



THE BULLETIN OF THE KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Number 19

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In Memoriam

Mrs. Ame deFarges Crute died in a Richmond hospital on 21 March 1992. Mrs. Crute had been a charter member and a life member of the King William Historical Society. When ill health forced Mrs. Crute to resign as the Society's corresponding secretary and bulletin editor in October 1991, Mrs. Crute concluded fifteen years of devoted service in those positions. The following poem, attributed to Tennyson, was read in memory of Mrs. Crute when the Society met briefly at Bacon's Castle in April. The poet captured Mrs. Crute's Spirit when he wrote: *"Believe in yourself, believe in humanity, believe in the success of your undertakings. Fear nothing and no one. Love your work. Work, hope, trust. Keep in touch with today. Teach yourself to be practical and up-to-date and sensible. You cannot fail."*

Locust Dale

*A Sketch Prepared by
Ethel Littlepage Jackson Abern
of Moseley, Virginia*

I have always been told that "Locust Dale" was a wedding present to Mr. Kleber Edwards and his bride Anna Eliza Corr by her father, Captain Henry Corr. Kleber Edwards and Anna Eliza Corr were married at "Waterville," or "Windsor Shades," on May 2, 1860. They were living at "Locust Dale," near King William Courthouse, when Mr. Edwards went into the Confederate Army. He was a lieutenant in Lee's Famous Rangers.

The Edwards' two oldest children, Thomas Henry Edwards, born August 28, 1866, and Eugenia Ammon Edwards (Gena), born August 10, 1868, were both born at "Locust Dale."

My grandmother, formerly Lavinia Corr, and her sister Myra Ann were sent to "Locust Dale" during one of the campaigns during the War Between the States. "Waterville" was right on the Pamunkey River, and Yankee gunboats were passing frequently on their way to White House in New Kent County. Captain Corr felt his daughters would be safer with their sister, Mrs. Edwards, whose home was farther up the county. They had just arrived at "Locust Dale" when Sherman and his army of five thousand men stopped at King William Court House. The wheat fields around "Locust Dale" were ready to harvest and the Federal troops took the bridles and saddles off their horses and turned them into the wheat. The next day a servant cut around the edges of the field and saved enough wheat to thrash out five bushels.

Eugenia (Gena) Edwards married Mr. Kenner Richards and "Locust Dale" was their home for many years. When I was a child I visited Cousin Gena with my mother, and "Locust Dale" was a delightful home to visit in.

At the death of Mr. and Mrs. Richards the "Locust Dale" property passed to their only child, Harvey Richards, who sold it to Mr. Bates Gatewood. Since then it has had other owners.

"LOCUST DALE" Addendum:

The Union officer called "Sherman" in this article was probably General Philip Sheridan, who led a raid in the Pamunkey River valley before the battle at Cold Harbor in 1864. His men

arrived in May, after the fighting had ceased at the Wilderness. A letter written by Mrs. Annie Roper Gary from "Flotbeck" would establish this further, however Mrs. Gary's letter was dated June 18, 1863, not 1864. In her missive, Mrs. Gary reported, "No yankees are or have been in King William since the 5th ult., though many exciting rumors have been the rounds. Capts. Littleton's, Horde's and Capp's Companies are in the county—and Wise's command at Whitehouse. When the yankees made their raid on the Chickahominy all the troops were withdrawn from the county and Whitehouse, which placed us in rather an unpleasant situation, but no yankees came and in a few days we felt as safe as ever." There had been a raid, as evidenced by another paragraph in Mrs. Gary's letter. She stated that she had visited "Tophill," on the Mattaponi River, on the day before. At "Tophill" Federal "gunboats shelled the woods and fields as they went down (*the river*) and several shells exploded near where the hands were at work."

It is assumed the ladies at "Locust Dale" fared well at the hands of the Federal marauders. Annie Roper Gary, like Anna Corr Edwards, had been left alone by her husband's departure for service in the Army of Northern Virginia. Prior to the raid at "Flotbeck," which we may assume took place at the same time as the intrusion at "Locust Dale," Annie Roper Gary had given birth to a daughter. According to Mrs. Gary's descendant Annie Page Russ, as the soldiers approached Mrs. Gary's bedroom door, "they were told of the mother and the young child." The soldiers respected Mrs. Gary's privacy, "and refrained from entering her room. Thus the family saved their store of cured meat and hams which someone had the foresight to place beneath Mrs. Gary's four-poster bed."

Two King William Sketches

During the 1890's King William County had no newspaper. Important news items were relayed by correspondents to the Richmond Daily Times. In February 1890, for instance, a brief article centered on the activities of the West Point Telephone Company. This company's line operated "via Lester Manor, Lanesville, and the Courthouse, to Walkerton."

An article titled, "Mrs. Aylett Buried," which appeared on Sunday, 15 December 1895, reported the funeral, held two days earlier, of Alice Brockenbrough Aylett of "Montville." The dining room was in the basement at "Montville," and Mrs. Aylett had suffered a fatal brain concussion after falling down the basement stairs. Her funeral was conducted by the Reverend Mr. Downman of All Saints Church in Richmond. Pall-bearers were Travers Moncure, Ryland Turpin, William George Pollard, John Moncure, James Roane, Dr. J. B. Moore, J. C. Cook, and Watson Walters. Earlier in 1895, the Ayletts' daughter, Alice Page Aylett, had been married at "Montville" to Dr. Moses Drury Hoge, Jr., a Richmond physician.

On 9 January 1900 the Times relayed the news that Colonel William Roane Aylett lay seriously ill after suffering a stroke on the previous day. Complications from this attack claimed the life of one of King William's "foremost citizens."

The summer of 1901 was a very hot one. Across Virginia, many people died from heat prostration. Many Richmonders fled to the "mountains and lakes to escape the city's torrid heat." On Thursday, 11 July 1901, another prominent county resident, Captain John Lafayette Latané, died at "Glanvilla," his home near Mangohick. Captain Latané had lived in King William since the early 1850's, when he moved from Essex County with his brother, William Catesby Latané. The senior Mr. Latané had purchased the lowgrounds of the "Hayes" tract in 1834, so his sons could have a "start in life," provided by many planters for their male offspring. The brothers shared everything. They even married sisters. Anne Eliza Hollowell, of Richmond, married John Latané. Anne Latané died of cancer in 1888. Her sister, Virginia Thomas Hollowell, married William Catesby Latané. Anne Latané had no children. Virginia Latané gave birth to six children: Elizabeth Burwell Latané, John William Latané, Rosa Virginia Latané, Joshua Hollowell Latané, ap Catesby Latané, and James Wellington Latané. The youngest Latané was named for his uncle, Dr. James H. Latané of "Mohockney," in Essex County. The younger James Latané was called "Doctor" because of his uncle's profession. Virginia Latané was survived by three of her offspring, Elizabeth, Rosa, and James, or "Doctor," Latané. The property owned by Captain John Latané and his brother descended to these three heirs.

Captain Latané's obituary, copied from the *Times*, outlined his life and career in the Confederate Army. The notice did not mention that "Cap'n John" was a justice of the peace in King William for more than forty years. He was also a vestryman at St. David's Episcopal Church in Aylett.



James W., or "Doctor," Latané, youngest child of William Catesby Latané, photographed with his daughter, Posie, in the winter of 1905/1906. By 1940 the responsibility for "Glanvilla" rested solely with this young woman, known by then as Mrs. James E. Walters. Since pines had begun to take over the Latané property, Mrs. Walters established a tree farm there. Mrs. Walters' forestry management practices

were recognized by the Virginia Forestry Association, who named Mrs. Walters Statewide Outstanding Tree Farmer in 1980. In 1991 45,000 loblolly pine seedlings were planted in a cut-over tract at "Glanvilla."

From the *Richmond Daily Times*, Saturday, 13 July 1901, page 2. (Microfilm Collection, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Virginia).

Captain John L. Latané

Mangohick, Va., July 12 — Captain John L. Latané died at his residence in King William County yesterday morning in the sixty-ninth year of his age. Captain Latané enlisted at the beginning of the Civil War as orderly sergeant in the Mattaponi Guard, an infantry company commanded by Captain William George Pollard, of this county. This company was afterwards known as Company "H", 53rd Virginia Regiment, and was attached to Armistead's Brigade, in Pickett's Division. At the battle of Sharpsburg Captain Pollard was killed. Captain Latané, who had rapidly

risen from first sergeant to first lieutenant, was then made captain. After this battle the Brunswick Guards, of Lawrenceville, Va., was attached to Company H, Fifty-third Virginia Regiment, and the warmest attachment by these strangers was formed for Captain Latané, who was always faithful and true to his men and his country, and I am sure there was no officer in the Confederate services who was loved by his men any more than was Captain Latané.

He was married soon after the war to Miss Ann Hollowell, of Richmond, Virginia. Mrs. Latané preceeded her husband to the grave several years ago. They leave no children. His last brother, Dr. James H. Latané, of Essex, died a few years ago. The Captain is the last one of the family. He was first cousin to Captain Latané of Essex, who was killed while serving with Stuart's Cavalry in the Peninsular Campaign of 1862.

Captain John Latané was captured at Gettysburg, and remained in prison at Johnson's Island until the end of the war. He was never wounded.

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The *Richmond Daily Times* printed the obituaries of only the "foremost" residents of King William. After the notice of Captain Latané, six years passed before the death of Dr. Lemuel Edwards of Lanesville was considered important enough to "make the news." Although he had been a physician, Dr. Edwards was remembered long after his death as the founder of the oldest Christadelphian congregation in the United States. Dr. Edwards left the Jerusalem Christian Church in the 1840's to join this new religious group. He founded two churches in King William, one at White Shop, and the other at Lanesville. According to his son, C. L. Edwards, Dr. Edwards "loved to preach." He would take no salary however, and he was supported by his medical practice. He seldom collected for this service, either, and, according to Dr. Edwards' son, "If it hadn't been for Mama going behind him, collecting accounts, we'd have starved." Dr. Edwards' obituary was accompanied by a picture, however, attempts at duplicating this likeness from microfilm were futile. Dr. Edwards practiced medicine and "preached" until a month before his death.

Minister and Physician Dies At Advanced Age

*Dr. Lemuel Edwards,
One of Best Known Citizens of King William*

Dr. Lemuel Edwards, who passed away at his home at Lanesville on Sunday, September 22d, in the ninetieth year of his age, was one of the oldest and most honored citizens of King William county.

Born in King William county October 11, 1817, Dr. Edwards was a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families of his county, being a descendant of Ambrose Edwards, who settled in King William in 1745.

While quite a young man Dr. Edwards entered into the mercantile business at King William Courthouse and at Walkerton. After a few years he retired from his business, and on the advice of his friend, Shervin McRae, an eminent lawyer, came to Richmond, entered the Medical College of Virginia, and attended all the clinics in the city.

After graduating in Richmond, desiring to fit himself more thoroughly for the practice of his profession, he entered the Botanic Medical College at Columbus, Ohio, from which he was graduated in two years.

Dr. Edwards was eminently successful in his practice, which he prosecuted in the counties of King William, King and Queen and New Kent, up to the time of his death. His vigor of mind and body was such that in September of last year he performed a difficult operation with great skill and entire success.

In accordance with his desire, as he said, to save the soul as well as the body, Dr. Edwards in the latter part of his life became a Christadelphian minister, and was largely instrumental in building two churches of that denomination, the last on his own land at Lanesville. He was also a liberal contributor to literature—

medical, religious and secular.

Dr. Edwards was a true Virginia gentleman of the old school. His courtesy, gentleness, calmness and cheerfulness under the most trying circumstances won for him the highest esteem of all who knew him.

During the War Between the States Dr. Edwards was exempted from service on account of being a minister, but being of great service to the Confederates he was taken prisoner and incarcerated for six months at the Rip Raps.

His life may best be summed up by the following tribute by one of his friends: "His long life has been spent in going about doing good, and in this he has followed his Divine Master. His life has been singularly pure and free from the vices and foibles of mankind."

Dr. Edwards was twice married, first to Mrs. Mary A. F. Atkinson, and the second time to Mrs. Emma Houchins Robbins, who survives him.

The following are his children: Mr. J. T. Edwards, Mr. P. C. Edwards, Mr. Paul Edwards, Dr. Albert Edwards, Mrs. W. T. Neale, Mrs. P. H. Johnson, Mrs. C. N. Stacy, Mrs. J. P. Robbins, and Mr. C. L. Edwards.

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch, 29 September 1907, page 6. (Microfilm Collection, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Virginia).

Heads of Households in the Village of Aylett's, Virginia From United States Census Statistics Enumerated on 1 June 1880

The *Gazeteer of Virginia*, published in 1835 by Joseph Martin, stated that the Village of Aylett's was made up of fifteen dwelling houses, three mercantile stores, and four groceries. Among the village's fifty white and sixty black inhabitants were mechanics, tailors, house carpenters, wheelwrights, and blacksmiths. Aylett's was described as "a place of considerable trade."

The village of Aylett's was ransacked by Federal troops in 1863. Life went on, and by 1880 the village's profile differed little from the description written nearly fifty years earlier. There were fourteen dwelling houses, one retail grocer, and one retail merchant living in this Mattaponi River hamlet. The village's seventy-six inhabitants included twenty blacks and twelve mulattoes who lived independently or as servants in white households. Heads of the village's fourteen families, recorded as part of the Acquinton Magisterial District, were:

- Household Number 1 Charles D. Gilbert, Lumber Merchant, Born in New York
- Household Number 2 Tandy Simms, age 59, a black laborer (Note: The Simms lot adjoined St. David's Church).
- Household Number 3 Lottie Whit, age 41, a mulatto One of her boarders was Calvin Young, age 22, a black tailor
- Household Number 4 Richard Shelly, age 46, a sailor
- Household Number 5 James Shelly, age 51, a sailor
- Household Number 6 Susan Burruss, age 30, a black woman
- Household Number 7 Charles F. Burgeus, age 33, Retail Grocer, Born in Connecticut
- Household Number 8 William Tanner, age 68, Farmer Baynham Farmer, age 21, engineer Selden Farmer, age 17, clerk in store
- Household Number 9 Robert Morrisett, age 32, Moulder in Foundry
- Household Number 10 Mary Leigh, age 40 Mary Leigh, age 19, school teacher
- Household Number 11 James Caldwell, age 66, Mechanic, Born in Delaware Sarah P. Caldwell, age 21, a daughter, school teacher

Joseph P. Caldwell, age 60, Wagon-Maker, Born in Delaware (Note: In 1850 James Caldwell, then age 37, had described himself as a "manufacturer" for the census taker. In 1859 lots number 1 and 14 in Aylett's were owned by Littleton Chappell, one of three coachmakers in Aylett's. These lots encompassed 120 acres of land. The old Duncan House sat on Lot 14, acquired by James Caldwell long before 1896, when the property was sold to a man in Richmond. In 1905 the Duncan House lot was purchased by Harvey Brizendine. Mr. Brizendine died shortly after this acquisition and his widow, Nora Brizendine paid her husband's mortgage by taking in boarders. Her son Clyde worked as stableman).

- Household Number 12 Charles Burgeus, age 59, Retail Merchant, Born in England
- Household Number 13 Robert Killpatrick, age 45, a mulatto laborer
- Household Number 14 Robert Davis, age 50, a black man Porter Caldwell, age 34, a white trader

(Note: Household Number 15, just west of Aylett's, was headed by William T. Shelly, a forty-nine-year-old sea captain).

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Erratum: In the Society's October 1992 Bulletin, the subjects of two St. Memin portraits were described as the "grandsons of the First Governor of Virginia, Patrick Henry." According to William Aylett Hoge, the owner of the portraits, this description is in error. The likenesses are of William Aylett and his brother, Philip Aylett. Philip Aylett married Patrick Henry's daughter, Elizabeth Henry. William Aylett emigrated to Alabama. These portraits were among the Aylett treasures at "Montville."

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NEW DANIEL BOONE FILM AVAILABLE

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These pictures of the student body of Duane School, 1921, were supplied by Mrs. Elizabeth Parr Trice Adams. The executive board would appreciate help in identifying these young people, and we encourage others with similar snapshots to share them with the Society.



The King William County Historical Society held its first meeting on Sunday, April 7, 1974. The Society had been organized by the Upper King William County Woman's Club for the "collection and preservation of everything relating to the history, antiquities, and literature of the County of King William particularly, and Virginia in general." The Society holds three meetings each year: 1st Sunday April-King William Court House; 2nd Sunday July-King William Court House; 1st Sunday October-an old home in the county.

Membership dues - \$5.00 per year - payable in July.

All communications relating to membership in the Society should be addressed to:
Mrs. Ruth Armatage, P. O. Box 54, Manquin, Virginia 23106.

Society Officers, Elected July 1992

- President.....Steve Colvin
- Vice-President.....James K. Woolford
- Recording Secretary.....Jean B. Mitchell
- Corresponding Secretary.....Susan N. Richards
- Treasurer.....Marion Upshaw
- Membership Chairperson.....Ruth E. Armatage
- Members at Large.....Mary Anna Billups
Annie Page Russ