

A SOLDIER AND A GENTLEMAN: HAYMARKET'S COL. EDMUND BERKELEY

LOCAL GROUP WORKING TO PRESERVE HIS HOME, HISTORIC EVERGREEN MANOR

by: John Toler



Drawing of Lt. Col. Edmund Berkeley during the Civil War.

As Prince William County and the rest of Virginia begin to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, the people of Haymarket have a special reason to be proud.

One of its native sons, Col. Edmund Berkeley of Evergreen Plantation fought valiantly for the Lost Cause, and when the war was over, committed himself to healing the breach that had caused so much suffering and death on both sides.

The Berkeley family had deep roots in the Commonwealth of Virginia, stretching back five generations to Middlesex County.

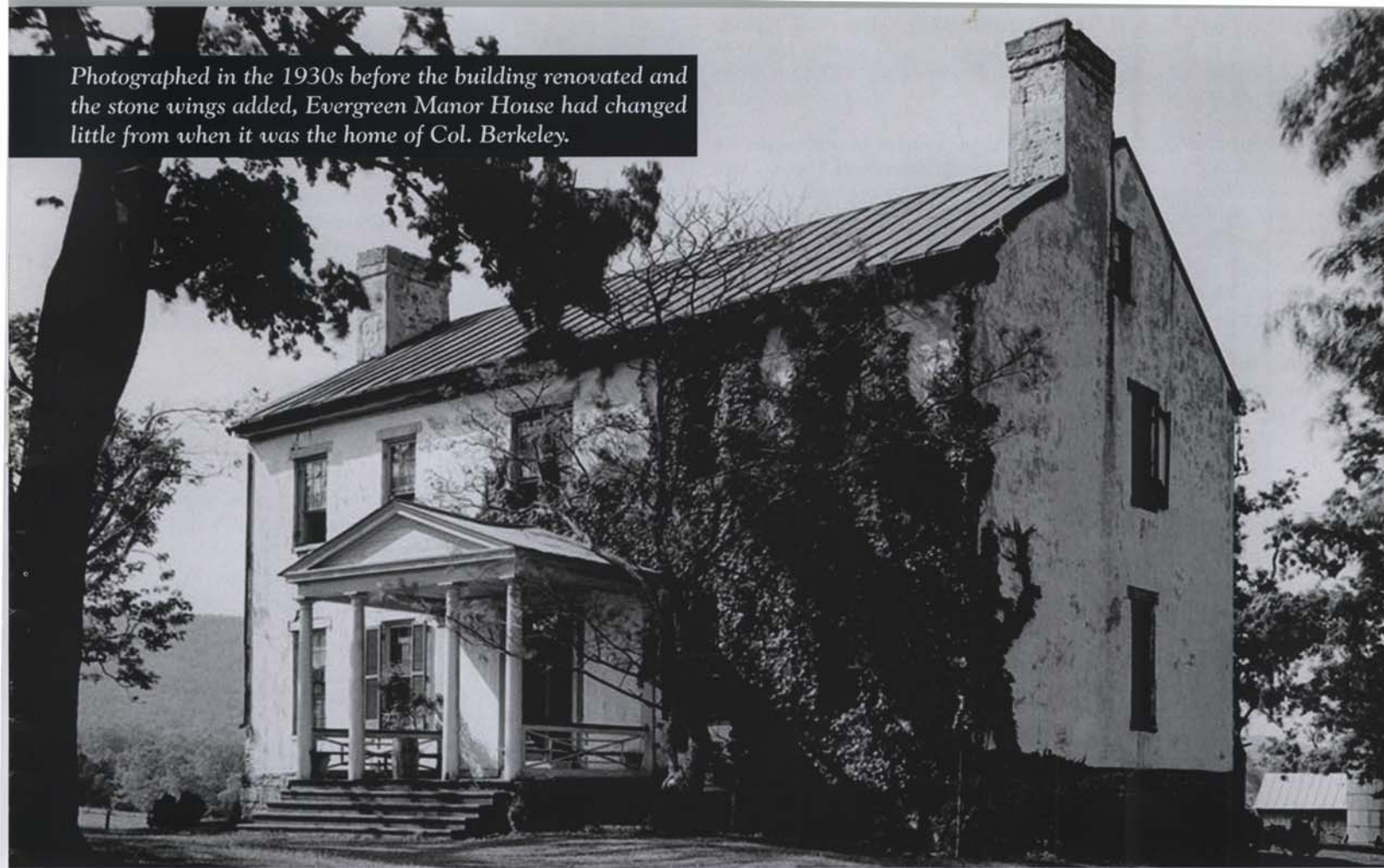
The property that later became Evergreen plantation was once part of Carter Burwell's 2,000-acre portion of Robert "King" Carter's huge Bull Run Tract. The property passed to Burwell's daughter Mary, who married Edmund Berkeley IV (1730-1802) of "Barn Elms" in Middlesex County.

Their son, Lewis Berkeley (1777-1836), later inherited the property, which he divided into several tracts, including 1,064 acres of open land in Prince William County known as "Ever Green."

Before building Evergreen Manor, Lewis and his wife, Frances Callender Noland Berkeley (1797-1855) lived in Aldie, where their first son was born on Feb. 29, 1824. According to family tradition, he was named Edmund.

On his farewell visit to America in late August 1825, the Marquis deLafayette stopped by the Berkeley home in Aldie as he made his way north on the Old Carolina Road to Oak Hill, James Monroe's home in Loudoun County. While there, he held young Edmund on his lap. Later owned by Thomas DeLashmutt, the "Berkeley House" in Aldie still stands.

Photographed in the 1930s before the building renovated and the stone wings added, Evergreen Manor House had changed little from when it was the home of Col. Berkeley.



EVERGREEN MANOR HOUSE

In about 1827, Lewis Berkeley completed the Evergreen Manor House on a small knoll at the base of the Bull Run Mountains. Built in the Greek Revival style, the original house was a five-bay, two-and-a-half story structure, with a gable roof and interior-end chimneys.

Edmund graduated from the College of William and Mary, and married Mary Lawson Williams of Tennessee, whom he had met at the college. The couple first lived at Aldie, and moved to Evergreen when Edmund inherited the property in 1845.

"Mary's father was a wealthy landowner, and at her marriage, gave her a choice of either slaves or real estate, and she chose the former," according to the Manor House Preservation Fund (MHPF), which continues the work to save the historic home and honor the Berkeley family legacy. "The slaves made the trip here with the bride and groom, the women and children in wagons, the men walking." After reaching Evergreen Plantation, the slaves lived in cabins along the road now known as "Quarter's Lane."

Like the first generation to live at Evergreen, Edmund and Mary Berkeley would raise a large family.

During the years before the outbreak of Civil War, Evergreen plantation was a successful farming operation, as well as having a mill that produced wagon wheel spokes, which were shipped to New York and New Orleans. It was the first mill in Prince William County run by steam.

"The mill was operated by white labor, with twelve houses for these families located close to the mill, giving the appearance of a small village," according to the MHPF. Shortly before the war, disaster struck. In 1861, the mill and several thousand spokes ready for shipment were destroyed

in a fire. "As the workers were from the North, and had no ties to the area, they went back (North) after the mill was destroyed, as the times were too uncertain to rebuild them."

An account in a Richmond newspaper reported that the fire claimed a gristmill and a sawmill on the property in addition to the spoke mill, for a combined loss of \$15,000.

THE EVERGREEN GUARDS

Like many communities in Virginia, the possibility of Civil War convinced local leaders of the necessity of establishing militia companies, which were recognized by the Commonwealth. Prince William County raised four infantry and two cavalry companies.

In most cases, a gentleman of means would organize and equip a militia company, and then receive recognition and a commission as a captain of the unit from the governor.

Edmund received his commission as a captain from Gov. John Letcher, and the Evergreen Guards became Company C of the 8th Virginia Volunteer Infantry, under the command of Gen. Eppa Hunton. The Evergreen Guards was the only company in the 8th Virginia from Prince William County, and the first to muster the 100 men necessary to establish a company. In fact, ten men who worked on the farm immediately joined the Evergreen Guards, including Pennsylvania natives Andrew and Uriah Fletcher, both of whom would die in the war.

Three of Edmund's brothers also served in the 8th Virginia Infantry: William N. Berkeley (1826-1907) served as a major in Company D, known as the "Champe Rifles"; Norborne Berkeley (1828-1911) as a

colonel in the regiment; and Charles F. Berkeley (1833-1871) as captain of Company D.

Gen. Eppa Hunton was well aware of the Berkeley brothers under his command. Making camp on the south side of Goose Creek after the First Battle of Manassas (July 21, 1861), he recalled that the Berkeleys were "... four of the bravest, noblest, most patriotic and unselfish men I met in the war. They were always ready for any duty they were called upon, and always did it with alacrity, courage and efficiency. I have always been thankful that the four brothers survived the war."

After First Manassas, the Evergreen Guards went on to fight in many significant battles, including Seven Pines (May 31-June 1, 1862), after which Edmund Berkeley was promoted to the rank of major.

While the Evergreen Guards were fighting far from home, on November 4, 1862, their home base at Haymarket was sacked and burned by Union troops. Mary Berkeley stepped forward, housing Haymarket refugee families in the former mill workers' homes on the plantation. They would stay busy sewing Confederate uniforms.

The Evergreen Guards were in the thick of the action during the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863). As written in *The Eighth Virginia Infantry*, Second Edition, written by John Devine:

"On July 1, as the great battle began at Gettysburg, Garnett's brigade was busily engaged in destroying railroad property and government supplies. Major Edmund Berkeley was ordered to destroy the shops of the Cumberland Valley Railroad.

"Using heavy iron rails as battering rams, holes were punched through the walls of the principal buildings. "Boys, remember Haymarket" was shouted each time a rail would pierce that wall. Many of these men had come from Haymarket, Virginia, a town that had fallen victim to burning and looting by Union General Blenker's men the year before. A large

turntable withstood repeated attempts at destruction until practical farmer Berkeley used cordwood to build a fire on it; then as it cooled it warped and cracked."

Two days later, the four brothers-in-arms would be part of Pickett's Charge on Gen. George G. Meade's fortifications, where only 27 of the 205 men in Gen. Hunton's regiment would survive unscathed. Edmund was wounded near the stone wall during the charge, but escaped.

William and Norborne were both wounded and captured; Charles was not wounded, but captured in the fray. The Berkeley brothers were later exchanged, but Charles and William were captured again, during the fighting at Saylor's Creek during the final days of the war.

Col. Berkeley's son Edmund Jr. (1847-1906) was attending the Virginia Military Institute during the war, and was one of the cadets wounded at the Battle of New Market, May 15, 1864, where 53 out of 225 of the young soldiers were killed or wounded. After recovering from his wounds, he later joined Capt. John S. Mosby's Rangers.



Col. Edmund Berkeley after the Civil War, wearing the Southern Cross.

Courtesy of Edmund Berkeley Jr.

THE PEACEMAKER

After the surrender, Col. Edmund Berkeley returned to Evergreen Plantation, and along with his Haymarket neighbors, struggled to resume his farming operation. He was one of the founding members of the Haymarket Agriculture Club, along with fellow Civil War veterans Dr. Henry M. Clarkson (1835-1915)

and John Chew (1845-1924).

As it happened, Col. Berkeley was the highest-ranking former Confederate officer to return to Prince William County, and he was often called upon to speak about the war. Instead of dwelling on the "Lost Cause," Col. Berkeley presented a passionate plea for reconciliation. He wrote poems and letters to local newspapers expressing this sentiment, and was often asked to speak at reunions and gatherings – for veterans of both the North and South.

Don't sell your home!

Turn it into an Investment Property...



ARMI has been assisting home owners and investors in turning their home into an investment or finding and buying an income generating property.

Call us today to find out how our team of Brokers, Agents, and Property Manager's can start making you money!

1. Area's Largest, Most Successful Property Management Company
2. Worry-Free Full Service, Property Management
3. Demand Is Higher for Rentals vs. Low Selling Market!
4. Family Owned & Operated for over 15 Years!

A.R.M.I.

www.armiva.com

— PROPERTY MANAGEMENT —

Gainesville
(703) 753-1801

7250 Heritage Village Plaza
Gainesville, VA 20155

Warrenton
(540) 347-1901

10 Rock Pointe Lane
Warrenton, VA 20186

In 1906, while Col. Berkeley was serving as the vice president of the Bull Run Battle Park Association, monuments to New York regiments who lost soldiers in the two battles were erected on the battlefield.

In 1911, he worked with a committee composed of members of the Confederate Veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic supporting House Bill 1330, which appropriated \$50,000 "...to be used in the discretion of the Secretary of War, who is directed to purchase so much of the land surrounding such monuments ...as shall be sufficient for the protection of same, and to enable the citizens of the United States to

visit the same," according to the May 19, 1911 edition of the Manassas Journal.

Later that year – 50 years to the day after the First Battle of Manassas – Col. Berkeley delivered the opening poem at the Manassas National Jubilee of Peace. Confederate and Union veterans, by then in their seventies and eighties, formed lines at the battle site and shook hands, the event concluded with an address by U. S. President William Howard Taft.



Members of the Berkeley family gathered about 1912 at Evergreen. From left, Alfred Rives Berkeley, holding his son, Edmund; Julia Ramsey Berkeley, widow of Edmund Berkeley Jr.; and Col. Edmund Berkeley.



At the Peace Jubilee held in Manassas on July 21, 1911, Col. Edmund Berkeley (left) represented the Ewell Camp of the Confederate Veterans, and Lt. George c. Rounds represented the Manassas Picket Post of Grand Army of the Republic.

Offer a more attractive benefits package ...

without creating a less attractive bottom line.

Voluntary Benefits*

Aflac

For more information, contact:

Name Pamela S. Byers
Phone 703.587.5201 Fax 703.530.7955
E-Mail Pamela_byers@us.aflac.com

American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (Aflac)
Worldwide Headquarters • 1932 Wynnton Road • Columbus, Georgia 31999

aflac.com

© 2008 Aflac

*Aflac insurance policies are sold on a voluntary basis at the worksite.

NAD0312B

7/08



Gainesville

Health & Rehab Center

7501 Heritage Village Plaza
Gainesville, VA 20155

571-248-6100

Located off Rt. 29 & Rt. 66 in Heritage Hunt
Community with peaceful view of Blue Ridge Mtns.

**Discover Northern Virginia's
Newest Health and Rehabilitation Center**

Spa • Fine Dining • Free Wi-Fi

Rehab Care at Gainesville is fueled by the same innovative thinking that drives all of our services.

We've partnered with one of the nation's leading rehab service providers to ensure the highest level of physical, occupational and speech therapy.

**We also offer Respite Care
and Long-term Care**

Private Insurance and Major Credit Cards accepted.
Medicare and Medicaid Certified



www.gainesville-rehab.com

Living made better.

In September 1915, Col. Berkeley (CSA) and Lt. George Carr Round (USA) unveiled a Civil War monument on the grounds of the Prince William County Courthouse. It was Col. Berkeley's last public event. He died on December 1, 1915, at his beloved Evergreen Manor.

Col. Berkeley was buried at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Haymarket. Among Confederate veterans at his funeral were former comrades Westwood Hutchison, A.H. Compton, George H. Smith, John Hall, James F. Gulick, Jonathan White, James Pickett, J.P. Smith, Robert Cushing and James E. Herrell. Edwin Carter and Alexander F. Rose, both of Warrenton, also attended.

In a final expression of unity and reconciliation, Lt. Round served as one of his pallbearers.

EVERGREEN IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Evergreen Manor remained in the Berkeley family for several years until the property was purchased in 1938 by Thomas DeLashmutt, head of the DeLashmutt Brothers Construction Co. of Arlington, Va. By then, Evergreen Manor had been subdivided into a 525-acre parcel including the manor house, and several smaller parcels totaling about 200 acres. DeLashmutt remodeled the original house about 1940, replacing the metal roof, adding dormers, and building stone wings to both sides of the original structure.

The property passed through two more owners by 1968, at which time it was purchased by the Evergreen Farm Development Corporation of Manassas. The new owners divided the property again, keeping 250 acres and the manor house, around which they built a golf course. The rest of the land sold as residential lots.

In recent years, there was a proposal to use the manor house as a clubhouse or bed and breakfast, but this has not happened, and the building stands vacant, its fate undecided. Indeed, in June 2005, the property was listed as one of the "Top Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In response, the non-profit Manor House Preservation Fund worked out a cooperative arrangement with the owners to raise money and hire contractors to preserve the exterior of the old house. The agreement was signed on October 25, 2005. Shortly afterward, Architectural Historian Edward Tolson, of Warrenton, was commissioned to complete the survey and application to have Evergreen Manor listed on the National Register of Historic Places administered by the U. S. Park Service.

Their efforts were rewarded on March 27, 2008, when Evergreen Manor was placed on the National Register. In addition, the house has been identified by Prince William County as a Designated Cultural Resource.

Evergreen continued on page 12



Vacant and unused, the c. 1827 Evergreen Manor House is still the focal point of the Evergreen Country Club that surrounds it. Future plans include opening a wing of the house for receptions and other activities.

A DESCENDANT COMES HOME TO EVERGREEN

Mary Louise Berkeley Stoy of Dominion Valley is the great-great-granddaughter of Col. Edmund Berkeley; and great-granddaughter of Edmund Jr., the VMI cadet. Her grandfather, the Rev. Mr. Alfred Rives Berkeley (1880-1945), and her father, the Rev. Mr. Edmund Berkeley (1910-1995), were Episcopal ministers.

Mary was born in Roanoke Rapid, N.C., where her father was the minister of the Episcopal Church. The family later moved to Virginia, where Mary graduated from college and taught school before becoming a librarian. She married Robert "Bob" Stoy, and in 1964 the couple moved to Northern Virginia area, where Bob was an administrator in the City of Alexandria school system. Their children, Edmund Berkeley Stoy and Elizabeth Berkeley Stoy (Curtis), grew up in the area, and like their parents, chose careers in education.

Bob and Mary Stoy were living in Fairfax Station when they retired in 1998. With some time on her hands, Mary became interested in her family history. "I always knew about my family's connection with Evergreen and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Haymarket," she said. She fondly recalls a visit with her parents in 1970 to St. Paul's – where many of her ancestors are buried – and the Berkeley House in Aldie and the Evergreen Manor House.

While working on a family scrapbook in 2004, Mary met a lady from the Evergreen community who put her in touch with Dave Prokop, who was eager to meet a descendant of Col. Berkeley – and share what he had learned about Evergreen.

The Stoys moved to Haymarket in 2006, where they are close to their children and their families, and Bob enjoys playing golf at the several courses nearby. Mary continues her fascinating genealogical research at the Bull Run Regional Library and the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia, where the Berkeley family bible and other family papers can be found. She and her husband appreciate and support the Evergreen Manor Preservation Committee in their efforts to save and re-use the old homeplace.



At her home in Dominion Valley, Mary Stoy continues her genealogical research. Family heirlooms include this silver teapot once owned by Col. Edmund Berkeley, which was buried at Evergreen during the Civil War in order to prevent it from being stolen. Other family items include one of the finger bowls used by Gen. Lafayette during his visit to the Berkeley House in Aldie in 1825.

SIGNATURE WoodCrafters

Bring Beauty Back to Your Kitchen

- **Recraft, Replace or Remodel:** We match the best method of updating your cabinetry to your budget!
- **Kitchen Replacements & Remodels:** Take advantage of our pricing discounts from cabinet & countertop manufacturers!
- Have a granite or solid surface countertop and want to change your cabinets? Inquire about our kitchen recrafting product!



703-753-0699

6612 James Madison Hwy
Haymarket, VA 20169

www.signaturewoodcrafters.com
info@signaturewoodcrafters.com

Showroom Open Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm

The Evergreen Manor Preservation Committee

The organization responsible for carrying out the mission of the Manor House Preservation Fund is the Evergreen Manor Preservation Committee. It is separate from the Evergreen Country Club, and is comprised of people from the neighborhood and members of the country club who volunteer their time and talents to find ways to preserve the historic home.

Short-term goals include:

- Weatherproofing and improving the physical appearance of the exterior of the building. These improvements would benefit the club as well as preserving the structure.
- Promoting the historical significance of the building through the Web site, publications, etc.
- Raising money for the restoration of the manor house.

The long-term goal is to generate interest in the historic structure so that the club or other investors would be willing to restore the manor house for productive re-use, including a bed and breakfast, conference center, etc.

As in the case of most preservation efforts, raising the money for repairs and restoration is the biggest challenge. On the evening of April 30, 2010, the committee staged the "Berkeley Ball" on the manor house grounds, featuring dinner, dancing and a live auction. Members of the 8th Virginia Infantry Civil War re-enactors group gave a gun salute.

Also during the summer of 2010, the committee hosted the five-part "LIVE at Evergreen" concert series on the manor house grounds. The events were free and open to the public, generating income through donations, raffles and food and drink sales. Equally important was the successful community outreach, which brought many people to the Evergreen Manor House for the first time. The committee plans to hold "LIVE at Evergreen concerts" again in 2011.

These efforts have brought in about \$140,000 to be used for restoration of the historic structure. The MHPF currently intends to open the west wing of the manor house in the spring of 2011 for member use, weddings and other functions. Rooms are to be open in the Stone Room and the library.

The officers and committee members of the MHPF are Dave Prokop, who serves as chairman and Webmaster; Lance Boyd, secretary and Sponsorship chair; John Atkinson, treasurer; Tina Boyd, Fundraising chair; and Bill Harvey, Lou Nappi and Gaston de Bearn.

For more information, contact Mr. Prokop at chairman@evergreenmanorhouse.org. To make a donation, contact Ms. Boyd at donate@evergreenmanorhouse.org.

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*, and author of *Warrenton, Virginia: A History of 200 Years*



We'll help you keep your mail
under lock and key.

A safe and secure mailbox, plus:

- We sign for packages from any carrier
- We'll send you a text or e-mail when you have a package to pick up*

The UPS Store 

*Additional fees may apply. Available at participating locations. Restrictions and limitations apply. Copyright © 2009 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc.

**5501 MERCHANTS VIEW SQUARE
HAYMARKET, VA 20169
Near the Super Giant
(571) 248-6448**

**Up To 3 Months
FREE**
for new box holders
with this ad.



À LA CARTE
SAVOR THE MOMENTS

Custom created events - whatever the occasion

À la Carte Catering + Event Design has spent years helping Washingtonians celebrate. Fabulous food is just the beginning; let us orchestrate *your* perfect event personalized down to the last detail.

703-754-2714 | AlacarteCaters.com



CORPORATE • SOCIAL • AT-HOME • WEDDINGS
VENUE • GIFT BASKETS • DINNER CLUB • COOKING CLASS