

Faug. 21.00 - Democrat - 10 Sept. 1953
**BUCKLAND, NOW A CROSSROADS -- IN ITS FIRST DAYS, A
THRIVING TOWN WITH A GOOD TAVERN**

At some period previous to 1787, Samuel Love acquired a large tract of land in Prince William County, Virginia, lying mainly south of the south branch of Broad Run, and extending from below Kinsley Mill to above what is now the town of Buckland.

On this tract of land and before 1787, Love decided to erect his spacious home, and for this purpose sent for William Buckland, a young architect whom George Mason had brought from London and employed to design and build Gunston Hall. Buckland also designed and built the home of Samuel Love, who was so delighted with the results that he named his dwelling for its designer, "Buckland Hall." Samuel Love died in 1787, leaving Buckland Hall to his son John, and from John, it passed to Temple Washington in 1822, then in 1853 to Major Richard Bland Lee, a nephew of Light Horse Harry Lee. In 1875 Buckland Hall passed to another Richard Bland Lee.

In 1794, Charles and John Love, his brother, applied for water rights on Broad Run, and this being granted, proceeded to erect Kinsley Mill together with a granary nearby, with the miller's dwelling over same. An elevated wooden bridge connected this dwelling with the mill. Kinsley Mill did a thriving business, and at one time in the sixties, it is said that 600 barrels of flour were dumped into Broad Run to prevent it from falling into the hands of Northern troops.

John Love also erected a woolen mill further up in the stream, and immediately west of where he was to lay out the town of Buckland. This mill did a thriving business for a number of years until it gave way to the grist mill which was to take its place. The woolen mill gave employment to many in the gathering of sumac, walnut hulls, etc, used in making dyes for the woolen goods turned out.

By 1797, Dumfries was no longer designated as an official tobacco port, and had lost its importance in this respect. By the irony of fate, the cultivation of tobacco on the surrounding hills, had so filled up the waters and channels around the wharves, that this prevented the loading and unloading of vessels. Steps were taken to deepen the channel but do not seem to have been very effective. A disastrous fire which destroyed several important blocks of the town also made for discouragement.

Perhaps John Love had all these factors in mind when he decided to lay out on his land, the first inland town in Prince William County, on a swiftly running stream which could not be filled with silt, and would furnish ample water power for manufacturing purposes. In 1797 therefore, he applies to the General Assembly of Virginia for permission to lay out a town, adjoining his woolen mill, to be designated as Buckland and named for William Buckland, the architect of Buckland Hall.

The act of the Assembly granting this permission is dated January 15, 1798, and reads as follows: "That the lots and streets, as the same are already laid off by John Love, on his land lying on both sides of Broad Run, and near to the mill of the said John Love, in the County of Prince William, shall be established a town by the name of Buckland, and William Tyler, Alexander Scott, Britan Sanders, Robert Thrift, William Brooks, Richard Gill, William Hunton, Edward Carter and Thomas Hunton, gentlemen, constituted trustees thereof."

From deed books of Prince William County, we have the following: "Between the mill property and the village of Buckland, he laid out a street which clearly separated the two properties. This street ran at right angles to the run and bounded the entire village to the north on both sides of the Run. This street was called Love Street."

No map of Buckland as originally laid out is now in existence, so far as is known, and it is therefore necessary to picture the place from such bits of information as have come down to us, some of which may be incorrect. There were 48 lots, all on the west side of Broad Run except Lot No. 38, which was on the east side and connected with the main part of the village by a bridge, which gave the name to Bridge Street. This lot, 113 by 190 feet, was bounded on the west by Jefferson Street. On July 14, 1798, John Love purchased 26 lots in Buckland from the trustees, evidently intending to sell these later to whom he pleased. Twenty lots had been sold previous to this date, thus leaving only two lots unsold. Lot No. 1 seems always to have belonged to the manager of the woolen factory or to the miller in later days. Lot No. 28, just opposite Lot No. 38, was often called the "Spring Lot," possibly on account of a good spring thereon.

The blocks contained from one to four lots. The north-south streets so far as known were Jefferson, Mill, Fayette, Madison, and Franklin. The east-west streets were Love, Bridge, Elizabeth, William, Washington and South.

William Street eventually became known as "The Pike," and is now Route 211. John Love was the first mayor of Buckland, and very early had plans to connect that town by highway with Alexandria. It is thought that about 1812 he managed to interest the Virginia state highway engineer in this project, and work was commenced to connect Buckland with the Little River Turnpike about a mile south of Fairfax, and thus on to Alexandria. Much slave labor was used in this work, and a road 20 feet wide was paved with loose rocks in the middle, with an earth road on either side. This work was finished about 1824, and possibly was continued to Warrenton at the same time. Stone House near the Manassas Battlefield was built as an office during this work.

On Lots Nos. 3 or 4 on Mill Street, there still stands a stone

building, originally covered with stucco, and with some frame structures at the back. This was a wagon tavern, built before 1825, but by whom we do not know. Here before its doors would come four and six horse bell teams, with goods from or to Alexandria. The horses would be taken out and fed from long boxes on the sides of the wagons, and the drivers, after a hearty supper in the tavern, would stretch out in their wagons to sleep, for the tavern did not furnish any beds for travelers.

In the spring of 1825, the tavern saw a distinguished visitor enter its doors, it being no less than General Lafayette. Coming to the United States in 1824, he spent a year in this country, and now, before he sailed for France, he went from Washington to Charlottesville to visit his old friends Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. He then started for Loudoun County to see James Monroe, but being overtaken by darkness had to spend the night in Warrenton. Next morning, accompanied by members of several civic organizations, he started for Oak Hill, the home of James Monroe, and at Buckland was met by little girls who strew flowers in his path, and being invited to the tavern, was honored by several ladies who read poems they had written in his praise. Continuing onward by way of the Carolina Road, he passed through Haymarket.

Lot No. 29 was purchased by William Brooks on February 26, 1812 and on this he erected a large still. Anne Royall, writing under the name of "Paul Fry," stated that she visited Buckland in 1830, and while there, saw the "Largest still and the most perfect gentlemen she had ever seen anywhere." Perhaps Anne was right.

At one period, Fauquier County thought that the boundary line between herself and Prince William County should be Broad Run, which of course would have brought Buckland within Fauquier territory. Such a vigorous protest however came from Prince William that the idea was given up.

Lot No. 6 was purchased in 1825 by John Trone, who on Sundays was a preacher but on week days was a blacksmith. In the sixties, he was too old to fight, but did his bit for the Confederacy in his little shop by the roadside. One day, a Federal officer rode up and demanded that his horse be shod but was curtly refused. "This horse is going to be shod, by God" he shouted, to which the blacksmith quickly retorted "Maybe God will shoe your horse but John Trone will not." So the Federal rode away, without having received either divine or human aid.

In 1861, when Northern troops began to come through Fairfax, concern was felt for the safety of Genral Washington's will on file in the Court House. Mrs. Martha A. Moss, the wife of the clerk of the Circuit Court, finally hid the will in her clothing and went to her home in Buckland, where she carefully secreted it for a time, but later, it is said to have been taken

to Richmond for safe keeping. After the close of the war, the will was returned to the courthouse at Fairfax, where it now reposes.

No history of Buckland would be complete without some reference to the humorously styled "Buckland Races." It seems that on October 19, 1863, General H. J. Kilpatrick's cavalry and infantry, just east of Broad Run, were being held in position by General J. E. B. Stuart, with Hampton's division, when General Fitzhugh Lee suggested that Stuart withdraw towards Warrenton and allow him to fall in behind Kilpatrick. Attacked both in front and flank, Kilpatrick's force fled precipitously eastward, though General George A. Custer's brigade did not follow; part towards Haymarket pursued by Stuart and part towards Gainesville, Pursued by Fitzhugh Lee. As expressed by one writer, "it was a race like a fox chase for five miles." Some 250 prisoners and 8 or 10 ambulances were taken, including one in which was Custer's baggage and correspondence.

.....By Charles J. Gillies
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