

# The Armistead Family.

1635-1910.

BY

Mrs. VIRGINIA ARMISTEAD GARBER

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

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RICHMOND, VA.

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RICHMOND, VA.

son of Michael Armistead, of Shrewsburg, clerk, entered Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1677, age fifteen, took his degree and forfeited his fellowship by marrying in 1693.

"574 Yorkshire (England) Twenty-eight original Deeds on vellum of the families of Barker, Kendall, Middleton, Armistead, etc., relating to lords in Burley and Ottley from the time of Queen Elizabeth, with signatures and seals."

From the foregoing data, it will be seen that the Virginia Armisteads were descended from English Armisteads.

A few weeks ago we visited the oldest seat of the family in Virginia—Hesse. in Mathews County, once Gloucester—and spent a most interesting day, wandering over the old place and house, asking questions of the caretaker and listening to the old stories told of it. The wife of the caretaker, feeble from illness, seated in a large chair outside of the simple home that had been built for them, gave us the clue to a most interesting find, namely, that there were letters and figures on one of the chimneys, high up. At last we sighted the place and made out A. o. 1674. The figures were very indistinct, the upper part of the seven gone, the four was like half of I and then a mark at right angle to it. Later, the sound of a threshing machine drew us to the barn, where, sitting on the well we saw an intelligent faced young man in his working clothes (the owner of the machine, we afterwards learned). We enlisted his eye service in deciphering the letters and figures on the chimney; did not tell him what we had made out. He read as we did, A. o. and 16, said the next figure looked like part of one. The testimony of two witnesses should establish the date of the building of Hesse. A. o. abbreviation of Anno 1674. The date of the building of the Burwell home, Carter's Creek, has been lately established by figures on the wall—1684 or 1694. This seems to have been the custom among the early colonists. We have a note taken from some record, "that John Armistead, the Councillor, was dead before 1703; his third child, William, the oldest son was born about 1665, died 1711. We argue that John A., Councillor, built Hesse in 1674, and

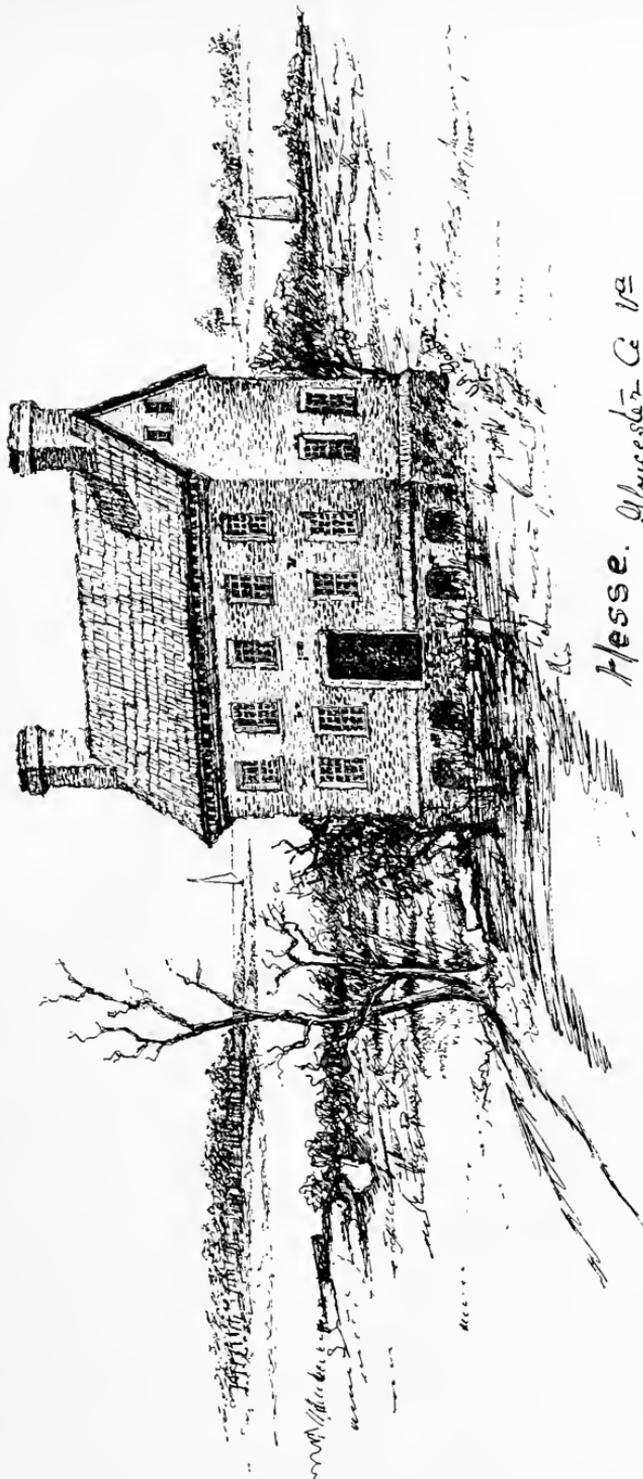
lived there with his wife Judith, and children, who were all married after that date. His eldest child, Judith, married in 1688; second child, Elizabeth, in 1687. It was the custom for fathers to build a home for the eldest son when married. There is a record that William and Anna Lee, his wife, were not living at Hesse; most probably at Oak Grove on Eastmost River, where his tomb is still to be found:

Here lyeth Interred  
the            of William Armistead  
who departed this life the 13 day  
of June 1711 age forty years.

As William and Anna, his wife, had seven children and he died in 1711, his father, John, in 1703, it is reasonable to suppose that William had his own home; besides, Henry Armistead, second son of John, who married about 1701, certainly residing at Hesse, the family seat of John his father. So Hesse may have been built in 1674 by John, the Councillor. The date of the patent of 500 acres on Pianketank River (Hesse) is September, 1659. In a chancery suit, 1797, the Hesse estate is spoken of as having 3,879 acres.

These are some of the names of the vestry of Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, beginning in 1677: "William Armistead, Kemp Plumer, Captain Thomas Smith, John Armistead, *William Armistead, of Hesse*, who married Maria Carter; Francis Armistead, Thomas Smith, Jr., Armistead Smith" (Bishop Meade).

The house at Hesse is of brick and beautifully located on a wide stretch of lawn, in full view of, and just opposite the mouth of the Pianketank, on a clean pebbly beach. As we walked to the end of the lawn, over the river, we expected it to slope somewhat; instead, it was precipitous, washed in swirls. Two large locust trees stood as sentinels midway between river and house, which has a cellar, with walls 2 feet 7½ inches thick. The first floor has two large rooms with four windows each, window seats and paneled blinds that fold back on the side; windows rather



Hesse. Gloucester Co. N.J.

narrow with small panes set in heavy divisions. The mantels were of black marble or iron stone, a very hard marble, largely imported at that time for handsome tombstones. Each mantel had round pillars in relief, of iron stone supporting the shelf, the chimney-place faced with the same, the whole as solid as if lately built. The stairway, with hand-carved spindles and side-paneled structure, led up to a landing over the river-front door; then up to the second floor, where the spindle railing continued along the hall. A plaster partition at the side of the stairway, has made a hall; originally, the stairway was in the room, making a very large reception hall or room. The doorways are all paneled, by reason of the thick walls; this called our attention to the plaster partition. The second floor is the same as the first, the garret is hip-roofed inside, two little windows in each gable, on either side of the chimney. The stairway faces the landside entrance.

We ate our lunch sitting on a buttress of a brick wall that evidently supported a river-front porch. From where we sat the level sweep of the lawn, close cropped by sheep and cows, touched the sparkling river line. Visions of those early days crowded our imagination; the stately Judith, as the bride of the handsome lordly master of Corotoman. The fair Elizabeth Armistead, plighting her troth to that man of culture and force, Ralph Wormeley, of Rosegill. "Rosegill, where the Wormeleys lived in English state" (Bishop Meade), was situated high upon the banks of the Rappahannock, a few miles from Christ Church. Ralph Wormeley presented to this church a communion service of five pieces. These daughters of John Armistead must have been possessed of great beauty or rare qualities of manner or character, to have attracted two of the most conspicuous gallants of that time—King Carter and Ralph Wormeley, called "The greatest man in the colony."

John's two sons, William and Henry, also must have been men of high character and loveable qualities to have won the love of such wives as they had—Anna Lee, the daughter of Hancock Lee; and Martha Burwell, choosing Henry Armistead in spite of the fierce, lordly wooing of the explosive Governor Nich-

olson, and the devotion of the fearless Parson, Fouace, and a host of others. All these visions of Colonial days vanished when our companion of the twelve-mile drive to Hesse, came up to inform us that the owner of Hesse, down at the barn, could "tell all about the house." His story was this: "A long time ago a German by the name of Hesse bought this place, and built a castle here, strong enough to protect him from the Indians—not that house, which is very old, but near to it. I can show you the old foundation bricks now overgrown with the sod." Which substantiates Dr. Lyon G. Tyler's information that a wing of the present house is lacking. The wing must have been built much later, for the simple lines and construction of the house are complete. We sat far off under the shade of locust trees that border the western limit of the lawn, and made the accompanying sketch. The story of Mr. "Hesse and his castle" rather accentuates the old German tradition—Hesse Cassel, Darmstadt, Germany.

Since writing the above we have had the privilege of reading many old Armistead letters, some written from Hesse, others to Hesse; one, from William Nelson, of King William, to William Cocke, of Cartersville, Cumberland County, dated February, 1798, speaks of the burning of the Hesse mansion. This was when the estate was leased to Mr. Vanbibber, two years after the death of that charming woman, Maria Carter Armistead, widow of William Armistead, of Hesse, who was the son of William Armistead and Mary Bowles. This William being the son of Henry, of Hesse, and Martha Burwell. The present house at Hesse must have been built on the old foundation, the chimneys standing.

We were impressed with the beautiful English in these letters, and the distinct, graceful penmanship. A glimpse into "Maria Carter, Her Book, 1763," was fascinating; the quaint expressions in stately measure, the quotations from authors of that day, so aptly placed, and the exquisite penmanship. Hesse at that time was called a "gay part of the world." Her father writes to her January 25, 1764, "to put a deaf year to the flattering speeches of the world."

Evidently Maria Carter Armistead was a beauty and belle of that charming old period. She married William Armistead in 1765.

We have in our possession an old book, possibly a plantation book, which runs from 1760 to 1780. It contains interesting entries in reference to John and Henry Armistead, Nathaniel Burwell, William Byrd, John Buckner, Carter Braxton, John Carter, William Churchill, John Clayton, Hannah Churchill, John Robinson, Nath. Littleton Savage, Captain Thomas Smith, William Shackelford, Edward Tab, Thomas Todd, Charles Tomkies, Warner Washington, Ralph Wormeley, William Nelson, Sir John Peyton, Mann Page, William Plummer.

On one page is the following:

9 yards of silk at 14/6.  
 12 yards of flowered silk at 16/6.  
 16 yards of sarsnet at 6/9.  
 10 yards of sattain, 9/6.  
 15 yards of Brocade, 10/6.  
 11 Scarves at 2/  
 14 yards of Genova velvet.  
 10 yards.....

This unfinished memorandum wafts to us the fragrance of lavender and old lace. We hear the click-click of the high-heel slippers across the hall; the swish of silken garments and the dainty maid vanishes up the broad stairway.

There is also in this book a full account of the law suit, *Price vs. Armistead*, before "the Honorable George Wythe, Esquire, Judge of the High Court of Chancery," involving part of the fortune of the wealthy Mary Bowles, who married William Armistead, of Hesse. His son, William, married Maria Carter, who speaks her mind in no uncertain terms in regard to Rev. Thomas Price, who was the second husband of her mother-in-law. That the Rev. gentleman lived with his wife, Mrs. Armistead at *Hesse*, eight months after their marriage "in a very expensive manner,

having the entire command of everything in and about the house with at least seventeen servants"; that when he carried his wife to his own home he took Mr. Armistead's chariot almost new that cost one hundred and ten pounds, "a great deal of most valuable furniture, which they absolutely appropriated and never returned," and four house servants whom they kept several months!

The said Maria was afterwards the mistress of Hesse and knew whereof she affirmed.

The book bound in vellum is full of interest; the penmanship, in lines and formation, a model of neatness.

The following is copied from the *Baltimore Sun*:

"The Armistead family is one of the oldest, as well as one of the most distinguished families in Virginia, as also in America. The name Armistead, or Armitstead, was well known in England, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the representatives at that time being spoken of as stalwart Yorkshiremen. However, a very old tradition, is that the family came originally from Hesse Darmstadt; that they crossed the Seas with the hardy Norsemen, and settled in England.

"The fact that one of the principal seats of the family was called Hesse, was taken as an argument in favor of this theory, but Dr. Lyon G. Tyler thinks the tradition unsupported by fact: He says: 'I hazard the suggestion that as Col. Jno. Armistead was a warm friend of Lord Culpeper, Governor of Virginia, at that time he might very well have given the maiden name of Lady Culpeper, Marguerita Hesse, to his plantation on the Pianketank.'"

"Cranage Hall, County of Chester, is the present seat of the Armitsteads of England."

The following is taken from "*Armorial Families Showing Arms borne by Legal Authority*":

"Rev. John Armitstead, Master of Arts, Christ Church, Oxford, Patron and Vicar of Sandbach, of Cheshire, born May 11th, 1829, eldest son of the late John Armitstead, Vicar of Sandbach, Masters of Arts, Justice of Peace; his wife, Susan Hester, second

Anne Hill Carter, great-granddaughter of Judith Armistead, married Light Horse Harry Lee. Issue: Charles Carter Lee, Sydney Smith Lee, Robert Edward Lee, Anna Lee, Mildred Lee.

John Carter, son of Judith, had four children—Elizabeth, married Col. William Byrd, of "Westover," and had William and four others; *Charles*, married, first, Mary Carter; second, Anne Butler Moore. *Robert*, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Nelson, of York. *Edward Carter*, of "Blenheim," married Sarah Champe.

Charles Carter (son of John, son of Judith Armistead and Robert Carter, of Corotoman,) married second, Anne Butler Moore, and had Ann, who married Light Horse Harry Lee; Dr. Robert C., who married Mary Nelson; Kate Spotswood C., married Dr. Carter Berkeley; Bernard Moore C., married Lucy Lee; Williams C., married Charlotte Fouchee; Lucy C., married Nathaniel Burwell.

7. William<sup>4</sup> Armistead (John<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Anthony<sup>1</sup>) was born in 1671 and died at Eastmost River in Mathews County, June 13, 1711, where his tomb still stands. He married Anna Lee, daughter of Hancock Lee and Mary, daughter of William Kendall, of Northampton County. Issue: (9) John<sup>5</sup>, (10) Mary<sup>5</sup>, (11) Judith<sup>5</sup>, (12) Anna<sup>5</sup>, (13) Joyce<sup>5</sup>, (14) Frances<sup>5</sup>. (9) John<sup>5</sup> Armistead married, first, Elizabeth Burwell; second, Susanna Meriwether, daughter of Thomas Meriwether, of Essex County, and had issue: John, William, Susanna, who married Moore Fauntleroy in or before 1735. Of these, John Armistead married Mary Churchill (marriage bond 1749) and had issue, Churchill Armistead, who married, in July, 1775, Miss Betsy Boswell, of the same place, probably a daughter of Major Thomas Boswell, whose daughter or sister, Jane, married, before 1760, John Seawell, of Gloucester County. The assessors books of Gloucester County in 1791 shows lands assessed to Churchill Armistead, William Armistead's estate, William Armistead, John Armistead, Jr., Dorothy Armistead, Robert Armistead, Richard Armistead, John Armistead, Isaac Armistead, and Currill Armistead's estate. In 1788 lands were assessed to William Armi-

stead's estate, Churchill Armistead, and Currill Armistead's estate. In the *Virginia Gazette* for 1768 Dorothy Armistead and Robert Reade advertised as Executors of Captain Gwyn Reade. (10) *Mary*<sup>5</sup> *Armistead* married, first, James Burwell; second, Philip Lightfoot, of York County. Issue: John Armistead, William. ((11) *Judith*<sup>5</sup> *Armistead* married George Dudley. James Burwell's will, proved September 15, 1718, at Yorktown, names wife Mary, daughter Lucy, son Nathaniel Bacon, brother John Armistead, sister Martha Burwell, sister Judith, wife of George Dudley, sister Elizabeth Armistead, sisters Anne, Joyce, Frances. (12) *Annu*<sup>5</sup> *Armistead* married 4th of April, 1725, Anthony Walke, born 1692, member for many years of House of Burgesses, son of the emigrant, Thomas Walke, who came from Barbardoes in 1662 and married Mary Lawson in 1689, daughter of Col. Anthony Lawson. (13) *Joyce*<sup>5</sup> *Armistead*, daughter of William Armistead, of Eastmost River, married Mordecai Booth. A portrait of her is preserved in Gloucester County in the family of General William Booth Taliaferro, a descendant of Joyce Armistead, whose line runs: Thomas Booth, of Lancaster County, England (born 1666, died in Ware Parish, Gloucester County, Va., October 11, 1736), married Mary Cooke and had Mordecai Booth, who married Joyce Armistead, and had George Booth, who married Mary Wythe Mason and had George Wythe Booth, who married Lucy Jones and had issue, Fannie Booth, who married Warner T. Taliaferro, whose issue was General William Booth Taliaferro.

8. Henry<sup>4</sup> Armistead (John<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Anthony<sup>1</sup>) married Martha Burwell, baptized November 16, 1685. Martha Burwell was the daughter of Major Lewis Burwell and Abigail Smith, his first wife (see will of Major Lewis Burwell, on record in Yorktown). Issue of Henry Armistead and Martha Burwell: (18) William<sup>5</sup>, (19) Lucy<sup>5</sup>, (20) Martha<sup>5</sup>, (21) Robert<sup>5</sup>. Henry Armistead is spoken of as residing at "Hesse," the family seat of John Armistead his father. His wife was the young lady with whom Governor Francis Nicholson became so infatuated,

The descendants of John Chiswell will be interested in the following from Genealogical Column of *Times-Dispatch*:

CHISWELL.

In the old graveyard at Warner Hall, in Gloucester County, is a tombstone with this inscription:

MARY LEWIS,  
 First Wife of Warner Lewis, Esq.,  
 Daughter of John Chiswell,  
 of Williamsburg,  
 and Elizabeth Randolph,  
 of Turkey Island.  
 Died the first of November, 1776.  
 Aged 28 years."

The John Chiswell mentioned in this inscription was a commanding personage in 1766, and he died just ten years before his daughter by his own hand. He was son of Charles Chiswell, of Hanover, who died in Williamsburg on April 8, 1738. The *Williamsburg Gazette* announces that John Chiswell came to town on Wednesday in perfect health; was taken ill of a pleurisy on Friday night, which was so violent that it carried him off on the Monday night following, and on Wednesday night he was decently interred in old Bruton Churchyard.

The *Gazette* further announces that "he was in great esteem among the gentlemen of this Colony, generally well beloved, and bore the character of a very worthy, honest gentleman." The press was not afraid of the word gentleman in 1737.

The custom of funerals by torchlight prevailed at one time in England, and was a mark of the high estate of the deceased. Evidently Charles Chiswell was buried by torches, and we can fancy the solemnity of the occasion—pine knots flaring, old Bruton rising in shadowy beauty, and the cadence of the burial service floating upon the awed silence of the Colonial capital.

Charles<sup>1</sup> Chiswell left one son, John<sup>2</sup>, who married Elizabeth, daughter of the second William Randolph, of Turkey Island, and

had three daughters—Susanna, who first married Speaker Robinson, and second William Griffith. By this last marriage he had one daughter, Nancy, who married John Lewis, of Eagle Point, Gloucester County, then called “Vue de l’eau,” which name was transformed by the negroes into the most ridiculous contortions—“Bugelow,” for instance.

French nomenclature does not especially appeal to the African mind. An old estate called “Level Green” was changed by the owner to “Beau Pre,” and at once the negroes utilized their familiar exclamation “Do Pray!” while the printer preferred “Bean Pie.”

Lucy<sup>3</sup>, the youngest daughter of John Chiswell, married Col. William Nelson, oldest son of Secretary Thomas Nelson, of Yorktown, and had seventeen children.

To John Chiswell there hangs a tale—a weird, sensational tale. He was defendant in one of the most interesting murder trials of that or any other period. He killed Robert Routledge, a Scotch gentleman, in Cumberland County; the County Court refused to give him bail, but William Byrd, John Blair and Presley Thornton, well known members of the Virginia aristocracy—that close corporation to which Chiswell belonged—and members also the General Court, overruled the dictum already issued, and did bail Mr. Chiswell. His bond was £2,000 and theirs £1,000 apiece.

For their action the members of the General Court were bitterly attacked. We give the opinions of Chiswell’s friends and Chiswell’s enemies. Both constitute valuable commentaries on the feelings of the day.

The Rev. John Camm, then professor at William and Mary College, in a letter to a friend, written at the time, says: “Colonel Chiswell has committed a murder on the body of one Mr. Routledge. He was sent down by the examining court to take his trial in Williamsburg. Instead of his being lodged in jail, three judges of the General Court, led to it, no doubt, by Chiswell’s connections, out of session, have carried their power so far as to stop him in his way to prison and admit him to bail, which is like, as well it might, to put the whole country into ferment.”

It did put the country into ferment. The circumstances were these, colored to suit their fancy by adherents of both sides of the question:

On the night of June 3, 1766, Chiswell and Routledge were in the dancing-room of the tavern at Cumberland Courthouse. Colonel Chiswell was talking in an important manner, and somewhat liberal of oaths. Routledge gave a word of reproof. Chiswell then asked him if he ever swore. "Yes," answered Routledge, "by all the gods." "You fool!" said Chiswell, "there is but one." More heated conversation followed, and Colonel Chiswell called Routledge a "fugitive rebel" and a "Presbyterian fellow." Routledge had been drunk three times that day, and he was in no state of mind to stand anything. He snatched a glass of wine from the table and threw it in Chiswell's face.

This was an indignity that a man of honor had to resent, and Colonel Chiswell picked up a bowl of "bumbo" for Routledge's face; but some friends prevented him. Then he seized a candlestick for the same purpose, which was also defeated. Then he tried to hurl a pair of tongs, but these also were wrested from him. Enraged and baffled, he ordered his servant to go to his room and bring his sword.

The testimony for and against Chiswell varies somewhat. Mr. John Blair deposed:

"That it was a most unhappy drunken affair and very culpable, yet there was no malice prepenze. That the first assault was from the deceased, who threw a glass of wine in Colonel Chiswell's face, both much in liquor, which was returned with the bowl of punch; and so assaults on both sides were reiterated until Routledge took a chair to knock Chiswell down; on which he sent his man for his sword; but when brought to him naked he got his back to the wall and stood on his defense, pointing it out and calling several times to take Routledge out of the room; that accordingly one was taking him out of the room, and two men seized Chiswell's sword arm, and held it so strongly that it was impossible for him to move; that Routledge broke from the man that was carrying him out and rushed upon the sword that was pointed out, and was thus killed."

These accounts in Chiswell's favor and against him may be found in the *Virginia Gazette*s of June and July, 1766. A very irate person, who signs himself "Dikephilos," announces that Chiswell's friends would prevent the truth being published; but he, bent upon justice, gives his impression in a three-column letter, with diagram of the room in which Routledge was killed, with letters to denote every movement of the contending gentlemen.

The servant brought the sword, for his master assured him that he would kill him if he did not. Colonel Chiswell, taking the deadly weapon, swore that he would kill anybody who came near him. Then, in an imperious tone, he ordered Routledge from the room. Routledge was "desirous of remaining, and, hickuping, said that he had no ill will against Colonel Chiswell, and that he was sure Colonel Chiswell would not hurt him with his sword; and when some of the company proposed that Routledge should be carried off and put to bed, others said he ought not to be carried out, as he was not the intruder." Mr. Joseph Carrington attempted to take Routledge out, and Colonel Chiswell moved cautiously along the wall towards him, abusing Routledge roundly. While Mr. Carrington searched his pockets for a key to a room in which he proposed to put Routledge to bed, Colonel Chiswell continued his abuse, reiterating his opprobrious epithet, "Presbyterian fellow," and Routledge became enraged again, broke from Mr. Carrington, and ran towards the table near which Colonel Chiswell stood. Colonel Chiswell went instantly forward, and with his sword, or hanger, which was about two feet long, stabbed him through the heart across the table." Mr. Thomas Swann was near by, and the sword in its way passed through his coat near the extremity of the third buttonhole from the bottom.

A gentleman tried to stay Colonel Chiswell's arm, but immediately Colonel Chiswell told him it was too late, adding, "He is dead, and I killed him." Mr. Routledge sank down in the arms of Mr. Carrington and expired.

Colonel Chiswell, unruffled, handed his sword to his servant,

bade him clean it carefully with tallow, lest it rust, and added defiantly, "He deserves his fate, damn him. I aimed at his heart, and I have hit it." Then he ordered a bowl of toddy, drank freely, and became somewhat intoxicated before the arrival of the justice of the peace. This is the testimony of Routledge's side. "Dikephilos" thinks it natural that gentlemen of Colonel Chiswell's class should attempt to save a man of Colonel Chiswell's "figure," but he appeals to the public for justice. It is the beginning of a mass against class, of a clarion call to justice, unmindful of estate. "Philanthropos," on the 22d of August, 1766, in a fiery letter cries to the people: "Take heed what ye do, for ye judge not for man, but the Lord! Be strong, deal courageously, and the Lord shall be with you." It is indeed mass against class. This is testimony for Routledge.

The testimony of Colonel Chiswell's friends was contradictory. They differed materially from "Dikephilos," "Philanthropos," etc. They were Mr. Wythe, William Byrd, Ousley Thornton, John Blair, Thomas Mann Randolph, Richard Randolph, and many others.

Colonel Chiswell, "they affirmed," did order his sword, which was brought; he did order Routledge out of the room; he did call him "Presbyterian fellow" and "Scotch rebel;" he did hold his sword naked in his hand, but he did not advance, and Mr. Littlebery Mosby and Mr. Jacob Mosby had him so fast that he could not move the sword. But Mr. Routledge, who had been delivered by Mr. Joseph Carrington to a slave at the door, got so enraged at Chiswell's calling him "fellow" that he himself rushed upon the point of the sword. Chiswell did say "I have killed him," because he felt him upon the point of the sword which no other man could know. Virginia was shaken by the circumstances, contemporaneous papers bristled with it, the people awaited breathlessly for the decision of a case which would show how far an aristocrat could withstand the law—how far the law and public opinion agreed. Colonel Chiswell was first put in jail, where he preserved a careless and dignified demeanor, inquired after Colonel Swann, whose button hole his sword has pierced,

and awaited developments which were somewhat unpopular owing to the decision of the three members of the General Court—Byrd, Thornton and Blair—to have him bailed.

On the 12th day of September this potential announcement appeared in the *Williamsburg Gazette*, "Yesterday Afternoon Colonel John Chiswell Arrived in Town." The trial was near. This gentleman went as usual to his house, which still stands in Williamsburg. In October the trial was going on. Some witness swore that "it was out of Chiswell's power to advance—Routledge had cast himself upon the point of the sword"; others that Chiswell had cried, "So would I kill fifty others for the same offense." Joseph Carrington affirmed that "Routledge, stung at something Chiswell said, darted at him," and so it went. The people sneered at the partisanry of the Randolphs, Mr. Byrd and others.

The State was in a tense condition. The feeling for and against Colonel Chiswell was growing each way. He himself, intelligent and thoughtful, felt the tremendous consequences of his rash deed, and on October 14, 1766, he killed himself at his own house at Williamsburg. This notice came out in the *Gazette* of October 17, —:

"On Wednesday last, about eleven o'clock in the afternoon, died at his house in this city, Colonel John Chiswell, after a short illness. The cause of his death by the judgment of the physicians upon oath were nervousness, owing to a constant uneasiness of the mind."

Blessed old *Gazette!* Throwing a veil of charity over an unfortunate deed, scorning to pander to vitiated tastes by dwelling upon a circumstance which would have been a dainty tidbit for our yellow journals—a tidbit to be shredded and chewed. Instead it merely announces the death of a distinguished and rashly impulsive gentleman, and calls suicide a "nervous fit owing to a constant uneasiness of the mind"—a very nice diagnosis.

23. John<sup>7</sup>, Armistead (William<sup>5</sup>, Henry<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Anthony<sup>1</sup>) was at William and Mary in 1755, when Thomas Nel-

## BOOTH, BUCKNER, READE, ARMISTEAD.

There were Booths who came early to Virginia and settled in York and Gloucester Counties. Thomas Booth, from Barton, Lancastershire, England, where he was born in 1663, settled on Ware River, Gloucester County, where he died in 1736. He was the son of St. John Booth, who was son of John, the son of George Booth. George B. was also the father of William B. who was the father of George, first Lord Delamere, who was the father of Henry Booth, Earl of Delamere (*Macaulay's His.*). Thomas Booth, emigrant, married Mary, daughter of Mordecai Cooke, of Mordecai's Mount. Their tombs, with Arms, are at Jarvis Farm, Gloucester County, Va. They had ten children.

Adam B. married Thomas Reade. Isabella B., born 1704, married, first, Rev. John Richards; second, Rev. John Fox. Elizabeth B. married ———— Davis. Mary B. married John Perrin. Dr. George B. married Frances ————. Mordecai B. married Joyce Armistead. Booth B. married Mary Mason Wythe; his son, George B., born 1772, married, first, Pauline Tabb; second, Mary Jones. Issue: Frances B. married Warren T. Talliaferro and had William Booth Talliaferro, major C. S. A.

Thomas Booth, student at William and Mary, 1699-1701, justice and sheriff 1732, will made and probated in Hanover County, St. Paul's Parish, married first, *Anne Buckner*, and had George, known as George of Poropotanke, who married Mary Talliaferro, Issue: Thomas Booth, sheriff in 1795; who married, first, *Mary Ann Allen*, daughter of Richmond Allen.

## BUCKNER.

There were two emigrants of the name—John, in Gloucester, and Philip, in Stafford,—presumably brothers. John Buckner is believed to have married a Miss Cooke, and had William Buckner, of Yorktown; Thomas and John Buckner, of Gloucester, and Richard, of Essex, who married Elizabeth Cooke. Of these, Major Thomas, of Gloucester, married Sarah, daughter of Captain Francis Morgan; issue, among others, Anne Buckner,

William Armistead landed here in 1634-35, and settled here or near by, as we hear of him as vestryman in 1646. In the History Building at Jamestown Exposition (1907) the Elizabeth City vestry book was opened at the following entry:

"I, William Armistead, do promise to be conformable to the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of England, as by Law established.

"WILL<sup>m</sup> ARMISTEAD."

Evidently, both Williams were vestrymen of the first church, 1610, as the Pembroke Church, one mile west of present St. John's, was "new in 1667, while the old one was still standing" (Rev. Reverdy Estill, D. D., rector of St. John's). The present St. John's dates from 1727. From 1646, William Armistead, to 1848, Westwood Armistead, there have been vestrymen of the name in the parish, to say nothing of parishes in other counties, all which indicates that they were from the first loyal supporters of the Church.

#### THE VESTRIES OF COLONIAL TIMES.

"The vestries were the depositories of power in Virginia. They not only governed the churches, but made laws in the House of Burgesses, levied taxes, etc. The Councillors, too, were vestrymen. In the history of the vestries we have the origin not only of that religious liberty which later developed in Virginia, but also of the determined stand taken by the Episcopalians on behalf of civil liberty. The vestries, the intelligent moral strength of the land, had been trained up in defense of their rights against Governors, Bishops, Kings, Queens, and Cabinets."

"The vestries were the ruling men of the parishes—men of property and education. In communications to England, the clergy spoke of them as aristocratic bodies—twelve lords or masters of the parishes. Even Mr. Thomas Jefferson and Mr. Wythe were vestrymen—'they *must be among the rulers.*'"

The principal seats of the Anthony Armistead family were on Back River. In 1697, Col. John Armistead, of Gloucester County, made a deed (which is on record in Elizabeth City

able to return to his command. Was wounded again at Hatcher's Run; taken prisoner, carried to Point Lookout prison, and remained there until after close of war, when he was released by order of President Andy Johnson. Returned to Norfolk; continued his membership with Norfolk Light Artillery Blues, Battery B, and rose through successive grades until March, 1889, when he was elected captain, which position he held for eighteen years, when he was elected Major of First Battalion of Field Artillery Virginia Volunteers, which rank he now holds (1909). He has been continuously in the service of his State over fifty years. He is also a Mason of high standing, and a zealous member of the Methodist Church; superintendent of Sunday-school for many years. Though now an old man in years, he is erect, alert and active as a man of forty.

#### THE WESTWOOD FAMILY.

From the significance of the various blazons in the Arms described below, the Westwood family was one of distinction in England;

"Arms; sable, a lion rampant; argent, crowned with a mural crown, or; three crosses—crosslet, fitchee, or, Crest, a stork's head ppr. erased gorged with a mural crown or." No motto given.

The lion was usually granted only to those who had served in the King's service, and thus in being crowned with a "mural crown" (being masoned, and the top embattled), proved that some of the family had fought in battle. These mural crowns were conferred by the old Romans on the soldier who first scaled the walls of a rampart or besieged town; the cross, too, was a mark or attestation and only confirmed upon "officials." It is said "so superstitiously did those times (William Ist) think of the cross, that they held all things sanctified that bore the signe of it; and therefore it was used religiously in their charters; and this was the origin of persons who could not write their names, to make the sign of a cross instead. The cross as here given is called a cross-crosslet, or one having its limbs also crossed, which

signifies that they are to extend to the extremities of the Escutcheon. When the cross is pointed at the base, it is called 'fitche,' or fixed. Crosses of this description are said to have been carried by the early christians in their pilgrimages, so that they might readily be fixed in the ground whilst performing their devotions. The stork in the crest is emblematic of piety and gratitude. They were held in great veneration by many of the early Kings, and were prohibited by law from being disturbed; hence the storks would build their nests on the tops of castles and other high buildings, where they always welcomed and encouraged. The one in the Westwood Arms is 'gorged', or has around its neck also a 'mural' crown, and the whole Escutcheon would read: That the early members of the Westwood family were knights in the King's service, one of whom had been first in the capture of castle or walled town—that some of them had been pilgrims to the Holy Land, or in the wars of the Crusaders; and that they lived in castles, over which flew the sacred stork."

The first of the family in the Colony were Humphrey and Randall Westwood, who settled in York County about 1620. Henning speaks of Humphrey Westwood, as well as William and Worlich Westwood. Humphrey was one of the original company under the charter granted by James I. and dated May 23, 1607.

In 1622 there came to the Colony a William Worlich, age fifteen, in the ship *Bona Nova*. In 1649, 1654, 1659, and perhaps other years, he was a member of the House of Burgesses, and Lieutenant-Colonel of militia for Elizabeth City County.

NOTE.—(Mr. William Westwood, of Hampton, who read eight or ten of the Westwood wills recorded in Clerk's office in Hampton, is authority for the following (among them the will of William Westwood, who married Elizabeth Worlich): He went for a second reading of this will and could not find it; therefore could not give date or all the names.)

"William Westwood married Elisabeth Worlich. In his will he mentions 'daughter Elisabeth, who married George Wray, late



This Coat of Arms of the Westwood family was copied from a very old one that has been preserved in the McCreery family for generations. It was done on heavy parchment—an expert copy of the original that was brought from England. Mrs. Indiana Worlich Westwood Williams (now deceased) saw Elizabeth McCreery (several generations back) at work on it. She saw the original, but the present generation do not know what became of it. It is not found in Burke, but Dr. R. A. Brock, genealogist, says he has noted other omissions of Arms in Burke. The McCreerys are descended from the Westwoods.

of England.' Another daughter married Thomas Wythe, father of Chancellor Wythe, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

"William Westwood, son of William W. and Elisabeth Worlich, married Mary Tabb. His will, proved June 23, 1770, mentions the following children: Louisa, married Col. Robert Armistead (of Louisa County); Elisabeth, married, first, James Wallace; second, Thomson Mason; Worlich, married Hannah King; Martha, married Edward Hack Moseley, of Norfolk; Rachel, married Henry King. He also mentions James Westwood, and Merritt Westwood as his grandson; and Sarah, the daughter of James Westwood.

"William Westwood, son of William Westwood and Mary Tabb, married Anne Stith. Will written in 1780, probated in 1782. "At the writing of the will all of his daughters must have been single;" he speaks of them as "daughters;" "mentions sons William and John Stith, born 1766, died in 1836, May 16th, age seventy-two, when W. T. Westwood, now (1900) town clerk of Hampton, was but two years old." John Stith Westwood was married three times, and W. T. Westwood was child of the last marriage, Elisabeth Stanworth. John Stith Westwood was member of the House of Delegates in 1804-'5, and justice of the peace in 1802."

Indiana Worlich Westwood, daughter of John Stith Westwood, married William H. Williams. Issue: Arthur, Westwood, May.

William James Westwood is another son of John Stith Westwood.

William James Westwood married Kate Owens Williams. Issue: Kate W., Indie W., Mary W., Ida W., Jno. Stith W., Mattie W.

Indie Westwood married James W. Sinton, of Richmond, Va. Issue, two children, James W. Sinton, Jr., Katherine Westwood Sinton.

Kate Westwood married D. C. Lewis. Issue: one son, Beverly C. Lewis, Jr.

from which Shakespeare took his story of 'The Tempest.' This fact is mentioned in notes in the first editions of Shakespeare. The author married Rebecca Bohlen. This information about the literary turn of the Stiths and about 'Lost Island,' came from an old lady, Miss Jeanette Douglass, of New York, one of the Stiths, who owned about thirty of the works of Stith, the author of 'Lost Island.' "

It is said that John Rolfe's mother was a Stith. Rev. William Stith, an Episcopal clergyman, who came over to this country, wrote on Architecture and Engineering (see Worcester's *Ancient His.*). Anne Stith, who married William Westwood was a direct descendant of Pocahontas. Thomas Rolfe, son of Pocahontas, married a Miss Poythress; their daughter Jane Rolfe, married Col. Robert Bolling, issue, John Bolling, married Miss Kennon, issue, a daughter, who married Richard Randolph, issue, Mary Randolph, who married William Stith, whose daughter married William Stith the historian, his son John married Elisabeth Anderson; their daughter Anne married W. Westwood.

#### ROMANCE OF THE BEAUTIFUL ELISABETH WESTWOOD.

This is told in *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. XIII., No. 3, by Miss Emily Macrae, of Orangefield, Stafford County, in her account of the Wallace family. Mr. Tyler says in *William and Mary*, Vol. IX., No. 2:

"Rev. James Wallace was born in Errol, Perthshire, Scotland, 1667, and died in Elisabeth City County, Va., at his home, Erroll, on Back River, Nov. 3rd, 1712. His tombstone bearing his coat of arms, is still to be seen there. He served for twenty-one years as minister of Elisabeth City, and practiced physic also. He married Anne widow of Thomas Wythe—grandfather of George Wythe, July 11th, 1695. Issue: (1) Euphan; (2) Anne Wallace, who married Col. Robert Armistead (son of William, son of Anthony, son of William the Emigrant), (3) a daughter, who married ——— Ballard, (4) Mary, who married William Westwood. (5) John, (6) James. This last married Martha ———, and her will was proved in 1768, ac-

ording to which they had (1) Robert, student at William and Mary in 1753, who had James and Wilson. (2) Martha, married Thomas Tabb; (3) Elisabeth married John Seldon; (4) Mary married Richard Ball of Lancaster; (5) Euphan married Judge William Roscoe Wilson Curle; (6) Anne married George Wray, jr.; (7) James Wallace, student Wm. and Mary in 1758, Burgess for Elizabeth City Co. in 1769 & 1772, justice of the county and member of the county Committee of Safety 1775. He married Elisabeth Westwood, daughter of William Westwood, and had issue: (1) Robert Wallace, student William and Mary in 1775, (2) James, (3) William, (4) Martha, (5) Euphan, (6) Elisabeth who married John McCrea, (7) Mary.

“*Elisabeth* Westwood Wallace, widow of James Wallace, married second, Hon. Thomson Mason, of Stafford Co., and appears to have had two sons, Westwood Thomson Mason and William Temple Tompson Mason. He had by previous marriage Stevens and John Thomson Mason. In his will proved Sep. 26th 1784 he ordered ‘that neither of his two younger sons shall reside on the south side of James River or below Williamsburg before they respectfully attain the age of twenty one, lest they should imbibe more exalted notions of their own than I should wish any child of mine to possess.’”

Miss Emily Macrae says: “James Wallace fled from Scotland in the rebellion of '45. He was born at Erroll in Scotland; his birth attested by three lairds. He settled on Back River, in Elizabeth City Co. He brought with him an immense table service of plate, on which was engraved the Wallace Arms, he being a collateral descendant of Sir William Wallace. The dinner set of silver consisted of two tureens and ladles, a full set of covered dishes, pickle and butter dishes, knives and forks and every appurtenance that belongs to a dinner and breakfast set of table silver, all the most massive silver. He, James Wallace married Elisabeth Westwood of Hampton Va (my great-grandmother). She was remarkable for her great beauty, accomplishments, strength of intellect and piety. Their children were eleven—six of whom attained the age of maturity—Robert, James, Euphan,

William and Kemp Plummer owned a great many servants, as is recorded in the Kingston Parish Register, Gloucester County.

## CARY—ARMISTEAD—SELDEN.

William Cary, Lord Mayor of Bristol, England, who died 1632, had a son John who married Alice, daughter of Henry Hobson, alderman of Bristol, England. They had seven children—Thomas, Anne, Henry, Bridget, Elizabeth, Miles, William. Miles came to Virginia in 1640. Settled in Warwick County, which, in 1659, he represented in the House of Burgesses. He married Elizabeth Taylor, and died in 1667, leaving four sons—Thomas, Henry, Miles and William. Thomas C. married Ann Milner. Henry of "The Forest" married a daughter of Richard Randolph of "Curles." His five daughters married, respectively, Thomas Mann Randolph of Tuckahoe, Thomas Isham Randolph of Dungeness, Archibald Bolling, Carter Page of Cumberland, and Joseph Kincade. Archibald Cary "Old Iron" of Revolutionary fame was a son; also Miles "The Elder."

Henry of "The Forest" was appointed to superintend the building of the Capitol at Williamsburg; also, at a later period, the rebuilding of William and Mary College, which had been burned.

Miles "The Elder," of "Pear Tree Hall," married Hannah Armistead, daughter of 82. William Armistead, son of Anthony A., who was the son of William A. the emigrant.

Issue of Miles C.<sup>4</sup> and Hannah A.: (1) Miles C., of Southampton County, married Elizabeth Taylor 1752; (2) Richard C., of Warwick, married Mary Cole; (3) Col. John C., of Elizabeth City County, officer in Revolutionary War, married first, Sallie Sclater about 1766, and had Miles C.; he married second, Susanna, daughter of Gill Armistead; issue: (1) Miles C., born 1767, who married a Mallory.

2. John C., of Hampton, born 1770, died 1822, married Anne Sweeny, niece of Chancellor Wythe.

3. Colonel Gill Armistead Cary, of Hampton, born 1783, married Sarah Eliza Smith Baytop, of Gloucester.

4. Robert Cary, unmarried.

5. Hannah Armistead Cary married Horatio Whiting.

6. Judith Robinson C., married Henry Howard.

7. Susan Cary, unmarried, born 1791, died 1873, and Betsy Cary, unmarried.

Issue of Col. Gill Armistead Cary and Sallie Baytop: (1) John Baytop Cary; (2) (Dr.) Nathaniel Robert Cary; (3) Richard Miles Cary; (4) Gill Armistead Cary.

1. Col. John Baytop Cary, of Hampton, married Columbia Hudgins, of Mathews County, 1844. Issue: Gilliena Armistead Cary; John Baytop Cary, Jr., died young; Elizabeth Earle Cary; Effie May Cary; Sallie Campbell Cary, Thomas Archibald Cary.

Gilliena Armistead Cary, unmarried.

Elizabeth Earle Cary married William Travers Daniel. Both husband and child died two years after marriage.

Effie May Cary married John Lewis White, of "The Old Mansion," Bowling Green, Caroline County. Issue: John Cary White and Anne Maury White.

Cammie Cary (Sallie Campbell) married Louis P. Knowles, of Pensacola, Fla.

Thomas Archibald Cary married Maria Barry Abert, of Columbia, Miss. Issue: John Barry Cary, Patty Abert Cary, Sallie Campbell Cary, George Abert Cary, Thomas Archibald Cary.

John Baytop Cary was colonel of the Thirty-second Virginia Regiment, C. S. A. After the war he settled in Richmond, where he was prominent in the business, literary, social and religious interest of the city. He died in 1898. Shortly afterwards there was endowed and established in the University of Virginia "The John B. Cary Bible Chair" as a memorial to him.

Dr. Nathaniel Robert Cary, son of Col. Gill Armistead Cary and Sallie Baytop, his wife, married Sue Fisher, of Eastern Shore, Va., about 1855. Lived in Pensacola, Fla., where he stood at his post during yellow fever scourge and died of the dread disease. Issue: (1) Sallie Cary, married Wm. S. Graves, of Bedford City. She was soon left a widow with four chil-