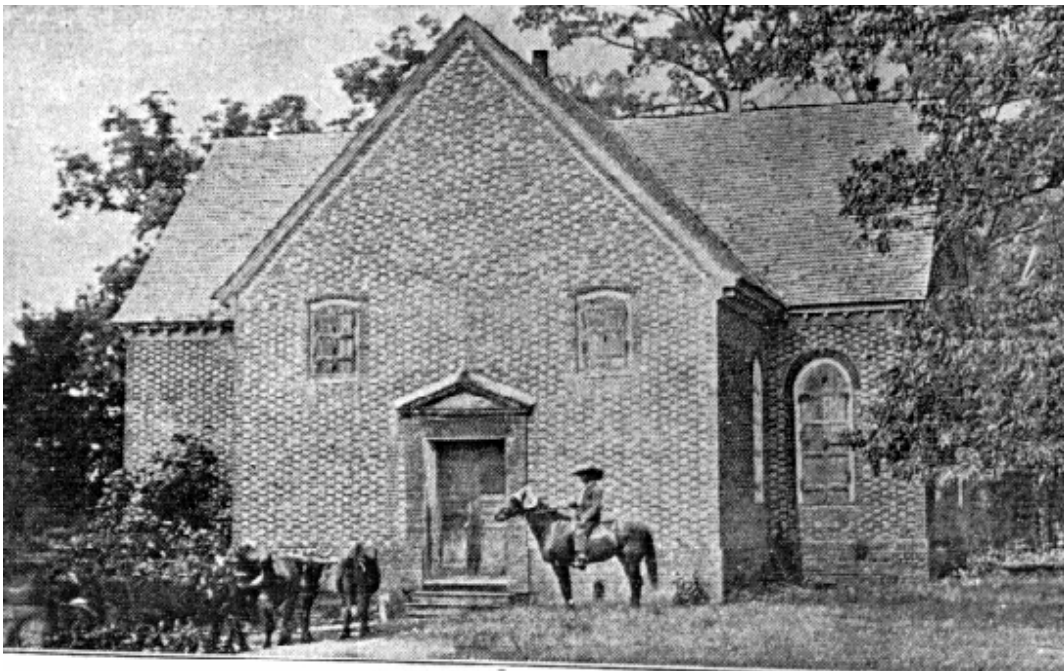


The Vauter's Church of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, Virginia

In Essex County Virginia, there still stands the original Vauter's Church. John Vawter, son of Bartholomew, was a vestry man and supporter of Vauter's. As the typical Virginia plantation house of the eighteenth century sat in the midst of broad acres of plowed field, pasture, and woodland, remote from neighbors, so the typical Virginia church of that century was the crossroads church, set by itself in a field or a wood, at a point convenient to a group of plantations that covered a great stretch of country. The land of the church was near the land that Bartholomew Vawter inherited from his wife's father, William Hodgson. In 1699, Bartholomew purchased land of John Hawkins which also abutted the church grounds. The path to the church was called "Spearman's Church Path" and abutted the property of Job Spearman. It may be that John's brother Edward Vawter was involved with the actual construction of the brick church in ca 1731. There were also several churches before and after Bartholomew Vawter located in the south and north parts of St. Anne's parish.

It was first believed that the original section of the church was built in 1719 and an addition added in 1731, but in 1969 the church was stripped to its original brick for renovation and found that the entire church was built at the same time. A brick over the door is inscribed 1731. The church was rarely referred to by Vauter's Church but by its original name the "Upper Church of St. Anne's Parrish".



Rev. Ralph Fall minister of Vauter's from 1962-82 was an avid researcher and historian of the church and discovered that in 1704 the first minister was Parson James Smith. Rev. John Bagge came from Ireland to the parish about 1709, in 1716 Bagge returned from England. In 1717 the vestry men of VA had the authority to appoint the clergy and appointed Rev. Giles Rainsford but he left for Maryland so Bagge stayed on. The Rev. Robert Rose came in 1725 until 1748 when he went to Albemarle County. His diary covers the last years at St. Anne's and the beginning of Albemarle ministry until his death in 1751. Ministers generally served both churches, preaching in the south church one week and the upper church the next.

The vestry was the governing body of each parish. It had 8 members who were chosen by the congregation, representing the geographic area of the parish bounds. No women were allowed to

serve until the 1900's. Vestry men filled their own vacancies and elected officers consisting of two Wardens, a clerk, and treasurer. Vestries had five responsibilities:

1. after 1716 to select the parish clergy
2. investigate moral offenses, including absenteeism from service (a legal offense)
3. to lay the parish levy or tax upon all white and black males over 16 years of age, which provided the funds "to build, repair, and adorn the Churches and Glebes"
4. to care for the indigent and orphans
5. to "process the bounds" (measure land boundary lines to determine levies and land titles).

When the General Assembly in the 1720s sought to manage tobacco production by limiting the number of seedlings that could be planted and tended, the parish vestries—not the county justices—were responsible for appointing and supervising inspectors. The county court in turn dealt with the violators. Subsequently, when the assembly moved to a warehouse system as a quality-control device for tobacco, responsibility for appointing and supervising inspectors was transferred to the county court justices. By law the justices appointed surveyors of the county roads while parish vestries assigned the "hands" to the surveyors for clearing and maintaining the roads. The failure of English authorities to provide bishops and diocesan administration for its Anglican colonies had among its several consequences the absence of ecclesiastical courts. Twice yearly the county grand juries, upon information offered largely but not exclusively by the parish churchwardens, brought presentments against violators of the laws defining moral offenses and requiring church attendance. "Blue Laws" were by no means peculiar to New England, nor were Virginians hesitant to enforce their own codes of behavior. Those found guilty as charged in Virginia paid fines that were turned over to the parishes to be used in assisting the poor.

Deciding to build a church, hiring a parson, appointing tobacco inspectors, or binding out an orphan were functions of the parish vestry, reflecting a sense of community united in its beliefs, values, and needs.

Vestries every four years divided their parishes into precincts and appointed for each precinct at least two "honest, intelligent" freeholders who, with whatever assistance they required, walked the boundary lines of the properties owned by precinct residents. In the presence of the landowners, the inspectors confirmed existing tree blazes and other boundary marks and established new ones if the old had been destroyed or moved. This quadrennial reaffirming of boundaries afforded occasions to resolve disputed lines to the mutual accommodation of the interested parties. The inspectors' reports that were duly entered in the parish—not the county court—records represented the acknowledgment by all landowners that the boundaries were accurately marked. Recourse by suit through the county court was available to those unwilling to accept the determination of the boundaries by the processioners.

John Vawter was a vestry man in Essex County. He would have voted to build a new church and help to fund the project. Much information is found on John surveying bounds and testifying in court and would confirm his importance. He also had a rolling road and warehouses built on his property which controlled the tobacco production. No information is found as to who assumed the vestry position after John was deceased.

The Vawter, Vauter, Vaughter(s) (VVV) Association reunions are held yearly throughout the United States and every 5 years are held at the Vauter's Church location. The church is in the National Registry of Historic Places and is maintained as the eleventh oldest church still in active use in Virginia.

A church was located in Rappahannock County soon after the arrival of the colonists. St. Anne's Parish was not separated until 1704. The church found in the following deed was near land of Thomas Page and Cornelius Noel.

Cavaliers and Pioneers Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants by Nell Marion Nugent Vol. 2 1666-1695, VA State Library, Richmond, 1977. P252

Wm. Mosely, 40 acs. Rapp. Co., S. side the River: on S. or lower side of the mouth of Occupacon Cr; 22 Dec 1682 p. 228. Beg. at Mr. Henry White near line of Tho. Moss, Dec'd; to a small Sw, next above the Church; by the Church road &c. Trans of : Mary Dibbin.

An early mention of a church in St. Anne's Parish is 1704 when the parish was officially established. This may be the lower church or later called "Sale's Church" as that area is closer to the glebe. The church is long since destroyed but a foundation is found located about ¼ mile above the present day St. Matthews church. In Essex County Records 1703-1706 p. 131 the will of Thomas Gregson, St. Anne's Parish. Dated 26 Dec 1704, Proved Jan 1704/05..... "to be

interred in the Church yard belonging to the said Parish as near to the Church as conveniently may be." He wills his wife Anne 150 acs purchased of Wm Harper, also 30 acs purchased of James Boughan adjoining the other, also 113 acs adjoining above land recently purchased from Jane Butler, also 37 acs also adjoining the other land, lately taken up as deserted from Tho Parker. All land in St. A par.

(Note: by 1712 Anne had remarried to James Alderson)

The following is a collection of articles and accounts of the Vauter's Church. Some are listed in their entirety and some excerpted for space allowed. All include some fact and some fancy, but all together form an interesting picture of the times and growth of colonial Virginia and the Vawter family.

The Diary of Robert Rose, A View of Virginia by a Scottish Colonial Parson 1746-1751. Edited by Ralph Emmett Fall, Port Royal, VA 1977, McClure Press

This book tells the human side of Colonial America and the people who lived and worshipped around St. Anne's Parish in Essex County, Virginia. It also helps to explain the connection of the Vawter family and the various families of Essex county (formed from Old Rappahannock in 1692) and their meaning to the Vauter's Church.

Rev. Robert Rose and his family occupied the glebe. A glebe was a plantation of approximately 200 acres given by the parish for the minister. Built probably ca 1731, it is believed to be the oldest brick glebe still standing in VA.

Shown at right in 1964 it is now (2005) almost beyond repair. Located in Thomas's Neck below present Chance, VA in Essex it is 2 stories high and one room deep with the exterior brickwork of Flemish bond and glazed header similar to Vauter's church. Vauter's is found sixteen miles to the north. On the plantation was a frame schoolhouse, a wharf on Occupacia Creek nearby, a grain mill, a spring, and several outbuildings, but only the glebe house now remains. Virginia law in 1803 outlawed glebe lands and the property went into the private hands of Edward



Rowzee that year. There is evidence of land for a glebe in the northern part of the county as early as 1714 on land of Richard West, but no proof exists that a house was built. Perhaps a minister was coming to live at this date but it never was completed. This remains a mystery.

The Glebes of St. Anne's Parish

1st: Architectural Survey Report Vauter Glebe built about 1725 located on Cloverleaf Farm St. Anne's Parish Essex County, Virginia; 14 January 1971. Referred to the Historical American building survey of 1958. Vauter Glebe located: Latitude NW 38° 02' 43" Longitude 76° 58' 12" St. Anne's Parish Essex County, Virginia. US Map 1958. The Glebe located 2.3 miles east of intersection 632 and 633 on the north bank of Farmers Hall Creek, from the Historical American Building survey of 1939.

The Glebe House is located on open level farm land on Cloverfield St. Anne's Parish Essex County, Virginia. The glebe house is a two-story three bay building fifty foot by twenty feet. The walls are of flemish bond, built in a rare colonial architectural form. Vauter Glebe designated a National Landmark by the US Historical Preservation Act of 1956. signed 19 November 1974.

2nd: Archeological Site report file Number 28-296 on the Vauter Glebe from the Virginia Historic Landmark Commission; 1 February 1975. Vauter old Rectory an old Large brick Building. This is another Vauter Church Glebe:

Designated as Vauter old Rectory number 1: Located in Loretto Essex County, Virginia. Vauter Rectory number 1 is located about one mile northeast of Perdo on Farmers Fork Creek a branch of Elmwood Creek on the south side of Virginia State Route 640. this was the Vauter church Rectory from about 1825 to 1852. The house site was about forty by thirty five, two stories with dormer windows, had a full basement and was burnt to the ground in 1920.

3rd: A Third Vauter Glebe is mentioned: as the Hustle Rectory built in Loretto, Essex County, Virginia along Route 637 in 1824 and built on the lands of Latere Sale.

People connected to the church and to Vawters.

Rev. Robert Rose was thought to be in Essex as early as 1724 and became minister in 1725. His diary covers the years of 1746-1751. He died 30 Jun 1751 while assisting William Cabell in surveying lots and streets for Beverly Town at Westham plantation near Richmond. He was the first person buried in St. John's Churchyard on Church Hill in Richmond. His tomb survives today almost 250 years later. He married twice and was a minister, doctor, business man, land owner, and confidant to the people of Essex and Albemarle counties and the surrounding areas. Rev. Rose's daughter age 15, died 10 Nov 1748. She, along with her mother Mary (Tarent) Rose, Rev. Rose's first wife and his son Robert Rose (age 5) who had both died in 1738 are buried at Brooke's Bank plantation. He buried his daughter 2 days after her death and on the 5th day discarded "his mourning". A "mourning" was a custom of wearing a distinctive garb such as black apparel or a black arm band usually for 30 days after a death. Mourning rings as gifts of remembrance were given to children or family members and sometimes contained a locket of the deceased hair. Many times these rings were inscribed with a name or date.

Rev. Rose during the 25 day period from 9 Nov to 3 Dec 1748 made 30 visits to the sick and officiated at 8 burials including his daughter and mother in law. He termed this a period of great "Distemper" (disease). While in many areas the bodies were conveyed to the church yards it is noted, "The Parishes being of great Extent, many dead Corpses cannot be conveyed to the Church to be buried: So that it is customary to bury in Gardens or Orchards where whole Families Lye interred together, in a Spot generally handsomely enclosed, planted with Evergreens, and the Graves kept decently."

John Rowzee d. 1778 and was a planter on or near Occupacia Creek, not far from the glebe. He was a grandson of Edward Rowzee (brother of Ralph Rowzee the immigrant, in 1650) and a son of Edward and Mary (Pierce) Rowzee. He married 1. Sarah d. 1748 and 2. Susanna Brooke.

William Thomas, son of Edward Thomas, was b. ca 1683 and lived at Thomas' Neck near the glebe. In 1730, William Thomas was a large contributor to the building of Vauter's Church during the following year.

Edmund Bagge was long connected to Vauters and the parish. In 1726, he paid for a freight of hearthstones, iron, furnace tools, etc. Similar or the same hearthstones were laid in the floors of the aisles of Vauter's Church. Hearthstones or flagstones were brought as ballast in ship holds from Sweden, Boston and England. This could have been the decision time to start the building of the brick church. The original hearthstones are still in the church today.

William Brooke married Sarah Taliaferro and was a close friend of Rev. Rose. Robert Brooke and Catherine Booth were William's parents. Robert Brooke was a famous surveyor of much of the area and Edward Vawter was an assistant of his in Caroline Co. In addition, John Vawter is shown as surveyor in several deeds and these people had to have a good education, be able to read and do mathematics. Robert Brooke was the brother of Mary Brooke who married Leonard Tarent. Leonard Tarent is prominent in the deeds of the Vauter's Church and the south church called by many "Sale's Church". Mary Tarent, their daughter, was the first wife of Parson Rose and died in 1738 and is buried at Brooke's Bank (the plantation of Robert Brooke). Sarah (Taliaferro) Brooke was the aunt of Mary Tarent and never remarried. Rev. Rose visited Sarah more times than anyone else listed in the diary. Brooke's Bank plantation was located four miles south of Vauter's Church and some twelve miles north of Rose's glebe.

Leonard Tarent, sheriff of Essex, lived about half way between Rose's glebe and Brooke's Bank planta. Cornelius Sale, first son of Wm. Saile, who immigrated to VA bef 1657 and d. bef 1704 m. Mary Samule of Caroline and lived in the area of present day Lloyds and Champlain. The lower church in St. Anne's was called Sale's Church prob. for immigrant Wm. Saile. The church formerly was within Sittenbourn Parish (c. 1656-1732) and old Rappa. Co. (1656-1692). This was before the division into St. Anne's Parish on the south side of Rappa. River in 1704. The church was located in the vicinity of Champlain and Lloyds. Sales' Church was a distance of five miles from the glebe of Rose.

Leonard Tarent sold a plantation of 140 acres in 1714, where he and wife Mary (Brooke) Tarent lived "less the burying ground of 50 square feet". This land was bought by the Warden's of St. Anne for a glebe that was never built. Later the land was sold to Dr. Paul Micou. When Tarent died in 1718, he left his own plantation and 50 pounds sterling left him by her father, Robert Brooke. Robert was buried at another of his plantations, Farmers Hill, near present Champlain. This is also where Rev. Rose buried Mary Tarent (wife of Leonard) his mother in law only 18 days after the death of his daughter Mary Rose. Rose was adm. of her estate and he purchased her "body cloathes" for burial. Found in Essex Co. Will Book 8. Rev. John Smelt assisted in Mary Tarent's funeral and Rev. Rose left Essex less than a month later for Albemarle and his service to that area. Brooke's Bank plantation was bequeathed to Rev. Rose's son John (age 13) and was renamed Riverside Plantation and Tarent's Point. John Rose stayed behind and lived in Essex with Mrs. Sarah (Taliaferro) Brook.

One of Rev. Rose's closest friends was Andrew Anderson who died in 1764 and is buried at Vauter's Church. It is one of the oldest graves known at Vauter's. When Anderson died the minister at Vauter's was Rev. John Smelt.

George Southing operated the upper ferry over the Rappahannock. In 1748 the General Assembly authorized 20 new ferries each over the Rappahannock and York rivers, 40 over the James and 15 ferries for the Potomac. These were considered the four (4) great rivers of VA and show the need for water access by the landowners. Fees were from 10 to 30 shillings for a man and horse. Ministers were exempt from ferriage fees.

John Lee was clerk of Essex and a vestry man for St. Anne's Parish. He lived at Smithfield plantation, part of which still stands near present Lloyds. He kept the counties records at his home even after their removal from the courthouse in Caret to Tappahannock in 1728. This might resolve the problem of John Vawter's will and the mention of the "old courthouse".

Joseph Morton operated a tavern and ferry at Leestown. He married Aggy Woodson, granddaughter of John Woodson, original immigrant from London, 1625. Mortons' Ordinary (tavern) was described as "the best in Town" and its appearance "as elegant as any in the country". The chairs, tables, etc were of mahogany, with a room containing "fine large glaized copper Plate prints." There was a "tolerable garden in as decent order as seen in America." The ferry landing was on the Rappahannock River opposite Brooke's Bank plantation and the tavern was the scene, in 1766 of the "Westmoreland Declaration" signed by 115 patriots in opposition to the English Stamp Act.

John Micou lived just north of Vauter's Church. His grave was removed to Vauter's church yard in 1966. He m. Catherine Walker and their dau. Catherine Micou was baptized by Rose. Rose referred to the term "christening" for the sacrament of baptism, the act of adding a Christian name to the family name or surname. Affusion or sprinkling of water seems to have been Rose's preferred method although immersion was permissible. Earlier baptisms occurred in private homes but after Rev. John Bagg the practice of baptism was performed at the communion table. A small block of white marble, believed part of the baptismal font formerly used in one of these early churches has been used for many years as a doorstop in Vauter's Church.

Mungo Roy was a physician living near the Essex county line in Caroline Co., Dr. Roy also owned 196 acres on Lucas (Blackburn) Creek near Vauter's Church. He married Catherine Micou, dau. of John and Catherine (above). Ann Roy, dau. of Mungo, m. John Mercer and her portrait hangs at Elmwood planta., near present Loretto Post Office. Grace Fenton Mercer, their dau., m. Muscoe Garnett who was the first to live at Elmwood planta. Rev. Rose baptized Muscoe Garnett and it is his family who saved the Vauter church from destruction. On 19 May 1746, James Hackley and wife Elizabeth sold 196 acres on Lucas (Blackburn's) Creek near Vauter's Church in Essex to Dr. Mungo Roy of Caroline. John Hackley, father of James, had purchased the land from Robert Payne of Essex.

John Garnett (1717-46) was son of Capt. James Garnett and first wife Sarah Green at Mount Pleasant planta. adjoining Vauter's Church. John married Elizabeth Evans and had 3 sons. John Garnett died at age 29 and his grave is unknown. (Note: Elizabeth Evans is mentioned as the possible wife of James Noel, son of Cornelius Noel, immigrant. Although James wife is confirmed as Elizabeth no proof has been found to her surname) The Rose book finds evidence in the book *Garnetts of Essex and their Homes* by Wm. Garnett Chisolm and articles in the *VA Magazine of History* 1936-35. James Garnett, son of John, had 13 children and was married 4 times. His third wife was Mary (Rowzee) John, dau. of Capt. Edward and widow of Thomas Jones.

On 6 Mar 1746, Rev. Rose married John Cochran and Sarah Landrum. The Landrums are connected to the Vawter and Hodgson families through Thomas Page. In 1696, James Landrum married Mary Brown, dau. of William and Elizabeth Brown, all of Essex. In 1714, James Landrum purchased from John Willard and John Williams, 15 acres on branches of Blackburn's (or Lucas) Creek adjoining Vauter's Church, adjacent to land already owned by Landrum, a witness to the deed being Samuel Landrum. Thomas Landrum died in 1715. Landrum Creek lies between Brookes Bank planta. and present Wheatland near Loretto in Essex and appears on early plat maps. By 1712, John Willard had m. Sarah Brown, dau. of William and Elizabeth Brown, and lived on land purchased in 1714 near Lucas (Blackburn) Creek which flows near Vauter's Church. Martin Willard lived in the area.

Thomas Newman and Elizabeth Vawter were married at the glebe on 27 Dec 1747. Her father is not proven.

Rev. John Smelt began preaching in Vauter's Church on 25 Dec 1748 after Rev. Rose had moved on to Albemarle County. He lived at the Glebe for 17 years where he married and raised a family. He had been a preacher only 3 months where he first spoke at Vauter's.

Communities and living conditions.

Starting in 1691 and every 4 years the parishes were required to review boundary lines, inasmuch as markers such as tress, stones, etc. were moved or disturbed. All men over 16 were tithed and new families recorded. The period for "processing the bounds" was September to March. This provided the basis for taxes and settled boundary line disputes. Two persons in each precinct were appointed. John Vawter served as surveyor several times and probably did this census at least once. Persons would have to be able to read or figure a surveying distance and the Vawters seem to have those qualities and passed their education on to their children. The sheriff of the area collected the fines of those who did not pay. 15 Jun 1732, Edmund Bagg paid 1,080 pounds of tobo to Benjamin Vawter, sub-sheriff and collector for St. Anne's Parish. This was for 15 parish tithables at 72 pounds of tobacco per "poll". Vawter received 105 pounds for his fee. One way to pay the tithable was to work 2 days at clearing roads for the area, many did this and helped to maintain these roads which became today's modern highways in Essex County.

"Quitrents" were annual fees paid by land owners at the rate of 2 shillings for 100 acres. The quit rent rolls for 1704 and 1715 survive as well as later years. Bartholomew Vawter is shown on each, in 1704 with 400 acres and 1715 with 450 acres.

Linen making was known since Egyptian times and linen weaving was known early in Virginia. Bounties were offered as early as 1651 to anyone who would produce hemp and flax to make linen. In 1662, a tithable poll was required to raise six pounds of linen thread per year. By the mid 1700's this art was little known and was imported from other sources.

Rev. Rose administered the sacrament of communion only 4 times by reference in the diary of five and a half years. Generally ministers gave communion less than 4 times per year. In 1724, Rev. Bagg, the first recorded minister of St. Anne's stated that 130 families, 6 free Negroes, and many slaves lived in the parish and that a number between 100-180 attended church services. But, Rev. Rose recounts on several occasions that few people attended service and during winter services were canceled many times.

Rev. Rose was a doctor of sorts and administered to those ailing when possible, even performing surgery once on a small child. He considered "intoxicants" among the necessary items because wine in particular was an ingredient in several medicines prepared by him. Bloodletting was a common practice for ailments and charges were 20 pounds of tobacco. For drug prescriptions the charges were from 20 to 50 pounds. The life expectancy was only 35 years. Malaria (ague), small pox and many other diseases were rampant in Virginia and even black plaque was reported in VA and NC during these times. Fevers were referred to as "intermittents" and their origin came from many sources. Rev. Rose reported an outbreak of measles in his own family and his daughter died of pneumonia.

One important map of 1751 done by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson and marked the various plantations and roads to provide an accurate picture of the area. The Fry-Jefferson map survives today. Peter Jefferson was the father of Thomas Jefferson, President. Fry was killed in 1754 in the French and Indian War and was replaced in command by George Washington and Washington's abilities in that war helped him achieve his fame in the Revolutionary War. Fry, upon his death bequeathed his surveying instruments to Jefferson. Jefferson was also an executor in the estate of Rev. Rose.

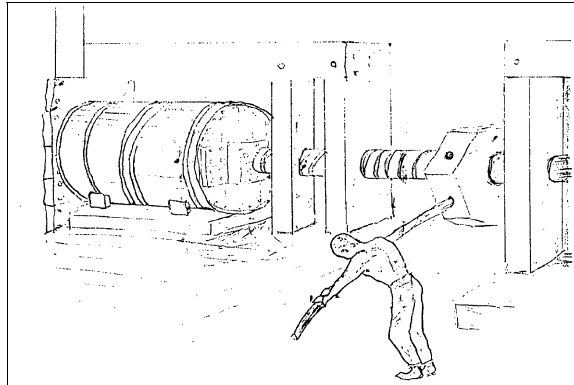
The site of Germanna in Orange was about 48 miles from the glebe over the most direct roads. About one mile south was the mansion of Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood, a friend of Rose's. Spotswood mansion had terraced gardens on slopes and was called the "enchanted castle". All that remains today is a fountain that still trickles from the hillside and marked in 1931 by a plaque. On this plantation, Spotswood built with public funds a church where Parson Rose first officiated; but Spotswood was criticized for having a church "in a place so remote that few or none other than Spotswood could attend".

New Post, six miles south of Fredericksburg was an important junction of the Tidewater Trail (present US 17). There the post office carried mail north and south and for over 100 years a stage coach line passed between Richmond and Fredericksburg. John Spotswood owned an iron-casting furnace and 2000 acres just north of New Post. In all he owned 57 plantations and over 80,000 acres. Many large land owners built temporary shelter on patented land called "quarters" until a permanent house could be build. This was to satisfy colonial law requiring that every fifty acres be cultivated within three years of patent date, otherwise, revert back for repatenting. John Vawter was involved in a lawsuit in Spotsylvania County over this very thing and lost the land originally patented by him to another man.

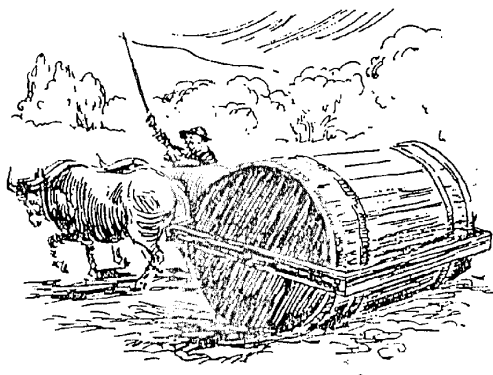
At Spotswood's iron mine, operated by his son, had ore excavated and then carted about one mile to the smelting furnace, where pig iron was produced. It employed 100 slaves and produced 20 tons of pig iron that was shipped to England. The furnace was built of rough stone with a 26 foot revolving wheel to move the bellow, powered by water brought in by wooden pipes from the stream. Spotswood stripped his forest of all trees to produce the charcoal to fire the furnace. The pig iron was hauled by cart and man 15 miles to a creek new New Post. This stream had lime (necessary for the change of pig to cast iron). An air-furnace was erected where the pig iron was remelted and poured into molds to cast iron fireplace backs, andirons, etc. These products were

sold in the colony either by ship or by cart. English law required that only raw products and no manufactured articles could be sent to England. With so great a demand in VA, three other furnaces operated continuously and Spotswood's earnings peaked at 5000 pounds annually, making him a very rich man.

Another community, Port Royal, was important as a tobacco warehouse center and one of the original trustees of the town was Oliver Towles and his two sisters married into the Richard Vawter and son Russell Vawter's family in later years. Port Royal was about 30 miles downstream from Fredericksburg and was a thriving center of commerce for many years and was considered for the sight of the national capital from 1786-90. Eighteen of its original structures are still used today.



Tobacco was packed into hogsheads by applying pressure with a wooden screw that forced the tobacco through a cask and into the hogshead. The cask had no ends. The hogshead was rolled or pulled by oxen to the waterways. The standardized size was 48 by 30 inches and filled with tobo or other grains weighed between 600 and 900 pounds. Hogsheads of rum contained about 108 gallons when brought back from Barbados. Single dug out canoes were about 16 feet long and could carry 2 or 3 hogsheads. Rose increased the length to 50 to 60 feet with each canoe 4 to 5 foot wide. He lashed two together and held 8 or 9 hogsheads; a man on the front and back



The transportation of tobacco

could maneuver them easily. They drew no more than a few inches of water and were quite stable. On the upstream return the two men could pole these light weight conveyances without a problem. This allowed the western and mountain areas to develop more tobacco and increase their financial status. Hogsheads were loaded aboard ships to England where factors (attorneys) helped with the sale and the purchase of necessary items from England and the return trip to the colonies.

Tobacco was the most important commodity in VA, grown in two grades, sweet-scented, the better variety which was grown in Essex and Oronoco or transfer grade which brought less value mostly grown in Albemarle. Rose's salary in both counties remained at 16,000 pounds of tobo per year plus "cask" (another 400 pounds to allow for spoilage). In Virginia law no planter could sell tobo until he had paid his year's tithes for church support.

Tobacco was the most important commodity in VA, grown in two grades, sweet-scented, the better variety which

Colonial structures were "framed", that is begun with vertical corner posts and held upright with diagonal corner beams, mortised and tenoned together at their joints. "Trenails" or wooden pins secured them firmly. Other vertical posts and studs were erected, usually on 20 to 22 inch centers, although tobacco barns could have studs only 12 inches apart to prevent robbery or forcible entry. The tobacco barn was the planter's "bank"; but the sides and ends would be left with spaces for air to cure the tobacco hung inside. Boards were hand hewn and hand milled from timber felled on the sight. The Vawters and Noels were builders and several children were indentured to learn the trade. This was an important skill in colonial Virginia.

The steps of producing tobacco were similar in the entire region. Topping the plants, secured better and larger lower leaves. The Act of the General Assembly specified the number of leaves which could be left on plants, to prevent over production of lesser quality tobacco and keep prices high. The number of leaves was cut to 6 to 10 per plant. Seven well tended plants yielded one pound of tobacco, and 15 plants in poor soil or poorly tended yielded one pound. The overseer was an important person as they made sure plants were well tended by the servants and slaves on the various holdings of the large land owners. No owner could "over see" his entire operation. Usually two crops were grown each season.

Ship building was important but not done often in VA. James Garnett of Mount Pleasant planta. employed Richard Ripley, a joiner who lived near Occupacia Creek, to build him a ship. Rose invented the double canoe that could transport twice as much tobacco down river from the plantations that had only stream accesses. He owned at least two vessels, one a 60 ton sloop that sailed to Barbados and another 100 ton who sailed to Barbados with cargoes of tobacco, staves, corn, linen, and lumber and returned with rum and sugar.

The English currency of pounds, shillings, and pence was used in the colony on a limited basis and tobacco was the usual monetary medium of exchange in Rose's time. The purchasing power of tobacco related to the English pound sterling, usually at two pence per pound of tobo. One pound sterling equaled 20 shillings or 24 pence for which 200 acres of land could be purchased in the western territory. Rose used the old style calendar of dating with the first day of the new year as March 25 instead of January, this calendar was finally changed in 1752.

As sport, drinking and boxing were known but not looked upon with meeting the social graces. However, cockfights were promoted between an agreed number of pairs bred for the "sport". A "battle-royal" occurred when a number of birds fought at the same time and all but the victor was killed. A pit in the ground sometimes provided the arena and betting was common.

Rev. Rose took several long trips, including a 15 day and 34 day round trip to Albemarle County from Essex. He rode one horse and led at least a second horse carrying his belongings. Wagons and roads were not heard of or in limited number and poor condition. However the Indians long had a custom of "firing the woods" to keep down undergrowth and to facilitate the killing of game. Many times Rose comments on the openness of the forest "For great trees stood apart with the openness of a park". A "Chair" was usually a 2 wheel seat or carriage pulled by one horse, a "Chaise" was usually an enclosed 4 wheeled small carriage to hold 3 or 4 people pulled by 2 horses. Only the very well to do plantation owners afforded such luxuries and most walked or rode by single horse mount.

Rev. Rose made 3 known trips to Williamsburg, a distance of 55 miles. He attended a clergy convention in 1726 and in 1729 he went to Yorktowne. He noted many houses, buildings and public centers including the capitol in his journeys. Many of these houses remain today, including the sight of William and Mary College.

In Albemarle county Rose found four main Indian trails that linked the area west of the Tidewater section with the north, the Ohio Valley, the Tennessee territory and the south. As settlers secured approval in courts, they and their servants cleared roads from one plantation to another and crossed and crisscrossed this new territory very quickly.

This ends the excerpts of the important Rev. Robert Rose diary. The following articles all concern Vauter's Church taken from other documents found.

Probably the closest to accurate history of Vauter's is found in *Colonial Churches, In the Original Colony of Virginia*, Published by South Churchman Co., Second edition, revised & improved 1908. The section on Vauter's Church was written by P. S. Hunter, Loretto, VA

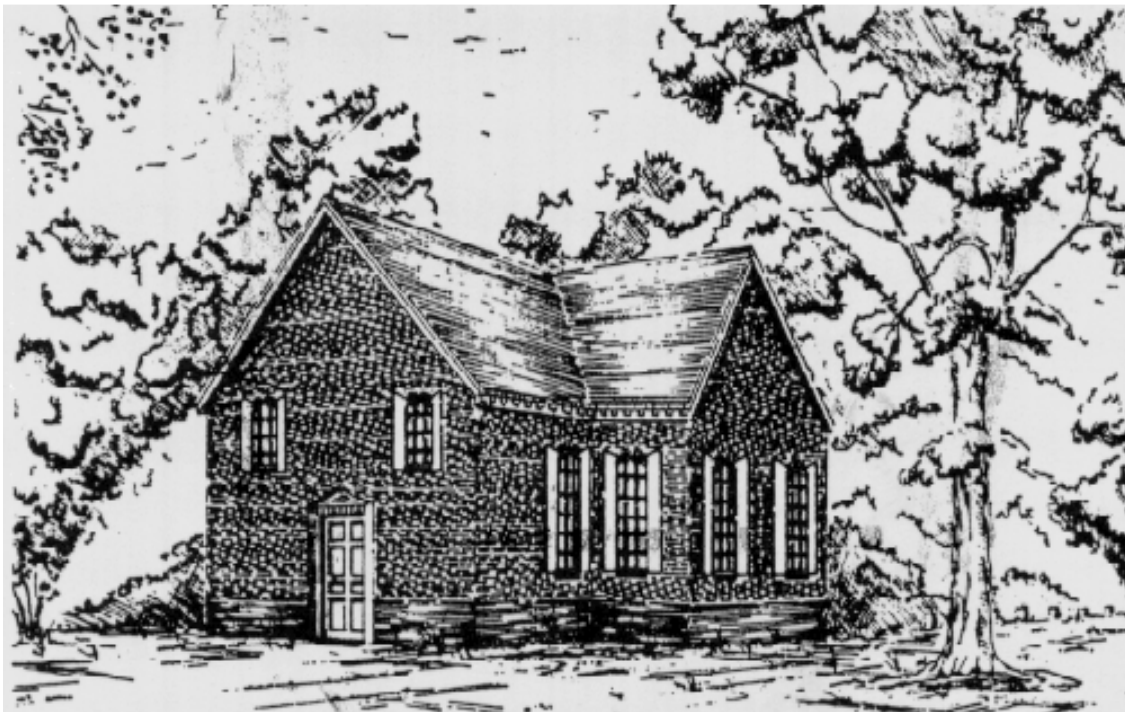
Of all the magnificent river view in Tidewater Virginia few excel that from the summit of Chimborzao hill, in upper Essex county. Commanding on one side long stretches of the beautiful

Rappahannock, flowing through its fertile plains, it displays, on the other, thickly wooded uplands in ascending terraces of richly blended verdure. But the most prominent object in the foreground is old Vauter's church, standing in its ancient grove of oak and walnut. It is approached by the "Church Lane", considerably elevated above the fields on either side, from the accumulation of soil washing down from the hills, and is bordered by dense hedges of growth so characteristic of the country, and in spring so exquisitely fragrant with the bloom of the wild grape and the eglantine.

The church is a brick building of cruciform shape, with its three high, sharp gables supporting a shingle roof, cut close to the edges of the wall. Its high and narrow windows are guarded by heavy solid wooden shutters, and there are two entrances to the church by double doors, in the south and the west ends. The present chancel, raised one step from the stone-paved aisles, is furnished now with two modern stands or lecterns for the service and sermon, but back against the wall there still stands the old reading desk and pulpit above it. The latter is reached by a stairway from the chancel floor, and this stairway is guarded by a hand-rail. Both pulpit and reading desk are draped in crimson hangings. The pews are the same old box stalls, with benches of uncompromising rigidity, and furnished with clanging doors, which announce the retirement of the occupants; but they have been cut down to nearly half of their former height.

A vestibule partition crosses the western end of the church, forming a vestry-room and supporting a gallery reached by steps in the vestibule. Another gallery over the southern door is the organ loft. Formerly the chancel and pulpit stood in the eastern end of the church and pews and pulpit were so high that both minister and congregation could enjoy deep seclusion.

Bishop Meade tells us in his book "Old Churches and Families of Virginia" that when visiting these old Colonial churches he frequently had to hasten his arrival, to erect temporary platforms of bricks or stones in the pulpits, to enable him to see the congregation; but the sermons of those days were so long and closely written that the minister had to be more engaged in the scrutiny of the manuscript than in the observation of the audience. In fact, from the shape of the church, the pulpit could be only visible from some points of the building. To complete the description of this venerable building, there is only to be added that its walls are covered by the most luxuriant mantle of English Ivy, which is with difficulty restrained from the invading and decaying the wooden roof.

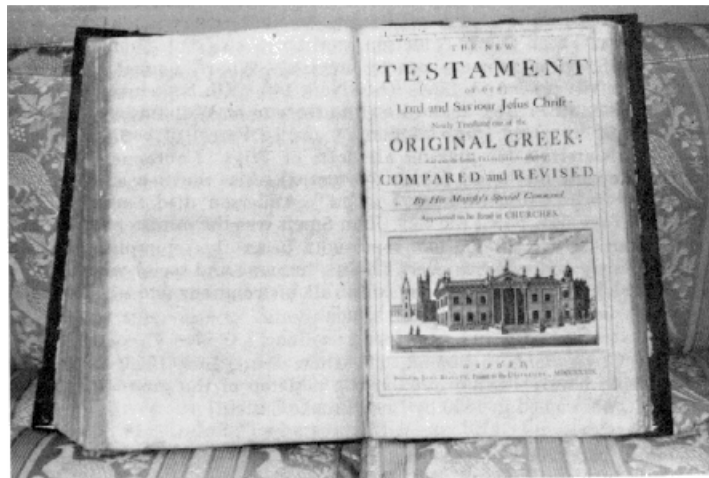


The early history of St. Anne's parish and its two churches is veiled in much obscurity, and rest more upon dim tradition than actual fact. Rappahannock county, formed from Lancaster county, about the middle of the seventeenth century, contained Littlebourne parish. Littlebourne parish, lying on both sides of the Rappahannock river was divided into North Farnham parish, in Richmond county; South Farnham parish, in lower Essex, and St. Anne's parish, in upper Essex; as both Richmond and Essex counties were formed from Rappahannock county.

St. Anne's parish contained two churches. One of these churches now destroyed and even its name lost, but of which the foundation is visible, stood near the present St. Matthew's church, one-fourth of a mile above it, on the road leading to Lloyd's. When St. Matthew's church was begun in 1860, its location was selected by its members, and specially recommended by Colonel Wm. Beverly, of Blandfield, because of its neighborhood to the old church which had been the regular place of worship of the Blandfield family and other Episcopal families in that vicinity. This old church fell into the possession of an owner named Sale, from which fact it was known as "Sale's Church." Legend tells us that its material was taken away and applied to such practical uses that its chancel rail was made into a chicken coop. About two miles from this old church and on a branch of Occupacia creek stood the rectory, called "The Glebe", later sold to the Rowzie family and was known as Clover Field. An old colored man named Frederic Robb, and owned by the Rowzie family, delighted in narrating his reminiscences of this old church, and the assembling of its congregation, conspicuous in that day by the rare possession of coaches, and by the English style of costume, knee breeches and boots worn by the gentleman.

About eight miles farther up in the county of Essex, and situated upon or near Blackburn's creek, stand Vauter's church, and Mr. Richard Baylor, of Kinloch, writes the following interesting sketch for Bishop Meade's above-mentioned work:

"The first thing that I recollect as connected with the old sanctuary is that my father used to keep the old English Bible at Marl Bank, and when the casual services of a passing Episcopal minister were to be held there a servant took the old Bible on his head and accompanied the family by a near walking way across the same Blackburn's creek, and after service brought it back. I still have the old Bible at Kinloch, valued for its antiquity, and on its blank leaves are numerous references in my father's handwriting. I



remember when the church door always stood wide open, if indeed they could be closed, and have taken refuge myself from a storm in the body of the church, leading my horse with me."

Mr. Baylor relates the occurrence of a duel between two gentlemen before the south door of the church, of which he says he was informed by Mr. R. B. Starke, of Norfolk, who attended as surgeon. Mr. Baylor continues:

"We are indebted to the firm friendship of a lady that Vauter's church did not share the same fate of other sanctuaries, as, for instance, the church at Leedstown, just across the river. As soon as Mrs. Muscoe Garnett heard that person had commenced carrying away the paving stones of the aisles, and perhaps some of the bricks, she claimed the church as her own, and threatened prosecution to the next offender. The ground on which she placed her claim was that the church stood on her land, or that of her family."

Mr. James Garnett, the father of Mrs. Muscoe Garnett's husband, did purchase lands adjacent to the church from the Vauter family before the middle of the 18th century, but we must ascend the stream of time higher than this, to trace the origin of Vauter's church. The date, 1731, is marked on a brick in the southern wall of the church, and this has led to a popular belief that the church

was built in 1731; but this date may have been that of some alteration or repair. At any rate, the following facts seem to contradict the idea that the church was built in 1731: It has been legend for years that Vauter's church was endowed with a communion service by Queen Anne of England, and the old cup of the church service was lost. A few years ago a gentleman in New Jersey was shown a communion cup in the collection of a friend, and marked "St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, Virginia". The new owner had purchased it in a New York shop to add to his collection as an antiquary. Now, no doubt, this was the missing cup presented to St. Anne's parish by the Queen, and as she died in 1714, the presentation must have been prior to 1731, when the church was supposed to have been built. This fact alone, however, may not be conclusive, because of the possibility that there was an earlier church in this parish; but in an old land survey, made by John Vauter for Buckingham Brown, who owned land on Blackburn's Creek close to Vauter's church, there is a "road leading to the church" on the plot, and this plot is dated 1722; and in another survey, made for John Hawkins (who also owned land on his same creek), by John Vauter, surveyor, there is shown as a boundary the "church land", and this plot is dated 1719. Blackburn's creek (formerly Lucas' creek), is the starting point in tracing many contiguous properties at the date of the earliest mention of Vauter's church; and as we find Vauters taken up "King's Lands" on this creek close to Vauter's church, very early in the 18th century, it seems probable that the church was built upon "king's land," by order of vestry empowered by the Governor of Virginia, and took the name "Vauter's" from propinquity to land occupied by Vauters. However this conjecture may be, it seems certain that Vauter's church was standing in 1719, and possibly considerably earlier. Church and glebe lands in existence at that remote date are difficult to trace, as the vestries of the parishes seem to have been empowered to buy or sell property and to levy taxes for the maintenance of the church, often getting into difficulties with the Governor of the Colony, and administering their prerogative with great irregularity and little record of their proceedings. The combination of ecclesiastical and secular affairs was indeed so remarkable that in an old deed conveying land from Gaines to Garnett in 1766, there is the statement that it was "published in the Parish Church of St. Anne's."

Bishop Meade, in speaking of the earliest Church conventions after the Revolution, says: "in 1814 Thomas Matthews and Hon. James Hunter were delegates from St. Anne's Parish; in 1817 Hon. James M. Garnett; in 1820 Mr. Robert Beverley; "making this statement in connection with his narrative of the complete disorganization of the church for years previously, and its faint revival about the date of these conventions. Where there is a notice of the first vestry in Rappahannock Parish under a minister named Frances Doughty, we do not hear of any minister of St. Anne's Parish before Rev. John Bagg in 1724. He seems to have died soon after he took charge of the parish, and to have been succeeded by the very remarkable Rev. Robert Rose. Mr. Rose appears to have enjoyed the great confidence of his people, both as a minister and a business man, and to have been a universal counselor to his friends scattered over the wide territory of his ministry, reaching to Nelson county. He died while attending the laying out of Richmond city, in 1751, and was buried there. Mr. Smelt succeeded Mr. Rose. In 1775-76 "Parson John Matthews" was minister of St. Anne's. Then, after a long interval, Rev. John Rennolds was Minister in 1822, succeeded in 1825 by Rev. John P. McGuire, after whom were the following successors: Rev. Edward B. McGuire, 1852 to 1867; Dr. Charles Goodrich, in 1869; Rev. Alexander Overby, 1873 to 1880; Rev. W. S. Campbell, 1881 to 1884; Rev. J. C. Koon, 1885 to 1888; Rev. D. T. C. Davis, 1890 to 1899; Rev. E. W. Cowling. 1900 to 1902; Rev. J. F. Burks, 1902.

The early history of St. Anne's Parish, in the immediate vicinity of Vauter's church, is strikingly illustrative of the transitoriness of human affairs. Even the names of families, which for generations were prominent land owners and influential citizens, have completely disappeared. Cornhill, Lucas, Gaines, Hawkins, Brookings, Shipp, Meadow, Vautor and many others have left no trace, except in tattered deed or records of land transfers, dating nearly or quite two centuries in the past. And yet it is still remarkable that for at least one century this old church has been supported by the same small bank of hereditary members; Saunder, Dishmans, Pilkingtons, Baylors, Warings, Sales, Rowzies, Bairds, Beverleys, Brookes, Hunters and Garnetts. Nearly all of these families furnish the same congregation for the two churches of St. Anne's parish, Vauter's and St. Matthew's.

In the book *"Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia"* by W. Meade the following: Upon a branch of Blackburn's Creek called Church Swamp stands Vauter's Church, built, as indicated by a date inscribed upon its walls, in 1731. This church is in a good state of preservation. (This church is still standing today 2005 and is in Essex Co. VA. Note this is not to be confused with the two churches below in Madison Co.)

On p. 103 the churches of Madison and Rappahannock are noted. Mrs. Lewis, who is descended from the Pendletons and Gaines of Culpeper, the Vauters of Essex and the Ruckers, from her I learn that there were two churches the brick church, called F. T. which stood near what is now known as Slate Mills. It took its name from Frank Thornton on who's line (land) was the starting point of the survey and the South Church, which was about sixteen miles distant and four miles below the present site of the Madison court house. It was a frame building and stood on the land of Richard Vauter. Both buildings were old at the commencement of the Revolutionary War. The Episcopal families around these churches were the Ruckers, the Barbour, Beales, Keastleys, Lewises, Blafords, Vauters, Strothers, Thorntons, Burtons, Conways, Gipsons, Pannells, Gaineses.



The church of Richard Vawter s/o John s/o Bartholomew, is clarified by the following found information. *William and Mary College quarterly Historical Magazine* Vol X 1901-1902. Reprinted 1966. Page 257-58.

SALE OF A COLONIAL CHURCH, by Dr. Andrew G. Grinnan.

Broomfield Parish, In Madison county, Va., was cut off from St. Mark's Parish by act of Assembly in 1752; its western corner is at John Spotswood's corner, on Crooked Run, near Wayland's Mill, and the boundary line runs northeast to the junction of White Oak Run with the Robinson River, thus including what is now Madison and Rappahannock counties. (See St. Mark's Parish, page 81.)

St. Mark's Parish was taken from St. George's in 1731; Orange county from Spotsylvania in 1734; Culpeper county was taken from Orange in 1748, and in 1752 Broomfield Parish was taken from St. Mark's. In 1792 Madison was taken from Culpeper. The chief church was called Vawters, which must not be confounded with Vawter's, in Middlesex county, now Essex county. It was on the south side of the public road from Madison Court-house to Wolf Town, about four miles from

Madison. It was standing in 1798, in which year the following advertisement appeared in the *Fredericksburg Herald*:

"To be Sold. - A House built for a church, the main body 26x24 feet, well framed, or white oak timber and outside of Pine plank, with feathered edges shingled with chestnut shingles, the interior adorned with pulpit, type, pews, railing, and two galleries with seats and aisles. It is nearly in the midst of the Robinson Fork. The time of payment will be agreed upon at the day of sale. (Signed by) Richard Vawters. Madison County."

So far as the writer knows, the last rector was a Scotchman named Meldrum; he moved to Frederick county; he was one of the person who voted for General Washington when he was a candidate for the House of Burgesses for that county. What part of church furniture is type? Note. - In "St. Mark's Parish," Slaughter says that the Vawters were a prominent family of Broomfield Parish, and while much as been said about the spoilation of colonial churches by persons outside the church, it would seem probable that Vawters Church, in Madison county, was offered for sale, or rather was advertised for sale, by one of the congregation.

The writers reference to "Spoilation" refers to the fact many English churches were torn down or destroyed after the Rev. War in protest. That the Vauter's Church of Essex remains today is no small miracle. Since Broomfield Parish was removed in 1752 and he indicates the Vawters were active members there, they must have moved in the dates indicated about 1745-48. Also, in Richard's will we prove that the church was owned by him and on his land, which answers the note at the bottom of the article. His will states "*It is my will and desire that the one acre of land on which the church stands in its appurtenances be sold to the highest bidder by my executor and the money be divided to my daughters...*"

A small notation of St. Anne's is found in *Architecture in Virginia*, by William B. O'Neal, 1968, p99 and *Virginia's Colonial Churches*, by James Scott Rawlings, 1963, p. 89.

A frame church was standing on Occupacia Creek as early as 1664. It was the first of the lower churches of St. Anne's Parish which was established in 1704. The first upper church in the parish was at the site of present-day Vauter's Church. It was very probably in existence between 1704-1711 and was also a frame church. Vauter's Church that stands today beside Route 17 on the way from Tappahannock to Fredericksburg was begun after 1719.

History of Virginia's Plantation Homes

Virginia's Colonial churches, of which about 50 survive, fall into six general groups: (i) those with small naves and huge towers (1630.1700); (2) middle.colonial type with rectangular plan and steeply pitched gabled roof (1690.1740); (3) T.shaped buildings with three sharp end.gables (1700.60); (4) regular cruciform type with gabled roof (1710.50); (5) Greek.cruciform type with all four transepts equal (1730.70); and (6) late.colonial Wren quadrangular type with hipped roof (1760.76).

Requirements of the interior chiefly determined the shape of the building, the main object being to have the communicants close to the pulpit. This problem was solved finally with the creation of the late, nearly square Wren block, when the pulpit was placed at the center against a side wall.

Among churches of each group are minor variations. Two buildings of the first period, St.Luke's and Jamestown, differ from their fellows by reason of their Gothic buttresses. The earliest of the second period, represented by Merchant's Hope in Prince George County, had a swag roof. Characteristics of this the largest group, of which Old Church in King and Queen County is also a representative, are compass windows and the door in the south wall near the east end. Churches of all groups except the first have galleries, and the groups af ter the second generally have pedimented doors of rubbed and carved brick. In a few instances the pediments are of stone. The oldest T.church, Yeocomico (1706) in Westmoreland County, has irregularly spaced windows and, as originally, a swag roof. Among later representatives are Vauter's in Essex County, St.John's in King William, and Blandford in Petersburg. The regular cruciforms, except Bruton Parish Church, had no tower during the Colonial period, whether in rural or urban areas. St.John's

in Hampton and Mattapony in King and Queen County belong to this group. Greek cruciform buildings, with a door in north, west, and south ends and all round cornice, divide themselves into two subtypes. (a) those with gabled roof and single tier of windows, such as North Farnham in Richmond County and Abingdon in Gloucester, and (b) those with hipped roof and two tiers of windows, represented by Aquia Church in Stafford County and St. Paul's in King George. Aquia Church (1757), with quoining of stone, differs from others of its type because of the tower above its front transept. Here again is an instance of a tower in a strictly rural section. The late Wren blocks with hipped roofs fall into two subgroups. (a) with single tier of tall compass windows, represented by Lamb's Creek in King George County and Payne's Church (now destroyed) in Fairfax, and (b) with two tiers, square-headed below and round-arched above, as shown in Pohick in Fairfax County. This type, except in the case of Christ Church in Alexandria, has a door at the center of the south wall, with the main entrance at the west end. Every Colonial church stands due east and west.

Another mention of the church from *Settlers, Southerners, Americans: The History of Essex County, Virginia 1608-1984* by James B. Slaughter, 1985 Essex County Board of Supervisors, Second Printing 1986, Walsworth Press, Inc.

St. Anne's Parish built the first half of the beautiful Vauter's Church in 1719, which to this day houses the Episcopal Church in upper Essex.

Vauter's Church, in upper Essex, one of the county's oldest structures, illustrates the rise of refined craftsmanship among Virginia builders. St. Anne's Parish in upper Essex built Vauter's in 1719, relocating the church there from a site near the river at present-day Mount Pleasant. By this time, roads and trails made riding to church easier than sailing or rowing to services. John Vauter led the building of the church as a memorial to his father Bartholomew Vauter, on whose land the church was erected.

Vauter's is the eleventh oldest of forty-eight colonial churches still standing in Virginia (as of 1985). The masonry is among the finest of any colonial church. The builders probably fired the bricks on the site and manufactured the mortar from oyster shells. The masons laid the bricks in an exact Flemish bond that was becoming stylish in the eighteenth century, replacing the seventeenth century English bond. The rows of brick in Flemish bond consist of alternating glazed headers (bricks with short ends exposed) and stretchers (bricks facing lengthwise).

The south wing of the church, added in 1731 under the direction of Edmund and Benjamin Vauter, displays the same high quality work. The segmental and triangular pediments over the church doors also demonstrate great craftsmanship. Inside Vauter's, the high vaulted ceilings and cross-shaped floor plan convey the sense of order and hierarchy that was central to the colonial Anglican church. The beautiful church lies nestled amid tall oaks along Route 17 north of Loretto.

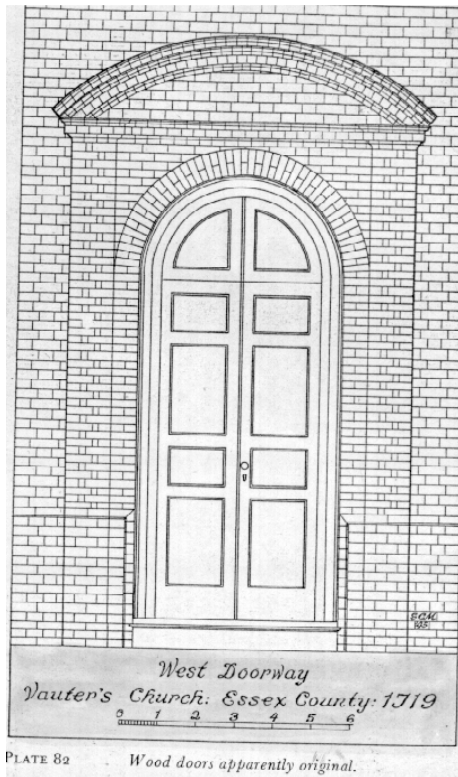
Twelve Virginia Counties: Where the Western Migration Began; by John H. Gwathmey; Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc.; Baltimore, 1979:

Vauter's was the church of upper St. Anne's parish and survived the other colonial churches of Essex. The northern half of the structure was built around 1719 and the southern wing in 1731. There is still preserved a communion set presented by Queen Anne. Sixty years later a curious thing happened, in the light of the modern attitude toward lotteries, raffles and other forms of gambling. On May 14, 1792, St. Anne's Parish conducted a lottery for the purpose of repairing the church. There were 1,118 prizes, first prize being \$1,000, and 3,332 tickets were offered for sale at \$2 each.

In the *VVV Family Association* newsletter of Oct 1995, contributed by Ralph E. Fall, 1977 from the Diary of Robert Rose. The Glebe

The glebe was the house and usually 200 acres provided by colonial parish for their ministers. Rev. Robert Rose's house, built ca 1731 during his tenure at St. Anne's Parish (not same date as above). It is believed to be the oldest brick glebe still standing in VA. Two stories high and one room deep, the house's exterior brickwork of Flemish bond and glazed headers is similar to that of Vauter's Church erected in the same year sixteen miles to the north. On the plantation were a frame schoolhouse, a wharf on Occupacia Creek nearby, a grain mill, a spring and probably several outbuildings. Today (1977) only the glebe house remains. It is located in Essex Co., VA

and listed on VA Landmarks Register, the National Register of Historic Places. It is thought by some that the house was built by Edward Vauter.



From *Churches of Tidewater Virginia, Doorways of Colonial Churches in VA* p. 359. A fine example of each type of doorway is found, unaltered, in old Vauter's Church (1719?) in Essex County. The West doorway, Plate 82, shows the classic round-topped pediment so generally employed by early eighteenth-century builders for the main entrance doorway of a colonial church. This pediment is a Tuscan adaptation, and is supported by pilasters framing the gauged brick trim of the circular-headed doorway. The glazed-header brickwork of the wall is continued through the interior of the pediment, and is used for the pilaster bases below the beveled water table course, which also extends down the lower sides of the door opening.

The south Doorway of Vauter's Church is typical of the classical pedimented doorway of Tuscan inspiration, which became almost a standard design for the chancel entrances in VA colonial church of the first half of the eighteenth century. Old Vauter's is one of the few Virginia colonial churches that seem to have retained their original doors and open door casings. The doors at both entrances are of double, four-paneled design, rabbeted, with large "H-L" hinges on the inside. A fixed panel within the arched top of the west doorway permits the use of square topped doors and the beading on the rabbeted edge of the left hand door is carried up across

the middle panel. The pedimented brick doorways of St. John's Church (1734), King William county, resemble the Vauter's doorways closely enough to have been the work of the same builder.

Another history given in 1990 by The Rev. Ralph Fall, for the Vauter Reunion held at the church, gives a little more information as to the locations of the church. This is found in the family history by Kirby Wilson, Tampa Public Library, no date.

From the earliest records the church was rarely referred to as Vawter's Church but the Upper Church of St. Ann's Parish. St. Ann's was formed in 1704 out of Old Sittingberne Parrish. In the late 1600's Sittingberne parrish was established and later became extinct but had erected two church's on this side of the Rappahannock. One of the two churches was situated just below us on what is known as Occupacia Creek and it was called Sale's Church, named for immigrant William Sale. Sale's church was destroyed after 1800 and materials taken by area residents. Not more than two miles from the present church the other church was built right on the river. It served the community until 1731 when the present church was built. The boundaries of the parish of St. Anne extend from just about this side of the town of Tappahannock and Mt. Landing Creek to the line of St. Mary's Parrish behind the church, where Caroline and Essex Counties come together. That is to say that St. Anne's Parrish went in land from the river about 10 miles until the border of Driscoll Parrish. In 1704 the first minister was Parson James Smith. Early wardens were in the beginning Edward and Benjamin Mosley, seceding them by Thomas Ramsey and Francis Goldman. (These names certainly match the deeds of 1712-14 below).

Very few colonial churches had three galleries and two are found at Vauters. Most slaves that came with the families in carriages or on horses sat in the gallery to the right, called Slaves Gallery. A few select slaves or overseers sat in the nave with the white families. The building had neither heat nor light ever in its history until modern times. Warming devices were carried from home. The pews were high and square for each family unit as was the dictate of the Church of England and could accommodate 12 or more.

In about 1724 John Bagge, an Irish Priest was the minister, and as was the custom fees were paid for burials, baptisms, etc. The population given by Bagge was 130 families in St. Anne's Parish and approx. 100 to 180 person attended services each week alternating between the two churches. Starting in 1725 and for 23 years the minister was Parson Robert Wools. (this should be Rose) When the church was built in 1731 it is believed the Glebe was erected on Clover Field Farm about 16 miles south of here. The glebe with house and about 200 acres provided by the parrish for the clergy and supplemented his salary. The church owned the glebe until 1803 when VA law changed and the churches could not own private property any longer. In 1990 the Glebe still existed but was in a very bad state and is reported to be the oldest Glebe in VA. (Note: if this is the Glebe spoken in deed of Richard West in 1714 it is indeed older than the church). Parson Bagge reported that a member of the vestry was John Vawter who later moved to Culpeper Co. and there he died and made his will. In his will he stated that he owned 150 acres at the head of Blackburn or Lucas Creek which is the creek right behind the church. The church's property abuts on the creek and the head of the creek is located today close to Elmwood, VA.

The double door at the end of the building was not for caskets as none were used in those days and funerals were not held inside. They probably were for the large hoop skirts of the women. The wagon wheels often rolled too close to the corner in passing and have chipped away the brick on the corner. The pulpit was plain and in the corner of the room very high up and usually had some type of red cloth, the church was sparse and plain and candles were not generally used in the early days. After the Revolutionary War such English churches were abandoned and destroyed but Vauter's was very active and in 1792 the vestry proposed a lottery to raise \$300 to repair the two churches and the glebe. Money was collected but the Vestry changed their minds and all funds were returned. Vauter's Church rarely had service from 1793 to 1820 and it is told that in 1810 Mrs. Muscoe Garnett stood at the doorway and saved the church from destruction by her neighbors.

In 1814 the church started to be revived and in 1822 Parson John Reynolds who came from England took charge of the parrish and was succeeded in 1825 by another of VA's great clergyman, Parson John Peyton McGuire who also served as minister of South Farming Parrish at Tappahannock until 1857. The church was remodeled in 1857 and changes continued until today..... the rest of the message is of modern times.

In addition to the old glebe, three rectories for clergy have been known by the parrish, one nearby call Piedrow, just beyond the farm road from the church, another in a place called Hustle, not far away and the third one at Loretto again a short distance. All three rectories are gone and the church property in 1990 was approx. 10 acres.
(GJNote: in deed dated 1792 Edward Vawter purchased 4 acres of land in Essex, was it the land of the church? No legal description of these four acres is yet found.)

From the *VVV Association Newsletter*, April 1995, an article appearing in *The Free-Lance Star*, Historic Garden Week, 16 Apr 1981, an interview with Rev. Ralph E. Fall, Rector 1962-1982.
VAUTER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vauter's Episcopal Church, built in Essex County, Virginia, in 1731, is still in active use today. However, the church almost didn't survive the 18th century. During England's reign over the colonies, the Episcopal Church was the official church, and people were required to attend and pay tithes. After the American Revolution, Vauter's Church fell into disuse.

Around 1800, a group of farmers banded together to tear down Vauter's Church and use the building materials on their farms. Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, of nearby Elmwood, heard of their plan and stationed herself in front of the church so they wouldn't carry it out. The church remained unused until about 1822 when services again started being held there.

Vauter's is constructed of reddish-orange brick and glazed headers laid in the Flemish bond pattern typical of colonial Episcopal churches. The floor is made of English flagstones purchased from a Tappahannock merchant. The builder was probably Edward Vawter.

In 1827, the building was renovated, and the altar was moved from one of the transepts to the front of the church. A high pulpit was built and the handmade box pews were rearranged. Those pews are still in the church today.

There is some evidence that troops rode their horses in and out of the church during the Civil War, and some of the original pieces of communion silver were stolen. It was discovered in 1907 that an antique dealer in New York had two pieces of the silver, and another Mrs. Garnett of Elmwood was asked to donate \$400 to buy it back. Today, the pieces are kept in a vault and used occasionally.

Vauter's Church got a complete overhaul in 1969, and a controversy was cleared up in the process. One theory had been that the main section was built in 1719 with a wing added in 1731. The work done in 1969 included stripping the ceilings and walls down to the bare bricks, and this showed that the church was built totally at one time. A brick over the door bears the date 1731.

An article on the church is found in the *Tidewater Virginia Families: A magazine of History and Genealogy* Vol. 1 #4, Feb/Mar 1993. Submitted by Mrs. L. David Butler on information taken from the brochure of Vauter's Episcopal Church, permission from senior warden, Ms. Frances Ellis and Rector Rev. Phillip Haug. It lists many of the oldest gravestone inscriptions and a short history of the church.

Vauter's in the present era of rapid change, stands as reassuring evidence of continuity of service and purpose, a visible reminder of the force and permanence of the Church. Located in Essex Co., VA not far from the Rappahannock River, it is the Upper Church of St. Anne's Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church. According to authorities, it seems certain that the original portion of Vauter's was standing in 1719 and enlarged in 1731 by addition of the south wind. (GJNote: the 1969 renovation of the church interior conclusively revealed that the church was built in its entirety in 1731). Its brick walls, two feet thick throughout, are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers, and its two doorways are in the classic pedimented style. It appears to have retained its original doors, sash windows, and shutters, with most of the hand-wrought hardware. It also retains, among its congregation today, representatives of a number of families it has served since first it became established in this tidewater section.

Subsequent to the American Revolution, Vauter's Church passed out of service, a fate common to many colonial church buildings. Vandalism threatened to destroy it during this period of practical abandonment, but it was saved by Mrs. Muscoe Garnett, of Elmwood, who claimed the building as standing on her property. The foundation of her claim lay in the fact that although the church was built on land originally adjoining that of the Vauter family, Mr. James Garnett had purchased, from that family before the middle of the eighteenth century, the land next to the church property. Mrs. Garnett was successful in giving Vauter's her protection.

Although Vauter's continued closed for many years except on rare occasion, the never-waning interest of the parishioners is shown by a hand-bill advertising a lottery held in 1792 to raise "the sum of three hundred pounds, for the purpose of repairing the Churches and Glebe of St. Ann(e)'s Parish...." Muscoe Livingston, William Waring, Sr., William Waring, Jr., and Robert Baylor were the managers of the lottery.

Revival of the organization of church affairs was evidence in 1814 when records show that Mr. Thomas Matthews and the Honorable James Hunter were delegates from this parish to the Diocesan Council; in 1817, the Honorable James Garnett; in 1820, Mr. Robert Beverly. The year 1822 saw a resumption of regular services at Vauter's for the first time since 1776. The interior was repaired and remodeled in 1827 under the rectorship of the Reverend John Peyton McGuire, the high, box pews being reduced in height and the chancel moved from the east to the north wall. A new, two-story pulpit replaced the colonial, three-story one.

In 1724, the Reverend John Bagge responded to "Queries to be Answered by Every Minister". He reported to the Bishop of London that Divine Service was performed in his church every Sunday, on Christmas Day and on Good Friday. Such services continue to be held in St. Anne's Parish having been interrupted only in the years of confusion and poverty that followed the American Revolution.

The church stands today on the east side of Route 17 near Loretto, about twenty miles north of Tappahannock, amidst well-kept lawns and old cedar and holly trees. It is on the edge of a hardwood forest and adjoining fertile farmland. The cemetery surrounds two sides of the church building with several old table top gravestones near the church. While the whole of the cemetery gives the appearance of age with the large boxwood plantings, most of the stones commemorate

residents of the late 1800s to mid 1900s. Only the earlier inscriptions have been copied below. (Not added due to length)

Below is a collection of deeds and factual land sales to support the articles above.

23 May 1650 p 224, *Cavaliers and Pioneers* patent book 2 John Catlett & Ralph Rousey, 400acs. lying on the freshes upon S. side of Rappa. Riv., beg. at a swamp which divides it from land of Geo. Eaton.. Trans. of 8 pers: Ralph Rousey, John Catlett, Valentine Allen, Nicholas Catlett, Peter Neale.

7 Jun 1652, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, Thomas Lucas was granted 600 A., Lancaster Co., VA "along Popetick Creek" for the transportation of twelve person as follows: Thomas Page, Thomas Lucas, Sr., his wife, Thomas Lucas, Jr., Katherine Rouzee, Sarah Rowzee, Peter Neale, Nicholas Handley, Richard Greene, Elizabeth Worley, Elizabeth Billing and Elizabeth Player.

Thomas Hawkins Sr. being the son in law of Thomas Lucas for which Lucas creek later called Blackburn creek Essex Co., VA is named. Blackburn creek runs through the property of Bartholomew Vawter and adjacent to John Hawkins land. John Hawkins, son of Thomas, sold land to Bartholomew Vawter and were good friends, found in many public records listed together and lived next door. John Hawkins was one of the people who did the inventory of Bartholomew's estate. Captain John Hawkins d. 21 Aug 1728 in Essex Co., VA. The Catlett family, the Hawkins and the Lucas are all intermarried both in England and America and arrived in VA about the same time as the Hodgson family in the 1650's.

Cavaliers and Pioneers patent book #3 page 254. Thomas Hawkins, 340 acs. upon N. side of Rappa. Riv. Towards the head of Popetick Dr., beg. where the Cr. First divides itself into two small branches, the maine branch extending N. W. parallel with the sd. Land unto a marked tree standing by an Indian Path, thence N. E. &c. 1 Jul 1653. P. 77. Trans. of 7 person: Thomas Hawkins, Senr. twice, and his wife twice, Thomas Hawkins, Junr., James Challice, Thomas Brown.

In Virginia Colonial Abstracts Lancaster Co., Record Book No.2, 1637-1640.

30 Mar 1654 p. 82 Grant by Rich Bennett, Esq., etx., 600 acres on Rappa. Adjoining land of Howell Powell, to Rich Colman, no date. Shown Signed Ri Bennett, Wm Clayborne. The above grant made over to Jno Catlet by Rich Colman 30 Mar 1654. Signed Rich Colman. Wit: Tho Lucas Junr, Exper Dixon his mark.

4 Apr 1654 p. 82. Foregoing grant assigned by John Catlet to Tho Page & Nich Handley. Signed John Catlet. Wit: Richard Colman, Ralph Rowze. Rec. 10 Apr 1654.

4 Apr 1654 p. 83. Letter from John Catlet to "Mr. Taylor". "my love to you and your wife." Regarding entering the above patent for Page and Handley. Then "I was requested by Tho. Harwood to desire you in his name as the attorney of Mrs. Eaton to deliver her right in Court of the enclosed pattent to my use & in regard I cannot be there desire some body (as Mr. Gilson) to receive it for me xx."

13 Jun 1655, In *Cavaliers & Pioneers* by Nugent. PB 3 p. 308. John Brown, Gent. 1262 acs. Northampton Co., p. 342. 1000 acs. Ely. On the seaboard side, N upon the Southermost branch of Robin Creek, Sly upon Northermost br of Phillips Cr. &c 100 acs granted sd Browne 27 Nov 1652 & 262 acs for trans of 5 pers: Willm. Hodgson, Peter Kennett, Oneath Macdoneal, Jno. Oredan, Derman O Shaleman (or O Shalevan). (Is this the wife to be of William shown as Onah or Orah in the deed?)

21 Apr 1657, patent book 4 p. 132, Thomas Page received 281 ½ A. S. side of the Rappahannock River nigh the land of John Jennings for the trans. of 6 persons.

28 Sep 1657, Thomas Lucas, Jr. and Valentine Allen were granted 640 acres on the S. side of Rappahannock River beginning about two miles above "Nanzemum Towne" for the trans. Of 13 persons, included Joane Hopkins and Elizabeth Hopkins. On the same date Valentine Allen trans. or assigned to Thomas Lucas , Jr. 294 A. his share of the land.

20 Feb, Valentine Allen patented 438 A. on the S. side of the Rappahannock River between two branches of a creek, running high land of John Jennings, "one half of same having been granted to Thomas Page 21 Apr 1657 who assigned to said Allen. And 157 A. due Allen for trans. of 3 persons."

20 Feb 1662, In patent book 5 p. 246, Thomas Page 600a. on so. Side of Rappa. river. & adj. To the land of Howell Powell.

16 Dec 1663, Mr. Thomas Lucas, Sr. patented add'l. acres on S. side Rappahannock River "at a corner dividing from the land of Thomas Page and to a corner dividing from land of Valentine Allen" for trans. of 6 persons.

Cavaliers and Pioneers, abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants by Nell Marion Nugent, Several Volumes, patent books 2-6, Virginia State Library, pub. 1977, Gen. Publishing Co., orig. pub. 1934, Richmond, VA
PB 5 p. 523. Mr. Robert Davies (Davis), 2580 acs. Rappa. Co., 25 Sept 1665 p. 297 (457). In the freshes of the River; 2164 acs.

On the S. side thereof about 1 ½ mi. from the same & on SE side of the head of a Cr. of Mr. Thomas Lucas, Sr., beg. at SE end of Peter Cornwell land &c to white oake dividing Cornwell & Mr. Daniell Gaines standing near Cattaile br. made by Mr. Thomas Lucas, Sr. Creek.

Thence NNE by sd. Mr. Games (Gaines) lyne (line) &c. crossing Cockle Cr.

Thence WNW &c. to a white oake nere Chikahomani path &c. toward land of Robt. Tomline &c. 416 acres beg. Nere land of John Ayres, running with his trees SSW 100 per. To stake at his miles end.

Thence W &c. to corner of Henrick Lucas.

Thence NW &c. to land of James Coghill (Coghill)

Thence SW &c. to Potobaco path,

Thence N &c.

2164 acs. Being taken up in the name of sd Davis & Wm. Hodgson but never patented & by sd. Hodgson with the free consent of Orah (?) his wife, assigned to sd. Davies & 416 acs. Taken up in his own name, the sd. 2580 acs. Due for trans. of 52 pers: (listed). Assignment of the above survey in consideration of 1200 lbs. of tobacco & caske. Signed: William Hodgson & Onah or Oran Hodgson. Wit: Perilla Callihan, Lawrence Hookes, Test: Alex. Fleming. 15 Sept 1665. (inf. on Capt. Alex. Fleming owned 560 acs in the freshes of Rappa. Co., about 2 mi. from the River. Beg. At Cockill Cr., which issues into Mr. Lucas Cr., adj. Gilson and Paine. Received 4 Sep 1667 for trans: of 12 pers. Mr. Fleming sold this land to Elizabeth Hoskins, who deserted the land 2 Oct 1671, it was then given to Lt. Coll. Jno. Washington on 3 Nov 1673.

(GJNote: Oneath would be pronounced Onah or Oh-nyuh in Gaelic. It definitely explains where the name Angus would have come from since Angus is also Gaelic name.)

In the Volumes of *Cavaliers and Pioneers, abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants* by Nell Marion Nugent, Virginia State Library, pub. 1977,

23 Jan 1667, BK 3, p344. Cornelius Noell assigns land to Richard West and John Warren. Wit: John Ryman, Daniel Gaines.

3 Apr 1667, Tho. Page, Wm. Hodgson & Saml. Weilding were given 3075 acs. Rappa. Co., about 1 1/2mi. from the Riv. On the S. side; p. 182. Nere land of Peter Cornehill, adj. Tho. Lucas, Senr., crossing Chikahomani Path, adj. Robt. Price, &c. for the transportation of 62 pers.

In patent book 6 p. 183, dated 3 Apr 1667. Old Rappa. Co., Thomas Page patent 783a. in Rappa. Co. on south side of river, in the freshes about 2 poles from the road, being the eastermost corner of a tract of land formerly taken up by Will Hodgson &c.

12 Sept 1668, Mr. Rawleigh Travers, 580 acs. S. side Rappa. Co., about 3 mi from the Riv., p. 194. Beg. nere a run of Occupaso Cr., adj Cornelius Nowell & Vall. Allin. To E'wd. Of Chickahomani Path, toward Potobaco Towne &c. Trans. of 12 pers.

23 Jan 1667, BK 3, p344. Cornelius Noell assigns land to Richard West and John Warren. Wit: John Ryman, Daniel Gaines.

In Volume Two of *Cavaliers and Pioneers, abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants* by Nell Marion Nugent, Virginia State Library, pub. 1977. Tho. Pawell on 26 Sept 1668 received land for trans. of 13 pers., including Cornelius Nowell.

10 July 1669 Old Rappahannock Deed Book 1668-1672: Valentine Allen Rappa. And Sittingbourne parish to Seth Tinsley of same, boatwright, 178a. 4000 lbs of tobacco. Lines: part of tract sold to Allen by William Berkeley lying on the south side of the Rappahannock River. Signed Valentine Allen Wit: George Andrew, Robert Payne.

GJNote: this deed is then recorded a 2nd time with the following added: Lines: Wm. Hodgson, Wit: Warwick Cammocy, Edmond Dobson and cites Mary wife of Valentine Allen.

Cavaliers and Pioneers, abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants by Nell Marion Nugent, Several Volumes, patent books 2-6, Virginia State Library, pub. 1977, Gen. Publishing Co., orig. pub. 1934, Richmond, VA

6 Oct 1675, Vol. 2 1666-1695. Patent Book 6. Capt. Thomas Hawkins, 2611 acs., in 2 tracts, Rappa. Co., S. side sd. Riv., p. 569. 1677 acs. Lately belonging to Mr. Tho. Lucas, Senr. & Mr. Tho. Lucas, Junr., his sonne, where they both lived & dyed: beg. At a cr. Dividing this & land of Col. (?) Page &c., to cr. dividing this land of Vallentine Allen &c: 934 acs. On E. side of a cr. about 2 mi. above Port Tobacco- Indian Towne, &c. (name is prob. Potobago) Both of which lately belonged to sd. Lucas, Jr., where of dyed seized in fee & leaveing no issue nor disposed of same by will or otherwise, both of sd. tracts escheated; by inquisition, under Capt. Robt. Beverley, Depty, Esch'r.. & a jury with Mr. Dan'll. Gaines, foreman &c.

Will of Thomas Lucas, Sr., Sittingbourne Parish. 14 Oct 1669. Son-in-law John Catlett; son-in-law Thomas Hawkins; granddaughter Mary Hawkins; son Thomas Lucas to be exec; wit: Edmond Dobson, Richard West. Codicil dated 24 Mar 1673. Sister-in-law Margaret Plainier; son-in-law Thomas Hawkins and son Thomas to be executors together; friend Daniel Gaines; wit: Thomas Hawkins, Daniel Shipley.

Essex Co. Order Book 1723-1725 part II, 19 Jan 1724, the last will and testament of Colo. John Catlett deced was pesented into Court by John and Thomas Catlett gent. Executors. Oath proved by John Evans and John Ellits.

Cavaliers and Pioneers Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants by Nell Marion Nugent Vol. 2 1666-1695, VA State Library, Richmond, 1977. P252

Wm. Mosely, 40 acs. Rapp. Co., S. side the River: on S. or lower side of the mouth of Occupacon Cr; 22 Dec 1682 p. 228. Beg. at Mr. Henry White near line of Tho. Moss, Dec'd; to a small Sw, next above the Church; by the Church road &c. Trans of: Mary Dibbin.

St. Anne's Parish was not separated from Sittenbourne parish until 1704, this church was near land of Thomas Page and Cornelius Noel.

24 Sept. 1668 p. 175, *Cavaliers.....*Wm. Hodgson was given 25 acs. S. side of Rappa. Co., in the freshes, about ½ mi. up Lucas Cr., Beg. On s. side of the horse path, to plantation he lives upon, &c. Trans. Of: John Withers.

Notice of this land is found again 7 Jun 1736. Mungo Roy, Gent., 28a. (PB 17, p.55) Essex Co., bounded by Capt. Thomas Hawkins, John Hodgson, & Blackburn's' Cr., surplus land found within the bounds of a p. formerly g. to William Hodgson for 25a dated 24 Sep 1668. Found in *Mag. Of VA Genealogy* Vol. 24 #4, Nov 1986.

From Noel book - 25 Jan 1670 Bk 4, p439 Richard West deed to Walter Darby, half of land said West purchased of Cornelius Noell. Wit: Daniel Gaines, Richard Hord.

2 Jan 1673 Bk5 p307. Christopher Blackburn and Catharine, his wife, deed to Samuel Ward and Samuel Peachy, 400 acres, on southside of the river in Parish of Sittingburn, next to land of Cornelius Noell.

Essex Co Deed Book 5 p 502, 28 Jan 1675/6. Deed from Thomas Page of Sittingbourne Parish, County of Rappahannock, for goodwill and affection, etc. towards Daniel Noel, son of Cornelius Noel of Said Parish - 400 acres in said Parish and County, adjoining land of the said Cornelius on which he now reside. Deed acknowledged to Cornelius Noel for use of Daniel Noel. Witness: John Roberts, Samuel Ward.



The arrow indicates the location of Cornelius Noel's land.

WILL OF THOMAS R. PAGE

Found in *Old Rappahannock County Wills, 1666-1677*, I, 195-196. Will dated 10 Mar 1676\77, rec. 20 Mar and probated 3 May 1676., will would indicate that Thomas' wife Elizabeth, had died before this date. William Hodges (Hodgson) is proven to be the father of Winifred (Hodgson) Vawter and she and her brother John did inherit some land of Thomas Page as proven in later deeds. Winifred is not related to Thomas R. Page. The purchase by Bartholomew of Kings Land in 1693 and in 1699 he purchased land of the Hawkins family and in 1704 had 400 acres and tax rolls of 1715, 450 acres.

(GJNote: some information that Valentine Allen's parents may be John Allen and Catherine Mayor, but no proof is offered. Also found Old Rappa. Co Deed 3 Mar 1686/7 Ordered that Mr. Wm. Slaughter have & Receive 923 pounds of tobb & caske being part of the Estate of Peter Allen deced in the hands of Danll. Whitehorne in satisfaction of his Care had of the said Allen in the time of his Sickness & funerall charges.)

In the name of God Amen I Thomas Page being very sick in body but of perfect memory glory be to God do make and ordain this my last will and testament.

Imprimis: I do give into Richard West eldest daughter Elizabeth West one cow with her increase being called Starr.

Item- I do give unto Cornelius Noell's eldest daught Mary Noell one cow with her increase being called Violet

Item- I do give unto my grandchild Samuell Allen my plantation of land belonging to it which I formerly lived upon to him and his heirs forever

Item- I do give unto my son Valentine Allen two hundred acres of land where he now lives to him and his heirs forever

Item- I do give unto William Hodges children three hundred acres of land being part of a devident where my sonn Allen now lives to be equally devided between them and their heirs forever

Item- All the rest of my estate my debts being paid I do give unto my daughter Mary Allen for ever

Item- I doe make my daughter Mary Allen my Sole Executrix. As Witness my hand and Seale this 10th day of March 1676. Signed Thomas R. Page

Witnesses: William Fogge & Robert R. Rederford

Recorded 20 Mar 1676/77 with the notation " A probate hereon is granted to Capt. Thomas Hawkins upon Mary Allen's consent." (GJ-Note: Thomas Hawkins is the son in law of Thomas Lucas Sr., as shown in the will of Thomas Lucas, Sr.) Lucas creek was later called Blackburn creek and is near the land of Vauter's church. The Hawkins family lived next to the Vawters, a deed shows a possible relationship to this family:

1668 Rappahannock Co., Deed Book 4 page 52

Thomas and Elizabeth Page granted their loving friend Thomas Hawkins power of attorney to acknowledge the assignment to James and William Bowler of a patent in Rappa. Co. signed Tho Page (a seal) and signed Elizabeth Page (seal)

1668 Rappahannock Co., Deed book 4 page 194

Thomas and Elizabeth Page "Thomas Page of the parish of Sittingbourne in the County of () of my wife Elizabeth" sold William Veale in aforesaid county 500 acres for 25 pounds tobo 17 Feb 1668/69

1673 Deed Book 5 page 224-226 Thomas and Elizabeth Page his wife, on the one part, made an indenture with John Drinnall of Rappahannock Co 3 Dec 1673.

The best evidence concerning the descendants of Valentine and Mary page Allen is found in Essex County Order book 19 pp 334-336. The records data concerning a suit of William Browne and Robert Johnson vs James Pitts, in ejectment, 30 Jan 1754. Key excerpts from the trial:

1. Thomas Page had only one issue, a daughter Mary who married Valentine Allen
2. Valentine and Mary Allen died intestate
3. Valentine Allen and Mary had two daughters who reached maturity, Elizabeth and Christian
4. William Browne, grandfather of one of the lessors (plaintiff) married Elizabeth and Richard Dison married Christian
5. the land was divided between Browne and Dison in 1689. Dison had issue, but Christian survived the issue and her husband.
6. Christian subsequently married Richard Johnson, the father of the other plaintiff.

Also see Virginia Genealogist #3, Jul-Sep 1990. Title "Some Descendants of Thomas Page (ca 1617-1676) of Old Rappahannock County, Virginia"

Evidence of the name of Thomas Pages wife comes from the following will: No conclusive proof is found to confirm this information.

Will of a Richard LAWSON dated 1658 in the Rappahannock Co. records that names his wife Elizabeth and she is to get "enjoy his plantation....during her life and afterwards Elizabeth LAWSON, the dau. of Ephaphroditus LAWSON" is to get it. In 1659, this plantation was "assigned over" to Mrs. Elizabeth LAWSON als PAGE and refers to Richard LAWSON as her late husband. ("Wills of Rappahannock County, Virginia, 1656-1692" by Sweeny: 12)

Cavaliers and Pioneers Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants by Nell Marion Nugent Vol. 2 1666-1695, VA State Library, Richmond, 1977. P252

Wm. Mosely, 40 acs. Rapp. Co., S. side the River: on S. or lower side of the mouth of Occupacon Cr; 22 Dec 1682 p. 228. Beg. at Mr. Henry White near line of Tho. Moss, Dec'd; to a small Sw, next above the Church; by the Church road &c. Trans of : Mary Dibbin.

pp. 128-129 Essex Co Deeds & Wills 1692-1693, Know all men by these presents that I John Hutson of County of Rappa: of ye Parish of Sittingbourne have given and by these presents do for me my heires give and confirm unto Bartholomew Vawter of the County & Parrish aforesd. His heires or assignes, One hundred and fifty acres of land lying on the South side of Rappa: River and bounded by James Bowler and Daniel Nowel being the one halfe a parcell of land formerly bequeathed to the said John Hutson & Wm. Hutson by Tho: Page, being likewise part of a Pattend formerly granted to the said Tho: Pge, Wm. Hutson, Samll. Weilding, the said One hundred and fifty acres of land with all its rights and priviledges; to have and to hold from me the said Jno. Hutson my heires and assignes to him the said Bartholomew Vawter his heires or assignes in as large and ample manner as may be collected out of the Patent without ye lett and deniall or interruption of me ye sd Jon: Hutson my heires or assignes or any person claiming any part thereof from by or under me my heires or assignes, the said Bartho: Vawter paying & discharging ye rights and services from hence from to grow & become due and of right accustomed. In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale this 5th of 9br: 1690. Signed in the

presents of us Fra. Slaughter, Bernard Gaines. At court 10 Feb 1692 Jno. Hutson appeared and acknowledged the real act and deed and so recorded.

Taken from early Essex Co., Records: The parish of Cittenbornd, Essex Co. 16 Dec 1693 sold 150 acres to Bartholomew Vawter.

Essex Co. Deed pp. 53-54. Bartholomew Vawter of Essex Co., together with Winifred his wife for valuable consideration have granted unto James Landrum and his heirs 300 acres being part of a patent granted to Thomas Page, William Hodgson & Samuel Welding for 3075 acres and accruing due unto sd Page by the death of sd Hodgson & Welding before a division had been made according to Law. The sd. Thomas Page at his death bequeathed this sd 300 acres to John Hodgson & Winifried Hodgson, the son and daughter of sd William Hodgson as Legacie in his last Will and Testament the 300 acres of land being on the So. side of Rappa. River in Essex Co. upon the main branch of Popeman which falleth into Occupacon Creeke, beginning at a red oake corner tree to a parcel of land sold by Thomas Page to Daniel Noell, then by an old crooked line of marked trees West to a Hickory near the sd. Line. Then North to a saplin at the angle of two white Oakes in line of John Smith, then along Smith's line to a Spanish Oake standing in the maine branch of Popeman, to corner tree of Smith & Noel, then to a small white oake to Noell then along Noel 's line south to the first mensioned red oake. Signed 1 Aug 1696. Wit: Th. Parker, Sr., William Browne, John Williams. Recorded 10 Oct 1696.

Pp74-75. I, James Landrum of Essex together with Mary my wife for a valuable consideration paid by Bartho. Vawter of Essex have granted unto Barto. Vawter his heirs & assignees forever, 300 acres of land it being part of a patent granted to Thomas Page, Wm. Hodgson & Saml. Welding for 3075 acres and accrewing due to Page by death of Hodgson & Welding before division had been made according to Law. Thomas Page at his death bequeathed the 300 acres to John Hodgson & Winifrid Hodgson, son & dau. of Wm. Hodgson as legacie in his last Will & Popoeman which falleth in to Occupacon Creek. (same legal description as above). Dated 11 Aug 1696. Wit: Nathaneel Conduitt, William Brown, Samuel Stallard. Recorded 10 Oct 1696.

A index of deeds and public records is found for years 1696-1722, p. 421 of the index lists many Vawter transactions. Some of these records are found and some are not yet found.

1696, Aug 10	Vawter Barth.	To James Landrum	Deed	Bk D9 - 54
1696, Nov 9	Vawter Barth.	From James Landrum & wife Mary	Deed	Bk D9 - 74
1699, Sep 9	Vawter Barth.	Witness the will of John Hawkins		Bk D&W10-10
1699, Oct 10	Vawter Barth.	From John Hawkins	Deed	Bk D&W10-27
1699, Oct 10	Vawter Barth.	From John Hawkins	Bond	Bk D&W10-29

In Essex County Records 1703-1706 p. 131 the will of Thomas Gregson, St. Anne's Parish. Dated 26 Dec 1704, Proved Jan 1704/05..... "to be interred in the Church yard belonging to the said Parish as near to the Church as conveniently may be." He wills his wife Anne 150 acs purchased of Wm Harper, also 30 acs purchased of James Boughan adjoining the other, also 113 acs adjoining above land recently purchased from Jane Butler, also 37 acs also adjoining the other land, lately taken up as deserted from Tho Parker. All land in St. A par.

Patent Book 10 Essex Co., VA Nov 1712 p 67. Capt. Lawrence Smith of York Co; 438 acs & 60 perches, St. Anne's Parish. In Essex Co. Beg at 3075 aces granted to Thomas Page, William Hudson (Hodgson), & Samuel Weilding on 3 Apr 1667; crossing a br. of Birching Swamp to patent of Robert Davies dated 2 Sep 1665, now called Robert Paine's land; to land of Jobb Spearman and Buckingham Brown, which was formerly Peter Cornwell's. (Coghill) For imp. of 9 persons. Patent Book 10 Essex Co., VA 20 Feb 1719 p. 456. Buckingham Brown 1265 acrs, beg. about 1 ½ mi. from the river, on the head of Lucas' (Blackburn) Creek adj. land of Thomas Wilkenson; & Daniel Gains' line; on a bra. of Birchen Swamp. 947 acs part granted Peter Cornhill, 25 Mar 1664, 318 acs being surplusage within bounds. 10 shill., & imp. of 5 persons.

Virginia Colonial Abstracts. Essex Co., Deed and Wills 1714-1717. P. 311.

Lease and Release. 8 & 9 Sep 1714. Francis Gouldman and Thomas Ramsey, Church Wardens of St. Ann's Parish, in the County of Essex, sell to Paul Micou of Par. And Co., aforesaid, gentleman, for 8000 lb. Tobo., for the benefit of the said Parish, and "by the order and consent of the Parish aforesaid, for the time being, of Richard West for a Glebe for the use and benefit of the said Parish, this land being upon blackbournes Creeke in the Par. and Co. aforesaid adj. the land of George Green, etc. Signed Francis Gouldman, Tho. Ramsey. Wit: Richard Gatewood, Robt. Parker. Rec. 11 Nov 1714. (Richard West, son of Richard West shown in will of Thomas Page, m. Elizabeth the relict of George Green in 1706)

VA Colonial Abstracts, Essex Co., 1711-1714 p5 Lease and Release. 7 & 8 Nov 1711. Robert Parker, planter of St. Ann's Par. Essex Co., sells to Peter Godfred of So. Farnham Par., chirurgeon (surgeon), 55 acres on So. side of Rappa. Riv. On the Maine Creek side commonly called Occupa'con Creek, being part of a dividend bequeathed Ludowick and John Rowzee by their father Edward Rowzee in his will. About 30 square feet reserved being "the burying place lying betwixt the present dwelling house and the Creek now known by sundry graves." Signed Robert Parker. Wit: Francis Gouldman, Aug't Smith, Leo Tarent.

11 & 12 Aug 1712, P 81 Lease & Release. Essex Co. Wills & Deeds 1711-1714. John Willard, planter, of St. Ann's Par., Essex Co., and Sarah his wife sell to John Retterford (Rutherford) planter, of same Par. And Co., 40 acres formerly bought by James Coghill dec'd of Valentine Allen dec'd by deed dated 2 Mar 1664, and sold by Coghill to William Brown late dec'd by deed dated 1 Aug 1682. Land in St. Ann's Par. bounded by Cockell Shell Creek and the land of John dec'd. Also 100 acres formerly bought by the said William Browne of George Lampart dec'd out of said Lamparts tract which land was by said William Brown late of the County of Essex, deceased, in his last will dated 11 Nov 1705, bequeathed to his dau. Sarah, now Sarah Willard, the burying place excepted being about 15 ft. square. Signed John Willard and Sarah Willard. Wit: Samll Stallord, John Wriding, William Hakes Rec. 9 Oct 1712. (Note: William Browne m. Mary Allen dau. of Valentine Allen, son in law of Thomas Page)

VA Colonial Abstracts, p. 225 8 Apr 1714. "Leonard Tarent of the County of Essex Gent. and Mary his wife legatee in the Last will and Testam't of Sam'll Thacker formerly of the said County dec'd sell James Edmondson of Essex Co., Gent. for 45 L, 150 acres, formerly belonging to William Williams and given by the sd Samll Thacker by his last will to Mary Brooke now the wife of the sd Leonard Tarent, in Essex Co., being part of Buttons Range patent, adj. Land of Wm Howlett, land of Makum (Mottrom) Wright. Signed Leonard Tarent and Mary his wife to James Edmondson in Essex Co. Court the 8 Apr 1714. Wit: Wm. Raines, Timo Sallavand. (Note: In the will of Samuel Thacker, Mary Brooke dau of Robert Brooke "my God Daughter" all land and plantation at the Range, etc. No children named)

Lease and Release. 10 & 11 Nov 1714. Edward Coffey of St. A. par., planter, sells John Barbee of the same par., for 5000 lbs. Of "Lawful sweet scented Tobacco", 118 acres, which land Coffee bought of Augustine Smith, and is on branches of Occupation Creek, adj. Land of Thomas Warren, of E. side of Chicahomoney Path, the land of Coll. Francis Gouldman "to a corner red oake and White oake corner to Mr. Beverley his Great Track", etc. Signed Edward Coffey. Wit: Tho. Ramsey, Saml. Stallord, Robert Parker, Ann Coffey, wife to Edward, relinq her dower rights. Red. 11 Nov 1714.

(Note Leonard Tarent purchased 1100 acres of land from Thomas Tinsley in St. Anne's Parish on 8 Apr 1714, part of a grant purchased by Tinsley in 1709 from John May. Thomas Tinsley is thought to have married Margaret Vawter, but is open for debate. Tarent sold this land in pieces over the next years)

Lease and Release. 8 & 9 June 1714. P. 273. Leonard Tarent of St. A. Par., sells Francis Graves of So. Farn. Par., carpenter, 200 acres in St. A. Par., adj land of Charles Brown, land of John Coleman and part of a tract of 500 acres purchased by Tarent from Thomas Tinsley. Signed Leo Tarent, Mary Tarent, wife of Leonard, Reliq dower rights. Wit: Ja Alderson, Robt Parker, Salvator Muscoe.

Lease and Release. 8 & 9 Sep 1714. Leonard Tarent of St. A. par., gentleman, sells Francis Gouldman and Thomas Ramsey, Church Wardens of Parish of St. Ann's for 50,000 lbs. Tobo., the plantation where Leonard Tarent now dwells, with the order, advice and direction of the Vestry, which he lately purchased from Garet Neale and June his wife, 140 acres, less the burying ground 50 ft. square, lying in St. A. par., adj. the old road leading from the plantation to Tandy's mill at the head of a valley proceeding out of a branch of Occupation Creek called Wasanauson. The land of Mr. Brooke, the land of James Alderson and the land of the late Thomas Gregson deceased. Signed Leo: Tarent, Wit: Richard Gatewood, Robt Parker, Mary Tarent, wife of Leonard, relinq dower rights by letter of atty. to Robert Parker. Rec. 11 Nov 1714

p596. Lease and Release 18-19 Jun 1716. Leonard Tarent, Gent., of St. A. Par., sells Thomas Hipkins and Cordela his wife, of same Par., 202 Acres, Tarent's part of 920 acres in Essex Co., on Occupation Creek and run, and the branches of Cockelshell Creek, granted sd Tarent 28th May 1716. See entry to follow Signed Leonard Tarent. Wit: Ja. Alderson, Ephra Pagent. Rec. 19 Jun 1716.

P590 Lease and Release 18-19 Jun 1716. Leonard Tarent of St. A. Par., Essex Co., Gent., sell to William Brooking and Susanna his wife of Petsoe Par., Gloucester Co., planter, 230 acres, being of Tarents part of 920 acres patented 28 May 1716. Signed Leonard Tarent. Wit: Ja Alderson, Ephra Pagent. (Note: this may be William Brooke/Brooks/Brooking)

P598. Lease and Release 18-19 Jun 1716. Leonard Tarent, Gent., sells James Rennolds Junr., planter, of So. F. Par., 460 acres as above. Signed Leonard Tarent. Wit: Ja Alderson, Ephra Paget.

VA Colonial Abstracts, Essex Co. 1714-1717, p627. Power of Atty. Mary Tarent to Mr. Thomas Henman to relinq. Dower rights in land sold James Rennolds, Junr by her husband. Signed Mary Tarent. Wit: George Braxton, James Walker.

An interesting note on Leonard Tarent as he disposed of his land during this time, he took up 5 acres residency as follows found in *VA Colonial Abstracts*.

Lease. 20 Sep 1714 Francis Smith of St. Ann's, lease Leonard Tarent 5 acres being part of Francis Smiths planta. ad. Wm. Thompson, formerly called Thicket point. Lease to Leonard Tarent and wife Mary and of Mary Boughn for life, rent 3 bbl. Indian corn. Also Tarent to build dwelling house. Then in 7 Apr 1716, it seems Mr. Smith got into some troubles and Leonard Tarent comes to his rescue. Francis Smith sell Leonard Tarent for 4400 lb. Tobo for the proper Debt of Francis Smith (at the Instance and request of Francis Smith) and in Consideration of Tarent having freed and set at Liberty Smith out of Gaol of the County and in consideration that no Interest is to be paid and All that his planta. and land that he purchased of Catlett being 95 acres. Smith agreeing to pay Tarent the tobo and if he decides to dispose of the land to Tarent each will select an honest man to valuate the property.

VA Colonial Abstracts, Lease & Release 20-21 Feb 1715/16 p. 490. Peter Godfrey, surgeon, of So. Farn. Pars. Sells Edward Rowzee, planter of St. Anns Par., for 3300 lb. Tobo., 55 acres on So. Side of Rappa. River. On Occupation Creek, part of a tract of land bequeathed to Lodowick and John Rowzee by their father Edward Rowzee in his will. Adjs. land of sd dwelling house and the creek about 30 feet excepted. Also a tract of 40 acres adj. the first tract, Occupation Creek, all of which is now in possession of Peter Godfrey. Both of the above tracts were granted and sold to Thomas Parker, Senior. Wit: A. Somervell, Ja Alderson, Ro Brooke, Junr.

Will of John Mills Essex Co., dated 8 Nov 1716, proved in 17 Jun 1719.(Excerpted) Unto my son John Mills all my land only reserving to my loving wife Mary the plantation where on I now live to be bounded from the road that leads from Mr. Robt. Brookes to the church to the upper end of the line, during her natural life. To my daughter Sarah Williard twelve pence in full consideration of all my estate.

Essex Co. Deeds 15 Sep 1719. Robert Paine of St. Anne's parish, Essex Co., to Job Spearman of same. for 25 pounds current money. 100 acres in St. Anne' Parish....corner tree of the land of Mr. Bernard Gains it being that land the said Gains now lives on... near a run side called Catlett

Swamp. Robt. Payne. Wit. Wm. Gray, Wm. Moss, Jno. Vawter. 15 Sep 1719 Acknowledged by Robt. Payne, Moneca Payne by Robt. Jones her attny. relinquished her right of dower.

Essex Co. Land Records 1717-1722 by Dorman, page 18. Deed pages 186-188 16 May 1720 Buckingham Brown of St. Ann's Parish, Essex Co., to John Vawter of same. For 57.4 pounds sterling 143 acres in St. Anne's Parish...near the head of Blackburns creek, in the line of Mr. John Hawkin's Patten and on the Long Bridge swamp side...crossing the main road near the Long Bridge to the run side. Bucken M. Browne. Witness: Will Vawter, David Vawter, Thomas T. Burk. 16 May 1720. Possession and seizin delivered to John Vawter.
Book- *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents & Grants* by Nell Marion Nugent Vol. III 1695-1732, pub. 1979, Virginia State Library. Page 249 John Vawter 25 A., 92 Per., (N.L.) Essex Co., in St. Ann's Par; on S. side of Rappa. Riv; in the fork of Blackburn's Cr; adj. Thomas Page: 5 Sept 1723, p. 233. 5 Shillings.

Essex Co. Deed 17 May 1720. Bryan Ward and Samuel (S) Ward of St. Ann's Parish, Essex Co., planters, to Robt. Brooke the younger of same, Gent. Lease and release; for 2500 pounds of tobo. 300 acres in parish aforesaid, it being the remaining part of a patten unsold of 550 acres granted unto Richard Barber 6 Oct 1675... on the south side of Rappa. River backward in the woods upon the southern side of Occupacee Run being part of a greater tract formerly granted to Henry Jerman, John Powell, William Coxin and Cornelius Nowell 25 Sep 1665. Wit: Salvator Muscoe, Robt. Parker, Phebe Booth.

Essex Co. Deed 17 Jul 1721. Buckenham Browne of St. Ann's Parish, Essex Co., to Richard Long of St. Mary's parish in said county for 70 pounds sterling. 297 acres 20 pole in St. Ann's Parish on the head of Blackburn's Creek... on a run side that falleth into Blackborn's Creek and near a path that leadeth from the church to Job Spearman's called Spearman's church path it being the most southwest corner tree to John Vawter's land which be bought of the abovesaid Brown... to Mr. John Hawkins' patten as also to a patten granted to Thomas Page, dec., known by the name of the 3000 (Acre) patten... land of Mr. Robert Payne... Job Spearman's land...containing all the land Buckenham Browne doth hold on the south side of the abovesaid swamp. Wit: John Vawter, David Vawter, Thos. (T) Burk. 18 Jul 1721. Acknowld by Buckenm Browne. Elizabeth wife of said Buckenham relinquished her right of dower.
(Note: 1693 Christian Allen, youngest dau. of Valentine Allen m. Richard Dison Book O 1, p 108 then Christian married again in 1708 Christian Allen, dau. of Valentine Allen, m. Henry Long Book D&C 13, p 146. The mention of "Long" bridge swamp is a reference to this land above)

Will of John Meador, 1721 - Essex Co. VA Will dated 17 Oct 1721 Probated 21 Nov 1721 Essex Co., Virginia Wills, Inventory, Administration of Estates

In the Name of God, Amen. I, John Meador of Essex County, being sick and weak in body, but of sound mind and perfect memory, blessed by God, therefore do make and ordain this to be my Last Will and Testament in the manner and form following:

First and principally, I commend my soul into the hands that giveth, hoping by the meritorious death and passion of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to receive full pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and offences, and a joyful resurrection in the last day; and my body to be decently buried at the direction of my executors hereafter names. And for my worldly goods:

Item. I give to my son Thomas Meador, one shilling.

Item. I give to my daughter Rachel Jordan, one shilling.

Item. I give to my daughter Elizabeth Armstrong, one shilling.

Item. I give to my daughter Dinah Tribble, one shilling.

Item. My desire is that my five sons shall keep their own guns without appraising.

Item. I give to my daughter Mary Meador, one gold ring.

Item. I give to my son Jonas Meador a small piece of land joining upon Thomas Evinses land and running up to the church road that goes from my house. then up a road a small course until it comes to a vale that goes to ye branch. so down the branch till it comes to the forks of the branch where it begins. and from the forks to ye first beginning. And the rest of my land I give to my other four sons, to be Equally Divided, with all my houses and orchards thereon belonging, and I do appoint my two sons Job Meador and Jason Meador my lawful Executors.

Item. I give to my son Joshua Meador one chest not to be appraised, and the rest of my estate divided amongst my children and leave to my youngest Sons to be of age at seventeen and I do leave my son Jonas Meador to look after them three years. And that my will not to be in force till my decease. Witness my hand and seal this 17th. day of October, yr 1721. John Meador Senior

Essex Co. Deed 17 Jul 1721. Buckenham Browne of St. Ann's Parish, Essex Co., to Richard Long of St. Mary's parish in said county for 70 pounds sterling. 297 acres 20 pole in St. Ann's Parish on the head of Blackburn's Creek... on a run side that falleth into Blackburn's Creek and near a path that leadeth from the church to Job Spearman's called Spearman's church path it being the most southwest corner tree to John Vawter's land which be bought of the abovesaid Brown... to Mr. John Hawkins' patten as also to a patten granted to Thomas Page, dec., known by the name of the 3000 (Acre) patten... land of Mr. Robert Payne... Job Spearman's land...containing all the land Buckenham Browne doth hold on the south side of the abovesaid swamp. Wit: John Vawter, David Vawter, Thos. (T) Burk. 18 Jul 1721. Acknowledge by Buckenm Browne. Elizabeth wife of said Buckenham relinquished her right of dower.

Essex Co. Order Book 1723-1725, Court 19 Nov 1723. The Grand Jury do make the following: David Vawter of St. Anns Parish for not frequenting his Parish Church pursuant to Law. p. 88, 18 Feb 1723/24. It is ordered that David Vawter to sumoned to appear at the next Court to answer to the Grand Jury against him for not frequenting his Parish Church accding to Law. p. 110 19 Mar 1723/24. David Vawter of the Parish of St. Ann's being presented by the Grand Jury for not frequenting his Parish Church is ordered that the Sherif sumon him to appear at the next Court. P. 122. 21 Apr 1724, The Presentmt. Of the Grand Jury against David Vawter is continued. p. 144 20 May 1724, David Vawter of St. Anns being presented by the Grand Jury for not frequenting his church being summoned and failing to appear, it is ordered that he pay five shill. & costs to the Church Wardens of the sd Parish for ye use of ye poor of ye sd Parish. (GJNote: seems David was a bit independent considering John Vawter, his older brother, was one of the Church Wardens)

Essex County Order Book 1723-1725 Part II

p. 271 Court 17 Mar 1724/25.

Capt. Muscoe's motion for a Road from his House through Mr. Robt. Jones land to ye Church Road is dismiss by consent of both parties.

Essex Co. Deed Book 18 p. 217-220 17 Jul 1726. I do hereby authorise and impower Mr. William Beverley my attorney for me & in my name to Relinquish to Mr. Richard Buckner my right of Dower to the lands sold by my husband Robert Taliaferro to richard Bickner being the land whereon said Robert now dwelleth Six hundred & odd acres commonly called the Church Neck with 19 day July 1726. Wit: John Taliaferro, Fran. Conway, Thomas Catlett. Signed Ann Taliaferro.

This indenture made 1 and 20 and 2 and 20 Apr 1726, bet. Robert Taliaferro of Essex and Richard Buckner of same the said Robert Taliaferro in consideration of six hundred pounds sterling doth confirm unto said Richard Buckner his heir for ever all that tract of land whereon Robert Taliaferro now dwelleth commonly called the Church Neck being 600 and odd acres and Land Together in the Sunken Grounds and Marshes thereto adjoining the Remainder of Patten of 730 Acres granted by Patten to Robert Taliaferro son of Robert Taliaferro no deced the other part of the said Patten being by the above named Robert Taliaferro sold to Samuel Short.. In Presence of Thomas Catlett, Anthony Seal, William Strother, Katherine Strother, Signed Robert Taliaferro.

Essex Co. Deed Book 20

pp. 239-242 Indenture 17 Jul 1736 betw. Thos. Hawkins sells to James Garnett for 40 pounds VA money 150 acres in Essex bounded at John Vawters corner in Stalords line with sd line south east to the Old Church Land then down the Old Church Spring Branch its several courses North West to a beach at the foot of the hill thence North West to a red oak and then to beginning at Mr. Vawters line. Wit: John Vawter, Ralph Beves. Richd Reynolds.

Essex Co. Deed Book 20

Pp288-291 Indenture 9 & 10 Mar 1736 bet. Daniel Noel of St. Anns and Samuel Noel, son of Daniel Noel. For 4000 pounds of Tobacco Daniel Noel sells to Samuel 138 acres being part of a tract granted to Daniel Patent 15 Jun 1715 bounded by Popoman Swamp, John Vawter to an old field then North East to branch of Popoman down the same according to several courses binding

thereon North East to a white oake in a line of patten formerly granted to Nicholas Catlett deced then east to main branch of Popoman to William Wridings then south to Vawters land then North West to beginning. Wit: Jno. Vawter, W. Short, Samuel Browne, Ed Vawter; Wm. Boulware.

Essex Co., Deed Book 1738-1742. pp. 211-213. 17 Mar 1740. From a line in Samuel Browne's old field then a straight line toward the Burying Place in Job Spearmans old field until it cometh to the said Spearman's line then to John Clements land being 50 acres Wit: Wm. Thomas, Elizabeth Browne and Edward Vawter.

In Edward Pleasants Valentine Papers, Vol. III p. 1483 a mention of a burying grounds. John Satterwhite of K&Q Co. from Andrew 'ffillips and Sarah his wife of Essex Co. for Six shillings, sterl. of England. 100 acres (except 8 ft. square for a burying place) in Essex Co on head of Occupation Swamp, being the place where on sd. Andrew & Sarah now dwell being part of patent formerly granted Christopher Blackburn. 3 May 1736 D.B. 21 p. 283

John Satterwhite of Caroline Co. to Saml. Hipkins of Same Co. for L 25 cur. 100 acres (8 foot square except it being a burying place) in Essex Co., near the head of Occupation Swamp, joyning the land sd. Hipkins now lives on, being part of a patent formerly granted to Christopher Blackburn. 13 May 1743 D. B. 23, p.12.

John Satterwhite, Francis Satterwhite & Edward Vawter witnesses to conveyance bet. James Rennolds of Essex Co. to Wm. Graves of Caroline Co. 7 Jul 1755 DB 27, p 135.

John Satterwhite of Caroline Co. from Wm. Graves of same Co. L 113; the plantation that Frances Graves, decd. & the sd. Wm. Graves formerly lived on in claiming a just quantity of 25 acrs. of land together with 10 acres adjoining thereunto that the sd. Graves' have lately purchased of James Rennolds, the about 260 acrs. being in Counties of Essex & Caroline. 7 Jul 1755. Ibid, p. 135

John Satterwhite of Caroline Co. from Wm. Graves & Dorothy his wife of same Co. L 113; cur. 250 acres, being the land & Planta. that Francis Graves, dec. & the sd. Wm. Graves formerly lived purchased of James Reynolds. 16 Mar 1759 Ibid, p. 195.

Essex County Deeds 1745-1749

On margin Orig. Deed delivd. To Bartho: Vawter 3 Mar 1750)

pp. 387-390. This indenture made 18 Nov 1749, between John Vawter of Essex and Bartholomew Vawter eldest son of said John Vawter. Witnesseth that John Vawter in consideration of love and good will doth bear toward his loving son Bartholomew for the sum of 5 shillings give and confirm a tract of land lying in St. Anns Parish in Essex at the head of Blackburn's Creek, containing 150 acres together with all profits, quitrents excepted. Signed Jno: Vawter. Wit: Robert Harbin, Thomas Tiller, Willo: Pugh, Winifred Vawter, Saml. Browne, Angus Vawter. On 21 Nov 1749 the deed was delivered by the oath of Thomas Tiller, Willoughby Pugh and Winifred Vawter. Test John Lee, Cclerk.

Essex County Deed 1749-1752 pp. 113-115 (Orig. POA devd. To Bartholomew Vawter 22 Oct 1751). Know all men by these presents that I John Vawter of the County of Essex in VA but now designed for to depart this county to the county of Culpeper do make my son Bartholomew Vawter of sd County of Essex my true and lawfull attorney for and in the name to ask all debts sums of money, bills, bonds or judgments that are due to me upon their payment thereof to give a receipt for me and in my name to the partie of who received. I impower my attorney to make sale and deliver all estate that I have in the county of Essex both real and person, especially one certain tract of land lying on Occupatia Swamp which was conveyed to me by Mr. Young Hawkins by deeds of lease and release date 12 Oct 1749, which sd land I received by virtue of Power of attorney I had of Richard Ripley bearing date 20 Apr 1742 and he may in my name give Deed of Bargain and sale. In witness whereof dated Dec 1750. Signed John Vawter, Wit: Thomas Watson, William Clemens, Thos. Goode, Angus Vawter.

Essex County Deeds 1749-1752. pp 294-298.

(On margin: Original delivered to Capt. Jas: Garnett Decr. 6th 1752, 26th Geo:2d)

this indenture made the Twentieth day of Janry in year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Fifty two between Bartholomew Vawter of County of Essex, Planter, of one part and James Garnett of same County of other part. Witnesseth that Bartholomew Vawter in consideration of the sum of Two hundred and Forty one pounds current money of Virginia in hand well and truly paid by James Garnett, by these presents doth release and sell unto James Garnett his heirs all that parcell of land which Bartholomew Vawter (Grand Father to the said Bartholomew Vawter party to these presents) purchased from John Hawkins deced. containing by estimation One hundred and fifty acres more or less lying on the head of Blackburns Creek and on the Long Bridge Swamp and joyning to the land which John Vawter deced purchased of Buckingham Brown deced. & on the Land which the said James Garnett purchased of Thos: and Young Hawkins, Together with all houses barnes stables orchards gardens marshes swamps profits & appurtenances to the same belonging; To have and to hold the parcel of land & premises unto James Garnett his heirs and James Garnett his heirs paying the rents and services which hereafter become due unto our Sovereign Lord the King only excepted & foreprized: In witness whereof the party first above named to this Indenture his hand and seal hath set the day and year above written. Signed and Sealed in presence of Robert Smith, John Jones, Muscoe Garnett, Angus Vawter, Signed Bartholomew Vawter.

Essex County Deeds 1752-1754. pp. 188-191. (On margin: July 7th 1753. Deld. to Jas: Baker)
This indenture made this Twentieth day of March in year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred fifty and three by & between John Sale of county of Essex and Parish of Saint Anns of one part and James Bates of the same Parish and County of other part: Witnesseth that John Sale in consideration of the sum of six pounds current money of Virginia to him in hand paid; by these presents hath bargained sold land confirmed unto Jas. Bates his heirs one certain parcel of land lying in abovesaid Parish and County, being part of said Sales's Land that binds on the Lower Church Land of the abovesaid Parish, being bounded; begining at a white Oak standing in the line of the land of Mrs. Mary Sale, being a corner tree of the land the aforesaid Bates purchased of Capt. John Smith, thence binding with said Bates's Land South thirty & three degrees West forty & eight poles to a Percimond standing in the lines of said Bates and Sales. Thence binding on the aforesaid Sales Land North fifteen degrees West fifty poles to a white Oak, thence North seventy seven & a half degrees East twenty four poles to a stake, thence South forty & seven degrees East eighteen pole to the first mentioned begining white Oak, including and containing the just quantity of Six acres of land. Together with all profits commodities & appurtenances thereunto belonging. To have and to hold the said six acres of land to Jas. Bates his heirs without the denial or interruption of said John Sale his heirs; In witness hereof said John Sale to these presents his hand & seal have set ye day & year above written. Signed in presence of Edward Vawter 15, Wm. Thomas, Thomas Sale. Signed John Sale.

Essex Co. VA Deeds 1752-1754 pp. 102-104 (On Margin: Original Deed deliv'd to Mr. Thos: Andrews 26th Decr. 1752.

Essex County Deeds 1752-1754 pp. 274-277. This indenture made the Seventeenth day of March one thousand seven hundred and fifty three between Robert Brooke of parish of St. Anns in County of Essex, Gentleman, of one part and William Beverley, Thomas Waring, James Garnett, Robert Parker, Mungo Roy, John Rowzee, Paul Scott, John Corbin & John Micou, gentlemen of the Vestry of St. Ann's Parish, all of the county aforesaid; of other part: Witnesseth that Robert Brooke in consideration of the sum of Ten Thousand pounds of good and lawfull Tobacco of this Colony to him in hand paid by the above Gentlemen of the Vestry by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said Gent. of the Vestry for St. Anns Parish and their Successors as Vestry men for the said Parish one certain parcell of land containing by estimation sixty six acres be the same more or less lying in County and Parish abovesaid and adjoining to the present Glebe Land, and formerly posest by Thomas Cooper Dickenson and his Wife, late of this County, which they held by virtue of a Lease at the expiration of which it vested in Robert Brooke party to these presents: as heir at law to his Father, Robert Brooke Gentleman deceased begining at a Branch near the Glebe Land and adjoining to it neare the Glebe House and running thence along the Old Glebe Road to a red Oak in the line of John Cook, now the land of Nathaniel Coundit and so along the line of said Coundit till it meets with a Branch of Little Occupatia Creek, opposite to the House

where John Cooper dickenson lived and so down the several courses of the said Creek to the Branch at the beginning, including Sixty six acres of High Land and Marsh be the same more or less. Together with all houses orchards profits and appurtenances to the same belonging. To have and to hold the tract of land and premises with appurtenances unto the abovesaid Gentlemen and their Successors as Vestry of said Parish clear & free of all incumbrances whatsoever; and Robert Brooke and his heirs the aforesaid tract of land and premises to the Gentlemen of the Vestry and their Successors against all person shall warrent and for ever defend by these presents; In Witness whereof the said Robert Brooke hath herunto sett his hand and seal the day & year above writen. Signed Sealed & Delivered. W. Brooke, John Wood, Molly Brooke. Signed Ro: Brooke.

VA Colonial Abstracts, King & Queen Co., Records Concerning 18th Century Persons. p115. Lease and Release. 16 & 17 Jun 1755. Robt Brooking and Francis his wife of K & Q Co., sell James Garnett of Essex Co., for 450 sterl., 375 A granted said Robt Brooking 12 Jan 1735 lying in Essex Co. Adjoins Blackburn's Creek, land of Dr. Mungo Roy, land of Mr. Daniell Gaines, Thomas Thorp, Simon Miller, James Rutterford, line of a patent granted Valentine Allen, etc. (note: this proves the Garnett land purchase and the claim of Mrs. Muscoe Garnett in the saving of Vauter's from destruction)

Edward Vawter⁴, (Richard³, unknown, Bartholomew¹)

Edward Vawter b. bet. 1760-65 d. aft. 1830 Essex Co., VA. Married Phoebe Vawter dau. of Angus³ Vawter & Anne Boulware. Angus the son of Richard² Vawter.

In the will of Edward², dated 1778, son of Bartholomew, he names the following: *Item: I give and bequeath unto my God Son, Edward Vawter, son of Richard Vawter, Five Pounds to be laid out immediately in books of education.*

In *Edward Pleasants Valentine Papers* Vol. II, Pub. Richmond, VA. Mann family of Essex p 795. Philip Mann and Nancy his wife of Essex Co. to Edward Vawter of sd. Co. 5 pounds: curr. 4 acres in Essex Co., being part of a tract sd. Philip Mann purchased of Obediah Boulware &c. 9 May 1792. D. B. 33, p. 410.

Philip Mann and Ann his wife of Essex Co., to Elizabeth Butler of sd. Co. 177 pounds curr. 196 acres in aforesd. Co. (and in same parcell of land the said Philip Mann purchased of Obediah Boulware & Delphia his wife at two separate times) except the 4 acres which sd. Philip Mann and Ann his wife has sold to Edward Vawter &c. 15 Oct 1796. D. B. 34 p 344.

The following are some of the church and religious rules and laws which prevailed during the first 175 years of Virginia's existence:

1609--Instructions from the Council. Indian medicine men were to be seized in order to destroy their heathen ceremonies.

1610--Dale's Code. The penalty for blasphemy was to push a "bodkin" through the blasphemer's tongue. Whipping was the penalty for working on Sunday. Protesting the doctrine of the Trinity or the Christian religion was punishable by death.

1617--Governor Argall's decree. "Every Person should go to church, Sundays and Holidays, or lye Neck and Heels that Night, and be a Slave to the Colony the following Week; for the second Offence, he should be a Slave for a Month; and for the third, a Year and a Day."

1618--London Company orders to Governor Yeardley. "In every of those cities or Boroughs the several Quantity of One Hundred Acres of Land be set out in Quality of Glebe Land toward the maintainance of the several ministers of the Parishes" and "to make the living of every minister two hundred pounds sterling per annum or more."

1619--Act of the Assembly (colonial legislature). "All ministers shall duely read divine service and exercise their ministerial function according to the Ecclesiastical lawes and orders of the church of Englande."

1624--Act of the Assembly. Anyone missing one Sunday service was fined one pound of tobacco; one month, fifty pounds. No one was allowed to sell crops until the minister had received his portion, and it had to come from the "first and best tobacco and corn."

1628--Proclamation of the Governor. Colonists were forbidden "to marry without licence or asking in church."

1632--Act of the Assembly. All ministers were required to maintain complete uniformity to the teachings and constitution of the Church of England, and ministers were to receive from each family the twentieth calf, kid, and pig.

1642--Act of the Assembly. "All nonconformists upon notice of them shall be compelled to depart the colony with all conveniencie." "No ministers shall be admitted to officiate in this country, but such as shall produce to the governor a testimonial that he hath received his ordination from some bishop in England, and shall then subscribe, to be conformable to the orders and constitutions of the church of England, and the laws there established." The tithe tax, for ministers salaries, of ten pounds of tobacco and one bushel of corn was applied to "all youths of sixteen years of age as upwards, as also for all negro women at the age of sixteen years."

1660--Act of the Assembly. The captain of any ship bringing Quakers into the colony was fined 100 pounds, and all Quakers who did enter were to be expelled.

1661--Act of the Assembly. All parishes were required to furnish glebes, houses, and stock for ministers.

1662--Act of the Assembly. Ministers were required to prove that they were ordained by an English bishop, and all others were prohibited from teaching or preaching, publicly or privately.

Responsibility for administering church matters was given to vestrymen elected by the people of the parish. The vestries determined the amount of taxes (and tax rates) necessary for the minister's salary, other church expenses, and relief of the poor. Obviously, religion in colonial Virginia was established by law; and, because taxation was also a significant matter of law, vestrymen were usually wealthy politicians and often members of the House of Burgesses. In his 1910 book *Separation of Church and State in Virginia* --from which the historical information in this essay is taken, H. J. Eckenrode says: "The union of church and state put the church under a political control. ... The church was thoroughly subordinated to the state" (p. 14).

1727--Act of the Assembly. Ministerial salaries were set at 16,000 pounds of tobacco, each parish was required to provide 200 acres of land on which a parsonage was to be built, and vestrymen were authorized to levy taxes on the people of the parish to pay for the minister's house.

1754--Order of the Council. Clergymen were forbidden to hold the office of Justice of the Peace--a source of additional income.

1755 and 1758--Acts of the Assembly. Laws were passed "to enable the inhabitants of this colony to discharge their tobacco debts [to the clergy] in money" (rather than in the best of tobacco which could normally be sold for even more money). The Anglican clergy appealed to the Bishop of London whose influence prompted the King to veto the action of the Assembly. The general reaction in Virginia added to a growing resentment of both the clergy (as a tax burden) and the king (as a threat to home rule).

1763--A clergyman sued (The Parsons' Cause) his vestry for lost income because of the Assembly's vetoed acts. Patrick Henry defended the vestrymen and argued that the king was guilty of tyranny in overturning a just law passed by English freemen. A jury composed of Virginians, including some Irish Presbyterians, awarded one penny in damages.

1771--A convention of Anglican clergymen resolved to petition the King of England for a Bishop to be appointed in Virginia. An increasingly anticlerical attitude, combined with a growing nationalism and an ever increasing number of dissenters, prompted even one Anglican to say, "I profess myself a sincere son of the established church, but I can embrace her Doctrines without approving of her Hierarchy, which I know to be a Relick of the Papal Incroachments." The state and the Anglicans were legally united in the colony, and the church was financially dependent on the state--vestrymen and legislators wanted to maintain control of both.

1776--The Declaration of Independence declared civil freedom from the laws of England and its King, and on December 9, 1776, the legislature of Virginia suspended payment of taxes for support of the Anglican

clergy. This was a major first step toward total disestablishment of the Anglicans in Virginia, but the controversy was not over; many laws respecting religion continued to exist.

June 2, 1779--Thomas Jefferson's "Bill for Religious Freedom" was introduced; it objected to establishment of religion by law or by required tax support for religion: "The impious presumptions of legislators and rulers, civil as well as ecclesiastical, who being themselves but fallible and uninspired men, have assumed dominion over the faith of others, setting up their own opinions and modes of thinking as the only true and infallible, and as such endeavouring to impose them on others, hath established and maintained false religions over the greatest part of the world." Petitions for and against Jefferson's bill were drafted.

October 1779--A petition from the county of Essex declared: "We, ... being much alarmed at the appearance of a Bill entitled Religious Freedom, consider it very injurious to the Christian Religion" and "direct our Representatives to Vote for the destruction of all such Diabolical Schemes. And further pray ... that no person, [not] being a Protestant nor not professing the Christian Religion ... be permitted to hold or exercise any Civil Authority within this state. A general assessment, for the support of Religious Worship, would be most agreeable."

October 25, 1779--James Henry introduced legislation to establish the Christian religion as the state religion of Virginia; however, because Virginia's politicians were still evenly divided, neither Jefferson's nor Henry's bill prevailed.

1783--In the continuing debate, supporters of government religion testified to the decline of morals. George Mason wrote to Patrick Henry that "Justice and virtue are the vital principles of republican government but among us a depravity of manners and morals prevails." However, Virginians like Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee "were advocates of a proposition to make every man contribute something to the support of the Christian religion, as the only sure basis of public and private morality" (p. 74). Lee proclaimed that "the experience of all times shows religion to be the guardian of morals; and he must be a very inattentive observer in our country who does not see that avarice is accomplishing the destruction of religion for want of legal obligation to contribute something to its support" (p. 75). Does this argument sound familiar two hundred years later?

Nevertheless, it is proper to acknowledge that there were petitions which asserted that religion should be "duly aided and patronized by the civil Power." A petition from Dinwiddie said, "We being fully persuaded ... that Christianity may be, by a Law, made and declared to be, the established Religion of this Country." A petition from Surry said, "It is with the most heartfelt concern that your Memorialists see the countenance of the civil power wholly withdrawn from religion, and Mankind left without the smallest coercion to contribute to its support. ... We cannot observe without concern that the United States of America exhibit to the world the singular instance of a free and enlightened government destitute of a legal provision for the support of religion." But, these views were held by a minority of less than 10 percent of the those who signed the petitions.

1784--The "Bill establishing a provision for Teachers of the Christian Religion" was again introduced in the General Assembly. This bill levied taxes for support of the Christian religion and allowed every taxpayer the right to designate to which church or religious society he wanted his share of the taxes to go (an early version of a state voucher plan).

1785--James Madison's "Memorial and Remonstrance" was drafted and circulated as a petition. It protested not only against taxes for religion, but also against the legal establishment of religion: "Who does not see that the same authority which can establish Christianity, in exclusion of all other religions, may establish, with the same ease, any particular sect of Christians, in exclusion of all other sects? That the same authority which can force a citizen to contribute three pence only of his property for the support of any one establishment, may force him to conform to any other establishment in all cases whatsoever?" As for Christianity, Madison wrote, "During almost fifteen centuries has the legal establishment of Christianity been on trial. What have been its fruits? More or less in all places, pride and indolence in the clergy, ignorance and servility in the laity, in both, superstition, bigotry and persecution." Madison continued, "What influence in fact have ecclesiastical establishments had on civil society? In some instances they have been seen to erect a spiritual tyranny on the ruins of civil authority; in many instances they have been seen upholding the thrones of political tyranny, in no instance have they been seen the guardians of the liberties of the people."

Numerous similar petitions, signed by Baptists, Quakers, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, and some Methodists, flooded the Fall session of the Assembly. Eckenrode says, "The most popular argument in all these papers was the assertion ... that Christianity had grown and prospered in spite of the opposition of the State" (p. 110).

November 18, 1785--Petition from Rockingham County. "In opposition to the scheme of a general assessment for the support of religion. ... We think that where ever Religious Establishments hath taken place it hath been attended with Pernicious Consequences, for Instance, we shall go no further than New England, for no sooner was their Religion Established, their Ministers ample provided for, than Fining Imprisoning Whipping Banishing, etc. Ensued."

December 1, 1785--Petition from Rockbridge. "To our great surprize, before the wounds we received in our Country's Cause had ceased to bleed or the Arms with which we gained our Liberties began to rust, The Episcopal Clergy come in and pray for distinctions incompatible with that political Equality which is the undoubted Privilege of every Christian in the Federal Union as the reward of the common blood and Treasure so freely spent by all. ... We have also been informed that it is in contemplation to have a Law passed this Session of Assembly to establish a general Tax for the Support of the Ministers of the Gospel of all Denominations, with this reserve that each Man may say to whom his quota shall be given--This scheme should it take place is the best calculated to destroy Religion that perhaps could be devised and much more dangerous than the establishment of any one Sect. ... By a general tax all [ministers] will be rendered so independant of the will of the particular Societies for their Support that all will be infected with the Common contagion and we shall be more likely to have the State swarming with Fools, Sots and Gamblers than with a Sober Sensible and Exemplary Clergy."

The majority of the signers of the two petitions above were Presbyterians. The assessment bill died in committee.

1786--Jefferson's most famous contribution to religious liberty (Virginia's Statute) was signed into law by Governor Patrick Henry. It included the following: "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propogation of opinions which he disbelieves, is sinful and tyrannical; ... even the forcing him to support this or that teacher of his own religious persuasion. ... No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever. ... All men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion."