Chesterville

Preserving History at
NASA Langley Research Center

Sarah E. McCartney and Graham Callaway
Elizabeth Stuart

Elizabeth Stuart, Princess of Scotland
by Robert Peake the Elder, 1606

Elizabeth Stuart, Queen of Bohemia
by Gerard van Honthorst, 1642
1634 – Formation of Eight Shires
George Wythe House – Williamsburg, Virginia
Thomas Wythe I

Thomas Wythe II

Thomas Wythe III

Thomas Wythe IV

George Wythe

Anne Wythe

George Walker

Margaret Walker

Ann Keith

George Keith

Margaret Walker married

First marriage

Second marriage

Anne Lewis

Elizabet Taliaferro
July 18, 1771

Dear Sir,

I am about building a small house, and must be obliged to you for the English materials, which I shall send a bill of exchange to pay the cost...

A chest of Nice joiner’s and other tools, to cost six or seven guineas, or even eight to be complete [...] oil, colour & brushes to cost 3. 0.0
400 panes of crown glass 20. 0.0
2 Mortis locks large 1.13.0
4 ditto smaller 2.12.0
3 ditto 1. 2.6
6 pr. 4 inch door dovetail hinges 1. 4.0
3 pr. Smaller do.
48 pr. HL rising joint for shutters 4. 0.0
48 pr. Side hinges do 2. 0.0
40 2/2 wainscot pullies for sashes 0. 8.0
65 yds white line for do 2.10.0
48 brass jointed rings for shutters 1.16.0
10 pieces flywire 3 feet 1 inch square 10.15.0
A cask of nails
The Chesterville Plantation House
Andrea Palladio

Palladio’s Villa Emo, 1559

Images from www.essential-architecture.com

from Palladio’s *Four Books on Architecture, 1570*
English Palladianism

The Queen’s House by Inigo Jones, 1616, image courtesy Wikipedia Commons

Plate from Select Architecture by Robert Morris, 1757
Palladianism in America

Mount Airy, Richmond County VA

Monticello, image courtesy Mary Ann Sullivan, Bluffton University
This reconstruction is based principally on the surviving 1905 photograph of Chesterville and on the 1971 plan drawings created with information from Mr. Claytor Grose. The arrangement of rooms, windows, etc., shown in the letter was roughly adhered to with alterations made as necessary in order to draw the building to scale or where the arrangement shown seemed particularly unlikely.

That said, the size and arrangement of windows, doors, interior walls, etc., is somewhat conjectural and based partly on comparisons with contemporaneous and stylistically similar structures.

Graham Callaway
February 2010
Similar Structures

UVA Pavilion VII

courtesy Mary Ann Sullivan, Bluffton University

Berry Hill

courtesy Robert Nigmond, Realtor in Orange, VA

courtesy, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library
1802 Deed from George Wythe to Houlder Hudgins

This Indenture made the 23d day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and two between George Wythe of the City of Richmond in the one part and Holden Hudgins of the County of Dinwiddie in the other part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars paid by the said Holden Hudgins to the said George Wythe the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged by him the said George Wythe hath granted, bargained and sold and by this Indenture doth grant, bargain and sell to the said Holden Hudgins and to his heirs and assigns all that I grant no parcel of land called Turkey Creek which on the County of Elizabeth City containing by estimation some hundred and fifty acres except pasture lands a two thirds of an acre part thereof formerly sold by Thomas Wythe the brother of the said George Wythe to the said Thomas Francis at two hundred of land hereby intended to be sold to Breastville by the North Branch of Black River formerly called the Pontasser river by three lines of the fifty acres of land hereby mentioned by the lands of four Charity Island of reef, Marshes and Marshes by the lands of Wythe and by the lands herein before sale to have been sold to Thomas Francis with all the houses gardens, Cushes Marshes low grounds, Ways, Watering, dikes, and commodities appertaining to the tract or parcel of land hereby intended to be sold all the estate, right title and interest of him the said George Wythe in and to the named tract or parcel of land with the appurtenances once the said George Wythe also doth grant and transfer to the said Holden Hudgins and to his heirs and assigns this aforesaid fifty acres of land except lands reserved by the certain Indenture which is hereunto.
MARRIAGE, on Tuesday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. Smith, Mr. WILLIAM TEBO, to Miss SUSAN HARMON, both of this Borough.

SHIP NEWS.

PUBLIC SALE.

BY virtue of a deed of trust executed on the 30th day of July, 1921, by Joseph Scott, to secure the payment of the debt therein mentioned, WILL BE SOLD, on the premises, at public auction, in the highest bidder, for ready money, on Thursday the 3rd day of the month, November, 1921, between 9 A.M. and 1 P.M., A CERTAIN PARCEL OR LOT OF LAND, to wit, lying and being on Calvert's Lane, in the Borough of Norfolk, and is the same land which was conveyed to said Scott by Albert Allison and Margaret his wife, as will appear by their deed for the same, bearing date 5th July, 1922, and duly recorded.

MARRIAGE, on Tuesday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. Smith, Mr. WILLIAM TEBO, to Miss SUSAN HARMON, both of this Borough.

---, on Tuesday evening, 8th inst. at Chesterville, Elizabeth City Co. Mr. RICHARD R. GARRETT of Williamsburg, to Miss PENELIPE WYN DER, daughter of Mrs. WYNDER.

---, in St. John's Chapel, New York, on the 22nd Oct. by the Right Rev. Bishop Underdonk, ARTHUR L. MAGEN NIS, Esq. of St. Louis, Missouri, to Miss MARY McREA, youngest daughter of Col. William McRea, of the U.S. Army.

---, in St. John's Chapel, New York, on the 22nd Oct. by the Right Rev. Bishop Underdonk, ARTHUR L. MAGEN NIS, Esq. of St. Louis, Missouri, to Miss MARY McREA, youngest daughter of Col. William McRea, of the U.S. Army.
Section of Semple Map showing John Winder’s Farm, Chesterville, and Lamington which was Robert S. Hudgins’ home
Section of a map showing the progression of the Union Army from Hampton through Big Bethel and on to Howard’s Bridge which crossed the Poquoson River.
The First Battle of the War, Fought at Big Bethel, June 19th, 1861—Federals Under Maj. Pierce, Confederates Under General Magruder.
THE FEDERAL ARMY, UNDER GENERAL MCCLELLAN, BETWEEN BIG BETHEL AND YORKTOWN, APRIL 6TH, 1862

FROM A SKETCH BY E. S. HALE.
Fork

Teapot Lid

Glass Bottle Base
Pan

Pins

Brass Button

Candlestick Base
Reconstructing the Chesterville Landscape

“920 acres of land, of which 477 are cleared, divided and ditched round in 50 acre lots, 233 in wood, and 210 in fine grazing marsh”

-George Wythe, newspaper advertisement, 1795

Wythe also describes an orchard of “about 6 acres,” the brick house, a “large negro quarter, a kitchen, stable, and store-house in good repair, and a grannary 60 by 28 feet.”
Point at Robinsons Landing.

At a point above an old hickory on every Robinsons side.

To a small branch which divides this from Gallier.

To the swamp on Cow Dam.

To the corner a small red oak on ditch bank.

Scale 1: 24,000 (F. A.)
The Boundary of Chesterville Plantation, circa 1800

Chesterville circa 1809
725 Acres

"Lease Land"
54 Acres

Sym's Free School
265 Acres

Ross Land
64 Acres

"Moore Tract"
46 Acres

120 Acres

Chesterville Boundary circa 1800

Possibly part of Chesterville

Graham Callaway 2010
What is LIDAR?

Image from Bartels and Wei,
http://www.cvg.rdg.ac.uk/projects/LIDAR/index.html
LIDAR Elevation Model of Part of NASA Langley showing Ditches
Ditches on the Chesterville Plantation Land

- Known Ditches
- Extrapolated Ditches
- Historic Roads
- Known Plantation Structures
- High Land
- Marsh

Graham Callaway 2010
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wythe’s Numbers</th>
<th>My Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>920 acres total</td>
<td>862 acres total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>477 cleared</td>
<td>448 cleared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233 in wood</td>
<td>222 in wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210 in marsh</td>
<td>130 in marsh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Possible Arrangement of Fields at Chesterville Plantation

- Fields
- Known Ditches
- Extrapolated Ditches
- Historic Roads
- Known Plantation Structures
- Wood
- Marsh
- Possible Orchard Locations

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Want to learn more?
http://crgis.ndc.nasa.gov/historic

Acknowledgements:
Vanessa Butler
Kit Cain
Joe Chambers
Dee DeRoche
Mary Gainer
Terry Hornbuckle
Edward K. Lay
Calder Loth