

HAYMARKET'S 'CLOVERLAND'

and its people earn a special place in history

by John Toler

The property known as "Cloverland" was once a 2,039-acre estate located just west of Haymarket on the Gap Road (Route 55), and lying on both sides of Broad Run. It was part of a land grant made by Robert "King" Carter in 1724. The property was later acquired by Charles Carter of "Shirley," half-brother of Ann Hill Carter, who was the mother of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The main house at Cloverland was built in the late 1797 by Charles Carter's son, Edward Carter (1767-1806), who died when a millrace he was building along Broad Run collapsed on him. The property eventually passed to his daughter, Mary Walker Carter.

In 1816, Maj. Thomas Turner (1772-1839) and his wife, Eliza Carter Randolph Turner (1782-1866) moved from King George County to "Kinloch," the new home they had built west of Cloverland. Kinloch consisted of 2,252 acres purchased from Richard Stuart.



Front view of the main house at Cloverland, built in 1797 by Edward Carter. (Courtesy of Karee Miller).



Western exposure of Cloverland, with side and rear porches and the massive brick chimney. (Courtesy of Karee Miller).

Eliza Turner was the niece of Ann Hill Carter, so the two families were related, as well as being neighbors. Indeed, three of Maj. and Mrs. Turner's 12 children - Edward Carter (1816-1891), Marietta Fauntleroy (1812-1894) and Lavinia Beverley (1814-1892) were born at Cloverland, attended by the women of the Carter family.

About 1830, Mary Walker Carter married Commodore Bladen Tasker Dulany (1793-1856), the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth French Dulany, and a native of Alexandria. Even as a child, young Bladen was ambitious and focused; the family history recalls that age 16, he rode his horse from Alexandria to President James Madison's home, "Montpelier" near Orange, to request appointment as a midshipman. President Madison gave him a commission in the U.S. Navy, and Bladen commenced a distinguished career.



COMMODORE BLADEN T. DULANY
(1793-1865)

died in 1856, Cloverland and Mt. Albans went to Cass and their daughters, while Saints Hill went to his oldest son, Bladen. Commodore Dulany's will also provided that if the three stepsons wished to purchase Cloverland from Cass they could do so, provided that they made timely payments on the property to their stepmother.

The Dulanys and their related families were not spared the suffering that afflicted Haymarket and the surrounding area during the Civil War. Living at St. Albans, Cass realized that because her family had owned slaves in Virginia, and that her younger brother Pemberton had been killed fighting on the Confederate side at the First Battle of Manassas, her Unionist neighbors considered her a Southern sympathizer. As a result, Cass and the girls spent much time with relatives in Philadelphia as the war dragged on.

Back in Virginia, young Cassius and Bladen joined Col. Richard H. Dulany's troop in July 1861, serving until the fall of that year. According to *The Dulanys of Welbourne* by Margaret Anne Vogtsberger, they left their cousin's unit after Cassius provided J.R.H. Deakins as his substitute, and Bladen provided William Nightingale to serve in his place.

Col. Dulany wrote about his cousins' military service in a letter to his sister, Mary Whiting, dated September 21, 1861:

"Cassius and Bladen are with me and give me more anxiety than all the rest of my Company. They are both very fond of drink, and I have had Cassius confined for the last week. I find it hard to punish him; he is so perfectly amiable and unselfish

in all other respects... Is it not a pity that such a man would be willing to throw himself away? Make your young sons obey you, cost what it may, or you may have something of the same in our families. Entire indulgence has ruined more than cruel war will destroy for Virginia."

After the war, Bladen applied for amnesty affirming the above, stating, "Since 1861, I have remained quietly upon my farms, and have had no participation, either directly or indirectly, in the rebellion." Unfortunately, the three stepsons reportedly failed to make the required payments their stepmother, who re-acquired the property in the late 1860s and returned to Cloverland.

Thomas John Chew Jr. (1845-1924), a native of Calvert County, Maryland, sided with the Confederacy during the Civil War. He and his father were captured by a Union force while on a sailboat in the James River, and were accused of trying to smuggle weapons to the rebels. Both were nearly hanged, until Dr. Samuel Chew, a relative high up in the Union military hierarchy, had them released.

After the war, Tom Chew went to Washington, D.C. to study law, and there met and fell in love with Miss Rosa Dulany. "The romance was going well, but the intended's mother (Cass Dulany) did not approve of a destitute Confederate as a son-in-law," wrote T.J.C. Williams. "She therefore took her daughters to Philadelphia, where her cousins were wealthy and socially prominent."

Tom Chew followed the family to Philadelphia, where he stayed with relatives at "Cliveden," the home of the Germantown Chews. "He told them of his predicament, and they assured him they wouldn't let their cousin be treated in such a shabby way ... and saw to it that he got invited to all social gatherings where young Rosa was expected to attend," according to T.J.C. Williams. "Thus in 1872, they were married."

Tom and Rosa Chew returned to Cloverland, still a large plantation, where they struggled to farm the property. They had four children at Cloverland: Rosa Dulany Chew (1874-1954), Jeannette Benson Chew (1877-1969), Bladen Dulany Chew (1875-1876) died in infancy, and Tom Chew suffered a double tragedy when both Rosa and their son Thomas John Chew in childbirth in 1879.

Four years after his wife's death, Tom married Rosa's sister Phoebe, who was in "desperate health" herself and died in 1885. Tom's sister, Miss Jane Benson Chew, stepped in, acting as housekeeper and governess, as well as helping raise the two young girls.

Tom Chew would marry again in 1889, to Miss Baynton

During the War of 1812, Bladen Dulany served as a midshipman on the frigate U.S.S. Constellation, and participated in the Battle of Craney Island in 1813, where he was brevetted for bravery. He rose through the ranks, serving as a lieutenant on the frigate U.S.S. Brandywine in 1825.

When Gen. Lafayette visited the U.S. later that year, Lt. Dulany was chosen to serve as one of the general's aides, "...since he was well-mannered and an excellent horseman," according to the family history. Also along the way, he fought a duel with a party whose name has been lost over the years, but what is known is that the second for the other man was Stephen Decatur.

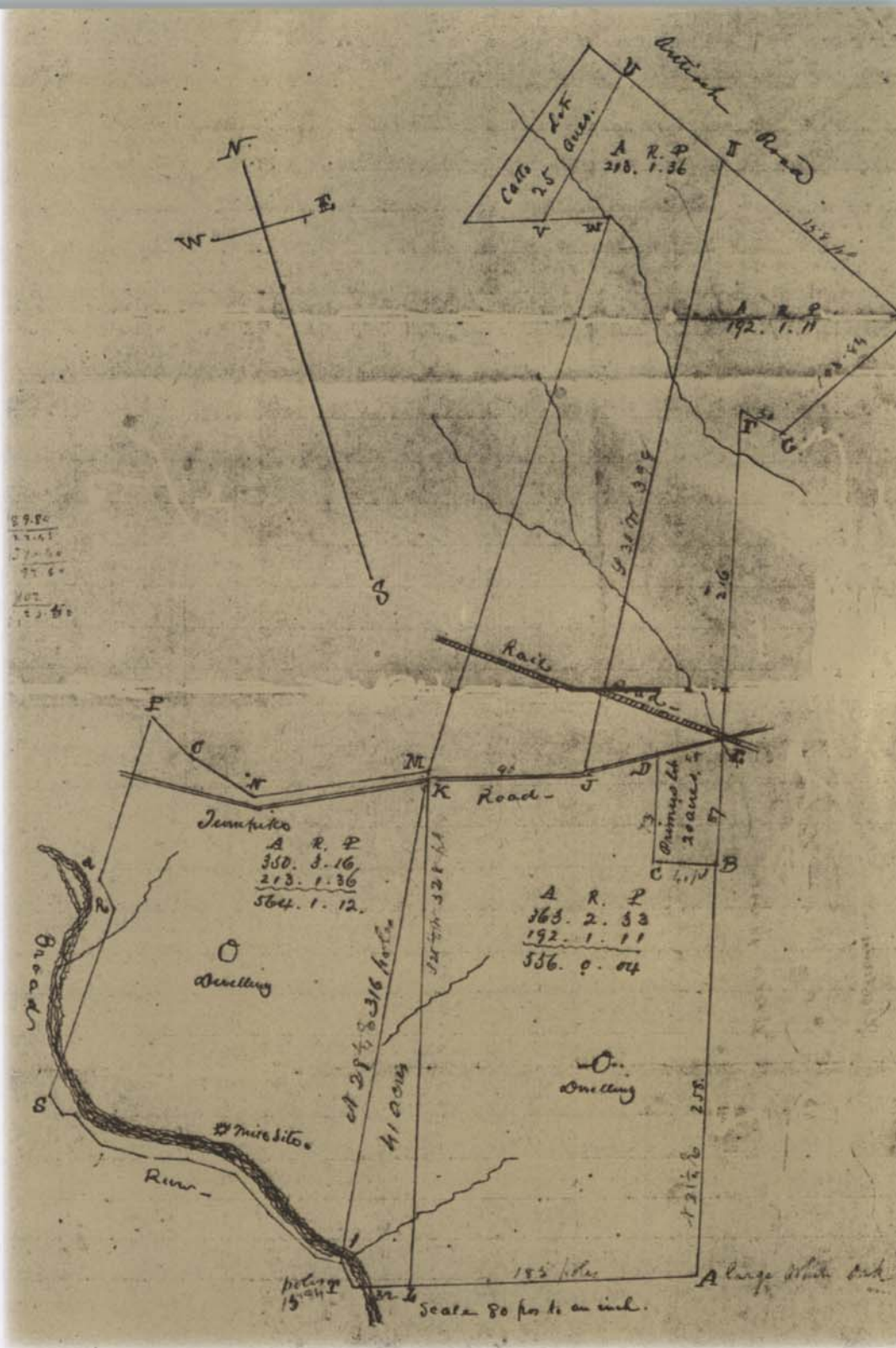
After their wedding, Bladen and Mary Carter Dulany lived at Cloverland, where in between the separations while Bladen was at sea they had three sons, Cassius Carter Dulany, Randolph Dulany and Bladen Tasker Dulany.

Mary Carter Dulany died about 1840, and Bladen, now a captain, married Miss Caroline Rebecca Nourse (1819-1893) in 1843. Known by her family as "Cass," she was born in Pennsylvania, the daughter of Maj. Charles Joseph and Rebecca Wistar Morris Nourse.

The couple lived at Cloverland, but "Her married life must have been troublesome, since the Navy ordered Bladen to the Pacific in 1849, resulting in a long separation," according to Records of My Family, by Thomas J. C. Williams. "Certainly the difference in age and tales of wild goings-on in the Sandwich (renamed Hawaiian) Islands did not help her peace of mind."

After being promoted to the rank of commodore, in 1850 Bladen purchased Mt. Alban, in Washington, D.C., the site of the present-day National Cathedral. Mt. Alban had once belonged to Joseph Nourse, his wife's grandfather. The couple had three daughters, Rebecca (1846-1848), Phoebe Pemberton (1850-1885) and Rosa Romilly (1852-1879).

Planning to retire from the Navy, Bladen built a second country home on a tract of land east of Cloverland, that he called "Saints Hill," intending that the property be passed onto his second wife and two surviving daughters. However, when he



Plat of the property that comprised Cloverland shows its relationship to Broad Run on the southwest, Antioch Road to the north, and the railroad. The land totaled nearly 1,600 acres at that time. (Courtesy of Ellie Ivancic).

• Carter Beverley (1847-1890), the daughter of Robert and Eliza Carter Beverley who lived nearby at "Avenel." Again he had to endure great loss, as his new wife was fatally injured in a carriage accident in August 1890.

After Cass Dulany's death in 1893, Mt. Alban was sold and the family's financial condition improved. Tom became



*THOMAS JOHN CHEW
(1845-1924)*

a partner in a wholesale drug company in Baltimore (later destroyed in the great Baltimore fire), and the facilities at Cloverland improved. For a while, the Chews enjoyed living at Cloverland in the summer, and in Baltimore in the winter.

The year 1906 marked two marriages: Rosa Chew married Dr. Richard Claggett Williams (1879-1949), and Jeannette married Dr. Samuel Claggett (1873-1914). The daughters moved away, and Tom and his sister Jane Chew remained at Cloverland. After the death of her husband, Jeannette and her sons Sam, Tom and Dulany came back to Cloverland from Maryland to live with them.

"Grandfather (Tom Chew) was an active man, hunting and riding horseback until he was 75, and hunting from a buggy even after that," recalled T.C.J. Williams. "He lived well, and his house always seemed to have vast amounts of food. He served on the vestry of St. Albans in Washington, Christ Church in Baltimore, and St. Paul's in Haymarket."

Tom Chew died in 1924, while visiting the Williams family.

He was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Not long after her father's death, Jeannette Claggett and her family, along with Tom's sister Jane, moved from Cloverland to Baltimore, leaving the old homestead behind.

Cloverland would leave the family, passing through the hands of several owners. By the mid-20th century, the main house was in poor condition, and was ravaged by termites and eventually torn down. The land was left fallow or put to agricultural use by its owners, but the property faced serious misuse twice. Cloverland was once considered for development as a racetrack, and later as the site for a county construction-waste landfill.

In the case of the landfill, descendants of the Carter family, including the late Scott Carter of Warrenton, blocked the proposed landfill by locating the old graveyard at Cloverland, where at least Susan Baynton Turner Carter and John Hill Carter were buried. In order to keep the cemetery from ever being lost again, the family marked the corners with large stones.

Opponents of the landfill determined that the property could not be taken through condemnation, as the cemetery "existed prior to the chartering of the jurisdiction." Initiating the action. Cloverland was saved by its 40 ft. by 40 ft. cemetery and the right-of-way leading to it, which had been deeded in perpetuity to the Carter family.

The possibility of future development of Cloverland was eliminated forever in 2003 and 2004, when the property (365 acres in Prince William County and six acres in Fauquier County) were acquired by Cloverland Farms LLC and put into permanent conservation easement through the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

In recent times, its owners have leased the property for agricultural purposes, including cattle feed production and turf farm operations. But for the most part, all is quiet and will remain so at Cloverland, a place of many memories.

Author John Toler is a writer and historian and has served Fauquier County for over 50 years, including 4 decades with the Fauquier-Times Democrat. He has written and lectured about many legendary characters in Fauquier County's history. Toler is the co-author of 250 Years in Fauquier County: A Virginia Story.

