

THE
VIRGINIA MAGAZINE
OF
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

VOL. XXXIII.

APRIL, 1925

No. 2

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE NORTHERN
NECK

Chapters of Culpeper Genealogy

BY FAIRFAX HARRISON

Introduction

When, on October 19, 1759, the *Virginia Gazette* announced that 'Yesterday arrived in town the Rt. Hon. Thos. L'd Fairfax,' the news was read with interest by a young English clergyman, the Rev. Andrew Burnaby, then sojourning in Williamsburg at the beginning of an enterprising tour 'through the middle settlements in North America.' His imagination was captured by the idea of a peer, who was reputed to have associated with the wits of the London of Queen Anne and actually himself to have contributed to the *Spectator*, living now aloof in the wilderness of a vast proprietary, the Northern Neck of Virginia. A few days later, as he records, Mr. Burnaby had the opportunity of meeting Lord Fairfax at 'The Palace' on the occasion of a reception by Governor Fauquier, and then accepted an invitation to call at Greenway Court, when, during the following spring, he should make an intended

ELIZABETH WASHINGTON OF HAYFIELD

BY WILLIAM BUCKNER MCGROARTY.

Five women were grouped together by Washington as equal beneficiaries under his will:

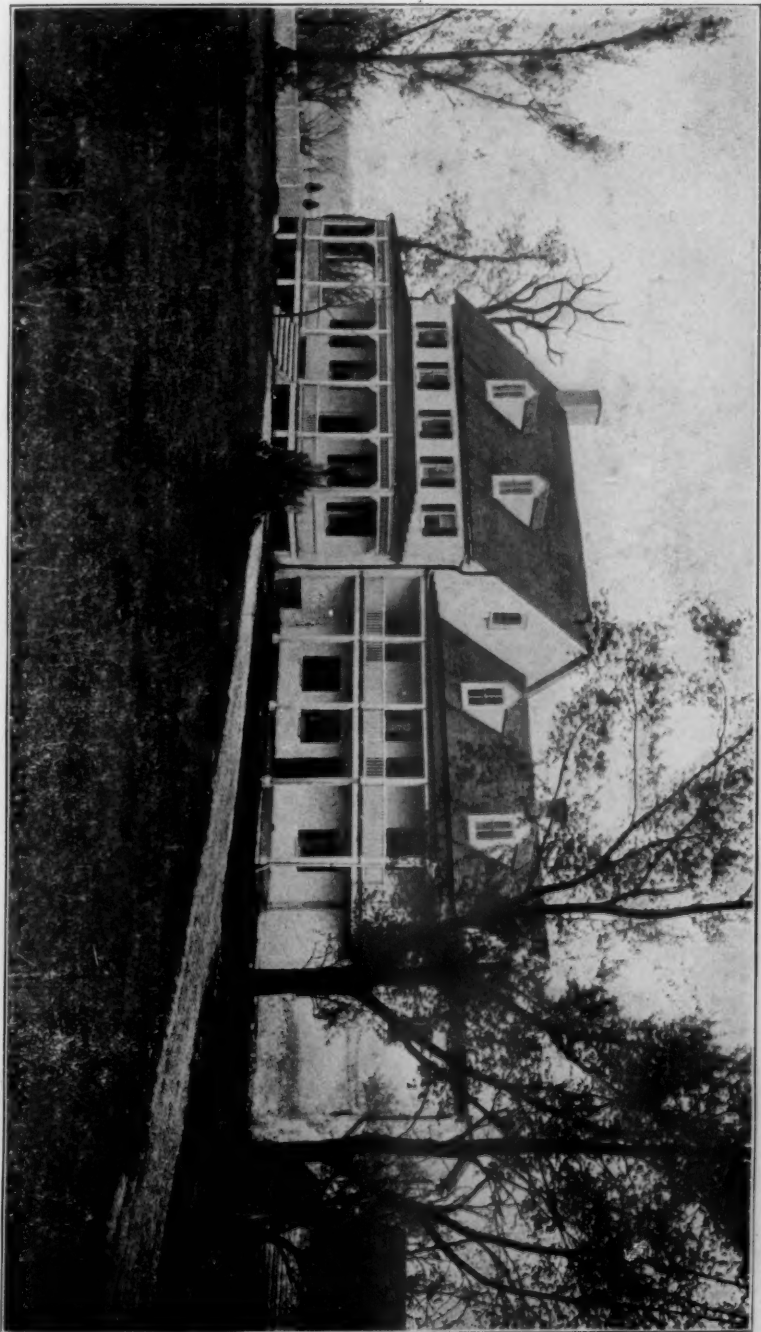
"To my sisters in law Hannah Washington and Mildred Washington—to my friends Eleanor Stuart, Hannah Washington of Fairfield and Elizabeth Washington of Hayfield—I give each a mourning ring of the value of one hundred dollars; these bequests are not made for the intrinsic value of them, but as mementoes of my esteem and regard."

The lady first mentioned was Hannah Bushrod, daughter of John Bushrod of Westmoreland county, and widow of the president's brother John Augustine (1735-1787), and the mother of Judge Bushrod Washington who succeeded to the ownership of Mt. Vernon.

Mildred Washington was the wife of his brother Charles. She was the daughter of Francis Thornton,⁴ of "Fall Hill" and the grand daughter of Col. Francis Thornton³ of Snow Creek, and Mary Taliaferro, his wife; her mother was Mil-

¹ David Stuart was one of Washington's intimates; he was appointed one of the first Commissioners of the District of Columbia; he (1791-2) in conjunction with Daniel Carroll of Maryland, "Established the boundary line and fixed the metes and bounds of the District." Washington bequeathed him "my large shaving and dressing table, and my telescope."

² Mrs. Custis, the widow of Mrs. Washington's son, married again. Her second husband was Dr. David Stuart, first of Hope Park, and then of Ossian Hall, Fairfax County. He was the son and the grandson of the two Mr. Stuarts who were ministers in King George for so long a period." (Meade, 11-23).



HAYFIELD

dred Gregory, the daughter of Roger Gregory and Mildred Washington, the President's aunt.

Friend Eleanor Stuart was Eleanor Calvert, daughter of Benedict Calvert of "Mt. Airy," in Maryland, the widow of John Parke Custis, Mrs. Washington's son, and at that time the wife of Dr. David Stuart of King George.¹ She was the mother of Nelly and of George Washington Parke Custis whom Washington adopted on the death of their father. She had two other Custis children, Elizabeth Parke Custis who married Thomas Law, and Martha (Patty) Custis who married Thomas Peter of "Tudor Place," Georgetown.

Hannah Washington of "Fairfield" was Hannah Fairfax, the youngest daughter of William Fairfax of "Belvoir," and the sister of the Reverend Bryan, Lord Fairfax. Her elder half-sister was the wife of Lawrence Washington. Hannah Fairfax was the second wife of Warner Washington (John³, Lawrence,² John¹) whose first wife was Elizabeth Macon; he was a first cousin to the President and was the brother of Catherine, the first wife of Col. Fielding Lewis: the deep affection cherished by Washington for the family at "Belvoir" is well known.²

"Friend Elizabeth Washington of 'Hayfield'"—who was she? In his will Washington mentions "the acquaintances and friends of my juvenile years, Lawrence Washington and Robert Washington of Chotank."³ These two men were brothers and only the fact that death had intervened prevented the in-

² For Hannah Washington of Fairfield see Meade, 11-282.

On May 25, 1755, Washington, then absent on the Braddock expedition, wrote to his brother, John Augustine, "I should be glad to hear that you live in perfect harmony and good fellowship with the family at Belvoir, as it is in their power to be very serviceable to us, as young beginners. I would advise your visiting there often as one step towards it; the rest, if any more is necessary, your own good sense will sufficiently dictate—for to that family I am under many obligations, particularly to the old gentleman." (Schroeder-Lossing V. 1, p. 223).

³ More than fifty years ago I became acquainted with two aged and highly estimable gentlemen, Lawrence and Robin Washington who were distantly related to and had been companions of the Chief in his juvenile days. They spoke of the fine manly youth; and of his gallant demeanor and daring exploits in horsemanship, and the athletic exercises of that remote period." (Letter from G. W. P. Custis, 1851, quoted by Schroeder-Lossing;)

clusion of the name of a third brother, Lund Washington, the faithful friend, and the manager and guardian of Mt. Vernon for many years. The degree of relationship existing between Washington and these three friends of his youth was that of descent from a common great-great-grandfather.

Col. John¹ Washington, the immigrant, the great grandfather of Washington, had, as is of course well known, a brother, Lawrence,¹ who married in Virginia (2dly) Joyce Fleming; their son, John,² married Mary Townsend and had issue:

John³ m. Mary (Massey?) and had, amongst other, Catherine⁴ b. 1740, m. 1759, John⁴ Washington of "Hylton". Lawrence³ m. Sarah Lund.

Robert³ m. Sarah Fossaker, issue John⁴; Susan⁴ m. Lawrence⁵ Washington (Henry⁴, Henry³, John², John¹).

Townsend³ "Of Green Hill on Chotank"⁴ m. Elizabeth Lund: Issue—

Robert⁴ m. Alice Strother; issue Lund⁵ (1767-1853) m. Susanna Monroe Grayson: Ann⁵, b. 1768, m. William Thompson of Colchester and had Robert Townsend, Elizabeth Lund and Catherine Foote Thompson.

Lawrence⁴, m. his cousin Catherine Foote. d. s. p.

Lund⁴, m. his cousin, Elizabeth Foote. Issue, two daughters who died very young. He was born in 1737 and died in 1796.

Friend Elizabeth Washington of Hayfield was Elizabeth Foote, the widow of Lund⁴ Washington; and Hayfield was originally a part of the Mt. Vernon estate.⁵

⁴ Va. Mag. Hist. Vol. XXIII.

⁵ "Adjoining 'Woodlawn' (the beautiful home of Nelly Custis Lewis) on the north is 'Hayfield,' seat of Lund Washington, Washington's faithful and trusted manager and kinsman * * * Gen. Washington returned home from the War of Independence \$15,000 in debt; to liquidate this indebtedness he sold to his manager 360 acres of the western section of Mt. Vernon for the above named sum. The large brick dwelling on Hayfield which tradition says was erected by Gen. Washington before the War was burned several years ago, but the solid brick walls remain as a sad reminder of the fidelity of Lund Washington." (The Memorial to Washington; Callahan, 1923, p. 113.)

As far as the writer has been able to discover there has been but little written or published concerning Hayfield, or its owners and occupants, and it has seemed strange that this should be true of a woman whom Washington had proclaimed, in the most solemn and convincing manner possible, the object of his esteem and regard; she must have been a person of consequence and moral worth to have won a place in this little group of three friends, one of whom was his step-daughter and the other the daughter of his great friend and benefactor. As might be expected, investigation has shown that his esteem and regard were worthily bestowed.

The writer's interest was given a new impetus because of his coming into possession a few months ago of a small leather-bound book, a volume of sermons, entitled "*The Backslider*," (Boston, 1802), by the Reverend Andrew Fuller (Note 6): across the front page is written in a well-formed feminine hand—"Hay field; Eliza Washington." These sermons, typical of their time, are not what one might class as light reading, but the pages of this volume carry unmistakable evidence of frequent study; on the inside back cover, in the same feminine hand, is inscribed a verse in full keeping with the preceding pages:

"The year roals around and steals away
The breath that first it gave;
Where ever we be what ever we are
We'r traveling to the grave".

The history of this book, as far as we know it, is interesting. There stands on lower Main Street in Fredericksburg, Virginia, a brick mansion which was built by Gen. John Minor (b. 1761): whether it was the same Gen. Minor who built

* "Andrew Fuller (1754-1815) an eminent Baptist minister, a native of Wicken, Cambridgeshire, was settled for a short time at Soham and afterwards removed to Kettering where he resided until his death * * * The works of this excellent man are greatly esteemed; we notice the principal * * * '*The Backslider*', 1801. The Rev. Andrew Fuller has been styled by the Americans 'The Franklin of Theology'". (A Critical Dict. of Eng. Literature, &c., by S. A. Allibone, (1858).

another of the noted places of that interesting and historic city, "Hazel Hill," is not known to the writer; Gen. Minor married, for his second wife, his cousin, Lucy Landon Carter (1776-1855)⁷: She was the daughter of Landon Carter of Cleve and Mildred Washington Willis who was the daughter of Col. Henry Willis and Mildred (Washington) Gregory, and therefore a cousin to Washington and half-sister to the three Gregory sisters who married the three Thornton brothers.

This Gen. John Minor⁸ (John⁴ of Topping Castle, John³, Geret², Doodes¹) had a sister, Diana, who married Richard Lancelot Maury, and they were the parents of the celebrated and world-honored Mathew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873)⁹ Our interest in this is that during the war between the states the Minor house on Main Street became the home of Admiral Maury and the writer is indebted to his daughter, the venerable Mrs. Mary Maury Werth, for a history of the house during his occupancy and for her childhood recollections of its previous occupants, particularly of her great-aunt, Mrs. Lucy Carter Minor.

Shortly after the war the house was sold to the mother of its present owner and occupant. In one of several, not secret but half-hidden, closets a number of books were found, left by former occupants, but with nothing to indicate whom it might have been; they were not disturbed for more than fifty years, though cared for and preserved; amongst them was the little book which had belonged to Elizabeth Washington of Hayfield, and another of similar size and tenor in which is inscribed the name, "Lucy Ann Washington." This latter book, by the way, was published in "Shepherd's-Town, (Virginia,) 1797."⁹

⁷ Va. Mag. Hist., Vol. 10.

⁸ Minor Genealogy by Minor Meriwether, 1895.

⁹ "*Christian Panoply*, Containing an APOLOGY for the BIBLE, in a Series of Letters to THOMAS PAINE, &c., by R. WATSON, D. D. F. R. S., Lord Bishop of Landaff & C &c., (together with) An Address to Scoffers at RELIGION by the same Author, and a brief View of the Historical Evidences of CHRISTIANITY, by William Paley M. A., Arch deacon of Carlisle,

SHEPHERD'S-TOWN

1797

Printed by P. Rootes & C. Blagrove."

The presence of this book in the home of Mrs. Lucy Carter Minor opens a vista into a section of the past of which all too little is known. Lund⁴ Washington died in the fall of 1796, his two children having pre-deceased him; he requested that his slaves be freed; Mrs. Minor was earnestly desirous of freeing hers—of which she had many. In the Minor Genealogy is this entry, referring to one of her sons:

"Lancelot Byrd Minor, born 1813; died 1843 at Cape Palmas, Africa; Married Mary Stuart."

When, in her judgment, the time was ripe to bring her plans to fruition Mrs. Minor assembled her servants and told them of her intention of sending them all to Africa; when they pleaded not to be sent away she quieted them by telling them that she was doing what she felt was best for them, but that they should not go to that strange and distant land alone—their young master would go with them and settle them comfortably; they went—how many is not known, and their Master, Lancelot, and his bride, went with them.

Elizabeth Washington was dead (1812) before Lancelot Minor was born but before she died she had emancipated all of her slaves; Mrs. Minor died in 1855. The desire, which each entertained, of finding a way to free their slaves and of improving their condition was a sufficient bond of friendship between them to account for the presence in the home of one of a book of the nature of this one belonging to the other. It is quite possible, also, that there was kinship as well as friendship between the two houses.

The foregoing indicates clearly the character of this friend of Washington's; what of her forebears?

Richard Foote¹ (son of John), was born in Cornwall in 1632; he married 1657, Hester, the daughter of Nicholas Hayward, a wealthy London merchant who had large interests in Virginia. Nicholas Hayward came to Virginia in Company with Richard Foote—whether the brother-in-law or nephew is not clear; Hayden (p. 303) says "nephew, aged 20." It is probable that both father and son came to Virginia; if so, the

elder returned to England, where he died: Richard² was a Justice in Stafford in 1701; he was born 1666; it is generally asserted that the name of the wife of Richard² is unknown; of this, more presently. He died in 1729, leaving, with possibly others, Richard³, Catherine,³ and Elizabeth.³

The genealogical data relating to the Foote family is both meagre and confusing; one account, (*Va. Mag. Hist.* VII-202), shows two Richards of the third generation with same parentage, crediting one to Stafford and one to Prince William. Possibly the two are one and the same, though names of wives and children differ. But, as the Richard credited to Prince William carries the name of Hayward among his children I think we are warranted in adopting his line in this instance. Richard³ died in 1779 leaving a son, William Hayward⁴ Foote who was adopted by his Aunt, Elizabeth.³

The wife of Richard³ was named Margaret—probably a Washington. Hayden says she married, secondly, John Thornton Fitzhugh.

Catherine³ Foote (Richard², Richard¹) married Lawrence⁴ Washington of Chotank (Townsend³, John², Lawrence¹) "Friend of my Juvenile Years."

Elizabeth³ Foote (sister of Catherine) married Lund⁴ Washington of Hayfield—brother of Lawrence.⁴

The other friend of Washington's juvenile years, Robert⁴, as stated elsewhere, married Alice Strother. Their son, Lund Washington⁵ left a very interesting diary which has been published in part, in this Magazine (Vols. 22 and 23) from which I quote:

"Lund Washington⁴ (5th child of Townsend³ and Elizabeth Lund Washington) b. Oct. 21, 1737, d. July 1796. For twenty-five years he was manager of Mt. Vernon. * * * He was married to his cousin, Betsy Foote, about 1782, and had two daughters but both died in infancy. He left his estate to his widow who left it to her nephew, William H. Foote, who has lately died without issue and left it to a charity school in



HAYFIELD—KITCHEN, 1924



HAYFIELD RUINS, 1924

Alexandria. * * * Lund⁴ Washington directed his slaves to be emancipated which was done by his widow; Lawrence⁴ Washington, twin with John⁴ (10) b. March 14, 1740, married his cousin Catherine Foote; both died the same day, in 1799."

If Elizabeth and Catherine Foote were the cousins of their husbands: Lund⁴, Lawrence⁴ Washington, it could only be because of the fact that their mother belonged to the Washington family; and if they were first cousins, as is to be assumed, their mother must have been the sister of their husbands' father, Townsend⁴ Washington. The account of the Foote family, in this magazine,¹¹ suggests this possibility, which no doubt is correct. Elizabeth's relationship to George Washington was therefore the same as that of her husband—they all had the same great-great-grandfather, the father of the immigrant brothers, John¹ and Lawrence¹ Washington.

The will of Lund⁴ Washington of Hayfield, on record in Fairfax County, is very short; it is dated 13 Feb. 1793 and is witnessed by David Stuart, Eliza P. Custis¹² and Patty Custis, and leaves "Everything to beloved wife, Elizabeth." It was probated 19 Sept., 1796, by David Stuart and Patty Peters, late Custis¹³.

The will of Elizabeth, also recorded in Fairfax, is a most interesting document, and one indicating a personality that

¹⁰ John Washington⁴ (Townsend¹-John²-Lawrence¹) was a captain Cont. Line, 4th Va. Regt., Commissioned Apl. 1776; In 1832 and 1838 warrants for land were issued to his heirs, Elizabeth Lund Thompson, Catherine Foote Thompson and Robert T. Thompson, and Lund Washington" (duBellet, Vol. 4, p. 59).

Lund⁵ W. was the son, and the Thompsons were the grandchildren of John's brother Robert⁴. John's other brothers, Lawrence⁴ and Lund⁴ (whose wives were Catherine and Elizabeth Foote) both d. s. p. As has been shown, the four were cousins and their heir was the nephew of the two wives, William Haywood Foote (d. 1846), who was the son of their brother, Richard. While it is almost certain that the wife of this Richard Foote was Margaret Washington, she could not have been the sister of his brothers-in-law Lawrence⁴ and Lund⁴, else her son, William H. Foote would have appeared as an heir of John⁴ Washington with Lund⁴ and the Thompsons.

¹¹ Va. Mag. Hist., Vol. VII; See also Vol. XXVIII, p. 239, "Va. Gleanings in England."

¹² Mrs. Law.

¹³ Fairfax Wills, G. No. 1, p. 213.

leads to regret that more is not known of the life and works of this noble woman.

"I, Elizabeth Washington, of Hayfield in Fairfax County * * * whole estate to my nephew and adopted son, William Hayward Foote. * * * To my relations Elizabeth L. Thompson, Kitty F. Thompson, Robert T. Thompson¹⁴, money and shares of Potomac Bank Stock * * * and to the Washington Society of Alexandria 10 shares of same and also my shares in the Potomac Company¹⁵ * * * to apply to the education of such poor girls as they think proper; nor can I forbear on this solemn occasion to greet them in the name of our Holy Father and invoke his benediction upon their efforts to rescue from poverty and the sinks of shameless immorality those sweet, those wild blossoms which under their fostering care and virtuous inculcation may add much to the store of human happiness; I confine this my donation to my own sex, because I believe that human happiness has material dependence upon our moral and religious worth." She

¹⁴Grandchildren of her cousin, and brother-in-law, Robert⁴ W. of Chotank.

¹⁵The facts concerning the Potomac Company are too well known to warrant recounting here; this is not the case, however, in connection with the banks and schools mentioned, successively, by Washington, Elizabeth W. and Richard H. Foote. General Washington (1799) bequeathed \$4,000 (represented by twenty shares of the stock of The Bank of Alexandria) to "The Academy in the Town of Alexandria" for the education "of orphans, or the children of poor and indigent persons"; Elizabeth (1812) bequeaths shares in The Potomac Bank to "The Washington Society of Alexandria" for the education of poor girls; Wm. H. Foote (1846) reaffirms the bequest of Elizabeth and makes additional provision for "The poor School for females."

Alexandria Academy was organized in 1785, from which time Washington contributed fifty pounds per year to it. The Bank of Alexandria was chartered by the State of Virginia in 1792; It became The Bank of Potomac, by authority of Congress, in 1811, Alexandria, since Jan. 1, 1800, having been a part of the District of Columbia. It is not definitely known what became of the money donated by Washington and Elizabeth but it would appear that it remained in the Bank of Potomac until its absorption by a later organization at which time it was turned over to the city authorities and became a part of the general school fund as it exists today. It will be noted that Mr. Foote's bequest (1846) was to "The Mayor of the town of Alexandria."

emancipates "My two remaining servants, Felicia and Daniel," and makes provision for them.

The will is dated December 16, 1810, and is witnessed by Lawrence Lewis, Notley H. Rozer and Henry P. Daingerfield. It was offered for probate June 18, 1812. Lawrence Lewis was the son of Col. Fielding Lewis and Betty Washington; his wife was Nelly Custis, and their home, "Woodlawn," still one of the most beautiful and stately mansions in Virginia, adjoins Hayfield. During the absence of Mrs. Washington from Mt. Vernon, Elizabeth Washington had charge of the two Custis children who, at such times, made their home at Hayfield.

Hayfield in its prime was a stately mansion; although of three different elevations it would appear that it was all constructed at the same time—the brick, mortar and style of masonry are of one period. It fronted a sweeping lawn which gradually merged into the wide-spreading fields which gave it its name. On the east and south is a box-wood maize, neglected but still luxuriant and beautiful; there are the remnants of a formal garden—mimosa trees, and ancient rose-bushes still blooming. It has been said that "A building in ruins saddens the heart, while a building unfinished chills it"—and truly one may not look upon the ruins of Hayfield with any but feelings of sadness.

If the will of Lund⁴ Washington was remarkable for its brevity, and that of Elizabeth for its sincere piety and nobility of sentiment, that of the next owner of Hayfield, William Hayward Foote, was no less remarkable in its way.

"I direct that my body be buried in a plain coffin
at the East end of my house where my wife may also
be placed when this world's strife and care is ended"

* * *.¹⁶ Everything "to my wife for as long as she

¹⁶ The graves are in the garden, which as mentioned in the text, was once a spot of charm and beauty. They lie so near the house that they are now buried under the *debris* resulting from its ruin. It is to be assumed that the graves of Lund⁴ Washington and his little family are in this garden also. While neglected as to cultivation it is well fenced and is not subject to depredation.

remains my widow or for life * * * if, however, she should cease to be my widow or marry again, she must account for all these things and take her dower at law. It is not my purpose to give any Cur a Sop" * * * Directs slaves to be emancipated "from time to time as may comport with their probable welfare: I give to the grown ones twenty dollars per annum being males and ten dollars to females. I cannot emancipate them in this state and I know not where to send them; they must therefore look to my dear wife as their protector and be true and faithful to their duty; she and my executor will do them justice and friendship. Bob Foy is one of nature's nobility; in 46 years of trust I never found him in falsehood or prevarication: for truth, faith and honesty he could have no superior; he must receive \$20 per annum from my wife and end his days where he now is. * * * All my servants are good trusty and true and I bid them a long farewell with a sorrowful heart."

After bequests of money to various persons,—“If any balance of my estate remains I direct that it be funded and the annual interest be paid the Mayor of the town of Alexandria for the use and benefit of the poor school for females; and I also bequeath to the same the ten shares in the Bank of Potomac intended to be given them by my late Aunt Elizabeth Washington.”

The will was dated Aug. 16, 1846, and was signed with the name and the seal of the maker; it was witnessed by George W. Triplett, John R. Dale and William L. Powell. On November 20th, following, a codicil was added in which he appoints his wife and friend Francis L. Smith joint excrs., “And to avoid mistakes and misunderstandings I now say that the annuity given my servants is to be paid * * * once and not per annum as mentioned.” The will was offered for probate on December 21st, 1846.

Much more could be written about Hayfield¹⁷ and those who have owned and lived in it. This article by no means exhausts the subject; indeed, in the writer's opinion, it does little more than introduce it.

¹⁷ "Hayfield, which is only five miles south of Alexandria, not only has Mount Vernon but other famous, if less noted, estates as neighbors; adjoining is *Woodlawn*, the home of Nelly Custis after her marriage to Lawrence Lewis; *Belvoir*, the colonial seat of William Fairfax, the founder of the family in Virginia, and father-in-law of Lawrence Washington the General's half-brother. Four miles distant, to the south-west, is *Pohick Church* where Washington served as Vestryman and Warden for eleven years. Just beyond Pohick is *Gunston Hall*, home of George Mason author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and the first Constitution of Virginia; to the north-west lies *Hollins Hall*, former home of Gen. Thomas Mason, eldest son of Col. George Mason.

"Directly north of Hayfield is *Mount Eagle*, colonial seat of Bryan, eighth Lord Fairfax, son of William Fairfax of *Belvoir* and intimate friend of Washington; directly north-west of Hayfield is *Rose Hill*, colonial residence of Daniel French; *Bell Vale Manor*, adjoining Hayfield on thenorth, whose colonial owner, Col. George Johnston, as representative in the Va. House of Burgesses from Fairfax in 1765 moved the adoption of Patrick Henry's famous resolution on the Stamp Act; on the south, bordering Hayfield is *Round Hill*, home of William Triplett." (Note to the author from Mr. Charles H. Callahan, of Alexandria.)