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## The Genesis of Chesterfield County, Virginia: with Special Emphasis Upon its Economic and Social Development

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**T H E G E N E S I S o f C H E S T E R F I E L D**

**C O U N T Y V I R G I N I A**

**With Special Emphasis**

**Upon Its**

**Economic and Social Development**

**by**

**E. S. H. Greene**

**THE GENESIS OF CHESTERFIELD  
COUNTY VIRGINIA**

**With Special Emphasis**

**Upon Its**

**Economic and Social Development**

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**E. S. H. Greene**

**SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
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1935**

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E.S.H.Greene

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## Chapter I

### Early Settlements and Settlers

Chesterfield County, Virginia is a peninsula twenty miles wide and about twenty-eight miles long, lying between the James and Appomattox Rivers, with an area of four hundred and eighty-four square miles. It is divided into three natural Regions approximately equal in area: the northern division lying between the James River and Falling Creek, the central division lying between Falling Creek and Swift Creek, and the southern division lying between Swift Creek and the Appomattox River. About one third of the county lies in the tidewater section and the rest in the piedmont section of Virginia, the line of demarcation running north and south from the falls of the James to the falls of the Appomattox. Along the stretches of the rivers and creeks the soil is a very fertile sandy loam, becoming lighter and less fertile towards the interior and almost semi-sterile in some portions of the western uplands.

Had Sir Christopher Newport followed, to the letter, the instructions given him by the Virginia Company of London he would probably have planted the first permanent English settlement in America at Bermuda Hundreds. He was instructed to: "Go as far inland as a bark of fifty tuns will float... the further up the better... to a place easily fortified. Find a fertile and wholesome place." (1) The James is

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(1) Brown, Alexander, The Genesis of the United States, Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1890, Vol. 1. P. 81.



navigable for a fifty ton boat to this point. It was described later by Dale as "a most hopeful site, whether we respect commodity or security (which we principally aime at) against forraigne designs and invasions." (2).

The section now known as Chesterfield County was first visited by Englishmen on May 24, 1607 on their journey to explore the river to its source. They went as far as the falls of the James River, where Newport erected a cross with the inscription "Iacobus Rex 1607" and his own name below, and named the river "King's River". The party consisting of Capt. Newport, Capt. John Smith and twenty others, having thus incurred the displeasure of Chief Powhatan and wishing not to cause any further friction with him, started the return trip to Jamestown.(3) They returned that day only as far as the town of the Arrohatecks and Appomattox Indians where they spent the night " and stayed there the next day to observe the height thereof, and so with many signs of love we departed. The next day the queene of the Appomattox kindly entreated us, her people being no less contented then the rest!" (4) The site of the village of the queene of the Appomattox was the present Bermuda Hundreds.(5) The following

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(2) Brown, Alexander, The First Republic in America, Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1898, P.P. 194-195.

(3) Smith, John, The Travels and Works of Capt. John Smith (edited by Edward Arber) J. Grant Co., Edinburg, 1910 V 1.P.46

(4) Tyler, L. G.-Narratives of Early Virginia, Smith's True Relations, New York- Scribner & Sons, 1907, P.34

(5) Ibid P. 34

day (presumably May 26) they left for Jamestown arriving there May 27.(6) No settlements were made, but explorations were made in a section, which was destined to furnish the sites for the next two important towns to be settled after Jamestown.

In May 1611 Sir Thomas Dale was made Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and immediately set about restoring order and putting the people to work. In August Sir Thomas Gates came as Governor and immediately Dale turned over authority to him and acquainted him with his intentions of building a new town farther up the river. Gates readily agreed to this and gave Dale three hundred and fifty men of his own choice to build the new town. (7) By August 17 he had arrived at the new site, for on that date he reports, in a letter to the Earl of Salisbury, his impressions of the desirableness of the new seat as: "80 miles up our river from Jamestown where I have surveyed a convenient, strong, healthie and sweete site to plant a new towne in (according as I had in my instructions upon my departure) there to build from whence might be no more remove from the principall site."(8) The south bank of the river they called the Salisbury side after the Earl of Salisbury, and the north bank they called Popham after Justice Popham of the English court. These territories were

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(6)Smith's, Travels and Works (Arber ed) V.1. P. 70

(7)Stith, William, The History of the First Discovery and Settlement of Virginia , Wm Parks, Williamsburg, Va.P.P 122-125  
Also see Smith's History of Virginia Vol. 2, P.P 11-13

(8) Brown, The Genesis of the U. S. Vol. 1, P. 504

frequently so designated by the early settlers and commentators. This new seat was at that time on the Popham side, but the river later changed its course, (see map Opp. P. 8) putting it on the south or Salisbury side. (9)

In the beginning of September 1611, having become settled definitely on the new site, Dale securely environed it with a palisade from attack by the savage Indians, and, in honor of Prince Henry, named it Henrico. This site lay upon a neck of land surrounded on three sides by the river with exceedingly steep and high banks, which, with the palisade across the neck made it inaccessible. Dale immediately set about building first a church and then at each corner a high watch tower. Three streets were developed with well framed houses, furnishing lodging for himself and men, and storehouses for provisions and equipment. On the verge of the river he constructed five houses "to house the better sort of people and to prevent a surprise attack from the Indians" (10) The foundations of these buildings are still visible and a monument has been erected marking the site of Henricopolis. Across on the south bank they constructed a pale about two and one half miles long for further protection and as an inclosure for hogs. This was secured by four forts: Charity Fort, Elizabeth Fort, Fort Patience, and Mount Malady. Dale called this neck Faith in Hope and Coxendale. (11)

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(9) Brown, The Genesis of United States, Vol. 1, P. 504

(10) Stith, Williams History of Virginia P.P. 124-125

(11) Ibid.

Coxendale became the permanent name and the farm occupying the same sector in the bend of the river is now known as Coxendale farm. The most important of these forts was Mount Malady where a "guest house" or hospital was built "upon a high and dry situation" with eighty beds for the sick and wounded. Capable attendants were placed there "to attend them for their comfort and recovery".(12) Somewhat to the southeast of Coxendale Mr. William Whitaker, the preacher at Henrico, selected as the spot for his parsonage. He empaled one hundred acres of glebe land, upon which the parsonage was built, and called it Rock Hall. (13)

Another notable landmark established by Dale was when he fortified a neck of land south of Coxendale which was formed by a loop in the James River. This was fortified by constructing a canal across the neck with a palisade on the bank. Dale had seen military service in Holland and was familiar with this type of fortification. He, therefore, called it Dutch Gap because of its resemblance to the Dutch canal fortifications.(14) This is at the point where later Henricopolis was established.

Deputy Governor Dale was not free from serious difficulties during the time that he was building the town of Henricus. In February and March of 1612, when the town was nearly completed, many of his men deserted and ran away to the Indians. Some

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(12) Stith, William, History of Virginia P. P. 124-125

(13) Stith, William, History of Virginia P. 125

(14) Cridlin, William Broadus, Colonial Virginia (Pageant ed) Williams Printing Co., Richmond, Va. 1923 P.P. 43, 44, 45.

never returned and Dale severely executed every deserter that he caught. He was a stern soldier and took extreme measures to so terrorize the other men as to prevent the further recurrence of such disorders. He attributed these beginnings of insurrections and dissatisfactions to "Webbes and Prices designe", apparently pinning the blame on these two men.(15) Dale's attention was soon drawn from the internal troubles at Henricus to some depredations of neighboring Indians. "About Christmas 1612 Sir Thomas Dale, to avenge some injuries of the Appomattox Indians, assaulted and took their town without the loss of a single man". (16) This town was situated at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers about five miles over land from Henricus. Dale decided to settle it and build a city. He instantly called it New Bermudas because of its resemblance to the Bermuda Islands. He then "annexed many miles of Champion and Woodland ground" in several hundreds: Bermuda Hundreds, Upper and Nether Hundreds-, Digges Hundred, and Rochedale Hundreds. This was enclosed by a palisade eight miles long from river to river. Rochedale Hundred was made secure by a cross palisade four miles long. Hogs and cattle were made secure within this inclosure and were permitted to graze over an area of about twenty miles in circuit. Fruit trees were planted and "fifty faire houses along the circuit of the inclosure" were built.(17) These houses, constituting Bermuda

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(15) Brown, Alexander, The First Republic in America, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston and New York, 1898. P. 158.

(16) Stith's History of Virginia P.P. 124-125. Also see Brown's First Republic P. P. 194-195.

(17) Stith's History of Virginia P. 125.

City were not built until the Autumn of 1613, for Dale "Postponed the building of the City of Bermuda until after the harvest of the first crop of corn." (18) The town was incorporated in 1614. (19)

In 1614 Dale made special arrangements with the new planters in the vicinity of Bermuda City and Hundred, whereby they were bound to perform certain services for the land granted them for three years (February 1614 to February 1617). Then they were to have both their land and their freedom. This was the beginning of free farming by Englishmen in America. (20) Not all the persons at Bermuda Hundreds were granted this privilege and distinction, but only those who had distinguished themselves for industry and trustworthiness were permitted to become tenants. Others less distinguished were forced to work on the common land for the common store. (21) This practice of giving land to worthy settlers which was begun under Dale at Bermuda Hundreds soon found expression in a declaration of the Virginia Company of London. In 1616 this company declared that the land on both sides of the king's river would be divided into fifty acre tracts and given to members of the company who had contributed money and to settlers who had risked their lives. (22)

Sir Thomas Dale left Chesterfield County and Virginia

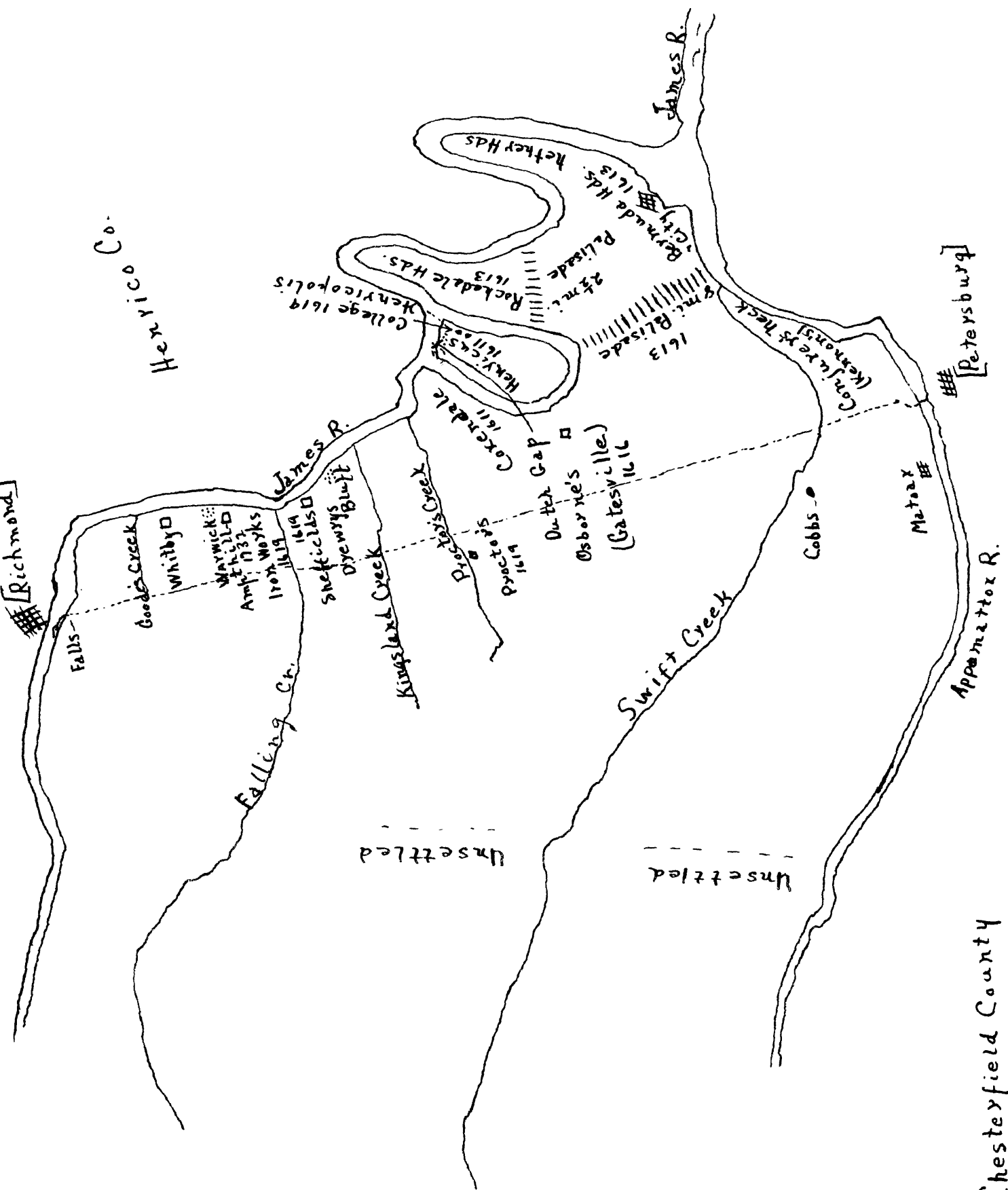
(18) Arber's ed, Works of Capt. John Smith P. 510

(19) Ibid.

(20) Brown, Alexander, The First Republic in America, P.P. 209-210.

(21) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century, The Macmillan Co. New York, 1898, Vol. 1. P. 210.

(22) Brown, Alexander, The Genesis of the U. S. Vol. 2, P. P. 774-779 "A Brief Declaration by his Majesties Council for Virginia."



Chesterfield County

Early Settlements of 17<sup>th</sup> Century

in 1616, having firmly established the settlements around Henricus and Bermuda Hundreds. At Henricus he left Captain Smaley in command and Rev. William Wickham, minister. At Bermuda Nether Hundreds and City he left Captain Yeardley in command and Rev. Alexander Whitaker, minister. (23) The nucleus established by these settlements soon developed and multiplied along the lower stretches of the two Rivers and the several creeks which are tributary to these rivers. (see map opposite page 8). These sturdy settlers became fairly comfortably situated for several years and the population grew rapidly for about a decade. Some of these settlements, which have become permanent landmarks in the modern county, not only appear on the map mentioned above, but will be indicated in the succeeding paragraphs of this chapter.

Rochedale Hundred and Coxendale were established by Dale in 1613 and 1611 respectively. Rochedale Hundred lies eastward from Henricus in a very fertile neck of farming land, later known as Jone's Neck and Meadowville. Coxendale which has been described above was a part of the Henrico settlement.

(24)

Before his departure in 1616, Dale authorized that one hundred acres of his parish was to be divided into lots for a town to be called Gatesville, so named in honor of Sir Thomas Gates, Dale's superior officer. The site of this town was west of Henricus on the main land. The town had a short

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(23) Brown, Alexander, The Genesis of The U. S. Vol. 2, P.782.

(24) Tyler, L. G. The Cradle of the Republic, Hermitage Press, Richmond, 1906, P. 216.



existence and became extinct as a town after the massacre of 1622. However, its wharf on the James River became a shipping point for produce from the neighboring county. It became permanently known as Osborne's wharf, so called because Captain Thomas Osborne acquired a patent of land of one thousand acres there dated Feb. 6, 1637. (25)

Proctor's Creek, a small creek about three miles north west of Coxendale, was so named for "Mistresse Alice Proctor", wife of John Proctor, who defended her home on the north bank of the creek against the massacre of 1622. (26) Later Captain Thomas Osborne obtained a patent of five hundred acres here in 1637. (27)

Kingsland Creek early was settled near the James River, but was to become more famous as the seat of the Branch family in Virginia when in 1634 Christopher Branch obtained a large land patent along its banks. (28) Adjoining the Kingsland plantations was Sheffields established in 1619 and bearing the name of its owner who was a victim of the massacre of 1622. This was a large plantation with a commodious dwelling. (29) Seth Ward and his family later made this their home, having obtained a patent of it on May 30, 1634. (30)

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(25) Tyler, L. G. Cradle of the Republic, P. 217, also see Henrico Land Patent Book # 1, State Land Office, State Capitol, Richmond, Va.

(26) Tyler, L. G. Cradle of the Republic, P. 217.

(27) Henrico Land Patents Book # 1, P. 512

(28) Henrico Land Patents Book # 1, P. 326

(29) Tyler, L. G. Cradle of the Republic, P. 218

(30) Henrico Land Patents Book #1, P. 148

Falling Creek is perhaps one of the best known creeks in Virginia, having become prominent when in 1619 the first Iron Works in America was established there, and along its banks were located several famous colonial estates--notably among them was the eleven hundred acre estate of the colonial surgeon, Dr. Thos. Mathews, Patented 1639, and a little later the seat of the Carys, Ampthill, established 1732. Just north of Ampthill and situated upon a bluff on the James the town of Warwick was built and became a thriving town with good buildings in the early colonial period. Warwick was larger and more important than Richmond up to the time of the Revolution. (31) Lying up the river from Warwick about three miles is Whitby situated on Goode's Creek. This was the home of Col. John Goode, an ardent supporter of Bacon's Rebellion, and later the home of his son, William Goode, the famous horse breeder. (32)

The Appomattox River and Swift Creek sector was also being settled during this period. Conjurers Neck the seat of the Kennon family, was established by Richard Kennon at a very early date. Edward Tunstall in 1642 received a patent of one hundred and fifty acres "bounded south upon the falls of the Appomattox". In 1639 Ambrose Cobbs received a patent three hundred and fifty acres between the Appomattox and Swift Creek and established the now famous family seat "Cobbs" on the creek. (33) The Indian town Matoax which

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(31) Tyler, L. G. Cradle of the Republic P. 218, Also see Henrico Patents Book # 1, P. 646

(32) Tyler, Cradle of the Republic P. 218

(33) Henrico Patents Book # 1, P. P. 658, 815.

was the girlhood home of Pocahontas is situated above the falls of the Appomattox River, about three miles from the present city of Petersburg. It is also famous as being at one time the boyhood home of John Randolph of Roanoke.(34)

By 1619 the town of Henricus had fallen into a deplorable condition, unlike Bermuda Hundreds which was prosperous and growing fast and was rapidly overshadowing the other neighboring settlements. But new life was given Henricus in this year when it was selected as the site for the University and College of Henricopolis. "The three old houses and a ruined church" were soon added to and the town grew rapidly for about three years until the massacre of 1622.(35) An account of the founding of this college will appear in another chapter.

In addition to the settlements and settlers discussed above the land patents of 1621-1622 show that this small area in the tidewater section of the county was rapidly being settled by landowners. A partial list of settlers from two sections is quoted below: "On the southerly side beginning from the falls there are these patented, viz:- John Patterson 100 acres, Anthony Edwards 100 acres, Nathaniel Norton 100 acres, John Proctor 200 acres, Thomas Tracy 100 acres, John Vithord 100 acres, Francis Weston 300 acres, Phettiplace close 100 acres, John Price 150 acres, Peter Nemenart 100 acres, William Perry 100 acres, John Plower 100 acres, Edward Hudson 100 acres, Thomas Morgan 150 acres and Thomas Sheffield 150 acres.

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(34) Howe, Henry, Historical Collections Virginia (foot note) P. 229.

(35) Tyler, L. G. The Cradle of the Republic P. P. 220-221

"At Cosendale (Coxendale) within the corporation of Henrico: Lieut. Edward Barckley 112 acres, Richard Paulton 100 acres, Robert Analand 200 acres, John Griffin 50 acres, Peter Nemenart 40 acres, Thomas Tindall 100 acres, Thomas Reed 100 acres, John Laydon 200 acres". (36)

At noon on March 22, 1622 the course of the rapid development made by there sturdy settlers was brought to an abrupt halt. For on that day the Indians swooped down on the various settlements and ruthlessly massacred men, women and children. The following numbers were slain in what is the present Chesterfield County: "Capt. Berkley and 21 others on the plantation at Falling Creek, 22, at Henrico Island 6, at the college 17, at Wm Farrar's House 10, at Master Perce's on the Appomattox River five miles from the college 4".(37) This makes a total of seventy two. At Bermuda Hundreds the number was unknown, but numbered among the victims there was John Rolfe, father of the tobacco industry and former husband of Pocahontas.(38) Mrs. Alice Proctor, wife of John Proctor defended her home against the Indians during the massacre and for a month thereafter until forced to forsake the dangerous place by English officers. (39)

From 1622 to 1634 the land grants show continuous settlements from Jamestown to the Eastern Shore, but the region

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(36)Early Records of the Corporation of Henrico quoted in Chas. Campbell's History of Virginia (foot note) P.P. 158-159.

(37)Capt. John Smith's General Historic quoted in Tyler, L. G. Narratives of Early Virginia. P. P. 368-369.

(38)Brown, Alexander, The First Republic in U. S. P. 467.

(39)Tyler, L. G. Narratives of Early Virginia P. 368.

above Charles City which included Henrico (Chesterfield) was considered too dangerous to risk new settlements. Land grants show that surviving settlers were granted land on the lower James in exchange for grants already held in Chesterfield and the adjoining territory. For example, in 1624, John Laydon was given a tract of land far down on the James River in place of the one he owned near Henricopolis.(40)

Up to 1634 the political units of Virginia were called hundreds and plantations from which representatives were sent to the Assemblies at Jamestown. In 1634 the county was divided into eight shires to be governed as the shires in England. (41) Henrico was one of the original shires "extending from Charles City County indefinitely westward" and containing the present counties of Henrico, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Buckingham, Nelson, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Amherst and Campbell. (42) Henrico Parish antedated Henrico County by many years, having been established by Dale in 1611. It originally extended from Bermuda Hundreds westward on both sides of the James River to the falls. Bristol Parish lay on both sides of the Appomattox River extending from Bermuda Hundreds westward to the falls. The present County of Chesterfield lies between the above mentioned rivers and embraces that portion of Henrico Parish which lay south of the James and that part of Bristol Parish which

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(40) Stanard, Mary Newton, Virginia's First Century, J. B. Lippincott & Co., New York 1928, P. 187.

(41) Hening, Wm. Waller, Statutes at Large of Virginia, R. W. & G. Bartow, New York, 1823 Vol. I. P. 224.

(42) William and Mary Quarterly, (ed. by L. G. Tyler) Vol. 24 P. 126.

lay north of the Appomattox. (43)

Henrico having been given a definite political existence as one of the original counties or shires in 1674 and eight years having elapsed since the great massacre had almost put that portion of the county on the Salisbury side of the river (now Chesterfield) out of existence as a home for white men, new and determined Pioneers began to settle the tidewater section and along the fertile banks of the rivers and creeks. The land patents from 1634 to the latter part of the century show that the settlements were confined largely to the eastern third of the county or between the fall line and the James River. A few of the settlers in the vicinity of Bermuda Hundreds had survived the massacre of 1622 and had held to their lands granted them by the arrangement made by Dale in 1614. Rapidly the deserted plantations were patented to the newcomers. On May 30, 1634 Seth Ward received a small patent of sixty acres at the Sheffield plantation and later added a larger tract to this. (44) On Oct. 20, 1634 Christopher Branch received one hundred acres at Arrohattocks adjoining Sheffields on the main river, and the same year two hundred and fifty acres at Kingsland lying east upon the main river. (45) Thomas Harris received seven hundred and fifty acres within Digges Hundred by patent dated Nov. 17, 1635. (46)

(43) William & Mary Quarterly Vol. 24. P. 126.

(44) Land Patents Henrico County (issued during the Regal Period) State Land Office, State Capitol Building, Richmond, Va. Book 1, P. 148.

(45) Henrico Land Patents Book 1, P. 155 & P. 326.

(46) See Henrico Patents Book 1, P. 304.

In June and July 1636 William Hatcher received one thousand and fifty acres lying between the Appomattox River and Swift Creek. (47) Hatcher as well as many another patentee was thus remunerated for the importation of himself and other settlers into the colony. (48) Hatcher had imported three besides himself. Also on the Appomattox River and Swift Creek William Clarke received four hundred and fifty acres on July 29, 1636. (49) In 1637 Captain Thomas Osborne received two patents totaling fifteen hundred acres bounded northerly upon Proctors Creek and southerly upon Henrico Island. (50) A very notable patent dated May 11, 1639, "to Thomas Mathews, surgeon eleven hundred acres beginning on Falling Creek and bearing westerly on the Falls," shown perhaps for the first time a patent lying largely above the fall line. This, however did not extend two miles into Piedmont. (51) Ambrose Cobbs received a patent of three hundred and fifty acres dated July 5, 1639. This tract of land lay on the south bank of Swift Creek. (52) The family seat established at this time still bears the name "Cobbs" and has become a significant land mark in the vicinity, later becoming the site of the first institution for the treatment and education of the deaf in this country. By 1642 the settlements on the Appomattox had reached the falls and were beginning to be

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- (47) Henrico Patents, Book 1, P. 353  
 (48) William & Mary Quarterly Vol. 24. P. 138  
 (49) Henrico Patents, Book 1, P. 392  
 (50) Henrico Patents, Book 1, P. P. 512 & 519  
 (51) Henrico Patents, Book 1, P. 646  
 (52) Henrico Patents, Book 1, P. 658

permanently established at the site of the present town of Colonial Heights. In that year Edward Tunstall received a grant of "150 acres bounded south upon the falls of the Appomattox". (53) But the main activity in land grants was still lower down into tidewater and especially around Bermuda Hundreds in that very fertile farming area selected by Sir Thomas Dale. On July 24, 1645 Michael Masters received a patent of four hundred and thirteen acres in Bermuda Hundreds. (54) And in 1650 John Baugh received a patent of one hundred acres at Bermuda Hundreds. (55)

These families held to their patents tenaciously and passed them down to their heirs according to the best English primogeniture customs. For example, William Cox on Nov. 29, 1636, and Oct. 29, 1637 had two patents of land of one hundred and fifty acres each known as "Harrstocks" or "Harrow-Attacks" or "Arrowhattocks", and March 29, 1665 John Cox, Senior, his son had a patent of five hundred and fifty acres at the same place and known by the same name. (56) The Cox family still lives on this same tract and are very prosperous farmers. Also the Eppes family which was established before 1652 in the same vicinity by Francis Eppes, member of the House of Burgesses and of the Governor's Council, continued to hold great tracts of land for several generations and became prominent office holders in Henrico County and later in Chesterfield. (57)

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(53) Henrico Patents Book 1, P. 815

(54) Henrico Patents Book 1, P. 26

(55) Henrico Patents Book 1, P. 27

(56) William & Mary Quarterly, Vol. 24. P. 138

(57) William & Mary Quarterly, Vol 24. P. 210



The Elams, too, were represented in Chesterfield County before 1642 in the person of Robert Elam, who at that time had a patent for land "above Bermuda Hundreds between the lands of Thomas Sheppy and Richard Johnson". Among the headrights to the patent is Ann Elam, who married Gilbert Elam in 1661, who also had a patent in the same neighborhood. Martin Elam had a patent in 1672 and in his will dated March 7, 1691 bequeaths his property, including silver spoons, "2 of them on old Robert Elam's mark", to his heirs. (58) Descendants of this family are still in that vicinity of the county.

A few of the other prominent families which were established in the tidewater section of Chesterfield during the seventeenth century and which figured actively in its subsequent history will be listed below. Nicholas Perkins received a patent at Bermuda Hundreds Aug. 30, 1650 for paying for the importation of himself, Mary Perkins, William Owen, and Richard Hues. Francis Redford settled in 1659, William Farrar in 1656, John Puckett and John Burton in 1665 and Abraham and William Womack or Womecke about the same time, Richard Kennon received a patent in 1665 and established a family seat on Conjuror's Neck, a narrow strip of land formed by the junction of Swift Creek and the Appomattox River. The Kennon family subsequently played a prominent part in the affairs of the County. The Strattons were located near

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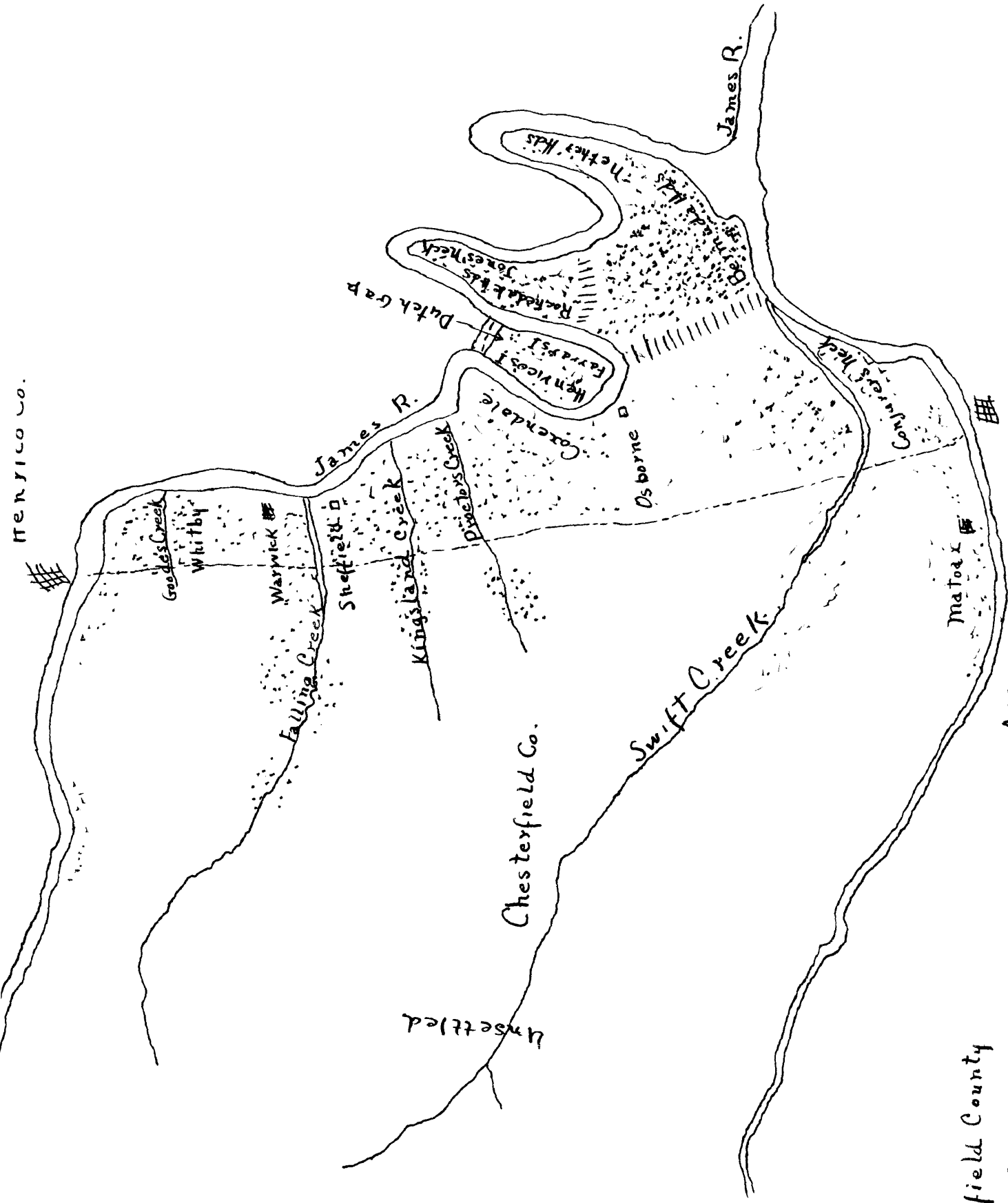
(58) William & Mary Quarterly, Vol 24. P. 139

Bermuda Hundreds in 1676. Edward Stratton I, the founder of the family in Virginia, and his son, Edward Stratton II, both became wealthy landowners and planters. The Goode's as have been already mentioned settled not far below the falls of the James at Whitby on Goodes Creek. (see map opp. P 8) (59)

The foregoing account of the numerous land patents and settlements reveal that the eastern third of Chesterfield County which lies largely in tidewater was well settled and populated for the second time before the end of the first century of its existence as a habitat for white men. The accompanying map, opposite page 19, will reveal graphically the same story, the dotted section showing the region of the settlements and the density of the dots indicating the density of the population. This will show too that it was not until the close of the century that the western region of the county was appreciably settled. An account of the complete settlement of the territory now known as Chesterfield County appears in a later chapter. It is well now to inquire into the economic and social development of this region which has been so admirably populated by the sturdy frontiersmen and wealthy English gentlemen. This inquiry will cover the period from its earliest settlement in 1611 to the date of its being formed into a separate county in 1749.

Powhatan Co.

HENRICO Co.



Chesterfield County  
 Population Density  
 17<sup>th</sup> Century

## Chapter II

Bases of Economic Development

The reasons for the colonization of Virginia were largely economic. The English government made special provisions in the letters patent of 1606 whereby one-fifth of the gold and silver and one-fifteenth of the copper found in Virginia would be reserved for the use of the king. The poet Drayton, in the same year, in his poem "addressed to the voyagers expressed the hope that success would continue "to entice them to get the pearl and gold". (1) The shining dirt which was carried back by Newport proved to be absolutely worthless, but when he came with the Second Supply in the autumn of 1608 he was instructed to stay in Virginia until he found a lump of gold, or a true passage to the South Sea or had recovered at least one of the lost colonies of Raleigh. (2) What was true of Virginia was especially true of Chesterfield County, for Faldoe the Helvetian had vaguely directed the explorers to that section of the county near the Falls of the Powhatan on both sides of the river. It was claimed that two mines had been discovered within six miles of the Falls. (3) The adventurers, having cheated themselves with the notion that the hills near the Falls of the Powhatan gave indications of gold and silver, or that the Powhatan furnished a passage to the South Sea, were soon to have their

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(1) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century, The Macmillan Co. New York 1907, Vol. 1, P.P.14-15.  
 (2) Smith, Capt. John, Travels and Works (ed. by Edward Arber) I. Grant Co. Edinburg, 1910 P. 434.  
 (3) Strachey, Wm. History of Travaille in Virginia, Printed by the Haklut Society, London 1847, P. 131.

attention directed to resources more real and tangible in that region. Capt. John Smith, Francis Maguel, and Sir Thomas Dale made glowing reports, to the Company, of iron ore and the much more important possibilities of agricultural development.

As early as 1608 Captain John Smith sent two barrels of stones to England which were found to be very rich in iron ore. This ore was mined near the "Falls" on the south side of the river".(4) The location of this mine was presumably in the neighborhood of Falling Creek. In 1609 Captain Newport sent large quantities of ore, mined from the same region, to England. The metal extracted contained sixteen or seventeen tons of iron of the best quality ever found from any country in the world up to that time. This iron was sold to the East India Company at the rate of four pounds sterling per ton. (5) Francis Maguel's report in the Spanish Archives shows that an attempt was made to manufacture iron near the falls on the Pembroke side as early as 1610. (6) Soon after Dale had established his settlements at Henrico and Bermuda Hundreds, in his "letters to the lordships of the counsaile" he reported the discovery of a "goodlie iron myne near the falls".

(7)

In the spring of 1613 the settlers of the eastern part of the county were directing their attention to a more basic industry and one that was more suited to that locality. Under

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(4) Smith's Travels and Works, Vol. II, P. 444.

(5) Strachey, William, History of Travaille in Virginia, P.132.

(6) Brown, The Genesis of U. S. P. 398.

(7) Strachey, William, History of Travaille in Virginia, P.132.

the leadership of Sir Thomas Dale Bermuda Hundreds had been settled. He immediately annexed many miles of "Champion and Woodland" and inclosed it by a palisade eight miles long from the James to the Appomattox. (see map opp. P. 8 ) This enclosure was put into grazing lands for hogs and cattle. The fields of corn and vegetables were secured by other palisades and the cattle and hogs allowed to graze over an area of more than twenty miles in circuit. Rochedale Hundred was likewise empaled from one bend in the river to another. (see map opp. P 8 ) This gave an additional enclosure for grazing or cultivation. When the first crop was harvested they set about building the City of Bermuda. The town was incorporated in 1614 with fifty good houses. (8)

In 1614 Dale made special arrangements with the new planters whereby they were bound to perform certain services for one month in the year for the common good in return for a tract of land granted them for three years. This period was from February 1614 to February 1617. At the end of this time the tenants were to receive both their freedom and their land. (9) Not all of the persons at Bermuda Hundreds in 1614 were granted the privilege of tenants. Some who were less distinguished for industry and reliability were put to work on the common land to raise grain for the common store. "It was at this time a mark of distinction to be given the privilege of a tenant". (10) Dale put rigid restrictions into effect at

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(8) Stith's History of Virginia, P. 125.

(9) Brown, Alex. The First Republic in America, Houghton Mifflin Co., New York 1890. Vol. 1, P. 209-210.

(10) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia. Vol. 1, P.210.

Henrico and Bermuda Hundreds, for example, one of his codes follows: "No man shall dare to kill or destroy any bull, cow, calfe, mare, horse, colt, goate, swine, cocke, henne, chicken, dogge, turkie or any tame Cattel or Poultry of what condition soever; whether his owne or appertaining to another man, without leave from the Generall, upon paine of death in the Principall, and in the accessory, burning in the hand and the losse of his eares, and to the concealer of the same four and twenty houres whipping". (11) Dale was considered a stern and even a cruel man, but his cruelty affected only those who would not abide by the rigid regulations necessary under the conditions of the time. Dale's planned economy had caused not only great improvements to be brought about in agriculture, but the large number of live stock in his settlements, and his regulation of an allowance of so many live stock to every immigrant caused the growth of population in later years. (12)

During Dale's administration the diversification of crops was planned definitely. Food crops such as corn and vegetables were to be grown first and tobacco and other money crops to be secondary. Tobacco was not the only money product from Henrico and Bermuda. A vineyard was established <sup>at Henrico in 1614</sup> with the idea of producing wine for the European market, and experiments with silk worms were made to produce silk for England, the groves of mulberry trees near Coxendale are still to be found

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(11) Force, Peter, Collection of Historical Documents Relating to Colonies in North America, Washington, 1836 Vol. III P.15. "Lawes Divine, Morall and Martial".

(12) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia. Vol. 1, P. 216.

in the wild but in a flourishing condition. When Dale left for England in 1616 he carried with him as the cargo of his ship six products from his settlement for the English market: "Tobacco, sassafrix, pych, potashes, sturgyon and cavyarge".

(13) Great as were these agricultural improvements no plough as yet seems to have been used on these plantations. The spade, shovel, hoe and mattox continued to be the only agricultural implements. (14)

At the close of Dale's administration there were thirty-eight persons living at Henrico Island, a majority of whom held their lands under covenant as tenants; most of the rest being their servants. Captain James Davis was left in charge as commander. At Bermuda Hundreds of the one hundred and nineteen inhabitants whose commander was Captain Yeardley, seventeen were farmers or tenants, holding their land under the covenant of 1614-1617. (15) At this time John Rolfe was making experiments in the cultivation and curing of tobacco in a more scientific way across the river at Varina and before 1622 he was living at Bermuda Hundreds and, no doubt, extending his experiments there in that most fertile farming region.

The impetus thus given to agriculture in the early history of Chesterfield County was to be felt for many generations. Although there were several attempts -rather spasmodic in nature- made at manufacturing iron and later very successful

(13) Brown, Genesis of U. S. "Dale to Winwood" P. 783

(14) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia Vol 1, P. 219  
(Foot note from Harmor's True Discourse)

(15) Rolfe's Virginia in 1616 Virginia Historical Register  
Vol. 1, No. III, P. 107, Virginia History Society, Pub.  
Richmond, 1848.



coal mining operations in the western part of the county, the basic industry has been tillage of the soil.

In 1619 Mr. John Berkeley with twenty experienced iron workers -to reinforce the number already sent to Virginia under the late Captain Blewit of whom there were about eighty- came to Virginia to take charge of the manufacturing of iron. The Virginia Company of London was not only to bear the cost of transporting these workers, but was to support them for twelve months. The men in turn were to work for the Company for a period of seven years. (16) The original purpose was to establish three iron furnaces in Virginia, but only one furnace was erected, its site being on Falling Creek in the present Chesterfield County. (17) This spot had been highly regarded as a place for iron-making by George Sandys, who said that if Nature had intentionally prepared it for this purpose the advantages could not have been more favorable than those already possessed. (18) He had in mind the proximity of the site to water power, transportation by water, iron ore, and wood and stones for constructing the works.

By 1621 the cost of setting up the iron works was estimated to be from four thousand to five thousand pounds sterling. (19) Some claim that the Company received in return for this enormous investment only an iron shovel, a

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(16) Abstracts of Proceedings of the Virginia Company of London, Virginia History Society, Richmond, Vol. I, P. 123.

(17) Bruce, Economic History of Virginia, Vol. II P. 448.

(18) Neill, E. D. Virginia Company of London, "Relation of Waterhouse" Joel Munsell Albany, N. Y. 1869, P. 338.

(19) Abstracts of Proceedings of Virginia Company of London, Vol. I, P. 122.

pair of tongs and a bar of iron. (20) Nevertheless, by 1622 it was confidently believed that within three months they would be able to ship large quantities of raw iron to England, the works had reached such a point of perfection. This expectation was never to be realized, however, for in a very short time the Indian massacre brought complete destruction to the settlement on Falling Creek. The tools were destroyed or thrown into the river and all the workmen were killed with the exception of a boy and girl who fled into the brush and escaped the notice of the Indians. (21)

The disastrous massacre, although bringing complete destruction to this enterprise, did not diminish at the time the interest in it both by the Company in England and by the colonial authorities. After learning of the massacre the Company instructed the Governor and Council in Virginia to place the survivors among the iron workers under Mr. Maurice Berkeley, to be put to work elsewhere until the iron works could be restored. The Company further instructed that a requisition of the necessary tools were to be transmitted to it at once. The Company declared that no effort would be spared until the works were again perfected, as it regarded the iron works on Falling Creek as absolutely necessary to the prosperity and well being of the colony. Had it not been for the revocation of the charter of the London Company in 1624 it is most probable that the works would have been

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(20) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia, Vol, II, P. 448.  
(21) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia, Vol, II, P. 449  
British State Papers, Vol. IV, 45.

restored and the manufacture of iron resumed. (22)

Five years later in 1627 William Capps attempted to restore the iron works, but became involved in some difficulty and was forced to leave Virginia and his efforts came to naught. (23) In 1630 Governor Harvey visited the site of the old iron works of Falling Creek for the purpose of determining whether they could be restored. He found the place surrounded by a heavy growth of timber, an abundance of water supplied from a "bold stream", and many outcroppings of iron ore. He reported this to the authorities in England together with some specimens of ore. It was decided that the cost of restoring the works was too great for the Colony and, therefore, the interest in it died out for many years. In 1649 interest was revived again by the New Description of Virginia, but nothing material was accomplished. (24) In 1657--58 a law was passed by the General Assembly prohibiting the exportation of iron. This had as its purpose the encouraging of the blacksmith's trade. (25) Presumably, this law applied to old iron since it is impossible to find any records of the manufacture of raw iron at that time.

Not only the iron industry suffered a severe set back by the massacre of 1622, but the whole economic set up of the present county of Chesterfield was stopped dead in its

(22) Neill's Virginia Company of London, Company's letters to Governor and Council in Va. P. 329.

(23) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia Vol II, P. 450.

(24) Force, Historical Tracts, Vol. II. P. 5.

(25) Hening, Wm Waller, Statutes at Large of Virginia, Bartow, New York, 1825 Vol. I, P. 488.

progress. The economic assets in 1625 of that section on the south side of the James River from Bermuda Hundreds to the Falls are listed below. The only inhabitants left were on the college lands, the one thousand acres lying on the south side of the river. "Inhabitants-18 free; 3 servants, (1 child born in Virginia), Dwellings- 10; Cattle and Swine- 1 hog; Corn, etc.- 57 barrels, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of peas and beans, 1800 fish; Fortifications- none; Arms and Ammunition- 21 pieces, 6 swords, 13 armors, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of powder, 52 lbs. of lead; Boats-1 (incomplete)" (26) It might well be said that one of the greatest economic losses to this section in the massacre was the slaying of John Rolfo, the father of the tobacco industry, at Bermuda Hundreds. He had revolutionized that industry and was sorely needed in the recovery period after the massacre.

After this set back in its development the county was not readily settled again as has been indicated in Chapter I, for it was considered a region too dangerous for new settlements until about 1635. Beginning at this time the Land Patents under the Regal Government show that the region was rapidly developing into an agricultural area and populated by the English landed gentry. For over one hundred years the aquisition of land in one way or another and the formation of this land into plantations safe for the cultivation of crops or the raising of live stock occupied the attention of the settlers in the region in Henrico County on the south

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(26) Brown, Alex, The First Republic in America, P. 618.

side of the river. (27) The fields on these plantations were made secure by fences required by law to protect the owner's property from incursions by the live stock of others. (28) A legal fence was four and a half feet in height and closed to the bottom. The owner of live stock breaking through this fence and doing injury to property and crops was compelled to make complete and satisfactory adjustment for all damage done. (29) It can also be inferred that the worm or rail fence was the type of fence used. Specific references are made to this type of fence in 1621. Mr. Whitaker a planter and divine in the vicinity of Henrico Island near Coxendale "railed" in one hundred acres to protect his vines, crops, etc. (30) The requirements for rails for this fence seems to have continued for many years. In 1695 a Mr. Reeves of Henrico in a contract leasing a parcel of land to William Arrington required the latter to maul six hundred fencing rails. (31) This seems to have been an invention of the settlers in a new land with an unlimited amount of timber for the rails and unlimited amount of land on which to construct the fence. References are also made to the fact that getting rails for fences in early Henrico was cause for criminal and civil suits in court. (32)

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(27) See Henrico Records also Patents under the Regal Government, State Land Office, Richmond, Va.

(28) Hening's Statutes, Vol. 1, 228.

(29) Hening's Statutes, Vol. 1, P. P. 244, 332.

(30) Abstracts of Proceedings of the Virginia Company of London, Vol. 1, P. 136.

(31) Henrico Records, Vol. 1688-1697 P. 578, Va. State Library.

(32) Records of Henrico County, 1682-1701, P. 93, Va. State Library.

As has already been indicated tobacco was the principal crop cultivated in the county as well as throughout tidewater Virginia, and there was very little disposition on the part of planters to make a change to a very great degree. It was not only used for a money crop with a ready market in England, but it was money itself. The early Henrico Records show that fines, tithes and all county expenses, including salaries of county officials were paid in tobacco. (33) Ranking next to tobacco both in quantity and in value corn was grown on nearly every farm. The settlers had begun to raise this crop in great quantities in the vicinity of Bermuda Hundreds as the chief crop under Dale's administration. (34) References are made continually to this product for food both for man and beast. The fodder being used for cattle in winter. (35) In the latter part of the seventeenth century wheat was being grown on many of the larger plantations. In some instances, it was required of those who held leased land to "plough in" several bushels of wheat. (36) The poorer Planters were discouraged from planting this crop as it was difficult to grow and required expensive fences for its protection. (37) A great many other crops are referred to such as, vegetables of all kinds (especially peas, beans and cimlins), grape vines,

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(33) Colonial Records Henrico County, Vol. 1, 1677-1692. P. 22, Virginia State Library.

(34) Arber's Capt. John Smith, P. 510.

(35) Records of Henrico County Vol. 1688-1697 P. 137, Virginia State Library.

(36) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1688-1697 P. 578, Virginia State Library.

(37) Beverley's History of Virginia, P. 237.

and silk worms and flax, but these were more or less incidental and supplementary to the larger crops in domestic economy.

Wheat was harvested both with the reap-hook and sickle and the number of these implements appearing in the inventories of planters indicate to some extent the size of the crop produced. About 1680 an inventory of the person property of Mr. Richards in southern Henrico listed thirty reap-hooks. (38) Bruce says that wheat was reaped throughout the seventeenth century in Virginia. The cradle was used in harvesting barley and oats but not in harvesting wheat. (39)

Among the domestic animals raised on the plantations are to be found, horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep in great numbers. It is difficult to estimate the number of live stock in that section of Henrico at the time, but inventories of various estates will throw some light upon this phase of agricultural husbandry. The number of horses in the entire colony of Virginia about the middle of the seventeenth century has been estimated at only three hundred and it appears that this number increased slowly owing to the preference held for oxen for draft purposes. (40) It is inferred that Henrico not only possessed its share of these animals, and that the number had increased considerably by the latter part of the century; but that horses in this locality were selling at a higher rate than elsewhere. Whereas the average price of

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(38) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692, Virginia State Library.

(39) Bruce, Economic History of Virginia, Vol. 1, P. 465.

(40) Bruce, Economic History of Virginia, Vol. 1, P. 374.

horses was less than five pounds sterling, an instance in Henrico shows a horse selling for twelve pounds and eleven shillings. (41) Some years later though in 1699, a mare eight years old was valued at four pounds. (42) An item in an inventory in the county at this period shows that the horse was being used for draft purpose to some extent. This is indicated by horse collars being listed. (43) A pair of cart wheels were listed in another instance in 1686 and valued at two pounds and five shillings sterling. (44)

Cattle were far more numerous than horses all during the colonial period as in later years. This, of course, is due to the fact that they played a triple role in the economy of the planter: they were used as draft animals, for milk and butter, and for beef. It appears that the number had increased very rapidly from the time they were introduced in the area around Bermuda Hundreds by Sir Thos. Dale, (45) until the plague of 1673, at which time it has been estimated that fifty thousand cattle died in Virginia. (46) This was also probably due to the severe winter. In 1620 some Irishmen inquired as to how much they could sell cattle for in Virginia, and were informed that they would receive eleven pounds sterling for every heifer landed in the colony. (47)

(41) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1682-1701, P. 118, Va. State Library.

(42) Henrico Records, Vol. 1697-1704, P. 137, Va. State Library.

(43) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1688-1697, P. 349, Va. State Library.

(44) Henrico Records, Vol. 1697-1704, P. 83, Va. State Library.

(45) Stith, William, History of Virginia, P. 125.

(46) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia, Vol. 1, P. 372.

(47) Abstracts of Proceedings of Virginia, Company of London, Vol. 1, P. 13.



In 1682 three cows were valued at one hundred and five shillings or thirty five shillings each in Henrico, and a heifer three years old at twenty shillings. (48) Bulls, however, were appraised at a much lower rate. A bull two years old was valued at ten shillings and one three years old at twelve shillings. (49) Steers also were valued at a lower price and a suckling calf at three shillings. (50) These figures are an indication that cows were more valuable than other cattle, but not nearly so dear as horses, probably due to the comparative scarcity of the latter.

Sheep were very scarce in colonial Virginia. They were only incidentally referred to in the records of Dale's administration of the settlements along the James River, chiefly at Bermuda Hundreds and no records are available to show that they became numerous until 1690. At this time the Randolphs of the county possessed eighteen, valued at six shillings each. (51)

Hogs were very numerous and universally to be found on plantations of all sizes. They were introduced by Dale at Bermuda Hundreds, (52) and increased rapidly in numbers all during the colonial period. It has been said that in 1670 hogs were too numerous on some estates to be enumerated. (53)

(48) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1697-1704, P. 137, Va. State Library.

(49) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1697-1704, P. 137, Va. State Library.

(50) Henrico County Records, Vol. 1677-1692, P. P. 217, 257, Virginia State Library.

(51) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1688-1697, P. 429, Va. State Library.

(52) Stith, Wm, History of Virginia, P. 125.

(53) Bruce, P. A. Economic History of Virginia, Vol. 1, P. 378.

It was a common practice among the negroes and Indians to steal hogs for food and a statute was passed that for the second offense of hog-stealing, the guilty party would be put in the pillory for two hours with his ears nailed to the beam, and at the end of that time they should be cut loose with a knife. (54)

The planters were greatly harrassed by the ravages of wolves upon the young live stock all during the colonial period. Calves, and hogs and sheep of all sizes were devoured by these animals. A law was passed early in the seventeenth century authorizing that a cow be given to every Indian chief whose tribe brought eight heads of wolves to the authorities in the counties. (55) In 1669 the Indian tribes were required by law to deliver one hundred and forty-five wolves' heads. (56) The county levy in Henrico for the six months ending October 1699 shows that thirty wolves' heads had been delivered for which according to law the officers of the county were to pay three hundred pounds of tobacco for each one caught in a trap or two hundred for each one shot with a gun. (57) As late as the year 1707 the authorities in Henrico were greatly concerned about the depredations of these animals, for on November 10th of that year the levy court ordered that 24,681 pounds of tobacco be paid to fifty-two different men for trapping and killing wolves. (58) The land

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(54) Hening's Statutes, Vol. 1.

(55) Hening's Statutes, Vol. 1, P. 395.

(56) Hening's Statutes, Vol. II, P. 275.

(57) Hening's Statutes, Vol. III, P. 42.

(58) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1706-1709.

patents reveal that the greater number of the planters who were thus remunerated were residents of the southside of the river, and that this section was more widely developed agriculturally than the other. (59) It is highly probable that this menace continued for many years until the frontier was pushed back much farther westward.

The extent to which the settlers imported manufactured commodities from England is indicated by the inventories of the general merchandise stores. A partial list of the goods appearing in the inventory in 1678 of the store of Col. Francis Eppes shows a comparatively large variety of manufactured articles on the market of this community. In linen goods there were one hundred and twenty ells of dowlas, fifty-one ells of oznaburg, sixty ells of canvas, three hundred and twelve ells of holland, and eighty yards of table and napkin linen. There was a large quantity of serge, red cotton, blankets, bed ticking, sixty-two pairs of shoes, yarn hose for women and children, thread, lace bodices, razors, scissors, knives, shears, steel tobacco boxes, pewter salts, candlesticks, tankards, spoons, tin quart pots, sauce pans, lamps, cullenders, pepper boxes, lanterns, fishing hooks and lines, wooden bellows and sifters, dishes, ladles, brooms, iron pots, chafing dishes, frying pans, shovels, spades, plow shares and colters, hammers, chisels, and augers, large quantities of nails of all sizes, brass mortars, one barrel of powder, five barrels of shot, fifty pounds

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(59) See Henrico Land Patents, Books I and II, State Land Office, Richmond, Va.

of sugar, half a firkin of butter, four pounds of ginger, and a small collection of books. (60) This and numerous other inventories of stores and private estates show that the early residents of this section were not without the convenience of these imported goods.

There is little to indicate that many articles of any kind were manufactured at home. The attempts to manufacture iron and iron implements at Falling Creek have already been described above. Provisions were made by law in 1656 for the sons of poor men and orphans to be apprentices to tradesmen up to the age of twenty-one and the church wardens of the different parishes were directed to present the names of children thus to be given training in some manual art. (61) In addition to the few implements made by the black-smiths and carpenters who had been imported into the colony, it appears that serious attention was given to making linen cloth in the homes. About 1688 to 1700 several inventories in the county list linen wheels or spinning wheels. The Osborne estate, situated south of Proctor's Creek had eighteen linen wheels. (62) In 1693 a statute was passed offering a reward for a piece of home manufactured cloth, (63) and in 1695 eight hundred pounds of tobacco was given to Thomas Cocke of Henrico for the production of a piece of linen cloth. (64)

(60) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692 P.93, Va. State Library.

(61) Hening's Statutes, Vol. 1, P. 416.

(62) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1688-1697 P. 350, Va. State Library.

(63) Hening's Statutes, Vol. III, P. 135.

(64) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1688-1697, P. 606, Va. State Library.

Spinning wheels appear in the inventories of Thomas Osborne who had two and of Henry Jones who had four. By 1710 large quantities of linen, cotton and woolen cloth were being made for home consumption but not for exportation.

Reference is made in the county records to flour and grist milling industry conducted by William Byrd on Falling Creek. In the orders of April 1, 1697 a millstone owned by William Byrd and used at Falling Creek was valued forty pounds sterling.

(65)

In the county government the taxes were levied in terms of so many pounds of tobacco to meet the necessary expenses. In 1677 the levy of 108½ pounds per poll was placed on four hundred and thirteen tythables to meet the necessary expenses. These expenses were for services of men and horses and were paid largely to residents of the southside or the present Chesterfield, including the Hatchers, Kennons, Coxes, and Pleasants. (66) The Minute Book of the Orphans Court of April 1, 1686 ordered all tythables on the southside from the Falls of the James River to Thomas Jefferson's to turn in their lists to Mr. Abell Gower; from Thomas Jefferson's downwards to Mr. John Worsham; and those in Bristol Parish to Mr. Peter Field. These men were thus appointed tax collectors for their communities. The total number of tythables allotted these men was six hundred and twenty-three, and the levy was one hundred and four pounds of tobacco each, yielding a total revenue of

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(65) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1699, see orders of April 1, 1697. Va. State Library.

(66) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1, 1677-1692, P. 22, Va. State Library.

sixty-four thousand seven hundred and ninety-two pounds. Among the expenses to be paid by this levy was an item to Richard Kennon of Conjurers Neck for thirty-two days as a burgess and the use of his boat. (67)

Beginning about 1692 the records show that much attention was being directed toward keeping creeks navigable and bridges and roads in repair. In 1692 the county court took action along this line to clear the creeks of logs, snags, etc. for the passage of sloops and boats. The action taken was stated thus: "In obedience to the 15th Act of the General Assembly ... for the well clearing of the heads of ye rivers an creeks, Mr. Nicho Dison is nominated and appointed surveyor of Swift Creek and Mr. Robert Thompson of Falling Creek". (68) In 1696 Mr. William Puckett was appointed surveyor of Baugh's or Mr. Kennon's Mill Creek and several persons, appointed to assist him were exempt from clearing the highways. (69) It appears from this that all persons were required to help clear the highways in their neighborhoods. By 1713 the levy placed upon one thousand three hundred and seventeen tythables for these purposes and other miscellaneous expenses amounted to thirty-four thousand five hundred and seventy-one pounds of tobacco. In the Levy Court of Nov. 5, 1739, for various services to the county thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and ninety-two

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(67) Records Henrico County Vol, 1, 1677-1692, P. 403, Va. State Library.

(68) Records of Henrico County, Minute Book of Orphan's Court, Book II, P. 421, Va. State Library.

(69) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 3, P. 99, Va. State Library.

pounds of tobacco were paid. Among these items the following appear: "To John Cobb for keeping Swift Creek bridge 1162 pounds and to William Bailey surveyor 1849 pounds". (70)

The following items appearing in the Order Book of Henrico in 1743 shows that efforts were being made to establish and repair links in a highway where the present Richmond-Petersburg Pike is today: "William Cheatham is appointed surveyor of the Road from Proctor's to Swift Creek Bridge in the Room of Thomas Bass, and it is ordered that the tythables as usual do assist in clearing same", and "Seth Ward is appointed surveyor of the road from Falling Creek to Proctor's Creek in the Room of Joseph Ward, deceased, and that the tythables as usual do assist in clearing and keeping the Road in repair". (71) In 1743 John Cobb received one thousand and forty pounds of tobacco for keeping Swift Creek Bridge his ninth year, and Henry Cary for keeping Falling Creek Bridge five hundred pounds and for Ferriage on court days one thousand two hundred and forty-five pounds. (72) The same date, December 4, 1743, the court ordered that the constables in the vicinity be paid for viewing the tobacco fields as follows: William Parton three hundred and twelve pounds, Robert Sharpe two hundred and ninety-one pounds, Benjamin Clark two hundred and forty-five pounds, Blackman Ward two hundred and twenty-six pounds, and William Baugh three hundred and nineteen pounds. (73) The total

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(70) Records of Henrico County, Order Book 1737-1748, P.P.93-94, Virginia State Library.

(71) Records of Henrico County, Order Book 1737-1748, P. P.219, 221, Virginia State Library.

(72) Records of Henrico County, Order Book 1737-1748. P. 240, Virginia State Library.

(73) Records, Ibid.

expense for the year 1743 was twenty-one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight pounds of tobacco levied upon two thousand seven hundred and thirty-one tythables at eight pounds per poll. (74)

In the May Court of 1744 the grand jury indicted the surveyors of the roads from the Appomattox to the Widow Dawsons and from Skinquarter to the Widow Dawsons and from Jefferson's to Nunnally's for not keeping them in repair. (75) The total county expense for this year showed an increase. It was thirty-nine thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight pounds levied upon two thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight tythables at thirteen pounds per Poll. The items of expense again included ferriage, keeping of bridges, surveying of roads, and viewing of tobacco fields. (76)

In reviewing the economic development of Colonial Chesterfield it becomes very evident that the basis of its wealth was tillage of the soil. The efforts at mining and manufacturing iron were rather spasmodic. Other manufacturies such as implements made by the blacksmith and carpenter, linen, woolen, and cotton goods made in the home, and flour and meal at Falling Creek and Kennon's Mill Creek were for home consumption and not exportation and trade. They were products of stern necessity and not of the inclination of the people.

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(74) Records of Henrico County, Order Book 1737-1748. P. 240, Virginia State Library.

(75) Records of Henrico County, Order Book 1737-1748, P. 256, Virginia State Library.

(76) Records of Henrico County, 1737-1748, P. P. 294-295, Virginia State Library.



Economic necessity forced the early settlers to make the most of his time and land. The bottom lands on the upper stretches of the James and its tributaries on the southside yielded abundantly to the labors of these sturdy frontiersmen. The land patents and deed books of this period speak eloquently of this type of economy.

## Chapter III

Bases of Social Development

When people are separated from their native homes and familiar institutions, the ideals and customs which were enshrined there become doubly dear to them. This was well demonstrated by the early settlers who set up in a wilderness offering every imaginable, untoward circumstance, a social system of institutions, customs and ideals which gave colonial Virginia the aspects of a miniature, transplanted England. The physical make up of this system was, of course, modified by the exigencies of the place and time. No sooner had Sir Thomas Dale completed the establishment of his settlements at Henrico Island, Coxendale, and Bermuda Hundreds and City than English usages began to take form only to suffer a severe set back by the hostility of the Indians in 1622, and from which there was no notable recovery for nearly a half century.

Some of the reasons for the colonization of early Chesterfield were social as well as economic. When the new settler arrived he found social distinctions quite as well marked as in England, with the additional incentive of a chance to rise to a higher class. (1) The life which the Virginian led on his estate was essentially the same as the life led by the English landed gentry. The absolute absence of towns or cities in this region made life even more rural than in England and this appealed to the transplanted Englishman and

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(1) Bruce, P. A. The Social Life of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century, J. P. Bell & Co., Lynchburg, Va. 1927, P. 22.

caused him to form tastes and habits similar to those of the rural gentry of the old country. These tastes were probably even accentuated by the greater dispersion of the population and the larger size of many of the estates. Virginia, too, was absolutely loyal to the Church of England, (2) but never went to the same extreme in persecuting the various dissenting sects as did the colonies to the north. Another important reason for the attractiveness of this region, especially to the families of wealth, was the opportunity offered the father of a number of boys to settle the second, third and fourth sons on estates of their own, either by patents from the Regal Government or by purchase at a low price. In this way it was possible for several sons of the same family to become landed gentlemen. The first son established in England under the primogeniture laws, and the others in Virginia either by purchase or by land patents. But having once become settled here the primogeniture laws held for their children just as rigidly as in England. The extent to which this class was attracted is shown by the fact that three-fourths of those who signed the charter of 1612 were in the circle of the landed gentry, while one hundred and twenty of the number had been or still were members of Parliament. This position was usually held by land owners of the kingdom. (3)

Class distinctions were definitely evident in the very earliest settlement made by Dale at Henrico Island. When he

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(2) Bruce, P. A. Social Life in Virginia. P. 20.

(3) Brown, Alexander, The Genesis of the United States, Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1890, Vol. II, P. 342, (Charter of 1612)

began to build his town there, he provided barracks for his common workmen, but built "five good houses on the verge of the river to house the better sort of people". (4) In the farming region at Bermuda Hundreds he again established classes among the planters - some were granted the privilege of tenants, others were designated as common laborers. These tenants after 1617 placed after their names the title "planter" and thereafter became a distinct class. (5) These two classes, the laborer or servant and the landed gentry, were the only classes well distinguished in colonial Chesterfield. The land-owners informally designated themselves as planters or gentlemen, but the greatest proof employed by them of their social distinction was the use of authentic coats of arms. This right was based upon property ownership and social standing and confirmed by the English crown. Armorial bearings were not as freely and loosely assumed in those days as at present. (6)

A glance at some of the colonial records shows that the leading men designated themselves by two or three different titles depending upon whether they were thinking at the time of their social rank or their calling. For example, John Goode of Chesterfield in the same document called himself "gentleman" in one place and "planter in another place. (7)

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(4) Stith, William, The History of the First Discovery and Settlement of Virginia, Wm. Parks, Williamsburg, Va. 1747, P.124.

(5) Brown, Alexander, The First Republic in America, Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1890, Vol. 1, P. P. 209-210.

(6) William and Mary Quarterly, ed. L. G. Tyler, Vol. 1, P.67.

(7) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692, P. P. 189-190, Virginia State Library.

The social rank was called of both the grantee and the grantor in deeds. One example of this is to be found about 1679, in an agreement between Robert Bowman and Richard Kennon both residents of the southern part of the county on Swift Creek. Bowman was designated as "planter" and Kennon as "merchant". In another agreement in 1679 both Martin Elam and John Bowman described themselves as "Planters". (8) The Carys of Ampthill who had perhaps the best claim to the title "gentleman" after their names, were often designated "planters" and Henry Cary as "carpenter". These people didn't work at the actual task of sowing and planting or building a house, but they supervised that type of work because they thought it was profitable. Cary was an ancestor of Archibald Cary and one of the founders of one of the most aristocratic families in Virginia and yet he was a building contractor. (9) Some of the wealthier families of the county who were of the class of landed gentry are listed as examples of this class and not as an exhaustive list. Richard Kennon of Conjurers Neck, Edward Digges of near Bermuda Hundreds, William and Henry Randolph of Matoax, the Eppeses of the Swift Creek vicinity, William Hatcher of near Bermuda Hundreds, Seth Ward of Sheffields, Miles Cary of Ampt-hill, John Goode of Whitby, Christopher Branch on Kingsland Creek, John Bolling on the Appomattox River, Dr. Mathews on Falling Creek, Samuel Cobbs on Swift Creek and Captain Osborne on Proctor's Creek are good examples of the landed gentry in

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(8) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692, P.P. 83-84.

(9) William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. V. P. 195.

Chesterfield up to about 1740 or later. (10)

The other class of whites in Chesterfield at that time, though undoubtedly numerous, have left little record. Naturally the County records reveal the activities of the ruling class. The laborer and servant, not owning any land, did not even have his name listed among the tythables. A few families of the wealthier class even in colonial days maintained a county ring in politics and kept themselves in office. The Cocks, Eppes, Randolph and Farrar families held all the more important public offices in Henrico from 1670 to 1700. (11)

The early settlers and frontiersmen of that part of Henrico now known as Chesterfield County like men of every other locality in Virginia were little concerned about any definite system of education, and not at all concerned about public primary education after the first attempt near Henrico Island and its collapse for many decades. The earliest attempt to establish a university, college, and primary school, however, was made at Henrico Island. Early in the year 1619 fifteen hundred pounds sterling had been raised under the auspices of the Virginia Company of London for a proposed college in Virginia. The greater part of the money raised was the result of the untiring efforts of Edwin Sandys and Reverend Patrick Copeland. (12) February 22, 1619 an unknown person gave five hundred and fifty pounds in gold for the same purpose. Also "I. H. S."

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(10) see Henrico Records referred to previously, and Virginia Land Patents Books 1 to 33.

(11) see Records of Henrico County covering this period.

(12) Stanard, Mary Newton, Virginia's First Century, J. B. Lippincott Co., New York, 1928, P. 162.

gave "as a pledge of devotion to the sacred work a communion cupp, cover and case; A Trencher plate for the bread; A Carpet of crimson velvett; A linnen Damaske Tablecloth and Fower great Books". (13) The necessary funds for building the college having been raised the Virginia Company of London in August 1619 sent over fifty men to begin work on the college lands. (14) On November 17, Sir Edwin Sandys recommended that a hundred more be sent over in the spring "with divers staid persons amongst them; a hundred young persons as apprentices, and send a hundred young maids to become wives, that children and families might make them less moveable and settle them together with their posteretie in that soile". (15)

The site of the college was selected at the point where Dale made his first settlement in 1611 on Henrico Island. It was called Henricopolis, and is now known as Farrar's Island. Ten thousand acres of land were reserved on the north side of the river for the university, one thousand acres on the south side for the college, and one hundred acres on the south side for a primary school. (16) All of the lands of the college and the primary school and that part of the university grounds, cut off by the Dutch Gap canal and now known as Farrar's Island lie in Chesterfield County. Not only was this the first attempt in English speaking America at establishing an

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(13) Quoted in Stanard, Mary Newton's Virginia's First Century, P. 163.

(14) Tyler, L. G. The Cradle of the Republic, Hermitage Press, Richmond, 1906, P. 221.

(15) Quoted in Stanard's Virginia's First Century, P. 163.

(16) Stith, William, The History of the First Discovery and Settlement of Va., Wm. Parks, Williamsburg, Va. 1747, P.165.

institution of higher learning, but the school on the south side was the beginning of elementary and secondary education in this country. The first rector of this institution was the Rev. Patrick Copland or Copeland and the superintendent of buildings and plantations was George Thorpe. (17)

In 1619, the year that the college was established at Henricopolis, the town which included the college people and buildings and Coxendale was represented at the first Representative Assembly at Jamestown by John Dawse and John Polentine-while Bermuda Hundreds sent Samuel Sharpe and Samuel Jordan. (18) This indicates that this settlement was considered of great significance in the colony and was ranked as a borough or town. By 1622 the construction of the university buildings had begun and a number of houses had been built. Among the houses on the island was a guest house or tavern, and the town looked to be prosperous. There was every indication that the university and town would be a success, but the entire settlement was suddenly brought to complete destruction by the Indian massacre of March 22, 1622. (19) However, there were a few persons left on the college lands, and in 1624 it was still ranked as a borough, being represented in the House of Burgesses that year by Thomas Morlett and Gabriel Holland. (20)

No records are available to show that another attempt

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- (17) Tyler, Lyon G. The Cradle of the Republic, The Hermitage Press, Richmond, Va., 1906. P. 221.  
 (18) Stith, William, History of Virginia, P. 162.  
 (19) Stith, Wm. History of Virginia, P. 162.  
 (20) Brown, Alexander, The First Republic in America, Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1898, P. 579.



was made by the government during the next hundred and twenty-five years to establish an educational institution in the county. The government did, however, seek to regulate the private instruction to some extent. On August 2, 1686 the court at Varina ordered "that schoolmasters must not officiate in that capacity without first obtaining a license from the court. (21) And in order to encourage learning the court ordered that certain schoolmasters be exempt from the payment of taxes. As an example of such exemptions we find in the minutes of the Orphans Court of 1686 the following order: "Mr. Nathaniel Hill, schoolmaster, having severed himself out of Gloucester County and here settled, upon his petition it is ordered (for ye encouragement of learning and instruction of youth in this County by inviting able tutors here to reside) that he be this year free and exempted from paying any levyes". (22) It is impossible to tell on which side of the river Mr. Hill resided, but the court action was representative of both the Henrico and the Chesterfield side, in the liberal attitude taken toward education.

There are further evidences of private schools in the county during this period when school teachers were forced to appeal to the court to collect the fees due them for teaching. On February 1, 1687, a Mr. Thomas Daulby petitioned the Orphan's court "for payment from Elizabeth, Executrix of Robert

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(21) Colonial Records of Henrico County, Minute Book of Orphan's Court, Book II, P. 213, Virginia State Library.  
 (22) Colonial Records of Henrico County, Minutes, Book II, P. 241, Virginia State Library.

Bullington, thirty shillings sterling for schooling of two children for nine months. (23) Another instance of an instructor's efforts to collect his fees for a somewhat different type of instruction was when William Garrett on April 20, 1688 asked the court to compel John Floyd to pay five hundred pounds of tobacco and five shillings sterling for teaching him to "play skillfully with Backswords and Rapier". (24) These and similar orders and court minutes and the absence of a school system reveal a social order in which the meagre education offered the youth was either under private tutelage or in small schools privately maintained.

The popular diversions of early Chesterfieldians as well as early Virginians were very similar to those of England of the same period. They consisted of playing cards, drinking and dancing, acting, horse racing and betting on everything that took place - whether it be a horse race, a game of cards or the weight of some object. The drinking of the people of Colonial Chesterfield was a custom transplanted from England. It was not only confined to occasions when friends assembled in the home of some planter, or in the taverns; but at any occasion public or private where people congregated. The colonial records show that even at funerals there was exceedingly heavy drinking and feasting and firing of guns. At the funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Eppes of Henrico who lived in vicinity of Swift Creek, the following food and drinks were

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(23) Colonial Records of Henrico County, Minutes, Book II, P. 260, Virginia State Library.

(24) Colonial Records of Henrico County, Minutes, Book II, P. 274.

consumed: "For her Funerall", 10 lbs. Butter, 2 gallons of Brandy,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pepper,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ginger, 5 gallons of Wine, 8 lbs. sugar, one steer seven years old, and three large weathers (sheep). The total cost of this feast as valued in the inventory of the Eppes' estate was one thousand three hundred and sixty one pounds of tobacco. (25)

It appears that playing cards and betting on the game was a universal pastime among the people of the county. Numerous instances are recorded showing that they took their disputes over the winnings to the court. About 1680, John Piggott, playing at cards with Martin Elam and John Milner in the home of Martin Elam in the present Chesterfield County had won three hundred pounds of tobacco, but thought it should be much more. He petitioned the court for a settlement of his grievances. (26) Several years later, the Henrico Court was called upon to settle a dispute arising over a bet between William Stone and John Broadnax as to the relative weight of gold and quick silver. (27) Several such cases might be given to show this tendency to bet on any and everything about which there was a difference of opinion.

Perhaps the most popular and certainly the most spectacular diversion in the county in the colonial period was horseracing. All through the period efforts were made to improve the breed of horses in the state with a view to providing saddle horses

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(25) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692, P. 258, Va. State Library.

(26) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692, P. P. 28, 224, Virginia State Library.

(27) Records of Henrico County, Minutes, Book 1682-1701, P. 199, Virginia State Library.

for the planters and horses of great speed for the frequent races. In 1643 the Assembly gave special privileges to breeders of horses of this type. (28) To encourage the use of home breeds, an act was passed in 1663 making legal the exportation of horses and prohibiting the importation. (29) Ten years later another act was passed by the House of Burgesses prohibiting the importation and placing further restrictions upon the breed - actually requiring anyone who engaged in horsebreeding to improve the stock. (30) The Virginians were great lovers of horses and horse-back riding. Rev. Hugh Jones stated that: "They are such lovers of riding that almost every ordinary person keeps a horse; and I have known some spend the morning ranging several miles in the woods to find and catch their horses only to ride two or three miles to church, to the Court House or to a horse race". (31) What was true of Virginians generally was especially true of the people of Chesterfield. Of the twenty-three conspicuous breeding establishments in Virginia after 1730 when horses began to be bred and kept for racing purposes only, two were in Chesterfield. One was owned by Samuel Duval which produced the famous stallion, "Silver Eye", and the other was owned by Thomas Goode of Whitby which produced the equally famous sire "Lofty". (32) The speedy quarter mile race was

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(28) Hening, William Waller, Statutes at Large of Virginia, Bartow, New York, 1823, Vol. 1, P. 268.

(29) Hening's Statutes, Vol. 2, P. P. 267, 271.

(30) Journal of the House of Burgesses, 1659-1693, P.P. 60, 279.

(31) Jones, Hugh, The Present State of Virginia, Published under the Royal Exchange, London, 1724, P. P. 48, 49.

(32) Harrison, Fairfax, The Background of the American Stud Book, Old Dominion Press, Richmond, Va. P. P. 13, 14, 15.

the type of race for which the southside was famous and is to be inferred that those races held in the vicinity of Bermuda Hundreds were on a quarter mile track. (33)

Disputes, arising from the races, which were settled in court furnish evidences of frequent races at Bermuda Hundreds during the latter half of the Seventeenth century. A dispute arose between Mr. Edward Hatcher and Mr. Andrew Martin about 1680 over a race on the Bermuda Hundreds track. Richard Ligon claimed the horse Hatcher was about to run was his and would not let it run. It so happened that they had staked their horses on the race. Since Hatcher and Ligon could not agree as to whose horse it was, Martin ran his horse over the track alone and, therefore, won the other horse. The judges awarded the race to him, but it was necessary for the Henrico Court to settle the ownership of the disputed horse. (34)

The track at Bermuda Hundreds became one of the most popular places for social gatherings in the county. Here in July 1688 a race was run between horses belonging to Mr. Abram Womack and Mr. Richard Ligon. The former ridden by Thomas Cocke and the latter by Joseph Tanner, a servant of Mr. Thomas Chamberlaine. Mr. Chamberlaine and Mr. Abram Childers were selected starter and judge respectively. The horse ridden by Cocke shied from the track and Cocke cried out, "this is not a fair start". Mr. Ligon's horse won the race. A dispute arose.

(33) Stanard, W. G., Racing in Colonial Virginia, Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. 2, P. 294.

(34) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692, P. 254, Virginia State Library.

Mr. Childers upheld the start and the dispute was taken to Henrico Court. (35) Mr. Chamberlaine was a party to another race about 1698 in Chesterfield at Conecock or Cunnecock on the Appomattox River at which race not only was a gallon of rum consumed by the principals but his wager with Mr. Ligon amounted to forty shillings. (36) Another race course in Henrico County (Presumably on the south side of the river from the names of the principals taking part) was known as the Ware. In 1698 a race took place on this track between the horses of Mr. Thomas Jefferson, Jr. and Mr. Thomas Hardiman at which heavy betting took place and a dispute arose which was carried to court for settlement. (37)

Not only did the court find among its duties the settling of betting disputes of this pleasure loving upper class, but it took some steps toward governmental regulation of moral conduct. In 1692 one Bridgett Lugrove alias Churchhouse was summoned to court upon a presentment by the grand jury for "having a base child by a negro". (38) Another case of a similar nature is found in the records of the May Court of 1744 when the grand jury indicted Mary Sharp for having a bastard child. She was ordered to appear at the next court to stand trial on the charge. (39) There are other references

(35) Records of Henrico County, Minutes, Vol. 1682-1701, P. 38, Virginia State Library.

(36) Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. II, P. 297, For location of Cunnecock also see Henrico Land Patents, Book 17, P. 211, State Land Office, Richmond, Va.

(37) Records of Henrico County, Order Book, April 1, 1698.

(38) Records of Henrico County, Minutes of Orphan's Court, Book 2, P. 421.

(39) Records of Henrico County, Order Book, 1737-1748, P. 256.

to the regulation of morals such as the imposition of fines for swearing, non-attendance at church and the like.

The social spirit and hospitality of the people were enhanced by the very nature of the country itself as well as by the customs brought here from the mother country. Each plantation of the wealthier class boasted a residence similar to the English manor house, from which unstinted hospitality was dispensed to all. It has been said that a traveler in Virginia needed no other recommendation to the people than that he was a "human creature"; that if he was in want of food or shelter, he had but to inquire the way to the nearest gentleman's seat, and there he would be entertained with the best that could be obtained, whether the master and his family were at home or merely the servants in charge. (40) Some of the inns in the county were distinguished for a hospitality and warmth of entertainment almost equal to the private homes of the planters and greatly superior to the ordinary tavern. Some of these inns were kept by men of refinement who had been driven to this mode of making a living by ill fortune. Some, too, were prominent and wealthy citizens who had taken over the operation of a hostelry as a side line, and by choice. An example of this was probably Thomas Cocke who was licensed to keep a tavern in the county in 1685. (41) The colonial mansions throughout the county remotely situated, as they were, and stocked with the luxuries of Old England were no

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(40) Beverley, Robert, History of Virginia, Richmond, Va. P. 258.

(41) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692. P. 330.

doubt the scenes of frequent revelries of dancing, playing games, and feasting and drinking and other such amusements as might have been dictated by the desires and tastes of the group. Some of these famous residences are: Sheffields, Whitby, Proctors, and Matoax of the earliest period, and Conjurers Neck, Ampthill, Cobbs, the seat of the Branches on Kingsland Creek, the seat of Doctor Matthews on Falling Creek, and Cunnecock of a little later period. The mode of travel from plantation to plantation must have been either by boats and sloops on the convenient streams or by horseback through the none-too-well-kept bridle paths and roads.

From the foregoing accounts of the various social phases of the life of the people of Chesterfield County during the period of its early development as a part of Henrico, a close similarity to English customs and usages of that time is discernable. The reasons for this English social atmosphere are very evident. Bruce says that one of the foremost reasons is the fact that "the great bulk of the population was of unmixed English blood" during the Seventeenth century. (42) This was said of the state of Virginia and it is quite true of Chesterfield County during its first century; but after about 1700 the western part of the county had a strong element of French blood coming from the French Huguenot settlement of 1700 at Manakin Town situated across the line in Powhatan County. (43) This group played a conspicuous part in the

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(42) Bruce, P. A., Social Life of Virginia, P. 255.

(43) See Marble Tablet in Old Manakin Church, also Hening's Statutes, Vol. III, P. P. 201, 478.



subsequent development of the county. Other reasons may be found in the absence of religious heresy to a very great extent and loyalty to the established church, the sharp differences between the upper and lower classes, the presence of many great landed estates, and a governmental system whereby a closed ring of landed gentry governed the county under the regal government in the same manner as the shires of the mother country were governed.

It probably appears that the prevailing social system of the time was narrow and somewhat provincial, and this is explainable in terms of the fact that it was a country which was only recently a great wilderness. This system did, however, form the bases for social developments which were destined later to produce indelible impressions upon the subsequent history of the Commonwealth of Virginia if not of the nation. The culture and refinement of manners of this colonial period would do justice to the Earl of Chesterfield for whom the region was named in 1749 when it was erected into a separate county.

## Chapter IV

Westward Expansion and Formation  
into a Separate County

The settlements traced, in Chapter I, for about three-fourths of a century after the early developments by Dale in 1611 were confined entirely to the region lying between the fall line and the James River. This tide-water section comprises only a scant third of the present county of Chesterfield. The reasons for the retarded expansion toward the west are to be found in the fact that it was an inaccessible and heavily wooded territory inhabited by fierce savages, the land was less fertile than the river lands on the James and Appomattox Rivers below the falls, and that even frontiersmen are loathe to carry their settlements and civilization far from the water ways provided by nature, until forced to do so by the press of population upon economic resources. The impetus given westward settlements in this region, however, antedated the general expansion in the state under Governor Alexander Spotswood by at least a decade.

In the latter part of the seventeenth century there were indications of a trend westward above the falls for pioneer settlements, in which were to be found the sturdiest English stock in the colony and in which government was lax and individualistic. In 1689 the people had appealed to the county government for some correction of its weaknesses in that region and some protection for life and property from the less scrupulous and criminally inclined settlers. The county government

immediately took steps to extend its influence in that direction. In that year the court being concerned because "there being noe constable near the head of the James River whereby ye inhabitants are put to much trouble and inconvenience", appointed "John Stower Constable for those parts and precincts ... from Falling Creek upwards on the north side". (1) From the description of this region over which Constable Stower was appointed it must have embraced all of that territory lying between Falling Creek and the James River and extending from above the falls all the way to the boundary line between the present counties of Chesterfield and Powhatan (see map opp. P. 68). All of Midlothian District and the western half of Manchester District are located in this sector of the county.

The main activities in the acquisition of land were still to be found on the lower stretches of the rivers and creeks from which the developments westward were gradual. On December 1, 1677, Edward Robinson for valuable consideration transferred a large tract of land, including swamps, to one Nicholas Dijon lying "betwixt Swift Creek and the high land gutt opp. Hog pen marsh". The tract was apparently about the fall line and extending to the high land, from the description in the records. (2) Land patents of this period show new acquisitions following these streams westward. In a patent dated November 20, 1682, William Puckett and Thomas Puckett received a tract of

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(1) Records of Henrico County, Minutes of Orphan's Court, 1677-1692 # 2, P. 298, Virginia State Library.  
 (2) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1677-1692, P. 25, Virginia State Library.

land of seven hundred and fifty acres in the Parish of Bristol on the north side of the Appomattox River. (3) Evan Baker, Al. Belange and Robert Mann had a patent dated April 16, 1683 of eight thousand nine hundred and eight acres on the south side of the James River and north of Swift Creek adjoining the land of Henry Randolph. (4) This patent must have extended into the interior near the center of the county. On the same date Jos. Tanner and Richard Womacke received a patent of two hundred and sixty acres, situated on the north side of the Appomattox River and lying west from the land of William Harris. (5) On September 20, 1683 James Baugh had a patent of one hundred and nineteen acres on the north bank of the Appomattox River adjoining the land of Robert Burton. (6) Peter Field received a patent of four hundred and eighty three acres above or west of the land of Mr. Francis Epes lying between Swift Creek and the Appomattox River on October 21, 1687, (7) and on the same date William Dodson and James Franklin received a patent of three hundred and sixty acres on the great branch of Swift Creek beginning on the north side of the creek. (8) These patents were gradually going westward and inclining north into the interior as in the last named patent on "great branch" (see map opp. P.68). The "great branch" or main branch of

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(3) Henrico Patents Under the Regal Government, State Land Office, Richmond, Va. Book # 7, P. 200.

(4) Land Patents, Book # 7, P. 278.

(5) Land Patents, Book #7, P. 250.

(6) Land Patents, Book # 7, P. 281.

(7) Land Patents, Book # 7, P. 640.

(8) Land Patents, Book # 7, P. 655.

Swift Creek runs through the county about one mile south of the site of the present court house.

In April, 1690 Henry Randolph acquired another tract of five hundred and twenty acres on the south side of Swift Creek above the second branch, (9) and on October 23 of the same year Henry Walthall received a patent of three hundred and twenty six acres on the north side of Swift Creek in Bristol Parish. From the description of this patent, the tract is located below the fall line, at the site of the Walthall Lodge of the present day. (10) About two years later a large tract of two thousand eight hundred and twenty seven acres was patented to Richard Kennon, Francis Epes, Joseph Royall, and George Archer "on the north side of the Appomattox River beginning at the mouth of a great creek". This creek was, according to the description, either Noonung Creek or Winterpock Creek and, therefore, this tract was situated in the very south-west corner of the county. (11) Thus, by the close of the century, the Appomattox and Swift Creek sector was being developed by scattered plantations and settlements far into the western territory. The parties named in this patent were already located on their plantations lower down on the creeks and rivers in the tide-water section, and it is inferred that this partnership patent was to be used as a speculative enterprise by leasing it to tenants.

The acquisition of land along the James River was pursued just as vigorously as it was in the southern section at about

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(9) Land Patents, Book # 8, P. 47.

(10) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 8, P. 118.

(11) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 8, P. 153.

the same period. On the lower James where most of the land was already possessed by patents there are instances of transfers by deed. On April 27, 1686, Abell Gower transferred by deed to Edward Stratton a tract of five hundred and eighty seven acres in the vicinity of Bermuda Hundreds. (12) Rochedale was transferred from William Byrd to Robert Hudson by deed dated November 22, 1707, for five hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco. (13) This price is amazingly low for so fertile a piece of farming land. A portion of West Shirley lying south of the river was deeded to John Worsham by Edward Hatcher on August 1, 1710. (14) On April 20, 1704, William Byrd received two land patents on the south side of the James River. One was just north of Powhite Creek and consisted of five hundred and seven acres. The other tract contained three hundred and forty four acres and was situated: "On the south side of James River within the limits laid out for the French Refugees, but not by any of them seated. Beginning at a corner upon upper Manakin Creek in the French head line". (15) This patent was in the extreme north-east corner of the county and located among those notable tracts soon to be patented to the outstanding families of the French Huguenots who were destined to exercise a tremendous influence in the later development of the county, and whose names appear prominently in the economic, social, and political activities at the present day.

The settlement at Old Manakin Town by the French Huguenots

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- (12) Records of Henrico County, Vol. I, P. 45, Va. State Library.  
 (13) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1706-1709, P. 68, Virginia State Library.  
 (14) Records of Henrico County, Vol. 1710-1714, P.P. 18 & 19.  
 (15) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 9, P. 612.

in 1700 was one of the most important settlements of the period in both Chesterfield and Powhatan counties. From Manakin Town, which was situated on the present boundary line between the two counties, the settlers spread in both the north-westerly and the south-easterly directions. Those going in the latter direction not only took up land in the "limits laid out" for the refugees, but also received patents and established homes and families far down into Chesterfield County. Two of the best preserved land marks of this settlement are at Manakin Church of King William Parish, situated across the line in Powhatan County and the Huguenot Springs across the line in Chesterfield. (16) These French settlers not only gave added impetus to the development of this section but were recognized by the government as being desirable citizens. In December 1700 the General Assembly meeting at William and Mary College in Williamsburg passed a law authorizing that all French Huguenots who settled at Manakin Town be exempt from all taxation for a period of seven years, in order to encourage them to settle and take up more land in that vicinity. (17) And again in 1705 the General Assembly passed an "act extending the tax exemption to the French Protestant Huguenots until December 25, 1708". (18)

Among the Frenchmen who received large patents in this vicinity and others who settled near them, a few are found at this early date and many others came down into the county later.

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(16) See Marble Tablet in Old Manakin Town Church on Huguenot Highway in Powhatan County.

(17) Hening, William Waller, Statutes at Large of Virginia, Bartow, New York, 1823, Vol. III, P. 201.

(18) Hening's, Statutes, Vol. III, P. 478.

On November 2, 1705 Abraham Michaux received a patent of five hundred and seventy four acres on lower Manakin Creek. (19)

On December 19, 1711 Abraham Salle' received a patent of two hundred and thirty two acres on the south side of the James River on lower Manakin Creek. (20) Citizens by these names are still residents of the neighborhood and have played a prominent role in its development. Another important settlement made by a Frenchman was that of John Tullit, who received a patent of seventeen thousand six hundred and fifty acres on Falling Creek a considerable distance down in the interior of the county "at a Broad Rock adjoining the lands belonging to Col. William Byrd". (21) The date of this patent was November 2, 1705, and it is significant that this, the largest patent in the county up to this time, was given by the Regal Government to a French Refugee. Either this tract extended to the vicinity of the present court house or Tullit and his heirs by the same name acquired more land there a few years later, as the name appears among others in the deed given to the court house tract on July 24, 1777. (22) Near the Huguenot settlement Tarleton Woodson received a patent, dated May 2, 1713, of one hundred and two acres, situated south of the James River on the river bank. (23) Also in the extreme western part of the county and somewhat south of these patents, William Mosely a few years later received a large tract of land. His patent

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(19) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 9, P. 679.

(20) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 10, P. 42.

(21) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 9, P. 738.

(22) Chesterfield County Records, Deed Book # 9, P. 22.

(23) Henrico Land Patents, Book #10, P. 73.



consisted of seven hundred and sixty acres situated at the mouth of a small branch of Skin-quarter Creek. (24) Near this place, the present Post Office of Moseley is located and it is to be inferred that the name is derived from William Mosely and the family which he established there. Another patent was located near by on the upper stretches of Falling Creek, by which William Hatcher, on May 2, 1705, received a tract of five hundred and forty acres. This was described as lying south of the James River on a branch known as Licking Branch of Falling Creek. (25) Thus the north-western section was beginning to be developed rather generally by large plantation owners though, as yet, it was very sparsely settled.

Simultaneously with the above mentioned development, the south-western section was being settled rapidly. On April 24, 1703 a group of men and women including Captain Francis Epes, Isham Epes, Francis Epes, Jr., George Robinson, minister, Elizabeth Kennon, Phillip Jones, Martha Stratton, George Archer, and James Hill received a patent of four thousand acres on the north side of the Appomattox River and beginning at the mouth of Winterpock Creek. (26) This group of people were the first white persons perhaps to become inhabitants of the village of Winterpock. August 1, 1712 the county records show land transferred in this vicinity by deed. John Towns transferred a considerable parcel of land to Richard Grills, situated south of Swift Creek and extending westward to a rocky branch. (27) Then in rapid

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(24) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 15, P. 356.

(25) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 9, P. 661.

(26) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 9, P. 540.

(27) Records of Henrico County, Deed and Wills, 1710-1714, P.P. 172-173, Virginia State Library.

succession patents were acquired for the next several years. Jonathan and Benjamin Cheatham received a patent of four hundred acres, described as lying in the Winterpock neighborhood north of the Appomattox River, (28) and a little later Benjamin Cheatham received a patent of three hundred acres, described as being north of the Appomattox River and west of Skinquarter Creek. (29) By this description the tract of land was located in the extreme south west corner of the present county. In the same year Samuel Goode received a patent of four hundred acres on Winterpock Creek. (30) By these grants, extending up to about 1730, this part of the county was well established, but settlements continued to be made along the branches of the creeks at short intervals. On June 16, 1744 William Perdue a prominent French Huguenot received a patent of two hundred and forty acres "beginning at Richard Wood's corner white oak standing on east side of Sappony Creek". (31) His tract of land was described later as adjoining John Kelton's land near Skinquarter. John Perdue, in a patent dated June 5, 1746, received a tract of four hundred acres adjoining the land of Thomas Puckett and Belcher on the south side of Sappony Road. (32)

Somewhat east of these patents on the lower Swift Creek Samuel Cobbs received an additional patent, dated January 10, 1735, of four thousand acres on which was established the celebrated "Cobbs" estate mentioned in Chapter III. (33) In the

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- (28) Henrico Land Patents, Book 12, P. 308.  
 (29) Henrico Land Patents, Book 13, P. 501.  
 (30) Henrico Land Patents, Book #13, P. 506.  
 (31) Henrico Land Patents, Book #22, P. 125.  
 (32) Ibid.  
 (33) Henrico Land Patents, Book #16, P. 462.

following year Peter Jones and Dorothy, his wife; and Henry Battle and Elizabeth, his wife received a patent of sixteen hundred acres "on the north bank of the Appomattox River known by the name of Cunnecock". (34) At this place was established the famous race track for "quarter-milers" where sporting society of colonial Chesterfield frequently gathered for the favorite pastime of the day.

In the central portion of the county land was being acquired by patents and by deeds at a rapid rate. Benjamin Chalkley, in a patent dated June 16, 1738 received one hundred and eleven acres of land "lying between Robert Thompson and Henry Vanderhood and thence crossing Kingsland Creek". (35) The records show that John Goode of Whitby transferred, by deed dated Jan. 1, 1727 to his son Benjamin Goode a tract of land situated in the forks of Four Mile Creek. (36) On January 12, 1746 Valentine Winfrey received a patent of three hundred and fourteen acres adjoining the lands of Matthey Farlow, Daniel Worsham and extending down on Proctor's Creek to Hatcher's corner, (37) and in the same vicinity, Henry Hatcher on April 1, 1749 received a patent of three hundred acres adjoining James Farlow, James Hill, his own land which had been formerly acquired, and others. (38) These patents were located in the territory immediately surrounding the present town of Chester, and the deed books of Chesterfield County for the next several years show

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(34) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 17, P. 211.

(35) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 18, P. 10.

(36) Records of Henrico County, Deeds & Wills, Part I, P. 157, Virginia State Library.

(37) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 28, P. 75.

(38) Henrico Land Patents, Book # 28, P. 565.

land transactions by some of these men, both around this point and extending to the Chesterfield County Court House tract which was laid off a little later. The description of the court house tract shows some of the prominent names in the vicinity either as landowners whose lands were transferred or whose property was contiguous to the tract in question. Daniel Hardiway of Amelia deeded a parcel of land to Porterfield Trent consisting of seven hundred acres and lying in Dale Parish and being a part of the court house tract. Among the other names appearing in the title are: Henry Winfree, son of Valentine Winfrey or Winfree, William Hatcher, James Ball, Japtheth Fowler, Henry Winfree, Jr., Stith Hardiway, Ben Smith and others.

(39)

Now that the settlements and land patents have been traced into every large section of that part of Henrico south of the James River and at present known as Chesterfield County, it is well to inquire into the governmental activities which were designed to unify and to bring into closer coordination the outlying districts, parishes and natural regions. It has been found that settlers have followed the streams and their tributaries back into the western interior. They followed the Appomattox River and took their patents at the mouths of Noonung, Winterpock, Sappony, Goode's and Skinquarter Creeks and the settlements spread up these branches to their heads, and thus a large portion of the southern region was developed all the way to the western boundary. (see map opp. P. 68) Other settlers

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(39) Records of Chesterfield County, Deed Book # 9, P. 22, Chesterfield Court House.



followed Swift Creek and planted their seats on its various branches, which run a little to the south of the center of the county and which extend nearly to the Powhatan line (see map opp. P. 68). By far the largest number followed the James River from Bermuda Hundreds along its circuitous way past the falls and culminating at the Manakin Creek with the French Huguenots. (see map opp. P. 68). Others followed the already famous Falling Creek, establishing their homes thickly on its lower stretches and on Licking Branch and at the Broad Rock and westward along its numerous tributaries extending through the region around the present town of Midlothian and almost to the Manakin Town. (see map opp. P. 68). The central region around the present town of Chester and Chesterfield Court House and extending in a north-westerly direction was all settled, though sparsely, by 1749. This was the last section of the county to be settled but proved to be a very important one for it furnished the site for the court house, soon to be established there.

A glance at the county government at Varina during this period indicates that the south side had developed earlier and more rapidly than the north side or Henrico proper. A majority of the names on the lists of tythables could be traced to their land patents on the south side. At the Court held at Varina Oct. 4, 1720 the following seven justices were present: Thomas Jefferson, William Randolph, William Kennon, John Redford, Francis Epes, Joseph Royall, and Richard Randolph. (40) By their land patents, all of these gentlemen with the exception of John

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(40) Records of Henrico County, Minute Book 1719-1724, P. 366.

Redford are to be found south of the James River. At the court held in December of the same year a case was tried between Samuel Hatcher, plaintiff, and Benjamin Branch, defendant, both of the south side. Hatcher charged that Branch assaulted and beat him. The jury trying the case consisted of Francis Flournoy, Richard Ward, Thomas Wood, Joseph Wilkinson, John Ferguson, Nicholas Cox, Abraham Womacke of the south side and William Kent, James Franklin, John Watson, Henry Clay and Edward Scott not definitely located. (41) The Plaintiff was awarded ten shillings.

The first effort made at unifying this region was in bringing all the parishes together as one. It has been indicated previously that the southern half was in Bristol Parish dating back to 1643 and the northern half in Henrico Parish which dated back to 1611. (42) On May 13, 1735 an act was passed by the general assembly creating Dale Parish. The act stated that: "All that part of Henrico Parish lying on the south side of the James River and all that part of Bristol Parish lying on the north side of the Appomattox River shall henceforth be erected into one distinct Parish and be called and known by the name of Dale Parish". Thus Dale Parish in 1735 represented the exact territory which was formed into the county of Chesterfield fourteen years later.

Chesterfield County was formed from Henrico County on May 1, 1749. It included all of that part of Henrico lying south of the James River, with the same limits of Dale Parish. The act

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(41) Records of Henrico County, Minute Book 1719-1724, P. 372.

(42) See William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. XXIV, P. 126.

of the Virginia General Assembly creating this county is of sufficient importance in this discussion to justify its being quoted in toto. (43) The act does not appear in Hening's Statutes, except the title. (44)

An Act for dividing the County of Henrico into two distinct counties.

(Passed May 1, 1749.)

FOR the Ease and convenience of the Inhabitants of the county of Henrico in attending Courts and other public Meetings Be it Enacted by the Lieutenant Governor Council and Burgesses of this present General Assembly and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same That from and immediately after the twenty fifth day of May next ensuing the said County of Henrico be divided into two Counties that is to say all that Part of the said County of Henrico lying on the south side of James River shall be one distinct County and called by the Name of Chesterfield County and all that other part of the said County of Henrico on the north side of James River aforesaid shall be one other distinct County and retain the Name of Henrico AND that for the due Administration of Justice after the said twenty-fifth day of May a Court for the said County of Chesterfield be constantly held by the Justices thereof upon the first Friday and a Court for the said County of Henrico be constantly held by the Justices thereof upon the First Monday in every Month in such Manner as by the Laws of this Colony is provided and shall be by their Commissions directed PROVIDED alway that nothing herein contained shall be construed to hinder the Sherif or Collector of the said County of Henrico as the same now stands intire and undivided to make Distress for any Levies Fees or Dues which shall be due from the said County of Chesterfield after the said twenty fifth day of May in such Manner and not otherwise as by Law he might have done if this Act had never been made any Law or Usage to the Contrary thereof notwithstanding.

April 27. 1749 Read the third time & passed the House of Burgesses.

William Randolph C. H. B.

William Gooch

John Robinson Speaker

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(43) Robinson, Morgan P. Virginia Counties (Bulletin of Virginia State Library Vol. 9, Nos. 1-3, Jan.--July, 1916, for which a publication copy was secured from the Public Record Office in London. Also see Robinson, Morgan P. Henrico Parish, P. 32.  
 (44) Hening's Statutes, Vol. VI, P. 214.



May 1. 1749. Read the third time & agreed to by the Council.

A Copy Test

N. Walthoe C. G. A.

William Randolph C. H. B.

(Endorsed:)

Virginia. At a General Assembly begun and held at the College in Williamsburg on Thursday the Twenty seventh day of October in the Twenty second year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. and in the year of our Lord 1748. Numr 27.

An Act for dividing the County of Henrico into two distinct Counties.

Passed ye 11th of May 1749.

Recd with Colo Lee's Letter dated ye 6th Novr 1749.

Recd March ye 19th 1749/50.

Sent to Mr Lamb May ye 21st 1750.

Recd back Febry ye 8th 1750/1.

Exd 27.

No Objection  
Great Seal of Virga  
taken off pr. S.G.

Having acquired a separate political existence, the new county of Chesterfield continued its development along the lines already begun, but with a renewed vigor.

Chesterfield County was named in honor of Philip Dormer Stanhope, Fourth Earl of Chesterfield, the celebrated Lord Chesterfield. In 1749 when Lord Chesterfield had just completed his public career and was well known all through England and America, the county was named in his honor. In addition to having been prominent both in the House of Commons and the House of Lords and especially as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Chesterfield was noted for his courtly grace and polished dignity. (45)

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(45) Long, Charles Massie, Virginia County Names, The Meade Pub. Co., Washington, 1908, P. 73

By the legislative enactment of May 1, 1749 it was required that after May 25 of that year the county court be held on the first Friday in each month. Pursuant to this regulation, the first court in Chesterfield County was held Friday June 2, 1749. "The commission of the peers of the county of Chesterfield for holding court" on the above date consisted of the following appointees: "William Kennon, John Bolling, William Gay, Richard Royall, William Kennon Jr., John Archer, Richard Eppes, Seth Ward, John Royall, William Eppes, Robert Good, Henry Randolph, Edward Osborne Jr., and Robert Kennon, Gentleman". (46) The order for administering the oath which had been "dated May 12, 1748, was openly read, Whereupon Richard Eppes and Seth Ward administered the oath appointed to be taken by act of Parliament, instead of the oaths of allegiance and supremacy and the abjuration oath". (47) Only eight of the fourteen citizens appointed on this commission were present to be sworn in as justices. Richard Eppes and Seth Ward not only administered the oath to the other members but to each other. Those who were present and sworn in as justices of the court were: "John Bolling, Richard Royall, Richard Eppes, Edward Osborne, William Gay, William Kennon, Junr., Seth Ward, and Robert Kennon, Gent., Justices". (48)

The court immediately went about the business of swearing in the various county officials who reported with commissions for these offices. Benjamin Watkins produced a commission as clerk of the court and "thereupon took the usual oath of office

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(46) Records of Chesterfield County, Order Book # 1, 1749, P. 1.

(47) Ibid.

(48) Ibid.

and was sworn Clerk of this court". (49) John Archer produced his commission from Governor William Gooch as Sheriff. Richard Royall and Richard Eppes, Gent. acknowledged their bonds as his securities, and he was promptly sworn the first Sheriff of Chesterfield County. (50) The court also appointed Grief Randolph as under or deputy Sheriff. (51) One A. Claiborne produced a commission from the governor as Deputy King's Attorney and was duly sworn to this office. (52) Messrs. John Wayles, Augustine Claiborne and Benjamin Harris, Gent. took the oath of attorney to practice as attorneys in this court. (53) George Currie produced his commission from the governor as surveyor of the county and was thereupon sworn in by the court. (54)

In addition to swearing in these officials the court transacted three other items of business. Matthias Chetwood having given the proper bond and security according to law was granted a license to keep ordinary at his home on Buckingham Road for the space of one year. (55) Buckingham Road ran in a westerly direction from about the falls of the James at the present site of South Richmond, and is today known as the Midlothian Turnpike. A deed was proved between Henry Cary and Archibald Cary, Gent. of the first part and James Sand of the second part. (56) The last item transacted before adjournment was that of giving William Kennon Jr. "leave to run a mill on the Appomattox River". (57)

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(49) Records of Chesterfield County, Order Book I, 1749, P. 2.

(50) Ibid.

(51) Ibid.

(52) Ibid.

(53) Ibid.

(54) Ibid.

(55) Records of Chesterfield County, Order Book I, 1749, P. 3.

(56) Ibid.

(57) Ibid.

The first court adjourned with the following order: "Court Ordered Adjourned".

"J. Bolling"

A retrospective glance at the county during the period of one hundred and thirty-eight years, from its earliest settlement by Sir Thomas Dale to the second day of June, 1749, when the county court with its eight justices began to transact business, impresses one with the tremendous development that has taken place along all lines. The Indians have been forced to give way before the advance of civilization and erect their wigwams far toward the western interior. The white men have carved their homes and plantations out of a primeval forest and have extended their settlements to every section of the peninsula, from the Appomattox to the James and from Bermuda Hundreds to Skinquarter and Manakin Creeks. They have transplanted an old world civilization in a dense and hostile wilderness; and erected an economic system which, with the exception of a few futile attempts at manufacturing, has its basis deeply rooted in the tillage of the soil. A social system has developed in which the landed gentry is the predominating and ruling class, and in which recreation is to be found in the pastimes common to all Englishmen of the day. Legislative enactments and the processes of its own civil court, appointed by Governor Gooch, have separated Chesterfield County from its mother County, Henrico, and have created it into an entirely distinct and separate political entity and given it the name of the celebrated and courtly Lord Chesterfield. The favorableness of its location, its settlers of

sturdy English and French stock, and its political inheritance  
give complete assurance of its future.

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## VITA

**Name:** Edwin S. H. Greene  
**Date of birth:** March 17, 1896  
**Place of birth:** Culpeper County, Virginia  
**Positions held:** Principal of Remington High School 1920 - '21; Principal of The Broad Rock Jr.High School 1921 - 1924; Principal of the Chester High School 1924 --; Vice President of the Virginia Education Association 1935 -.  
**Education:** Graduate of Amissville High School; Bachelor of Arts, College of William and Mary 1931; Applicant for the degree of Master of Arts, College of William and Mary, 1935.