



THE BULLETIN OF THE KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Number 16

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To All Society Members:

The King William County Historical Society's booklet on "Old King William County Cemeteries" has been published.

This booklet is over 100 pages in length and contains a list of tombstones in 59 cemeteries in the county. It is fully indexed; including maiden names, where known. It was compiled by Mrs. Annie Page Russ and George Meredith and was indexed by J. Jarvis Taylor and Helen Taylor Mazza.

The cost for the booklet is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Add \$1.50 for postage and handling.

Please make check payable to the society and send to Ame D. Crute, Box 666, West Point, Va. 23181. Also, copies of this booklet will be available at all Society meetings.

We are indebted to Miss Mary Mowbray Branch for the following article. It was first published in Handbook for King William County Education Association 1949, pp. 14-18.

History of King William County Schools

During the colonial period there developed in Virginia three types of schools in addition to the schools established by the colony for the poor.

There was a system of private tutelage for the wealthier children. Such tutors were most often ministers. Parson Henry Skyring, a tutor employed for the Moore children at Chelsea, fell in love with Lucy Moore, one of his pupils, and married her.

For the middle class there were community schools known usually as Old Field Schools. A neighborhood, or the leading men of it, would employ a teacher for their children, build a log schoolhouse at some convenient point, and open the doors to all boys and girls. Such schools often continued until the public school system was inaugurated. As late as the middle of the 19th century Mr. Camm S. Garrett, grandfather of Mr. Ben Garrett, ran an Old Field School at King William Court House. The teachers in these schools were often scholarly men, who, however, were strong believers in the "spare the rod and spoil the child" philosophy of education. In colonial Virginia there were also grammar schools for secondary training.

The most significant development in Virginia schools during the first half of the nineteenth century was the academy, which often

arose from the Old Field Schools of the preceding century. These were first called classical schools and later academies.

Rumford in King William was a well known academy. Rumford was built by the Roanes and first known as Burnt Ordinary Academy. Its date of erection is not known, but it was in existence in 1806. Mrs. Cooke in her book "Fox Trails in Virginia" speaks of Thomas Henry Fox who was born in 1793 as being sent to Rumford Academy at the age of thirteen.

This school was built and endowed by the proceeds of a lottery as was then customary. Rumford was originally intended as a preparatory school for the College of William and Mary. The house, built of glazed brick, was large enough to accommodate forty or fifty boarding pupils.

For many years following the War Between the States a boys school was conducted at Pampetike, the home of Col. Thomas H. Carter. This school had several teachers of high standing and could count among its students boys who later became distinguished Virginians. This school like many others of its day had for its purpose the preparation of boys in the classics for the University of elsewhere.

During the same period there were several private schools for girls in King William. Dr. Richard Wookfolk Fox purchased land called Palestine in 1846 and for many years conducted there the Palestine Female Institute attended by many girls from King William and neighboring counties.

Another school for girls was conducted by Miss Fannie Page Robinson at Mt. Pisgah. This was known as Robinson's School and was in existence around the middle of the nineteenth century.

At Cownes, built in 1857, Mrs. Bessie Moncure, the daughter of Major B. B. Douglas, had for sometime a school for girls.

Several private schools were established in the town of West Point in the second half of the last century. According to Mrs. Mary New Lipscomb in "Recollections of Early West Point" Mrs. Lania Couch taught possibly the earliest of these schools.

For a number of years beginning in 1886 Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Broaddus, formerly of Caroline County, conducted private schools in West Point. The Broadduses held school at various times in several different buildings—in the house on Main Street between Eleventh and Twelfth now occupied by Mr. Wm. Hudson, in Ware Cottage on Eleventh Street, in the large house no longer standing at the corner of Fourteenth and Lee, in the Owen house on the corner of Main and Second, and in the Terminal Hotel, which stood on First Street between Main and Lee. The Broadduses first had a girls' school, then a boys' military school, and again a girls' school

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known as the West Point Female Seminary. In the early twentieth century the Broaddus family sold the school to a Mr. Bethel, who operated it for a short time for both boys and girls, first on the "hill" and later at Ware Cottage.

For a few sessions beginning in 1887 the Disciples of Christ always served as the principal of this school. The first principal was the Rev. John Brandt.

Such is the story of King William's private schools. Col. J. C. Johnson, superintendent of King William schools in 1885, is quoted as follows in "The Beginnings of Public Education in Virginia," a 1917 Department of Education Report: "The county of King William was fortunate in the number and character of her private schools, and her people, as far back as their habits can be traced, displayed high appreciation of education, mental, moral and social, and no expense nor pain were spared in fitting their children for the highest and most honorable position of public or private life."

Virginia made no attempt to work out a state system of education until Jefferson's plans of 1779 providing for a system of primary schools was adopted. The original plan of Jefferson was, however, so amended as to defeat its purpose. In 1846 the General Assembly provided for a system of primary schools but made it permissive to the localities with the result that state primary schools were established by only nine counties. The present public school system throughout Virginia had its beginning in 1870.

The record of these early public schools in King William County are scant except for the past twenty-five years. The first superintendent of schools for King William was Mr. R. L. Williams, who was appointed September 18, 1870. Dr. John Lewis followed and served until 1878. An inquiry by Dr. Ruffner, the first State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in 1872 through the division superintendents as to public sentiment in favor of the new school system resulted in the following report from Dr. Lewis regarding King William: "A large majority take little or no interest in public education and give no thought to the matter except as regards taxes for its support."

Other school superintendents of King William were: E. C. Hill (1878-1882), Col. J. C. Johnson appointed in 1882, William V. Croxton serving until 1889, Joseph H. Gwathmey (1891-1905), Richard Fox (1905-1909), A. L. Terrell (1909-1914), Richard M. Bell (1920-1923), and the present superintendent, W. E. Garber, who was appointed in 1923.

Due to the absence of records, it is not known how many schools were established in the county when the public school system was inaugurated in 1870. A booklet called "West Point, Virginia and King William County," published in 1888, mentions West Point's having that year one public white school with four competent teachers, and one colored school with two. The white school was then housed in a building at the corner of Main and Ninth Streets.

The West Point High School was established in 1906 and, from that year until 1924, the high school occupied three rooms in the present elementary school building. In 1924 the present high school building was completed.

The present King William High School was originally known as the Central High School, located at Sharon Church, in the central part of the county. The present building was erected in 1925.

Records indicate considerable progress in the schools of the town of West Point and King William County during the past twenty-five years. In 1924 there were six small white schools offering two or more years of high school work. These schools were: West Point, Sweet Hall, Acqinton, Venter, Mangohick, and Beulahville.

Today through consolidation there are two larger ones, West Point and King William. The two present negro high schools, Beverly Allen in West Point and King William Training School, near the Court House, were the only negro high schools in 1924.

Eleven white elementary schools and twenty colored were in operation in 1924. Today there are four white elementary schools and twelve colored.

The total value of all school property in 1924 was eighty-five thousand dollars, while today school property is valued at three hundred five thousand dollars.

In 1924 no vocational courses of any kind were offered in any of the county schools. Today vocational agriculture and home economics are offered in West Point High School, King William High School, and the King William Training School for negroes. Commercial subjects are now offered at West Point and King William high schools. There are industrial arts courses only in the West Point High School.

County citizens are at present considering the adoption of the plan of consolidation of schools proposed by the State Board of Education for King William, King and Queen, and New Kent counties.

Rumford Academy

Rumford Academy was founded in 1804 by John Roane. It was a large brick structure, and was located two miles east of Central Garage, in King William County.

The academy seems to have been attended chiefly by students who lived in the neighborhood, or in some other parts of the county.

John Henry Pitts, who was born in 1825, became principal of the academy in 1848, and served until his death on the night of June 2, 1861. Aside from his duties at Rumford Mr. Pitts taught at Sabbath School Class in the Sabbath School of Sharon Baptist Church. He was serving in such a capacity in 1857, and on Sunday, October 11, of that year, his class-members were T. Jones, C. Madison, W. H. Turpin, John O. Turpin, Jr., B. H. Robinson, Pat Fontaine, Philip A. Fontaine, Beale Brown, and J. H. Abrahams.

A list of the teachers at Rumford Academy in the school term ending in the summer of 1850 has been compiled from the King William Co. census of that year. The teachers were: Camn Garrett, who was born in 1822—his wife was Caroline E. Garrett, and she was born in 1824; James William Smith, who was born in 1828; Robert S. Smith, who was born in 1831; and Mr. Pitts, principal.

Also compiled from this source is a list of the students at the academy for that school term. All of them appear to have been boarding students, and were as follows:

William Abraham, age 19	Thomas Boshier, age 14
Edward Brokenbrough, age 15	Andrew Burruss, age 18
Atwell Burruss, age 18	John Burruss, age 16
Benjamin Cocke, age 19	William Cardwell, age 19
John Cardwell, age 17	James Dabney, age 13
Robert Dabney, age 15	Ambrose Dudley, age 17
Thadeas Ellett, age 15	Thomas E. Fisher, age 18
LaFayette Fox, age 16	James C. Johnson, age 17
Douglas Muire, age 12	Thomas Pitts, age 15
William Pitts, age 13	William Parker, age 16
Augustus Sizer, age 16	Henry Timberlake, age 18

According to the 1857 catalogue of the Virginia Military Institute, p. 23, John H. Pitts, from Essex County, graduated from that institution at the top of his class, on July 4, 1844. He was all of nineteen years old.

Contributed by: Steve Colvin

Since publication of our Cemetery Booklet we have received the following information:

Cemetery at "Moncuin" near Manquin—

Benjamin, son of Benjamin R. and Sarah E. Blake.
Died June 25, 1849, aged 2 years, 3 mo. and 21 days.

Our Mother
Sarah E. Blake
Born March 4, 1822
Died December 16, 1898
My Husband
Austin Brockenbrough Blake
June 25, 1849 - January 1, 1917
Resting

"PIPING TREE"

Two shafts of white marble, each approximately eight feet in height, erected to:

Miss Catherine Turner, daughter of William and Mary Turner. Died in Richmond, Virginia on August 22, 1847.

Mary Turner, wife of William Turner. Died in Richmond, Virginia, in February 1826.

Note: William Turner was a former Sheriff of King William County.

*Contributed by:
Steve Colvin*

"MT. PLEASANT" FARM

Thomas J. Boshier
Son of William & Gabriella Boshier
Born May 24, 1836
Died December 22, 1911
Fannie A. Boshier
Daughter of Thomas S. & Mary E. Jones
Born June 6, 1836
Died May 8, 1989

*Contributed by:
Clyde H. Ratcliffe*

GOULDMAN CEMETERY

(additional graves)

Mrs. Frances B. Lumpkin
B. 1802 — D. 1880
Sadie Mable Casey
B. 1890 — D. 1941

*Contributed by:
Mrs. Robert Kidd*

ROSEVILLE FARM

Roseville Farm has two cemeteries. The family graveyard located behind the school house has a headstone marked:

Nannie Semple Burruss
Born
Feb. 1st 1853
Died
Oct. 8th 1873
Lovely in Life
Patient in Suffering
Beautiful in Death.

*Contributed by:
Mrs. Linda C. Smith*

The following is a list of King William County Schools - date of land purchased or donated, and the name of Grantor.

KING WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

W. E. Garber
Division Superintendent

Name	Grantor	Acres
1912-Mangohick (W)	Mary C. Turner	5
1912-Beulahville (W)	Beulah Bap. Ch.	5
1913-Sweet Hall (W)	W. S. Timberlake	2
1914-Churchview (Col)	W. L. Lipscomb	1.6
1914-Lanesville (W)	C. T. Neale	3
1912-King W. ACD (Training Sch.)	Ella Gray, etc.	14
1916-Old Enfield (Col)	Edgar Jackson	1
1916-Port Richmond	Am. Bldg. Corp.	L-11, 12, 43, 44
1915-Plat (Canton)	W. P. Bray	3
1919-White Shop	Sch. Bd. Acq.	Agree.
1920-Canton W.	W. P. Bray, etc.	3
1919-White Shop	B. C. Garrett	2
1920-Old Enfield W.	B. C. Slater	2
1922-Venter (Col)	O. D. Minor	2
1923-Globe (Col)	Hill Carter	2
1924-King Wm. H.S.	T. C. Commins	15.9
1917-Canton	W. P. Bray	3
1926-Mt. Oliver (Col)	C. T. Neale	2
1919-Shady Grove (Col)	Eddie Hill	3
1934-Enfield (Col)	T. A. Jackson	1
1927-Lester Manor (Col)	Steve Previs	1
Sharon Indian Sch.		2

**EXCERPTS FROM
TAX BOOK OF COL. HARDIN LITTLEPAGE
1815**

*(Continued from Bulletin #7 - 1981;
#10 - 1983 and #13 - 1986)*

ROBERT DUGAR

Tax on 164½ acres Land	1.70
4 Negroes 12 ys old	3.20
3 horses .63 - 10 Cattle .30	.93
4 County & poor rates	2.48
	<hr/> 8.31

HENRY DAVIS

Tax on 64 acres Land	.69
4 Negroes 12 ys old	3.20
1 do 9 ys old	.50
3 horses .63 - 6 cattle .18	.81
1 Chest Drawers not mahg.	.12½
3 County & poor rates	1.86
	<hr/> 7.18½

THOMAS DOUGLAS

Tax on 1 horse .21 - 1 Cow .03	.24
1 County & poor rate	<u>.62</u>
	.86
due for the last year	<u>2.84</u>
	3.70

REUBIN M. DAVIS

Tax on 130 acres Land	1.39
4 Negroes 12 ys old 3.20	
2 do 9 ys old 1.00	4.20
4 horses .84 - 12 Cattle .36	1.20
1 Chest Drawers not mahg.	.12½
5 County & poor rates	<u>3.10</u>
	10.01½
30 acres chgd to _____ Davis	.32
fee bills	<u>7.53</u>
	17.86½

REUBIN DUGAR

Tax on 473 2/3 acres Land	5.05
7 Negroes 16 ys old	5.60
3 do 9 ys old	1.50
6 horses 1.26 - 24 Cattle .72	1.98
Gig .67 - House + 100\$.12½	.79½
1 Mahg. Chest Drawers	.25
1 Chest Drawers not mahg.	.12½
1 Book Case do	.25
10 County & poor rates	<u>6.20</u>
	21.75

JAMES M. DUGAR

Tax on 172 acres Land	1.84
2 Negroes 16 ys old	1.60
2 horses	.42
4 County & poor rates	<u>2.48</u>
	6.34
fee bills	<u>4.86</u>
	11.20

GWATHMEY DABNEY

Tax on 1 horse .21 - 3 Cattle .09	.30
1 Chest Drawers not Mahg.	.12½
1 County & poor rates	<u>.62</u>
	1.04½

PARKS B. DAVIS

Tax on 60 acres Land	.80
3 Negroes 16 ys old	2.40
2 horses .42 - 8 Cattle .24	.66
4 County & poor rates	<u>2.48</u>
	6.34

JOHN DUNGEY (free Negroe)

1 poll tax	2.50
1 County & poor rate	<u>.62</u>
	3.12

WILLIAM DUNGEY (free Negroe)

1 Poll tax	2.50
1 County & poor rate	<u>.62</u>
	3.12

Genealogy Corner

"Benjamin Wood received a grant of 400 acres in King William County in 1719. Would like proof of this."

Roy Blair, Rt. 4, Box 215
Union, S.C. 29379

"Do you hae any material on William Terrell and wife Esther Bledsoe, 1810-1834?"

Mrs. Janet W. Bavaro, 1105 Elfstone Ct.
Westlake, Village, CA 91361

"Anne West supposedly married Richard Gregory. Richard Gregory's Mother and Father were Richard Gregory and Mildredge Smith. Do you have record of this marriage?"

Dixie Marie Woodfin, 4725 River Rd.
Buhl, Idaho 83316

"I believe James B. Littlepage married Mary Cole before 1809. Do you know date and place? They had one child - Mary E. Did they have other children?"

Mrs. Gary Dudley Morris, 6801 79 Ave. N.
Pinellas Park, FL 34665

"Does anyone have any clues as to who were the parents of Thomas S. Jones who lived at 'Marl Hill' from 1834 until his death in 1860?"

Clyde H. Ratcliffe, P.O. Box 25099
Richmond, VA 23260

NOTICE

Any readers interested in a needlepoint COAT-OF-ARMS? Kathy Atkins, a former resident of West Point, is hand painting needlepoint canvases — with Paternayan yarn included. Kathy designed the Coat-of-Arms for King William County and is now interested in painting individual family Coat-of-Arms.

If you are interested please contact her:

Kathy Atkins, P.O. Box 453, Odessa, Delaware 19730

The King William County Historical Society holds three meetings each year: 1st Sunday April - King William Court House; 2nd Sunday July -King William Court House; 1st Sunday Ocotber -an old home in the county.

Membership dues - \$3.00 per year - payable in July.

KING WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

- President Steve Colvin
- Vice President Rebecca Townsend
- Recording Secretary Dorothy Atkinson
- Corresponding Secretary Ame D. Crute
- Treasurer Marion Upshaw

All communications relating to the content of this and previous Bulletins whould be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. Ame Crute, P.O. Box 666, West Point, Va. 23181.