Muscoe Garnett and Ben Lomond

by Charles W. H. Warner

From Hoskins of Virginia and Related Families
by Charles W. H. Warner pp. 228-239

Muscoe Garnett (March 17, 1808-October 8, 1880) was born at "Rickahoc," King and Queen Co. son of Capt. Henry and Elizabeth Aylett Buckner Garnett. He was descended from Thomas Garnett (will 1753) and Elizabeth Muscoe Garnett of Saint Anne's Parish, Essex Co. Thomas Garnett was a great uncle of Muscoe Garnett of "Mount Pleasant" who built "Elmwood" also in Essex Co. about 1774.

Muscoe Garnett (March 17, 1808-October 8, 1880), married March 29, 1827, "Laurel Grove," at the age of 19, Sarah Henrietta Booker, November 1, 1802-December 19, 1837, daughter of Captain Lewis and Judith Dudley Booker of "Laurel Grove," Essex County. Sarah Booker was a granddaughter of James Booker, a signer of the "Leedstown Compact" of 1766. She was also a descendant of the Tabb and Armistead families of Gloucester and of Hancock Lee of "Ditchley," uncle of Col. Thomas Lee, the builder of "Stratford."

Muscoe Garnett and Sarah Booker Garnett lived first in Kentucky. He moved there with his grandfather Buckner and his mother after the death of his father, Captain Henry Garnett in 1815. Here their first son, Lewis Henry was born. They then came back to Virginia. He lived in Essex and King and Queen Counties. In 1837, he was living at "Stock Hill," Essex County. Here Mrs. Sarah (Booker) Garnett died. In 1834, Lucy Carter Garnett married Dr. Augustus Gustavus Dunbar Roy here. From the Essex records we know that Muscoe Garnett and Dr. Roy were the executors of the estate of Col. John J. Garnett. Col. Garnett's daughter, Lucy Carter Garnett, appears to have lived here as a ward of her cousin, Muscoe Garnett, in 1834.

In the Garnett family bible there is the following statement written by Muscoe Garnett, Esq. upon the death of his first wife, Sarah Henrietta Booker:

"Sarah Henrietta Garnett wife of Muscoe Garnett departed this life at "Stock Hill" on Tuesday the 19th day of December 1837 at 3/4 past eleven o'clock P.M., aged thirty five years one month and nineteen days. He who knew her best can only say that she was a pearl of great beauty, a jewel which he wore next to his heart and many daughters have done virtuously but she excelled them all. Her own works will praise her. She died in full (knowledge) of the faith. (Resigning herself) to the will of the heavenly father and exclaiming that "She should be raised again at the last day." Amen, so may it be, come Lord, come quickly. M. G."

Mrs. Sarah H. Booker Garnett's obituary follows:

"On Tuesday, the 19th instant, in the 36th year of her age, Mrs. Sarah Henrietta Garnett, consort of Muscoe Garnett of Stock Hill, Essex County, Virginia, leaving an affectionate husband and seven tender children, and a numerous and respectable connection, to mourn her loss" . . . "a tender mother, a sincere friend, she was an exemplary and esteemed member of the Reform Church."

Muscoe Garnett married second on September 5, 1838 Sarah Ann Gatewood (December 4, 1816-August 14, 1866), daughter of Col. Kemp and Barbara Gatewood of "Ben Lomond" and "Bellevue," Essex County. Mrs. Barbara Gatewood was a cousin of the renowned ocean scientist, Matthew Fontaine Maury. Col. Kemp Gatewood (d. 1836) was a member of the Essex County Court (1815-1830) and held the ranks of Captain, Major and Lt. Col. of the Essex Militia, 6th Regt.

He lived at Bellevue as the heir of his father, William Gatewood, from 1809 to 1828 when he purchased Ben Lomond and removed there. He was a large landowner, possessing land from the Rappahannock River inland beyond the present highway 17 south and west of Ben Lomond (1,500 acres). The plantation on the river, called Bellevue, was purchased by Edward Macon Ware I in 1836 from his daughter Susan Gatewood.

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E. M. Ware I is the ancestor of all the Wares of Essex Co. The obituary of Col. Kemp Gatewood is as follows: “Died, on the 11th ultimo, at Ben Lomond, his residence, in Essex County, Virginia, Col. Kemp Gatewood, in the 54th year of his age, after a protracted illness, which he bore with calmness and resignation; leaving a bereaved widow and four children to mourn their loss, and numerous acquaintances, whose respect and esteem he possessed in the highest degree.”

Muscoe Garnett went to live at “Ben Lomond” in 1838, paying his mother-in-law for Ben Lomond by yearly installments. Mrs. Sarah Gatewood Garnett raised her children and those of the first Mrs. Garnett together at “Ben Lomond.” She was dearly loved and referred to by all as “Ma.” Following are extracts from the obituary of Mrs. Sarah Gatewood Garnett:

“At Ben Lomond—idolized wife of Muscoe Garnett Esq.—with a mind of the highest and most intellectual order, well trained, cultivated and stored with historic and literary and well as general information—it was at her own beautiful home, in the kindly atmosphere of household affection, that she most exhibited those qualities which adorn and beautify women—Two noble and gallant sons, just entering upon manhood, were all of her children left to cheer and to comfort her declining years. When the late unholy war commenced they asked to go in defense of her home and their native land. She would have no craven for her son, but blessed them and bid them go.”

Muscoe and Sarah Ann Gatewood Garnett had issue:


In the summer of 1862 Col. Henry Thomas Garnett (1802-1878) of Westmoreland, then living in Richmond, wrote “Muscoe Garnett of Ben Lomond has lost 2 of his sons—Kemp was killed in battle and Frank died after a few days sickness caused by over exertion and exposure during Stuart’s Cavalry expedition to the White House (New Kent County) and around the enemy’s camp. These are her last 2 of 5 children and she is now childless and broken hearted.”

c. Mary Minor (1841-1847)
d. Charles Aubrey (1844-1847)
e. Mary Aubrey (1850-1853)

Muscoe Garnett married third in Richmond on April 10, 1867, Mary Tyler (b. November 1, 1835—d. c. 1902), daughter of John and Emily S. Tyler of Scottsville, Albemarle County. They had an only daughter Mary Tyler Garnett (January 24, 1870-February 5, 1948). She heired Ben Lomond and married first Randolph Fauntleroy and had a daughter, Marie Fauntleroy. She married second Hunter Atkins. By the second marriage there was an only daughter Emily Hope Atkins who married first Robert B. Spindle and second Paul Spindle. There was a daughter by each marriage. Mary Tyler Garnett Fauntleroy Atkins saw the gradual decline of a once beautiful home but was always a gracious and charming lady. She was an excellent Sunday School teacher at Rappahannock Church for many years. In 1952 her heirs sold “Ben Lomond,” it having been in the Garnett family for 114 years. Today the mansion is owned by Mrs. Charles Baird who with her husband, the late Capt. Charles Baird, Jr., beautifully restored it, excepting the brick out-buildings and the tall columned porch on the back of the main house. Mrs. Baird was the former Ursula Harrison, daughter of Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern Railroad, president of the Virginia Historical Society and a distinguished historian.

Muscoe Garnett was a lawyer, becoming a man of wealth and much influence in Essex and surrounding counties. In 1849-1850 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Virginia to revise the outmoded state Constitution. For seventeen years he was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. In 1870 he became the first judge of Essex County. During the War Between the States Muscoe Garnett was Commander of the Home Guard. He was one of the founders of Rappahannock Church being among its first deacons and later an elder. The original communion service and table still in this church were given by him for the present church built in 1860.

From the land tax books (VSL) Judge Garnett was assessed with 825 acres in 1860 listed under Ben Lomond and Mount Comos. This last was an adjoining plantation which he also purchased. About 1840 Muscoe Garnett added to the south of the house, making it four square brick with four chimneys. This is what accounts for the typical large 19th century windows here as distinguished from the smaller 18th century windows on the north half of the house. In these ante bellum years there was a brick outbuilding opposite each corner of the main house. These outbuildings were the office, kitchen, school house and carriage house. Attached to the rear of the mansion was a columned porch running from the first floor to the roof above the second floor. This porch, covering only the center section of the house, commanded from its high hill a wonderful view of the Rappahannock valley with the river about two miles distant. There was an observatory on the roof and a small porticoed porch around the main doorway in the front of the house. On the south side in the front basement was a greenhouse for flowers. The lawn was said to have been very beautiful, Judge Garnett taking great pride in its appearance. In the front yard to the left of the house was the colonial graveyard of early owners. Here Garnetts were buried also. Judge Garnett’s home was beautifully furnished as is attested to by many handsome pieces of furniture that have descended in various branches of the family. Three handsome oil portraits were done for him of him.

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self, his first wife and his daughter Ella Garnett (1833-1853), see later. These remained at “Ben Lomond” until about 1878 when Judge Garnett carried them to “Hundley Hall”, the home of his daughter Sarah (Mrs. J. T. T. Hundley I). They are still owned by her descendants today.

Due to the War Between the States and Judge Garnett putting his capital into Confederate bonds, the estate deteriorated. This worried Muscoe Garnett in his last years and was a great sorrow to him as is expressed in his will. He was buried at “Ben Lomond.” The issue by his first wife, Sarah Henrietta Booker, are as follows:

a. Lewis Henry (December 28, 1827-September 20, 1895), m. first in 1848, Ema Stout, m. second in 1853 Fannie B. Care. He was Co. F. 9th Va. Cavalry C.S.A., the Commonwealth Attorney for Essex County and lived at “Hill and Dale.” He was a lawyer of distinction in the state and a friend of Henry Clay. There are two handsome box bushes at “Hill and Dale” which were given to L. H. Garnett by Henry Clay. Lewis Henry Garnett was a strong union man before the war and was congratulated in 1856 by President Millard Fillmore for his efforts “which sustain the American cause and our union.” That he was an able lawyer and orator is borne out by Short Sketches of Commonwealth Attorney’s of Virginia, edited by Henderson Lee, Esq.

“He filled the office with credit to himself and with the highest integrity.—At the great national ratification meeting of the Bell and Everett ticket in Baltimore, 1860, a gigantic stand was attached to the balcony of old Barnum’s Hotel, fronting Monument square in that city. An immense throng and concourse from all over the union was present under the most brilliant illumination and environment. The greatest orators and statesmen and leaders of thought in the nation were present. As one orator would finish, a call would be made for another. A call was made for “Garnett of Virginia,” followed by another “Garnett!” until it became general. The Garnetts of Essex were at that time, and have always been—noted and distinguished in and out of Congress, and their fame has been co-extensive with the broad limits of the union. Hon. M. R. H. Garnett being at the time of the zenith of his glory in Congress, the enthusiastic crowd was anxious to hear him speak. Lewis H. Garnett, trim and erect in figure, with head thrown back, at once walked to the front of the grandstand and his clear, clarion voice, as a young man, rang all over the square; and if he was not the Garnett of Virginia expected to come forth; if one was called and another answered, he filled the bill. He was the peer of any, and all conceded that no more resonant voice was heard and no speech more replete with eloquence was heard that night and received with more tumultuous applause than the speech of Lewis Garnett of Essex County.” By his first wife, Emma D. Stout, Lewis Henry Garnett had a son Carroll Garnett who married Nela Byrd. They were the parents of Carroll Garnett Jr. and Sally Byrd Garnett who married Houston Face. By his second wife, Fannie B. Care, Lewis Henry Garnett had an only son William Care Garnett who married Lena Wossman. William Care Garnett of Hill and Dale was the principal of the Dunsville school for many years and the author of Tidewater Tales. The children of Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Garnett were: Lewis Henry Garnett Jr., William Julian Garnett married Lucy Norfleet, Muscoe Garnett III married Dorothy Thomas, Otis Stanford Garnett, Frances Care Garnett married Elbert Van Cott, Wallace Bankhead Garnett married Elizabeth Norfleet and Carroll M. Garnett married Cornelia Morris.

b. George William (August 31, 1829-June 18, 1903) m. Laura Maria Spear. He was in the Treasury Department of the C.S.A. in Richmond, was a prisoner of war in Forts Lafayette and Delaware. He lived at “Cottage Park,” Essex County, and died there. He was an accountant. They were the parents of Etta E. Garnett, Judith L. C. Garnett who was a poet, Georgia Garnett, Laura Fleet Garnett, Robert Spear Garnett and Hannah Grace Garnett. Robert Spear Garnett married Margaret Eubank and had children: Laura Garnett, Mrs. Sidney Shaw, Mrs. W. E. Winfree, Richard Garnett and E. W. Garnett. Hannah Grace Garnett married Dr. Larkin Hundley and had children: Larkin Hundley III and Hannah Hundley, who married Thomas Beverley Evans and were the parents of Thomas Beverley Evans Jr. and Grace Garnett Evans. Larkin Hundley III married Mary Annabelle Mattingly and had children: Sylvia, Theresa and Judith Hundley.

c. Muscoe Jr. (January 1, 1832-August 3, 1922) m. December 22, 1870 Vanangus Amelia Dobyns, he was the sheriff of Essex. He lived at “Inwood.” He was in Co. F. 9th Virginia Cavalry, C.S.A. They were the parents of Manie Leroy Garnett and Vanangus Amelia (Vay) Garnett of “Inwood,” Essex County. Vay Garnett married Sydney Newbill, sheriff of Essex County.

d. Ella Garnett (April 18, 1833-September 12, 1853) m. Zebulon Farland of Tappahannock in 1852 at “Ben Lomond.” He was a merchant. She died at 20, soon after her marriage. Ella Garnett was a beautiful lady and there is a handsome portrait of her owned by her great niece Gazelle Ware of Philadelphia. There were no children.

e. David S. (October 3, 1834-October 3, 1862) M.D. At one time he was a surgeon on the Don Pedro Railroad in South America. He was a surgeon in the Confederate Army and died at “Ben Lomond.” Through his efforts the original Rappahannock Church (frame building) was saved from fire. The ladies of the church presented him with a bible for this.

f. Sarah (Sallie) Elizabeth (January 10, 1836-March 19, 1896) m. John Tribble Thomas Hundley I of “Clyde Side” and later of “Hundley Hall” who owned sev-

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eral farms, a merchantile business and conducted a
school at "Hundley Hall." They had fourteen children.
She was educated at Mrs. Gray's School for Young
Ladies in Tappahannock. Sallie Garnett was married
at "Ben Lomond" on May 4, 1859. Among their chil-
dren was the Hon. Deane Hundley, Treasurer of
Essex County, member of the Virginia Legislature and
Judge of Essex and Dr. John T. T. Hundley, minis-
ter in the Christian Church and President of Lynch-
burg College.

g. Booker (December 4, 1837-March 5, 1918) was
in the 2nd Richmond Howitzers of the C.S.A. and
later a member of the Virginia House of Dele-
gates. Booker Garnett married Betty Gatewood first
and then Marie Dobyns Roane. All of his children were
by the first marriage: Eliza Booker Garnett married
J. H. Thompson, Kemp Garnett married twice, Frank
Minor Garnett married Grove Willroy, Bettie Gatewood
Garnett married J. F. Harrington. In 1936 "Ben Lo-
mond" was listed in The American Historic Building
Survey.

"The Red Oak Tree"

Dunnsville, Essex Co., Virginia

by VAY GARNETT NEWBILL

In 1775 "Spring Hill" farm, which derives its name
from a splendid spring located just southeast of this
beautiful rolling elevation on which this dwelling
house now stands was owned by Godfrey Cauthorne.
The adjoining place "Fair Mount," now one and the
same with "Spring Hill," was owned by Godfrey Cau-
thorn's father, Richard Cauthorn III, who died in 1790,
at "Fair Mount" which is near Ephesus spring.

At the present time it is not known who owned this
property between the years 1775 and 1855, but in 1775
the lovely grove, of many handsome oak trees, at
Dunnsville was called "Bryan Park." This "Bryan
Park," occupying the northwest corner of "Spring
Hill" farm in later years became known as "The
Grove," and about the year 1884 the Dunnsville School
house was built on the southern part of "The Grove."

By 1855, and perhaps some years before, Richard
Saunders owned all of the above mentioned property,
and also owned and occupied, on the other side of the
road, a lot with a most attractive cottage and an old
fashioned store-house which fronted on the main road
leading from Tappahannock to Montagues.

This said lot was in 1834 owned by Collier Trible, as
is shown by a Deed in the Clerk's Office in Essex
County, Book 44, page 398, recorded on Jan. 10, 1834:
"Robert and Tabitha Sewell sold to E. M. Ware, Winter
Bray, Christopher Browne, Joseph Tompkins, John
Richards, Joseph Pitts and Thomas M. Henley, Trustees
of the Rappahannock Church, one acre of land bounded
as follows: "On the North by the road from Dunnsville
to the Rappahannock River; on the East by the land
of James Dunn; on the South by the land of Collier
Trible and on the West by the public road from Mon-
tagues to the Piscataway Creek." This is the land on
which the Rappahannock Church is now standing.

Having made note of the surrounding property of
"The Grove," we come now to the points of interest
connected with the giant, but lovely "Oak Tree." This
tree which has a spread of 90 feet, and its trunk, 4 feet
above the ground measures more than 16 ft. in circum-
ference still stands, (1964) as the monarch of the ages,
having survived the storms of time and sheltered many
generations. [This tree fell in a storm in the winter of
1978].

The church built in 1860, was preceded by the "Old
Meeting House" which was not large enough to ac-
commodate the crowds which attended the evangelistic
meetings, from a radius of fifty miles. In those days a
large Arbor was built in the "The Grove" just under
the branches of this "Tree," and the gospel of Christ
was proclaimed to those who came to hear.

In 1861 when Mr. Lincoln issued the call for the
troops to put down what he termed the "Rebellion of
the Southern States" there was a rush of arms all over
Virginia and soon a Company called the "Essex Light
Dragoons" was formed, electing as their Officers Dr.
R. S. Cauthorn as their Captain, William L. Waring as
1st Lieut., William A. Oliver 2nd Lieut., William La-
tane 3rd Lieut. In May of that year Dr. A. G. Roy,
Austin Brockenhour, Lawrence Roane and William
Kemp Garrett made up a Company of volunteers, all
natives of Essex which was named "The Davis Rifles,"
better known as "Company D. 55th Va." The large
field just South of the "Oak Tree" became known as the
"Drill Ground" and was so used by these companies.

County Court Order Book 1853-1863, No. 1—814/15
July 15, 1861—$10,000 in bonds were issued, and out
of this Amt. $100.00 to complete uniforming of the
"Essex Grays" and $700.00 to uniform the "Davis Rifle-
men" of this County.—No. 811—Ordered that the
buckshot now in the Jail of this County and at the
"Rappahannock House" be distributed among the Mili-
tia Companies as follows: Capt. Thomas M. Burke 2
bags. Capt. Evan Rice 2 bags. Capt. George Street 2
bags. Capt. Richard Cauthorn 2 bags.—No. 778, Or-
dered Feb. 18, 1861, Colts pistols, fixture, and arms
purchased for the Dragoons of Essex be delivered to
Richard Cauthorn, Captain of the said Dragoons.

In Gen. Beale's "History of the 9th Va. Cavalry" it is
stated that this Cantonment at Dunnsville, Essex Coun-
ty was known as "Camp Ryson."

In the summer of 1880 a great many of the gentle
folk of Essex and the neighboring counties assembled
in "The Grove" where the stage for the crowning of
the "Queen of love and beauty" had been arranged
under the tall and majestic "Holly Tree" just in the
rear of "The Oak." The days of chivalry were reen-

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acted, and a grand Tournament, with many knights contending for the honors, was held. The knights commanded by the County Marshall, Dr. William J. Newbill, formed in front of the Judge’s Stand and the “Charge” was delivered by Mr. Lewis Henry Garnett. Such addresses were always clothed in chaste and beautiful language, and Mr. Garnett was equal to any occasion.

The knights, with attractive costumes and fine horses, riding under such “Non de plume” as they glanced, were much admired. Some of the names are still recalled as “Knight of Essex,” “Knight of the Rippling Wave,” and “Knight of Hope”; while another not quite so confident was “Knight of No Hope.” Such spirit stirring events were honorable and brought out the best in sportsmanship, culture and education.

Then in later years the children, whose parents had enjoyed those delightful sports, would gather in “The Grove” near by the Schoolhouse and play the games which were popular in the period between the years 1895-1905.

Now, the lonely “Oak Tree” stands bereft of all of its compassions, and is known only as a shade tree which is a convenient place for the collection of the broken automobiles awaiting repair at the garage nearby. But such is life, the old must give way to what is called progress; but in building for the future let us not forget the past.

In appreciation of the thought expressed by Sidney Lanier in “The Marshes of Glenn,” and thinking of the steadfastness of the sturdy “Oak Tree,” may the coming generation be able to say with him:

“As the Marsh grass sends its roots down into the sod,
So I will lay me a hold on the greatness of God.”

Minutes of April 9, 1978
Meeting at Kendale

The Essex County Historical Society had a most interesting and exciting meeting at Kendale, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hill B. Wellford in upper Essex on the Rappahannock River Sunday afternoon. Mr. Sidney J. Hilton, Sr., President called the meeting to order and minutes of the Executive Board meeting, January 30, 1978 were read by the secretary and the treasurer’s report was given. Mr. Hilton and Mr. Wellford both apologized that our scheduled meeting at Kendale in January could not take place due to the very bad weather and impassable roads. The Executive Board decided that the July and January meetings would take place in the Essex County Courthouse or somewhere with air conditioning for the summer meeting and accessible in bad weather, and the April and October meetings would take place at an old home or church. These meetings will be held on the second Sunday afternoon in July, October, January, and April at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Hilton presented the slate of officers for 1978, the incumbents, in the absence of the Chairman of the Nomination Committee, Mr. Joe Ewing. This slate was unanimously elected. Mr. Charles Warner brought up the subject of Mr. Jeff O’Dell’s Study, Historic Site Survey of Essex County, which was done for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. The V.H.L.C. made one photostatic copy for the Historical Society. Mr. Warner said that this should be bound and put in usable order in several volumes to be available in the Courthouse for the many people who would like to use it. The cost would be approximately $102. Mrs. Robert H. Wheat of Kilmarnock asked if she could have this work done as a Memorial to her mother, Mrs. Betty Buckner Haile Broadus who was born at Beaver’s Hill, an old Haile home in Essex. Mr. Hilton accepted the gift for the Society and stated a proper memorial inscription would be placed in the volumes of this Study.

Mr. Charles Warner was appointed to represent the Historical Society on the Essex Inter-Club Council which will meet April 12, 1978.

Mrs. Jack Acree, membership chairman reported two new members and stated she hoped to have many more in the future.

Mr. Hilton then presented Mr. Wellford, who presented one of the most interesting and enlightening

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Officers of the Society

President ..................Mr. Sidney J. Hilton
Vice President .............Mr. Hill B. Wellford
Treasurer ..................Mrs. A. Preston Ferry
Secretary ..................Mrs. William A. Wright

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PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman, Mr. Charles W. H. Warner; Members: Mrs. William A. Wright, Mrs. J. M. Evans, Mrs. Charles N. DeShazo.

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Meetings are held quarterly in the Essex Court House or in an historic home of the County. Dues are $2.00 per year. For copies of publications send 60¢ to Mrs. J. M. Evans, Box 8 Tappahannock, Virginia.
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illustrated lectures we have ever enjoyed. The meeting took place in the “Relic Room” as the Wellfords call it and Mr. Wellford had examples of many types of spear, dart and arrow points, knives, hatchets, axes, tomahawks, pipes, loctes, grinding stones, fishing sinkers and many other things of the different periods; Ancient Man, Archaic, Early and late Woodland periods. These were all cataloged and shown to the members, as well as many beautifully designed and mounted displays of all types of these artifacts divided into five archeological periods from the Ancient man until the present. Indian artifacts dating back to 8,000 and beyond B.C. coming up to 1500 and 1600 A.D. show that there were such habitations at Kendale. Among the beautiful surroundings and several thousand examples, Mr. Wellford talked about each of these periods and showed the different marks and shapes which distinguish the different periods and how he discovered many of his treasures. He told us that his mother used to ride over the fields of Kendale and scoop up from horseback some of these artifacts and he had some of these mounted. She probably gave him his first interest in his hobby as well as the fact that he himself seems to be able to recognize the landscape and areas in which he might locate these artifacts just while driving along enjoying the scenic beauty.

After an enthusiastic question and answer session, over fifty members and guests enjoyed delicious refreshments and a social visit in the Wellfords’ beautiful home and gardens overlooking the Rappahannock River.

Anne T. Wright, Secretary

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