The Washingtons and their Colonial Homes in West Virginia

By

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Harewood, the home of Colonel Samuel Washington, then Berkeley County, Virginia, now Jefferson County, West Virginia. Built 1770.

BY

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DEDICATED TO
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George Washington was sixteen and wanted to go to sea. His half-brother, Lawrence, with whom he was staying, thought it might be a good way for him to see the world. His trunk was already aboard the vessel that lay in the river beyond the lawn at Mount Vernon. A message arrived from his Mother at Ferry Farm below Fredericksburg, which changed his plans. She had written to her half-brother in England, Joseph Ball, telling him of the plan for young George. His Uncle was strongly against it. "They might treat the boy like a dog if he went to sea before the mast, better apprentice him to a tinker." So the little trunk was brought ashore, and he settled down to his studies at Mount Vernon, supervised by his brother, Lawrence, who took great interest in them. How much America owes to "brother Joseph's" common sense. Mary Ball Washington was left a widow with six children in 1743, George, Betty, Samuel, John Augustine, Charles, and Mildred, who died not long after her father. Both half-brothers, Lawrence and Augustine, who was called "Austin" by his family, seemed to wish to help George, who really was the head of his Mother's family. At fourteen, he went to Wakefield to stay so that he could attend Mr. William's school at Oak Grove, several miles from Wakefield. Augustine Washington had just married his second wife, Ann Aylett, an heiress, who was fond of fashionable friends and dinner parties. He was just at the awkward age when hands and feet seem too big to be managed and he felt he must not disgrace his sister-in-law, with his country-bred manners. So even at that age, anxious to do his best in anything he undertook, he wrote out his Rules of Civility, which among other things mentioned were: "Don't blow your soup at the table," "don't talk with meat in your mouth." When he came back to his mother's home at Ferry Farm he set up his own little office for the study of surveying. It is the only building today that remains of Mary Washington's home for 28 years. William and Mary College at Williamsburg
MORDINGTON, home of Charles Washington, the youngest brother of General George Washington. It was called by him "Happy Retreat," and is at the edge of Charles Town, West Virginia, then Berkeley County, Va. Charles Washington died here in 1797.
gave George Washington, the lad of sixteen, a certificate of Proficiency in Surveying. At Ferry Farm, George cut down the Cherry tree and refused to tell an untruth about it, threw a Spanish coin across the Rappahannock River and accidently killed his mother’s wild blooded colt, trying to break it to saddle. All these incidents have come down to us which many of us think are true. Mary Ball Washington was a devoted, anxious mother, whose prayers for her children never ceased. The youthful George spent many happy days at Mount Vernon with his brother Lawrence, and his young wife, who had been Anne Fairfax, a cousin of Lord Thomas Fairfax of Greenway Court. He was devoted to his oldest half-brother, Lawrence, who took an interest in all he did. While keeping up his studies he had an interesting life. Below Mount Vernon was Belvoir, the home of William Fairfax, also a cousin of Lord Thomas. He had a son about George’s age—George William, who came to call on Mr. Washington’s guest and young brother, and the call was returned. A new life of congenial companionship opened to him. The Carys lived in the neighborhood and there was much coming and going among the young people. George fell very much in love with Sally Fairfax, the sister of his brother Lawrence’s wife. She did not return his love and he thought his boy’s heart was broken. Few fatal wounds are made to hearts at sixteen, however, and he was very susceptible to female charm in his boyhood, notwithstanding that Martha Washington had the entire devotion of his more mature life. Later he considered himself charmed by Mary Phillips Mary Cary, Lucy Grymes, and Betsy Fauntleroy. But cupid had many disappointments for him, for the old saying seemed true in his case—“lucky in war, unlucky in love.” Mary Phillips married Captain Morris; Mary Cary, Edward Ambler; Sally Fairfax, her cousin, George William Fairfax; Lucy Grymes married Henry Lee; and Betsy Fauntleroy, Thomas Bishop. At Belvoir, he said “he spent the happiest days of his life.” The sorrow of his brother Lawrence’s early death and the great responsibilities of War that his country laid on his young shoulders, so early, had not yet cast their shadows over his life. At Belvoir, he met Lord Thomas Fairfax of the Northern part of Virginia, who with his
Drawing Room at Harewood

Drawingroom at Harewood, where President James Madison and Dolly Payne Todd were married in 1794. Portrait of Colonel Samuel Washington over the mantlepiece when he was twenty-one years old. He was a widower at the time.
wonderful insight into human nature, was at once attracted to this youth. Finding that his principal education had been in surveying, his Lordship asked if he would undertake to survey a tract of land he owned beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains that he knew little about himself, but that was already settled in some places and he wished to give titles to the purchasers of the land they had built on. George William Fairfax was to go with him. We can imagine the high spirit of adventure with which the two boys set out. At first Lord Fairfax sent a surveyor, Mr. Genn, with them. When they had traveled over the Blue Ridge Mountains to Captain Ashby's on the Shenandoah River in March 1748, George Washington's Diary says on March 13th, which was Sunday, they "Rode up to his Lordship's Quarters four miles up the River. We went through a most beautiful grove of sugar trees and spent the best part of ye day in admiring ye trees and ye richness of ye land." On Monday, March 14th, they sent their baggage to Captain Hite's near Frederick's Town (Winchester, Virginia) went down the river 16 miles to Captain Isaac Peningtons, "the land rich and fertile all ye way." Lord Fairfax himself rode into what is now Jefferson County, West Virginia, with George Washington and the surveys began on his Lordship's land. The first tract they surveyed was the land where Whitehouse Tavern now stands near Summit Point, one of the oldest buildings in Jefferson County. It was built by Dr. John McCormick, a graduate of Dublin University, Ireland, who came to America in 1740. This old house, later used as a Tavern, looks more like a fort, as the houses were built in those early days when they needed so much protection from the Indians. Dr. McCormick sold it after many years to Mr. Whitehouse, who used it for a Tavern for a great length of time.

The next tavernkeeper of this old place was John Locke, an Englishman. The western half of the house was added later. Across the road was a large frame building part of the Tavern, as it was where the servants of the gentry lodged. It was destroyed by fire. We find traces of the youthful surveyors still in Jefferson County. In a large cave back from the Berryville Road, near Charles Town, where the Indians before
Prospect Hill

PROSPECT HILL built by Richard Henry Lee Washington, the great-nephew of General Washington. His sister Mary Lee Washington Herbert inherited it and it became the home of her son, Bushrod Herbert, who lived and died at Prospect Hill. This house has been taken down recently.
them had drawn Indian Heads on the Walls, we see “G. Washington, 1748” carved, and also George Washington's initials and this date on a tree at the edge of the Aglionby woods, where the bark is cut away. George Washington’s youthful delight in the land he found across the Blue Ridge Mountains seemed not to have lessened in manhood. It was a land of limestone construction well suited for farming, well-watered by the Shenandoah River and the smaller Opequon river, with numerous springs making their way to these rivers, also the Bullskin and Evitts Runs. The climate was mild and healthful and the scenery of mountain range, wooded hills and lowlands, very beautiful. But his brother Lawrence’s health was not good and he returned to Mount Vernon to go with him to the West Indies in search of better health, which did not come. He missed his wife and sent George back to Mount Vernon to fetch her. He was held up by quarantine for smallpox on the ship, so by the time he got to Mount Vernon, his brother Lawrence must have realized that he must come home, if he wanted to die among his relatives. A fatality seemed to pursue so many little children of those days and already three of his children had died. One little infant daughter, Sarah still lived. In his will, he said if this little girl died, Mount Vernon was to go to George Washington, but his wife Anne was to have a home there during her lifetime and she and George to share the income from the estate. The child died soon after her father and in the course of six months, his wife married Col. George Lee. George Washington paid her life interest in Mount Vernon annually for the ten years she lived afterward. At Greenway Court near White Post, Virginia, still stands the little grey stone office of two rooms where George Washington kept all his charts and maps while he surveyed the land of Lord Fairfax. The larger room had a panelled door leading to a second room. In the large room is a big fireplace with high mantle, the door leading outside is of wonderful construction, the beams running across inside and crosswise in the opposite direction on the outside, a hard door for the Indians to have broken through.

After his brother Lawrence's death, George Washington felt the call of his country for defense and join-
CEDARLAWN, five miles west of Charles Town, W. Va., the home of Thornton Washington, the oldest son of Colonel Samuel Washington. It was built in 1780, and rebuilt after a fire by John Thornton Augustine Washington, his son, in 1824.
ed Braddock's Army in that unfortunate expedition against Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburgh.

In 1755, Gen. Braddock's army marched from Alexandria through Vestal's Gap, over the Blue Ridge Mountains to Vestal's Ferry on the Shenandoah River on their way to Fort Cumberland. This was the famous old Warm Springs Road that went from Alexandria to Bath, now Berkeley Springs, Morgan County, West Virginia. When General Edward Braddock was fatally wounded and died at Fort Necessity after the storming of Fort Duquesne, George Washington read the Episcopal burial service over him before dawn by the light of a torch. He was buried in the middle of the road, so that the enemy would not suspect his burial place. Later his body was removed to his final resting place near Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Hard times followed for George Washington, for the frontier was unprotected and the Indians were bold and cruel after their victory in the French and Indian War at Fort Duquesne.

There were no forts except Fort Cumberland and Fort Frederick but numerous blockhouses for defense—several near Shepherdstown, W. Va., then Virginia. The settlers were at the mercy of the cruel army.

Richard Morgan, a Welshman, raised a company to defend them until Fort Shepherd, a substantial stone fort was built at Shepherdstown. Around Winchester, the settlers were so defenseless that it brought out clearly that tenderness of heart that General Washington displayed on several occasions in his life. The historian Norris in the "History of the Lower Shenandoah" speaks of his distress over the settlers at Frederick Town, now Winchester, Virginia.

Norris says: "The victory of the French and Indians greatly emboldened the latter and they made constant raids upon the settlements, and to such a pass had matters come that Washington hastened from Winchester in the ensuing spring to Williamsburg to prevail upon the Governor to augment the forces by additional men and to build a fort at Winchester. He was deeply concerned at the situation of the defenseless people on the border, and with that kindness of heart, which at all times seemed to be the attribute to his valor, he wrote
Blakeley House

Blakeley House, the home of John Augustine Washington, great nephew of General Washington. It was built in 1820.
the woes of the hardy, long-suffering pioneer in the following letter, which deserves to be printed on silver and framed in gold."

Washington wrote: "I see their situation, I know their danger, and participate in their sufferings without having it in my power to give them further relief than uncertain promises. In short, I see inevitable destruction in so clear a light that unless vigorous measures are taken by the Assembly, and speedy assistance sent from below (Williamsburg) the poor inhabitants now in forts must unavoidably fall, while the remainder are fleeing before the barbarous foe. In fine, the melancholy situation of the people, the little prospect of assistance, the gross and scandalous abuses cast upon the officers in general, which reflects on me in particular, for suffering conduct of such extraordinary kind, and the distant prospect, if any of gaining reputation in this service causes me to lament the hour that gave me a commission and would induce me at any other time than this of imminent danger, to resign, without one hesitating moment, a command from which I never expect to reap either honor or benefit, but on the contrary, have almost the absolute certainty in incurring displeasure below (Williamsburg), while the murder of helpless families may be laid to my account here.

"The supplicating tears of the women, the moving petitions of the men, melt me with such deadly sorrow, that I solemnly declare, if I know my own mind, I could offer myself a willing sacrifice to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease." G. Washington.

"It seems almost impossible that this magnificent letter, breathing mature ideas of the patriot, the martyr, and the father should be the production of one who was scarce out of boyhood, being but twenty-four years of age. This production was written in the town of Winchester and forwarded to Governor Dinwiddie, whose indifference to the sufferings of the frontier colonists was so flagrant, as to be cowardly and brutal."
Claymont Court

Claymont Court, built by Bushrod Washington in 1820, great nephew of George Washington, near Charles Town, W. Va., formerly Berkeley County, West Virginia.
Norris' History of the Lower Shenandoah.

Pages 109-110.

CHAPTER SECOND.

The Washingtons in Berkeley County, Virginia, now Jefferson County, West Virginia.

The admiration for the country beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, expressed in his diary by the youthful surveyor, led to his becoming a large landowner in this fertile valley of the Shenandoah. He bought much land in Berkeley County, and the two large farms, Rock Hall and Richwood belonged to him. About 1765 he personally supervised the building of Harewood for his brother, Samuel, the brother next to him in age, and "the much married Washington". At the time he came to live in Berkeley County, he had lost three wives in Stafford County, Virginia; Jane Campe, Mildred Washington and Louisa Chapman, and was a widower with two little boys, Thornton and Tristman, the sons of his second wife, Mildred Thornton.

When he came to Northern Virginia to live, Samuel married Anne Steptoe Allerton and had four children, Ferdinand, George Steptoe, Lawrence Augustine and Harriet Parks. At the death of Anne Steptoe Allerton Washington, he married for a fifth time, his wife being "the widow Perrin" and had one son, John Perrin Washington. Samuel Washington died in 1781 in his forty-seventh year. He was a colonel in the Revolutionary War, and took much part in the civic affairs of Berkeley County.

In George Washington's Diary in 1770-1771 he writes of spending much time at Harewood with his brother Samuel and at Happy Retreat, the home of his brother Charles and transacting a great deal of his business here, surveying land, and also writing out instructions for Captain Crawford to survey two hundred thousand acres of land in the West. On March 10th 1771, he spoke of dining at Mr. James Nourse's home, Piedmont, in the neighborhood. Harewood was built of native limestone, from a nearby quarry, and so plentiful was land in those days that an old record says that "Shirley Smith was given an acre a day per
BEALL AIR, in Jefferson County, West Virginia, near Harper's Ferry, the home of Colonel Lewis Washington, great-great nephew of General Washington. During John Brown's Raid in 1859, Colonel Washington was taken from Beall Air, as a hostage.
team to haul grey limestone rock for the building of Harewood.”

All the finest woodwork, pilasters, wainscoting, and cornice were brought from England, landed at the port of Alexandria, Virginia, then taken across the Blue Ridge Mountains through Vestal’s Gap and over the Shenandoah River at Vestal’s Ferry, to Harewood. This was the famous old Warm Springs Road, as it led to the Warm Springs at Bath (now Berkeley Springs in Morgan County, West Virginia). Many times General Washington traveled over this road to Bath as the waters were said to cure many ailments, as well as Bath being a popular resort of fashionable society up to the time of the Civil War. General Washington also took his beloved little step-daughter “Patsy” Park-Custis to Bath, over the Warm Springs Road to try these Warm Waters for her health. Martha Washington spent much time at Bath with her husband, but it was then little more than a village.

His brother, Samuel Washington and Reverend Charles Mynn Thruston were appointed to have Bath laid out in streets. Harewood has a very interesting history itself. Louis Phillippe, later King of France and his two brothers, the Duke of Montpensier, and the Count of Beaujolais, with their faithful Serviter Boudouin, spent their exile from France at Harewood and George Washington Lafayette was also entertained here. At Harewood was held a famous wedding—when Dolly Payne Todd became the wife of James Madison, later President of the United States, in 1794.

George Steptoe Washington had inherited Harewood after the early death of his brother Ferdinand, at the age of seventeen. While still under the guardianship of his uncle, General Washington, he married Lucy Payne, then fifteen years old. The Paynes belonged to the Society of Friends in Philadelphia and there was much opposition to Lucy Washington’s marriage as well as her sister Dolly marrying outside this sect, to which her parents and Dolly’s first husband belonged. Both were “read out of meeting” because “they were married by a hireling priest, without the consent of their mother, after being cautioned against such outgoing,” and so it was pleasanter to have the wedding at the home of her sister in Virginia.
Side View of Beall Air

Side view of Beall Air, home of Colonel Lewis Washington. The back part of the house was built at a much earlier date than the front, and is a different style of architecture.
General Washington and Martha Washington, who were friends of James Madison, had expressed their approval of the match and Thomas Jefferson had offered his coach for the wedding journey. Dolly Payne Todd with her little son, three years old, Payne Todd, her little sister, Anna Payne, and her maid started on the journey to Virginia, with Mr. Madison and several friends on horseback and driving for escort. A week later in the beautiful panelled drawing room at Harewood, Sept. 15th, 1794, they were married by Reverend Alexander Balmaine, a relation of James Madison's and a beloved Episcopal minister in Winchester, Virginia, for thirty years. It was a gay wedding, much feasting and merriment. Light-horse Harry Lee dashed up at the last moment before the ceremony, riding one of his famous horses. The girls cut up Mr. Madison's Mechlin lace ruffles for souvenirs.

At Harewood, is a handsome porphyry mantel in the drawing-room that was sent from France to General Washington with another just like it, as a gift from General Lafayette. The other mantel is at Mount Vernon. A portrait of Samuel Washington is over the mantelpiece.

Charles Washington, the youngest brother of George, also came to Berkeley County to live and built a home called Happy Retreat, near the present town of Charles Town. The two wing-house is still standing, which it is supposed was connected by a covered passage-way, that was removed when the central part of Happy Retreat was built by Judge Douglass in 1833 and called "Mordington," Charles Washington obtained a charter for Charles Town in 1786, and gave much land to the town. He was said to be a man of attractive manners. He was a Colonel in the Revolutionary War, born in Stafford County, Virginia in 1738, and died at Happy Retreat in 1797.

His wife was Mildred Thornton, the first cousin of Samuel's wife. He named the streets of Charles Town for his family, so there is George Street, Samuel Street, Lawrence Street, Mildred Street, and Washington Street in Charles Town today.
TRAVELLER'S REST, home of General Horatio Gates. It is six miles from Shepherdstown, eight miles from Charles Town, and nine miles from Martinsburg. General Gates built it in 1763 and lived here until 1790, when he moved to New York. He was an Englishman, and seriously wounded with General Braddock troops. He became a Major-General in the American Army.
Charles Washington and his wife, Mildred Thornton had four children, George Augustine, Samuel 2nd, Frances, and Mildred. The first was a manager for his uncle, General Washington, at Mount Vernon many years and married Frances Bassett, Martha Washington’s niece. Samuel 2nd went out to live in what is now the western part of West Virginia. Frances married first Burgess Ball, a half-nephew of Mary Ball Washington and afterwards Mr. Peyton. Mildred was a beautiful, attractive girl and married Captain Thomas Hammond. They had three sons, all dying in infancy, and she herself died at Happy Retreat in 1804.

Cedar Lawn, another handsome old Washington home is about five miles West of Charles Town and is still owned by a descendant of the Washingtons. It was the house built before 1780 by Thornton Washington, eldest son of Samuel Washington, who was an ensign in the Revolutionary War at 16. It was first called Berry Hill, for his wife, Mildred Berry. The house was burned and rebuilt in 1824 by his son, John Thornton Augustine Washington, whose wife was Louise Bedinger, daughter of Daniel Bedinger, a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. They had thirteen children, who after their parents’ death, went to Missouri and California to live and many of them became distinguished lawyers.

In 1820, George Washington’s two great-nephews came to Northern Virginia, Berkeley County to live, John Augustine Washington and Bushrod Corbin Washington. John A. built Blakely House. His wife was Jane Charlotte Blackburn. He inherited Mount Vernon twenty-seven years after the death of General Washington, from his Uncle, Judge Bushrod Washington, associate Justice of the Supreme Court to whom General Washington had left it. Judge Washington and his wife, Anne Blackburn were childless. The children of John A. Washington that lived to maturity were John Augustine, Richard B., and Anne Mariah T. B. Washington. He died two years after he inherited Mount Vernon and it then passed to his oldest son and the last Washington owner of it, John Augustine Washington, who sold it to the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, who own Mount Vernon at the present time.
Lee House

LEE HOUSE, the home of General Charles Lee, built in 1770. It is nine miles from Shepherdstown, six miles from Charles Town, and thirteen miles from Martinsburg. It was the home of General Lee for nine years, after his retirement from the American Army at the battle of Monmouth, when he had a disagreement with General Washington. He was an eccentric bachelor. He called his home Prato Rio. He was born in England.
Bushrod Corbin Washington, the brother of John A. Washington, married Maria Blackburn and built Claymont Court in 1820. Their children were Thomas Corbin Washington and Hannah Lee Washington. Claymont Court is one of the most beautiful houses in the Valley of Virginia and is approached by a winding road through the woods, a mile in length. It was for several years the home of the famous author, Frank R. Stockton, who sought quietness for his work among congenial surroundings. His last book "Kate Bonnet" was written here. Claymont Court was a place of refuge during the War between the States in 1861 for many members of the Washington family.

Prospect Hill, one of the Washington homes in Jefferson, is a quaint cottage-house near Blakeley, and not far from Claymont Court.

John Augustine Washington, a brother of George Washington, married Hannah Bushrod and they were the parents of Corbin Washington, who owned 2720 acres of land in Berkeley County, Virginia, (now Jefferson County, West Virginia). At his death he left this land to his wife, Hannah Lee Washington, daughter of Richard Henry Lee. She lived and died in Fairfax County, Virginia. By her Will this tract of land went to her three sons, Richard Henry Lee, who built on it Prospect Hill; John Augustine, who built on his portion Blakeley House, and Bushrod Corbin, the

Mary Lee Washington was left a sum of money but the daughters of a family were not left land in those days. At her death, Hannah Lee Washington divided among her three sons, one hundred and thirty slaves. A descendent of the Washingtons has a small invitation, printed, with the name of the guest filled in, to a dancing-party given August 5th, 1812 at Prospect Hill by Richard Henry Lee Washington. He died without a Will and his portion of the tract was divided between his two brothers, and his sister, Mary Lee Washington, who married Noblet Herbert of Alexandria, Virginia. She inherited Prospect Hill in this way, and her son Bushrod Herbert lived and died in this old house.

Another old historic house in Jefferson County is Beall Air, the home of Colonel Lewis Washington, at
a later date. His father was George Corbin Washington of Georgetown, a son of General Washington's niece Jenny Washington, daughter of John Augustine Washington, and William, eldest son of his half-brother Augustine Washington of Wakefield. Beall Air was built by Thomas Beall, Lewis Washington's grandfather and the front of the house added by himself.

In 1859, when John Brown made his Raid on Harper's Ferry, he took Colonel Lewis Washington as a hostage, also taking from Beall Air, at the same time, a sword given to General Washington by Frederick the Great, with the inscription "from the oldest General of his time to the greatest." John Brown was wearing this sword when captured.

Not far from Harewood was St. George's Chapel, now in ruins, where all the Washingtons worshipped and George Washington, when he was in Berkeley County. It was finished in 1769, built of native limestone, and is said to have been very beautiful. All the furnishings were brought from England. It was "a church at ease," built by the contributions of several people for the use of the community, the land having been given by Mr. Worthington, the first owner of "Piedmont".

As the Episcopal Church in the colonies was considered under the care of the Mother church in England, St. George's Chapel was under the jurisdiction of Norborne Parish, England, where all its records were kept, and it was often called "Old Norborne church," also "the English Church."

Romance and tragedy cling around these old gray walls, for a duel is said to have been fought in the churchyard, and one of the young men mortally wounded, was carried into the church where he died. These two men were in love with the same girl in the neighborhood, which led to a bitter quarrel. The body of the young duelist was buried in the churchyard and legend says that for many years afterwards, from time to time on starlit nights, a form clothed in white, moved up the little path to his grave, and bent over it in the deepest grief. After the Revolution, the nearby village of Charles Town began to enlarge into a town.
where many members of St. George's Chapel lived. It was decided to build an Episcopal church in town, and the furniture of the old church was placed in it.

During the War between the States, the lead roof of the St. George's Chapel was taken to mold bullets, so the walls were left to destruction by wind and rain. A rumor was circulated that treasure was buried beneath the floor during the War for safekeeping, and the treasure hunters completed the ruin of this old church, although no treasure was found.

In Berkeley County were several persons intimately connected with the Washingtons. Down the hill from St. George's Chapel, across a sparkling little brook that winds its way through the green meadow, is a handsome Colonial house, "Piedmont." Built by Dr. John Briscoe after the original house on the land was burned, with only a quaint little wing of it is still standing. The first house was built by Robert Worthington in 1734. Later in the original house before it was burned, lived James Nourse, (who bought it from Mr. Worthington). He was a great friend of the Washingtons. In his diary of 1770-71, George Washington speaks of dining at Mr. Nourse's home and of his dining at Harewood. "Piedmont" is at this present time, one of the most beautiful of the old Colonial residences in Jefferson County. Built in 1780 by Dr. John Briscoe, of English brick, with a wide hall through the center of the house, it has an elegance that is felt today. On the walls of the old-fashioned drawing-room is a French Tapestry wall-paper, designed by Joseph Defour, and brought from France in 1802. It represents the adventures of Telmaque, with tall ladies, clothed in floating white garments, walking under the trees in a beautiful garden. The only wallpaper of this kind in America except this at Piedmont is exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. On the walls of the hall are hung guns that were needed in those days for the protection of the home, and used for hunting, also portraits of General Darke, a Revolutionary General, and his wife. Dr. John Briscoe's wife was the grand-daughter of General Darke.

In the Western part of Jefferson County (then Berkeley County, Virginia), still stands the picturesque
home of General Horatio Gates, built by him in 1763. He was an English soldier, who served under General Braddock at Fort Duquesne. He was severely wounded and after the English were defeated, he settled in Berkeley County, six miles from Harwood. He was a soldier with the best military training. He and his wife lived at "Traveller's Rest" for twenty-seven years, and here dispensed a most generous hospitality to the County people. When the Revolutionary War broke out, Horatio Gates took the side of the colonies and expected to be made the head of the army but he was put second in command, under General Washington, who he considered had had very little military experience. His capture of General Burgoyne showed great skill and Congress ordered a medal struck to commemorate it with General Gates' "chiselled profile and graceful flowing hair" on one side of it. The credit he got for the battle of Saratoga made the friends of General Schuyler under his command very angry, as they said the success was due to all the work he did before the battle, in planning it. So much wrangling took place, and political propaganda that claimed General Gates, as head of the Military Board threw obstacles in General Washington's way from jealousy, that General Gates' command was given to General Green and he was retired for a year. He came back to "Traveller's Rest" in Berkeley County, Virginia, after his retirement. Soon afterwards, he lost his only son, which left him heartbroken. General Washington heard of it, and with that quick sympathy that any kind of suffering seemed always to arouse in him, he wrote a letter of kindly condolence to General Gates, offering him the left wing of the army as soon as he felt like taking it. This letter he appreciated very much, in his deep sorrow. Being reinstated in the Army, he was sent to Camden, South Carolina. He had raw troops that became unmanageable when they faced General Cornwallis' trained forces, and they retreated in confusion. Again General Gates' command was taken from him, but later, when all the facts were known, Congress acquitted him of all blame. The war was over by that time. "Traveller's Rest" is a most interesting old house with a wonderful wine cellar. The bedrooms on the second floor connect with each other by passageways under the slop-
ing-roof, perhaps built in this way that members of the family might not be separated in times of danger. General Gates and his wife lived at "Traveller's Rest" twenty-seven years, and then removed to New York. The Gates' crest is cut with a diamond on one of the window panes. Another soldier closely connected with the history of General Washington, General Charles Lee, was persuaded by his friend, General Gates to buy a large tract of land near Traveller's Rest and build himself a house on it and the little village that is built around it, is now known as Leetown. He was a soldier of high military training in the English army and when he joined the Colonists in their fight for Independence, the British officials were highly displeased. He too, had great hopes of being made first in command and was disappointed when George Washington was chosen for this place. He was made a Major-General with a high command but this did not satisfy his ambitions and he was resentful towards General Washington. At the battle of Monmouth, he was forced to retreat by the superior members of the British. It was a Military rule that he should have sent a message of his retreat to General Washington, who was in the neighborhood. This he did not do, and was reprimanded for it by General Washington. His high temper got beyond control, and he spoke very disrespectfully and was retired from the Army. He came back to his home in Berkeley County a deeply embittered man and led a very eccentric life, surrounded by his dogs. "Lee House", as it is called now, was one big room, marked off with chalk lines on the floor, with sleeping-rooms above. The slave quarters were near the house. He had a housekeeper and Italian valet, that he brought from Italy with him, and entertained his friends in the neighborhood. He called his home "Prato Rio". It was a large tract of two thousand, four hundred acres, with a wonderful spring on it, now used by the United States Government for a large fish hatchery. General Charles Lee was accused of disloyalty to the American Army, after his retirement, but many historians now think he may never have seen the letters said to have given information to the British, but that it was a trick to discredit him, because his leaving the British army was re-
sented and some enemy in the army used this means as revenge. He lived at "Prato Rio" for nine years and it was when he made a business trip to Philadelphia that he was stricken with a fatal illness in 1782, and died in a few days. It seems a proof that he was not regarded as a traitor to the Government, that he had a full military funeral, attended by members of Congress and foreign Ambassadors. He left a peculiar will recorded in the courthouse in Martinsburg. All his slaves and stock he left equally divided between his housekeeper, Mrs. Dunn and his valet and his money deposited in foreign lands to his sister, Sydney Lee in England. He left his lawyer, Alexander White, one hundred guineas; his friend, Colonel Charles Mynn Thruston of Mount Zion, near Winchester, fifty guineas and to his son, Buckner Thruston, his library of books; money for "rings of affection" to his friend William Steptoe, of Williamsburg, and several others, and large amounts of money to other friends in Baltimore, which proves that General Lee was a man who had warm affection for his friends. The part of his will that shows his eccentricity is that he requested not to be buried in any churchyard or within a mile of any Presbyterian or Anabaptist meeting house for "I have kept so much bad company while living, that I do not wish to continue it when dead." This attitude has been explained by one student of history to be his resentment as a member of the English Episcopal church, that due to the bitter feeling against the enemy that comes after every War, the church property in America, that belonged to England, was demolished. Communion cups found their way to bar-rooms, and baptismal fonts were used for horses to drink from. General Lee blamed other denominations for these depredations. He was buried in Christ Church graveyard, in Philadelphia.
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