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JOURNAL  
of the  
ROANOKE  
VALLEY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



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Volume Eight

Number Two

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Summer 1972

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GEORGE KEGLEY

*Editor of the JOURNAL*

*The Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society, Volume Eight, Number 2. Published twice yearly by the Society at Box 1904, Roanoke, Virginia 24008, to chronicle the past and present of that part of the state west of the Blue Ridge. Single copy price for members: \$1.50; for non-members, \$2. The Society will be careful in handling unsolicited material but cannot be responsible for its loss.*





Front of Lone Oaks, 19th century home of Benjamin Deyerle, now known as Winsmere.

## *Benjamin Deyerle, Builder of Fine Homes*

BY ELIZABETH CHEEK

Many nineteenth century craftsmen remain unknown today because little or no written or oral information on them has survived the years. Though the man in question may have been a person of wealth and prominence in his community, his record in local history may still be scarce. Deed books, land books, chancery causes, original letters and documents, and surviving relatives thus compose the best sources of information for the scholar who is trying to reconstruct the past. Where documentation leaves off, chance and conjecture must take over. The product may be only a hazy portrait of a local hero. But if that work can bring to life the man and his time for present generations, then its author can hope for nothing greater.

The personal history of Benjamin Deyerle is often vague, but his ancestry is not. He was born into a family which had played an integral part in Roanoke's early history. His grandfather, Peter Deyerle,

*Miss Cheek, a graduate of Hollins in 1971, studied at Winterthur Museum in Delaware and now is attending Katherine Gibbs School. Her work is a chapter from a Hollins thesis. Photographs are by Millie McGehee.*

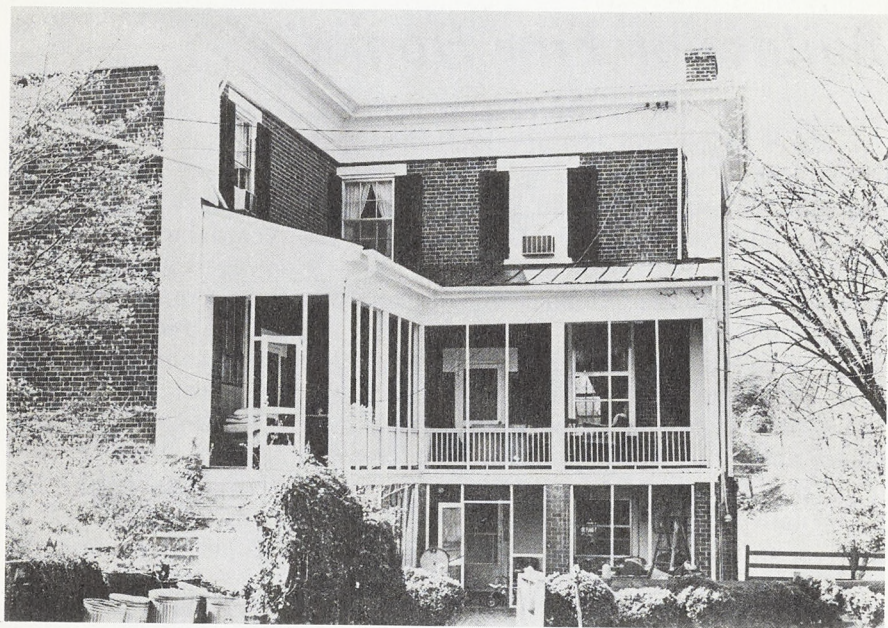


was one of the original settlers in the Roanoke Valley. The son of a German wine merchant, he left home at the age of 16 and came to America as the indentured servant of a miller named Bowman. Peter Deyerle did well in the miller's service for when his time was done, he married Bowman's daughter, Regina Ann. Together, they repaired to the Virginia frontier in 1767. Deyerle became an extensive landowner in the vicinity of the Forks of the Roanoke River. They produced six or seven children, the first of whom, Charles, was to become the father of Benjamin Deyerle.<sup>1</sup>

Charles Deyerle was married twice, first to Mary Poage in 1797, and then to Elizabeth Leffler in 1803, after the death of his first wife. With Mary Poage, Charles had one son, Joseph (1799-1877). By his second marriage, he had four children, Benjamin (born in 1806), David, Charles, Jr., and Susan.<sup>2</sup> They were orphaned at an early age<sup>3</sup> by the deaths of their mother (date unknown) and father in 1815. As a result, Benjamin received very little formal schooling.<sup>4</sup>

In 1833, Deyerle married Julia Ann Shaver and took her by horseback to their yet unfinished cabin on Mud Lick Creek.<sup>5</sup> But a humble beginning did not forebode a similar future.

Despite his lack of education, Deyerle was a shrewd businessman. Throughout the thirties and forties, he acquired tracts of land on both Mud Lick and Craven's Creeks.<sup>6</sup> On these, he began to de-



Rear view of Deyerle home, showing L shape.



velop his diversified commercial interests. Part of the land was reserved for farming, with corn, wheat, and tobacco the principal crops.<sup>7</sup> Large amounts of corn went for fattening the hundreds of hogs and head of cattle that were butchered for market each year.<sup>8</sup> Much of the grain that was raised was turned into whiskey at Deyerle's distillery (perhaps built in 1840)<sup>9</sup> or ground for sale at his mill across from the distillery on Mud Lick Creek.<sup>10</sup> The Cave Spring Mill, with its accompanying 38 acres of land and assorted outhouses, was a purchase from Jacob Garst in 1834.<sup>11</sup> A former Deyerle slave recalled driving a team of oxen to the Salem and Big Lick depots, hauling many barrels of flour and whiskey from the mill and the distillery to be shipped to market.<sup>12</sup> An old ledger recently found in the attic of Deyerle's log house records the transport of flour to the homes of plantation owners in the area as well.<sup>13</sup> Deyerle's success in these enterprises is confirmed by the Roanoke County census of 1840, which lists a number of slaves in his possession, as well as three males employed by him in agriculture and six in manufactures and trades.<sup>14</sup>

Deyerle was a genuine country entrepreneur. He had a store on the mill site where he sold not only those commodities which he produced himself, but a general supply of dry goods as well. The ledger found in the attic of his old log house (now known as the Garst log cabin due to its later owner) records the sale of everything from planks and nails to shirts.



**Brick kiln is unique dependency at Deyerle home.**



The presence of a creek was important to Deyerle not only for power for his mill and distillery, but also for clay for the manufacture of bricks. As a contractor and builder, Deyerle erected many handsome brick houses and churches which form the backbone of the Greek Revival style in Roanoke and the surrounding counties.

Shortly after the construction of his own new mill in 1841,<sup>15</sup> it is believed that Deyerle was commissioned to build his first house, "Monterey,"<sup>16</sup> the home of Henry Harrison Chapman in Salem.<sup>17</sup> (Chapman's son, Henry Clay, married Deyerle's daughter, Susan, in 1854).<sup>18</sup> The finished product must have been greatly admired for in 1849-50,<sup>19</sup> Deyerle repeated his formula for Madison Pitzer at "Bell-Air" on Craven's Creek.

The "prosperous fifties" brought the opening of the James River and Kanawha Canal at Buchanan in 1851, followed by the construction of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad from Lynchburg to Big Lick and Salem in 1852.<sup>20</sup> In the same year, the two were connected by a turnpike,<sup>21</sup> thus assuring "a quick and efficient means"<sup>22</sup> of transporting crops to market. The farmers in the Roanoke vicinity prospered accordingly. Deyerle became one of the largest land and slave owners in the area. He consolidated his holdings on Mud Lick Creek and Craven's Creek and purchased lands along the Roanoke River, Back Creek, and Mason's Creek.<sup>23</sup> The census of 1850 listed the value of Deyerle's lands at \$7,000.<sup>24</sup>

With affluence, Benjamin Deyerle was boosted into the only public office that he is known to have held.<sup>25</sup> Circa 1853, he was a justice of the peace in Roanoke County.<sup>26</sup>

Around 1850, the log cabin in which Deyerle had been living became too cramped for a man with seven children. Though he had enlarged the one-room house to a double cabin by means of a porch in 1840,<sup>27</sup> it no longer was adequate for a burgeoning family. Deyerle turned his contracting and building talents to his own use and began the construction of a larger brick home across the creek from his mill. The making of the brick posed no problem, as it was made on the place. The timber for the beams, flooring and woodwork was cut on the plantation. However, many of the finer accouterments for the house had to be brought from farther away. The soapstone slabs for the fireplaces came from Patrick County, and all the hardware had to be made in Lynchburg and imported.<sup>28</sup>

The most charming story connected with the house is one told by Mrs. L. E. Freeland (Carrine Deyerle, granddaughter of Benjamin) and Mrs. James R. Renick (Berbee Penn, Deyerle's great-granddaughter). Benjamin Deyerle sold off an unruly slave and gave the money from the sale to his wife. With it, she decided to purchase



a "modern" suite of furniture for her new parlor. She made the long journey to Lynchburg where she happily bought two love-seats, a lady's and a gentleman's chair, and some marble-topped tables.<sup>29</sup>

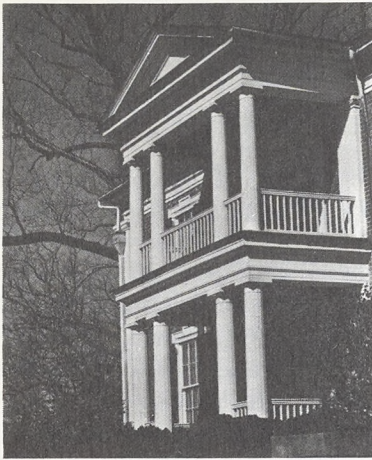
There is some question as to the date of completion of "Lone Oaks" (now "Winsmere"), as Deyerle called his house. The Roanoke Valley Historical Society files set the date at 1850, but Mrs. Freeland recalls her father or uncle telling her that the family moved into the new house just in time for the birth of John Berryman Deyerle in 1852.<sup>30</sup> In the Roanoke County Land Book for 1853, the sum added to the value of the lands of Benjamin Deyerle on account of buildings is \$5,500. In the immediately preceding years, the sum had been \$4,000. Opposite the entry of 1853, there is a note that reads: "\$1,500 added for improvements 1853."<sup>31</sup> Since he used his own slave labor and materials, Deyerle could have built and furnished a large house such as "Lone Oaks" for \$1,500. His only expenditure would have been the imported hardware and trimmings, the furnishings, and the price of a fine carpenter to do the woodwork. Thus, between Mrs. Freeland's testimony and the record of the land book, it seems more likely that the date of "Lone Oaks" should be set at 1852-53.

A letter from George Garst's grandson, Arthur H. Garst, reveals that the latter's uncle was born in the Deyerle log cabin "about 1850."<sup>32</sup> If a leeway of two years can be given that date, it can be assumed that Garst took over the cabin after Deyerle's move. Whether he was hired by Deyerle and given the cabin to live in or whether he became a partner is not known definitely. However, Deyerle's mill and store ledger has page headings of "Deyerle and Garst" as early as 1859.<sup>33</sup> If the two were not partners before 1850, it seems that they became so in the period between 1850 and 1859.

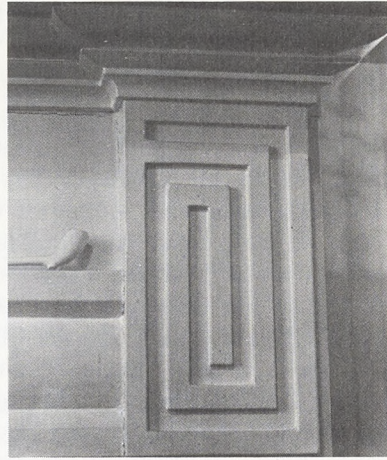
At the same time, Deyerle was involved in the building of two other houses: one for his half-brother, Joseph, in what is now Glenvar, and another for Henry Houtz at "Intervale" in Salem. The former house, called "Pleasant Grove," has two bricks on the right-hand corner of the facade which attest to the ownership and date of the house. In one is marked the name "Joseph Deyerle" and beside it, the date "1858." Another brick with the date "1853" is assumed to be the cornerstone of the house. This hypothesis is substantiated by the Roanoke County Land Book of 1854. The value added to Joseph Deyerle's 125½ acres on the Roanoke River on account of buildings is \$3,500. This figure represents a \$2,000 increase over the years before. Opposite it, a marginal note reads: "\$2,000 added for improvements."<sup>34</sup>

It was thought originally that "Intervale" was built in 1845. However, the Roanoke County Land Books and Deed Books suggest





**Bell-Air originally was Madison Pitzer home, near Craven's Creek.**



**Detail of corner design at living room fireplace of Bell-Air.**

a later date. In 1847, the 220 acres composing the Houtz property on Mason's Creek were bought by John Houtz's son, Henry.<sup>35</sup> At that point, there were two buildings on the place: a log cabin and a Pennsylvania Dutch barn, both dating from before 1800.<sup>36</sup> There is no mention of the construction of any new buildings until the land book of Roanoke County for 1854 notes \$1,075 worth of improvements on John Houtz's property in 1853.<sup>37</sup> Since there is no evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that the 1853 "improvement" was the construction of "Intervale."

A similar change in date occurs with the James Persinger plantation house. The date of "Hunter's Home" (later called "Persinger Place" and now "White Corners") was believed to be 1856, but the Roanoke County Land Book for 1858 lists "\$3,500 for improvements" beside the Persinger name. Until that year, the "value added to the land on account of buildings"<sup>38</sup> was \$1,000. In 1858, this figure jumps to \$4,500. It is logical to conclude that the \$3,500 increase was due to the building of the Persinger mansion.<sup>39</sup>

Late in the 1850's, Deyerle was still anxious to increase his money-making ventures. He purchased a large tract of land in Franklin County from Hill Carter, owner of Shirley Plantation in Charles City County. Deyerle apparently had been doing some building in the Rocky Mount area (the Fairmont Baptist Church and the Callaway Presbyterian Church, the latter supposedly built by Deyerle slaves 1850<sup>40</sup>) and knew that the land was good for farming. The tract which he bought from Carter was originally a grant of 4,500 acres to James Callaway Jr. At his death, the land passed to his son, William Callaway. The latter Callaway devised it to his grandson, Captain



Edward T. Bridges (known as "Ned"), who was forced to sell the land due to a run of bad luck.<sup>41</sup> He sold 1,500 acres on the north side of Black Water Creek to James F. Johnson and William Taylor by a deed of trust dated September 17, 1856.<sup>42</sup> Then, by a deed of trust made April 10, 1857, Bridges conveyed 4,500 acres (including the first 1,500 acres mentioned above) on both sides of Black Water Creek to John O. L. Goggin.<sup>43</sup> Carter, in turn, bought the land from Goggin and Johnson, as trustees, in May of 1858, for the sum of \$39,000.<sup>44</sup> Benjamin Deyerle acquired the land from Carter in the same year for \$58,420.<sup>45</sup> Carter states his reason for selling the land in a letter to Deyerle dated July 25, 1858: "My people down here were sadly disappointed at my selling out, and abused me roundly for it. I ought to have held on to it, but I could not get on with those people in Franklin and it was too far from my home, and too far from market."<sup>46</sup>

In 1859, Deyerle wrote to Carter, telling of his problems and land transactions during the first year of his ownership and of his plans for the coming year. He states that progress has been slow due to a lack of hands. He got only ninety acres of land seeded, the corn crop did not turn out well, and the distillery did not get put up, even though the bricks were moulded and fired. He says that he will have to sell some land in order to get the money to buy the slaves that he needs for a proper work force. Deyerle mentions a great deal of sickness and many deaths in Franklin in the fall and winter, but he reports that his family is well. He closes by saying that he expects "to plant about two hundred acres in corn, a large crop of oats, and some tobacco if possible."<sup>47</sup>

Three houses remain on the Deyerle land in nearby Franklin County. The dating of these is rather sketchy. On the north side of the Blackwater River (formerly Black Water Creek) is a one-story brick cabin with a porch on one side. To the back of this house is attached a later, two-story frame house. The brick structure (which must date from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century due to its cornice of moulded brick) was the original home of Henry Clay Chapman and his wife, Susan Deyerle Chapman, according to Mrs. Renick. Her mother was born in the cabin in 1864, and the cooking was done there during the Civil War.<sup>48</sup> Mr. Chapman kept ledgers of his financial transactions, starting in 1855. In 1861 through 1863, he records the purchase of bricks, lumber, and planks for building.<sup>49</sup> It does not seem presumptuous to assume that these materials may have been used for the addition of the frame house to the older brick one. It is impossible to say whether or not Deyerle constructed this house for his daughter and son-in-law. The only tie between the frame Chapman home and Deyerle's brick house across the river is a similarity in mantelpiece design: that in the



frame house is a simplification of the very elaborate work in the brick house.

There are numerous slave cabins on the Chapman place, as well as a small brick building that was used as a doctor's and dentist's office.<sup>50</sup> The latter building is still standing.

The only specific reference to the construction of a third brick house on the south side of the Blackwater River is made by Deyerle's former slave, P. M. Lewis. In a letter to Mrs. Freeland, he says: "He (Benjamin Deyerle) and I made and laid the brick in Henry Deyerle's home-house in Franklin Co. after the Civil War closed."<sup>51</sup> In 1865, however, Peyton Lewis rode off with Union troops scouting for horses,<sup>52</sup> and thus was not with Deyerle after the war! His general time period is correct, though, as a Franklin County Land Book records "1,200 added for improvements" on the Deyerle land in 1861.<sup>53</sup> There are no other changes in the value of the land due to bulidings, either before or after this date, so it can be assumed that this was the time of the construction of the house.

The 1861 section was added to a small two-room brick house, dating from the period of the William Callaway ownership of the property. The house was passed down with the land. Benjamin Deyerle enlarged it, and then, at his death, the whole went to his son, Henry. Deyerle descendants lived in the house until the 1920's.<sup>54</sup>

The Franklin County House is unique in Deyerle's repertoire in that it is an example of the Italian Revival style, which came into fashion after the Civil War. With the exception of Dr. White's house near Roanoke (supposedly erected by Deyerle in 1860), this is the only building he did in the 1860's.<sup>55</sup>

The "prosperous fifties" lived up to their name. In the census of 1860, the value of Deyerle's real estate was listed at \$91,000 and the value of his personal estate at \$97,000.<sup>56</sup> This is so extraordinary as to be almost unbelievable. Mistakes in figures are not uncommon in this period, but with Deyerle's holdings in Franklin County being assessed at \$53,533.26,<sup>57</sup> it is not infeasible that the value of his 1,010 acres in Roanoke and his businesses could almost equal that. However, in a time when \$10,000 was a sum seldom amassed, Deyerle's fortune was more than spectacular—if the figures are correct.

The census of 1860 marked Deyerle's 54th year. With increasing age, he probably found it difficult to continue in the strenuous business of building and contracting. This may have been his reason for ceasing to accept commissions, or perhaps it was the desire to devote more time to his farm. Business in Franklin County may have diverted Deyerle's attention from Roanoke. At any rate, he not only ceased to build, but in 1868, he sold one-half of a tract of 161 acres of his land to George Garst, as well as a half interest in his mill.<sup>58</sup>





**Front view of White Corners, built by Deyerle in 1858, now owned by James P. Hart, Jr.**



**Right end wall of Intervale, Houtz-Sites-White home in Salem.**



**Front of Franklin County home of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Sumrell, described as Deyerle Italianate house.**



The 1860's brought, of course, the Civil War. Many Deyerles fought valiantly for the South. Benjamin's son, George, died of measles in an army hospital while serving with the first Volunteer Company under the command of Matthew Deyerle (the son of Benjamin's half-brother, Joseph).<sup>59</sup> Benjamin Deyerle was too old for service and stayed home as a private citizen.<sup>60</sup>

The war brought financial difficulty to all Southerners. Though Deyerle's wealth was vastly diminished, he still possessed more than most in his community. The Roanoke County census of 1870 gives the value of his real estate as \$16,000 and the value of his personal property as \$4,000.<sup>61</sup>

Whether for financial need or out of interest, Deyerle continued to be active in business. In 1876, a series of chancery causes identified him as a partner in "Patterson Coon and Company"<sup>62</sup> (nature of work unknown).

In 1874, Deyerle, then 67 years old, sold his half-interest in the mill to his partner, George Garst. The two had held jointly the mill and a tract of 161 acres on which it was situated since 1868. By a deed of 1874, Garst received sixty-nine acres of land, including the mill, and Deyerle kept the remaining acreage.<sup>63</sup>

Little is known of Deyerle until his death in 1883. In the census of

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 1866  
we & mine ourselves our heirs &c  
ill Carter his heirs &c six  
a & thirty five dollars (\$ 60.50-00 )  
our hands & seals this 30<sup>th</sup> of

85-6

David

Benjamin Deyerle seal  
Ferdinand Rorer seal  
John Trout seal  
Matthew Harvey seal

An 1866 contract with Hill Carter was signed by Benjamin Deyerle, along with three other prominent Roanoke Valley businessmen: Ferdinand Rorer, John Trout and Matthew Harvey. (From papers owned by Mrs. L. E. Freeland).



1880, he is listed as a dependent of his son, James David Deyerle.<sup>64</sup> In his old age, Deyerle must have turned the management of his farm over to his son.

According to Mrs. Renick, Deyerle called his family together shortly before he died and told his eight remaining children that he would leave each of them land or money to the value of \$10,000. The decision as to which piece of property would go to whom was decided by numbers drawn from a hat. Exchanging was permitted. As a result, Henry Deyerle received the "home place" in Franklin County, and Susan Deyerle Chapman and her husband kept their house across the way. James David Deyerle ended with the family home in Roanoke.<sup>65</sup>

An account of what is known of Benjamin Deyerle sadly reveals very little of his character. Mrs. Renick recounts a delightful story about a man who came to see Deyerle on business. Arriving at the plantation in Roanoke, the visitor was greeted by a man in overalls who took his bag. As they proceeded toward the house, the visitor mentioned that he wished to see Mr. Deyerle. The gentleman with the suitcase turned to him and said politely, "I'm Mr. Deyerle."<sup>66</sup>

Apparently, for a man of his wealth and position, Deyerle was a very "plain" person.<sup>67</sup>

Hill Carter makes several references to Deyerle's "usual punctuality"<sup>68</sup> in connection with the latter's payments on the Franklin County property. "You are the most punctual man in the county."<sup>69</sup>

In 1934, a story in an Iowa newspaper on Peyton Lewis, Deyerle's former slave, gave a glimpse of "Boss Ben" as a master. "Deyerle was a hard driver and was cruel at times, but would not sell his slaves. Traders would come often to the plantations, buying up the best to ship down South where the market was more active and the prices of slaves higher. When Peyton was about nine years old, a trader came along and offered his master \$600 for him, which frightened him badly. He cried and tried to run, but his master said soothingly, 'O, don't be afraid, I won't sell you to 'em!'"<sup>70</sup>

The tone of Deyerle's letter to Carter indicates that the writer was a gentleman. The correspondence is polite and beautifully penned. Though endowed with the social graces, Deyerle seems to have remained a simple and direct country farmer. He had an extraordinary business and land sense which he matched with hard work. I envisage him as a man of few words, prudence, and strength of character. He expected the most of men, be they his slaves or his sons. Though stern, perhaps, he had a humanity which kept him from harshness. Above all, he must have had a great sensitivity and an aesthetic sense which found expression in his buildings. He was truly a man of many talents.



- 1 Paragraph footnote, Mrs. James R. Renick, Vinton, interview, January, 1971; and F. B. Kegley, *KEGLEY'S VIRGINIA FRONTIER*, Roanoke, p. 576.
- 2 Mrs. James R. Renick, interview
- 3 John W. Wayland, *MEN OF MARK AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS OF HARRISONBURG AND ROCKINGHAM COUNTY*, Staunton, 1943, p. 117.
- 4 *Ibid.*, p. 117.
- 5 Mrs. James R. Renick, interview.
- 6 Roanoke County Deed Book A, p. 149; Deed Book B, pages 378 and 399; Deed Book C, pages 283 and 463.
- 7 Fred Fisher, "Reverend P. M. Lewis, born a slave in Virginia, passes his 85th birthday," *Waterloo Daily News*, Iowa, March 8, 1934.
- 8 *Ibid.*
- 9 Roanoke County Land Book, 1839-40.
- 10 *Op. cit.*, Fisher.
- 11 Botetourt County Deed Book 20, pages 625-626; name found in an old ledger. See note 13.
- 12 *Op. cit.* Fisher
- 13 Ledger containing transactions of Deyerle mill and store from 1859-1868, found in attic of Garst log cabin, in possession of Roanoke Historical Society.
- 14 Census of Roanoke County, 1840, Reel 43, Archives, Virginia State Library.
- 15 Roanoke County Land Book, 1841, p. 4.
- 16 Roanoke Historical Society, file number 129-12.
- 17 Mrs. James R. Renick, interview.
- 18 *Ibid.*
- 19 Roanoke County Land Book, 1850, p. 22
- 20 Raymond Barnes, "Madison Pitzer Home 'Belair' One of Valley's Finest," *The Roanoke World-News*, March 23, 1963.
- 21 *STORY OF CITY AND COUNTY, ROANOKE*, City School Board, 1942, Writers' Program of the Works Project Administration, p. 187.
- 22 *Op. cit.*, Barnes.
- 23 See Roanoke County Deed Book C, pages 557 and 560; Deed Book D, pages 130, 240, and 526; Deed Book E, pages 67, 68, 160, 215, 401, 410, 456, 593, 627, 633, and 668; Deed Book F, pages 21, 248, 326, and 373.
- 24 Census of Roanoke County, 57th District, 1850, Reel 85, Archives, Virginia State Library.
- 25 Note: A thorough searching of the Roanoke County Deed Books and other legal documents in the Clerk's Office would probably reveal other county positions held by Deyerle, other than being appointed a commissioner or a supervisor by the court, but to date, this is the only one found.
- 26 Roanoke County Deed Book E, p. 13.
- 27 Roanoke County Land Book, 1839-40.
- 28 Raymond Barnes, "Benjamin Deyerle Built Mill Bearing Name of Garst", Home (1849) Succeeded Log Cabin", *The Roanoke World-News*, May 14, 1960
- 29 Mrs. L. E. Freeland, interview, Roanoke, Virginia, February, 1971. Mrs. James R. Renick, interview. Note: This story was also included in the article by Raymond Barnes mentioned in note 28. Some of the original pieces bought by Mrs. Deyerle are in the possession of Mrs. Freeland in Roanoke and are well worth seeing.
- 30 Mrs. L. E. Freeland, interview.
- 31 Roanoke County Land Book, District of Andrew L. Pitzer, 1853, p. 8.
- 32 Letter from Arthur H. Garst to the Roanoke Historical Society, March 22, 1971.
- 33 Ledger containing transactions of Deyerle mill and store from 1859-1868—found in attic of Garst log cabin—in possession of Roanoke Historical Society.
- 34 Roanoke County Land Book of 1854, p. 8.
- 35 Roanoke County Deed Book C, p. 200.
- 36 Mrs. James A. White, interview, Salem, January, 1971.
- 37 Roanoke County Land Book of 1854, p. 16.
- 38 Roanoke County Land Book of 1858, Cave Spring District, p. 23.
- 39 Note: Deyerle's method of constructing his houses and their characteristics will be discussed later. Here, the writer is concerned merely with the establishment of the correct dates of construction. Other buildings in the Roanoke area accredited to Benjamin Deyerle are: "Mount Airy" (1846), the Gustavus Sedon house (1854), "Newcastle" (1855), Dr. Gale's (about 1871), and the Cave Spring Methodist Church (1854). These have been omitted from this study for reasons of time or lack of credulity in their Deyerle authenticity. Information on all of these, except for the Gustavus Sedon house and the Cave Spring Methodist Church, is on file with the Roanoke Historical Society.
- 40 Conversation with Ann Carter Lee, graduate architectural historian, Franklin County, December 1970; and Mrs. James R. Renick, interview.
- 41 Mrs. James R. Renick, interview.
- 42 Franklin County Deed Book 24, p. 342; and original memorandum to Hill Carter from John O. L. Goggin and James F. Johnson, June 29, 1858, document number 69 and 69a, Box 18, "Shirley" Plantation Papers, Archives, Virginia State Library.
- 43 Franklin County Deed Book 25, 1857-1859, p. 1; and original memorandum to Hill Carter from John O. L. Goggin and James F. Johnson, June 29, 1858, document number 69 and 69a, Box 18, "Shirley" Plantation Papers, Archives, Virginia State Library.



44 Original memorandum to Hill Carter from John O. L. Goggin and James F. Johnson, June 29, 1858, document number 69 and 69a, Box 18, "Shirley" Plantation Papers, Archives, Virginia State Library; and entry on page 89 of the "Shirley" Account Book for 1858, which reads: "Bought an estate in Franklin County for the sum of \$9,500 dollars—Goggin and Johnson, trustees . . . and paid in cash \$33,212.04," Archives, Virginia State Library. Note: I have not been able to find the original deed on this transaction, but it is mentioned in Franklin County Deed Book 26, 1859-61, pp. 241-242.

45 Franklin County Deed Book 26, 1859-61, pp. 112, 241-242; Franklin County Deed Book 25, 1857-59, pp. 326 and 327.

46 Original letter from Hill Carter to Benjamin Deyerle, June 25, 1858, in possession of Mrs. L. E. Freeland, Roanoke, Virginia. Note: Although the Franklin County property bordered on the Richmond and Carolina roads and had access to train service, Carter must have wanted to ship his products from Richmond or his own wharf. The slow trip across the state would mean that the wheat and other products would be getting old, even before the journey to their final destination.

47 Original letter from Benjamin Deyerle to Hill Carter, February 21, 1859, document 72, 72a, and 72b, Box 18, "Shirley" Plantation Papers, Archives, Virginia State Library.

48 Mrs. James R. Renick, interview, Vinton.

49 Ibid.

50 Ibid.

51 Letter from Reverend Peyton M. Lewis to Mrs. L. E. Freeland, May 10, 1934, still in the possession of Mrs. Freeland, Roanoke.

52 Op. Cit. Fisher.

53 Franklin County Land Book of 1861, District of Henry B. Johnson.

54 Paragraph footnote, Conversation with Mrs. M. J. Sumrell, Rocky Mount, Dec., 1970.

55 See note 39.

56 Census of Roanoke County, 1960, p. 57.

57 Franklin County Land Book of 1859 and 1860, District of Henry B. Johnson.

58 Roanoke County Deed Book G, 1868, p. 435.

59 Mrs. James R. Renick, interview, and letter from Reverend Peyton M. Lewis to Mrs. L. E. Freeland, May 10, 1934.

60 Original letter from Hill Carter to Benjamin Deyerle, August 2, 1865—in possession of Mrs. L. E. Freeland, Roanoke.

61 Census of Roanoke County, 1870, p. 3.

62 Roanoke County, Chancery Cause files 761, 780, and 802, March, 1876.

63 Roanoke County Deed Book I, 1874, p. 423.

64 Census of Roanoke County, Cave Spring District, 1880, p. 4.

65 Paragraph footnote, Mrs. James R. Renick, interview, and Mrs. L. E. Freeland, interview, Roanoke, Virginia, February, 1971.

66 Mrs. James R. Renick, interview.

67 Ibid.

68 Original letter from Hill Carter to Benjamin Deyerle, May 15, 1867—in the possession of Mrs. L. E. Freeland, Roanoke.

69 Ibid., Carter to Deyerle, May 13, 1869

70 Op. Cit. Fisher.

## Journals, Maps Available

The publications program of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society continues and many of its past offerings are available.

On sale by the Society at P. O. Box 1904, Roanoke 24008 are back issues of the Society Journal, maps of Roanoke, Botetourt and Montgomery counties and a book, *The Town of Fincastle, Virginia*, by Frances Niederer.

Vol. One, Numbers One and Two; Vol. Five, Number Two, and Vol. Eight, Number One of the Journal are out of print, but other copies sell at \$1.50 to members and \$2 for others. The maps, drawn by J. R. Hildebrand, are \$1.50. Other county maps are in preparation.

The architectural history of Botetourt's county seat by Miss Niederer, of the Hollins College faculty, is \$4.95, plus 18 cents in sales tax for Virginia residents.



## "Landmarks of Distinction"

# Roanoke County Barns Of the 19th Century

by LUCI SHAW KINCANON

*Barn: For the purposes of this examination (with the exception of one building which is so indicated) the term refers to an enclosure for stock and hay. Other outbuildings on a farm must be classified separately.*

A preliminary study of the barn architecture of Roanoke County must of necessity be an impressionistic introduction, an attempt to locate and examine representative types and hopefully relate them to one another. Thus, one must be a theorist and allow for flexibility in the conclusions.

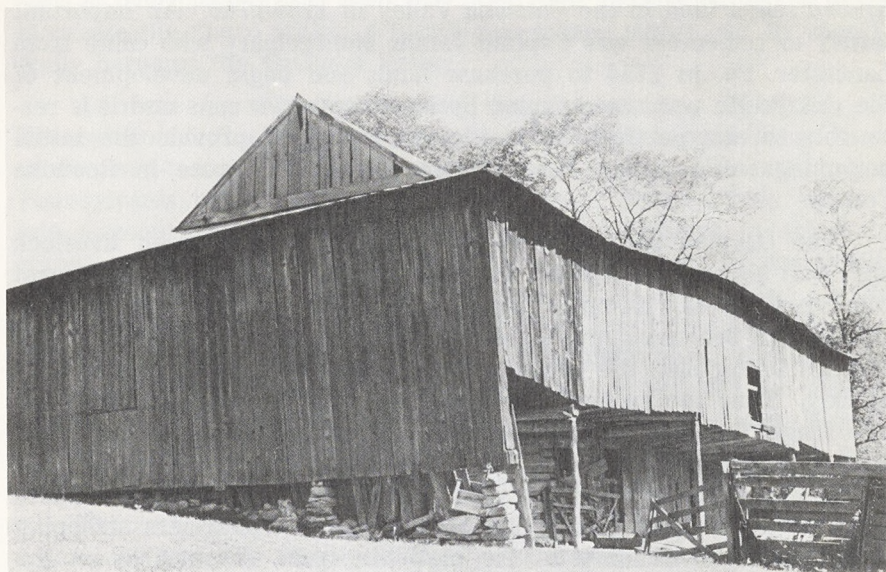
I have limited my survey to barns dating before 1900 but the general range is actually 1820-1895. The first barn to be examined here is done in great detail to increase the clarity of the pictures and to provide a standard format for study. Various individual differences among the barns are prevalent and of course the barns do follow the usual human range from superior to inferior quality. Still, they retain their dignity as representatives of an age of personal aspirations and national purpose.

An historical perspective is often revealing and it can weigh heavily in determining the validity of a theory. Southwestern Virginia was primarily settled by two groups of people, the Scotch-Irish and the Pennsylvania Germans. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians were a venturesome people, constantly in search of rugged terrain and it was they who came to the Roanoke area first. Although they continued a fairly steady southward and westward migration, they did create settlements at intervals and these were then leap-frogged by the Pennsylvania Germans who came along after them. There was no apparent mingling of ideas between these two cultures.

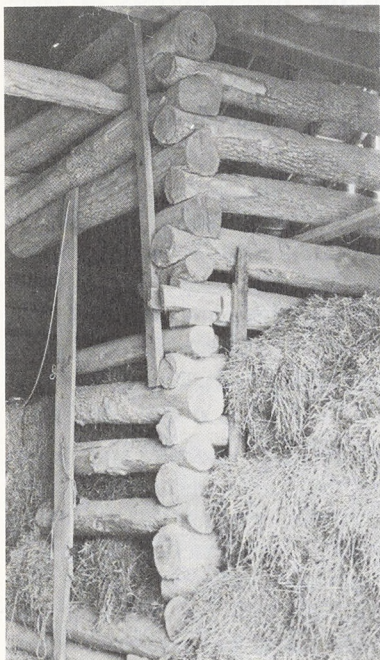
The Pennsylvania Germans, driven by a different mentality, came down the Shenandoah Valley in search of farm lands, these usually being located by the prevalence of hardwood trees which indicated a limestone layer beneath the soil. The rich river bottoms of the Catawba Valley afforded good lands and the Germans followed the westward streams into this area. Benjamin Borden was among the

*Mrs. Kincanon, a 1972 graduate of Hollins, is assistant registrar of the Wadsworth Atheneum at Hartford, Conn. She also has worked at Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.*

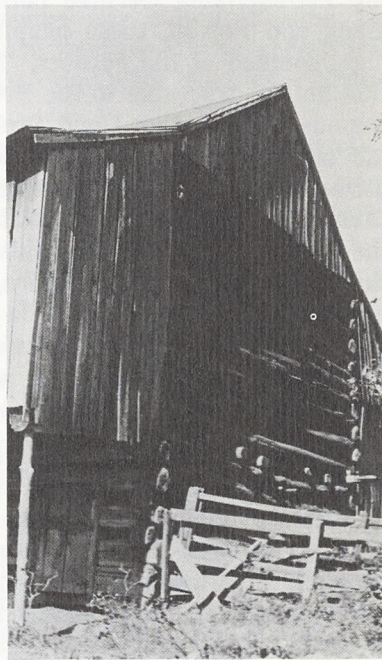




**B. A. Ramsey barn, Pennsylvania bank type, dates from around 1832. It may be the oldest in the Catawba Valley.**



**Interior shows barn-within-barn concept, saddle notching of logs.**



**Cantilevered floor joists in Ramsey barn as seen from downhill side.**



first to select land in the Catawba Valley in 1739-1740. An important settler to remember was Captain James Montgomery who came from Lancaster, Pa. in 1754 to purchase lands and begin development of the valley. He was accompanied by his four grown sons and it is reasonable to assume that the Montgomerys helped provide the initial beginnings of a strong Pennsylvania cultural influence in Roanoke County.

The German culture of the Shenandoah Valley prized livestock above all else and it follows that barn architecture was of significant concern to them. Eastern Virginia yields little in the way of older stock barns because more value was placed upon crops. Without rich manure to fertilize the crops, however, soil became poor relatively quickly. Thus the eastern landowners constantly required fresh soil. The frugal Germans' blood pressure rose at the waste and the treatment of the animals in other areas. Their concern is evident in their barns, where the needs of the stock are the first consideration. There are still yarns spun among the old timers about farmers strapping their wives and children to the plows to spare the burden on the stock!

The building of barns was based upon two traditions inherent in the Pennsylvania German culture. From the Black Forests of Germany and Poland, these people had learned to build with horizontal logs, notched at the corners. The crib form, or rectangular construction unit, is traceable to the Bronze age and beyond and thus it is continuous with Medieval and Prehistoric Europe. The steps to the double crib form (and eventually the transverse crib) are logical and dictated by necessity. Thus, the log double crib barns of Roanoke County arose logically out of the heritage of the builders and out of the availability of the natural hardwoods. The early German migrations into the county, therefore, forced men to face nature on her own terms and the response was a practical and logical method of building. Very early refinements were at a minimum but there existed an overwhelming air of solidity and sturdiness which is still evident in surviving examples.

Necessity dictated that the stock have both shelter and food. With this double need as the driving force, the Germans again turned to their heritage. They created close facsimiles of the Pennsylvania bank style barns they had known, basing their construction upon the principle of a lower level for stock and an upper level for grain and hay storage. This is a distinct mark of the Pennsylvania tradition and is easily recognizable. Entrance to the lower level was sheltered by a cantilevered forebay which was usually left unsupported in Virginia localizations. As the settlers became more secure in their new environment, their building became more refined and we notice distinctions



such as overhangs on the ends and ramp side, these sheathed in wood, to create the "barn within a barn" appearance which can be seen in many barns of the Catawba Valley.

As more Germans immigrated and the economy stabilized, the Pennsylvania influence grew more directly apparent and many barns of the mid-to-late 1800's are merely small scale replicas of typical Pennsylvania bank barns. (The large size of Pennsylvania barns is one element which never travelled southward except in select instances. This is undoubtedly due to a greater sense of practicality and frugality inherent in those who ventured to new lands.) In the final analysis, Roanoke County has no truly indigenous 'southern Appalachian culture' represented in its barn architecture. Rather, what is now considered indicative of such a culture is actually the product of a series of Pennsylvania migrations. Some of the influences brought by these migrants derive from their earliest heritage and others arose creatively once the problems of necessity were conquered.

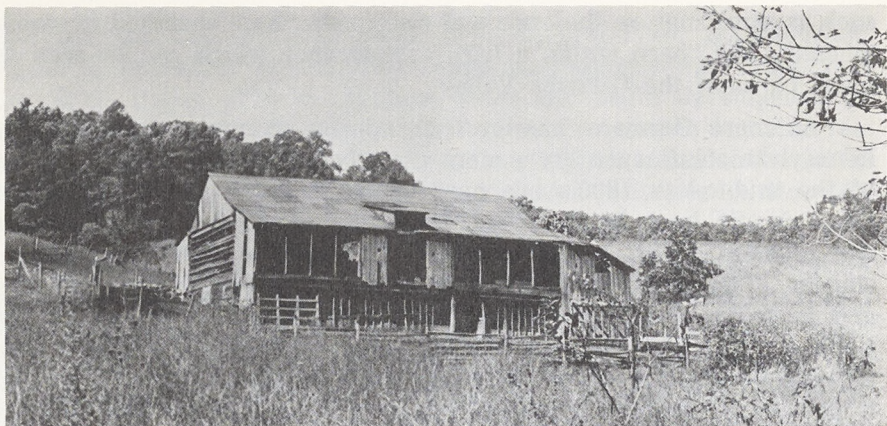
The interesting factor arising out of a survey of the barn architecture of Roanoke County is that the Germans altered their migration to include this area. Obviously, although Roanoke did not become a county until 1838, it did play a vital role in opening up the south and even the west (to a lesser extent). Even while neighboring Botetourt County was the focal point, Roanoke was biding its time and building itself slowly through the efforts of the people who were traveling southward. Many of these migrants found what they were searching for without going any further.

Despite the normal dating difficulties, it is believed the Ramsey barn was probably built in 1832 and may well be the oldest standing barn in the Catawba Valley. Old-timers note (for a human interest angle) that the German Baptists, lacking a church building, held their meetings in the Ramsey barn. The huge stone where they cooked their meat for the love feast is still to be found just down the hill from the barn.

In appearance, the barn is of the Pennsylvania bank type, but one side has a supported forebay and the other side has an unsupported forebay. The supported end gives the barn a partial gable on hip profile, the rest of the barn being covered by a flared gable. It is quite possible that the hip portion was an addition to the barn at a slightly later date and examples of more advanced structural work inside tend to corroborate this fact. There is also relatively poor conformity to the line of the hill on the hip side and the method of attachment to the rest of the building is rather disturbing as indicated by an almost soaring effect.

The construction is generally crude on the exterior. The unsupported forebay end displays exposed logs except in its triangular





**Exposed log crib structure at Damewood barn on Rt. 624 in Catawba.**

pediment, this being sheathed with boards. The logs retain their round forms and are joined by saddle notching. The floor joists boldly stick out at right angles to the horizontal logs (leaving enough room for the cats to sun themselves). The rest of the barn is sheathed in wood (all siding is done vertically) but there was little concern to cut the pieces evenly and thus the barn has a rather shaggy appearance. Rather than sitting securely on the ground, the main supports are atop small piles of rocks which are placed at essential intervals. This disarray tends to give us a shaky conception of the barn but it still has remarkable stability and is currently in use.

When we enter the barn on the lower level, we go under the forebay which is cantilevered on the floor joists (posts also help to support the forebay but these are later additions). The area under the forebay remains unsheathed, the round logs stripped of their bark and saddle notched together as we saw on the exposed end. Here the logs are chinked with long boards placed between them and running horizontally. (This is definitely a 'jack-leg' job and may not be original.) The hardware on the doorways is marked by the distinctive Pennsylvania tapered heart shape and it is original. Where nails are used, they are wrought but this is not an infallible indicator of age.

The lower level interior measures only six feet in height but the ground level is built up somewhat since this is the stock area. The mid-section is equipped with stanchions for the cattle and the floor joists above run lengthwise in relation to the total structure. These bear the familiar marks of the scoring axe and broad axe which appear in all of the barns up to the mid 1800's (and frequently later in outlying areas). Crossed pieces of wood are used between some of the floor joists above to strengthen the flooring. This mid-section is flat as far back as the point at which the soil bank begins to climb



upwards and one feels that this back area is the entrance to a dark cavern. This phenomenon is not present on the hipped end which I proposed may have been added later. There the floor level is flat and extends all the way back to a dirt wall.

Moving to the upper level, we ascend a ramp constructed of stone and rubble and covered with grass which is located in the center of the upper front facade. There are double doors which once swung open on crudely fashioned hinges, but the safest entrance now is through the traditional little door which is cut into the left-hand large door. Once inside, we are surprised to discover a double crib log structure complete with a dog trot or breezeway through the center. It is as though we are presented with a 'barn within a barn' construction, the outer barn being merely a shell to hide the structure within. The logs are, of course, saddle-notched but no attempt has been made to chink them. The rest of the interior is an intricate system of balance, one piece against another, with mortise and tenon construction being used only in the frame of the main doorway and in the corner of the proposed newer section. Pegs are not used in these joinings but they are used when the main beams are brought together in an L-shaped junction. There are two long ceiling beams (made of more than one log) along each side of the cribs running lengthwise and these are notched to support the ceilings ribs. There is no ridge pole, the ribs being engaged in a medieval cruck construction. This is the only time that diagonal bracing is used (except in the new section). Otherwise, right angles reign supreme.

The center section of the upper level is fairly high but it drops off on either side in the frontal area for grain storage areas. This is a curious shift of levels but the overall nature of this barn is quite irregular. As a total picture, this barn is worthy of careful examination because it exhibits the transitional state of the Pennsylvania German mentality from concentration on pure necessity to somewhat of a latent aesthetic concern coupled with the ever present yearning for practicality. It is almost as if the interior is a 'security blanket', an unwillingness to abandon the tried and true method, but the exterior hints at modern attempts to lighten the material without fear of failure.

The Pennsylvania bank style is again the chief influence in a barn on Rt. 624 in the Catawba section, owned by J. M. Damewood and dating from about 1900. This barn was obviously very crude when it was built, and its condition is essentially hopeless now. It does, however, demonstrate the same type of mentality we saw in the Ramsey barn.

Briefly, this barn is a basic gable shape with an unsupported forebay. A shed has been added on one end and another shed is



present on the right front of the barn under a continuation of the roof. The back side of the barn boasts a dormer window rising out of the roof. Here again, this seems to be a later addition. Apparently, the roof is also newer in date (this is to be expected) but it has been supplied with a ridge pole instead of the usual crude construction.

On the outside we witness crudely hewn rectangular logs exposed on the front and sides. It is not therefore surprising to discover our basic double crib log construction inside. The dovetailed notching is a clue to a somewhat later date than the Ramsey barn. The main beams here are astonishingly large and unevenly shaped in an almost defiant manner and the large exposed pegs which are used to strengthen the mortise and tenon joints also help to reinforce this defiant image. Gaining entrance to the cribs is rather difficult because the openings are quite low but this is in keeping with the cumbersome and unrefined nature of this barn.

The bottom level of the building has a low ceiling and a built-up ground level (due to the stock as we found in the Ramsey barn.) Much rearrangement is evident here since the needs of the stock are constantly changing. The total feeling one gets here is that the construction is highly innovative but excessively make-shift. It has no lasting quality.

The important idea here is that this barn follows the pattern we have begun to see forming despite the obvious deviations. The same concerns stood behind the building of it and it still embodies the spirit of the men who used it.

Since we are seeking a common thread, it is expected that the barn on the R. H. Layman farm on Rt. 785 in Catawba is also a basic Pennsylvania bank style with an unsupported forebay. It bears a strong resemblance to the Ramsey barn but it is more architecturally pleasing because of the fine construction. Rectangular logs are used, joined by V notching and the open area between the logs has been carefully chinked. The door jambs are neatly pegged together and demonstrate the importance of details in relation to a constructional whole.

Unfortunately, this barn, too, is suffering from neglect and constant exposure to unfavorable elements. Although it has obviously been reroofed, the present roof was unable to withstand winds some four years ago and serious damage was done to one end of the barn. This destroys the symmetry of an otherwise perfect gable shape. The original hardware has also disappeared but the barn, in the manner of the others examined, still maintains its dignity despite the discordant notes.

The lower level displays the finest construction and oddly enough seems to have the original stanchions, borning pens and stalls. The



upper level, or hay area, is disturbing for two reasons. The double cribs become increasingly crude as one looks higher and the notches are inexplicably large to receive the logs. This is difficult to explain in contrast to the otherwise fine craftsmanship. Perhaps even more disturbing is the fact that the barn door is not in line with the cribs and dog trot. It is noticeably toward the left as one faces the barn. Both of these features are puzzling but suffice it to say that there was undoubtedly a good reason for them originally, particularly in light of the otherwise exceptional nature of this barn.

There is no need to examine this barn further because it speaks for itself in terms of its cultural heritage. The date here is again the mid 1800's. This seems appropriate for the majority of the older barns in the Catawba Valley since this area was part of the original settlement of Roanoke County.

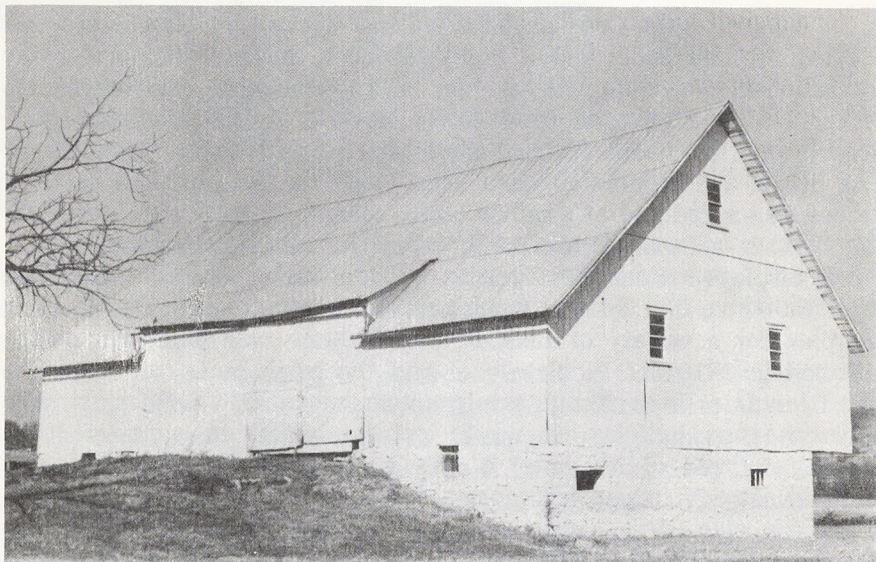
(A barn on the Cook property on Lee Highway in East Salem was studied for this paper but it has since been destroyed to make way for a housing development early in 1972.) The most striking feature of the Cook barn is the brick lower level, constructed of American bond brick (five courses of stretchers alternating with one of headers). The bricks are reputed to have been made on the premises and are indeed unmarked and of a rather large, coarse, chunky form. Naturally the barn is a Pennsylvania bank type with an unsupported forebay but it displays refinements such as wooden lattice work on the lower level that give it a distinct character of its own. Dating this barn is complex for a variety of reasons. The owners state that it was constructed in 1829 but its slate roof and the brick bond are indicative of a later date. Even though a substantial amount of wealth must have sponsored the building, it would not be logical to consider it as strikingly ahead of its time. A safe guess would be 1850 here, indicating some Victorian influences.

Despite the unmistakable elegance, this barn is strongly related to the Catawba Valley barns in many ways. It is half gable on hip now but appears to have been entirely gabled on hip before one end collapsed. (The latter does permit a closer examination of the construction.) The interior of the barn is full of surprises because it is partially modern in feeling but it has a tendency to revert back to the traditional. It is entirely mortise and tenon and the tree nails are carefully inserted to accentuate the fine craftsmanship. Some of the major supports on the lower level are hand hewn and bear broad and scoring axe marks but the upper level has modernistic bents bearing straight saw marks. (Larger timbers show occasional adz marks.) The timbering is light enough that iron braces have been added to reinforce it. The interior pattern is still one of a double crib arrangement but the cribs are left open, formed only by the



bents. It is worth noting that Roman numerals indicating the placement of each beam are clearly visible in this barn. There are only four bents in the barn although it is of considerable length. The two central ones contain ladders for access to the upper crib area.

There are a number of other outbuildings on the property which are rectangular log and V notched. These are not relevant to the paper but one building in particular stands out. It is currently (in 1971) being used as a chicken house and is somewhat unpleasant to investigate but it is a treasure because it is a perfect example on a small scale of a double crib log structure. Here then, we see a distinct mingling of tendencies in a single farm complex. The barn, being the most prominent building, achieves its dignity by conformity to the elegant Pennsylvania style, but the practicality and economy of the sturdy log structures dominates the outbuildings.



**Houtz-Sites-White barn in East Salem has "stunning proportions."**

A barn on the James A. White place, once known as the Houtz and later as the Sites home in East Salem, is a perfect Pennsylvania bank type and serves as a culminating example. Built by Christian Houtz, himself a Pennsylvanian, it exhibits stunning proportions that make it highly photographic and its setting further accentuates the perfection of its form. This is the only barn in the survey which represents a genuine concern for an aesthetic approach. This concern is echoed in the cutout work on the doors which are under the unsupported forebay, and in the chamfering on the beams. We sense an overall refinement a beauty arising out of necessity through craftsmanship.



Until we go inside, the date of 1820 is hard to justify, but the interior reflects the heritage the barn takes from the early European forms. We see the familiar double crib log structures, pointed by V notching, and equally as crudely hewn and constructed as those in the barns of the Catawba Valley. The variation here is the exceptionally wide dog trot which creates additional length and space within the barn. Problems arise, however, because a central support is necessary to stabilize the construction. We notice that the front of the barn on the upper level lacks symmetry because the double doors, rather than being centered, are both to the right. The roof, however, is higher in the center and then slopes over the cribs, creating an uneven roofline across the front. The track upon which the doors slide is placed higher than the roof over the cribs and thus the track cannot extend to the right. Therefore, to open the doors, they must both be pushed as far to the left as possible. This is disturbing at first but quite logical since the central support is so necessary. It serves to point out that consistency of craftsmanship is difficult to maintain, but far more important, it shows that practicality is an inescapably dominating factor.

The White barn increases in significance when it is compared and contrasted to the representative types already discussed. More strongly here than in any other Roanoke County barn we may apply the phrase, a 'barn within a barn,' because we have one distinct entity enclosing another. This concept is unique because each successfully maintains its own identity. Essentially, this is a compromise of mutual respect meeting the demands of practicality and the capabilities of the builders. The fact that aesthetics can also be a consideration points toward an increasing degree of sophistication.

Much as we admire the exterior of the barn, it is little more than a mimic of the fully developed Pennsylvania barn architecture. The interior, while it may look backward, acts as a unifying factor to integrate the barn into the Roanoke County region. Although both of the ideas which create the barn are German derived, still, the double crib form has become so traditional in this area that it can almost take on an aura of being indigenous. In reality, these two German ideas represent different stages of a developing mentality. In Pennsylvania, the earlier form evolved into the more refined form with little concern for its heritage. In Roanoke County, however, we see a persistence of traditional patterns which still reveal themselves for over 100 years despite technological advances.

When we look at the White barn with all of these ideas in mind, it is clear that it was a rather forward looking structure. It adapted itself to the demands of southwestern Virginia and by so doing, it became a part of Roanoke County, not a mere Pennsylvania transplant.



Much concentration has been centered upon the Catawba section of the county but the Pennsylvania Germans were not enticed by the entire county. South of the city of Roanoke, shale prevailed and thus soft wood trees such as pines were dominant. The Germans shied away from such an area and it was (and still is) largely underdeveloped.

This area has a noticeably different character from that of the Catawba Valley. There are very few older barns left to cite as examples, since most in this area now date from the late 1800's and early 1900's. In these barns we see queen post construction, sawn beams, and lightly constructed bents joined by mortise and tenon construction and pinned. There is also much diagonal bracing. The point here is to show the technological advance but we must keep in mind that a different mentality is responsible for these barns, one which is losing the feel of the material per se and becoming concerned with the modernistic way of doing things. One cannot feel nostalgia in such a barn, nor can one develop a sense of the character of the owner or the builder. These barns are containers, nothing more.

The southern corner of Roanoke County, between Montgomery and Floyd Counties is largely orchards (particularly Routes 612 and 786). This country is devoid of any barns except those of extremely recent origin. Bordering on Franklin County, however, the diligent searcher is rewarded with two superb single crib log barns dating from the mid 1800's. They are located off Buck Mountain on the old McQuire property and are perfect illustrations of the 'barns of Appalachia' in the Henry Glassie sense.

These barns are of the simplest 'Lincoln log' construction with no foundation evident or necessary. The logs are saddle notched in the crudest manner and a structure is ready which is easily adapted to many needs. One of these barns never constitutes the sole barn of a farm since stabling is not their primary purpose, thus we should expect to see at least two on a fair sized establishment. (There is also a log corn crib on the property adjacent to the original log dwelling of the McQuire family.) Here is an example of feeling for material and respect for the labor of man. The crudity of the construction is evident but not offensive and the structures have a special integrity.

Of course, the barns do indicate a certain backwardness in light of previous examples but they are the product of a different type of people. It is quite possible that the builders were part of a trader element that is known to have moved southward through this Buck Mountain area. Such spontaneous construction is indicative of a trader mentality, an ability to meet one's needs by the means most readily available. These people were not homesteaders in the Pennsylvania





**Old Cook barn on Lee Highway, near Salem, has been destroyed.**



**Single crib log barn is on McGuire place near Buck Mountain, south of Roanoke.**

German sense, rather they were frontiersmen and such a farm complex may well stand as a representative of man's ability to deal with and yet not disturb his environment.

It should be clear by this time that Roanoke County, despite constant reference to it in local historical terms as a "Johnny come lately," is actually a complex and highly influential area. The sequence of necessity, coupled with the Pennsylvania German veneration of



their stock animals, led to a building hierarchy which placed the barn above the home dwelling in terms of priority. Such a mentality is no longer viable or valid in present day society but within the context of the German way of life, it expressed a sense of direction and purpose. The barn architecture of Roanoke County was representative of a striving for cultural relevance arising out of a different historical situation and a different reality.

Today, the traditional patterns are breaking down in the face of a paced urban industrialized society. Barns everywhere are usually constructed with a low gambrel roof of tin and walls of cement blocks, supported by a prefabricated truss. The alternative to this is the nondescript sheet metal rectangle which is a sorry relation of the earlier barns. Yet, in all fairness, we must admit that such barns meet the needs of the times and allow man to give forth greater efforts towards those things which are more meaningful to him now and for the future. Modern values express a different mentality from the one which saw these early barns as landmarks of distinction and advancement. The nineteenth century barns of Roanoke County and elsewhere express in a concrete form the reality of the early American experience and the lives of its citizens.

*"I know of no way of judging the future but by the past"*  
(Patrick Henry)

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## Old Paintings Recorded

As part of the Bicentennial of American Independence, the National Collection of Fine Arts at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington is conducting an Inventory of American Paintings executed before 1914.

The Roanoke Valley Historical Society is cooperating with this inventory and its members and friends who own paintings done before 1914 have been urged to notify the Society at P. O. Box 1904, Roanoke 24008, or Miss Abigail Booth, Coordinator, Bicentennial Inventory of American Paintings, National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560. A report form is available but only a brief description is needed.

Purpose of the program, according to Miss Booth, is "to discover as many historically lost American paintings as possible and return them to record alongside their better recognized fellows, creating a truly comprehensive index of American paintings."



# Col. George Plater Tayloe, *A Builder of Hollins College*

by MARGARET P. SCOTT AND RACHEL WILSON

At its annual meeting on June 3, 1896, Col. George Plater Tayloe of "Buena Vista" in Roanoke, president of the Hollins Institute Board of Trustees, presided for the last time. He died on April 18 of the next year. The Board's assembly on June 5 was devoted chiefly to recognizing the invaluable service which Col. Tayloe rendered to Hollins for over fifty years. Presiding was Judge W. B. Simmons of Fincastle, vice president of the trustees.<sup>1</sup>

A committee was chosen to put in writing the board's opinion of its former chairman. It was composed of Charles L. Cocke, Michael Graybill and Col. Thomas Lewis. The letter which William H. Pleasants, secretary of the board, was instructed to send to Col. Tayloe's daughter, Mrs. Mortimer M. Rogers of "Buena Vista", incorporates these sentiments. These expressions of esteem were spread upon the minutes of June 5 and published in other places, as the conclusion of Professor Pleasants' communication shows.<sup>2</sup> We reproduce below the document in full: it is of primary importance for understanding the early decades of Hollins; moreover, this essay is an attempt to make its meaning more concrete.<sup>3</sup>

Hollins, June 8th, 1897

Mrs. M. M. Rogers,  
Roanoke

Dear Madam:

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hollins Institute, held June 5, 1897, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, and I was directed to transmit them to the family of your honored father:

Col. George P. Tayloe, President of this Board, died on the 18th day of April, 1897, in the 93rd year of his age.

Col. Tayloe belonged to the higher type of Virginia gentlemen, who, in former generations, not only constituted the chief ornament of society, but gave to the Commonwealth its strength and its glory. He was a man of the highest integrity of character, and of the most kindly and generous sympathies towards all classes. His kindred and relationships, his education and training,

*Miss Scott and Miss Wilson, professors emeritus at Hollins, have written of their college in earlier Journals. Miss Scott taught history and Miss Wilson taught French and was head of the humanities division.*





**George P. Tayloe as a young man**

his personal culture and acquirements and his ample wealth, all combined to place him in the highest circles and associations of life. But he was, nevertheless, a man of the people, whom all delighted to honor. He was every man's friend, and, therefore, every man was his friend. Personally known in many sections and in different states, and thus having a numerous acquaintance, he could say, with truth, as he did on his dying bed, that he did not know of a single enemy he had in all the world, and certainly, he added, he bore no enmity in his heart to any being, living or dead.

The death of such a man always makes a void, and, in this case, one which is universally felt, regretted and bemoaned. But Col. Tayloe was more than this. He was a man and a citizen, devoted to the interest, the honor and the prosperity, both of his native state, and of the great sisterhood of states, of which it is so prominent a member. He was advanced to places of honor and trust by his fellow citizens, and always acquitted himself with the highest integrity and full approbation of his constituents.

Col. Tayloe was an earnest and active friend of this Institution from its first inception, and continued to be such to the close of his long life. In fact, he saved the property to the Trustees when it was in great jeopardy. Acting as administrator on



the estate of which it was a part, he postponed forced collections of the past-due payments of the purchase money to the utmost limits of the law, and personally aided in their liquidation. Taking an earnest interest in the school from the beginning, he was soon placed on the Board of Trustees, and then made its President, —which position, with brief intervals, he held for nearly fifty years. His dignity, foresight, prudence and wisdom kept this Board entirely harmonious for the long period of his Presidency, and this largely contributed to its success and prosperity. The school never had a faster friend, and the Board never a more zealous and useful member. Therefore, Resolved: That, in the death of Col. Geo. P. Tayloe this Board has lost one of its most efficient, useful and honored members, and this institute a true and faithful friend through all its long history.

Resolved: That this paper be placed upon the records of this Board and published in the Semi-Annual of the School; and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

A copy from the record.

With sincere sympathy for you in your great loss, I am

Yours very Truly,

Wm. H. Pleasants

Secretary of the Board

The gentleman to whom this tribute was paid was born at "Mt. Airy" in Richmond County, Va., Oct. 16, 1804. His father was John Tayloe III (1771-1828), whose parents were John Tayloe and Rebecca Plater, sister of Gov. George Plater of Maryland. In 1758 John II built his mansion, "Mt. Airy", upon the Rappahannock River estate which had belonged since the seventeenth century to the Tayloe family. In 1792 their son, the third John, intimate friend of George Washington, married Anne, daughter of Gov. Benjamin Ogle of Maryland and granddaughter of Gov. Samuel Ogle of that colony. In 1800 John III built the Octagon House in Washington. He was likewise a founder of St. John's Episcopal Church in that city. These facts alone indicate the distinction of many of the men and women of George Plater's family. Certainly it was conspicuous for colonial governors!<sup>4</sup>

In 1825 young Tayloe received his A.B. degree from Princeton. In 1822 he had joined the famous Whig Society in that college.<sup>5</sup> Shortly after graduation he was sent by his father to take charge of John III's considerable properties on Tinker Creek and in Catawba Valley in Botetourt County. In 1817 there had come into John III's hands 1,132 acres of land belonging to Thomas Madison. Included in this property were two iron furnaces: "Martha"—sometimes called "Cloverdale"—on Tinker Creek and the Catawba furnace known as "Catawba II." Both furnaces appear on contemporary maps.

"Martha" and "Catawba II" were still functioning in the time of



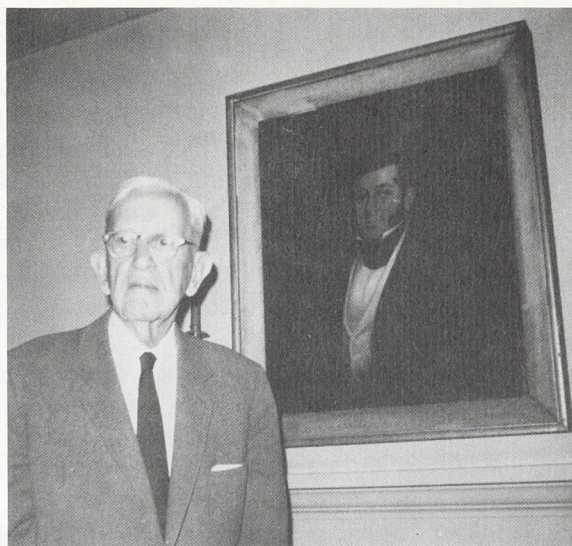
the Civil War. So was another venture of Col. Tayloe's—his cotton plantations. About 1832-34 he and his brothers began "settling" plantations in the Alabama "Canebrake". The extent of their enterprise made them the most important cotton planters of the region. In the next generation two of Col. Tayloe's sons were active in the "cotton kingdom" which their father had helped to found: Col. George Edward Tayloe, C.S.A., and Major John William Tayloe, C.S.A. George Edward went from "Buena Vista" in Virginia immediately after his graduation from Virginia Military Institute in 1858. John William—the eldest son of Col. George Plater Tayloe—was perhaps the most notable of the young cotton planters of the "Canebrake" in the decade of 1850-1860.<sup>6</sup> On his twenty-sixth birthday, Oct. 16, 1830, George P. Tayloe had married Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Col. William Langhorne of Cloverdale. Three years later the young man acquired from his father-in-law 598 acres upon the Roanoke river where he began to build his residence "Roanoke". In turn he conveyed his Cloverdale property to Col. Langhorne. When in 1839, the "Roanoke" lands were included in the new county of that name the plantation was renamed "Buena Vista". Its master became a very successful farmer.<sup>7</sup>

But economic activities and family affairs by no means claimed all the attention of a man so concerned with the welfare of others. Like his father before him, he labored in the vineyard of the Christian Church. St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle in Botetourt and Old St. John's in Big Lick in Roanoke County include George Plater Tayloe among their founders and generous supporters. For years he was St. John's senior warden.<sup>8</sup>

In 1839 Tayloe was elected a gentleman justice of Botetourt County. In 1858 Roanoke County sent him as its delegate to the Virginia Legislature; and on Feb. 4, 1861 he was chosen by the people of the county to represent them in the special convention called by the General Assembly to decide on Virginia's course in the Secession crisis. On April 17 the Ordinance of Secession was adopted by a vote of 88 to 43. Tayloe voted in the negative. When war came he supported the Confederacy. Two of his sons fell in that cause: Lieut. James Tayloe of the Confederate Navy and Lieut. Lomax Tayloe of the 2nd Virginia cavalry.<sup>9</sup>

However, it is with this gentleman's interest that we are principally concerned. For years he served as a valued member of the board of trustees of Roanoke College in Salem.<sup>10</sup> But we wish to elaborate upon his labours for the academy at Botetourt Springs, and to do so is to return to the document with which we began! Our place of departure was the letter in which the trustees of Hollins Institute expressed their profound appreciation of Col. Tayloe's con-





**Tayloe Rogers stands by portrait of his grandfather, about 1966.**

tributions to that school. In Professor Pleasants' words, these began with "the first inception" of Hollins. And what was that "first inception"? After Edward William Johnston's little Roanoke Female Seminary at the Botetourt Springs lost its struggle with oblivion, and the efforts of the Reverend Joshua Bradley to conduct a school at that place were faced with a similar fate, a group of local men and two women—acting under the urging of Mr. Bradley—met in the Baptist Meeting House near Salem to try to revive the enterprise. This gathering was on May 23, 1843. The Reverend Absalom C. Dempsey, a Baptist clergyman, was made president and George P. Tayloe, treasurer and secretary pro tem. Bradley's constitution for a "Valley Union Education Society" was unanimously adopted. This, in turn, provided for the establishment of the "Valley Union Seminary" for all denominations and both sexes.

The organizers agreed that four directors should be chosen and that 13 trustees be selected; an agent, or agents, should be named to collect money. The minutes of this meeting were duly signed by the treasurer-secretary and attested to be "a true copy" by I. Brosius.

The Valley Union Educational Society applied for a charter to the legislature. This it received on Jan. 13, 1844. On Feb. 14 this charter of a "body politic" was laid before the Society's members at Botetourt Springs. On this occasion Colin Bass served as secretary. The document was accepted, only two members dissenting. A committee of three, George P. Tayloe chairman, nominated the 13 trustees. His colleagues insisted on naming Tayloe president of this group which was elected unanimously."



On March 14-15 the V.U.E.S. elected A. C. Dempsey president; Mr. Bass continued as secretary. Evidently the majority of members had been absent in February, so the charter was re-accepted and the trustees re-elected! It was decided to rent the Botetourt Springs property to agent Joshua Bradley; his contract was made with Tayloe, "executor of George Blain dec'd and agent of James Blair and Hezekiah Daggs", owners of the property, and was ratified by the Society. A resolution was adopted affirming that "the thanks of this Society is (sic) due to Mr. George P. Tayloe for the liberal proposition he makes to the Society to extend the payment of (sic) the property at Botetourt Springs".<sup>12</sup>

In April the Society discussed proposed Rules and Bye (sic) Laws. Next it declared that charges made "in a vague manner" against Joshua Bradley were without foundation; Bradley was continued as general agent at a salary of \$475 a year. These proceedings were to be published in the *Religious Herald*.<sup>13</sup>

The last meeting of 1844 saw Bradley's resignation. His report of work since "April last" was unsatisfactory. Nevertheless, he received the good wishes and thanks of the group for his "zeal—in originating and sustaining this institution".<sup>14</sup> In March 1845 the school was leased to steward James Leftwich for \$100 annually. He was to board "both males and females". Tuition was to pay teachers' salaries.<sup>15</sup>

George P. Tayloe was not listed as present at the two meetings just referred to. But on March 19th the trustees of V.U.E.S. elected him its president, and two months later he was presiding in that capacity; his signature concludes the minutes.<sup>16</sup>

If the parent organization met in 1846 we have no record of the fact. The trustees, however, assembled once before May 25. But it was May 25 that was important: what to do about the school property was much on the trustees' minds. In the meantime President Tayloe was in correspondence with Dr. Robert Ryland of Richmond College regarding a person willing to "come up" to be "principal and Steward of the institution".

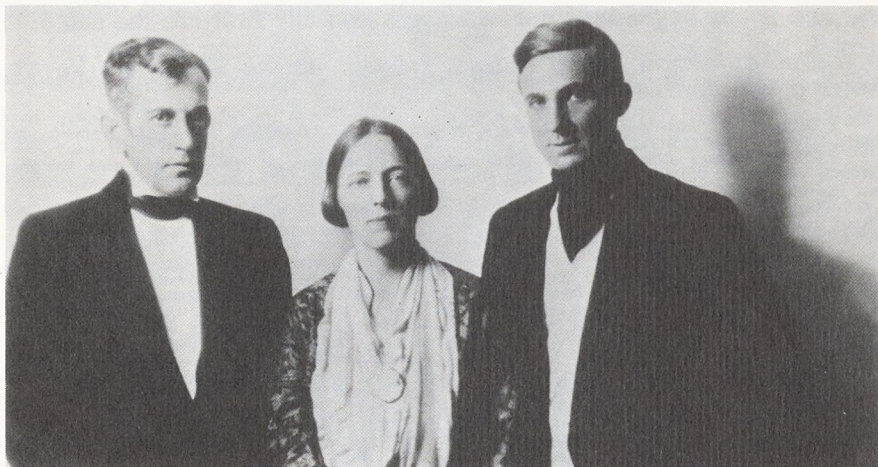
Dr. Ryland nominated for this position Charles Lewis Cocke, teacher of mathematics at Richmond College; this young man was invited to take the post. The chairman of the Trustees on June 2 reported that Mr. Cocke had accepted. It was agreed at that time that Mr. Cocke's proffer of a loan of \$1500 to the Society should be paid to the chairman of the board and applied to the purchase of the Springs from that group of individuals whose executor and commissioner, as we know, was George P. Tayloe. Again thanks were extended the chairman "for his uniform kindness and liberality toward this institution".<sup>17</sup>

The last week in June, Charles Lewis Cocke, aged 26, and his



wife, Susannah Pleasants, arrived at what was left of the little seminary at the foot of Tinker Mountain. With their coming ends the first lesson in the history of Hollins! And beginneth the second lesson in that book!

Among other things, the story for half a century was to be one of a collaboration between the older man—president of the trustees of the V.U.E.S. and from 1855-56 of the board of Hollins Institute—and the younger, principal first of the Seminary and then of the Institute.



**During the April, 1927 Alumnae Easter Pilgrimage to Hollins College, Tayloe Rogers (left) appeared as his grandfather, George P. Tayloe; Mary Stuart Cocke Goodwin and her brother, C. Francis Cocke, as their grandparents, Susannah Pleasants and Charles Lewis Cocke.**

It is not too much to say that the destiny of "the Institution" was in the hands of George Plater Tayloe and Charles Lewis Cocke. To make this assertion is not to overlook for a moment the gifts of generous donors, particularly those of Mr. and Mrs. John Hollins, or of the devoted service given year in and year out by Trustees, other members of the administration, by teachers and by servants. But the type of responsibility assumed by the chairman and the principal was essential to the school's survival, and neither could have been so effective without the other.

Surely there are few records of appreciation as revealing as the letter of June 8, 1897 which the Trustees sent to the bereaved family at "Buena Vista" after Col. Tayloe's death. It will be recalled that Mr. Cocke was one of the three gentlemen chosen to draw up the "preamble and resolutions" which compose it. Certainly he was in a position to know what Col. Tayloe had meant as "true and faithful", as "earnest and active", friend of Hollins.

The fourth paragraph of the preamble is a history in miniature of one man's impact upon the school from the time he saved the



property of the "Institution" "to the close of his long life". Wisely the authors of the testimonial include an expression of their admiration for a superior person: his bearing, his qualities of mind and character. These imponderables had much to do with keeping entire harmony in the Board—"and this largely contributed to its success and prosperity".

Thus the wheel has come full turn in our attempt to make a letter of tribute to a builder of Hollins College more meaningful. In our end is our beginning: our last pages and our first are the same!

(For an article on Col. Tayloe's home, Buena Vista, see Vol. 1, No. 2 of the Journal.)

1 Hollins Archives: Board of Trustees Minute Book I, 1843-1900: pp 97-98. This is the College's "Book of Genesis"!

2 Hollins College Library: THE SEMI-ANNUAL Publication of the Euzelian and Euepian Literary Societies. Hollins Institute, Va. June, 1897: pp. 97-98. Roanoke, Va.; Stone Printing and Manufacturing Co., 1897.

3 (See p. 15) Photostat of the original in the possession of Tayloe Rogers, Esq. of "Southdowns", Roanoke. Mr. Rogers, a grandson of Col. Tayloe, was born and raised at "Buena Vista". He died Feb. 22, 1972. Without his kind assistance this paper could not have been written. He has given valuable materials to the College Library, has spent time showing us other items at "Southdowns", has counseled with us—in short, has been our "Indispensible man"! We wish to express appreciation also to Kathleen Kelly Coxé '21, to Willard N. James, vice president of Hollins, and to Mrs. Garland Hopkins of "Garland Orchards", Botetourt County. Mrs. Coxé talked to Mr. Rogers about papers which he was willing to make available for a study of his grandfather. We were encouraged, therefore, to ask him to add his records to what we had collected—especially those throwing light on Col. Tayloe's work for the school that grew up at Botetourt Springs. Whatever we undertake we can count on Mr. James. This paper has been no exception to the rule of his kindness! We are glad to say the same of our friend, Mrs. Hopkins, who journeyed into the depths of St. Mark's Church in Fincastle in search of data concerning Col. Tayloe's interest in that venerable institution. Finally, we are indebted to Laura Gustafson, associate professor emeritus of Latin and French in Hollins College, for expert aid so generously given with the illustrations.

4 Albert W. Atwood, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, Vol. CXI, No. 6, June 1947, pp. 711 seq. W. Randolph Tayloe, THE TAYLOES OF VIRGINIA AND ALLIED FAMILIES. Berryville, Va. 1967. Esp. p. 57.

THE RICHMOND TIMES, "Masters of Historic Mt. Airy". Richmond, Va. June 26, 1898. Thomas T. Waterman, THE MANSIONS OF VIRGINIA. Chapel Hill: Univ. of N. C. Press 1945. (New York: Bonanza Books, n.d.) pp. 253-261.

5 Princeton University: GENERAL BIOGRAPHICAL CATALOGUE 1746-1916, V. L. Collins, ed. Data on Tayloes at Princeton kindly sent to Hollins Archives.

6 Kathleen Bruce, VIRGINIA IRON MANUFACTURE IN THE SLAVE ERA. New York: The Century Company, 1930. pp. 16-18; 63-64.

John D. Capron, THE VIRGINIA CAVALCADE. Vol. 17, No. 2, Autumn 1967, p. 12.

John Witherspoon DuBose, ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY. Vol. 9, No. 4, Winter 1947. Esp. pp 492-494; 525.

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Tayloe Rogers Papers: MEMORANDUM, February 19, 1942, pp. 1-2. Hollins Archives: Unpublished typescript.

Robert Stoner, Botetourt County: A SEED-BED OF THE REPUBLIC, A STUDY OF THE PIONEERS OF THE UPPER (SOUTHERN) VALLEY OF VIRGINIA. Roanoke, Va.: The Roanoke Historical Society, 1962. pp. 161, 434.

Philip Henry Trout, LOCAL OLD FURNACES AND FORGES. Typescript: 2nd ed. revised 1953. B12, p. 6; B13 "Martha" furnace. B31, C32b. Roanoke, Va. Public Library. Photostat: John Wood's map of Botetourt Co., 1821.

7 Tayloe Rogers Papers, op. cit., p. 2; John S. Wise, THE END OF AN ERA. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1899. pp. 219-221.

8 Edward H. Ingle, "THE CHURCH IN ROANOKE". Sermon preached in Christ's Church, Dec. 14, 1902 and in St. John's Church Feb. 8, 1914. Hollins Archives: Photostat, esp. pp 4, 7.

9 Tayloe Rogers Papers, op. cit., pp. 3-5.

Robert D. Stoner, op. cit., pp. 347, 444.

10 BIOGRAPHICAL REGISTER OF MEMBERS VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION OF 1861 FIRST SESSION, p. 75.

William Edward Eisenberg, THE FIRST 100 YEARS, ROANOKE COLLEGE, 1842-1942, Salem, Va.: The Trustees of Roanoke College, 1942. pp. 63-64.

11 Hollins Archives: MINUTES BOOK I, pp. 9-11; Margaret P. Scott and Rachel Wilson, "Edward William Johnston and the Roanoke Female Seminary."

12 Ibid., pp. 12-13. Salem, Va.: Roanoke County Court House, Deed Book D, p. 137. Grantor Index to Deeds, p. 67.

13 Ibid., pp. 15-16.

14 Ibid., p. 17.

15 Ibid., pp. 18-20. The teachers named were Geo. Pearcy, Miss L. A. Stoddard, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Leftwich.

16 Hollins Archives: MINUTES BOOK, II. Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Valley Union Education Society, April 1844 - July 1856, inclusive. pp. 4-7.

17 Ibid., pp. 10-15.



# *Where the Brethren Settled*

by ROGER SAPPINGTON

The evidence available to us now indicates that the earliest Brethren in Virginia were members of the Funk family from the Brethren settlement at Ephrata, Pennsylvania, who purchased land on the north side of the North Branch of the Shenandoah River, near the present town of Strasburg, in 1735.

During the next few years the Funk brothers, Jacob and John, added to their holdings of land in this area, part of a large tract which had been granted by King Charles II to Lord Culpeper, from whom it passed to his son-in-law, Lord Fairfax. The Funk settlement served as an outpost and haven for all later Brethren groups traveling up the Valley to settlements farther south, because the Funks were at the northern edge of the German settlements in the Valley. Most of the land stretching north from Strasburg to the Potomac River was settled by Englishmen.

For a number of years, most of the Brethren moving southward simply passed by the Funks on the way to settlements in the Carolinas. However, in the 1750's with the coming of the French and Indian War, the more protected Funk settlement became a refuge for Brethren who were being forced out of other settlements. The most important leader of this movement was Samuel Eckerlin, whose home farther west in the Monongahela River area had been destroyed in 1757 by the Indians and two of whose brothers had been taken captive, never to return. Samuel Eckerlin had some skill as a physician, and he erected a building to be used as an apothecary shop and laboratory. During this period, George Washington, who was commanding a detachment of troops engaged in the war against the Indians, became quite concerned about Eckerlin's activities in relation to the French and the Indians; Eckerlin was arrested but freed by the governor of the colony.

Another incident in which the Brethren were investigated by political authorities involved two Brethren named Sangmeister and Hollenthal, who built a tiny cabin high upon the peak of Massanutten Mountain to provide an opportunity for solitude and meditation.

*Dr. Sappington, head of the History Department at Bridgewater College, is completing a history of his church in Virginia. This article appeared in part in the Brethren Messenger. He also is the author of a biography of the Rev. Reuel B. Pritchett of Maryville, Tenn., collector of 5,000 historical items stored at Bridgewater College. Mr. Pritchett is a brother-in-law of the late R. A. Poff, an active member of this Society.*



Their periodic retreats to the cabin aroused the suspicion of their neighbors, and their general queerness set in motion rumors that they were counterfeiting money or practicing the Roman Catholic mass or something else odd. Finally, the reports came to the attention of the sheriff in Winchester, Colonel James Wood, who traveled to Strasburg to investigate. Before his arrival, the two hermits learned of the impending action and completely destroyed their cabin. When the sheriff arrived, he conducted a thorough investigation, including a trip to the mountain peak; he was "greatly interested, and said he would cheerfully give a doubloon if the laura (cabin) were still intact, as it was for so good a purpose."

The ultimate fate of this Brethren settlement is not completely clear from available evidence. Some of the Brethren became frightened by later Indian attacks and returned to Pennsylvania. Some of them returned and settled in the town of Strasburg, which was officially chartered in 1761. One of the finest wells in the community became known as the Dunker's Well, a reference to the name by which the Brethren were frequently known. Also, the Brethren became known for a pottery kiln constructed on the property of Anton Hollenthal. After his death, the property passed into non-Brethren hands. The mainstream of Brethren migration traveled to areas farther south where land was more abundant and less expensive, and this early settlement perished.

A delightful conclusion to this episode in Brethren history was written by Andrew Burnaby, who traveled in this area during the French and Indian War:

The low grounds upon the banks of the Shenandoah are very rich and fertile. They are chiefly settled by Germans, who gain a sufficient livelihood by raising stock for the troops and sending butter down into the lower parts of the country. I could not but reflect with pleasure on the situation of these people and think if there is such a thing as happiness in this life, they enjoy it. Far from the bustle of the world, they live in the most delightful climate and richest soil imaginable. They are everywhere surrounded with beautiful prospects and sylvan scenes; lofty mountains, transparent streams, falls of water, rich valleys, and majestic woods, the whole interspersed with an infinite variety of flowering shrubs, constitute the landscape surrounding them. They are subject to few diseases, are generally robust, and live in perfect liberty. They are ignorant of want and are acquainted with but few vices. Their inexperience of the elegancies of life precludes any regret that they have not the means of enjoying them; but they possess what many princes would give half their dominions for — health, content, and tranquillity of mind.



Probably, some people in the hurried twentieth century would also be willing to possess what these eighteenth-century Germans had!

One of the earliest groups passing by the Funks to settle on the wilderness frontier of Virginia traveled in 1745 to the New River area southwest of Roanoke. These pioneers came from the Ephrata Brethren group in Pennsylvania, although the settlement eventually came to include settlers from other Pennsylvania Brethren. The site which they chose for their settlement is located on the New River, where it divides at present-day Montgomery and Pulaski counties. The land was quite fertile, and the woods were filled with game. The Brethren named their settlement Mahanaim (Genesis 32:1-2), but the neighbors called it Dunker Bottom. Today, the area is largely inundated by Claytor Lake, the result of a manmade dam.

According to one source, the settlement on New River included families of Eckerlins, Macks, Zinns, Negleys, Millers, Shavers, Weisers, Graffs, Webers, Grebils, Freys, Landises, and Huffacres. One of the most fascinating names in the list is William Mack, who died in this area in 1745. He has never been identified as a member of the family of Alexander Mack, the founder of the Church of the Brethren. However, Alexander Mack Jr. was definitely one of the earliest Brethren in the New River settlement, and after his return to Germantown and his marriage there, he named his first son William. Was he named for his deceased uncle?

One account of the settlement was written in 1750 by Thomas Walker, of Albemarle County, an explorer employed by the Loyal Land Company:

16th March. We kept up the Staunton (River) to William Englishes. He lives on a small Branch, and was not much hurt by the Fresh (flood). He has a Mill, which is the furtherest back except one lately built by the Sect of People who call themselves of the Brotherhood of Euphrates, and are commonly called the Duncards, who are the upper Inhabitants of the New River, which is about 400 yards wide at this Place. They live on the west Side, and we were obliged to swim our Horses over. The Duncards are an odd set of people, who make it a matter of Religion not to shave their Beards, ly on Beds, or eat Fesh, though at present, in the last they transgress, being constrained to it, they say by the want of a sufficiency of Grain and Roots, they have not long been seated here. I doubt the plenty of deliciousness of the Vension and Turkeys has contributed not a little to this. The unmarried have no Property but live on a common Stock. They don't baptize either Young or Old, they keep their Sabbath on Saturday, and hold that all men shall be happy



hereafter, but first must pass through punishment according to their Sins. They are very hospitable.

This account would certainly indicate the frontier nature of the settlement. The picture Walker gives is generally quite accurate, including the commonly misunderstood name, Euphrates, but where he got the idea that they did not practice baptism is not clear; evidence would seem to indicate that all of the Brethren accepted baptism.

This early settlement did not become a permanent Brethren congregation for several reasons. For one, in 1750 the leadership of the settlement, the four Eckerlin brothers, returned to Pennsylvania; actually, they soon became pioneers again, but in an entirely different area, which is another story. In the meantime, the New River settlement was absorbed by the surrounding community. That is to say, various Brethren continued to live in the area but gradually lost their Brethren identity. One example was George Hoopaugh, who is identified in connection with Indian raids in the 1750s. It was reported later in 1757 that "no one but George Hoopaugh lived on Sinking Creek at the time. He continued there until 1775, when he moved off because of fear of the Indians." He had certainly been a courageous and persistent man to remain on the frontier that long, but he had not given up, for "he returned, however, when he claimed the land as by settlement and made a conveyance of it."

The second major reason why the settlement did not become permanent was the danger of Indian raids. One Brethren refugee fled in 1755 to the Moravian settlement in North Carolina. He reported that only a few days before he departed, "several families had been attacked, and part murdered, part captured; and the last night before his flight the family of one of his nearest neighbors had been murdered, only three miles from him." He knew of twenty-eight "persons who had been killed or taken prisoner." Clearly, the New River was no safe place for the white man, and those Brethren who could were fleeing. However, in their relatively brief stay, they had left an enduring mark which is still remembered in the area.

According to the available evidence, the first permanent Brethren settlement in Virginia began in the southern part of the Great Valley in present-day Franklin County, when Jacob Miller and his family settled on the North Fork of the Blackwater River in 1765. Miller had been born in 1735, possibly in Germany. However, he grew up in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, where he united with the Antietam Church of the Brethren which had members on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. He was elected to the ministry and ordained an elder before his migration to Virginia. Miller was very active as a preacher in southern Virginia, for preachers were generally quite rare on the frontier. During his thirty-five years in Vir-





**Old Brick Church between Boone's Mill and Rocky Mount in Franklin County is one of the Brethren's earliest in Western Virginia.**

ginia before he moved on to pioneer in Ohio and Indiana, he laid the foundations for many strong congregations in southern Virginia.

Among the many people on the frontier who were brought into the Church of the Brethren by Jacob Miller was an Englishman named William Smith. Little is known about his background but tradition reports that he came to America on an English troopship during the American War of Independence. However, he seems to have been opposed to military service and was not a soldier. At any rate, Smith settled in Virginia in present-day Floyd County, next door to Franklin County. Smith heard Miller preach and underwent conversion and baptism. Smith demonstrated unusual ability as a churchman, and consequently he and Miller began to travel together, with Smith preaching the gospel in English and Miller in German. They evidently made a good team, and they traveled quite widely in southern Virginia, usually on foot.

Based on the work done by Miller and Smith, the Brethren came to be organized informally as the German arm in Franklin County and the English arm in Floyd County. Eventually, the German speaking Brethren learned to speak English, and this designation was replaced by more formal organizational lines in the course of the nineteenth century. The settlement begun by Jacob Miller in 1765 increased in area and in numbers rather steadily both by immigration from Maryland and Pennsylvania and by community evangelism. It has become the center of a strong Brethren settlement today.

In addition to the Brethren who were settling on the south side



of the present-day city of Roanoke, a considerable number of Brethren were moving into Botetourt County on the north side of Roanoke. According to the available evidence, the earliest settlement was in the Amsterdam (Daleville) area about 1780. The earliest Brethren included many Germans from Maryland and Pennsylvania with such family names as Gish, Kinzie, Snider, Nininger, Winger, Lemon, Stoner, Beckner, Harshberger, Ammon, Noffsinger, Hoff, Peters, Rife, and Graybill. Within a few years after 1780 other families came, including the Moomaws, Murrays, Bonsacks, Arnolds, Fishers, Manguses, and Crumpackers. Many of the descendants of these families are members of Church of the Brethren congregations in the Roanoke area today, and many present-day congregations in Botetourt and Roanoke counties trace their ancestry back to these early settlers of the 1780s.

At about the same time in the 1760s that Jacob Miller was moving to southern Virginia other Brethren immigrants of the Good and Glick families were settling in the Flat Rock area of Shenandoah County some miles south of the Strasburg settlement. The nucleus of Brethren in this area did not begin to take on a distinctive Brethren identity until the coming in 1775 of John Garber, who had been a prominent Brethren minister in Pennsylvania and Maryland. He had been living within the bounds of the Beaver Dam congregation in Maryland since 1768 and part of his family remained in Maryland temporarily when he and the other children moved to Virginia in 1775.

Although a humble and modest man, John Garber did not hesitate to identify himself as a minister of the gospel and soon regular meetings for the worship of Almighty God were being held in the Flat Rock area. But where did they meet? No church building was erected in this area until 1841, so the obvious solution was the use of one another's homes. In fact, a number of early Brethren homes in this area were specifically constructed with hinged partitions between the rooms, so that all of the first floor except the kitchen could be opened into one large room for worship services.

The number of Brethren settlers in this area increased rapidly because of the American War of Independence. One result of the war was the end of religious persecution in Virginia; Article 16 of the Bill of Rights of the Virginia Constitution of 1776 legally brought a cessation to all prosecution for religious causes. The final step in establishing complete religious freedom was the separation of the Anglican Church and the state in 1786 by Thomas Jefferson's statute of religious liberty. Through these steps Virginia became a more desirable place for the Brethren to settle.

Another result of the war was the persecution of the Brethren in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Because they lived in the more heavily



settled areas in these states, great pressure was exerted on them to fight in the American army or at the very least to take an oath of allegiance to the new state governments. Their refusal for religious reasons either to participate in the army or to swear an oath led to the accusation of being a Tory or being disloyal to the American cause; the accusation was frequently followed by persecution which often involved the confiscation of property. For example, the property and press of Christopher Sauer Jr., the Brethren printer of Germantown, were seized and sold.

The Brethren often reacted to such persecution by fleeing, just as they had done in Europe fifty years earlier. The tradition persists that four Brethren families moved to the Flat Rock community in 1782 because their property in Pennsylvania and in Maryland had been confiscated by the government. Regardless of the reason, there is neither question about their arrival nor about their vital contribution to the building of the young congregation. They were Jacob Miller with his wife and three children from York County, Pennsylvania, Michael Wine with his wife and five small children, and Samuel and Martin Garber, sons of John, who had recently married sisters, the latter three families were from the Beaver Dam area in Maryland. Each of these families purchased farms and established homesteads in the settlement, thus contributing to the permanence of the Brethren around Flat Rock.

In 1787 the death of John Garber, who had taken on something of a patriarchal status among the Brethren, became the first recorded death in the Flat Rock Brethren settlement. According to one writer, "he was universally loved and admired, not only by those who knew him best, but by the scattered settlers and the roving Indians . . . . The legend still persists that several Indians were present "to witness" his death. He was interred in the family plot on his farm, and a small stone with the inscription "17 J H G 87" is all that marks his grave. Following his death, the mantle of leadership fell on the shoulders of two of his sons, Samuel and Martin, along with John Glick Jr., all of whom were Brethren ministers. They ably continued the work that had been so well begun by John Garber.

During the two decades of the 1780s and the 1790s, a large number of Brethren moved into the three present-day counties of Shenandoah, Rockingham, and Augusta. For convenience in ministering to the scattered Brethren, the leaders of the church in 1788 drew a line east and west along Market Street in Harrisonburg, dividing the Brethren into the Lower Rockingham and Shenandoah Brethren on the north side and the Upper Rockingham and Augusta Brethren on the south side. Within these two districts were five distinct congregations by the 1790s: from north to south, Flat Rock, Lower Linville



Creek (Broadway), and Upper Linville Creek (Greenmount) in the north, and Cook's Creek and Middle River in the south. The Garbers continued to be prominent leaders with Daniel Garber, and a son-in-law of John Garber, John Flory, in charge of the Cook's Creek group, and Abraham Garber, the leader of the Middle River settlement. Certainly, this family played a major role in the establishment of the Church of the Brethren in the Shenandoah Valley.

By 1800, the Church of the Brethren was well established in the state of Virginia. In the years from 1735 on the Brethren had pioneered in a number of areas, but by 1780 the pioneering days had passed in favor of permanent settlements. The Brethren had actually done more pioneering in Virginia than has sometimes been credited to them. For example, one outstanding Virginia historian has stated that the Brethren came to Virginia some two generations later than other groups, such as the Lutherans, the Reformed, and the Mennonites. Ample evidence has been cited to indicate the presence and importance of Brethren in the Shenandoah River area around Strasburg and in the New River area of southern Virginia during the first generation of settlers west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

With the ending of the American War of Independence, the Brethren began to move into Virginia in large numbers. They established two areas of permanent settlement, one in the north of the Shenandoah Valley and the second in the south in the Roanoke River Valley in Franklin and Botetourt counties. In both of these areas a large number of Brethren have continued to live and to worship in the twentieth century. Clearly, the Brethren had found something they liked in the limestone soil in the Great Valley of Virginia!

## *Digging at Looney's Ferry*

BY HOWARD A. MACCORD SR.

The Lipes Site lies on the right (south) bank of the James River, just west of the mouth of Looney Mill Creek, 1.5 miles west of the town of Buchanan and .4 mile east of the crossing of the James River by Interstate 81. The site is about 25 feet above normal river stage and has rarely been flooded. Probably in prehistoric times it did not flood at all. The site is owned by the Lipes family, to whom we are indebted for the privilege of making the present study of the site.

The site has been known to the archeological world for many years. A letter in the files of the Valentine Museum of Richmond, from Charles L. Wilson, dated July 9, 1903, reports the finding of burials on a point where Looney's Creek enters the James River. He reports that many burials were found and not removed, and that the site yields pottery, axes, etc. The burials were found about 1892



when an ice house was excavated on the site. In addition, many local collectors of Indian relics have found the site a productive place to search after each plowing. About 1966, Stuart Carter tested a spot near the river bank and found a deep refuse-filled pit, which he excavated.

A farm road perpendicular to the river leads from the high ground south of the river valley to the river bank at the western edge of the site. A corresponding road leads north from the north bank of the river. The river between the two ends of the road is still and deep, and here was the only suitable place for miles for ferrying across the river. The present farm roads are the survivors of the "Carolina Road" along which so many pioneers moved during the mid-18th Century, and the ferry was the well-known Looney's Ferry.

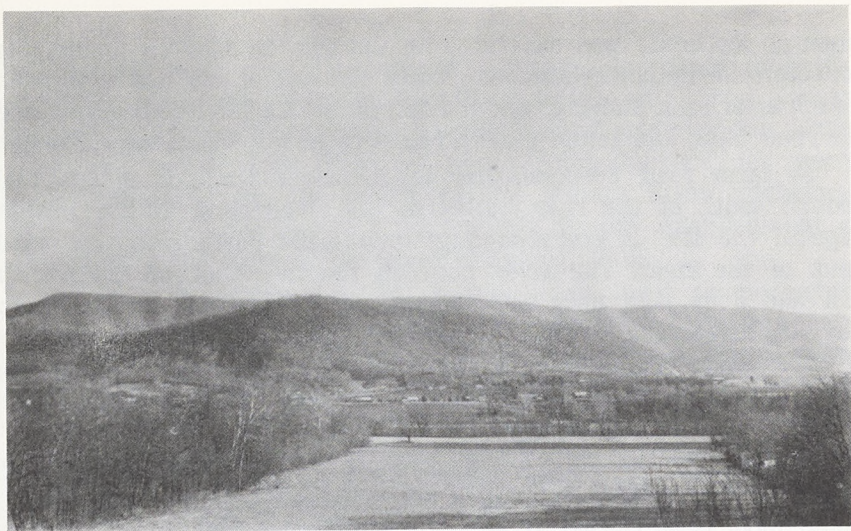
Because of the ideal topography of the site and its proximity to the road and the ferry-site, it was almost inevitable that the site would have been settled at an early date. While the earliest history of the site is unknown, it is certain that on July 30, 1742, Robert Looney patented the site, lived there and probably somewhat later, operated the ferry. Presumably, he also kept a tavern for lodging and feeding the travelers using his ferry and the Carolina Road.

With the growing threat of Indian attacks in 1754-55, Looney was obliged to fortify his homestead. He probably had enough men (he had five grown sons) at the tavern-ferry to man the fort for routine guard-duty, and he could count on neighbors and travelers to augment this force if an attack came. The fort was already in existence in 1755 and was called Fort Looney. Apparently the fort was never attacked, possibly because it was too strong. In 1758 the fort at Looney's ferry was renamed Fort Fauquier, in honor of the newly-arrived governor of the Colony. The subsequent history of the fort is uncertain.

We know that Robert Looney died in 1769, and one son, Absalom, pioneered into Tazewell County (Stoner, 1962). Looney's house continued to stand, with additions and changes until about 1914, when it was torn down. A solitary pear tree still stands as an indicator that the site was formerly a farmstead. In addition, there are people in the neighborhood who can remember the house. The site is now a plowed field, and much debris from the more than 175 years of occupation still litters the ground. Where the house formerly stood, the soil is filled with bricks and stones from the old foundations. The ferry was abandoned long ago, when the James was bridged at Bu-

*Col. Howard MacCord, archeologist for the Virginia State Library and treasurer of the Archeological Society of Virginia, has probably been responsible for the growing interest in archeology in the state more than any other man.*





**Lipes site is at distant pear tree, beside James River and Looney Ferry crossing (left).**

chanan, and the erstwhile Carolina Road became farm roads, leading to fields along the river.

The work was done in two increments. One week was devoted to the site in October, 1968 and another week at the end of September in 1969. The purpose of the work was two-fold. One purpose was to obtain an adequate sampling of the Indian occupations, and the other was to attempt to pinpoint, if possible, the location of Fort Looney (Fauquier). Both of these objectives were met in the work done. Most of the site remains for future study, and we urge the Lipes to protect the site against vandalism in the future, as they have done in the past.

The 1968 work yielded two important features—the ice-house, and the remains of Looney's house, plus important evidence of the Indian occupations. The 1969 work located additional Indian features and also produced a refuse-filled, V-shaped trench which almost certainly was the palisade ditch of Looney's Fort. Additional work should be done at the site to determine the full extent, shape, and associated features of the fort.

#### **Indian artifacts**

Artifacts were found throughout the excavated area and in nearly all features. The artifacts fall readily into two major classes—those of Indian origin and those of European origin.

Indian artifacts were made from stone, bone, shell and pottery. Nothing was found that would prove contact between the Indians and Europeans, and for this reason, we believe all the Indian artifacts to be of prehistoric age and most of the Late Woodland Period. Chips resulting from the manufacture of chipped stone implements



were saved from all levels and features. These prove to be entirely of locally available materials.

#### **Indian Component summary**

The evidence found indicates sporadic use of the site throughout Archaic (pre-ceramic) times, and this evidence is primarily Archaic Period projectile points. No features were defined which could be attributed to the Archaic Period, excepting possibly the stone hearth.

The main occupation of the site seems to have been during the Late Woodland Period, characterized by pottery of the Albemarle, Dan River, Radford and New River Series. While no complete house outline was uncovered, the two arcs of postmolds found indicate circular or oval houses. These would be compatible with houses found at numerous other sites in the Shenandoah and Roanoke drainages. No indication of community plan was found, although the elongate area of refuse parallel to the river bank suggests a linear arrangement of wigwams, as opposed to a circular or other compact layout.

Burials were flexed in disused storage pits, and nothing of an imperishable nature was buried with the dead. Subsistence was based on agriculture, supplemented by hunting, fishing and gathering.

The over-all culture of the Late Woodland component is most like that found at the nearby Lauderdale Site and also similar to those found further to the south and southwest in the valleys of the Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan Rivers.

#### **European artifacts**

Since the Lipes Site was occupied by European-built structures from about 1742 through 1814 and is still receiving occasional debris from contemporary activities, it is not surprising that the surface of the site yields many artifacts and much debris of European (American) origin. The surface indications of such materials were concentrated in a roughly-oval area 100 feet wide by 200 feet long, with the center just east of the lone pear tree and the long axis parallel to the river. From this distribution, we can assert with confidence that the house and many of the related outbuildings must have been near the pear tree. Trenching in the site and information from local residents prove this finding. The further east and south of the pear tree we worked, the scantier became the more modern debris. Further, sub-surface structural features attributable to European activity were also found near the pear tree. Since it was convenient to divide the artifacts into categories based on the materials from which manufactured, we shall describe them accordingly. The materials are stone, bone, glass, ceramics, and metals (iron, copper, brass, and lead).

#### **Stone artifacts**

One small gunflint of English flint was found in Level 1. It measures 5/8 inch long by 9/16 inch wide and seems to be of a size appro-



priate for use in a flintlock pistol. A jagged fragment of slate found in Level 2 may be merely a stray item, or it may hint that a slate writing tablet was broken and discarded at the site. A sandstone ball, measuring 15/16 inch in diameter was found in Level 2, and this is of unknown use. It seems too large to have been a marble, and it may be merely a curiosity brought to the site by some occupant of the house. Similar balls are often found as discards from a pulverizing mill, where stone balls were tumbled with pigment ores, thereby reducing the ore to a fine powder suitable for use in paints. As the round stones wore down, they became less efficient and were eventually thrown away.

#### **Bone artifacts**

Two fragments of bone knife handles were recovered from Level 1. Neither is of sufficient size to indicate the dimensions of the knife. One shows diamond-shaped checkering of the flat surfaces, and this was a common treatment of knife handles during the 18th and 19th centuries. Several fragments of cattle and other bones bore marks of cutting with saws and/or knives, but these are more properly considered domestic refuse rather than artifacts.

#### **Glass artifacts**

Fragments of window and bottle glass were rather numerous. No complete bottle was found, and none which could be attributed to the mid-Eighteenth Century was noted. Most of the glass seems to have been 19th and 20th Century refuse. Lumps of glassy slag were found—24 in Level 1, and 14 in Level 2. These seem not to have been made or produced at the site, since they seem most like the sort of slag which one finds in the waste pile of a charcoal-fired iron furnace. Since there were several such furnaces in the Buchanan area during the 19th Century, the slag can probably be attributed to these. Perhaps one of the residents at the Lipes Site during this century worked at a nearby furnace and brought home occasional examples of the glassy slag. If he also brought home an occasional scrap of iron (including at least one complete pig), this would account for the scrap iron castings found, as well.

Numerous fragments of ceramics of several categories were found on the surface and in the general excavations.

#### **Historic component summary**

The archeological remains of an early house enclosed by a palisade ditch, coupled with the abundance of historical debris on the surface and in the upper levels of the soil, comprise the evidence on which we base the identification of the site as that of Looney's Fort of the French and Indian War period. The great amounts of later debris and the two later features demonstrate the continuous use of the site into the 20th Century.



Since one purpose of the work was to locate and identify the site of Looney's Fort, this purpose was met. It was not intended to explore the site fully, and it is hoped that additional work at the site can be done by a qualified historical archeologist. When such work is done, we are confident that many questions about the fort which might now be asked will be answered. Until such work can be done, we urge the site owners to avoid damage to the site, either through farming activity or by unqualified excavators. The site is too important to Botetourt County history to allow it to become a mere plaything.

## *No. 1 Fire Station Is Celebrated*

*Roanoke's Fire Station No. 1 is an excellent example of Edwardian era firehouse architecture, having a richly embellished facade in the English Renaissance style of Sir Christopher Wren, and both handsome and well-preserved interior appointments. The building survives almost completely unaltered and provides a rare insight into the life of an early twentieth century fireman. Completed by 1908, the firehouse was designed by the Lynchburg architectural firm of Huggins and Bates, who took special pains to give the young city a building of particular dignity. As a functional structure with significant aesthetic quality, Fire Station No. 1 stands as testimony of the high architectural standards of the Edwardian era, and an important monument to the civic pride of early Roanoke.*

This was the evaluation of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in September, 1972 when the Fire Station was designated a Virginia Historic Landmark and nominated for the National Registry of Historic Places. The designation was doubly significant for the Roanoke Valley Historical Society because plans have been moving—slowly, but they are moving—toward acquisition of the building for use as a museum-headquarters. Members authorized creation of a special building fund at a November meeting.

Since the property is in the Downtown East urban renewal area, the U. S. Housing and Urban Development Department has indicated that it will grant up to \$90,000 for restoration and preservation of the fire station. But in late 1972, the City of Roanoke had not disclosed plans for a new site for its Fire Department headquarters company.

The tall, two-story brick building, topped by a bell tower, has been a fixture on East Church Avenue since it was built by J. F. Barbour for \$24,600 in 1907-08—when Roanoke had just passed its 25th birthday.





**Horse-drawn engines leave No. 1 Fire Station about 1912.**

A Vigilante Fire Company had been formed by a group of volunteers who met at Rorer Hall in 1882, the year Big Lick became Roanoke. Formally organized in 1884 with 40 men, headed by J. P. McConnell as chief, they met in an old carpenter shop at the present





**H. J. Daniel, 43-year fireman, points to photographs of disastrous Philip Levy fire of Aug. 31, 1928 at corner of present Third Street and Salem Avenue, SW, in downtown Roanoke.**

site of First (Henry) Street and Campbell Avenue, SW. Without a bell as an alarm, they beat on an old saw with an iron rod to summon help and their first equipment was a two-wheel cart with 500 feet of hose.

First firehouse for the Vigilante Company was built in 1888 at the northeast corner of Jefferson Street and Kirk Avenue and part of the building stands today! As young Roanoke began to expand, other volunteer groups, such as the Junior Hose, Union and Alert companies, were organized.

Horses were an essential part of the early fire-fighting operations which were described by oldtimers at a September meeting of the Society at its new downtown gallery at 17 East Kirk Avenue. Dozens of pieces of old fire-fighting equipment and related memorabilia were on display there from August through November.

H. J. Daniel, who served as a dispatcher from 1916 to 1959, vividly recalled the days when firemen got up at 5:30 to feed and care for the horses for \$60 a month and this had to cover the \$24 uniform. "We had jobs in those days—they have a position now," Daniel said.

Firehorses' bits were removed only when they drank water and their harness was suspended on hangers, ready for quick attachment when the fire bell rang. "You'd be surprised how fast those horses would run," Daniel said.



J. H. Carty, another veteran who began in 1912, says the sound of horses running on brick streets could be heard for blocks. In his first job, he drove the buggy for Chief Jim McFall and "you had to be there. . . . But when the buggy started, the chief took the lines. He wouldn't trust the driver."

Horses pulled steamers which operated like the old threshing machines. Hot water circulated to them at the station from a big boiler in the basement. But when the steamer pulled out and headed for a fire, this was disconnected and kindling was ignited in a fire box. When the engine reached the scene of the blaze, steam was built up and this provided pressure to throw water on the fire.

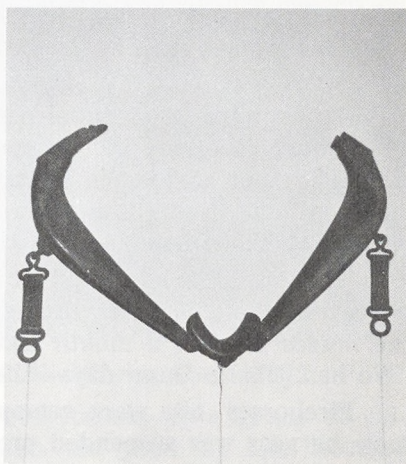
Daniel described a fire staged by Chief McFall for the benefit of a convention of firemen. McFall did not tell of his plan beforehand and he dramatically pointed to a blaze as the visiting firemen stood on a downtown corner. But Roanoke's firemen were at the scene and they quickly extinguished the fire.

Retired Fire Chief John Brown said his first assignment was to polish the brass at the new South Roanoke fire station when he came to the department from Franklin County in December, 1928.

The "Firematic" exhibit, the first of a series of special showings planned by the Society, was seen by about 1,500 people. Many of the items shown were loaned by Eric Miller, a Salem fireman who has an extensive collection of old fire equipment. Old helmets, badges, shields, and parts of uniforms, fire extinguishers, nozzles, a leather fire bucket, a pompier (firemen's ladder), lanterns, sirens, hose and many pictures of interesting fires were on display.



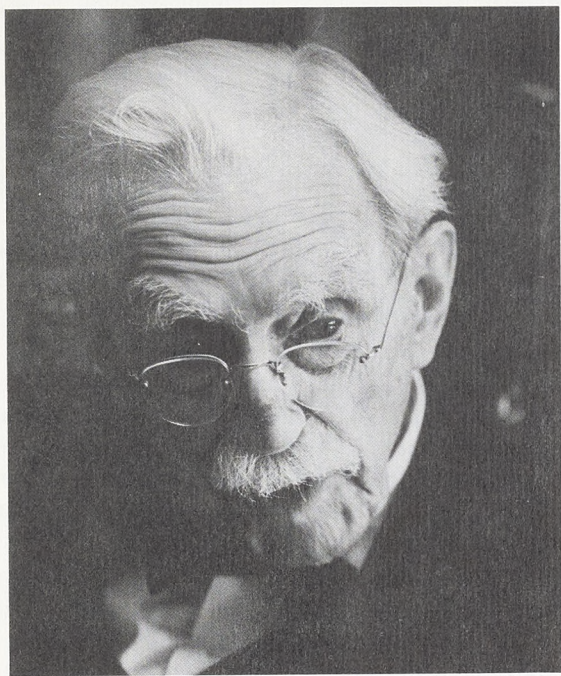
Old firemen's uniforms on display.



Horse collar ready for fast installation.



## The Remarkable Dr. Reid



**Dr. Emmet Reid at 100:**

*"I outwitted the statisticians by eating well, sleeping well and writing chemistry books."*

As the Town of Fincastle celebrated its 200th birthday in 1972, Dr. E. Emmet Reid, a Baltimore man who has lived through half of that span, recalled the circumstances of his birth in the Botetourt County seat more than 100 years ago. A grandson of Benjamin Ammen, the well-known Fincastle millwright, Dr. Reid is professor emeritus of chemistry at Johns Hopkins University and a scholar internationally recognized in organic chemistry.

Believed to be the oldest living alumnus of John Hopkins, Dr. Reid has done a remarkable amount of writing and research since his retirement and he produced an autobiography, "My First One Hundred Years," and received an honorary doctor of science degree in his centennial year.

His father was a Baptist minister, Thomas Reid, who had been a missionary to Nigeria from 1857 to 1864. Reid came to a meeting at the Baptist church in Fincastle and stayed at the home of Benjamin Ammen, where he met Ammen's daughter, Virginia, who was to become his wife. Their son, Emmet, was born on June 27, 1872.

Dr. Reid says that when he was three months old, his father was called to serve two churches in Arkansas. The son attended an academy in Chesterfield County and Richmond College, now the University



of Richmond, where he earned a master's degree at the age of 20 and he recalls that he has spent two or more years in each of 10 states. He taught at Mt. Lebanon College, earned his doctorate at Johns Hopkins in 1898 and later taught at the College of Charleston and Baylor University before returning to Hopkins in 1908. He retired as a full professor of chemistry in 1937.

In his book and in recent correspondence, Dr. Reid has told of his "strong sentimental attachment for Fincastle, although I have never lived there." And he has returned an old blanket, bearing the "N.A." initials of his grandmother, Naomi Ammen, to be placed in the Boteourt County Historical Museum. The blanket was given his mother when she was married in 1869. He said that his mother made him a suit from the material from the Ammen factory about 1895.

Dr. Reid recalls that Benjamin Ammen was a grandson of Durst Ammen, who came from Switzerland about 1748. "The family tradition is that Thomas Cross had a mill site and hired Benjamin, a millwright, to build a mill. When the mill was finished, Benjamin married Naomi, the daughter of Cross, and got the mill." Benjamin had three sons and five daughters.

Born at a time when four out of five Americans lived on farms, he says in his autobiography, "I have seen life on the farm, in a fishing village, in the Southwest and on the edge of metropolitan New York City. I have ridden in an ox cart, hundreds of miles in a buggy behind a horse, and thousands of miles in a railroad daycoach; the latter was heated in winter by a coal stove in one corner and cooled in summer by the breezes laden with soot and cinders that came in through the open windows. At the end of the trip the passengers were all the same color, which was not white."

Writing of industrial progress, he said that in the first of three stages, from the invention of the bow and arrow to the introduction of steam power, research had been the haphazard activities of individuals. "Toward the end of the eighteenth century, things began moving much faster. Inventors were busy in this second stage with cotton gins, reapers, sewing machines, the telegraph, electric lights and trolley cars, to name just a few. As I was born in 1872, I grew up in the latter part of this period . . . The third stage began with the takeover of research by industry. I received my doctor's degree from Johns Hopkins in 1898, just in time to become a participant in this great upsurge of research, training chemists and working as a researcher in both university and industry."

Dr. Reid has done some unusual things. As one of the first six men in chemical warfare in 1917, he said he introduced tear gas which is still in universal use. He came to be known as the "father of sulfur chemistry" and he holds 18 patents.





**Kitty Harris of Botetourt County holds blanket owned by Naomi Ammen and contributed by Dr. Emmet Reid, her grandson.**

Of his total of 138 research articles, 66 were published after retirement when he had no laboratory of his own. His greatest work, a six-volume treatise described as the bible of sulfur chemistry, was published between 1958 and 1966. Two years before he turned 100, he published a foreign language handbook for chemists.

He has been a consultant for such major chemical firms as du Pont, Thiokol and Mobil Research and Development for more than 40 years. He made 300 visits to a dozen Southern schools to lecture and advise on research. When his vision failed, students read to him and in order to continue writing, he taught himself touch typing at the age of 85.

His wife of 52 years died in 1967 and he has two sons, an administrator at the Medical College of Virginia and a San Francisco architect, and a daughter who lives in Baltimore with her family.



After 65, Dr. Reid recently told Chemical and Engineering News, "too many chemists slump down into their easy chairs and just vegetate. As a result, many of them die prematurely. The way to stay alive is to keep busy." Retirement years for a scientist, he said, can be rewarding when he can do what he really wants. "But he must find something worth doing, something really challenging. He can work in the fields of research, teaching, writing. He can become active in welfare projects and in working with children—anything that is productive."

But, Dr. Reid added, "Time is too precious to waste on trifling pastimes." Noting that only about .01 per cent of the U.S. population live to be 97 or older, he explained, "I outwitted the statisticians by eating well, sleeping well and writing chemistry books."

## *The Old Gish Ordinary*

BY RAYMOND P. BARNES

An ordinary in early Botetourt and elsewhere on the frontier was a place where meals were served and drink and lodging were available.

Permission to conduct an ordinary required an applicant to petition the court, present evidence of his good character and put up a bond with surety. A permit was granted but it was not to be effective until a license was procured. Alcoholic beverages had to be imported by a keeper of an ordinary in early Botetourt from some community like Staunton or perhaps from as far away as Baltimore.

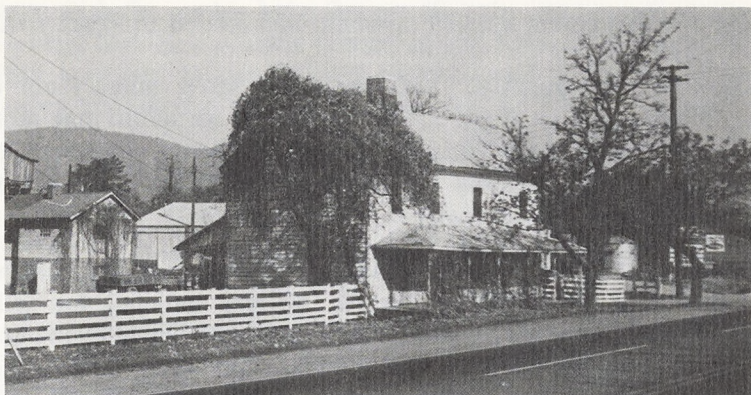
There was little need to pay the license tax until the goods arrived. Since this would have entailed a trip from Big Lick over indifferent roads 18 miles to the county seat at Fincastle, ordinary keepers frequently delayed payment of the tax until some convenient time but proceeded to "entertain" and dispense alcoholic drink when the shipment arrived.

Hence, it is not surprising to find a goodly number of keepers of ordinaries indicted for selling drink without a license. It may be remarked that all prices for lodging, board and drink were regulated by a court order. For example, the rate charged for three in a bed was much less than for a particular pioneer traveler who desired a bed to himself.

From the records, it would appear that one of the first ordinaries in the Big Lick neighborhood was conducted by Thomas Barnes at

*Raymond P. Barnes, Roanoke lawyer-historian, has forgotten very little of a vast amount of local history he has collected over many years.*





**George Gish Ordinary of 1793 was owned by John Seibel family before it was razed in 1964-65.**



**Interior of Gish Ordinary had old woodwork.**

the northwest intersection of U. S. 460 and 9th Street, NE. In the same year, William Campbell had an ordinary across from the gas tanks at the foot of Rutherford Avenue, NE, near a spring which still flows. His brother, Archibald Campbell, conducted an ordinary near the spring which may be seen today under the Crystal Tower Hotel (formerly the Ponce de Leon) on the northeast corner of Campbell Avenue and Second Street, SW.

Necessarily, these were small log cabins with trade confined primarily to pioneers traveling toward the cardinal points of the compass.

After the Revolution, George Spotts patented the 58 acres overlooked in previous surveys and on it conducted an ordinary. This became known as Big Lick and later in 1834, the Town of Gainsborough. The Big Lick, on semi-marshland, lay a mile or so east, opposite the ordinary of Thomas Barnes.

The new lands of Kentucky and Tennessee proved so attractive to the early restless Scotch-Irish that many sold their holdings to



settlers of German descent, many of whom had settled in Pennsylvania.

George Gish on April 9, 1793 purchased 107½ acres from Col. William Fleming and on Sept. 3, 1795 acquired an additional adjoining tract of 100 acres from Francis Graham. Gish now owned a good acreage lying on both sides of the Great Road or Big Lick-Richmond road east of Tinker Creek.

On Sept. 3, 1797, Gish was granted a permit to conduct an ordinary at his home. Like a number of his ilk, he was indicted for selling drink without a license but probably had the case dismissed when he appeared and paid the fee.

Mrs. Ola Gish Durr, a great-great-niece of George Gish, and I drove down to witness the demolition of the log house, framed over, in 1964. We are both of the opinion that the small log house at the eastern rear of the building was the original dwelling and ordinary of George Gish. Occupied by John G. Seibel and his family for almost 30 years, this house stood on the north side of U. S. 460, just across from the junction of Virginia 653 which leads to Vinton.

A larger log house later was erected adjoining the original which enjoyed a stairway leading to the second floor. Still later, as the family increased, a similar addition was made on the western end. At what date the house was covered with framework is unknown.

Once there were several old log houses in the Roanoke Valley, such as the George Gish home and the Garst House near Hanging Rock, which enjoyed two staircases leading to the upper apartments. The story is current that such approaches were employed to separate the men and women. Such was not the case for a second staircase was used simply because the owner thought it unwise to cut through the big logs separating the original from the addition.

The Gish Ordinary enjoyed a tranquil existence until March 14, 1809. Shortly before this the court ordered the overseer of the road to improve the highway between Big Lick and Liberty, now Bedford. The road originally ran in this vicinity, a bit south of the present Route 460, primarily to pass a spring which flows today.

It should be remarked that since the Great Road was originally an animal trail, used later by the Indians and in turn by pioneers, apparently this spring was the first "watering spot" east of Tinker Creek. When the overseer straightened the kink or curve in the road, the new route passed closer to the ordinary of George Gish but he found that his water supply was across the road. Accordingly,



George Gish Sr., or his heir, George Gish Jr., or a lessee at the orders of George Gish Sr., actually fenced in and blocked the new road, compelling travelers to use the old highway and to permit the ordinary to enjoy the spring without hindrance.

For this act, allegedly committed willfully and *vi et armis* (by force of arms), George Gish "formerly of this county," was indicted at the November, 1809 Court for blocking the highway from Big Lick to Stoner's (Bonsack). Apparently the Commonwealth prevailed and he was perforce compelled to accept the right of eminent domain.

George Gish died in 1830, leaving George Gish Jr., and Christian Gish as executors of his estate. By deed dated Sept. 16, 1833, "175 acres, including the Mansion House where George Gish resided before his decease, lying on the western road two miles east of the Big Lick," LeRoy Campbell acquired the ordinary, now known as a "House of Entertainment," for the sum of \$1,891.89.

John Campbell, 1775-1863, had two sons, LeRoy, Sr., and the Rev. Clack Campbell, 1809-1881, both of whom were outstanding citizens of Roanoke County. Clack Campbell played a leading religious role in Town of Big Lick affairs.

Time ran on and when Roanoke County was carved out of Botetourt in 1838, the new county embraced the LeRoy Campbell ordinary. Apparently food, lodging and drink continued to be had at this location for Order Book B, page 8, Roanoke County Circuit Court, reflects a license granted to LeRoy Campbell "to conduct a House of Entertainment."

Just when Campbell gave up this privilege is unknown but in all probability it was shortly after Zechariah Robinson built the 12-room brick inn, still known as Magnolia, at the northwest corner of present Orange Avenue and Williamson Road, in 1837.

Leroy Campbell died and court records show that his estate, now a goodly one, was partitioned March 28, 1869.

Kinsmen of the Gish, Campbell, Nelms and Williamson families are numerous in the Roanoke Valley. It is regrettable that some effort was not made to preserve one of the earliest ordinaries of the community.

In passing, it may be remarked that few log houses are left. After a Gish's Mill inhabitant followed the Gold Rush, a descendant or a purchaser found what was reputed to be a fortune secreted in the chimney of an old log cabin. The amount is not known. But after this find was reported, owners of log cabins hastened to demolish them in search of buried treasure.



# Poor, Poor Mountain

by LEE PENDLETON

Poor, Poor Mountain, a solid rock from the Floyd County line to the Roanoke County line! It stands straight up like a sentinel guarding the South Fork valley. No one has said a good word for it; too few have driven up from Elliston to its top and taken in the view from the west end. Having lived at its foot most of my life, I come to its defense.

When the McHenrys, Robertsons, Robinsons, Barnetts, Vauses, Madisons, (cousins of President James Madison), Kents, and others came to the valley, they lost no time in adding the mountain land to their bottoms. Kegley's history says the first owners of Big Spring and surrounding land were the Robinsons (maybe Robertsons), who sold to James Barnett, and he added much to it, including Poor Mountain. This and the bottoms remained in the Barnett family for 200 years. The bottoms were subdivided in 1950 and sold at auction, and the Poor Mountain land was recently sold for its timber at a good price. Three of James Barnett's descendants still own a small acreage of the original land. Barnett was a county justice and captain in the Revolution and his son, likewise named James, was sheriff.

The Madisons, first owners of the Ellis farm, also claimed a big area of Poor Mountain. Forty years ago the Ellis family sold right of way to Appalachian Power Co. and they still have the land.

About 1895, a mineralogist said Poor Mountain had a good chance of having its name changed to "Rich Mountain." Most everyone agreed, especially those mining iron ore on the east end near the county line. My friend, Walter Apgar, is my authority that one can see today where the ore was mined and shipped to Salem to be converted into pig iron, and then at another foundry melted and made into cast or wrought iron. This caused a "boom" in Salem, and some thought it would outgrow Roanoke. Investors were coming from Boston to buy lots and/or stock in business ventures.

Evidently, Lynchburg capitalists thought if there was a thick vein of ore under Poor Mountain to the head of the river (10 miles) as a geologist had written in his book, they could make money by buying up other deposits. Their attention was pointed to Major William Ellis' Poor Mountain land. So sure were they that they had a "bonanza," they bought 50 or more acres from the Edmundson's east end of Fotheringay for processing the mineral. It is now owned by the Appalachian Power Co.

*Lee Pendleton, born and reared in Montgomery County, delights in correcting historical inaccuracies.*





**Poor Mountain as seen from near Elliston in December, 1972**

Forty years ago, Eskridge Edmundson told the writer that the mineral people wanted an option, and fearing Ellis would sell to someone else, asked him to go with the agent to be a witness to the signing of papers to be recorded at Christiansburg. Ellis wasn't at home but was expected back soon. Presently he came riding in, dismounted and shook hands with all and invited them to eat with him. One of the men said he had some business to discuss. "Come on in," said Major with a hearty laugh, "I never let business interfere with eating." Edmundson said he too went in. They were neighbors.

The agent lost no time in presenting his papers and told him it was a 30-day option for \$40,000 on the mineral. Conversation stopped while the Major kept eating. Finally he wiped his mouth with a napkin, pushed his plate and the contract back without reading it and said, "I won't sign for less than \$50,000."

In the meantime there was a "boom" at Big Spring Depot, later Carnegie City (now Elliston). Big Spring Farm then belonged to Walter J. Biggs, John Will Barnett, and another Barnett. Possibly 500 acres in all were bought on terms of one-third cash and the balance in one and two years. Biggs gave up his brick house and built a nice frame one on the west end which he had reserved. John Will Barnett built a good house in Elliston. Several stores were built in town, including a drug store and an opera house. Another Barnett moved to Roanoke, and his son, Warren, became half owner of the largest drug store. Biggs used part of his money to send his son, Walter,



to VPI, and from there to a school in New York City where he became an outstanding artist. His daughter, Lucy, had a tutor, as had her brother. When about 15, she was sent to Hollins College, having never gone to public school.

More than a thousand lots were laid off on the Biggs land. The original Barnett log house across from the spring, barns, pig sties, chicken houses, all log, were burned and rail fences hauled off. Time was running short. An auction was advertised, but only a dozen lots were sold. The "boom" had blown up. The post office and railroad station had been Big Spring Depot. The post office was changed to Carnegie City, but the railroad would not recognize the name. Major Ellis, who was born in Richmond, (his military title was complimentary) came with his mother to what is now known as "Madison," she having married a Peyton, and he inherited the farm. He went to school at VMI, and served in the Confederacy, represented the county for four years at Richmond, and married the youngest daughter of President John Tyler, so it was natural that the town be named for him.

There are two television towers on the east end of Poor Mountain, which should give it some prestige. The south side is not as steep



**Barnett family and friends on a Poor Mountain picnic about 1890. John Will Barnett was the possessor of the long beard at right, according to Lee Pendleton.**



as the north side. About 1905, Kent Lumber Company of Philadelphia bought up a large boundary of timber on that side and built a modern lumber yard and planing mill near Elliston. The lumber was hauled over the mountain. The company also bought lumber by the car load. After two or three years the plant burned. The Coles Terry family owned a lot of land on the south side, and it is now owned by his daughter, widow of Dr. Philip Moncure of Norfolk. There is a bold spring, the source of Laurel Creek, a favorite fishing stream for Roanoke sportsmen. It and other creeks make up the head of the South Fork of the Roanoke River. It is a beautiful stream when the rhododendron and laurel are in bloom. The spring and land around it was once claimed by both Terry and Barnett. Barnett died about 1900. He told his children to drop the suit.

The road over the mountain has historical value. Mrs. William Madison, daughter of William Preston, in telling a farfetched story of Indians waiting along the road in front of her house to kill Washington, Andrew Lewis and her father, said "the Indians became discouraged and the chief of the party left his braves to go and look at the road over the mountain to see if they had used that road which was nearer but not as good as the one through the valley" (the present Lee Highway). This was not true.

Well authenticated tradition says this mountain road was used by Indians as ingress and egress over Poor Mountain, coming out down Dark Run. When Col. Andrew Lewis Jr., moved from the White House Plantation, formerly the Vause home, to his estate, "Longwood," on Bent Mountain, he used this trail.

The road was graded for wagons down the Brake in 1895, probably under the influence of John Will Barnett, who had cleaned up land on top of the mountain. It was improved in 1905 so lumber could be hauled to Elliston. It requires little maintenance as it is built on solid rock. Cars go up it almost every day.

## "Valley" Added to Society Name

In keeping with the Society's major area of interest, members voted on Feb. 15, 1972 to add the word, "Valley" to the title, making it the Roanoke Valley Historical Society. Many Society members live in Salem, Vinton and other areas of Roanoke Valley, in addition to those in the City of Roanoke.



## *A Visit to Bedford*

Six handsome Bedford County homes, ranging in age from almost 90 to about 190 years, were visited by two busloads of Roanoke Valley Historical Society members and guests on a spring pilgrimage May 20, 1972. Two of the homes, Lochwood Hall and Fancy Farm, had been seen by the society on its first tour to Bedford.

Despite the threat and occasional presence of rain, the Roanokers joined hundreds of other visitors in the first house tour conducted by the Bedford County Historical Society. Lunch was served by the Jefferson Woman's Club at old St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, near Forest.

Coming from Roanoke, they stopped in the City of Bedford, the county seat, to see Kingston, the J. W. Hayes home built by Dr. John Sale soon after the Civil War, and the Guy home next door, constructed by Judge Martin P. Burks in 1884. Judge Burks was dean of law at Washington and Lee University and later a judge of the State Supreme Court. A ceramic panel in the front wall places the completion date of the Burks home. The Hayes home was once occupied by the principal of Belmont Seminary and used as the school's dining hall. Rare wild flowers grow in a woodland garden behind the house.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Fessel acquired Fancy Farm, a landmark near the foot of the Peaks of Otter, in 1971 and they have undertaken an extensive restoration program. It was built by Andrew Donald, a Scottish merchant who settled at or near New London, probably soon after 1780. Owned for a time by the Kelso family who operated a nearby mill, it was also the home of Isaac Otey, father of Bishop James Hervey Otey, a founder of Sewanee University and first bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee. Union Gen. David Hunter spared the old brick house when his troops marched from Buchanan to Lynchburg in June, 1864.

Bellevue, near Goode, about half-way between Bedford and Lynchburg, was built in three stages—the east side about 1790, the west half in 1825 and two wings were added between 1850 and 1870. Now owned by Miss Jane Henderson and Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Houff Jr., the property was the site of Bellevue High School, a private school for boys, from after the Civil War until 1913. Originally owned by Robert Steptoe, it was once the property of James P. Holcombe, a law professor at the University of Virginia and a member of the Confederate cabinet.

Lochwood Hall, a three-story manor house near Goode, has records extending to a grant of several thousand acres from King George II to William Callaway. Once known as Carlotta, it became

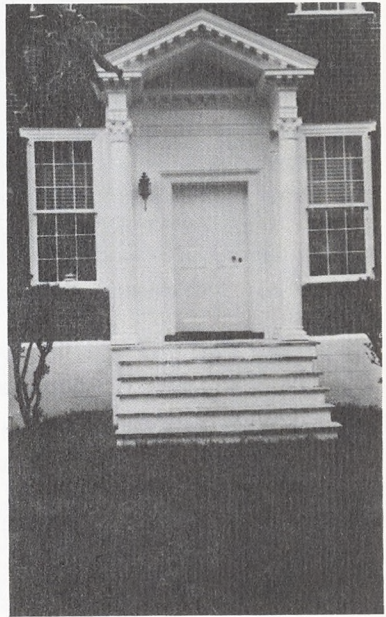




**Fancy Farm rests among trees at the foot of the Peaks of Otter.**



**1884 building date is on plaque at Judge Martin Burks home.**



**New south entrance has been constructed at Lochwood Hall.**





**Pilgrimage reaches side entrance of Bellevue.**

Lochwood Hall when it was purchased by the late Mrs. Charles Wise Bird in 1933. Her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Edward Shank, live there now.

Elk Hill, the home of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Hodges since 1928, was built by Waddy Cobb in 1797. It was the home of the Nelson family for three generations and Thomas Nelson Page wrote short stories while visiting there. A paneled hall and Adam mantels and other hand carved woodwork are features of the home. On the Perrowville Road near St. Stephen's, Elk Hill is a fruit and beef cattle farm.



## *The General Has A New Office*



**Gen. James Breckinridge's law office is reached by a shady walk in Fincastle.**

A new shingle hangs outside a restored Fincastle law office and the sign, stating simply "James Breckinridge, Attorney at Law," has confused at least one Botetourt County woman. "Every time I go by, he isn't in," she told a friend.

The law office of Gen. James Breckinridge, who lived from 1763 to 1833, has been handsomely restored by the Roanoke D.A.R. chapter which bears his name. The office, dedicated on Sept. 10, 1972, occupies the northeast corner of the Botetourt County Historical Museum building behind the Courthouse. The precise location of the General's office is not known but it is believed to have been in this brick building conveniently situated near the county records.

Every effort has been made to furnish the office with such early 19th century fixtures as Jeffersonian shutters and bookcases, brass sconces patterned after those in the Governor's Palace at Colonial Williamsburg, and a desk, wooden chair, barometer and settle, antiques from that period. Bricks from the courthouse which was destroyed by fire two years ago were used in the fireplace. Members of the Breckin-





**Old barometer and settle furnish corner of restored office.**

ridge family have loaned oval-bottomed candlesticks, books from the General's library and andirons. The name on the shingle was copied from a bookplate. The Gen. James Breckinridge D.A.R. Chapter has spent more than \$2,700 on the project.

Gen. Breckinridge, an officer in the Revolution and the War of 1812, and a member of the General Assembly and of Congress, was the subject of an article in Vol. 7, No. 2 of the Journal. A leader on the frontier, he practiced law as an "intellectual pursuit," charging



a fee of only two shillings. When he died on May 13, 1833, he was buried at his home, Grove Hill, a few miles from Fincastle, which has since burned.

The entrance to the law office and an old barometer and settle, beneath restored shutters, are shown in these photographs by Mrs. Winfred Hart, Jr.

## *Rheumatic Recollections*

By DR. ELMER SMITH  
Madison College

With the arrival of brisk winter winds and the chilled cold air we often hear the older residents complain of their recurring rheumatism.

In years gone by many older men carried buckeyes or horse chestnuts in their pockets in the belief that such amulets would ward off the pains of rheumatism or arthritis. Some few still carry them, claiming they reduce the pain or prevent the ailment entirely. The horse-chestnut or buckeye has been perhaps the most popular folk cure related to the problem of rheumatism. Certainly it was a common practice throughout our region, although there were some variations in its use—such as the qualification that it had to be carried in the right hand pocket or that it should be worn on a string around the neck next to the person's skin.

With an ailment as common as rheumatism, one can be certain that there was a wide assortment of folk beliefs about its prevention, several follow:

- ( 1 ) If you wear a nutmeg around your neck it will prevent rheumatism.
- ( 2 ) Wear plain gold earrings in pierced ears to ward off arthritis and rheumatism.
- ( 3 ) Hang a piece of raw potato around your neck or women should place a slice of raw potato in the bodice of their dress.
- ( 4 ) Wear a strip of leather around the neck to prevent rheumatism.
- ( 5 ) To ward off the cause of rheumatism, place a sheet of rusted metal under the mattress of the bed.



In addition to the numerous preventative folk methods, there were a wide variety of procedures which were believed to reduce the pain caused by the ailment. Perhaps the most common idea was the use of red flannel tied around the neck, but there were some other more acceptable ones, such as "drink plenty of corn whiskey!"

The following methods of reducing pain were collected in our region:

- ( 1 ) Wrap a piece of copper around the painful areas.
- ( 2 ) Cow manure tied around the painful areas in a poultice brings relief.
- ( 3 ) Rub grease from a skunk on the knees and feet every day.
- ( 4 ) Drink a great amount of sweet milk.
- ( 5 ) Drink poke berry juice in small amounts each day.
- ( 6 ) Wear burdock root next to the body.
- ( 7 ) Drink a concoction of black snake root and corn whiskey.
- ( 8 ) Combine hot lard and buzzard grease and rub it on the afflicted areas as you would a salve.
- ( 9 ) Make a tea from burdock root, drink it hot three times a day.
- (10) Mix hog lard and camphor shavings and use it on the painful areas as a salve.
- (11) Rub the tallow from a pig's foot on the troublesome areas.
- (12) Bathe the inflamed areas with a concoction of wine, sweet oil, and castile soap dissolved together in an earthen crock. Use the liquid warm.

Those who were inclined toward a more mystical method used this old "witch doctor" technique which combines physical aspects, a ritualistic form and words from the Trinity. Involved was the following procedure:

"Trim the fingernails on one hand, then trim the toe nails on the opposite foot. Reverse the procedure and gather the clippings. Take these to a knot hole in a tree (or drill a hole in the tree) and place the nail clippings into the hole. Replace the knot or plug up the hole and strike the area with a hatchet three times while saying the 'High words,' which are: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost."

Readers must recognize that none of the above are recommended by the writer, they are merely an account of what some people in our region did in former times. You may know of others which could be added to our valley folklore, which is a growing collection of our region's social and cultural heritage.



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*Amor montium nos movet*

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