771

The smaller building, standing at the edge of the old Moorman House yard, is without dispute the office of the clerk of court. It was ordered by the court to be built by James Roberts in 1767 but was not completed until about 1771.

FIRST COURTHOUSE AT CALLANDS 1772

The larger building, on the other side of present-day VA 969, appears (by its exterior and interior design, and by local tradition) to be the courthouse, constructed during 1772 by Roberts after five years' procrastination.

But incomplete records of Roberts' tumultuous business and public dealings make it difficult to identify the building for certain as the courthouse structure.

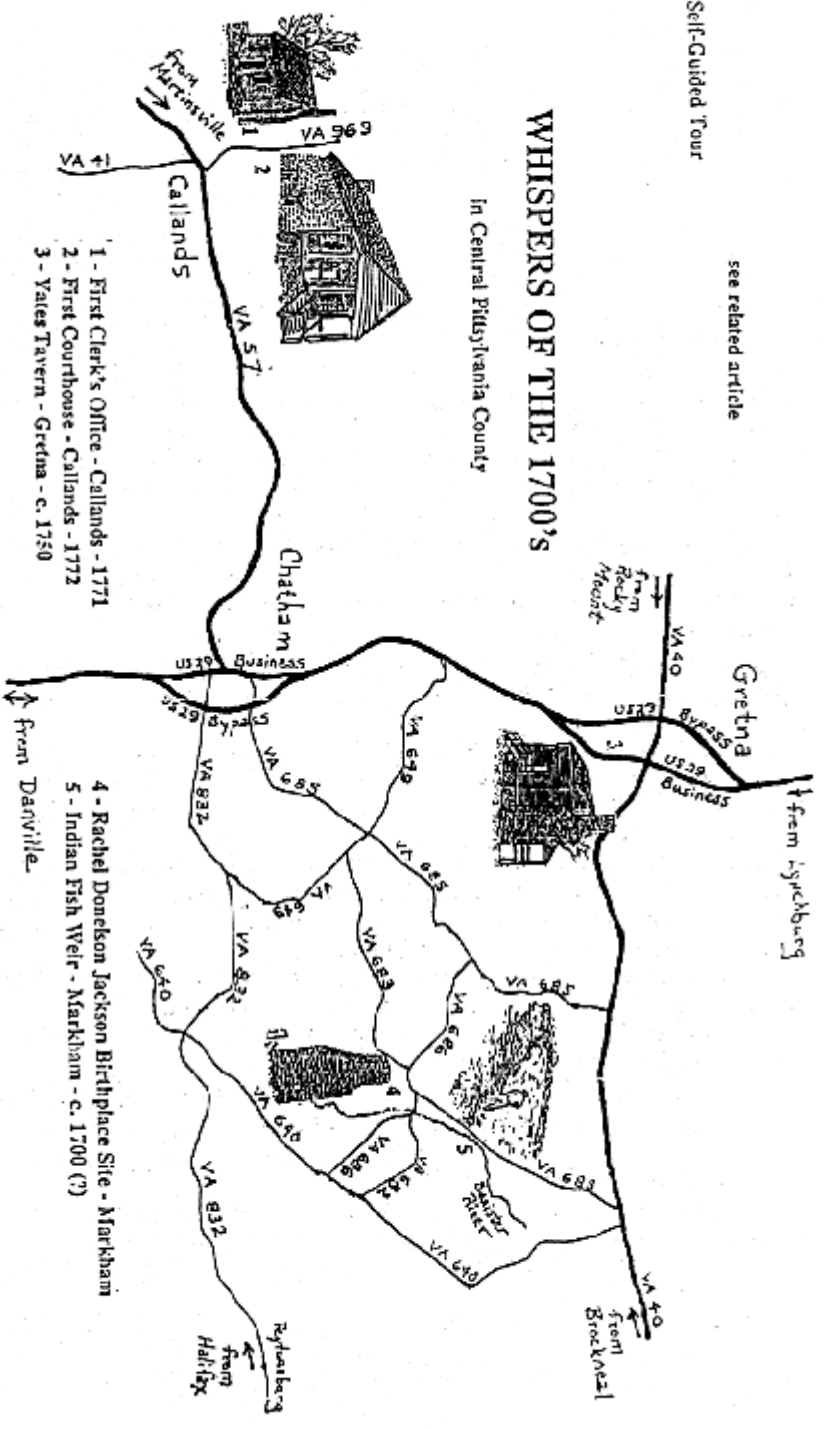
By 1777, the court had been moved to present-day Chatham, and by 1788,

Self-Guided Tour

see related article

WHISPERS OF THE 1700'S

In Central Pittsylvania County



- 1 - First Clerk's Office - Callands - 1771
- 2 - First Courthouse - Callands - 1772
- 3 - Yates Tavern - Gretna - c. 1750

- 4 - Rachel Donekon Jackson Birthplace Site - Markham
- 5 - Indian Fish Weir - Markham - c. 1700 (?)

From Danville

From Lynchburg

From Brockwell

From Hallifax



the large brick building had come into the ownership of James Smith and Samuel Calland. By 1792 Calland was sole owner, and in subsequent years his store and post office in this building gave the community the named used to this day.

YATES TAVERN AT GRETNA c1750

This little building was home to several generations of the Yates family, who also from time to time took out licenses to operate an "ordinary" -- a sort of frontier bed and breakfast.

It was strategically placed along the old Pigg River Road and only a few miles from Hickey's Road, the first major road penetrating this part of western Virginia from the east.

It is likely to have been an especially convenient stop during the Revolutionary War days, at which time Peytonsburg (14 miles to the southeast) was one of nine busy supply depots in Virginia.

Called the only building of its kind in Virginia by the Virginia Historical Landmarks Commission, Yates Tavern is unique for its jetties. These are second floor protrusions of some 10 inches giving a bit more space in the upper floor.

Restored by the Pittsylvania Bicentennial Commission, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Historic Register.

RACHEL DONELSON JACKSON BIRTHPLACE 1767

Looking east from VA 686 on a curve halfway between its two intersections with VA 683, an eagle-eyed traveler can spot a lone rock chimney standing in a vast pasture on private land.

It was at this spot that Rachel Donelson, to become the famed wife of Andrew Jackson, was born in 1767. When Rachel was 12-years-old, her father Col. John Donelson moved his family to Kentucky, then Tennessee, where they became one of that state's founding families.

Col. Donelson sold the local tract of land on which stood his family's home to John Markham, whose name is now associated with the area.

The Thomas Carter Chapter of the DAR mounted a memorial tablet to Rachel Donelson on the chimney.

Her portrait, taken from one commissioned by Andrew Jackson after her death, hangs in the Pittsylvania County Courthouse.

INDIAN FISH WEIR AT MARKHAM c 1700

There is evidence that Pittsylvania County's streams were once heavily utilized for harvesting of fish by the local native tribes. The most permanent reminder of this usage is the presence of numerous weirs (stone dams) in the Banister and Pigg Rivers.

The most visible and accessible weir in Pittsylvania's collection is one found along VA 683 in the Markham community. Here the Banister River and the right-of-way of the graveled road converge, making the weir and its pool easy to see.

Artifacts found in the vicinity of the local weirs suggest that nets, harpoons, and bone hooks were used by Indians in the fishing.

Map and drawings by Henry H. Mitchell

Apprenticeship was way for youths to learn trade

A youth of a family of little means and who was financially unable to go to college would have the opportunity to learn a trade by being "bound over" to some one to be an apprentice.

To be "bound over" as an apprentice was a binding contract. It meant the person would be taught the science or occupation of a trade until he reached the age of 21.

The youth, on the other hand, had to abide by strict rules and stipulations. The following is a sample contract for Pittsylvania County youth to follow in 1789 to be "bound over" to John Henry Motley to be taught the trade of a shoemaker.

The apprentice contract read as follows:

"Jackson Ellenburg, the said apprentice, shall serve his said master, John Henry Motley, faithfully, keep his secrets, gladly obey his every lawful command, shall not hurt in anyway his said master, nor shall he let others, but of the same if in his power give notice.

He shall not embezzle the goods of his master. He shall not play cards, dice or any unlawful games, and taverns he shall not frequent.

Fornication and adultery he shall not commit. Matrimony he shall not contract.

From the services of his said master he shall not at any time depart or absent himself without his said master's leave.

The master is to, in turn, teach said apprentice Ellenburg the trade as shoemaker, furnish drink, washing, lodging, apparel and necessaries."

(From The Quill Pen)

EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY

There was as usual an important job to be done - and "everybody" was asked to do it.

"Everybody" was sure that "somebody" would do it. But "somebody" got mad because he thought it was "everybody's" job.

"Everybody" believed "anybody" could do it, but "nobody" realized that "everybody" wouldn't do it.

So in the end, "everybody" blamed "somebody" when actually "nobody" asked "anybody" to do it.

- Contributed by Patsy Hodge, Winslow, AZ

HUTCHINGS FAMILY CEMETERY IN MISSOURI

Mrs. Harold E. Miller of 1684 Firth Road, Inverness, IL writes to tell that John Hutchings, who was born in Pittsylvania County, VA lived to be 97-years-old and is buried in a newly restored Hutchings family cemetery in Caledonia, Missouri.

"If you are a Hutchings, it is worth a visit," she says explaining "there are 21 headstones in the cemetery, and the engravings are in good condition."

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November 1992 Queries

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(Free to members to aid others with similar interests.)

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Seeking records on my ancestor and her family -- **MARTHA DAVIS**, b. October 31, 1809 Pittsylvania County, VA (her mother " ") married **JOHN LEWIS** b. November 22, 1805. Write **RUTH M. FELT**, 1500 W. Thornton Parkway, Denver, CO 80221.

Seeking information on **WILLIAM HAWKINS**, b. in VA 1717, m. **JANESHARP**. Want any information on family. Write **DAVID J. HAWKINS**, 2001 Pinehurst Lane No. 2214, Mesquite, TX 75150.

Seeking information on **WILLIAM M. NEAL**, who was killed when struck by car near Axton, VA 1934 or 193. I am trying to locate where he was buried in that vicinity. He was married to **OLIE JAMES (NEAL)** and had seven or eight sons - one son, **JOHN**, was killed in World War II. Write **JOHN W. NEAL**, 102 Weaver Street, Randleman, NC 27317.

Seeking information about **WINNIE SAUNDERS** (mother) and daughter, **MARTHA "TEXAS" SAUNDERS**. **WINNIE** may have been **WINEFRED KEESEE**, who married **WILLIAM A. SAUNDERS** April 29, 1853 in Pittsylvania County. **TEXAS (TEXIE) SAUNDERS** married **PERRY ECHOLS JR.** February 1891 and had seven children. She died April 24, 1911. If anyone knows of this family - write to **BONNIE M. CAUDLE**, 3604 Mt. Tabor Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

My ancestor **THOMAS WALTERS** died in Pittsylvania County, VA. April 18, 1796. Can anyone give me information on Scottish ancestors. Write **W. E. NED HASTINGS**, Box 398, Crossett, AR 71635.

Seeking information on my great-great-great grandfather **STERLING WILLIS**, b. 1754 and married **SARAH PAYNE**, April 3, 1779 in Pittsylvania County, VA and died 1839. He is listed in census 1785 in Pittsylvania County. Write **LIND ABBOTT**, 2123 N. Gentry, Mesa AZ 8213-2217.

Seeking information on **ABSALOM PHEARS (FEARS)** and **PLEASANT PHEARS** and **JONATHAN PHEARS** in period 1797 to 1830. Write: **DIXIE A. GRAHAM**, 12105 Shetland Chase, Austin, TX 78727.

Want information on families of **BINGHAM**, **OWEN**, **BAYS** and **WAND** that trace back to Pittsylvania County, VA. Any information will be appreciated. **SUE KATTWITZ**, Route 1, Box 50, Falcon, MO 65470.

Who was the **PITTS** who m. **LUCY BROWN** daughter of **JOHN BROWN** and died 1809? **JOHN** was guardian of all of **LUCY**'s children, who married in Pittsylvania County, VA. **NANCY PITTS** married **ASA CRADDOCK** 1814, **ELIZABETH PITTS** m. **EDMOND CRADDOCK** 1821, **MOURNING PITTS** m. **HENRY TURNER** 1828 and moved to Cassville, GA. **HENRY** died 1836 and **MOURNING** then m. **JOSEPH T. HAMILTON** and she died 1893 in Subligna, Chattooga County, GA. Any information appreciated. Write **ROSA LEE R. CALAME**, 2017 Singing Brook, Austin, TX 78723.

(QUERIES -- CONTINUED)

Want information on **FARMER, GILLILAND** families. I wonder where they are buried whether church or farm in Pittsylvania County or Halifax County. Any help appreciated. **ROBERT B. HUTCHINGS**, 516 Oak Grove Road, Norfolk, VA.

Seek information about Scottish "Redcoat" named **ROBERT HUGHEY**, was prisoner of war 1781, m. in Pittsylvania County, VA in 1782, owned land on Potter's Creek. Father of seven sons, three daughters. Need information on his death, any descendants, other facts. Write **AL SOLOMON**, 1612 Los Gatos Way, Salinas, CA 93906.

COCKRAN/COCKRAM. Seeking information on **NATHAN COCKRAM** and wife **SARAH**. Believe they live in part of Pittsylvania County that became Henry County where he died 1778, leaving a will. Was he father of **EDWARD COCKRAM** who died in Franklin County? Write: **LESSIE C. THOMAS**, Route 6, Box 1284, Sanford, NC 27330.

EDWARDS. Who were parents of **BRICE EDWARDS**, b. 1779, m. **JANE RAKES**. Bought land on Runnet Creek in Franklin County, VA 1805. (**THOMAS EDWARDS** owned land in area 1789. **WILLIAM EDWARDS** sold land in 1789 which bordered land of **CHARLES RAKES** and **EDWARD COCKRAM**.) **BRICE** moved to Patrick County about 1827-28 where he died January 28, 1856. Write **LESSIE C. THOMAS**, Route 6, Box 1284, Sanford, NC 27330.

Seeking information on parents of **JOSHUA BETTERTON** b. October 8, 1771, m. **MARY WEST**, daughter of **OWEN** and **ELIZABETH MARTIN WEST** Feb. 10, 1810 in Pittsylvania County, VA. Thinks his father might be **WILLIAM BETTERTON**. Write **MRS. BERYLDEAN GROOM HUBBARD**, 574 Brouse Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Wish to hear from anyone who has information about the father of **WILLIAM THOMASEANES SR.** Write: **PAUL E. EANES**, 417 Ashford Circle, La Grange, GA 30240.

Want to correspond with anyone working on Pittsylvania County VA families of **WARF, DIX, MOORE, ELLINGER, DILLMAN, BURYMAN** and **ROBERT RANDOLPH**. Write: **DON** and **RENE WARF**, 1434 Tonopah Drive, Cinti, OH 45255.

ODD RELATIONS BY MARRIAGE

Okay, you experts on genealogy, figure this one out and send your answer to "The Packet." An elderly man in North Carolina married ... and by taking his wife he became a brother-in-law to his son-in-law, and an uncle to two grandchildren.

On the other hand, the bride at once became a grandmother to a nephew and a niece -- and a stepmother to her sister-in-law, and a sister-in-law to her brother.

- From "The Navigator," Norfolk, VA

Genealogy-Pox, A Genealogist Disease; Contagious To Adults

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls, hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self. There is no known cure!



TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is - the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it!

(Contributed by Patsy Hodge, 518 Williamson Ave., Winslow, AZ 86047)

BOOK WRITTEN ABOUT DALTON GANG

"The Dalton" Gang Story" by Nancy B. Samuelson is a true account of the famous Dalton Gang and not another collection of myths and legends. She wrote the highly interesting book after eight years of detailed research. It has some 65 photos, various documents, newspaper reports, and traces the Daltons' lives from forefathers through their lives as notorious outlaws.

Of interest to the PHS is the fact that the Dalton family was from Pittsylvania County, VA and the book has much information about the Pittsylvania County Daltons.

Orders for the book (\$25 plus \$3 mailing) may be made to Nancy Samuelson, Box 39, Eastford, CT 06242.

"On the plains of hesitation, bleached the bones of countless millions, who at the dawn of victory sat down to rest, and resting --- died!"

**"THE PACKET" -- Published by the
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 1206 -- Chatham, Virginia -- Phone (804) 432-5031
Preston B. Moses, President & Editor of "The Packet"**

**Frances Hurt, Vice President Katherine Buck, Corresponding Secty.
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Membership Dues: \$10 single, \$15 couple. Please mail to Mrs. Jeannette A. Brown, Membership Secretary, Route 1, Box 8K6, Chatham, VA 24531, Phone: (804)-432-2607. Member gets membership card and "The Packet."

Christmas celebration in Colonial Chatham Saturday, December 5

Chatham will celebrate "Christmas in Colonial Chatham" Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. with the town decorated in fresh greens and lighted with its signature kerosene lanterns -- unique in the world, as far as anyone knows.

The day will begin with a walk-about of the colonial ladies and gentlemen, led by brass trumpets, up Main Street to set in motion all sorts of lively activities.

House tours at homes of Jerry Miller, Betty Watson and Magnolia Manor will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. and each will be Christfully decorated with entertainment.

Open houses will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce and Nations Bank and so will the arts and crafts show in the basement of the Methodist Church and model train exhibit at the Central Fidelity Bank.

There will be carry all rides for children and adults with high stepping "foxy," and the Planetarium will offer free shows on both the morning and afternoon.

The "Longhunters" will set up camp on North Main, and the mistletoe ladies will greet visitors, and the historical reenactors will roam the streets.

Tickets may be ordered from the Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce -- \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door; \$3.50 in advance for children under 12. Make checks to "Christmas in Colonial Chatham," mailed to the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, Chatham, 2431. Proceeds go toward renovating the Town Hall. For information call (804) 432-1650.

Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away,
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.

CHRISTMAS IN COLONIAL CHATHAM

Saturday, Dec. 5, 1992

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- House tours, entertainment at each of three homes on the tour from 1 to 5 p.m.
- Refreshments by PHS at 1813 Clerks Office from 1 to 4:30 p.m.
- PHS quilt raffle at 1813 Clerk's Office at 4 p.m.
- Streets filled with Colonial folk.
- Village Walk-About with trumpets - 10 a.m.
- Re-enactors of historical characters greeting visitors.
- Open house at C of C Office and Nations Bank from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Model train exhibit at Central Fidelity Bank from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Story Hour at PEDO for children from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Crafts at Watson Memorial Methodist Church basement from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wynne's Fall Riflemen Hunters' Camp at Magnolia Manor 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Carriage rides for adults and children 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Traditional lantern lighting ceremony at courthouse- 5:30 p.m. preceded by Children's Carols at 5:15 p.m.
- Planetarium Christmas Shows free at 10:30, 11, 11:30 a.m.; 2, 2:30, 3 p.m.
- Music in churches:
Emmanuel Episcopal - 2 2:30 p.m.
Chatham Presbyterian - 3-3:30 p.m.
Watson Methodist - 3:30-4 p.m.
Chatham Baptist - 4-4:30 p.m.
- Tour Tickets: \$5 in advance and \$7 on day; \$3.50 in advance for children under 12 and \$5.50 on day.
- Make checks to Christmas in Colonial Chatham, Chatham, VA 24531.
- For information call 432-1650.

PHS recommends this is a good time to visit Chatham for a weekend.

THE PACKET - Box 1206 - Chatham, VA 24531

THE PACKET is the quarterly publication of the Pittsylvania Historical Society for members and those who are interested in the history of their families and the area in which they lived.

PITTSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

To order, write MRS. KATHERINE BUCK, P.O. Box 138, Chatham, VA 24531, Phone (804)-432-8992.

History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia by Masud Carter Clement. The history of the county, reprinted in hard cover. \$24 postpaid.

Pittsylvania: Homes and People of the Past by Madalene Fitzgerald. Photos, descriptions of scores of homes, priceless notes about former owners. Hard cover. \$20 postpaid.

Eighteenth Century Landmarks of Pittsylvania County, Virginia by Madalene Fitzgerald and Frances Hurt. Revised, completely indexed. Soft cover. \$12 postpaid.

An Intimate History of the American Revolution in Pittsylvania County by Frances Hurt. Many little-known family stories, scores of surnames, roster of Pittsylvania soldiers. Soft cover. \$14 postpaid.

Footprints from the old Survey Books by Roger Dodson. Land surveys of Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties. Thousands of names. Soft cover. \$12 postpaid.

Gray's Map of Chatham, Virginia 1878. Rare, full-color print, suitable for framing. Many names and features. \$3.50 postpaid.

Pittsylvania's Eighteenth Century Crut Mill by Herman Melton. Histories of mills built in 1700's. Richly illustrated, indexed, hard cover. Over 300 family names appear. \$17 postpaid.

Pittsylvania Packet, Society periodical, free postpaid to members.

Books make perfect gifts!

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