

C. T.

UPSHUR

① This letter from William Kendrick U, Sr. to C. T. U. was in a packet sent about 1980 to KAU by Eda Belle Jenter
December 8, 1965

Mr. C. T. Upshur
Leland, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Upshur:

I am very sorry that I had to be out of the city on the day you visited Montgomery en route to Selma, Alabama.

A cousin of mine, Mrs. Martha Tidd, whose husband is in charge of the Children's Psychiatric Department of UCLA, has been making quite a study of the history of the Upchurch Family. I have also accumulated a tremendous amount of information from Mrs. Belle West of Detroit, Michigan, and from the Upchurch Family in North Carolina. At the present time I have several complete folders on the family and its connections but have not had an opportunity as yet to assemble and put into readable form.

In this morning's mail I had a long letter from Mrs. Tidd based on a study which she has made at the Library at Oxford University, England. In this letter she gives her opinion that the first Michael Upchurch, who came to America in 1652, probably married a daughter of Nicholas Ferrar, who was one of the Governors of the Virginia Company, the people who originally had the job of colonizing Virginia.

It may take some time, but before long I want to try to tabulate the information I have concerning our family. As I understand it, your branch of the family left Virginia following the Bacon Rebellion when the land grant was recalled by the King of England, and part of your family settled in West Virginia and part in Texas.

I would be happy to confer with you whenever we can get together.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,

W. K. Upchurch

ZERABABEL

UPSHUR

○ SEE CENSUS INDEX FILE - COMPUTER OUTPUT PRIMARILY
FOR 1850 & 1860 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS. DOCUMENT
PROVIDED IN LTR 5 DEC 1999 MARGARET LOUISE HARRIS
TO RPA

UPCHUR, ZERABABEL

ACCOMACK CO.

VA 126

ST. GEORGE PARISH

1850

CROSSFILE: Zerababel Upshur
Zerababel Upshur ¹
Zerababel Upshur

[Probably not an Upshur - RPA]

SPENCER

UPSHUR

NC DIVORCE LISTINGS FOR UPCHURCH COUPLES

1958-2004 - COUNTY OF DIVORCE = ONSLOW

△	Tyrone Upchurch	Denise Upchurch	4 Jun 1982	Onslow
△	<u>Spencer Upshur</u>	Cheryl Upshur	13 Sep 1996	Onslow
△	Lisa Upchurch	△ Frederick Upchurch	21 Jul 1989	Onslow

DR. THOMAS T. UPSHUR
3105 Cranehill Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Mr. R.P. Upchurch
PO Box 387
Wentzville, MO, 63385

10/29/95

Dear Mr. Upchurch,

Apologies are in order for my tardiness in answering your letter of September 12th. I was in Ireland trying to locate information about my mother's side of my family. No luck, as most of the old records were destroyed when the Parliament building was burned in 1922 during one of the uprisings of "the Troubles".

The relationship between the Upchurchs and Upshurs is something that I haven't been alerted to until your interesting letter came while I was overseas. It is certainly possible. Our main investigation has been between the Upcher family around Essex and our ancestor Arthur Upshur. My grandfather corresponded with the then head of the Upchers in Sheringham and they could not go back beyond the early to middle Sixteens in either family. We would be happy to find an Upchurch relationship if one existed. Our supposition has been about the possibility of a connection between Upshaw and Upshur.

I applaud your effort to keep your family in contact by a news letter. The Upshaw Family does the same. We need someone to do the same for us. The nearest thing for us is to have a get-together every three years of one branch involving about sixty to seventy, young and old. We older members hope the newer generations will see the benefit of passing on the family traditions of where we came from in England.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Tom Upshur IV

Dr. Thomas T. Upshur, IV
Mr. Robert I. Upshur
September 12, 1995

The above mentioned advances were facilitated by Professor David R. Ransome who was researching the Ferrar Papers in which the Michael Upchurch letters were preserved. We have engaged Professor Ransome to do an additional increment of research this fall in England with the specific objective of learning more about the ancestors of Michael Upchurch. To this end we have obligated \$1000.00 - not much, but a lot for us. The chances for progress are uncertain.

If you would like to have the copies of the UPCHURCH BULLETIN in which the above matters are reported, I will gladly provide them.

Most of my family history effort is concentrated on sorting out the thousands of descendants of Michael Upchurch leaving little time for work on his ancestors in England. I have enjoyed two visits to Huntingdonshire over the past two decades.

I would be pleased to know the status of any effort to learn more about the ancestors of Arthur Upcher (Upshur) and would hope that we could pool any information obtained on the English scene.

Congratulations on the second edition of Upshur Family In Virginia. It is a fine book.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Phillip Upchurch, Editor
UPCHURCH BULLETIN

RPU:s
Enclosures

REC'D
3 MAR 1995

Mrs. JOHN A. UPSHUR
DRUMMONDS MILL FARM
BOX 356
ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA 23301
February 28, 1995

Dr. Robert P. Upchurch
P. O. Box 387
Wentzville, MO 63385

Dear Dr. Upchurch:

In reply to your letter of February 21, the addresses requested are:

Dr. Thomas T. Upshur IV
3105 Cranwhill Drivw
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Tel: 804 304 2156

Mr. Robert I. Upshur
1631 Tanglewood Rd.
Columbia, S.C. 29204

tel: 803 256 8985

As you know, these brothers, cousins of my husband, edited and brought up to date, 1993, the second edition of Upshur Family in Virginia.

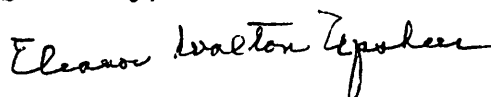
died 1993.

My husband, who had not had any success in establishing a link between Arthur Upshur, Immigrant to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the Upchers of Essex County, England.

Last summer, Dr. Thomas T. Upshur was in England, and reported no success from his brief and limited research. I regret that I am unable to be more helpful.

I should be very interested in any information you may have discovered which links the Upchurch and Upshur families.

Sincerely,



Mrs John A. Upshur

Upshur

Upshur

married Emma Degen Tyng, daughter of the Rev. James H. Tyng, in Morristown, N. J. There were nine children, of whom the youngest became an architect. Upjohn died in Brooklyn, survived by five sons and three daughters.

[*Who's Who in America*, 1901-02; *Proc. . . . Am. Institute of Architects . . . 1903*, vol. XXXVII (1904); *Am. Architect and Building News*, Mar. 14, 1903; *Am. Art Ann.*, 1903; R. M. Upjohn, *The State Capitol, Hartford, Conn.* (1886); obituaries in *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Mar. 3, and *Evening Post* (N. Y.), Mar. 4, 1903; family records, office drawings and records in the possession of Upjohn's son, Hobart B. Upjohn of New York.]

T. F. H.

UPSHUR, ABEL PARKER (June 17, 1791-Feb. 28, 1844), jurist, cabinet officer, publicist, one of twelve children of Littleton Upshur and Ann (Parker) Upshur, and a descendant of Arthur Upshur who settled on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in the seventeenth century, was born in Northampton County, Va. His father, a Federalist member of the Virginia legislature of 1809, voted against the resolutions thanking Jefferson for his services to the country and later served as a captain in the War of 1812. Abel Upshur studied at the College of New Jersey (Princeton) until his expulsion as a participant in a student rebellion in 1807 and then continued his studies at Yale, but did not graduate. After reading law in the office of William Wirt of Richmond, he began practice in that city. In 1812-13 he was a member of the House of Delegates from his native county, and served again in that capacity, 1825-27. He was also a member of the Virginia constitutional convention of 1829-30, in which he was an opponent of the proposed democratic changes in the constitution. He denied the existence of any original principles of government, insisting instead that the interests and necessities of the people determined the principles of government (*Proceedings and Debates*, post, p. 69). He rejected the theory of "natural law," maintaining that the only natural law was "the law of force . . . the only rule of right" (*Ibid.*, p. 67). From 1826 to 1841, he was a member of the supreme court of Virginia, and in politics he was associated with the extreme state-rights, proslavery group.

In September 1841, Upshur was appointed secretary of the navy by President Tyler, and in 1843 he succeeded Webster as secretary of state. An ardent advocate of the annexation of Texas as vital to the security of the South, he reopened negotiations with that republic, but they were interrupted by his death in the explosion of a gun on board the battleship *Princeton*, and were completed by his successor, Calhoun.

A particularistic jurist and planter-philosopher of Tidewater Virginia, Upshur often ex-

pressed his views upon slavery, government, and banks. The South constituted, in his opinion, the only bulwark of conservatism in America against the rising tide of agrarianism, leveling democracy, and all the *isms* of the free North. "It is clear," he wrote pessimistically, "that in this country Liberty is destined to perish a suicide. . . . And perish when she may, I am much deceived if her last entrenchment, her latest abiding place, will not be found in the slave holding states" ("Domestic Slavery," *Southern Literary Messenger*, October 1839). Law, and not the principle of numerical majority, he held to be the basis of liberty—a juridical conception. In a letter to his intimate friend, Judge Beverley Tucker, commenting upon Dorr's Rebellion, Upshur wrote: "This is the very madness of democracy, and a fine illustration of the workings of the majority principle" (Tyler, post, II, 198). His pamphlet, *A Brief Enquiry into the True Nature and Character of our Federal Government* (1840), a review of Story's *Commentaries*, was regarded by his friends as a complete refutation of the nationalistic theory of the Constitution. It was reprinted in 1863 by Northern Democrats as a means of setting forth the political philosophy of the Confederacy (Adams, post, p. 77). In an address (1841) before the literary societies of the College of William and Mary upon "The True Theory of Government," Upshur rejected almost *in toto* the natural rights philosophy, characterizing it as one that "overlooks all social obligations, denies the inheritable quality of property, unfrocks the priest, and laughs at the marriage tie" (*Southern Literary Messenger*, June 1856, p. 410). A supporter of banks, he opposed the requirement of specie as the basis of credit and also opposed laws which declared banks insolvent when unable to redeem their notes in specie. "A bank," he wrote, "without a single dollar in specie, yet having good notes of others, equal to its own notes outstanding, and its other indebtedness, is perfectly solvent, and entitled to credit" (*A Brief Enquiry into the True Basis of the Credit System*, 1840, p. 11). He furthermore urged the minimum regulation of banks, believing that the "general law of the land, the common law . . . affords ample means . . . of keeping them within proper limits" (*Ibid.*, p. 20).

Upshur was married twice: first, to Elizabeth Dennis, and second, in 1826, to his cousin, Elizabeth Upshur; she, with their daughter, survived him.

[C. H. Ambler, *Thomas Ritchie, A Study in Virginia Politics* (1913); T. H. Benton, *Thirty Years' View*, vol. II (1856); J. P. Kennedy, *Memoirs of the Life of William Wirt* (1849), I, 399; Niles' *National*

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York 1936

VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK

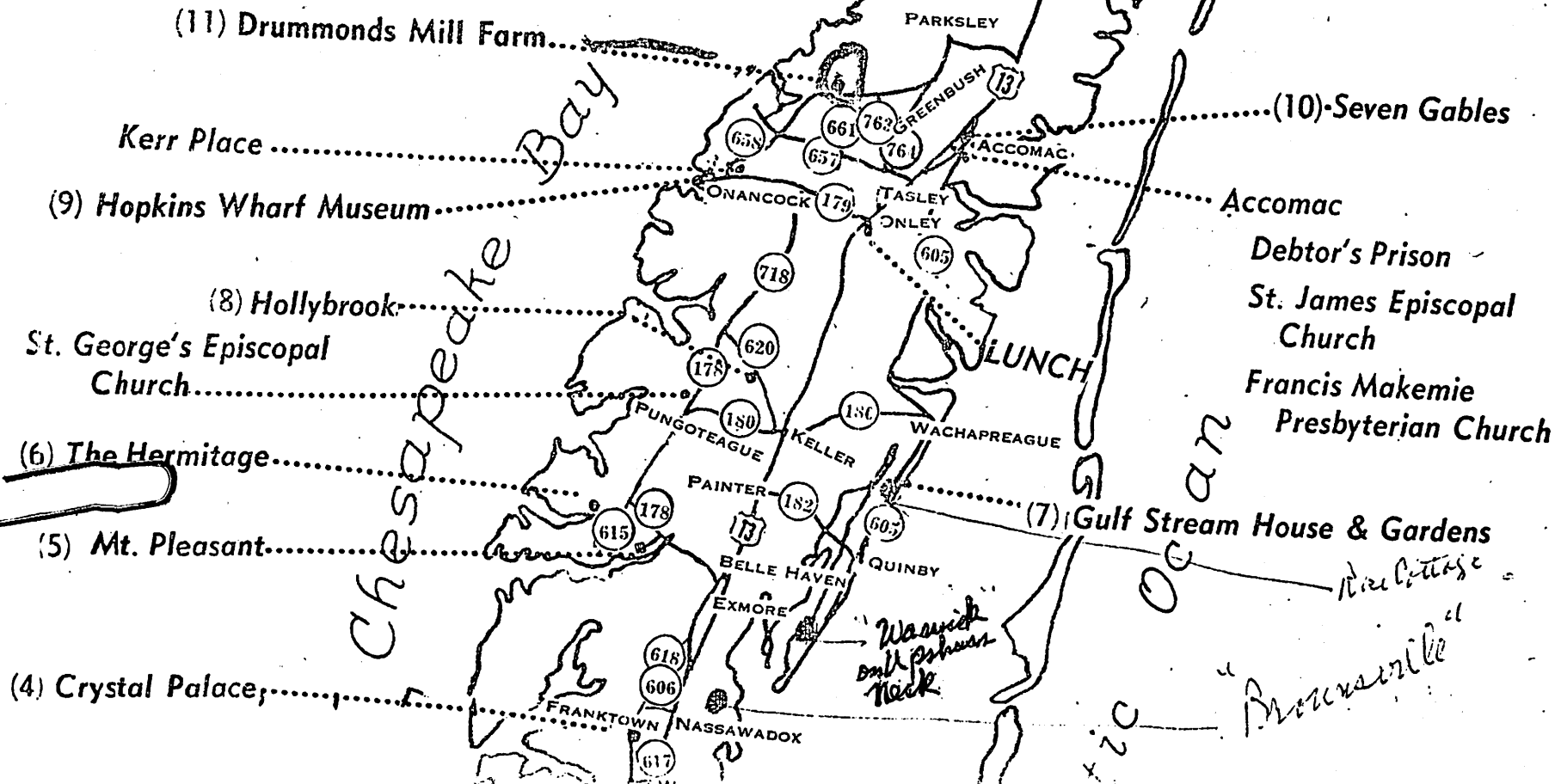
ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

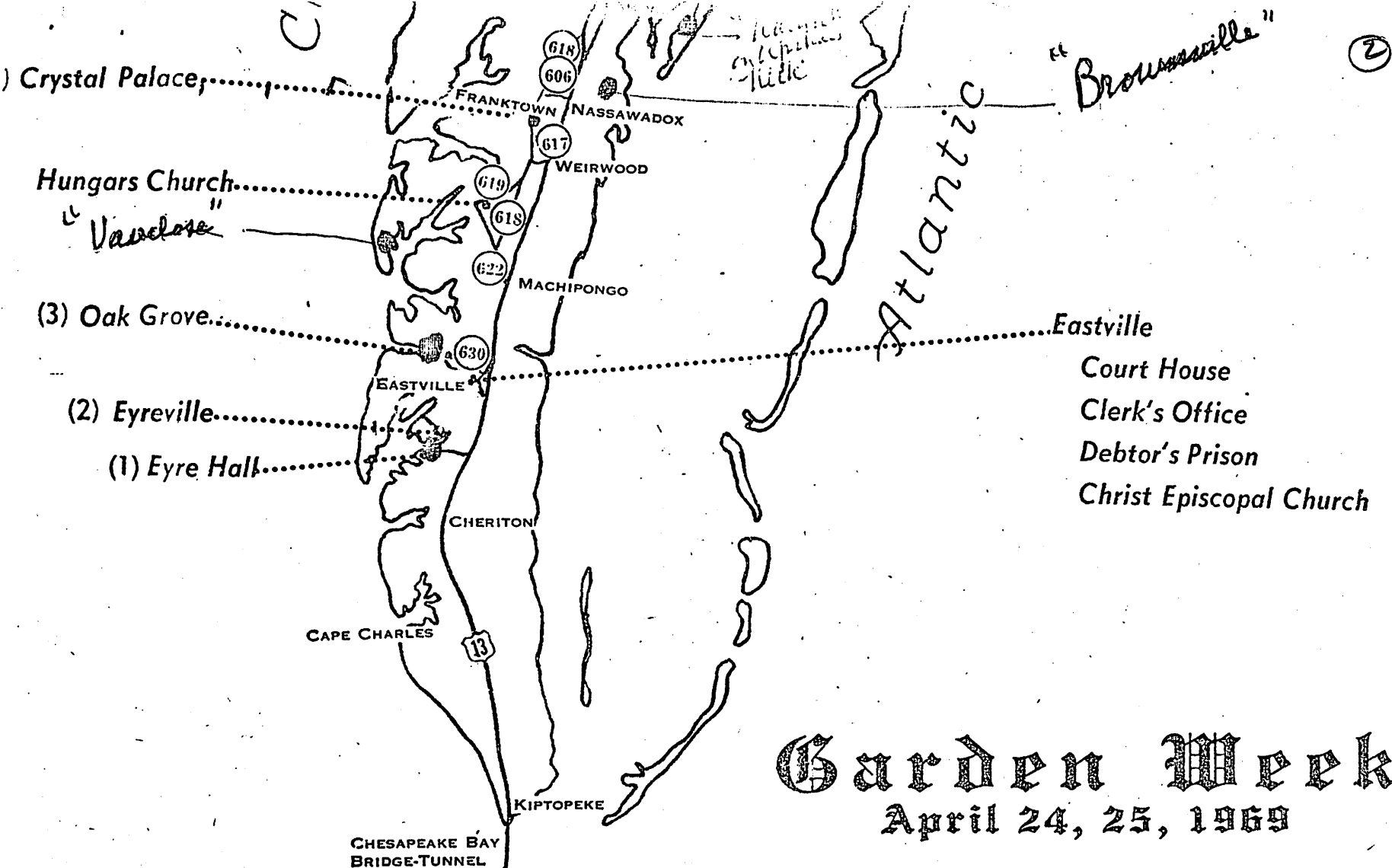
April 24 and 25, 10 AM to 5 PM

Supplement to THE EASTERN SHORE NEWS

ONANCOCK, VIRGINIA

3 APR 1969





Garden Week

April 24, 25, 1969

EYRE HALL
 ¼ miles north of Cheriton. Turn west off Route 13, follow arrows one mile.

EYREVILLE
 Approximately 2½ miles north of Cheriton. Turn west off Route 13 onto Route 633.

OAK GROVE
 Turn west at Eastville. Follow to center of town. Turn north and one mile north of Eastville turn east on Route 630, follow arrows 2½ miles to entrance.

CRYSTAL PALACE
 From Route 13 turn west at blinker light in Nassawadox on Route 606. At first cross road turn left on Route 618 to Franktown (approximately 1½ miles from Route 13 to Franktown).

MT. PLEASANT
 Turn west from Route 13 at Belle Haven (Route 181) and then onto Route 178. Follow Route 178 and arrows about 2½ miles to entrance.

THE HERMITAGE
 Turn west from Route 13 at Belle Haven (Route 181) and then onto Route 178. Follow Route 178 to Route 613 (3½ miles approximately), turn left onto Route 613, then right onto Route 615. Follow arrows.

HOLLYBROOK
 Turn west from Keller off Route 13 onto Route 180. Turn right at first road (1404) to Route 620. Follow Route 620 and arrows to entrance.

GULF STREAM
 Proceed from Route 13 to Wachapreague. Follow arrows.

HOPKINS WHARF MUSEUM
 Turn west from Route 13 onto Route 179 and proceed one mile to Onancock. Located at foot of Market Street and at head of Onancock Creek. Follow arrows.

SEVEN GABLES
 Turn east from Route 13 to Accomac. Follow arrows.

DRUMMONDS MILL FARM
 Turn west from Route 13 to Greenbush (Route 764). Follow arrows about 1½ miles.

- Eastville
- Court House
- Clerk's Office
- Debtor's Prison
- Christ Episcopal Church

A Discovery at The Hermitage

By Amine C. Kellam

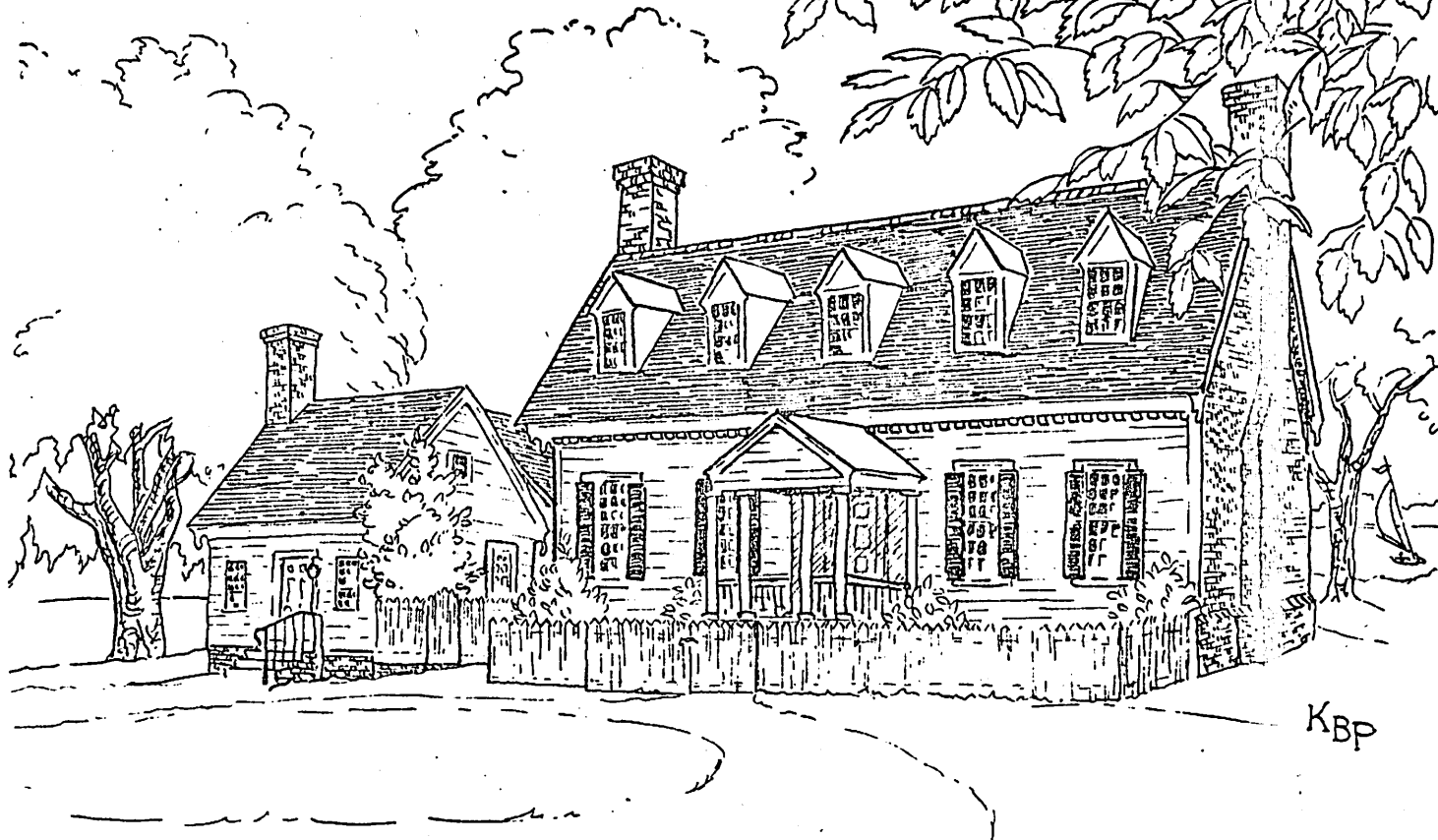
Not everyone who restores an old house is so pleasantly surprised as was Mrs. Charles Mountcastle of the Hermitage. Under a layer of late 19th-century wallpaper not one but two documentary 18th-century wall-papers were found. Their discovery was made by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Upshur who in 1954 were making frequent trips from Williamsburg to the Shore. Mr. Upshur's many years spent with the Restoration had increased his interest in old houses; they had thoughts of restoring an 18th-century house if they could find one which appealed to them. (Later they did this at Drummonds Mill.) In their wanderings off the beaten paths, they came to the Hermitage, a neglected old house suffering from dust, trash, and mildew, located in the middle of a potato field.

They were quickly aware of the beauty and dignity of this abandoned place; they noted with interest its beautiful hand carving and its wide swinging doors. Both were attracted to the wallpaper in the drawing room, hanging, as Mr. Upshur now says, "in festoons from the sidewalls." The design appealed to Mrs. Upshur, and they took a sample back to Williamsburg. Closer examination revealed that there were three thicknesses of paper and that pieces of plaster were adhering firmly to the back of the underneath paper. They noted that this was a handmade paper clearly showing laid and chain marks. The great problem was to remove each of the layers without destroying the treasure they now knew lay underneath.

ors. Mr. Upshur had the honor of naming the paper and selected "Hermit's Choice." The second he named "Eastern Shore Floral," but as of now, this one remains only in the Williamsburg collection. With the restoration of the Hermitage by Mrs. Mountcastle, Hermit's Choice, in its reproduced form, went back on the walls from which it originally came.

Kerr Place

Amine C. Kellam



The Hermitage

The mansion type cottage, which the Hermitage is, describes a rare type of architecture. In seeming contradiction, once seen the characterization is easily understood. The whys require imagination. Perhaps the great fireplaces could heat the downstairs mansion; the bedrooms upstairs needed to be small and cosy for protection against the winter winds off Crad-



Mr. Upshur explains that documentary papers are difficult to come by. They lose color and design with the passing years and truly "fade away." Moisture and mildew take their toll. With great care, the Upshurs removed the two layers of paper and saw the old come to life. The geometric design (unusual for the period when florals were more popular) was clear and crisp. The colors had retained their original strength, a combination of mustard, off-white, black and tangerine.

The Curator of Colonial Williamsburg agreed that an 18th-century documentary had truly been found, and he was very curious about the middle layer of paper, another possible 18th-century documentary. Soon thereafter, the Cooper Union Museum of New York, a leading authority on textiles and antique vintages, authenticated the findings, and Colonial Williamsburg accepted the gift of both documents as additions to its collections.

The geometric design was reproduced for Colonial Williamsburg in a choice of three col-

Kerr Place

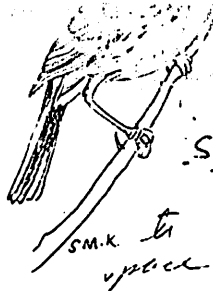
Amine C. Kellam

Kerr Place, home of The Eastern Shore Historical Society, is one of the Eastern Shore's outstanding eighteenth century homes. The house, built in 1799 by John Shepherd Kerr of Cessford, Scotland, is a splendid example of Georgian architecture. Neither time nor money was spared in its construction, as is evidenced by walls which are two feet thick, and by the elaborate woodwork inside and out. The bricks on the front of the house were brought from England; the bricks on the back were made on the property by slave labor.

On the mantel in the library is a plastic pineapple, the only example of that symbol of welcome to be found on the Eastern Shore. Dogwood appears frequently in the carving, and the cornices, mantels and window framing have elaborate designs of the period. The door frame is

hand-carved as is the cornice under the eaves. With the facade projecting from the central part of the two-story section, the entrance is impressive.

The two story Georgian brick house, with its great hall stretching across the central front section and its stairway forming a gallery on the second floor, passed through several ownerships before it was inherited by the granddaughters of George W. Powell in 1872. It was purchased by the Historical Society in 1960 to be used as a permanent Museum.

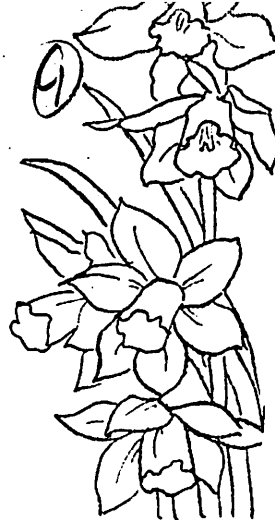


dock Creek. In the downstairs rooms are the lofty ceilings and the exquisitely simple paneling of the great house. The undorned small bedrooms with dormer windows and cuddies beneath the low pitched ceilings are in the cottage style of the second floors of the charming story-and-a-half houses.

The wide center cross hall has broad, heavy heart pine batten doors, and the paneled wainscoting which is used elsewhere downstairs. The graceful stairway with its open stairwell is enchanting when looking either up or down. In the parlor on the north end is woodwork unique on the Shore; the deep carved double cornice is unbelievably handsome; the fireplace and the panel above it feature an eared treatment, as do the chimney cupboards on both sides. The wainscoting follows the pattern of the hall, and is also that of the dining room where the off-center fireplace and overmantel paneling match that of the kitchen beyond. In simple elegance the south end might well be one and the same paneled wall. Much of the hardware is original, and though for many of its vacant years, before restoration, the Hermitage had been used only for the storage of potatoes, no part of this magnificent woodwork had been lost except one stair spindle.

With an oriental flavor from Japanese scrolls, prints, porcelains and teak, the charming interior is completed with family furniture, silver and copper. The very early pine hunt board and Waterford chandelier in the dining room are beauties.

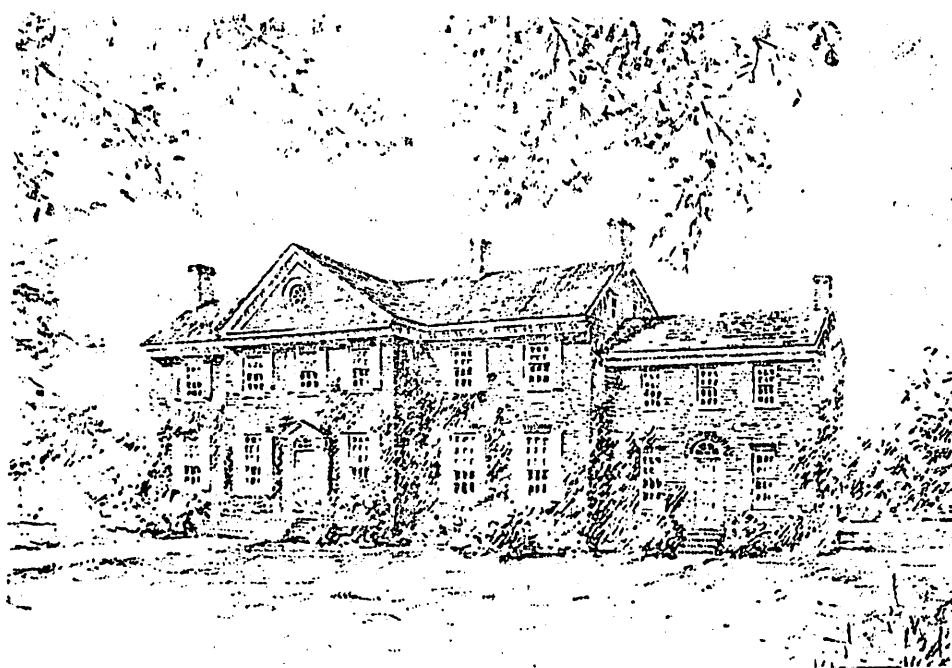
Of great distinction is the wallpaper in the lower and upper halls. It is the Hermitage's own, for this 18th-century wallpaper was discovered in the parlor and has been reproduced by the Williamsburg Restoration. Its geometric pattern is unusual for the period. Complementing it is a



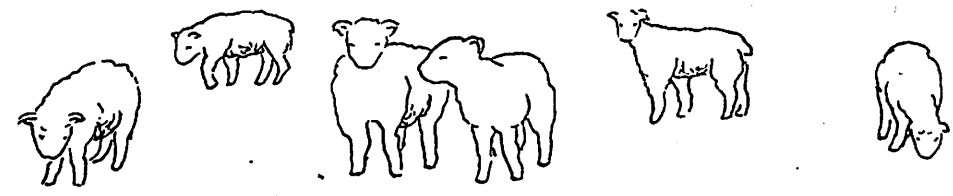
handmade silk screen geometric paper in the small bathroom.

Edmund Bayley, the presumptive builder of the Hermitage, about 1777, saw to it that the exterior trim of the house was as beautifully detailed as the interior, with hand carved eaves and pediments repeating on a larger scale the pattern of the parlor cornice. There are two brick ends with semi-outside chimneys. In the gable the glazed headers are all in rows parallel to the roof, thus producing a herring bone pattern. Old photographs show the traditional colonnade connecting with the quarter kitchen; though the colonnade has disappeared, the restored kitchen is now a complete guest house connected by doorway gardens with brick walks and a small terrace. The picket fence encloses the residential area beyond which are extensive meadows with old trees, a joining here of the land with the headwaters of Craddock Creek.

Full of legend, for the Hermitage has its own ghost, and beauty, this mansion in miniature has had care and attention given to its restoration and rejuvenation by Mrs. Charles Mountcastle, the owner.



Upshur was associated with this property ⑤



KBP

Oak Grove

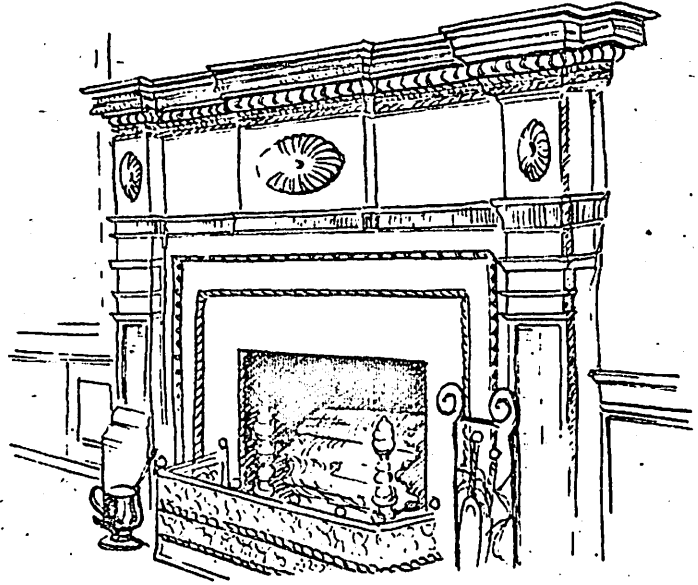
parts; the dates of construction spanning the hundred years from 1735 to the 1850's. Throughout there is excellent woodwork and paneling and the cornices are unusually deep. Two finely detailed mantels are in the living room and the library mantel features a carved sunburst. The furnishings are family heirlooms of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Johnston, Jr., and carefully selected antiques. Of particular interest are the Hepplewhite dining room table from the Skipworth family of Prestwold in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, and the cherry poster bed which is said to have been made for Charles Carroll of Carrollton from trees on his estate. These are enhanced by fine oil paintings, old Oriental rugs and objects d'art. In the dining room one sees Waterford glass and antique silver. The well-filled library glows with the warmth of old books. At the end of each wing stands a tall, stately magnolia tree each taller than the house itself. Nearby are two dependancies, an old smoke house and an overseer's office with a

brick foundation and cellar. From the rear of the house there is a fine view over the garden to the creek as it flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Oak

Grove has gathered charm and atmosphere for over two centuries. It was made beautiful by nature and nurtured by the generations of owners.

Oak Grove Plantation is approached through a long lane of old ash trees. At the end of the drive stands the white clapboard house which has the charm of varying roof lines, the result of several different periods of construction. The site is on Mattawaman Creek in Old Town Neck, near Eastville. This is part of the original gift of 3700 acres made by Debedeavon, the "Laughing King" of the local Indies, to Sir George Yardley, Captain General and Governor of Virginia, in 1621. The patent of land was recorded in London in 1625. The present tract of 172 acres has been intact since 1792. Of these approximately 40 acres are in landscaped garden, driveway and approaches. Both the name of the creek and the name of the neck have Indian connotation. Mattawaman is derived from the Algonquian Mat-

toones, meaning a road "coming down from the North" in reference to the Indian Village; Old Town was the name designating the site of this village from which the Indians were removed to satisfy Yardley after he came into possession of the land. The fenced-in garden has surpassed its original plan but every effort has been made to keep it like one of Colonial days. The old box bushes, crape myrtles and roses were kept and to these have been added many interesting varieties of colorful plants, including a bird of paradise bush, some flowering pomegranates and Kentucky coffee trees. In a restoration of the garden in 1942 by former owners professional help was used but the pleasing result was achieved by striving for natural beauty rather than being overly exact. The house blends happily with its setting. It is built in three



Mantel and Fireplace at Oak Grove

Eyre Hall

Aspin was associated with the property

The tradition of hospitality at Eyre Hall is the tradition of the family, for the property has been owned and occupied by succeeding generations of Eyres since the land was patented to John, Thomas, and Daniel Eyre

by William Berkeley in 1662. The oldest part of the house was built about 1750 by Littleton Eyre. John Eyre made additions in 1804, and today the estate is owned by Miss Mary Eyre Baldwin and Mr. Furlong Baldwin of

Baltimore, direct descendants of the builder.

The house, one of generous and pleasing proportions, is in a remarkable state of preservation. Built of white clapboard, it is approached through brick and picket entrance gates down a long lane of crape myrtle and cedar trees. Finely detailed fencing encloses the house, dependencies, garden, and graveyard, and frames a charming picture of serene country living against the background of Cherrystone Creek. In the old boxwood garden at the rear of

the house, in quiet company with other evergreen trees and shrubs, are numbers of box trees, yew, magnolia and bay.

From the entrance porch, white marble steps lead to a cross hall, which contains fine paneling and scenic wall paper in an old French block print design produced by duFour in 1816. The paper, recently repaired and replaced upon properly restored walls by experts from the Metropolitan Museum in New York, is in flawless condition and makes the hall a fitting prelude to the other rooms, which are main-

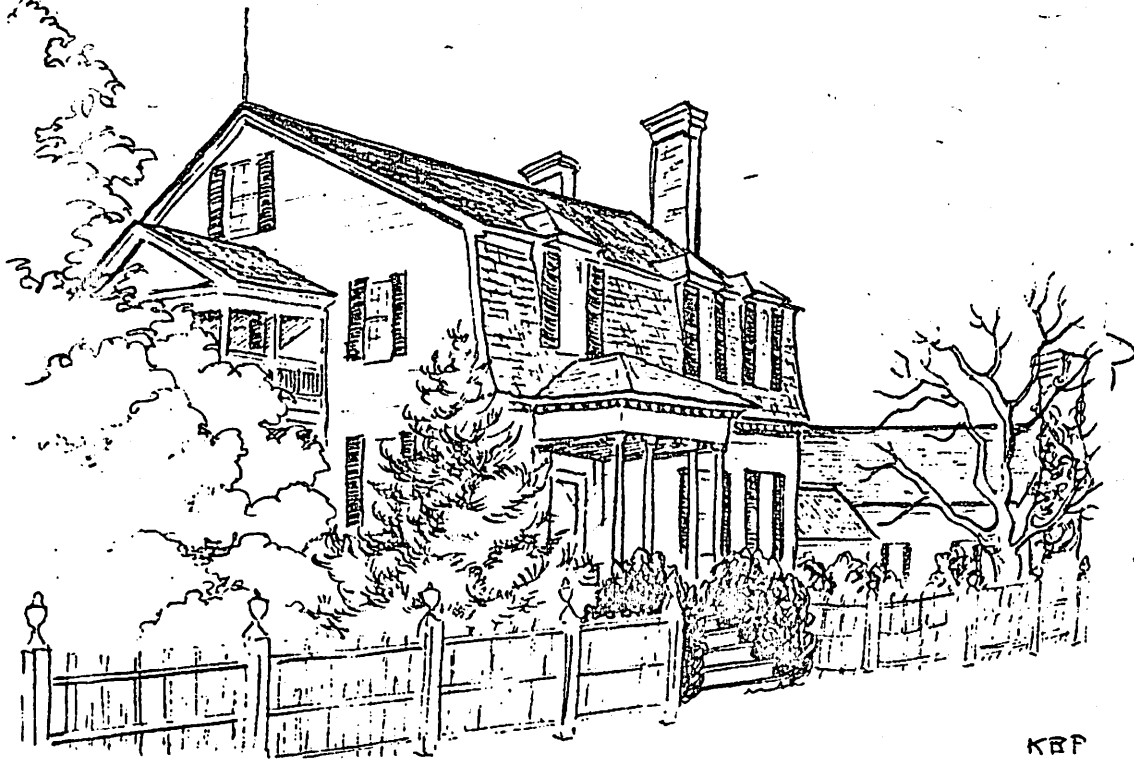
tained in similar authenticity and good taste.

East of the hall are the parlor and library, also generously paneled. Over the mantel in each room is a portrait of Severn Eyre, member of the Virginia House of Burgesses who inherited the property in 1766; one of these is by Sully and the other by the younger Hesselius. There is another Sully portrait at Eyre Hall, that of John Eyre, who was owner of the property for approximately 70 years.

Throughout the house are notable examples of Queen Anne, Chippendale, and Hepplewhite furniture. In the dining room is a set of Chinese Export china, which was made in England especially for the family, sent to China to be decorated, and delivered directly to Eyre Hall in a sailing vessel. Also in the dining room is a large silver bowl called the "Morningstar Bowl" after a favorite horse. Morningstar won a race in 1672 and did it so magnificently that his owner filled the bowl with champagne and presented it to the winner, who is supposed to have quaffed it with relish.

Gold brocade curtains, made for General Lafayette's visit to the home of a kinsman in Norfolk, hang at the parlor windows, and there are other equally intriguing stories about the many family heirlooms which furnish this handsome old house.

In spite of such meticulous preservation of antiques, there is nothing of a museum atmosphere about Eyre Hall. It is a home loved and lovingly kept, and a visit here is certain to provide a happy reunion with the past.



KBP



KBP

Drummonds Mill Farm

Drummonds Mill Farm, patented in 1666, is picturesquely situated between two ancient millponds which form the head waters of Hunting Creek. The old house on the property was built during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the west portion is pre-Revolutionary and the main section was completed in 1820 by John V. Bagwell Bag-

straightforward, typical of Eastern Shore architecture from early colonial days to mid-nineteenth century. It is of frame construction with brick ends, tall chimneys, small dormers and gable roofs at varying levels; all are of fine scale and proportion. Although the house has been carefully restored by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. John A.

particularly fine hand-carved parlor mantel.

Interesting and appropriate antique furnishings are used throughout the house. Of special interest are a rare portrait of Sir Christopher Wren, Tibetan rugs, a mule foot tavern table, and a Chippendale desk made on the Eastern Shore which was once

of a tract, known as Drake's Neck, which was patented to Richard Hill in 1666. William Willet, "County Miller," began the operation of a mill here in 1678, and the mill property descended through several generations of his family. Subsequent owners included John R. Drummond, a descendant of the original patentee, and his sons, who

gest the many activities carried on in earlier days. Saw and grist mills were operated here from 1678 to 1937 and there was a smith's shop on the premises as early as 1719. An early nineteenth-century crossroads store was operated on the property and a cobbler shop did a thriving business. Barges came up Hunting Creek to load corn and

well was a man of moderate means and his home reflects both his modest circumstances and his excellent taste.

The house is simple and

Restoration of Drummonds Mill Farm

Eleanor W. and John A. Upshur

As the car rounded a bend in the road, the morning sun shone brightly on the brick end of an old story-and-a-half house standing in the field of dry, brown soybeans. Although time and weather had removed many bricks from the tops of the chimneys, they still stood tall and slim and the clumsy lines of a modern porch could not altogether obscure the essentially fine proportions of the little house. For several years we had been searching for an early house, small and of sufficient architectural merit to justify restoration, and our first glimpse of Drummonds Mill Farm suggested that perhaps our search had ended.

We turned in the deeply rutted drive, parked the car under one of the storm-torn trees, and with trepidation prepared to make a closer inspection of the house which already had charmed us from a distance.

Because the dwelling had always been occupied until a short time before we saw it, the house had been closed to the elements and untouched by vandals. It retained most of the original flooring, the mantels and woodwork, all in relatively good condition, but as it had been tenanted out for more than a hundred years at minuscule rental, there had been no modern improvements, no electricity, no water and of

course no heat. The interior more than confirmed the first impression of good architectural features and considerable charm, but even a cursory inspection indicated the necessity for major restoration.

Before restoration could be undertaken, it was necessary to formulate some fairly definite plans. To this we devoted many weeks of thought, study, discussion and revision. Our "blue prints" were strictly do-it-yourself, two sets of measured drawings showing before and after restoration elevations and floor plans of the entire house. These amateur drawings, showing new partitions where necessary, heating, plumbing and electrical layouts gave the guidelines for our restoration with specific details to be determined on the job.

Our decision to remove all the cracked and crumbling plaster rather than attempt to patch

Upshur, there being no major architectural changes in more than a hundred years. The main section contains all the old heart-pine floors and woodwork, with a

Drummonds Mill Farm is part

and preserve it was sound indeed for not only did it give an opportunity to inspect thoroughly the inner structural parts of the house but also made possible the incorporation of snug modern insulation. Before turning the house over to workmen, we ourselves with crow-bars and brute strength ripped out all the old plaster and hand-riven laths and in the process pulled out more than 10,000 handmade nails!

For the next several months under our constant supervision masons worked at repairing and rebuilding chimneys and hearths, installing dampers, repairing and renewing foundation brickwork where necessary, reinforcing foundations below the frost line and deepening the cellar to accommodate a heating plant.

Next we were ready for the carpenters who were to work under the direction of the patriarch of Eastern Shore builders, Mr. John Tankard

continued to be associated with property.

The present quietude of Drummonds Mill Farm does not sug-

Cropper. For more than sixty of his eighty-odd years Mr. Cropper had known, loved and worked on old homes on Virginia's Eastern Shore and we considered ourselves most fortunate to have secured his services.

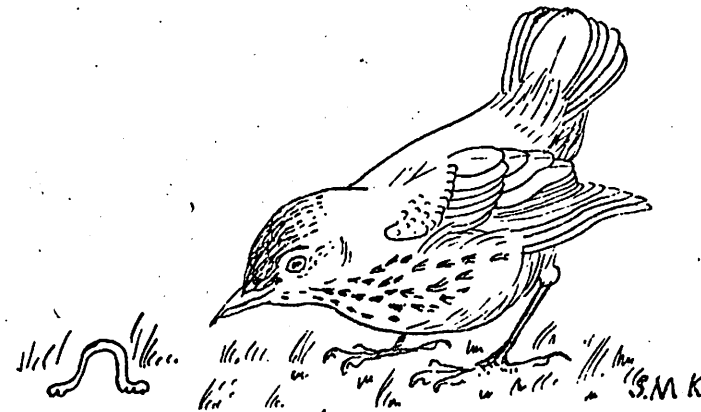
For the next six months Mr. Cropper and his crew of skilled carpenters worked at Drummonds Mill Farm, co-ordinating their work with plumbing, heating, plastering and electrical installation. Each day we, too, were on the job ready to lend a hand physically or to make decisions, spending our free time studying the many interesting artifacts uncovered as the work progressed - several ancient coins, numbers of early bottles, lost keys and discarded locks, assorted old hardware, and many, many fragments of old china and pottery.

We had decided that we ourselves would undertake the in-

take on provisions and lumber. Here, too, carts were loaded to haul supplies over the old Market Road to Drummondtown, now Accomac.

terior painting and as the workmen vacated an area we took over with brush and pail, using documentary colonial paint colors. Later when wallpapers were applied in some rooms, reproductions of authentic eighteenth-century papers were used, one being the replica of one which we found on the Eastern Shore and had copied as a Colonial Williamsburg Reproduction.

When restoration of the house had finally been completed, much work was necessary to improve the setting. Drummonds Mill, the crossroads store and the ice house remembered by elderly residents of the area and the Smith's Shop mentioned in the 1719 will of William Willet, County Millar, have not been reconstructed. However, the barn and old smokehouse have been restored and "the fence about the said piece of ground" (Deed, Jonathan Willet to Thomas Wise, 1801) has been replaced. Trees have been pruned and fed, and additional trees and shrubs planted with special emphasis on native varieties. A portion of the field, formerly cultivated within a few feet of the rear of the house, has been reclaimed as part of the yard. The encircling dense thicket which completely concealed the ancient millponds from which Drummonds Mill Farm derives its name has been cleared to open a charming vista which includes a grassy slope, framing trees and the calm waters of the millpond, beautified in season by extensive colonies of water lilies.



2073 Miraval Quinto
Tucson, Arizona 85718
January 3, 1977

Mr. John Andrews Upshur
Drummond's Mill Farm
Accomack County
Eastern Shore
Virginia

Dear Mr. Upshur:

In pursuit of Upchurch genealogy I recently visited in the home of Mrs. G. H. West in Durham, N. C. She was kind enough to loan me her copy of your "Upsur Family in Virginia". This is a fascinating book of special interest to me because of the possible common origin of the Upsur's and Upchurches in England. Mrs. West gave me the impression that you feel that our two families may have a common origin. Do you have any recent information on that matter or would you be willing to speculate on the point?

It would be nice to have a copy of your book for my personal genealogical library if it is still available and not too expensive. Could you let me know about availability and cost?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert P. Upchurch
Robert P. Upchurch

Dear Mrs. Upchurch
Jan 10/76
Sorry no more Upsur family in Va available
only 100 printed in 1955 - just for members of the
Upsur family and for libraries etc. Won national award
in 1955 as best published genealogy of the year 1955.
I have done much research covering a period of
over 55 years. A study of English church and probate
records and books on English surnames - all
indicate that the Upsur, Upker, Upchurch, Upscur
Upsker etc etc are derivations of same family years
ago. After all, it has only been in recent times these
names were spelled other than phonetically - 99% of pl.

Your library can borrow a copy of Upsur Family in Va if they have write to the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.

of the people could not read or write and spelling was writing left to the scribes. Even in the early Virginia court records, one will find the same the name of the same person spelled three or more different ways in one paragraph.

I am not well and cannot go into this matter thoroughly, but any competent genealogist will tell you the same thing.

Mr. Belle Lewin West's genealogy of the Upshur family is very good indeed.

Incidentally, it seems that the Ups - Upc was found mainly in East Angles, particularly in Essex County England. Some theorize, Dutch origin.

Sincerely,
John A. Upshur

My apologies for this poor reply. Just out of hospital and due to return.

John A. UP SHUR
P O BOX 5
ACCOMAC, VA.
23301

ELSON
MARYLAND



Mr. Robert P. Upchurch
2073 Morival Quinto
Tucson, Arizona 85718



2073 Miraval Quinto
Tucson, Arizona 85718
January 3, 1977

Mr. John Andrews Upshur
Drummond's Mill Farm
Accomack County
Eastern Shore - Route 2
Accomac, Virginia 23301

Dear Mr. Upshur:

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Sincerely yours,

Robert P. Upchurch

"UPSHUR FAMILY IN VIRGINIA"

by John Andrews Upshur
The Dietz Press, INC
Richmond, VA 1955

Borrowed from
Mrs G.H. West 28DEC76

Eastern shore of VA settled in 1614 & in 1634 became one of the 8 original shires of VA.

Arthur Upshur, the first Upshur in VA, was on the Eastern shore in 1640/41 and probably as early as 1637. Except for a few Upshurs who moved into nearby Maryland the next 5 generations of Upshurs remained on the Eastern shore.

(1640/41 refers to JAN - 24 MAR as old style calendar did not start year until 25 MAR - abandoned old style in 1752)

- 1 "About 1637 Arthur Upsher, a boy of twelve, came to Virginia from Essex County, England. Perhaps his original home was Colchester or one of the nearby towns of Coggeshall, Bocking, Dedham or Alormingford where Upshers were living at the time"
- 2 "Of the Upsher Family in England there are numerous records indicating that by the beginning of the sixteenth century the name was generally spelled Upsher although earlier Essex records show many variations including Upshere, Upshire, Upsher, and others."
- 3 "For many years following his immigration to Virginia Arthur Upsher's name appeared most frequently as Upshott, but his name ultimately became established as Upshur, a spelling to which his descendants have adhered."
- 4 "The parentage of Arthur Upsher is at present unknown, however, no comprehensive search of the English records has been made."

5
p5 "Other members of the Upsher Family may have emigrated from England to America in the seventeenth century for early records furnish evidence that persons of similar name embarked for or were in the colonies at that period."

16 = "Richard Upcott, age 26, took passage to Virginia from Gravesend, Eng., in June 1635. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 3 (1849), 184. Michael Upchurch is listed as an immigrant to Virginia in 1654. George Cabell Greer, Early Virginia Immigrants, 1623-1666 (Richmond, 1912), 336. He was probably the same Michael Upchurch who was in Surry County, Va., as early as 1656. Surry County, Va., Court Records, Orders, Deeds, Wills, 1645-72, 1958."

6 Arthur Upsher I 1624-1709 born Essex Co England & is buried at "Warwick" his last home near Quinby in Accomack Co Va.

"Arthur Upsher (Arthur Upsher I), --- parentage has not been determined. It has been mentioned that his parents might have been Thomas Upsher of Colchester, Essex County and Anne (Ayre) Upsher of London, who were granted a marriage bond by the Bishop of London in 1621. The date of the marriage bond, 1621, and the date of Arthur's birth make this parentage a reasonable possibility. However, at the beginning of the seventeenth century there were in Essex County numerous Upshers from whom Arthur might have descended."

"Although the author has accumulated many early records of the English Upsher, they are inconclusive as to Arthur's parentage. He hopes to continue the search of the English records, particularly those of Essex County where the Upsher name has been in evidence for many centuries. Parish registers in the possession of the Society of Genealogists, Chancery House, London, Court

rolls, chancery rolls, and subsidy rolls should also be explored. Full transcription of Virginia's historical records are currently being made in England and in the future should be available at the Virginia State Library; these records, too, should be studied when careful investigation of these additional sources can be made it is believed that Arthur's parentage will be revealed."

"The origin of the Ursher name is a matter of speculation. It is possible that it was derived by the first bearer from his residence at Upsall in Yorkshire, or at Upslue, a hamlet in Maltham Hundred, Essex County. Among the earliest records of the name are those of Geoffrey de Upsal and Richard de Upsale of Yorkshire in 1273."

"In ancient England and early American records the name appears variously as Upchar, Upcher, Upcher, Upchurch, Upcott, Upsal, Upshall, Upshaker, Upshar, Upsher, Upshie, Upsher, Upshott, Upshum, and others: of these the name Upcher in England and Upshum and Upsham in America have been most generally in evidence during the past three hundred years."

Interesting References in Uppsher Book.

- ① Map of Essex 1576 - "Saxton Map of Essex, 1576"
- ② Eastern and Western shore of Virginia - Map by William Davis published in 1807
- ③ "Virginia's Eastern Shore" (Richmond, 1951) - Ralph T. Whitelaw Va. Hist. Soc.
- ④ "The Kingdome of Accawmacke or the Eastern shore of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century" (Richmond, 1911).
Jennings Cropper Wise
- ⑤ "Studies of the Virginia Eastern Shore in the Seventeenth Century" (Richmond, 1940) Susie M. Ames.
- ⑥ Unpublished manuscripts of Thomas Teachle Uppsher II (1844-1910) are at "Brownsville" Nassauadox, Northampton County Va.
- ⑦ William and Mary Quarterly Historical Magazine
- ⑧ "Visitation of Essex" (London 1878-79) XIII, XIX passim
Harleian Society.
- ⑨ "The Index Library" British Records Society
- ⑩ "A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames" (London, 1900)
C. W. Bardsley.
- ⑪ "Cavaliers and Pioneers; A History of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1800" (Richmond 1934). Nell
Marvin Nugent.
- ⑫ "Allegations for Marriage Licenses issued by the Bishop of London" 1611-1828" (London, 1887). Harleian Soc.
- ⑬ "Burke's 'Landed Gentry'" (London 1937). H. Pirie-Gordon, ed.
- ⑭ "Visitation of England and Wales" (1895) Joseph Johnson
Howard and Frederick Arthur Crisp.
- ⑮ The New England Historical and Genealogical Register
- ⑯ "Early Virginia Immigrants; 1623-1666" (Richmond 1912)
George Cabell Greer.
- ⑰ Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, 1574-1660 (London 1860)
- ⑱ Virginia Land Patents