ECHOES of PIONEER AMERICA SOCIETY HISTORY

VOLUME III, No. 6 November 1973

# Buckland, Prince William County, Virginia

*By Martha Leitch,*
*A Buckland Resident*

Every county, every city, and every village has its own tale to tell. Buckland is no exception. It has its share of stories, humorous and otherwise. It is located in the upper end of the county in what has been called the "Pinch William" area. It is on Broad Run which has played a very important part in its history. It is split down the middle by the old Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike (now Lee Highway, Rt. 29-211) and is touched on the west by the old Carolina Road. It is three and one-half miles west of Gainesville.

Buckland is said to have been known as "Deer Lick" before it was named Buckland in 1798. There were twenty houses and a mill established there at the time it was officially named Buckland.

A well-established tradition attributes the name of Buckland to the architect, William Buckland, who is said to have built a house there for Samuel Love. Love was so impressed with the young builder

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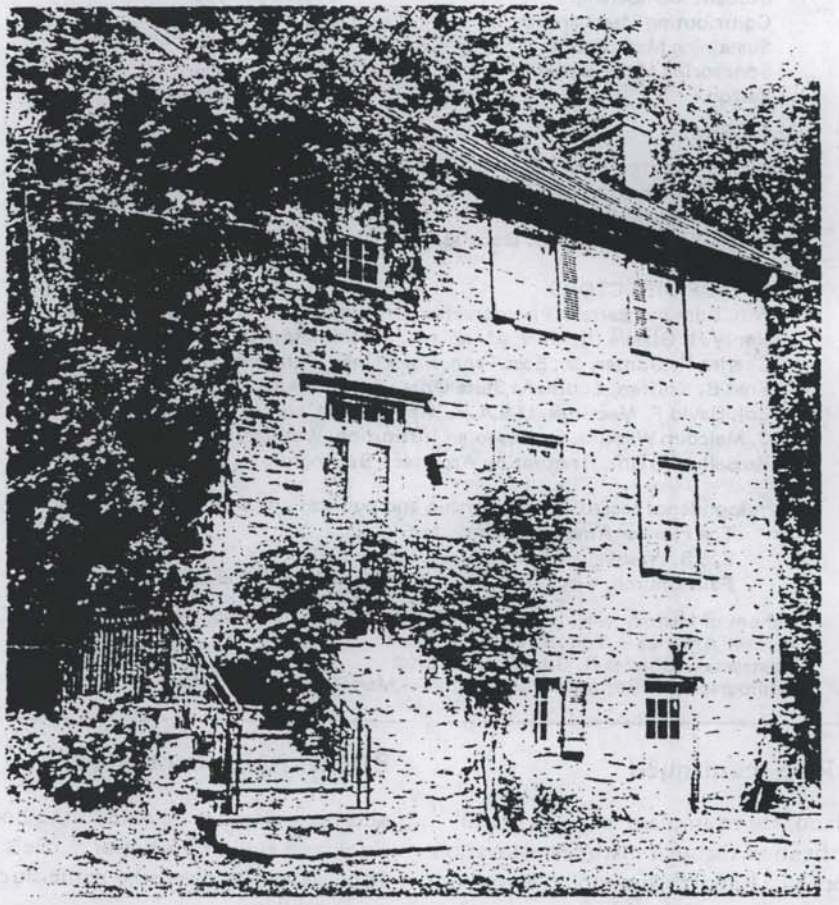

Buckland Tavern is the outstanding landmark of the village and is what one always sees when driving by. (Photo 1971, courtesy Mrs. Leitch)

## Society Receives Local History Award

"For major contributions in the field of state and local history," the Pioneer America Society has been awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the American Association for State and Local History.

The AASLH Awards Program is designed to establish and encourage ever-increasing standards of excellence for state and local history. By focusing attention on excellent achievements by persons and organizations in the field, it hopes to inspire others to give that extra bit of care, thought, and effort to their own projects.

Each year the Association's Annual Awards Committee seeks out, studies, and evaluates outstanding achievements in state and local history in the United States and Canada. With the aid of a network of state, provincial, and regional chairmen, new and promising ideas and innovations are carefully noted. The programs of historical societies, historic preservation groups, history museums, and junior historian organizations are examined. The Committee reviews the skill with which authors research and reinterpret history at state, county, and local level, and scrutinizes the activities of devoted individuals – seeking to learn who among them has achieved excellence in his work. No nomination is made except in the case of unusually meritorious work.

The inscription on the certificate reads: "Presented to Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Douglas for founding the Pioneer America Society which documents and explains every day life of Americans prior to the automobile age."

Awards were given to 82 organizations and individuals. Those in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia are:

1) Grand Opera House, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware, for preserving the Grand Opera House as a center for Delaware's performing arts.

2) Historic Annapolis, Inc., Annapolis,

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The Pioneer America Society, Inc., is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dues and contributions are tax deductible.

*Echoes of History* is published every other month; *Pioneer America* is published semi-annually; *Proceedings* annually. Members receive all publications.

Effective January 1, 1973, dues are as follows:

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| Individual Membership | $10.00 per year |
| Family Membership for two (includes one set of publications and one vote for each member) | $15.00 per year |
| Library Membership | $10.00 per year |
| Student Membership | $ 7.50 per year |
| Contributing Membership | $25.00 per year |
| Sustaining Membership | $50.00 per year |
| Sponsoring Membership | $100.00 per year |
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## AWARDS, continued

Maryland, for exemplary work in urban beautification through historic restoration.
3) Morris L. Radoff, Annapolis, Maryland, for outstanding scholarship in writing the book, *The State House of Annapolis.*
4) Parke Rouse, Jr., Williamsburg, Virginia, for his consistent interest in and publication of Virginia history.
5) "The Commonwealth," Richmond, Virginia, for its consistent publication of articles on all facets of Virginia's patrimony.

The AASLH was founded in 1940 and, since 1945, has been giving annual awards for outstanding local history work in the United States and Canada. The Awards Committee meets for two days prior to each annual meeting to make its final decisions.

The headquarters of the Association are at 1315 Eighth Ave., South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. The Director is Wm. T. Alderson. *History News* is published monthly and goes to all members. ●●

## BUCKLAND, continued

and his work that he named the house Buckland Hall in his honor. Love's son, John, later bestowed the name Buckland on the village.

Buckland's history has always been connected with mills. Samuel Love's will, written in 1785, reveals that he owned a water grist mill on Broad Run. In 1794 his sons, John and Charles, applied for water rights on Broad Run and erected what was known as Kinsley Mill (approximately one-half mile south of the Turnpike on Broad Run), together with a granary, nearby, with a miller's dwelling above it. An elevated wooden bridge connected the dwelling with the mill.

In 1797 John Love built a water grist mill and dam further upstream near land now owned by Harry Lee. At some date after 1835, a large woolen mill was established. A deed in 1847 refers to a large mill, being a frame building "three stories high and large factory 60 x 40 feet covered with slate, with the dye house recently erected and built of stone."

The mills disappeared, one by one, from various causes. The woolen mill was torn down about 60 years ago by the Calverts and the best wood in it was used to build the present mill at Buckland.

Once hailed as the "Lowell" of Prince William County because of the flourishing woolen mill, Buckland declined until it was described, by the Writers Program of the Works Project Administration, as a village "scattered over a sloping hill where filling stations and small tumbled-down old structures and the crumbling remains of Buckland Tavern mark the site of the old town."

There is no industry in the village now other than a combination grocery store and service station, a TV repair shop, and a saw sharpening service. The two last remaining old mills are silent, their great wheels gone, their interiors gutted of machinery.

My research does not yet go beyond Samuel Love, whose will indicates that he was a man of substance. He owned the water grist mill and 800 acres 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. In his household in 1785 were his wife Sarah, perhaps one or more of his four sons, John, Charles, Augustine, and Samuel, Jr., and two nieces for whom he made provisions in his will, stipulating that each should receive a horse and side saddle, ten pounds annually, and the shelter of his home until they were married. His will was probated in October 1787.

In October 1785 he was one of the commissioners appointed to set up a turn-

## PAS Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held on November 10, 1973, at the Mount Vernon Motor Inn, Charlottesville, Virginia. It was the best in every way — best attended, best presentations, greatest interest, and perfect weather. One hundred and fifty people attended, coming from fourteen states. Eleven colleges and universities were represented. The atmosphere of the meeting room was enhanced by approximately fifty enlarged photographs taken by Jack Jeffers who recently published *Windows to the Blue Ridge.*

A forthcoming Newsletter will carry a fuller report. ●●

pike between the roads leading from Snicker's Gap and Vestal's Gap into Alexandria, as the great number of wagons had rendered the roads impassable and the usual methods of keeping them in repair had proved not only insufficient but exceedingly burdensome. A toll of one shilling was set for wagons, loaded or unloaded; one shilling, six pence for four-wheeled riding carriages; and eight pence for two-wheeled chaise or chairs.

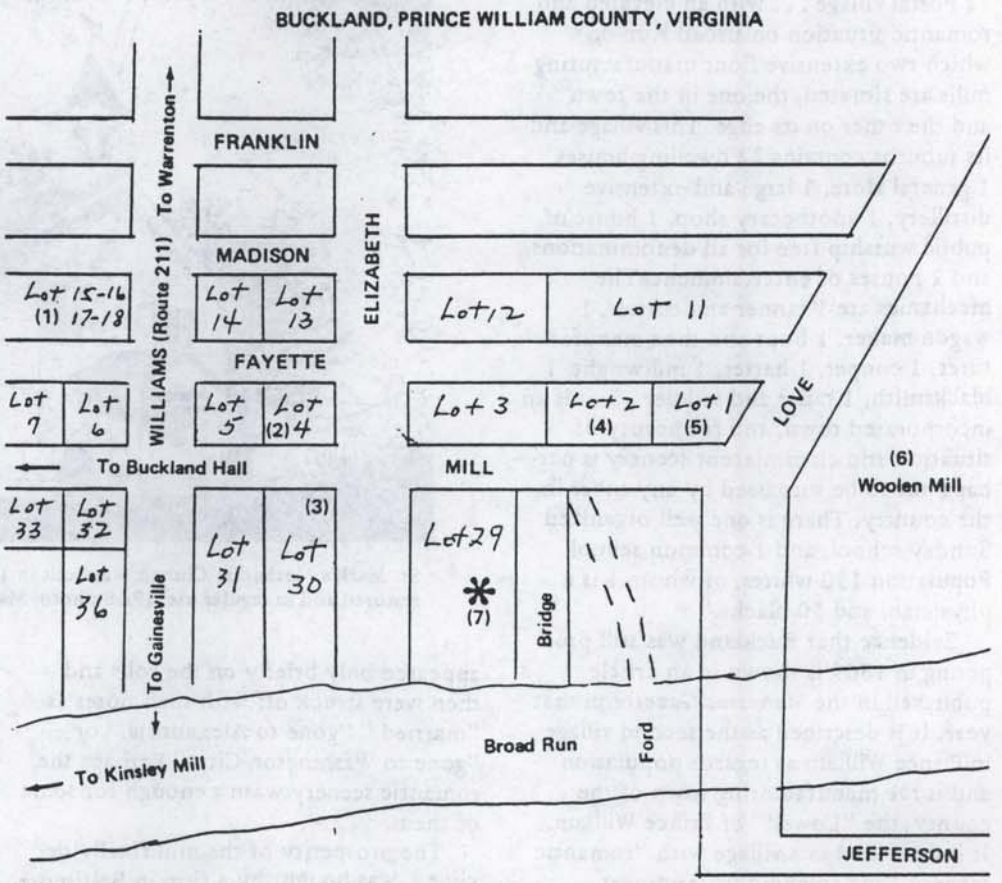
Samuel Love left Buckland Hall and 500 acres to his son John and 300 acres to Charles. Augustine was to receive five slaves and to have delivered to him annually ten barrels of Indian corn from the water mill for the term of his natural life. In a codicil, Love changed this to a more realistic bequest, stating that Augustine should receive annually the ten barrels of Indian corn only so long as the mill was running.

In 1797 John Love made application to condemn one acre of the lands of Richard Campbell on Broad Run for the purpose of an abutment for building a dam for a water grist mill which he proposed to build on his land opposite Campbell's. Permission was granted, thus indicating that at the time of the establishment of the town, there were at least two mills operating on Broad Run. This mill is thought to be near the quarry at Mrs. P. H. Lee's present home, upstream from Buckland.

In December 1797 a petition was sent to the House of Representatives requesting that a ". . . Law be enacted for the purpose of establishing a Town on the Lands of John Love in Prince William County on Broad Run, a Branch of the Occoquan River, near said Love's Mill, agreeable to the Plan of a Town herewith presented, and subject to the usual regulations, which Town we pray may be called Buck Land."

This very interesting document tells a great deal of the status of the village at that time:

"The ground is high and dry. The situation healthy and agreeable. There are two excellent springs of water and through it runs a never failing stream; contiguous to it are many quarries of red and white free stone proper for buildings of any description. Within the limits of the Town are already built upwards of Twenty good houses which are occupied by Tradesmen and Merchants; considerable manufactory's of grain have been erected, which are more than sufficiently supported by an extensive circle of an extremely fertile country.



*(Map courtesy Mrs. Nathalie Roberts)*

"Buckland is easy of access on all sides, and altho from the short time it has been a place of consequence, roads have not yet been properly opened, the necessary steps are now being taken for that purpose.

"Buck Land lies convenient to one of the best gaps in the lower ridge of mountains, thru which the roads from a very extensive part of the country must necessarily pass to go either to Dumfries or Alexandria. The road in the Straytest (sic) direction from Ashley's gap to Dumfries will pass thru Buck Land. The road called the Carolina road, leading from Nowlands Ferry on Potomac River to Norman's road, Rappahannock, is established to pass thru Buck Land and is found nearer and better than the former one."

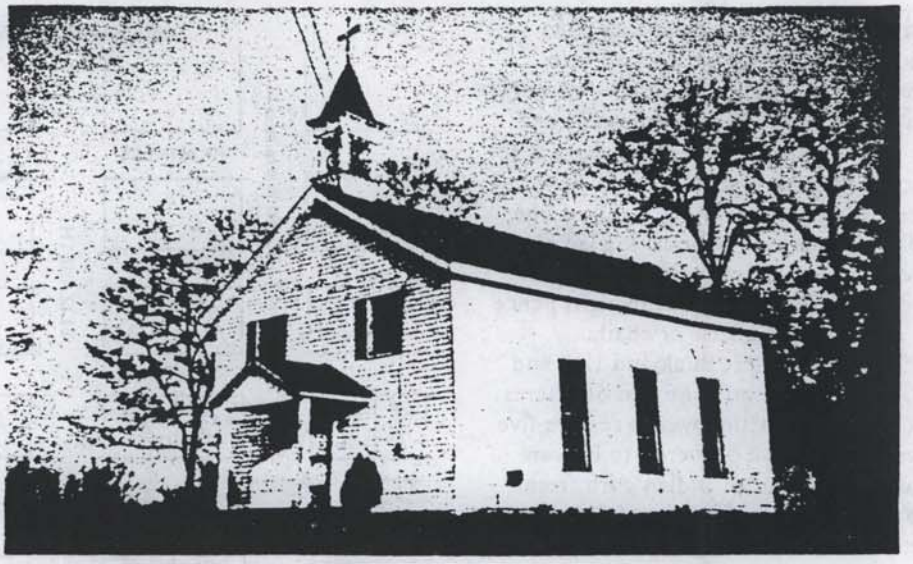
The petition had 55 signers, among them such names as Blackwell, Washington, Kincheloe, Sanders, Randolph, Campbell, Anderson, Gordon, and, of course, Love. Many of these names are still found in the area. Permission for the establishment of the town was granted in 1798 by the General Assembly.

In the mid-eighteenth century, 1749 to be exact, Dumfries bid fair to outstrip such ports as New York and Boston. It became the seat of Prince William County in 1762. By 1797, however, it was no longer designated as an official tobacco port, and had lost its importance in this respect. Silt began to clog Quantico Creek, preventing ships from reaching the Dumfries wharf, causing commerce to dwindle and ultimately obliterating the social and political activities of the town.

Perhaps John Love had all these factors in mind when he decided to lay out his land, the first inland town in Prince William County, the fourth town of seven established in the first century of the county. These seven were: Dumfries - 1749, Newport and Carrborough in 1787 and 1788, respectively. These two towns were adjoining Dumfries and neither materialized. Buckland was next - 1797, then Haymarket in 1799, followed by Occoquan in 1804.

In 1835, in *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia*, written and published by Joseph Martin, Buckland is described as

"a Postal village . . . with an elevated and romantic situation on Broad Run on which two extensive flour manufacturing mills are situated, the one in the town and the other on its edge. This village and its suburbs contains 22 dwelling houses, 1 general store, 1 large and extensive distillery, 1 apothecary shop, 1 house of public worship free for all denominations, and 2 houses of entertainment. The mechanics are 1 tanner and currier, 1 wagon maker, 1 boot and shoe manufacturer, 1 cooper, 1 hatter, 1 millwright, 1 blacksmith, 1 tailer and saddler . . . it is an incorporated town, and for beauty of situation and circumjacent scenery is perhaps not to be surpassed by any other in the country. There is one well organized Sunday school, and 1 common school. Population 130 whites, of whom 1 is a physician, and 50 blacks."



St. Mark's Methodist Church was built in 1854. Though it has suffered neglect, it is now restored and in regular use. (PAS photo, May 1971)

Evidence that Buckland was still prospering in 1869 is shown in an article published in the *Manassas Gazette* in that year. It is described as the second village in Prince William as regards population and is *the* manufacturing town of the county; the "Lowell" of Prince William. It is described as a village with "romantic scenery" and splendid water-power, consisting of about twenty houses. The woolen mill was the chief point of interest at that time, employing seventeen hands — having been since the war enlarged and refitted at great expense. Another story had been added to the old mill, and a large overshot waterwheel, 21 feet in diameter, put in at a cost of $1,500.00. It was said that this great wheel was so delicately balanced it could be turned with a finger. Before the Civil War, the mill was engaged in manufacturing the coarser cloths furnished to the slave population. Since the war it had gone into producing a grade of goods of a very superior quality varying in price from seventy-five cents to $1.50 per yard. Machinery to the amount of $7,000 had been recently placed in the mill. Among the rest, four new looms from Massachusetts costing $500 each. The article concludes with the wish that the attention of capitalists would be attracted to the county and that more communities like Buckland would spring up and give life and prosperity to the neglected agricultural interest of the county, particularly at Occoquan and Thoroughfare Gap.

That the woolen mill attracted many people is evidenced by the old church records showing a great number of single men, women and widows, some of whom appeared only briefly on the rolls and then were struck off with such notes as "married," "gone to Alexandria," or "gone to Washington City." Perhaps the romantic scenery wasn't enough for some of them.

The prosperity of the mill finally declined, was bought by a firm in Baltimore and, at last, ceased to operate. Nothing is left now but the foundations of it and the dye house. The grist mill built by the Calverts still stands, now idle, its wheel and machinery gone. The old wooden dam gave way a number of years ago during a spring thaw, the huge blocks of ice being too much for the rotted timbers. When the foundation for this mill was being built, the men digging found evidence of another very ancient foundation. At present this mill is being used as a stable for horses, having been converted by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Stuart, who now own the property and who live in the charmingly restored miller's cottage. This house was originally log and is beautifully situated, with its green lawns sloping down to Broad Run. Just south of this house stands what is commonly known as the "Moss House," now owned by Mr. Nathalie Roberts-McCarthy. There is evidence that it was owned in the early years by William Brooks who operated a large distillery in Buckland. During the Civil War it was owned by the Moss family. In 1861, when Northern troops began to come through Fairfax, concern was felt for the safety of General 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 kept it until it was sent to Richmond. After the close of the War, the will was returned to the Court House at Fairfax. The boxwood gardens of this home conceal almost all signs of the foundation of a storehouse that was originally operated by Samuel Love, Jr., next to the miller's cottage.

Directly across Mill Street from the Moss house, and bordering on Broad Run, is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Leitch, now called "Deerlick Cottage." It was once a combination dwelling, general store and bar. The whiskey was made on the premises, kept in barrels and ladeled out by dipper into jugs which the customers brought themselves. It adjoins the "Spring Lot" where one of Bucklands two good springs is still located, which probably explains why it was a good site for a still. A deed in 1812 refers to it as "Where the old still house was." William Brooks bought it and erected another still. Anne Royall, writing under the name of "Paul Pry," stated that she visited Buckland in 1830 and while there, saw the "largest still and the most perfect gentlemen she had ever seen anywhere."

In 1836, the property passed to William Brooks' heirs, at which time it had a storehouse and stable on it. In 1871 when the contents of the store were sold, it was described as containing ". . . dry-goods, boots, shoes, groceries, hardware and such merchandise as is usually kept in a country store." The postoffice was in this building at one time and the old bars are still there that were used to hold the shutters against thieves. The front door is

scarred with nails and tacks that were used to hold posters and advertisements in the olden days.

Just across the run from Deerlick Cottage was the home of Samuel King, of colour. His house, now long gone, stood right beside the road to Thoroughfare Gap at the ford. His widow, Cecelia, or "Cely," who later lived in a little two room log house in what is now the front yard of Deerlick Cottage, gave Buckland another claim to fame with her bread and pies, her horse cookies and homemade persimmon beer which she sold to travelers who passed her door. There is now a restaurant in Warrenton, Va., that is very proud of the fact that they have been making horse cookies since 1875. Buckland had them for sale prior to the Civil War.

"Cely" was one of the most faithful members in attendance at the Buckland Methodist Church. For years she was the only colored member to sit in the balcony provided in the church for members of her race. During the War she became fearful that the soldiers would rob her, so she took her money and valuables and buried them near her home. She died before she retrieved her treasure.

Just south of Deerlick Cottage on Mill Street is another fine old place restored by Mrs. Nathalie Roberts, with an addition put on by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Campbell. It has been the home of two of Buckland's doctors, Doctor Kerfoot and Dr. J. G. Brown. The office, still on the south side, is where the good doctors felt pulses, gave out pills, set broken bones, and performed operations.

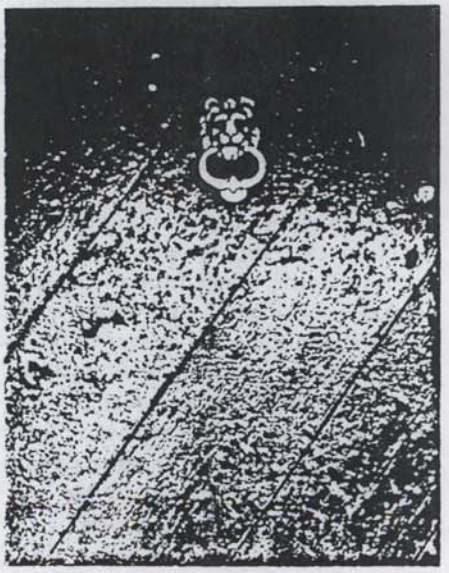
Directly across Mill Street from this house is Buckland Tavern. This is one of the earliest buildings and was originally a wagon tavern. Here would come four and six horse bell teams, carrying goods to and from Alexandria. The horses would be unhitched and fed from long boxes on the sides of the wagons, and the drovers, after a hearty supper in the tavern, would stretch out in their wagons to sleep as the tavern did not furnish beds for travelers. Originally it had only one room on each of its three floors. The Tavern has had its share of famous visitors, no less than three generals: General Washington, General LaFayette, and last *and* least, General Tom Thumb who had to sit on boxes to eat his dinner.

General LaFayette's visit was in August 1825. He was then an old man and had gone from Washington to Charlottesville to visit his friends Thomas Jefferson and James Madison before he sailed for France. He then started for Loudoun County to see James Monroe, but was overtaken by darkness and had to spend the night in Warrenton. Next morning he started for Monroe's home at Oak Hill. He was escorted with great ceremony by all the dignitaries of several counties, Colonel Monroe, Chief Justice Marshall, Congressman Fenton Mercer, and others, in a procession of open carriages, guarded by a troop of Fauquier Cavalry. The roadsides were lined with people, men calling greetings of welcome, women and children in white, throwing flowers in his path. At Buckland he was invited into the tavern for refreshments and 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. Some years ago a medal was found in this old road bed by Mr. Will Jordan. It was identified as a French medal and was probably lost by a member of LaFayette's guard. A diary of one of the French officers has been published in which he tells the story of the tour to Oak Hill and states that he lost his medal on that day.

Directly across William Street (the Turnpike) the small two-storied Trone house stands on the hillside. It was bought in 1825 by John Steadman Trone, who was a blacksmith through the week and, on Sunday, a licensed Lay Preacher, conducting services at the Buckland Methodist Episcopal Church; sometimes walking to Sudley to preach. He was instrumental in having the present church built on land donated in 1856 by Hugh Hite for that purpose.

The Leitch house, once site of a noted still, and now called "Deerlick" cottage by the Leitchs. (Photo September 1973, courtesy *Piedmont Virginian)*

In the sixties, John Trone was too old to fight, but he did his bit for the Confederacy in his little shop by the roadside where the boys in gray could have their horses shod without charge. One day, however, a Federal officer rode up and demanded that his horse be shod and was curtly refused. "This horse is going



The door of the Leitch house is pockmarked with nail holes from the posting of notices when the building served as a general store, bar, and post office. (Photo September 1973, courtesy *Piedmont Virginian)*

to be shod, by God," he shouted – to which the old blacksmith quickly retorted, "All right, if God will, but John Trone will not." So the Federal was forced to ride away without receiving aid, human or divine. John Trone and his wife, Delilah, are buried in the nearby churchyard of the place he served so well.

Behind his house, on a wooded hillside, can be seen the remains of the foundation of the little one-room school house. General Eppa Hunton in his autobiography tells of opening a school at Buckland in 1841 and mentions that five of Judge Tyler's sons were his students, while he himself was instructed in law by the judge. In later years the school only went as far as the 7th grade and was remembered by a late resident of the community as having a large pot-bellied stove in the center. The teacher called the students with a hand-bell. Water was obtained from a spring at the foot of the hill and the two little "necessary" houses out back were delicately referred to as "Garden Houses." One of its students, Clyde Glascock, became a professor at Yale University where the portrait of William Buckland is housed.

Still further south of the Pike, at the south end of Mill Street, is Buckland Hall, now owned by Thomas Mellon Evans of Pittsburgh and New York. This beautiful, well-kept house was restored in the 1940s by Mrs. Nathalie Harrison-Roberts, who inherited it from her father. At that time it was a part of the Harrison-Vint Hill Farms estate. Buckland Hall was owned in 1822 by Temple Washington, who sold it in 1853 to Major Richard Bland Lee, a nephew of Light Horse Harry Lee. It remained in the Lee family until recent years.

On a high hill, overlooking Broad Run from the east, sheltered by ancient oaks, is Cerro Gordo (named for an engagement in the Mexican War). As I understand it, it was not in the town proper in the old days, but it is a part of the Buckland story. The original house burned some years ago and has been replaced by the present one, built of stone quarried on the place. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Brewster.

Cerro Gordo, once the home of the Huntons, served as headquarters for officers of both sides during the Civil War. During one siege in Buckland, the Federals were entrenched at Cerro Gordo, with a cannon mounted in the front yard, aimed at the Confederate troops across the Run. The Rebels fired up the hill and the shell went into the dining room and exploded in the wall. Later, Jeb Stuart pulled it out of the wall and handed it to the Hunton's who preserved it for many years. The Hunton family usually went into the cellar when the fighting was at its worst, while the villagers below took refuge in the mill.

North of Cerro Gordo is Falkland Farms, cut out of the original 2039 acres of Cloverland. Tradition says this was the home of Nick Carter, a wild-riding, accurate-shooting, vicious young man. Carter, in an unwelcome and unsuccessful attempt to win the hand of the beautiful Annie Hunton, at Cerro Gordo, presented her with a handsome mare. Annie's father, of course, said he could not allow her to accept the gift. Carter promptly pulled out his gun and said he would shoot the animal. Hunton, knowing Carter was capable of doing just that, could not bear to see such a beautiful horse destroyed so he accepted it for his daughter.

Carter was described as a very handsome man with a mildly deceptive manner. In a restaurant, right after the war, he overheard some soldiers discussing him. One said he'd like to meet Carter and see if he was a killer as he was described. Nick got up, walked over to the man, said "I'll introduce you." He then drew his gun and shot him.

Finally, with a price on his head, wanted dead or alive (but mostly dead), he escaped to Texas. It has been said that he served as the inspiration for the Nick Carter Dime Novel Series.

Because of its mills, Buckland was a target for both sides during the Civil War and was the scene of several encounters. Solders were in and around Buckland all during the war, but most of them wore blue uniforms, with the exception of Mosby's Rangers and the Confederate armies brought into the territory by several campaigns.

The most widely known of these campaigns was humorously named "The Buckland Races" by Jeb Stuart and was an engagement between Stuart's Cavalry forces and General Kilpatrick during the Bristow Campaign.

On the morning of October 19, 1863, the Federals advanced toward Buckland Mills. General Custer, in his report, said "At daybreak, my brigade took the advance and skirmished with the enemy's cavalry from Gainesville to Buckland, where I found him strongly posted upon the south bank of Broad Run . . . I succeeded in turning his left flank so completely as to force him from his position. Having driven him more than a mile from the stream, I threw out my pickets and ordered my men to prepare their dinner. From the inhabitants of Buckland, I learned that the forces of the enemy with whom we had been engaged were commanded by General Jeb Stuart in person, who, at the time of our arrival, was seated at the dinner table eating, but owing to my successful advance, he was compelled to leave his dinner untouched, a circumstance not regretted by that portion of my command into whose hands it fell."

What Custer did not know was that Stuart's retreat was part of a preconceived plan as shown by this report of General Robert E. Lee:

"General Stuart, with Hampton's division, retired slowly toward Warrenton, in order to draw the enemy in that direction, thus exposing the enemy's flank and rear to General Fitz Lee, who moved from Auburn and attacked him near Buckland. As soon as General Stuart heard the sound of Lee's guns, he turned upon the enemy, who, after a stubborn resistance, broke and fled in confusion, pursued by General Stuart, nearly to Haymarket and by Fitz Lee to Gainesville."

The Federals lost over 300 men in the action, many of them drowned in the stream near Fitz Lee's forces. Some 200 were taken prisoner. Several wagons and ambulances were captured including the Headquarters wagon of General Custer – which must have been embarrassing.

As you can see – Buckland has lived through many phases. We, in the community, feel that it is beginning a new era

The old grist mill at the end of Mill St. now serves as a stable (Photo September 1973, courtesy *Piedmont Virginian)*

# Early Times in the Shenandoah Valley

**PART II. Continuation of July 8, 1973, interview by H. H. Douglas with Fred Painter and Gary Bauserman.**

[Fred was your father born on this place?]

Fred

No. He was seven years old when they moved here from Painter's Fort. Grandfather died here in 1880. He is buried in the little cemetery across the road. Father lived here all his life until he fell dead on November 23, 1909. He is buried in the Massanutten Cemetery in Woodstock because the little cemetery here was full. The cemetery here is full even though not more than half of the graves are now marked in any way. Lots of the stones have disappeared while many of the graves may never have been marked.

Grandfather carried on the same basic economy here as he had at Painter's Fort. He made his own fertilizer He would buy a little acid, and he saved all his chicken manure. In the winter time he would spread that out over the barn floor and let it dry thoroughly. Then one of us kids would get on the horse and we'd walk the horse all over it, stomping it good, until it got quite fine. The layer would be about three inches thick. After it was tramped with the horse, he'd use a flail like he was thrashing grain. Then he'd take a fine screen and sift the whole thing. He'd then mix this, right on the barn floor, with any other fertilizer he could get. Sometimes he'd buy some rock phosphate ground fine. When it was all mixed, he'd bag it up and haul it to the field to be spread with a drill.

That made right good fertilizer if you had good chicken manure with a lot of nitrogen in it. He saved everything from the other animals, too. A man down the road had chickens but didn't use the manure, so we got his. We never used bone meal in my time.

Gary

Many people over in Page County used to take all their bones to the mill to have them ground. Then when their corn got up knee high they'd put a teaspoonful on each hill of corn.

Fred

I remember a bone mill, but there they ground them up for chickens, same as they did with oyster shells. Chickens need small hard stuff both to help "grind" up their food after they've swallowed it, and to have plenty of lime to form the egg shells. They "picked their grit" from the ground bones, or from a load of sand we'd put in the chicken house or yard.

We used to haul lime from the lime kiln near here and dump it in piles on the road. Then we'd take a shovel and spread it. When the wind kicked up, as it frequently did, you'd get that lime all over you, and it'd take the skin right off.

[You're supposed to keep on the lee side in a situation like that.]

I know, but you can't always do that.

We whitewashed the barn and all the outbuildings. Hot summer is a good time to whitewash. Then you might get a big brush on your head and some of it would get in your eyes. It was worse in your eye – a little skin didn't amount to nothin'.

My cousin once got a bucket of whitewash down over his head. He lost an eye as a result of that.

[You were born on this place?]

Yes, and all my family. Father (Robert T. Painter) married Ada Susan Hamman about 1880, just about when grandfather died.

I was born August 30, 1899. I'm the baby of the family – three sisters and one brother. None of them are still living. Myself and one cousin (of Isaac's people) are the only ones left.

[Why don't you tell us some of your early impressions and personal experiences here?]

I might go to jail for that.

[We won't tell the bad part.]

I doubt if there was ever anyone wilder or more reckless than I was. There wasn't anything I wouldn't do, short of committing murder or stealing. We had some of the fastest horses around. For this side of the mountain I held the record for long distance swimming in the river. I don't know what the record over in Page County was. On a Sunday afternoon I swam three and one-half miles on a dare, right down here in the river. I went upstream and then came down. There were lots of such things I could tell you about.

We had some people living right down here at the lime kiln. They were very undesirable, shooting and fighting all the time.

After a while they moved to another house. It wasn't what they thought it would be so they decided to move back. When they got there, there was no floor in the house.

[You had nothing to do with it?]

Of course not. It just caved in, fell down. They didn't come back. There were numerous little things like that. I thought it was a community improvement.

[Did your father know anything about it?]

No, my father died when I was nine years old. I grew up in the rough. I resented my older brother telling me what to do. I was the baby. I started school here in 1906. They needed me at home in 1915 and that was the end of

Fred Painter at the rear of the Fry-Dosh house in Woodstock, February 1973, as the old log house was being torn down for the construction of a First Virginia Bank. (PAS photo)

## BUCKLAND, continued

with the building of new houses, the restoration of the old ones and – for our spiritual guidance and inspiration, the reactivation of St. Luke's Church.

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The information that I have been able to put together about Buckland has come from various sources: the Library of Congress and D.A.R. Library in Washington,D.C., the Archives of the Virginia State Library at Richmond, the Prince William County Land Records and Library, newspaper articles, the older residents of the community, and the Reverend Melvin Lee Steadman, Jr. ●●

*In the January issue we will have articles on William Buckland and Buckland Hall, as well as on Buckland Tavern. – Ed.*