

THE BULLETIN OF THE KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Number 11

October 1984

CLEMENTS MILL

The grist mill and flour mill, known as Clements Mill (later Reid's Mill), was located just North of the forks of the road from Brandywine, now Manquin, to Enfield; on the road to Ventor. This road is now #611. It must have operated over a hundred years ago. We know this because a Mr. Young I. Clements was the first to own it. Mr. T. Mac Abrams told this to me. The site later came into the ownership of Mr. James M. Abraham, father of the aforementioned T. Mac Abrams.

It is a natural location for a grist mill. Two creeks, the Governor Swamp on the North and the White Plain Swamp, also known as Webb Creek, on the South, join just above the mill site and form Monquin Creek. It is this creek which was dammed to form the Clements Mill Pond which, in turn, produced the water power to run the grist mill.

On October 8, 1884 Mr. Abrahams sold the 130 acres, known as the "Clements Mill Tract" to Mr. James Skidmore and Mrs. Ann M. Skidmore. Six years later, Mr. and Mrs. Skidmore conveyed the property to Mr. E. V. Clements and Mrs. Virginia C. Clements.

Two years later, the Clements sold fifty (50) acres of the mill tract, containing the mill, pond, and all appertenances to Mrs. Mary

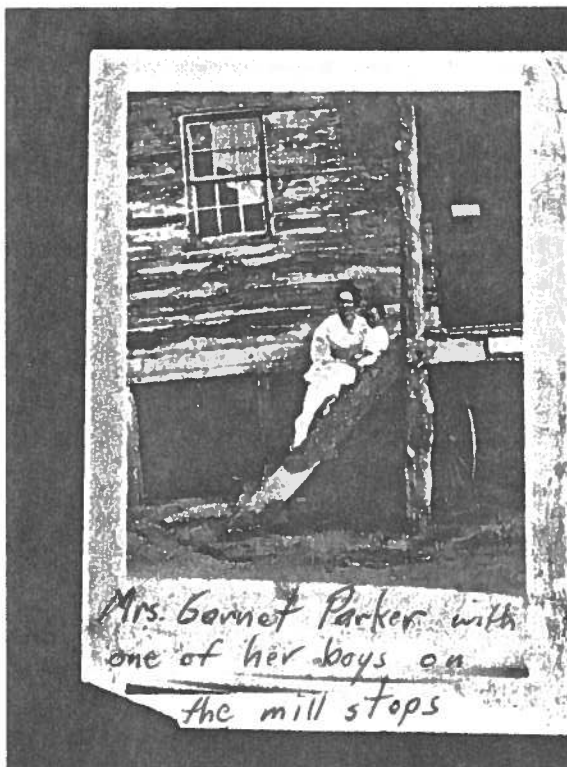
C. Reid for \$500.00. Sixteen years later, on January 3, 1910, Mrs. Reid conveyed the mill and ten (10) acres to Mr. Owen O. Mitchell for the sum of \$500.00.

The mill had gotten into bad physical condition and Mr. Mitchell did an extensive repair job on the entire operation. This included a new roller mill and a modern type of machinery for bolting the grain. (Sifting the coarser particles from the finer).

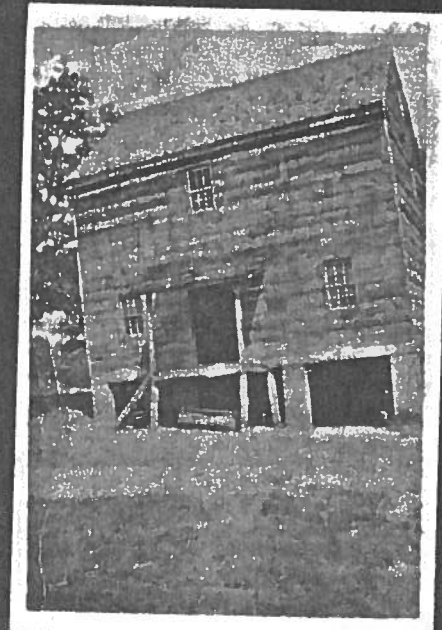
The principal dwelling on the place was away up on top of the hill, overlooking the South side of the mill and pond. This, plus the surrounding land, was owned by the Reid family until the late fifties or early sixties. Many years previously, there was an old dwelling above the head of the pond which was thought to have been owned by the previously mentioned Mr. Young I. Clements. There are no remains of this now.

The miller's dwelling was just a little way up the hill, South of the mill. We do not have a complete list of all the millers by any means, but we do know that a former slave carriage driver at Chestnut Grove, after being freed, became the miller at Clements Mill. Other millers that we do know of were Mr. Bill Reid, Mr. Mason Lipscomb Mitchell, Mr. Albert Powell, and a Mr. Sweet.

"Clements Mill" or "Reid's Mill" was a very important pro-



*Mrs. Garnet Parker with
one of her boys on
the mill steps*



ject in the community. All of the local people patronized it, and also enjoyed the recreational benefits of the mill pond. A typical local transaction was recited by Mr. W. Henley Parker. He said that he would shell out about two bushels of corn into a sack, load it up in front of him on a horse, and ride to the mill. The platform was about even with the horse's back and unloading the sack was an easy task. The miller would measure out about a gallon of the corn for his services, and grind the balance into corn meal. The mill could also make flour from wheat. Many times, while waiting for his corn meal, the customer could fish in the pond, or in the mill race, thus taking home both fresh fish and fresh corn meal.

In the Summer, the mill pond was a very popular spot for the local people to fish, swim, and paddle boats. And in the Winter, it was equally popular, not only as an excellent place to ice skate, but also to cut ice. As a matter of fact, it was the only source of ice in the community. When properly stored in underground ice houses, the cut ice, when packed in either pine or wheat straw, would last into the very end of the following Summer. Many a freezer of home made ice cream was made from the ice cut from the Clement's or Reid's Pond.

On cold, moonlight nights, ice skating parties took place there, too. A large fire was built on shore, close to the edge of the pond, and couples, both old and young, would skate and socialize for hours. Folks drove many miles in horse and buggy and cars to attend these events. Mr. Parker tells of the great skating abilities of the Garber brothers, Charles, Joe, and John. And he also informs us of the grace and skating ability of Miss Elsie Edwards (Mrs. W. E. Garber). Those who remember Mr. Curtis Green will never forget his ice skating and his swimming in Reid's Mill Pond always with that pipe, lit, and in his mouth.

It was a real catastrophe in 1938 when the dam was washed out — the same year when all the mill dams in the county were destroyed in a huge rainfall.

Clement's Mill or Reid's Mill, whichever you prefer, was a real asset to King William County for a great while.

All of the above facts are a combination of the meager knowledge of the author and the greatly appreciated help and information of:

Mr. T. Mac Abrams
Mr. W. Henley Parker
Mrs. Ruby Mackie

And the help of the entire Clerks Office at King William Circuit Court.

W. Lynn Thomas

RECOVERED RECORDS

The Clerk's Office at King William Court House burned in 1885. Some deeds were recovered from this fire; no birth, marriage or death records were saved.

These charred and water-soaked deeds have been laminated and are in 18 large books in the Clerk's Office at the Court House.

The first several books are most difficult to read. The beginning date is 1702. No records for the County exist between 1706 and 1721; or between 1722 and 1786.

Listed below are the names of people involved in these 1702 and 1703 deeds:

Page 4 and 5
John Waller
William Pullam
Martha Macon
Robert Booth
Major William Lewis
George Chapman
William Woodward

Page 25
John Cauthorn

Page 26
Maurice Roberts
Henry Slaughter

Page 6
William and John Davis
William Noyes
Alice Davis

Page 7
Sarah Davis
William Holladay
Rebecca White

Page 8
John Hill, Jr.,
Jane, his wife
John Walker
Samuel Osteen
John Arkley
Capt. Roger Mallory
John Drummond

Page 12
John ffoard
David Powers,
Jane, his wife

Page 14
Robert Carew
John Isbell
Thomas Baker

Page 16
Job Howes
Thomas Pickles
Henry Fox
Thomas Mallory
Hannah Hewlett
Martin Hewlett
Thos. & Mary Ellett

Page 17
Nathaniel Pynes

Page 18
John Burross

Page 19
William White
Henry White

Page 24
Thomas Nichols

Later pages list these additional names:
Alexander Muckdonell
Ralph Wormeley
John Slaughter
James Johnson
Thomas Mackgehee
Richard Yarborough
William Aylett
Nathaniel West
Gideon Macon
William Clayborne, Jun'r.
John West
Thomas Spencer
Thomas Elliott
Robert Garrett
Coll. William Clayborne
John Clayborne
Capt. George Braxton

Many of the above names are mentioned in more than one deed. Copies of these deeds may be obtained by writing the Clerk's Office. They will supply you with the Book Number and Page Number. Then they request that you contact the Archive Dept. of the Virginia State Library for your copies. Unfortunately these old books at the Court House cannot be copied as the bindings are crumbling.

Page 30
Charles Fleming
Robert Crawley

Page 33
Survey 2 acres for Court House

Page 34
John Pettiver
Hugh Owen
Robert Napier

Page 37
Thomas Bray
Lewis Davis
John Saxton

Page 40
Thomas Carr

Page 41
James Wheeler
Martin Palmer
John Quarles

Page 43
Richard Littlepage
Samuel Austin
Ambrose Lipscomb

Page 45
John Williams

Page 48
Henry Chiles

Page 52
John & Eliz. White
Joseph Brown

Page 53
Richard Allard & Damazina,
his wife
Philip Whitehead
Richard Whitehead

Page 57
Thos. & Fred. Jones

W.B.1/pg. 30
King Wm. C.H.

In The Name of God Amen!!!

I, William Gregory of the County of King William and State of Virginia, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, hereby revoking all former wills by me, and declaring this only to be my last will and testament, that is to say:—

First. I lend to my beloved wife during her natural life my plantation whereon I now live called Elsing Green, including all lands purchased of Richard Garrett together with all my household and kitchen furniture, the plantation utensils on the said farm, my carriage and horses, five work horses or mules, such as she may choose out my Estate, the stock of hogs on said farm, twenty head of horned cattle such as she may choose, also the following negroes, viz:- Otwey and his wife Hannah, Kitty, Polly the wife of Billy, Strawberry and Winston, which with the first negroes will furnish an ample force to cultivate her farm. I also give to my beloved wife twenty sheep and one thousand Dollars out of the money in the house, and it is my express will and direction that no part of the property herein lent to my beloved wife shall be inventoried or appraised during her lifetime. I give and devise to my son Wm. my tract of land in New Kent County purchase of Col. B. Bassett called the Brick House to him and his heirs forever, provided he shall execute a release for the land I have deeded to him lying in the Co. of King Wm. to be devided as I shall hereinafter direct.

Then. I give and devise to my son Roger the land herein lent to my beloved wife during her natural life, to pass into his possession at the death of his mother (provided he shall execute a Deed of release for the Land I have deeded for him called Mores in the County of King William) to him and his heirs forever my son Roger is to retain possession of the tract called "Moore's" until the death of his mother, when he gets possession of "Elsing Green". Wm. Gregory. Then. I give and devise to my son Fendall (in addition to my Piping Tree Est. which I have already given him a Deed for) my tract of Land in King & Queen Co. called "Hockley Neck" to him and his heirs forever.

Then. I give and devise to my daughters, Nancy, Evelina, Matilda & Edulia all the residue of my landed property — not herein before devided to be agreeably divided between them share & share alike to them & their heirs forever; in this devise my mill is intended to be included.

Then. I give & bequeth to my daughter Nancy my negro girl Lucy with her future increase, also the debt due me from Robt. Pollard by Bond for One Thousand dollars, secured by Deed of Trust on the Land he lives on, to her and her heirs forever.

Then. I give & bequeth to my daughter Evelina my negro girl Polly now in her possession with her increase, to her & her heirs forever.

Then. I give & bequeth to my daughter Matilda my negro girl Claracy with her future increase, to her & her heirs forever.

Then. I give and bequeth to my daughter Edulia my negro girl Else, and her increase, to her and her heirs forever.

Then. It is my will & desire that all the residue of my personal estate lent my wife during her life, shall be equally divided among all my children, share and share alike that part lent my wife to be divided after her death.

Then. It is my will & desire that my son Roger shall be at liberty to return to my Estate for distribution, Geo. & Emanuel, whom he has had the use of in place of Randall given him by his Grandmother and take Randall at his election.

Then. If either of my children shall set up and establish any claim whatsoever against my estate it is expressly my will that they shall forfeit all interest in my estate, and whatsoever legacy herein given them shall be void, and divided among those who set up no claim whatsoever.

Wm. Gregory

And lastly I constitute and appoint my three sons namely, Wm. Gregory, Roger Gregory and Fendall Gregory, Executors of this my last will and testament and desire they may be permitted to

qualify thereto, without giving security — according to law. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & fixed my seal this 11th day of June 1839.

Wm. Gregory SEAL

Signed, sealed, published & acknowledged before us.

Witness, Jno. P. Lacy
Isaac Powers
Geo. Slaughter

At a monthly Session Court held for King Wm. County on the 24th day of February 1840.

This last Will and Testament of Wm. Gregory died. was proved in Court by the oaths of the subscribing witnesses, and ordered to be recorded.

Teste:

Ro. Pollard, Clerk

A copy Teste:

J. O. Pollard, D. Clerk

In King Wm. Co. Court Clerk's Office. June 27, 1887. The foregoing paper was produced, and on the application of Roger Gregory, Esq. admitted to record. the original record from which the same was copied having been destroyed by fire January 18th, 1885.

Teste:

O. M. Christon, Clerk

Will Book 1, Pages 30, 31, 32

King William Court House
King William, Virginia

GENEALOGY CORNER

"Can you provide me with copies of wills, patents and deed records relating to the surname *Cave* or *Kave* in King William prior to 1800."

Dr. Edwin G. Troutman
712 Seventh Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76104

"Information on the *Brightwell* family who lived in your county from 1702 to 1770 before moving to Prince Edward County and Granville County, N.C."

Mrs. Jane W. Brownlow
P.O. Box 199, Crompond, New York 10517

"Will of *John Coleman* who died in King William County in 1763."

W. B. Yearns
Wake Forest University
Dept. of History, Box 7806
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109

"Any testate or Intestate probate proceedings for *James Haycraft* who died about 1763. Or any Orphan's Court proceedings that would relate to *James Haycraft's* 3 children, *James*, *Samuel* and *Joshua* who were raised by a *John Neville*."

Ann Moore
Box 2324, Daytona Beach, Fla. 32015

"Search for the Will of Peter Rogers, who is believed to have died in King William about 1724; also guardian bond for *Thomas Rogers*, born about 1708."

Robert W. Rogers
4701 Willard Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20815

"I have found that a *Francis Fincham* or *Finchum* was a headright in a 1703 King William County land grant. I would like to verify this."

Mrs. William McPhail
Rt. 4, Box 411, Raeford, N.C. 28376

HISTORICAL RECORDS
Beulah Baptist Church
Volume 1
1812-1874
(Continued from Number 6)

Sunday August 24th 1834

The following free white persons were baptised by Elder Andrew Broaddus and received as members of the church. viz; Eliza L. Kelly, Elizabeth Atkins, Mary C. Ancarrow, Rosena White, Elizabeth W. Samuel, Ann Eliza Bradberry, Ann A. Gunter, Mary E. Horn, Ann Garnett, Alice T. Crow, Martha T. Floyd, Rhoda C. Samuel, Sarah F. Samuel, Mary Ann McGeorge, Hannah F. Quarles, Fanny S. Trant, Charles H. Fleet, William R. Crutchfield, Gideon F. Floyd, Franklin Mac, Kelly, Joseph G. Fogg, Lawrence Trant, William A. Patterson, Robert N. Simpkins, Joseph C. Bradberry, Edward W. Froman, John Tarrant, Benjamin Quarles, Johnson Atkins, and Fleming Froman.

And the following coloured persons were baptised and received as members of the Church viz; Caroline the property of Thomas Floyd, Lucy, Sally, Sukey & Spencer the property of Wm. S. Ryland and Ellen the property of Joseph Fogg.

At a church meeting, October 6th 1834 Brother Joseph Fox was chosen Moderator. Wm Gwathmey, one of the committee appointed to write the church letter in the absence of Thomas Dabney, presented the same, which being read, was accepted and delivered to the delegates.

At a church meeting on Saturday the 25th of October 1834 Elder Andrew Broaddus moderator. There being no business in the way of discipline before the church. John H. Walker, and Frances Walker were received as members of this church: also Ann Catherine Walker and Mildred Ancarrow were received, though not present, yet desire to unite with the church, having been recently baptised by brother Ball.

The church considered the subject of the deficiency for the Meeting house and stove and decided to make a public collection for that object tomorrow.

Richard Gwathmey suggested that the church should adopt the following resolution to wit: At every monthly church meeting, the roll of the names of the free male members, shall be called over, and the absentees noted by the clerk; and at the succeeding church meeting, it will be expected that they shall assign the reason of absence, and in case of absence for three successive church meetings, a committee shall be appointed to wait on them, to learn the reason and report to the church, which resolution after some little discussion and deliberation was unanimously adopted.

Wm Gwathmey Clk. pro. tem.

At a church meeting, on monday evening the 3rd of November 1834, Elder Andrew Broaddus moderator. A letter of dismission was granted to Ann Bradberry and her children viz William, Richard, Joseph and Nancy.

Thomas Dabney Clerk

November 9th 1834. The following persons were baptised by Elder Geo. W. Trice namely, Tilman Burley & Sarah his wife free persons of colour, Maria the property of Wm. Ancarrow, Tom, the property of Rhoda Samuel, and Edy, Braxton, Charlotte, Lucinda, Betsy, Susan, Violet, Judy & Randal the property of Mary Hawes.

At a church meeting Nov. 9, 1834 Marlborough, Edy & Solomon granted letters of dismission.

Thomas Dabney Clerk

(To Be Continued)

“Any information on Piercy Yell, Moses and Jane Curry Yell or Archibald and Sarah McDonald Curry.”

Rebecca Yell Wagner
3741 Springdale, Odessa, Texas 79762

“Trying to locate any wills, deeds or marriage bonds on the name of Peach. The time period is the middle 1700’s to the 1800’s.

Neva Peach Miedl
3227 W. 76 Place, Merrillville, Indiana 46410

“Any information you may have on *Samuel Moss*. He lived, or his forefathers lived, in New Kent Co. in the early 1700’s.

Mrs. Ray B. Moss
P.O. Box 309, Pineville, Kentucky 40977

“Am researching the family name of *Lawson*; my 4 great-grandfather, *Nathaniel* or *Nathan Lawson* was born in King William 15 Mar. 1755 — had one brother *Joshua* and possibly another named *John*.”

Rich Ehrick
86 Franklin Ct., LaPorte, In. 46350

“Information on *William* and *Thomas Wingo* and *James Seay*.”

Mrs. Charles E. Landreth
506 North First St., Apt. 15, DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear Reader:

As we wish to make this Bulletin as interesting as possible we would appreciate any and all suggestions.

In future Bulletins would you prefer:

Old Wills

Family Genealogy (Family trees)

Beulah Baptist Church minutes 1812-1874

Individual Tax List — 1815

Old deeds from the 1700’s.

Please send us your comments.

And, of course, we will be delighted to receive any genealogy information you wish published.

The Editor

DONATIONS

Our thanks to Mrs. William F. Sheehan, Richmond for her donation of a copy of Will of William Frazer dated 3rd day of April 1773.

The Society also wishes to thank Mrs. Richard P. McLean, Treasure Island, Florida for her contribution of information on the Ellett Family.

Also our thanks to the late William Littlepage for his gift of much genealogy material on the Littlepage, Johnson and related families.

To Mr. and Mrs. Warren Baker, Monterey, California for their raft of material on the Claiborne Family.

And to Mr. R. W. Rogers of Washington, D.C. for the “Rogers Ancestry” material.

KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers 1984-1985

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