



Harrison of James River (Continued)

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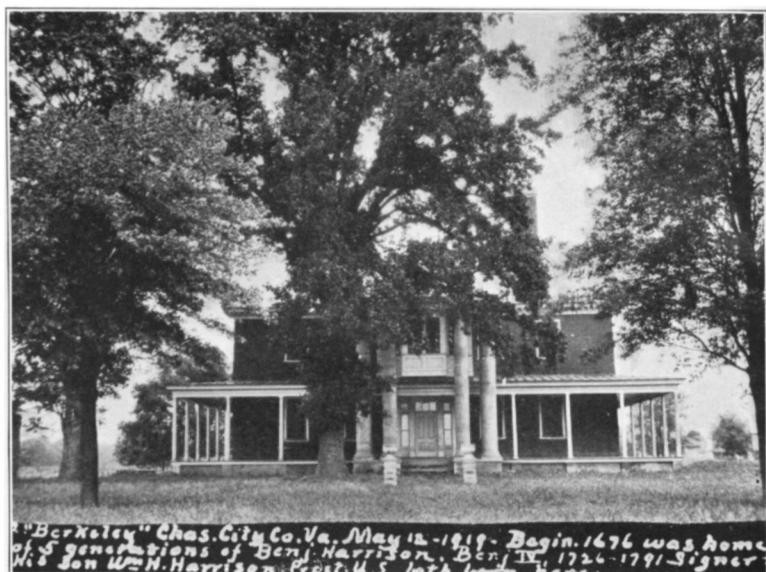
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"1676" ON THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS A MISTAKE FOR "1726". THE PORCHES ARE MODERN ADDITIONS.



HARRISON OF JAMES RIVER.

(Continued)

9. BENJAMIN⁴ HARRISON (*Benjamin*³), of "Berkeley", was born _____, and died in 1745. He was educated at William and Mary College and at an early age entered public life. He represented Charles City county in the House of Burgesses at the sessions of August 1736, November 1738, May 1740, August 1740, May 1742, and September 1744. He married Anne, daughter of Robert Carter, of "Corotoman", President of the Council. Col. Carter in his will left to his daughter, Anne Harrison, £540 sterling (having no doubt made a previous gift when she was married) and to her daughters Betty and Anne Harrison, £500 sterling each. Benjamin Harrison met a tragic death. The *Maryland Gazette* for August 16, 1745, prints a letter from Williamsburg, dated July 18th "Last Friday evening [July 12] a most terrible accident happened in Charles City county; when a violent Thunder Gust arose, and the lightning struck the House of Col. Benjamin Harrison of Berkeley, which killed him and his two youngest daughters". These daughters were Lucy and Hannah. It would appear from the probate of the will that Mrs. Harrison had died between its making and proving.

One of the record books of Albemarle county was evidently at one time an account book of the executors of Benjamin Harrison, of "Berkeley", who died in 1745. It appears that after a few pages were used the large folio volume must have been sold to Albemarle court. At one end are the following entries:

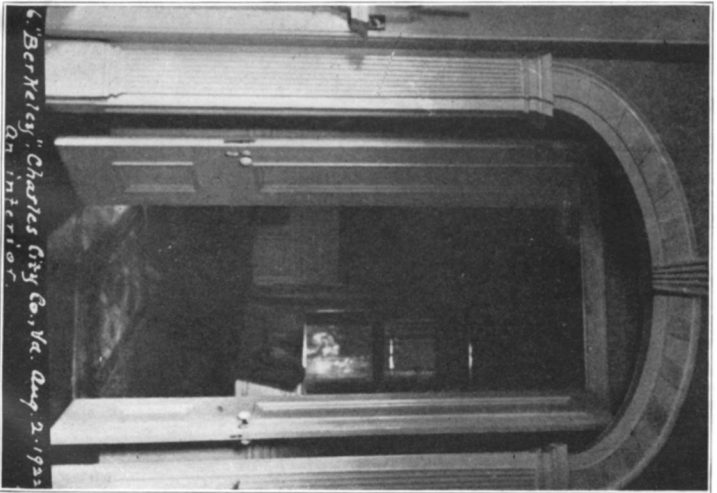
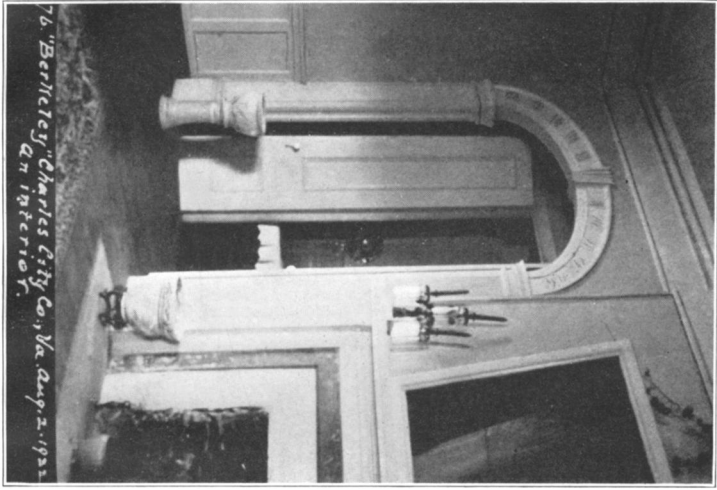
Sept. 20, 1745. To the Estate of Col. Benjamin Harrison, Dr.		
To cash p'd Richard Weir for mourning	£2.	11. 6.
To Cash p'd for coffins	1.	16. 6.
To cash p'd for Taylor's work	5.	2. 0.
To Do. p'd John Gardner, overseer	6.	7. 11.
Cash p'd to Secretary's Office for a Testament	1.	10. 0.
[That is for probate of will]		
Do. p'd Nimmo a lawyer, for advice	1.	1. 8.
Do. given Carter Harrison for pocket money	0.	10. 9.
Do. p'd George Hierd, Baker,	3.	0. 0.
Cash p'd Spalding, the Taylor, for work done in Col. Harrison's life,	2.	8. 0.
Do. p'd Fr. Barham	0.	15. 0.
Cash p'd David Clark for Rum bought in Colo. Harrison's life,	1.	11. 10 1/2
Cash p'd Betty Harrison	2.	17. 11.
Do. p'd Charles Stagg for 2 Months and 4 Days Wages on the Schooner,	4.	5. 0.
Do. p'd Thomas Brockett, overseer,	3.	2. 6.
P'd Wm .Roister for Shingling the House	0.	5. 0.
Cash p'd Ben. Harrison, Overseer,	12.	0. 0.
To my expenses taking Inventory	0.	10. 0.
P'd Betty Smith for Shoe Thread	0.	4. 0.
Cash given Ben. Harrison for Pocket money,	2.	3. 0.
Cash p'd for funeral expenses,	1.	0. 0.
P'r. Contra.	Cr.	
July 22d, 1745.		
By Cash found in the House at Colo. Harrison's Death	140.	8. 3.
By Cash rec'd for Bread,	3.	8. 6.

Here the account ends abruptly. It is evident from the reference to the baker and the money received for bread, that Col. Harrison, like Charles Carter, of "Cleve", and a few other enterprising planters, had established a bakery, where bread, or rather biscuits, for ships' supplies were made.

The will of Benjamin Harrison is as follows:

In the name of God Amen: I Benjamin Harrison of Berkly in the County of Charles City and Parrish of Westover, Gent., being of perfect sense and memory, ordain this my last will and Testament. Imprimis I Give and bequeath my Soul to Almighty God who first gave it its being, in sure and certain hope of a Joyfull resurrection thro' the death and Passion of my blessed Savior Jesus Christ, my body to the Earth from which it was first taken, to be decently buried on Berkley Plantation near my little dear son Henry's grave, at the Discretion of my executor hereafter mentioned, and as to all my worldly goods with which it hath pleased the Almighty to bless me my just Debts and Funeral charges being first paid, I Give and dispose of in the following manner:

I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife one equal third part of the net proceeds or profits of my whole Estate during her Natural life, and forasmuch as my wife hath at all times behaved in a most dutiful and affectionate manner to me and all—allways been assisting through my whole affairs, I therefore think proper to Give my dear wife as a small requital over and above the Thirds of my Estate as aforesaid, the use and occupation of the Plantation whereon I now live, commonly called Berkley, with all the Slaves, Property belonging to the Crop of the said Plantation, with all my household furniture of what kind soever and house Servants, except my Cook wench Patty and her children and the boy levy son of Sarah, which Slaves I would have to go to my son Benjamin on his being of age; I also give to my wife the use of all my plate and kitchen Furniture as also the use of my flocks of Cattle, Hogs, Horses and Sheep upon the said Plantation, all which said gifts I give to the use of my said Dear Wife so long as she shall remain a widow or shall abide on or inhabit the said Plantation, with full power to Cut down and make use of any Timber or Wood either for building or repairing, making fencing or firing, or any other use whatsoever for the said Plantation of or from any Part of my Estate in Charles City County Dureing the time aforesaid, she allowing yearly out of her own Estate Nine thousand Pounds of good Crop Tob^o in nine cask to be thrown into two thirds of my estate which is hereafter Ordered to be divided amongst my children untill my son Benjamin shall come to age but no longer, and after her decease or nonresidence as aforesaid the Premisses to go and descend to my well beloved son Benjamin Harrison and to the Heir of his Body Lawfully begotten forever. I also give to my wife my Coach,



chariot, chair, Six horses and all Furniture thereto belonging as also all my Saddle horses, mares and Colts on the said Plantation, together with her Gold Watch and all Jewels now in her possession.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Benjamin Harrison all that Tract of Land commonly called Berkley and Kimadges and also that whereon my mother formerly lived as also the Gleebe Land bought of the Parish of Westover in the County of Charles City, to him and his heirs of his Body lawfully begotten forever. I also give to my said son Benjamin the land called Bieres with the Land Escheated of John Resbie and all my land on the south side Nottoway River belonging to the Chitcorah Tract and all the additional Surveys made adjacent thereto, and all my Lands at the Falls of James River bought of Davis and others with the slaves and stocks thereon to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I give unto my son Carter Henry Harrison all my land at Willises Creek with all the slaves and stocks thereon, and all the Land called Scotland Neck and the slaves and stocks of all sorts thereon to go and descend accordingly to will of the Hon^{ble} Robert Carter Dec'd.

Item. I Give unto my son Henry all that estate of Land on the South Side Nottoway River by Peter's Bridge being Seven Plantations with all the Slaves and stock of all Sorts thereon, to him and his heirs Forever, and the mill thereon. I also give him the Tract of Land lying on Nottoway on the North Side the River at Peter's Bridge to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I give unto my son Robert Harrison all my several Tracts of Land lying at the Falls of the Appomattox River bought of Abraham Cocke, Christopher Herntory, Thomas Williams, James Munford and Richard Smith and the lots bought of Abraham Jones and that in the Town of Petersburg and the Slaves and Stocks of all Sorts thereon, and also the remaining Part of Chitecorah Tract lying on the North Side of Nottoway River with the Slaves and Stocks of all Sorts that shall be found thereon, to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I Give unto my son Nathaniel my land at Amelia Court House and all the Slaves and Stocks thereon. I also give unto my said son my land at Great Creek, and Meherrin (Vizt) the Tract whereon Benjamin Harrison is overseer, that where Clayton is overseer, with all the Slaves and Stocks thereon to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I Give unto my son Charles all my Land Secarnis with all the Slaves and Stocks thereon and the Land called the Allen Tract. I also Give to my said Son all the Lands that will fall to me by the death of Mr. Willis (to-wit) Cabbin Point Mill and that at Huntington, with all the Keepers thereof, to him and his heirs forever, and my desire is that there may be Five Slaves bought (Vizt) three women

and two men as soon as Conveniently can be to Full Slave the three Plantations on Secarnis. And my desire in that so many Slaves as shall be occupied on the Pond Quarter and Black Water, at the death of Mrs. Willis shall be and belong unto my said son and his heirs forever.

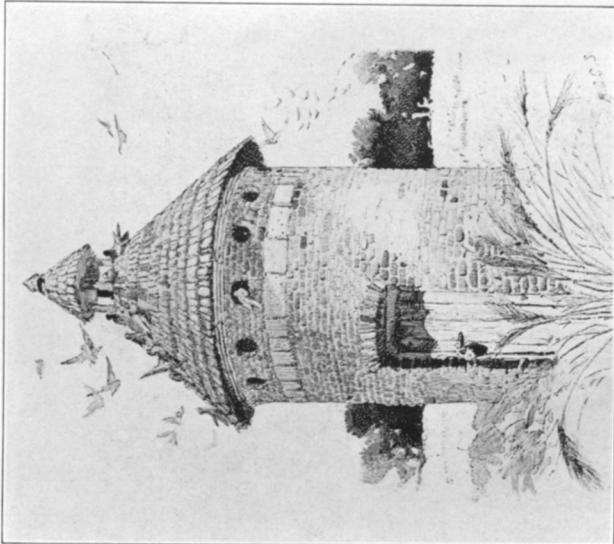
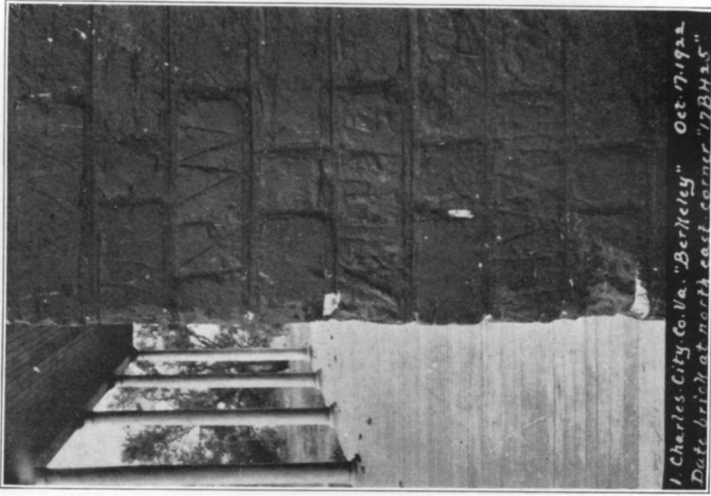
Item. My will and desire is that the mulatto man John shall be for the sole use of my wife so long as she shall be a widow, and that the rest of my Sawyer's Carpenters and Coopers shall be used for the use of my Estate in general until my son Benjamin comes of age, and then to go to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I give unto my son Robert my Tract of Land on Brunswick Creek, lying at the mouth of Great Creek, containing seventeen hundred acres, be it more or less, to him and his heirs forever. I also give unto my said son Robert my mill on Harry's Swamp with the Land thereto belonging, being three hundred and Fifty Acres more or less, to him and his heirs forever.

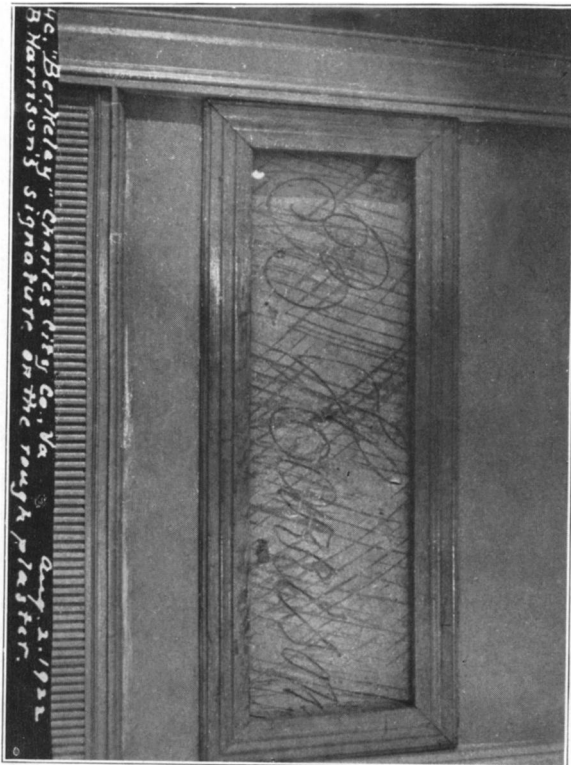
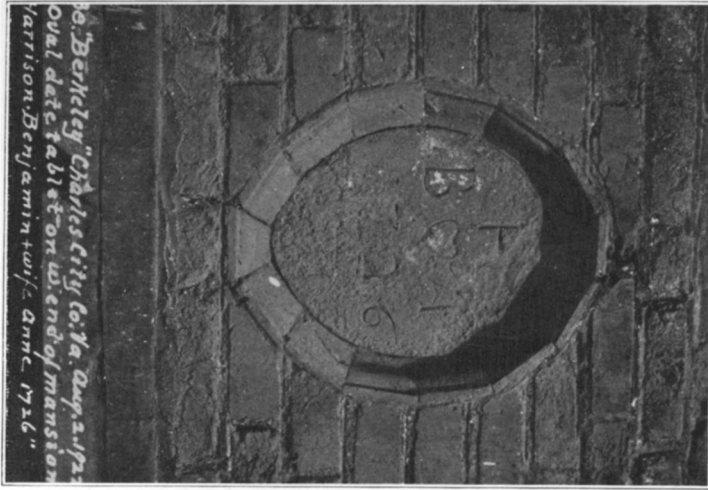
Item. I give unto my son Benjamin all the Negroes and Stocks of all Sorts upon the Six Plantations that now are Settled on my Berkley and Kimadges Tracts, to him and his heirs forever; and whereas I have given my Manor House and Plantation to my wife on terms as above to ascertain the bounds, my meaning is that from the upper bounds of the Glebe shall be the Eastward Limits, and from thence as the Shirley road runs to the Ford on Kimadges Creek, containing all the Land between the Glebe Road and the River, and if by Experience that should be found too little I add to it that Land on tother side the Road called Woodfords.

Item. My will and Desire is that the Land I bought of William Glover whereon my Surry Store stands be sold, and the Slaves thence be Immediately removed to that part of the Chetecorah Tract given my son Robert for him and his heirs forever, and the money arising By the Sale of the Land to be laid out for Negroes for the same uses, To wit, for the better Settling the same Part of the Chetecorah Tract.

Item. Forasmuch as there are a great number of Slaves which, after the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Willis relict of Henry Harrison, Esq, Dec'd. and by the last Will of the said Henry Harrison, are to revert to me and my heirs, my Will and desire therefore is, that when the estate in Negroes shall revert by the death of the Said Willis now in possession, that then the said Negroes shall be divided into six as equal Parts as possible, Without Parting men and their wives, by three able and discreet persons to be appointed by the General Court, which division being made my will and desire is that three already Given to my son Charles go in Proportion to his Part, that my son Benjamin have the first choice, and the Rest of my six sons to choose according to Seniority, which Negroes I Give to them and their heirs forever.



PIGEON HOUSE AT SHIRLEY
Courtesy of the Century Magazine



Item. I Give unto my son Carter Henry and Henry, to be equally divided between them, all the house hold Plate that belonged to Henry Harrison, Esq., dec'd., now in possession of Mrs. Elizabeth Willis his relect, and after her death to revert to me, as will appear by an instrument of writing between the said Willis and myself recorded in Surry Court.

Item. I Give and bequeath unto my daughter Betty Harrison one thousand pounds sterling including my mother's legacy of two hundred pounds that is to say five hundred pounds to be paid by my Executors within Twelve months after she shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years, or be married, and the other Five Hundred Pounds within three years after, and also I give to my Daughter Betty these several Slaves following and their increase to-wit: Leddy, Charlot and Cate, the Daughter of Aggy, to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I Give and bequeath to my Daughter Anne the sum of one thousand pounds Sterling, Five hundred to be paid by my Executors within Twelve months after she shall arrive to the Age of Twenty-one or be married, and the other Five hundred pounds within three years after that. I also give to my Daughter Anne a negro girl named Dorcas to her and her heirs forever. The Thousand pounds is to be with my mother's Legacy ——— hundred Pounds inclusive.

Item. I Give to my Daughter Lucy Eight hundred Pounds Sterling including my Mother's Legacy, to be paid her in four years after she arrives to the Age of twenty-one or is married. I also give to my Said Daughter Lucy three Slaves and their increase to-wit: Aaron, Hannah the Daughter of Tamer, and Martha the Daughter of Bess, to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I Give to my Daughter Hannah Five hundred pounds Sterling including my Mother's Legacy, to be paid her within three years after she arrives to the Age of twenty-one or married. Also a negro girl Suckey, the Daughter of Bess and her increase, to her and her heirs forever.

Item. My will and desire is that my whole Estate shall be kept entire until my Debts are paid and the two Eldest Daughter's Fortunes are raised, and until my son Benjamin comes of Age, and then whatever Legacys remain unraised the Estate of Each of my sons shall be taxed in Proportion to their Annual ——— for the Payment thereof.

Item. That the Guardianship and disposal of my children shall be entirely in the Power of my wife, and that they be maintained and educated at her discession ——— of my estate; of whose prudence I have had sufficient Proof dureing her Life, that if my Daughters dureing their minority Do marry without first having had the Consent and approval of my said wife, then they or every one of them so marrying shall forfeit all Claims or Pretensions whatsoever to all

and every part of the Legacies given them, by this my will, and I doe heartily and Earnestly recommend to my said Children that they be have with Duty and obedience to their mother, and that they live in Love and Friendship with one another, and Lastly I doe hereby appoint my Dear Wife Ann Harrison, and all my sons as they shall come of Age, Executors of this my Last Will and Testament, and I further order that there be no appraisement of my Estate nor Security given but her own. In witness whereof I have here set my hand and Seal this 17th day of October 1743, and I utterly revoke all other Wills by me heretofore made. This my last containing two sheets of Paper.

Benjamin Harrison [Seal.]

Signed Sealed Etc. in the Pressence of Robert West, Joseph Royall, John Stith.

Charles City County ss—August Court 1745.

The Afore written Last will and Testament of Col^o Benjamin Harrison Dec'd was Presented in Court by William Randolph Gent. and Wife and Miss Betty Harrison, who made oath there and being proved by the oath of Joseph Royall one of the witnesses thereto is admitted to Record, and the said Joseph Royall also on his oath declared he saw John Stith and Robert West the other two witnesses sign the said Will as witnesses and on the motion of the said William Randolph and Betty Harrison, and performing what is usual on such Cases Certificate is granted them for obtaining Letters of Administration with the said Will annext in due forme Durante Minori estate of Benjamin Harrison son and heirs of the Dec'd.

Test—

Lewellin Eppes, Clk. Curia

Copy Test—

Lewellin Eppes, Clk. Curia

Benjamin⁴ and Anne (Carter) Harrison had issue:

18. Henry, died in childhood.
19. *Benjamin*⁵.
20. *Carter Henry*⁵.
21. *Nathaniel*⁵.
22. *Henry*⁵.
23. *Robert*⁵.
24. Lucy, killed by lightning.
25. Hannah, killed by lightning.
26. Anne, married William Randolph of "Wilton", Henrico county.
27. Elizabeth, (commonly called Betty) married Peyton Randolph, of Williamsburg. He was educated at William and Mary and then went to England, where he was admitted to the Middle Temple, Oct. 13, 1739, and called to the Bar, Feb. 10, 1743. In 1748 he became Attorney General of Virginia and continued as such until 1754 when he was suspended by Governor



PEYTON RANDOLPH
PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Dinwiddie for going to England at the request of the Burgesses to support their petition against the pistole fee which Dinwiddie exacted for granting land patents. On Randolph's return from England, however, he was re-appointed and retained the office until he resigned in 1766. He represented Williamsburg in the House of Burgesses 1749, the College of William and Mary 1752-1758, Williamsburg 1758-1775, and the same place in the Conventions of March and July 1775, of each of which he was President. He was speaker of the House of Burgesses 1766-1775. In 1773 he had been appointed Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence and in March 1774 President of the first Virginia Convention. In March 1774 he was chosen one of the delegates to Congress and by that body elected its President and held that office until his death on Sept. 22, 1775. He was buried in the vault of the Chapel of William and Mary College and a mural monument erected which was destroyed when the College was burnt.

The epitaph published in the *Virginia Gazette*, Nov. 11, 1775, was probably that intended for the tablet.

Sacred
 To the memory of
 The Hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq'r,
 Those distinguished virtues in every station of life
 Gained him
 The affection and confidence of his Country.
 Descended from an ancient and respectable family,
 He received a liberal and polite education
 In William and Mary College.
 Removing thence to the Inner Temple,
 He was advanced to the Degree of Barrister at Law,
 And appointed Attorney General of Virginia.
 In this Office
 His regard to the peace and security of Society,
 His humanity and benevolence
 To the criminal his duty obliged him to prosecute,
 Were not more conspicuous
 Than his Learning and Integrity in his Profession.
 After an extensive practice in the General Court,
 He resigned his Law employments;
 And being elected Speaker of the House of Burgesses,
 Discharged the duties of that high office
 With such Ease, Dignity and Impartiality,
 That he was frequently called to the Chair, by the
 Unanimous voice
 Of the Representatives of the People.
 When the measures of the British Ministry
 Compelled the American Congress to unite their Councils
 In General Congress,

He was chosen first Delegate for this Colony
To that illustrious Assembly;
And was by them unanimously elected their President.
While he was a third time attending to that Great Council,
A sudden stroke of the Palsy deprived
America of a firm Patriot,
His Country of a wise and faithful Senator,
His acquaintances of an invaluable Friend,
His family of the most affectionate Husband
And kindest Master.
Upon the 22nd Day of October, 1775,
In the 54th Year of his Age.

(To be continued)



ELIZABETH HARRISON, WIFE OF PEYTON RANDOLPH.

Courtesy of Mrs. Edward C. Mayo

Photograph by Frick Art
Reference Library