

John W. Hendon

Year Book

OF

THE ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

Preservation of Virginia Antiquities,

FOR

1898 and 1899.

Dei Gratia Virginia Condita.

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1900.

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Report of Landmark Committee.

As the Landmark Committee has no record of work done to bring forward at this time, its report must take the form of suggestions for the future.

Though during the ten years since the organization of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Richmond has been the headquarters of the society; though a deal of earnest work has been done and many thousands of dollars raised for it here, not one penny from its treasury has thus far been spent upon building up or rescuing from oblivion any of the many points of historic interest in our midst. For this reason it has been thought meet to let this city and neighborhood be the first to benefit from the work of the Landmark Committee. To trace the footprints of history and set up fitting mile-stones at points worthy of remembrance in Richmond alone will lead us on an interesting and circuitous ramble, which will doubtless keep your Committee going until the next annual meeting.

Confining ourselves for the present, then, to Richmond, how could we more appropriately begin our series of landmarks than with one to remind us of that Virginian of Virginians who laid the cornerstone of this storied city? The site of "Belvidere" (home of the first William Byrd, and the property and probable birthplace of his son, the brilliant and charming Colonel William Byrd, founder of Richmond) stood on the north side of the present Belvidere street. A memorial erected on the very spot would be seen by very few people, but Gamble's Hill is near by and in sight, and, commanding a view of the river about which hang so many memories of the Byrds, would be a most suitable spot for such memorial. One standing upon the brow of this hill, with so many of the city's industries and enterprises spread out before it—the smoke of engines and glare of furnaces adding

picturesqueness to the scene—doubtless looks down in reality, to-day, upon just such a picture as the prophetic eye of Colonel Byrd saw in fancy two centuries and a half ago, when he recognized the natural advantages of the situation for a centre of commerce, announced his great project to his fellow-travellers in the "Land of Eden," and humorously wrote in his diary, "Thus we did not build castles only, but *cities* in the air."

In point of time, the next historic personage connected with this, the western, section of the city is the famous Nathaniel Bacon, the first Virginian to enjoy the distinction of being dubbed with the title of "rebel"—since made so dear to Southern hearts. Though this soldier, patriot and orator sacrificed his life to what was in many ways a Lost Cause, his Rebellion was successful in that it secured the Indians' country as a safe home for the "pale face." All honor to his memory! Nat Bacon's plantation, or "quarter," lay near or along what is known as "Bacon's Quarter Branch"—a small stream rising not far from the present freight depot of the R., F. & P. railroad, on west Broad street. As the murder of Bacon's overseer at this "quarter" was the immediate cause of his taking up arms against the Indians—the beginning of "Bacon's Rebellion"—it would be appropriate to place some memorial in this vicinity—perhaps a tablet set in the heavy brick wall of the freight house above mentioned, or in that of the Elba school.

For the very earliest historic event which can be given a local habitation and a name (the exact spot of the landing of the first white visitors to Richmond being a subject of conjecture), we must go to the opposite extremity of the city. At this point occurred, in the year 1654, the famous Indian battle in which the colonists (under Colonel Edward Hill, the founder of "Shirley") and the allied Tottopotomoy, under their chief, were defeated by the hostile Indians. The "Mighty Tottopotomoy" was killed, and the slaughter is said to have been so great that a very bold spring and the stream flowing from it acquired the names of "Bloody Run" and "Bloody Run Spring," which they bear to this day. The spring has been bricked over for a

number of years, but (it is believed) still supplies water to some of the older houses in the neighborhood. It is situated on the north side of Broad street, between Thirtieth and Thirty-first streets. The "good queen of Pamunky," who was the widow of Tottopotomoy, seemed never to forget or forgive the fact that her husband lost his life while fighting side by side with his pale face allies. Years afterwards, just before "Bacon's Rebellion," when the whole of Virginia was panic-stricken at the cruelties of the Indians, the "good queen" was brought before the House of Burgesses and asked how many of her braves she would furnish to aid her white friends in subduing their common foe. She sat in their midst with rueful countenance and haughty mien, and the most that she could be induced to say in reply to their questions was, "Tottopotomoy dead! Tottopotomoy dead!" The A. P. V. A. will be the more interested in "the Mighty Tottopotomoy's" widow from the fact that she was the Indian queen whose silver crown this Association has inherited—that is, in the sense that the heirlooms I have bought are my heirlooms.

Coming a few squares westward from "Bloody Run Spring," we reach a place only second in interest to the State Capitol—historic old St. John's Church. If this Association should at any time feel that it had the means to do so, a stained window "To the glory of God and the memory of the Patriots who assembled here in 1775 to deliberate in regard to American rights," would be a most appropriate memorial to erect here; or if a sum of money sufficient to cover the cost of a window be not forthcoming, a bronze tablet would be a good substitute. There should also be a small tablet to mark the pew where Patrick Henry stood when he made his great speech.

Another important work to be done at St. John's is to place some monument on the unmarked grave of Chancellor George Wythe, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and one of our greatest jurists and purest statesmen. The site of Judge Wythe's home, at the southeast corner of Grace and Fifth streets,

now occupied by the residence of Mr. Beverley B. Munford, should also be marked.

Following in chronological sequence the convention in Saint John's, would be the site of the first capitol, when the government was removed from Williamsburg to Richmond. This stood upon what is now 14th street, near Cary, about the point now occupied by the store of E. A. Saunders & Co., upon which the tablet might be placed.

Next, again, in point of time, would be the commemoration of the most momentous assemblage ever convened in Richmond—the Convention of 1788, through which the Virginia ratification of the United States Constitution was made. This convention sat in the old "Academy" building—a frame house situated on the lot adjoining, to the south, the Retreat for the Sick, which was erected through the efforts of a visionary Frenchman for the home of an institution which he vainly hoped would be to America what the French Academy was to his native country.

Reference has already been made to the present Capitol as the point of chiefest interest. It would be most appropriate to place tablets within its assembly halls to record the famous conventions which have sat there; the Confederate Congress; and the trial of Aaron Burr, which was held there, at least for part of the time.

The trial of Burr naturally suggests the name of the illustrious judge who presided at it. By all means some memorial should tell passers by that the quaint house on the northwest corner of Marshall and 9th streets was long the home of America's greatest lawyer, Chief Justice John Marshall. Perhaps the Bar Association would undertake this work, as it is understood they intend to formally celebrate "Marshall Day."

Only a few squares further up Marshall street, turning northward into 5th, brings us to the site of the boyhood home of Edgar Allen Poe, whose unusual genius the world is just beginning to fully appreciate and fittingly honor. The A. P. V. A. could becomingly join in keeping his memory green by marking this spot.

The site of the home of William Wirt, which stood on the northwest corner of Grace and 6th streets (now occupied by the residence of Major Norman V. Randolph), would also be an interesting point to mark, as would be the site of Edmund Randolph's home—opposite the Capitol Square, on the ground later occupied by the First Presbyterian church. According to Mordecai, the last named residence was afterwards the home of Justice Peter V. Daniel, of the United States Supreme Court, a son-in-law of Mr. Randolph, and grandfather of our well-known fellow-citizen, Mr. J. R. V. Daniel.

Another interesting house stood on Clay street, between 7th and 8th, on a lot occupied about 1860 by the late Conway Robinson. It was there that Albert Gallatin, the great financier, lived during his brief residence in Richmond, and there that he brought his bride, who was Miss Allegre, of this city. The house was afterwards the home of Bushrod Washington, Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and a nephew of General Washington.

Although the building in which the Virginia Historical Society finds a most congenial home is marked, in a way, by the great work to which it is now devoted, it should most assuredly bear a tablet stating that it was once the abode of our beloved General Robert E. Lee, and giving the dates between which he lived there.

This brings our report (if report it can be called) to an end for the present, as far as Richmond landmarks are concerned. If objection should be raised to some of the points suggested on the ground of obscurity of locality, I would remind the Association that travellers abroad constantly put themselves to the trouble of visiting places much more out-of-the-way than any of those I have mentioned, to lay a sprig of rosemary on a spot made sacred by association with an illustrious deed or noble life.

Outside of Richmond there is a wide and untouched field for the erection of memorials, when it shall become possible to do so. In Winchester there still stands a quaint stone house which, as a tavern, was Washington's quarters during the French and

Indian war. In Alexandria may be seen the very steps from which he delivered his last public address. In Winchester also is the grave of General Morgan, of Revolutionary fame, only marked by portions of a broken tomb; but this might perhaps better be left to the Daughters of the Revolution, as also the fulfilment of the pledge made many years ago by Virginia, to bring back from Cumberland Island, Georgia, and give suitable interment in his native State, the remains of gallant Light Horse Harry Lee.

Though the glory of the signers of the Declaration of Independence is also Revolutionary, it would doubtless come with perfect propriety within the scope of our own work to mark the places where they sleep. As I have said, George Wythe's grave in St. John's churchyard, has no monument, and it is believed that this is also the case with the last earthly resting-places of Benjamin Harrison, Richard Henry and Francis Lightfoot Lee, and Carter Braxton.

In striking contrast with the total indifference of Virginians to such matters, is the work that New Englanders are doing. They are literally filling the churches of our mother country (even Shakespeare's church at Stratford-on-Avon) with memorials of the founders of New England. The only instances in which Virginians have imitated these praiseworthy and pious acts, are to be found in Cleburne church, Westmoreland, and St. Mary's, Bedford Parish, Middlesex, England. In the first-named sanctuary is a memorial to Secretary William Claiborne, of Colonial Virginia, and also one of which it will be of interest for Confederate veterans to learn—a tablet to the memory of the brave General Pat Cleburne. The one referred to in St. Mary's, Bedford, is a brass tablet to the memory of Francis Page, ancestor of the Virginia Pages, who was buried in the chancel of that ancient and beautiful little church. The epitaph of John Smith is only preserved by a copy painted on a board which hangs on the wall of the church where he is buried, in St. Sepulchre's church, London.

These final suggestions are merely made in the hope of open-

ing the eyes of the Association to the vastness of the field for the Landmark Committee to work in, and stirring it up to speedily giving the committee authority and means to, at least, make a beginning.

MARY MANN PAGE NEWTON,

Chairman Landmark Committee.

October 19, 1899.

Report of Publication Committee and Committee of Collaborators.

MRS. JOSEPH BRYAN, *President A. P. V. A.:*

MADAME,—We herein enclose our annual report for 1899. As the fullest exposition of our work, we repeat below the report made to the Central Committee last May:

REPORT (OF MAY)

On the collection of manuscripts of lectures delivered before the A. P. V. A. from time to time, beginning with the first one, which was delivered by Prof. Wm. Taylor Thom, January, 1895:

RICHMOND, VA., May 1st, 1895.

MRS. JOSEPH BRYAN, *President A. P. V. A.:*

MADAME,—As instructed by yourself on June 1st, 1898, I began the collection of manuscripts of the A. P. V. A. lectures. I found that, as yet, none of these manuscripts were in the possession of the A. P. V. A. On June 1st, 1898, I opened a correspondence with the lecturers, asking in the name of the A. P. V. A. for their manuscripts. After eleven months of tedious delays, I can report in hand manuscripts from the following gentlemen: Messrs. Wm. Taylor Thom, W. W. Henry, R. S. Thomas, Rev. Braxton Bryan, Barton H. Wise, J. Alston Cabell, John P. McGuire, Sr., Wyndham R. Meredith, Rev. Moses D. Hoge, R. Heath Dabney.

The manuscripts not yet received are by Bishop A. M. Randolph,

Messrs. Joseph Bryan, Charles W. Coleman, and Lyon G. Tyler, making fourteen in all.

The manuscript of Mr. Philip A. Bruce is owned by Macmillan & Co., and for which they charge a copy-right fee. This fee I was authorized not to pay by a meeting of the Board of Managers in October, 1898. This action of the Board excludes the lecture of Mr. Bruce from our publications.

As I am unwilling to assume the safekeeping of these valuable papers in my private residence, they have been deposited with the Virginia Trust Company.

You will recollect I requested the appointment of a committee of gentlemen from the A. P. V. A. with whom I could consult. This committee of collaborators are Messrs. E. V. Valentine, John P. McGuire, Sr., and R. L. Traylor. The greatly lamented Barton H. Wise was also a member.

The first meeting of our committee was held in October, 1898. The second in April, 1899. The work was carefully investigated by the committee of collaborators and our committees agreed unanimously on the following conclusions:

First. That after careful consideration, we find the publication of each lecture will entail an average cost of \$100 (one hundred dollars), which would require a total expenditure of \$1,400; and this estimate would not include the three lectures delivered last winter, 1898-9.

Secondly. That as four of the manuscripts, not yet in hand, form important historical links in the series, we conclude that at the present time, and in the condition of our treasury, it would be wiser not to mar the chronology of Virginia history, as presented in these lectures, by the publication of a part and not the whole.

Respectfully submitted,

VIRGINIA MORGAN ROBINSON,
Publication Committee.

E. V. VALENTINE,
JOHN P. MCGUIRE,
RO. LEE TRAYLOR,
Committee of Collaborators.

This closes the May report. Since then nothing of interest has transpired, and no other manuscripts have been received.

In a letter to the Publication Committee, the Corresponding Secretary says of this May report:

“Your report was read and received with a vote of thanks to you and your committee. You are requested to add still further to your valuable work by collecting the remaining manuscripts, and to continue your committee for the purpose.”

Our committees would gladly continue this collection, but we are confronted by the serious cost of publication; and before taking further steps in the matter of collection, we decided to await some definite action in regard to the manuscripts in hand.

In conclusion, we respectfully suggest that a meeting be called of the general Association at the earliest day convenient to devise some plan by which we shall either raise funds for this publication, or return the manuscripts to the authors. No doubt many may desire to publish their own work, if it is not undertaken by the A. P. V. A. These authors have taken great trouble to make clear the truths of Virginia history, and the least courtesy due them is some definite action. Moreover, the public is beginning to look to the A. P. V. A. for publication of these historical researches. Again, we recommend that a meeting be called at an early day to consider this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

VIRGINIA MORGAN ROBINSON,
Publication Committee.

JNO. P. MCGUIRE,
RO. LEE TRAYLOR,
Committee of Collaborators.

NOTE.—The signature of Mr. E. V. Valentine could not be secured because of his absence in Baltimore.

V. M. R., *Pub. Com.*

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Report of Colonial Capital Branch.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., *January 4, 1900.*

In this my last year of service for the Colonial Capital Branch, it may be well for me to give a resumé of the work accomplished and attempted during the ten years that I have held the Directorship of the Branch.

As is well known, on January 4, 1889, the Association held its first official meeting in my library in Williamsburg—a fact which adds greatly to the interest of the old historic building, and is one which I recall with pride. Hon. Lyon G. Tyler made a statement of the ends and aims proposed, and as a result the pledges of between twenty and thirty people were given to support the movement. The Association was, after this preliminary meeting, fully organized in Richmond.

The purchase of the magazine, generally known as the Powder Horn, in Williamsburg, was the first act of the Association; it was then turned over for repair to the Colonial Capital Branch. Over six hundred dollars was expended for this purpose, the removal of four walls of the octagon being necessary. No new bricks were used in their reconstruction, the additional bricks needed being taken from the foundations of the Colonial Palace, the Old Capitol, and the first Courthouse erected in Williamsburg, thus adding greatly to the interest of the building.

A stained glass window memorializing Governor Spotswood, under whose administration, by order of the General Assembly, the building was originally erected. This window was the gift of Mrs. William Francisco Spotswood, in memory of her husband, who was a lineal descendant of Governor Spotswood. The unveiling ceremonies will be recalled, I hope, with pleasure by the members of the Association who were present. It will be remembered that a patriotic address was delivered in the College Chapel by Hon. John Goode. When the window in the Powder



THE POWDER HORN, WILLIAMSBURG.

Horn was unveiled by Miss Catharine Spotswood, of Petersburg, a graceful little speech was made by Mr. Tazewell Taylor, of Norfolk.

The walls of the building have been adorned with the coats-of-arms of about thirteen of the Colonial Governors, given by different Virginia artists. Pictures of Pocahontas and John Smith were presented by Hon. William Wirt Henry. There is also a cabinet containing a few interesting relics—notably a gown sent by Miss Baxter, of Lexington, and worn by the wife of Captain Fleming, of Point Pleasant fame; two china plates, brought from England late in the seventeenth century by the ancestors of Mr. Henry Travis Armistead, of Williamsburg, and also a few other things. It is a matter of regret that there have not been more contributions to aid in the conversion of the Powder Horn into a Colonial Museum.

Tablets marking the residences of George Wythe and Peyton Randolph, together with one on the magazine, have been placed upon the buildings.

All the money needed in this work was raised by the efforts of the Colonial Capital Branch, except twenty-five dollars contributed by the Association. The Colonial Capital Branch has felt pride in being self-sustaining and in not being a tax upon the Association. In addition, the Branch has contributed one hundred dollars to the general fund.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Israel Smith, an efficient officer of our Branch, a gift was obtained to the Association from the Old Dominion Land Company (of which Mr. Orcutt, of New York, is President) of the site, and grounds around, of the Old Capitol. The Washington Branch of the A. P. V. A. has taken this site in charge by paying for the work done under the direction of the Colonial Capital Branch. The foundations of the building have been laid bare, protected by cement from the weather, and now the letter H lies revealed on the bosom of the green turf. The square is well drained and is ready for the further action of the Association and the Washington Branch as to a suitable monument to mark the spot. I had hoped to have

this work finished before my resignation, but it was impossible to do so.

So much for the work accomplished. I now turn to things begun, but not finished. The orator for the unveiling of the Bacon window in the Powder Horn has been secured—Mr. Robert Bright, of Philadelphia—but the necessary funds for the purchase of the stained glass window have not been raised. About \$200 are still needed for this purpose. Nor has a sufficient sum been yet raised for the window to be placed in Bruton Church to the memory of Rev. Robert Hunt, the first English speaking missionary on the Atlantic coast of America.

In retiring from the office of Directress of the Colonial Capital Branch, I would urge upon the Association, as represented by the Executive Committee, to consider the interest attached to these memorials, and I would invoke their aid in the fulfilment of these wishes and aims.

My withdrawal from the work of the Colonial Capital Branch is a matter of painful regret to me, for no other field can ever appeal to me as this has done. I thank the members of the Branch for the courtesy they have extended me, and the Advisory Board particularly for their expression of reluctance to receive my resignation, which was offered October 15th, but not accepted until it was repeated December 23, 1899.

Respectfully submitted to the President and officers of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

CYNTHIA B. T. COLEMAN.

Report of Mt. Vernon Branch.

Miss Rebecca C. Powell, for many years the able Directress of the Mt. Vernon Branch, sends in her resignation in consequence of absence from the city. No special work is reported from this Branch, illness and absence of many members preventing.