



Prince William Reliquary

RELIC, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia

REL-I-QUAR-Y: (*noun*) A receptacle for keeping or displaying relics.

WINE MADE FROM MANASSAS GRAPES WINS A BRONZE MEDAL AT THE 1900 PARIS EXPOSITION: WHO KNEW?

By Ray Olszewski¹

*“France is the land of wines; hence a medal for wines made from Virginia grapes, the merits of which Mr. Xander has discovered and developed, is, indeed, a high honor.”*²

Introduction

Wine making history and related activities in Prince William County prior to 2006 had been relatively an unknown subject and sparingly documented until RELIC (The Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center) published two articles about the business of wine making in the County that year. I wrote those two articles which revealed an unknown wine history. The first article³ revealed among other wine related activities that a fully-operational winery had once existed on property that is now part of the Manassas National Battlefield. As a result of my research for the first article I wrote the second article⁴ which provided evidence that Haymarket was once a bustling viticulture area where grape growing and wine making occurred in the late 1800s.

This third article adds yet another little known addition to the County’s historical past – and that is *grapes once grown on Robert Portner’s Annaburg estate in the City of Manassas were used to make the wine that won a medal at the 1900 Paris Exposition, Paris, France.* Read more about who made the wine from Portner’s grapes and an unusual finding about the grape varietal that was used to make the awarding winning wine.

Source for the Winning Wine – Robert Portner’s Annaburg Estate in Manassas, Virginia.

Robert Portner (1837-1906) was a very successful beer-brewing entrepreneur who founded the Robert Portner Brewing Company in 1883 in Alexandria, Virginia, and who once owned the Annaburg estate in Manassas, Virginia. He came to the United States in 1853 from Rahden, Westphalia, Prussia when he was 16 years old. He was friends with the Christian Mathis family; he reportedly dined frequently at their home in Manassas. There he met Anna Von Valaer. In 1872 Portner married her and together they raised thirteen children. Portner laid the corner stone of the

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² “Paris Medals,” *The Washington Post*, 23 September 1900, p. 10

³ Ray Olszewski, “A Taste Of Prince William County Wine History: Who Knew?” *Prince William Reliquary*, vol. 5, no. 3 (July 2006): 51-59.

⁴ Ray Olszewski, “Haymarket – Prince William County’s Viticulture Center: Who Knew?” *Prince William Reliquary*, vol. 5, no. 4 (October 2006): 75-80.

still standing Annaburg manor house in 1892. Over the following years, the Portner estate grew to sizeable proportions that, according to Walser Conner Rohr, “went from Main Street [Manassas] all the way to Bull Run.”⁵ According to Portner’s biographer Michael Gaines, Annaburg was built from 1892 to 1894 at a cost of \$150,000. Most of the materials used in its construction came from abroad, including several trees that were shipped in from the Black Forest of Germany. By the time Robert died, in 1906, in twenty-three years the estate had grown from 191 to nearly 2,000 acres of land by some accounts and 2,500 acres by others. The property included 40 acres of orchards (which probably included a sizeable vineyard), a dairy farm, and three homes. At the time, his entire estate, personal and real, was valued at approximately \$1.9 to 3 million dollars.⁶

Peter Valaer (1886-1974), nephew of Anna Valaer Portner, mentions Portner’s estate having a vineyard, a winery, and briefly reports his winning a gold medal. In an excerpt from a five-page “personal reminiscent letter” written by Valaer and later published in a *Reliquary* article, he writes:

*“There [referring to Portner’s estate] was a vineyard with various grapes and a small but efficient winery.” Further Valaer adds, “One of the Portner wines had won a gold medal at the World’s Fair...”*⁷

Of particular note, Peter John Valaer was very knowledgeable about the subject of wine. Apparently, when he worked as a chemist for the Internal Revenue Service in the 1940s and ‘50s, Valaer authored several books about wine and wine making.⁸

Ethel M. Byrd of Prince William County also shares some of her memories of the Annaburg Estate in *Town of Manassas and Old Prince William*:

“On the ground entrance is a slat like door always kept locked, where it was said Mr. Portner kept his famous homemade wines which he served to his guests and family. Wines made from his own vineyard of delicious bunches of Concord grapes and other vari[e]ties.”

Byrd adds further,

*“Hard by [the manor house] was the Green House where year round beauty of blooming plants was a delight. This and the vineyard covered several acres.”*⁹

In addition, an advertisement in the 1904 *Manassas Journal* acknowledges Portner’s vineyard and “the Medal at Paris:”

*“Portner’s Graperies. ---Medal at Paris for wine, “The Pride of Virginia.” in the Real Estate Column under the heading of “Business Enterprises.”*¹⁰

⁵ Charles A. Mills, *Echoes of Manassas* (Manassas, Va.: Friends of Manassas Museum, 1988), 26.

⁶ Michael Gaines, *The Shortest Dynasty, 1837-1947: The Story of Robert Portner, a History of His Brewing Empire, and the Story of His Beloved Annaburg*, (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 2002), 218, 229.

⁷ Peter Valaer and Peggy E.M. Portner, “Golden Days at Annaburg,” *Prince William Reliquary*, vol. 2, no. 3 (July 2003): 52.

⁸ Peter John Valaer is credited with writing the following: *Apple Juice and Apple Wine*, 1940; *Raisins and Raisin Wine*, 1943; *Grape Concentrates and Other Concentrates Used for Wine Making (Including Method for Acid Determination in Must or Wine)*, 1944, 1985; *Sherry Wine: Methods of Its Production And The Analyses Of Spanish And American Sherry Wine*, 1947; *Vermouth and Other Aperitif Wines*, 1947; *Port Wine: Methods of Its Production and the Analysis of Portuguese and American Ports*, 1948; *Wine Making in Southern United States*, 1949; *Blackberry and Other Berry and Fruit Wines: Their Methods of Production and 1950*; and *Wines of the World*, 1950. Details available at www.worldcat.org.

⁹ Ethel M. Byrd, “Annaburg and Robert Portner,” in *Town of Manassas and Old Prince William* ([Manassas:] E. M. Byrd, n.d. [1965/1977], 34; unpublished typescript at RELIC.

¹⁰ *Manassas Journal*, 10 September 1904, p. 2.

These few references establish that a vineyard existed and wine making activities occurred at the Portner Estate in some fashion with little or no information about the amount or type of varietal. Remember, Portner was a “beer baron” who had a thriving beer business in Alexandria, Virginia and wine making to him was perhaps more of a “hobby.” On the local scene, Portner did have association with others from the county who were in the “wine business.” In an 8 November 1899 *Alexandria Gazette* article Portner was elected First Vice President of the Prince William County Horseman’s Association. The President elected was C[hristian] A. Heineken who at the time was co-owner of the Mill Park Wine Company, a wine maker and wine merchant located in Haymarket, Virginia.¹¹ More can be read about Heineken and the Mill Park Wine Company in a previous article in *Prince William Reliquary*.¹² However, evidence indicates the entrepreneur expanded out into the wine production business as well with a Washington, D.C., wine maker who Portner knew by the name of Christian Xander.

Washington, D.C. Wine Maker Sells Delicious Wines made from Virginia Grapes

By this time Portner had already established a strong business relationship with a Washington, D.C., wine maker, Christian Xander, who was in the “fine wines and liquors” wholesale business.¹³



Christian Xander Letterhead, 1904.

Image from eBay

Christian Xander, the senior, was the wine maker and Henry, his son, worked with his father in the *Chr. Xander Wholesale Wine Merchant* business. The company operated two properties in Washington, D.C. that included *Office and Salesrooms* located at 909 7th Street, N.W., and the *Vaults and Warehouse* located at 630 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C.

An interesting description of Christian Xander’s business in the District turned up on the American Libraries web site in a document titled *Washington and Its Points of Interest Illustrated*.¹⁴ The following is the full text of Xander’s description contained in that document along with images showing his two store fronts as Figures 1 and 2.

“CHR. [Christian] XANDER. To gain public confidence is one of the first and most essential steps that a business man can take when he embarks in any line of trade, and when once the pace is set and the quality and genuineness of his wares established he may safely feel that he is on the high road to success. This has been the rule by which Mr. Chr. Xander has worked since embarking in business over a quarter of a century ago. He is one of the most reliable and oldest importers and wholesale dealers in fine wines and liquors in Washington, and has a finely-fitted place of business at 909 7th Street, N.W. Born in Germany, Mr. Xander came out to the States forty-one years ago, and his commercial career has been one of prosperity. He has an eligibly-

¹¹ Ronald Ray Turner, *Prince William County Virginia 1876-1899 Newspaper Transcripts* (Manassas, Va.: R. R. Turner, 2001), 118.

¹² Ray Olszewski, “Haymarket – Prince William County’s Viticulture Center: Who Knew?”

¹³ Graphic 1904 Washington DC Xander Wine Letterhead, item number 190037054302, sold by flimbob1000, 2 October 2006, winning bidder unknown; digital image from <http://www.ebay.com>.

¹⁴ *Washington, D.C. With Its Points of Interest, Illustrated* (New York: The Mercantile Illustrating Company, 1894); digital images, *American Libraries Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org/details/washingtondcwith00merc>).

located place, the building being built expressly for his business. He occupies three floors, 25 x 150 feet in space, with a warehouse two stories in height, 30 x 129 feet, a 10 foot-high vault running the whole length from the winery in the rear to Massachusetts Avenue. His wholesale trade, calculated mainly to be local, has in a natural way expanded throughout the surrounding eight States without any soliciting agents. His employees, in warehouse, cellars and sale-store, number seven, two of these drivers. His stock of the rarest and exceptionally old whiskies is well known as one of the richest in one hand in the Union. Special brands are Chr. Xander's "Old Private Stock," "Old Stock," "Old Reserve," "Family Brand" and "Gold Medal." His medicinal proprietary beverages are: Melliston, Wild-Cherry Cordial, Blackberry Cordials, Stomach Bitters, Cocoa Wine. From his winery: All-Grape Virginia Port and Ives & Norton's Virginia Clarets. He handles all the leading high grades of liquors, wines, etc. He has a large stock of goods in bond, and free, and handles these for his customers in case lots or bulk. Such is Mr. Xander's reputation in this country throughout the trade that his name on the parcels is a sufficient guarantee of their high quality and absolute purity and maturity.

"His premises and vaults were built with the view to perfect depuration and maturing of wines and liquors, and his goods, sold direct and by retailers, are the accepted standards in hotels and private families. Mr. Xander's business policy is one of unwavering integrity, and his house stands in the first rank of reliable commercial firms."¹⁵



Figure 1. Christian Xander's Offices and Sales located at 909 7th St, N.W., Washington, D.C.



Figure 2. Xander's Vaults and Warehouse where the wine was made on Massachusetts Avenue.

¹⁵ *Washington, D.C. With Its Points of Interest*, 148.

In that same reference two other gentlemen by the same Xander name are also described as being in the “wine and spirits” retail business. They are included to show the expanse of the Xander family business base in Washington, D.C. They are Karl Xander and Jacob Xander, whose write-ups are also provided below. Christian who came to the U.S. in 1853 is differentiated from the other two Xanders as being the “wine maker” as evidenced in several articles found in the archives of *The Washington Post*. Christian along with F. Pohndorff, Sr., who is later identified as a Vice President in the Xander firm, selected the stock to “...include 134 kinds of beverages from all producing regions of the globe, and intelligently selected and preserved.”¹⁶ Again, the Xander business was quite an enterprise and it appears the Xanders had it all covered in product merchandise and sales in the area.

“JACOB XANDER, Wines and Liquors, 1315 7th Street, N.W., between N and O streets. This house was established by the present proprietor about eighteen years ago, and has steadily grown in prestige and popularity. The store is 22 by 90 feet in area, and fitted up with every accessory necessary in the trade. The finest line of liquors, brandies, cordials and imported and domestic wines are constantly kept in stock and sold in any quantity, either by the glass, pint, quart, gallon or in case lots. Mr. Xander is a native of Germany, and an expert in all kinds of liquors, and buys direct and handles only the best standard brands. He has built up a large family-trade in all kinds of liquors, and his patrons are always contented. He is a wide-awake, active and reputable business man, and well known in mercantile circles.”¹⁷

“KARL XANDER, Liquors, 439 K Street, N.W. – This gentleman is a native German and came to the United States in 1872. He established his present business in this city in 1885, and in 1889 he embarked in the wholesale trade and has built up a large and prosperous patronage. Mr. Xander occupies a handsome building, 22 by 75 feet in areage [*sic*]. It is one of the finest fitted and elaborately appointed places in the city, and every requirement for the successful conduct of a large business is provided. He carries in stock at all times one of the largest and most complete lines of fine wines and liquors to be found in the city. The long experience of Mr. Xander in this line of trade has made him a connoisseur in these goods, and only the most reliable and those known to be strictly pure are handled. He is a direct importer of wines of the finest vintage, and handles them both at wholesale and retail, and in any quantity to suit the purchaser. Every standard brand of champagne, hock [*type of wine*], rhine, claret and other blends of wines is to be found here, and is sold at the lowest prices commensurate with the excellent quality. He also makes a specialty of fine whiskies, cordials, gins, brandies and rums, and has made a large trade on his “Southern Bouquet” whisky and “Millvale,” which are pronounced by expert judges to be the choicest blended and aged liquors in the market. The leading hotels, restaurants and buffets, as well as the choicest family trade, are supplied by Mr. Xander. He does a large retail trade, having a handsomely fitted buffet, which is completely stocked with nice goods of every kind. Mr. Xander is one of the most prominent German-Americans in the city, and stands at the very pinnacle in commercial rectitude and in the esteem of the public. He is a well-known member of several of the leading societies of the city, and takes as prominent a position in social circles as he maintains in business. Goods bearing the name of Xander carry a guarantee of purity and age, and are those that are sought by every connoisseur.”¹⁸

Henry Xander, another member of the family mentioned earlier in this report was Christian’s son.¹⁹ Robert Portner’s personal diary mentions Henry and he attending a formal dinner together on

¹⁶ *The Washington Post*, 9 August 1891, Classified Ad, p. 6.

¹⁷ *Washington, D.C. with Its Points of Interest*, 229.

¹⁸ *Washington, D.C. with Its Points of Interest*, 242.

¹⁹ F. Pohndorff, “Supreme Among Ports,” *The Washington Post*, 3 November 1901, p. 2.

March 5, 1898. The guests included “H [Henry] Xander” along with the German Ambassador [to the U.S.], the Minister from Switzerland, and a number of other names and distinguished titles.²⁰

The Fruit Used to Make the Wine Comes from Manassas

In 1894, two articles published in separate months appeared in *The Washington Post* identifying Manassas as the source of fruit used by Xander to make his wine.

“Comparison evidences that the best kinds of Virginia clarets and port from Manassas grapes have for years been made right in this city in Chr. Xander’s winery, in the rear of his wholesale store, 909 Seventh Street. After years of defecated storage these wines go into consumers’ hands. This industry of Chr. Xander’s has assumed such proportions that last vintage 20,000 gallons had to be made to keep pace with the growth of demand. These city-made wines are exactly the desideratum in this heated season, as they are richer in tannin, iron, and equipoised acids and allow heavier dilution than any other wines. All grape brandies and whiskies in Chr. Xander’s warehouse stock are fusel-free and never had any ill effect on moderate consumers or patients.”²¹

Although similar in writing, another article that appeared two months later identifies again Manassas as the source of grapes Xander used.

“Nature’s perfect adjustment of the elements of grape acids, tannin and iron oxide in Chr. Xander’s own fruity Virginia Port, and in his Norton and Ives Virginia Clarets, renders these congenial to most stomachs. Carefully made in his city winery from Manassas grapes, and defecated [*refined, clarified*] by storage for years, these wines permit a twice-greater dilution than other red wines. Demand for Chr. Xander’s own wines triplicated in the last years, requiring at the vintage now at hand again an increased output for use in future years. Acquire sample bottles for comparison and practical tests as to healthfulness, at 909 7th St.”²²

Then, a year later on September 22, 1895, the Portner’s Manassas Farm is named (finally) as the source of the grapes used by Xander’s Winery and two specific varieties, Norton Seedlings and Ives grapes as well as Claret and Port styles of wine.

“Previous to the later maturing Norton Seedlings, the Ives grapes, from R. Portner’s Manassas farm, have just been pressed at Chr. Xander’s Winery (rear of his Massachusetts avenue warehouse). This 1895 crop of richest saccharine, now in Xander’s fermenting tuns [*casks*], presages a splendid Virginia cru potable after four years. Initiating fifteen years ago the city industry of wine making, aiming at quality at all cost, Chr. Xander has since developed a remarkable trade in what hundreds of families consider the most hygienic Virginia clarets and port. Of mellow taste, free from saltpetre [*sic*], rich in iron, tartrates [*sic*], tannin, and fruit acids, these wines respect brains and nerves, allow enormous dilution, are thus true temperance wines, and surprise those who know only vulgar, Virginia trade wines. 909 Seventh Street.”²³

Ironically, a judge by name of “Norton” of Alexandria granted a charter of incorporation to The Xander Wine Company in December 1895.²⁴ Judge Norton is not to be confused with Dr. Daniel Norborne Norton (1794-1842), the Virginia viticulturalist who developed and for whom the “Norton”

²⁰ Robert Portner, “Personal Memoirs,” p. 29; MS, 1890-1903; privately held; copy provided by Michael Gaines.

²¹ “About People You Know,” *The Washington Post*, 15 July 1894, p. 6.

²² “About People You Know,” *The Washington Post*, 2 September 1894, p. 6.

²³ “About People You Know,” *The Washington Post*, 22 September 1895, p. 8.

²⁴ “The Xander Wine Company Incorporated,” *The Washington Post*, 21 December 1895, p. 7.

grape varietal is named.²⁵ The Norton varietal is known as Norton's Virginia Seedling, Norton's Virginia, or Norton's Seedling. Norton's Virginia Seedling is identified later as winning an award at the 1900 Paris Exposition.

Paris Medals Awarded!

It was on September 23, 1900 when a short article appeared on page 10 of *The Washington Post* announcing the award to Christian Xander for the winning wines at the 1900 Paris Exposition. "Chris [Christian] Xander, the well-known wine merchant, of 909 Seventh Street [Northwest Washington, D.C.], is to be congratulated on receiving the approval and endorsement of the Paris Exposition jury and two medals – one for his exhibit of Virginia wines..." The article further praises the Washington, D.C. wine maker and his use of Virginia grapes as follows: "France is the land of wines; hence a medal for wines made from Virginia grapes, the merits of which Mr. Xander has discovered and developed, is, indeed, a high honor." Further, the article reports: "During sixteen vintages Mr. Xander has made in his city winery those delicious-tasting Virginia wines which have just received such high endorsement for quality and purity at the Paris Exposition." The article continues: "The general high opinion of Mr. Xander's wines and cordials has received the highest endorsement in the world by the medals just conferred."²⁶ It was a little over a year later, when the following article appeared in *The Washington Post* that identified the name of the winning Port wine as the "Pride of Virginia Port," and that it was made from the Norton varietal, and from Portner's Manassas grapes. The article is deemed to be authoritative as it was written by F. Pohndorff who was or had been once Xander's Vice President.

"The position enjoyed by the wholesale wine establishment of Christian Xander in Washington, D.C., in the public estimation is an enviable one, and the name of Chris. Xander has, by thirty-five years' of honest and fair dealing, come to be regarded as synonymous with deserved confidence. It may not be known generally that seventeen years ago Chris. Xander became the initiator of the industry of sweet wine of the character of Port from the Norton, Va., grape. This wine was first made (and is continued to be made) in the winery in the rear of Xander's warehouse.

"The name of the wine after maturing during at least five years' keeping, is Chris. Xander's "Pride of Va. Port." As such the Paris 1900 Exposition jury acknowledged its merits by the award of a medal.

"The Norton seedling grown in iron oxide soil in Virginia is exclusively the grape utilized for his Port by Mr. Xander. None grown in other soil and no other American variety are adapted to producing such wine. No European vinifera is as rich in soluble iron as our Norton. Oporto exporters who tasted the Pride of Va. Port confess that none as fruity and dilutably vinous could be produced in Portugal. Of juicy grapes in that county, in Spain and California 13 ½ pounds make one gallon of port. For Pride of Virginia Port 30 pounds of the small-berried Norton, which is scant in juice, are required for each gallon. But this wine, the very essence of that precious grape, is endowed with three times more fruit elements.

"There are six vintages in Chris. Xander's stock. That of 1895 is now on sale. Demand for the wine is spontaneous and constantly growing, not only in this city, but from many States. Sooner than now anticipated, the '95 vintage may have to give place to the '96 crop.

"To provide for the future it was requisite to press this season threefold the ordinary quantity of Norton grapes. As these have to be of the choicest quality considerable difficulty was

²⁵ Rebecca K.R. Ambers, Ph.D and Clifford P. Ambers, Ph.D, "Dr. Daniel Norborne Norton and the Origin of the Norton Grape," *American Wine Society Journal*, v. 36, no. 3 (Fall 2004), p. 77-87; digital images at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norton_\(grape\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norton_(grape)), reference 5.

²⁶ "Paris Medals," *The Washington Post*, 23 September 1900, p. 10.

experienced to procure a sufficiency of them from the best cultivated Virginia vineyards. The quality of Chris. Xander's 1901 output of port results of unprecedented beauty.

"To have a wine at hand for the family that remains wine even after saturating it on drinking with 50 to 75 per cent, of water addition, is surely a boon. To the founder of the industry of such a wine it must afford true gratification to see his efforts and the application of his experience crowned with success. Many an expression of thanks has he received from convalescents, telling him how his Pride of Va. Port has diffused fresh blood into their veins, given them rosy cheeks and restored strength to their run-down constitution. Many a physician tells him that that wine is the stand-by for reaching that result. And it is interesting to know that young Mr. Henry Xander, who in a few years has mastered all the details of his father's vast business, has also been practically initiated into the art of making and caring for the development of the Pride of Va. Port, and thus the continuance of this wine is guaranteed, let us hope, for many years."²⁷

Comment: Those who love wine have probably heard the phrase "In Vino Veritas" which translates to "In Wine There is Truth." Well, it appears there is also "health in wine" too as many of The Washington Post articles published in the 1800s and 1900s referenced in this report have been pointing out! Our doctors, today, will tell you that wine is good for you, as long as it is be used in moderation.

Another article published in *The Washington Post* in 1905 identified sources of grapes originated from "Albemarle, Prince William and other [Virginia] counties."²⁸ By this time, however, a document published in 1903 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry, provides much more information about the types of wines, awards, and their "manufacturers." This rare 40-page document is focused more on the chemical aspects of the 1900 Paris wine samples and definitively identifies that at least one wine came from Portner's Manassas Estate and the Pride of Virginia Port which this report has identified used Portner's grapes.

The report identifies the two wines as follows:²⁹

Dry Red Wines -- Norton's Virginia Seedling, Serial Number 710, listing the manufacturer as Robt. Portner's Annaburg Vineyard, Manassas, Va., and Chris. Xander, proprietor of Washington, D.C.

Sweet Red Wines -- Pride of Virginia Port, Serial Number 711, Chris. Xander, Washington, D.C. was listed as the manufacturer.

It was interesting to note that the USDA report only lists "Ch. Xander, Washington, D.C. as winning a "bronze medal" as opposed to the reference of Portner winning a "gold medal" identified earlier by Peter Valaer.³⁰ Although the report itself was focused more on the chemistry, e.g. composition and character of American wines exhibited at the competition, it is, however, the only reference found to date that substantiates Portner's grapes were instrumental in winning a medal at the 1900 Paris Exposition. Whether the grapes won a bronze or gold is irrelevant. What is relevant is that the wine made from Portner's grapes and his vineyard in Manassas was internationally recognized. That supports Prince William County's claim to have a wonderful history in wine production.

²⁷ F. Pohndorff, "Supreme Among Ports," *The Washington Post*, 3 November 1901, p. 2.

²⁸ "Wine Making in This City: Grapes Brought from Albemarle, Prince William, and Other Counties of Virginia," *The Washington Post*, 24 September 1905, p. E7.

²⁹ H. W. Wiley, Chief of Bureau of Chemistry, *American Wines at the Paris Exposition of 1900: Their Composition and Character*, Bulletin No. 72 (Washington: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry, 1903), 18; digital images, *Google Books* (<http://books.google.com>).

³⁰ Wiley, *American Wines at the Paris Exposition of 1900*, 14.

Here is a general note gleaned from the USDA report: “The [International] wine jury [of the 1900 Paris Exposition] was the largest connected with the Exposition and consisted of 81 jurors and 20 suppliants. Of these, 24 represented foreign countries and 77 represented France.” What is considered to be extraordinary is that the jury work took from “May to the latter part of August [that year], before the final examinations were completed.”³¹ “In all there were some 36,000 different samples of wines to be tested by the jury, and this accounts for the long duration of the examination.”³² Imagine, four months of tasting wines. Whew!

Pride of Virginia Port lived on, at least for 30 more years!

The *Pride of Virginia Port* wine continued on to become very popular as evidenced by an advertisement in 1907 which called it “Christian Xander’s immensely popular Pride of Virginia Port oldest reserve” selling then for \$1.00 a quart.³³ In addition, even though Robert Portner passed away in 1906, the name “Pride of Virginia Port” wine as well as Portner’s Vineyard in Manassas was still mentioned as late as 1925.

“...and again by the way do you remember Xander’s port?” In gathering this ramble I met some friends who persuaded me. They didn’t have to go far. It was Xander’s port, made from Virginia Concords that grew in the Portner Vineyard at Manassas. Those grapes had the chivalrous, romantic and hospitable spirit of Virginia and Prince William County and that fine old spirit lives in the port. Twenty years are gone since those grapes were plucked, and in their juice are harmony, the fragrance of rose, violet and mignonette, the radiance of May mornings, the light of the moon on Summer nights, the scent of all the gentle airs that blow across the Jurassic sandstone plains of Manassas. Next time I meet Henry Xander, the younger, I will tell him of my luck.”³⁴

What Grape Actually Made The Pride of Virginia Port Wine?

The Rambler’s note in 1925 about *The Pride of Virginia Port* being made with Concord grapes conflicts with earlier references. Another source, F. Pohndorff who worked for Xander who made the Port wines identifies Norton as the fruit used to create the award winning “Pride of Virginia Port.”³⁵ In any event, this report substantiates that the Pride of Virginia Port wine did win a bronze medal at the 1900 Paris Exposition and that it was made from Robert Portner’s grapes which he grew in Manassas, Virginia. A 1905 article published in *The Washington Post* mentions that “The medal awarded Mr. Xander’s Virginia Wines by the Paris 1900 Exposition jury is shown in his office with just pride.”³⁶

The only known images that were taken of any activity at the 1900 Paris Exposition were two found on the Albemarle [Virginia] History web page shown in Figures 3 and 4.³⁷ The Albemarle History web site reports “Both Wiley [author of the 40-page USDA report] and Alwood attended the 1900 International Viticultural Congress in Paris and participated in judging the wine competition there.” “Wiley” is Harvey Wiley who was at the time, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, U.S. Department of

³¹ Wiley, *American Wines at the Paris Exposition of 1900*, 9.

³² Wiley, *American Wines at the Paris Exposition of 1900*, 10.

³³ *The Washington Post*, 21 July 1907, p. 2.

³⁴ The Rambler [J. Harry Shannon], “Portner Vineyard at Manassas, grew Concord Grapes,” *The Washington Star Sunday Magazine*, 9 August 1925.

³⁵ F. Pohndorff, “Supreme Among Ports,” *The Washington Post*, 3 November 1901, p. 2.

³⁶ “Wine Making in This City: Grapes Brought from Albemarle, Prince William, and Other Counties of Virginia,” *The Washington Post*, 24 September 1905, p. E7.

³⁷ Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society (<http://www.albemarlehistory.org>), Online Exhibit “Deep Roots and High Stakes: a Short History of Wines and Winemaking in Albemarle County and Charlottesville,” [part] 06. “The Savior of the Virginia Fruit Industry.”

Agriculture and is the author and who was the individual that conducted the chemical analyses of the American participant's wine submissions judged at the 1900 Paris Exposition.³⁸



Figure 3.
"Tasting wines of the Beaujolais" - 1900 Paris Exposition.
 Courtesy Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society



Figure 4.
Banquet at the 1900 International Viticultural Congress.
 Courtesy Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society

Of further note, Wiley identified a total of 66 U.S. exhibitors at the 1900 Paris Exposition in his report; 40 of which were medal winners. For that event the winning exhibitors receiving awards were: California wines totaled 26 medal winners (5 Gold, 9 Silver, 8 Bronze and 4 Honorable Mentions); New York had 6 medal winners (1 Gold, 1 Silver, and 4 Bronze); Florida had 1 Gold winner; North Carolina had 1 Silver winner; Virginia had 1 Bronze winner (Monticello Wine Company, Charlottesville, Va.); Ohio had 2 Silver winners; and, Washington, D.C. had 1 Bronze winner (Ch. Xander, Washington, D.C.).³⁹

Will there be Another Port Wine made from Norton Virginia Grapes?

Yes, I am proud to report but it wasn't made by any winery in Prince William County or a wine maker in Washington, D.C., but it was made in Virginia! In 1996, Dennis Horton, owner and vintner, at Horton's Winery in Gordonsville, Virginia created a "1996 Late Bottled Vintage Norton Port" (110 years later) that was advertised on the internet by Wine Compass for \$35.00 per bottle. The description for the dark, inky wine with flavors of plums and cherries produced from the Norton varietal described as follows:

"This port was barreled down in the fall of 1996 and hasn't seen the light of day until early April 2004 when the public had a chance to taste what would become the First Late Bottled Vintage (LBV) Norton Port made in Virginia and the only 100 percent Norton Port made in

³⁸ Wiley. *American Wines at the Paris Exposition of 1900*.

³⁹ Wiley, *American Wines at the Paris Exposition of 1900*, 13-14.

Virginia since the 1800's. At bottling, this wine will taste as though it had been aged in the bottle for over 20 years."⁴⁰

Seventy-six years later, a brochure obtained at the American Wine Society 2005 Conference titled "The Paris Tasting Revisited" by George Taber, journalist and author of *Judgment of Paris*, reflected that a California Chardonnay made by winemaker "Mike" Grgich made wine history again for the U.S. Taber's article from the brochure reads as follows:

On May 24, 1976, Miljenko "Mike" Grgich made wine history. A Chardonnay that he produced for Chateau Montelena Winery, where he was chief winemaker, was judged the best white wine in a blind tasting held in Paris. The nine judges were leading members of the French wine community, and the competition included some of the most famous French wines.

Shortly after the judges began tasting the Chardonnays, I noticed something interesting: they were having trouble identifying whether a wine was from France or California. One end of the long row of judges would say the wine was obviously French, while the other said it was clearly California. When the judges were finished, organizer Steven Spurrier collected the scores and read out the verdict. To the shock – and horror – of the French judges, Mike Grgich's Chardonnay came in first by a wide margin, and three of the top four wines were from California.

The impact of the Paris Tasting is still being felt in the international wine market. As Robert Parker told me, "The Paris Tasting opened the door for anyone, whether he is in California or Australia or New Zealand, to say, "If we forget about any food-processing mentality and cut yields and pick ripe fruit and do everything we should to make a natural wine and achieve the greatest expression of our vineyard, we can make world-class wines that will be recognized as such."⁴¹

The Prince William County Vote

*How the communities voted to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment abolishing Prohibition.*⁴²

Precinct	For Repeal	Against Repeal	For State Prohibition	For Liquor Control
Aden	16	15	16	14
Brentsville	38	13	16	35
Catharpin	13	4	4	13
Dumfries	48	5	10	40
Greenwich	16	10	15	12
Haymarket	79	7	7	77
Hickory Grove	17	1	1	16
Hoadly	23	5	5	23
Horton's	12	0	0	12
Independent Hill	36	4	6	38
Joplin	17	0	0	17
Manassas	200	115	115	200
Nokesville	56	31	70	20
Occoquan	52	12	15	51
Potomac	35	8	36	9
Token	9	0	0	7
Waterfall	9	1	1	9
Wellington	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	693	252	334	604

⁴⁰ <http://www.wine-compass.com/DesktopModules/ProductDetails.aspx?productID=1778> downloaded 19 June 2009.

⁴¹ George Taber, "The Paris Tasting Revisited," marketing brochure from Grgich Hills Cellar with forwarding letter by Violet and Noel Grgich, 1 November 2005.

⁴² Published in *The Manassas Journal*, Thursday, 5 October 1933, p. 1.

**AN EARLY GRAYSON FAMILY PORTRAIT:
PETER GRAYSON (1770-1816)**

By Donald L. Wilson

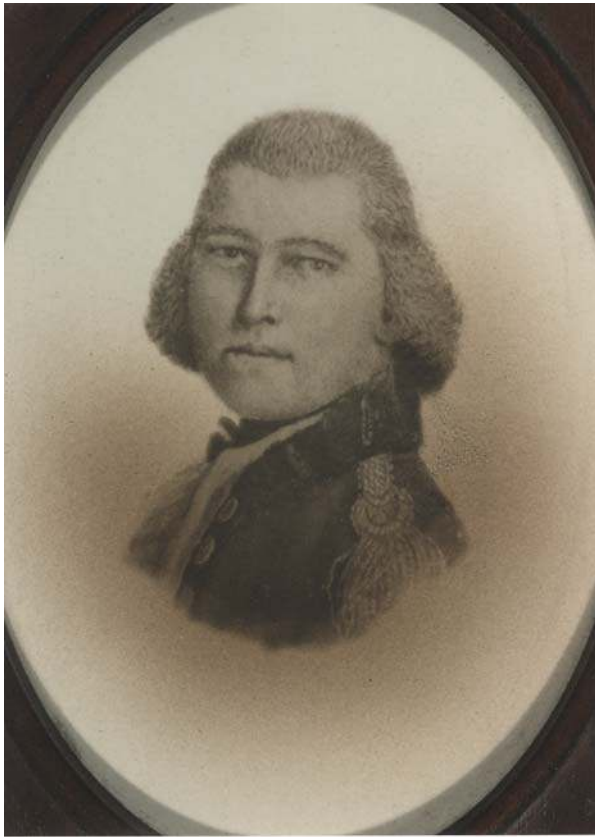
On or about 30 January 1980, I paid a visit to Fredericksburg at the invitation of the eminent genealogist George Harrison Sanford King (1914-1985). Mr. King at that time was culling his library of items he no longer needed. The primary reason for my visit to his home that day was to receive a long run of *The Virginia Genealogist*, needed to complete our library's set.

As a bonus, Mr. King presented me with a small portrait set in a wooden oval frame. He expressed a desire for it to be returned to Prince William County, where the subject had lived. It appears to be a black and white photographic engraving of a painting that must have been made prior to 1816. The hairstyle and uniform suggest it was painted very early in the 19th century. This image is a bust 5 cm. high on a light background 9 by 6.5 cm. The frame measures 14.5 by 12 cm. A sheet of paper is pasted to the back of the frame describing the subject's life. It identifies the subject as Col. Peter Grayson.

Col. Peter Grayson
Bel-Air, Pr. Wm. Co. Va.
Son of Rev Spence Grayson
and wife Mary Eli[z]abeth Wagener –
Grandson of Col. Benjamin Grayson
and wife Susanna Monroe - ---
Born at Bel-Air May 14 – 1770
Died at Tuscumbia Ala. Feb. 1, 1816 –
Ensign 4th Sub Legion U S. A. 3/16 1792
Lieutenant 4th U.S. Infantry Dec. 28. 1792
Captain July 31 1796.
Colonel of Cavalry & Adj. General
under Maj. Genl. Carroll 1812 – 15
Served under Genls. Wayne &
St. Clair in Indian Wars &
In War of 1812 against Englan[d]
Married Kitty Callaway Thorp[e]
Daughter of Col. Francis Thorp[e]
Bedford Co. Va. grand
daughter of Sir William
Callaway

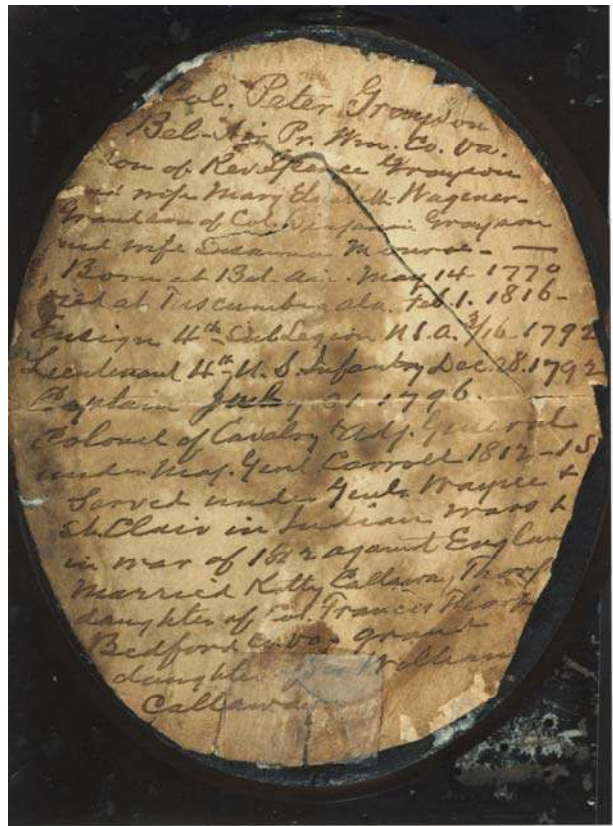
We do not have a provenance for the portrait prior to its belonging to Mr. King. The paper, ink and handwriting suggest that the information was set down over a century ago. The photogravure process that appears to have produced the image was perfected in 1878.

The portrait of Peter Grayson is now a treasured artifact in RELIC's collections.

**Peter Grayson (1770-1816)**

Artist unknown.

RELIC Photo 12-1-3



Text on the reverse

RELIC Photo 12-1-4

DID YOU KNOW? SPENCE GRAYSON¹

Peter Grayson's father, Spence Monroe Grayson, born 1734, inherited his father's plantation "Belle Air." Educated in England, Spence returned to Prince William and applied himself successfully to the affairs of "Belle Air." Then at mid-life, he went again to England to study theology, returning home in 1771 as the Reverend Spence Grayson. He served as rector of Cameron Parish and then of Dettingen Parish in Prince William County. Spence was active in events foreshadowing the Revolution, and he served in that war with the rank of Captain as Chaplain of Grayson's Additional Regiment, a unit named for his brother William. He was "... a fighting as well as a praying parson," according to his son-in-law Lund Washington. A life-long friend of George Washington, Reverend Grayson was asked by the General to officiate at the marriage of Washington's nephew George Augustine Washington at Mount Vernon. Spence married Mary Elizabeth Wagener and they had seventeen children, three of whom died in infancy. Spence Grayson died in 1798 and was buried at "Belle Air."

¹ Excerpted and adapted from an article on "Belle Air Plantation" by Terry Lawson of Brunswick, Georgia, posted at <http://home.comcast.net/~richardgrayson/Ri74/virginia.htm>.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY MATERIAL IN THE MELVIN E. STEADMAN COLLECTION

By Darlene L. Hunter, CG

Following is an inventory of the Prince William County material found in the Melvin E. Steadman Collection at the Library of Virginia. It is contained on microfilm reels 1235 and 1236 available on interlibrary loan from the Library of Virginia. Photocopies of individual documents are available at RELIC.

“Melvin Steadman (1932-1987) was a United Methodist minister, an amateur genealogist, and a historian of Northern Virginia. These papers from his personal collection are largely from the Northern Virginia counties in which the Rev. Steadman centered his own work.”¹

REEL 1235, LOUDOUN CO ROADS (VII) TO PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY COURT

Key: ✓ - photocopies available at RELIC
 have - records on microfilm at RELIC

Box 9 Folder 12 — Prince William Co Agreements, 1789, 1803, 1867-70.

1. ✓ Nathaniel Triplett to William Carr –1789.
2. ✓ William Ellzey, Robert Armistead & Albert Russell of Loudoun Virginia, Matthew Harrison of Prince William and Lewis Ellzey of Jefferson County Virginia, one part, Alice Ellzey Widow of William Ellzey decd, Elizabeth Ellzey, Mary Ellzey & Sally Ellzey of Loudoun County Virginia other part – 1803 – articles of agreement.
3. ✓ Grayson Tyler to John R. Shirley 1867-69 — rental of Green Hill Farm.
4. ✓ Grayson Tyler and John R Shirley 1870-72 — rental of Green Hill Farm.

Box 9 Folder 13 — Prince William Co Bonds.

1. ✓ Gabriel Baxter & Adam Mitchell with William Savage to pay debt — 1772.
2. ✓ Thomas Thornton to Charles Chilton to pay debt — 1774.
3. ✓ Solomon Ewell to Galven De Bernoux —1786.
4. ✓ Nathaniel Hedgman Triplett to William Carter, Jr.—1787—150 acres, one boundary Little Creek.
5. ✓ John Boon Lockett to William Carr – 1789.
6. ✓ John S.Throne, Guardian of Harrison Croson & Riannor Croson, orphans Bernard Croson – 1844.

Box 9 Folder 14 – Prince William Co Court 1801-1851.

1. ✓ William Powell versus George French – papers concerning an agreement Powell to live with French as overseer — 1801.
2. ✓ Luttrell v. Muschett’s administrator to Robert Luttrell — 1808 (Steuart & Muschett bond to Robert Luttrell 1804).

¹ “Biographical Information,” *A Guide to the Melvin E. Steadman collection, 1698-1927. Accession Number 34683. A Collection of the Library of Virginia; digital images, Virginia Heritage: Guides to Manuscripts and Archival Collections in Virginia* (<http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/lva/vi01288.xml.frame>).

3. ✓ Fairfax versus James Deneale —1816 (Summons James Deneale to answer Henry Fairfax).
4. ✓ Gibson v. Simpson & French – (John Gibson Junior, John Macrae, John Hooe Jr., Benjamin Johnson, James Foster, Charles Hunton and John Leachman versus Thomason Simpson & Mason French 1824 Gibson and others, Trustees of Brentsville [Title on folder says Burtonsville].
5. ✓ James French, adm of Lewis French v. Mason French – 1840.
6. ✓ William T. French v. Thomas J. Shaw – 1840.
7. ✓ Manassas Gap Railroad Co. v. William W. Monroe – 1851.

REEL 1236, COPY 2 — PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY COURT—GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS – VIRGINIA MISC. WILLS

Box 9 Folder 15 — Prince William Co Court – Grand Jury Presentments

1. ✓ Isaac Florence – Surveyor of Roads – 1838.

Box 9 Folder 16 — Prince William Co Chancery Court

1. ✓ Muschett etc v. Williams – 1833 (Louisa C. Muschett formerly Louisa C. William and Flora Williams versus John W. Williams in his own right and as executor of his deceased father, George Williams, deceased, Mary C. Williams Virginia E. Williams Jesse Williams Maria L. Williams and George Williams and James A M Williams ?, latter six infants under age of 21 to sell slaves, Henry, Susan, Elle, Winey and her four children Maria, Martha, Charlotte and Evaline and child of Winey’s Catherine.

Box 9 Folder 17 — Prince William Co Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery —1831-1850

1. ✓ Atkinson v. French – 1840 (George Atkinson versus Mason French and James W. French).

Box 9, Folder 18 — Prince William Circuit Court —1851, 1866-1869

1. ✓ Marders v. Chinn & Ball – 1866 (Lovell Marders lease for the farm called Leo in Fairfax County from Benjamin T. Chinn and Alfred Ball).
2. ✓ McVeigh & Chamberlain v. McLean – 1866 — James H. McVeigh and James H. Chamberlain versus Wilmer McLean — McVeigh and Chamberlain merchants.
3. ✓ Commonwealth v. Mason – 1869 — Robert F. Mason of Haymarket.
4. ✓ Commonwealth v. Tyler – 1869 — Tyler of Haymarket.
5. ✓ Muir v. Lipscomb’s Executor – 1869 William H. Muir versus Eppa Hunton, executor of Philip D. Lipscomb.

Box 9, Folder 19 — Prince William County Circuit Court (blank Court Forms).

Box 9 Folder 20 — Prince William County Recorded Deeds, 1789, 1795.

1. ✓ Triplett to Carr – 1789 (Nathaniel H. Triplett versus William Carr — recorded 1790, very mottled copy).
2. ~~have--~~ Howson Hooe to Robert Cole – 1795 — recorded 7 Dec. 1795 DB Y: 612.

Box 9 Folder 21 — “Prince William County Deed Book BB.” [*Land Office Grants Book B No. 2*]

1. ✓ By virtue of Office of Treasury Warrant #2083 issued 5 Oct 1809 to William Shaw for 29 acres and survey bearing date of 30 Sept 1811, land grant dated 27 May 1813 — paper says recorded in Book B No. 2: 21.

Box 9 Folder 22 — Prince William County Deed Book C.

1. ✓ 1737 – John Harll to William Harll — 464 acres granted to John Harll 8 March 1726.

Box 9 Folder 23 — Prince William County Deed Book 17.

1. ✓ Property deeded by Moses Copin as administrator of Joseph Thompson – September 1841. Receipt from John S. Trone to Moses Copin administrator of Joseph Thompson decd. – 1842.
2. ✓ Deed from John Fountain and Mary his wife, formerly Mary Patterson to Washington H. Norvell – in the estate of Arrington Evans 1842.

Box 9 Folder 24 — Prince William County Deed Book 19 —1845-1847.

1. ~~have~~-- Deed 1845 – Thomas R. Love commissioner in case Dye & wife v. Simpson to John Graham. Henry A. Barron purchased at public auction a house and lot in Brentsville — DB 19: 75.
2. ~~have~~-- Deed 1845 – William N. Carter, John W. Carter & Rich^d Carter of 1st part & Alfred Ball – 230 acres plat drawn by Philip Ward in the division of Wormley Carter, deceased — DB 19: 79.
3. ~~have~~-- 1845- Stephen French et al to A. Howison — DB 19: 116.
4. ~~have~~-- 21 Dec 1845 – B. E. Harrison & Catharine Harrison his wife to George H. Carter— DB 19: 147.
5. ~~have~~-- 6 Aug 1846 - Eppa Hunton of 1st part to Elijah W. Petty of 2nd part and Wm. W. Barton of 3rd part — DB 19: 191.
6. ~~have~~-- 15 March 1844 – Phillip Carter & William Carter, recorded DB 19: 256.
7. ~~have~~-- 10 August 1847 – Jesse Ewell Jr & Ellen M. Ewell his wife to Alfred Ball, Alexander Compton, John Lewis, Benjamin T. Chinn & William H. Dogan recorded DB 19 on 14 Oct 1847 DB 19: 415.
8. ~~have~~-- 9 Jan 1847 – Layton J. Hansburger, Martha T. Hansburger his wife to Wm T. French – recorded DB 19: 264.
9. ~~have~~-- 22 February 1847 William Sexsmith to Aylett Nicol, lot in Haymarket, recorded DB19: 280.
10. ~~have~~-- 1 Nov 1846 – John T. Delaplane, 1st part, John W. Tyler & Charles Hunton and Charles H. Hunton and Catharine Delaplane wife of Jacob Delaplane & their children – John T., Washington E., Daniel S., Patrick G., Mary C., Thomas H., Julia A., Jacob D., Jane E., Amanda E., Laurinda G. & Margaret S. Delaplane of 3rd part — recorded 19: 297.
11. ~~have~~-- 21 August 1847 – Capt Jno Lee & Thomas O. Clark recorded DB 19: 416.

Box 9 Folder 25 — Prince William County Deed Book 21 —1850-1851.

1. ~~have~~-- Orange & Alexandria Railroad will pass through or near the lands of William J. Weir & Louisa his wife from DB 21: 123.
2. ~~have~~-- Orange & Alexandria Railroad to pass through lands of James “Stewart & Elizabeth his wife deed 21 August 1850, recorded in DB 21: 124.
3. ~~have~~-- Orange & Alexandria Railroad to pass through lands of Edward King recorded DB 21: 125.
4. ~~have~~-- Wm. T French of Stafford to Weir. Whereas Tasker Weir ... 9 Aug 1850 in DB 21: 168.
5. ~~have~~ -- 31 May 1851 – James R. Skinker & Thomas S. Skinker to executors of William W. Skinker dec to John W. Tyler land called Green Hill in Haymarket recorded in DB 21:280. William Skinker’s will was in Fauquier.

Box 9 Folder 26 — Prince William County Deed Book 25 —1860.

1. **have--**William Musser, MD and Fanny his wife of Lycoming Co PA to William H. Taylor, a mortgage, ordered recorded 7 May 1860 & Benjamin Ogle Taylor of Washington DC; Deep Hole Farm DB 25: 232.

Box 9 Folder 27 — Prince William County Deed Book 27 —1868.

1. ✓ 7 Nov 1868 – James E. Harrell & Luther L. Lynn, land near Gainesville Depot between Haymarket Turnpike & Manassas Gap Railroad recorded DB 27: 5.

Box 9 Folder 28 — Prince William County Deed Book 35 —1884, 1885.

1. ✓ 3 Sept 1884 – Henry P. Rogers, Emma J. his wife, Richard N. Hawley, Emmeline his wife, George Rogers & G. W. Daniel of Loudoun to Peter Poland of Prince William County – 145 acres devised by will of late Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers decd late of Fauquier, DB 35: 236.
2. ✓ Walter Rogers, Martha Rogers, William T. Rogers & Jane S. his wife, N. Rogers & Mary his wife and Charles G. Detro & Roberta E. his wife to Peter Poland 5 undivided ninth parts of their interest in the tract of 145 acres land devised by will of Elizabeth Rogers recorded in DB 35: 250 on 25 Jan 1885.

Box 9 Folder 29 — Prince William County Deed Book 38 — 1888.

1. ✓ 28 Nov 1888 Westwood Hutchinson & Susan his wife to Peter Poland part of the farm called Egypt – 74 acres 26 rods on 25 Nov. 1888, recorded in DB 38: 498.

Box 9 Folder 30 — Prince William County Unrecorded Deeds Grantor “B” — 1790.

1. ✓ April 1790 Cuthbert Bullitt to Nathaniel Wickcliff lot of land in Newport #28 (NB conveyed to Charles Wickliff & deed recorded). 4 Oct 1820 – H. Barron – My son Henry asked me to enclose you his deed & ack the favor of you as soon as convenient & you would greatly oblige him. Signed H. Barron.

Box 9 Folder 31 — Prince William County Virginia Unrecorded Deeds “C.”

1. ✓ Carter to Foster 1750 Lease from Charles Carter to Isaac Foster, Frances Foster, Isaac Foster, his son 130 acres – Broad Run Tract.

Box 9 Folder 32 — Prince William County Virginia Unrecorded Deeds “H” — 1737.

1. ✓ 16 June 1736, recorded 27 June 1737, John Harll acknowledged receipt of £20 from Wm. Harl and, and John’s wife Mary released her dower in the land.

Box 9 Folder 33 — Unrecorded Deed Grantor “L” — 1789

1. ✓ 25 April 1789 – John Boon Lockett & Martha his wife to William Carr 151 acres Quantico deed recorded Sept 1789.

Box 9 Folder 34 — Unrecorded Deeds Grantor “R” — 1775, 1831 – very dim, dark copy.

1. ✓ 3 April 1775 – Benjamin Rector and Sally Rector his wife of Leeds Parish, Fauquier to Ann White of Dettingen Parish, land of William White deceased. William White will of 29 April 1768, land to wife Ann and then to daughter Sally now Rector.
2. ✓ 8 Jan 1831 – William Reid of 1st part to Mordecai B. Sinclair of 2nd part and James Powell of 3rd part; Wm Reid now in jail. James Fewell to be his bail.

Box 9 Folder 35 — Prince William County Unrecorded Deeds Grantor “T” — 1763.

1. ✓ 17 Sept 1763 John Tayloe of Richmond County Esq & Rebecca his wife & Hon. Presley Thornton & Charlotte his wife of Northumberland Co to John Downman of Prince William — land on Marumscoe Run — 296 acres.

Box 9 Folder 36 — Prince William County Unrecorded Deeds Grantor “W” — 1810-1854.

1. ✓ Robert Ware & Eliza his wife of Loudoun conveyed to Peter Davis one house & lot in Buckland—acknowledgement of deed by Eliza Ware 29 Jan 1810.
2. ✓ 10 May 1819 Humphrey Walker of King & Queen to Temple Walker – 75 acres.
3. ✓ Baylor Walker of King William appointed commissioner 1822 to sell tract of land called Brooker ? lying in King William on the Mattonpony River (deed very hard to read—bleed through) [*Items 2 and 3 should not have been filed with Prince William records. /DLW*]

Box 9 Folder 37 — Prince William County Fiduciary — 1841.

1. ✓ Anderson v. Anderson Power of Attorney 1842 recorded DB 17: 253.

Box 9 Folder 38 — ✓ Misc. Buckland Petition for Liquor License — 1876.

Box 9 Folder 39 — ✓ Miscellaneous Occoquan Township Dog Licenses — 1874.

Box 9 Folder 40 — Plats, 1812, 1832, 1847.

1. ✓ 1742 — Capt Charles Ewell of King George County 212 acres in Prince William County 12 Feb 1742.
2. ✓ 25 & 26 Apr 183[blot] — Mr. Thomas [Nelson? blot] 354 acres – on back of document: Triplett & ux to Nelson 4 Feb 1839 O[rdered] R[ecorded].
3. have-- Bristoe Tract Surveys – DB 19: 398-407.
4. ✓ Survey of Lands of late John Tyler — Woodlawn farm 327 acres boundaries — Col Richard Blackburn, John Gregg deceased; James Carter; Mr. Peyton; Brundige estate 597 acres – 1865.

Box 9 Folder 41 Prince William County reconstruction — 1865, 1871.

1. ✓ Decree 7 Aug 1865, from O.B. Colvin, Capt. & Provost Marshall.
2. ✓ Petition of Margaret (Peggy) Robinson of Gainesville to Commissioners of Claims — 13 May 1871.

Box 9 Folder 42 Road and Bridge Bonds ✓ Robert Tyler, Buckland Bridge [no date].

Box 9 Folder 43 Road and Bridge Bonds

1. ✓ Cedar Run Bridge — 1825-1826. Various documents, including architectural drawings.

Box 9 Folder 44 School Records 1847, 1851.

1. have-- Land laid off for School districts—DB 19: 289 & 419 (both records are for 1847).

Box 9 Folder 45 — Wills — 1763, 1821, 1848.

1. ✓ Catesby Cocke 30 June 1763 written, proven at General Court at the Capitol 6 Nov 1772.
2. have-- William Graham 12 Feb 1821 and codicil 20 Sept 1821.
3. have-- John Lee 15 June 1848, 7 August 1848.



**DUMFRIES DISTRICT COURT
LAND CAUSES 1793-1811**

*Transcribed by William M. Balderson, Jr.
Edited by Beverly Veness and Don Wilson*

(Continued from vol. 8, no. 3)

[Continuation of a suit of Bertrand EWELL et al against John GRAHAM. Involves a saw mill on property called Racoon Hill and mills on Quantico Creek.]

[Page 219 Continued] At A Court Continued and held for Prince William County the 10th day of March 1792 on hearing It is Decreed and ordered that the Injunction afs^d be made perpetual and it is further decreed & Ordered that the said GRAHAM shall on or before the 1st day of april next convey the lands Agreeable to the prayer of the bill unto the said Maryann in fee[.]

The following papers were filed in this cause Viz^t.

This Indenture made the 22 day of May in the year of our Lord 1752 Between Robert GLENN of that part of Great Britain called Scotland of the one part and John GRAHAM of the County of Fairfax in the Colony of Virginia of the other part[.] Witnesseth that the said Robert GLENN for & in consideration of five shillings sterling to him paid by the s^d John GRAHAM the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged Hath Granted Bargained and sold and by these presents Dothoth [*sic*] Grant bargain & sell unto the s^d John GRAHAM all those two tracts or parcels of Land situate lying

[Page 220] and being in the parish of Dettingin and County of Prince William the one containing 266 acres bounded as follows[:] Begining at a marked white oak standing on a hill or ridge and Extending N^o 74^d E^t 100 poles to a black oak thence S^o 85^d E^t 102 poles to a white oak standing on a hill side near a branch of Chappawamsick run thence N^o 25^d W^t 100 poles to a pine thence N^o 15^d E^t 108 po: to another pine thence N^o 45^d W^t 112 poles to a black oak thence S^o 87^d W^t 80 poles to another black oak then S^o 8^d W^t 160 poles to a white oak then S^o 2^d W^t 138 poles to the begining the other containing 116 acres lying on the branches of Quantico and adjoining to the above said tract bounded as follows begining at several marked pines in the line of the above Land and corner of Mason BENNETs land extending thence N^o 45^d W^t 10 poles to **B** on the north side of a road near another corner of the first tract thence S^o 86^d W^t 106 poles to a black oak at **C** thence S^o 12^d W^t 52 poles to **D** the line of Robert HEDGES thence with his line N^o 33^d W^t 122 poles to **E** a box oak corner to the s^d HEDGES thence with another of his lines S^o 50^d W^t 46 poles to **F** near a red oak corner to William BENNETT thence with his Line N^o 20^d W^t 39 poles to **G** the line of another tract of the said BENNET then with the lines of that tract E^t 60 poles to **H** then with another of the s^d Lines N^o 45 E^t 102 poles to **I** a red oak saplin in BENNETs lines thence S^o 57^d 30 E^t 158 poles to **K** the line of Mason BENNETT thence with his line S^o 32^d 30 W^t 50 poles to the begining Together with all houses out houses Buildings orchards ways waters water Courses woods under woods pastures trees woods under woods Easments profits comodities advantages and appurtenances whatsoever to the same belonging or in any manner of [*sic*] wise appertaining and the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders Rents and services of the s^d premisses and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances To have and to hold the Said Lands and premisses with the appurtenances and every part and parcel thereof unto the said John GRAHAM his Executors admr^s and assigns from the day before the

[Page 221] day of the date of these presents for and During and unto the full end & Term of one whole year from thence next ensuing fully to be compleat and ended yealding [*sic*] and paying therefore one peper corn on the last day of the said term if demanded To the Intene [*intent*] that by Virtue of these

presents and by force of the statute for transferring of uses into possession the Said John GRAHAM may be in the actual possession of the S^d premisses with the appurtenances and be thereby Enabled to take and accept a grant & release of the reversion and Inheritance thereof to him and his heirs to his and their proper use benefit and behoof for ever. In Witness whereof the said Rob^t GLENN hath her[e]unto set his hand an[d] seal the

day and year first above written. }
 Sealed and delivered the five Shillings }
 Sterling being paid in presence of }
 William ANDREW
 John EDWARDS
 Hugh McCOLCHAN

Rob^t GLENN {seal}

At A Court held for the County of Prince William 24th August 1752

This Lease was proved by the oath of William ANDREW one of the witnesses & At A Court Cont^d & held for the County aforesaid the 25th August 1752 This Lease was further proved by the oath of John EDWARDS & Hugh MCOLCHAN the other Witnesses & admitted to record.

Test. P. WAGENER CI

Copy test. Robert GRAHAM CI Cur

This Indenture made the 22^d day of May in the [year] of our Lord God 1752 Between Robert GLENN of the part of Great Britain called Scotland of the one part and John GRAHAM of the County of Fairfax in the Colony of Virginia of the other part[.] Witnesseth that the said Robert GLENN for and in Consideration of the sum of Forty three pounds current

[Page 222] money of Virginia to him paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and thereof doth acquit and discharge the said John GRAHAM his heirs and assigns forever by these presents Hath granted bargained and Sold aliened released and confirmed & by these presents Doth fully freely clearly and absolutely grant bargain and sell alien Release and confirm unto the said John GRAHAM (in his actual Possession and Seizen now being by Virtue of a bargain and sale to him thereof made by Indenture bearing date the day before the date of these presents and by force of the statute for Transferring uses into possession and to his heirs and assigns forever all those two Tracts or parcels of Land Situate lying and being in the Parish of Dettingin in the County of Prince William the one containing two hundred & sixty six acres purchased by the said Robert GLENN of Thomas DAVIS by Deeds of Leases & Release bearing date the 23^d and 24th days of June in the year of our Lord 1744 Bounded as followeth Begining at a marked white oak Standing on a Hill or ridge and Extending N^o 74 degrees E^t 100 poles to a black oak thence S^o 85^d E^t 102 poles to a white oak Standing on a hill side near a branch of Chappawamsick Run thence N^o 25^d W^t 100 poles to a pine thence N^o 15^d E^t 108 poles to another pine thence N^o 45^d W^t 112 poles to a black oak then S^o 87^d W^t 80 poles to another black oak then S^o 80^d W^t 160 poles to a white oak then S^o 2^d W^t 138 poles to the begining the other containing 116 acres lying on the branches of Quantico & adjoining to the above mentioned tract granted to the said Robert GLENN by a patent from the proprietors of the No[r]thern neck of Virginia bearing date the 4th day of January in year of our Lord 1744 and bounded as followeth Begining at several marked Pines in the Line of the above said Land and corner of Mason BENNETs Land Extending thence N^o 45^d W^t 10 poles to **B** on the N^o side of a road near another Corner of the first tract thence S^o 86^d W^t 106 p^o to a black oak at **C** thence South 12^d

[Page 223] W^t 52 poles to **D** the Line of Robert HEDGES thence with his Line N^o 33^d W^t 122 poles to **E** a box oak corner to the said HEDGES thence with another of his Lines South 50^d W^t 46 poles to **F** near a red oak corner to William BENNET thence with his line N^o 20^d W^t 39 poles to **G** the line of another tract of the said BENNETTs then with the lines of that tract E^t 60 poles to **H** then with another of the said lines N^o 45^d E^t one hundred and two poles to **I** a red oak Saplin in BENNETs lines thence S^o 57^d 30" E^t 158

poles to **K** the line of Mason BENNET thence with his line S°32^d 30" W^t 50 poles to the begining containing in the whole 382 acres Together with all houses out houses Buildings trees woods under

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woods ways paths Waters Water Courses Pastures Meadows Feedings and appurtenances whatsoever with all Profits Commodities and advantages to the Same belonging or in any wise appertaining Together with the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders Rents & services of the s^d Premises and every part thereof and the Estate right Title Interest Claim and demand whatsoever of him the said Robert GLENN of in and to the same or any part thereof and all deeds Evidences and writings touching or in any wise concerning the Said premisses or any Part or parcel thereof To have and to hold the said Lands and premisses before mentioned and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances unto the said John GRAHAM his heirs and assigns to his and their own proper use benefit and behoof forever and the s^d Robert GLENN for himself his heirs Executors and administrators and for each and every of them doth hereby Covenant grant and agree to & with the said John GRAHAM his heirs and assigns by these presents that he the Said Robert GLENN now is the true Lawfull and rightfull owner of the said Lands and premisses and hath in himself good rightfull power and authority to Grant and convey the same to the s^d John GRAHAM his heirs and assigns in manner aforesaid and that the same is free clair [*clear*] and discgarged [*discharged?*] of and from all or anee [*any*] sales Leases mortgages in

[Page 224] any maner of Incumbrances committed done or suffered by the said Robert GLENN or any other person or persons by his assent Consent privity procurement to alter change charge defeat determine the said granted Estate (the Quit rents to become due for the premisses only excepted) and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said John GRAHAM his heirs and assigns and each and every of them respectively now and at all time and times

forever hereafter peaceably and Quietly to have hold occupy possess and Enjoy the said granted lands and premisses with the appurtenances with out the let suit trouble hindrance molestation Interruption or denial of him the said Robert GLENN his heirs and assigns or of any other person or persons whatsoever claiming or pretending to claim by from or under him them or any or either of them In Witness whereof the said Robert GLENN hath hereunto set his hand & seal the day and year first within Written

sealed and delivered }
In presence of }
William ANDREW }
John EDWARDS }
Hugh MCOLCHAN }

Robert GLEN {seal}

Received the day and year within written of John GRAHAM the within mentioned sum of forty three pounds Current money being the consideration for the Lands and premisses within mentioned to be paid by him to me on the Perfection hereof Witness my hand

Witness present

Rob^t GLEN

William ANDREW, John EDWARDS

L [S] [*Locus Sigilli (place of the seal)*]

Hugh MCOLCHAN

At A Court held for the County of Prince William, 24^o [*sic*] August 1752

This release & receipt ware [*were*] proved by the oath of William ANDREW one of the witnesses[.] At A Court Cont^d & held for the County aforesaid 25^o [*sic*] August 1752 This release & receipt ware further proved by the oaths of John EDWARDS & Hugh MCOLCHAN the other witnesses and admitted to record[.]

[Page 225]

Teste P Wagener Cl Cur

Copy Test Rob^t GRAHAM Cl Cur

Dearsir I do agree you may proceed to take the Deposition of Robert SCOT in^a the suit of the Rev^d W^m THORNTON vs John GRAHAM which shall be allowed to be read as evidence in the cause I am yr. obed^t serv^t

W^a ELLSEY 5th may 1784

Cuthb^t BULLITT Esq^r

The Deposition of Rober[t] SCOTT upwards of fifty years of age taken by consent in the suit in chancery Thomas THORNTON Clerk & others ag^t John GRAHAM Gent The Deponent being first Sworn saith that he was present at the agreement between Col^o Berterand EWELL and said John GRAHAM when GRAHAM Rented his Mills on Quantico Creek, to the said EWELL & that the agreement was, That EWELL should pay GRAHAM in some short time six hundred pounds current money for which GRAHAM rented the said EWELL his Mills for six years then to come, and bargain^d & Sold to said EWELL & his Heirs & assigns forever, the fee simple Estate in certain Messuage Tenements & Lands with the appurtenances situate in said County at a place called the Racoon hill & purchased by said GRAHAM of a certain Robert GLENN and as this Deponent understood contain^d about four or five hundred Acres, That the deeds for the Lands were to be made to said EWELL by the said GRAHAM so soon as the money was paid, That the said EWELL was by the agreement to deliver the Mills back again to said GRAHAM at the end of the Term in order for business; & he have understood that the money was paid, & Know o [*sic*] that the said EWELL was after in possession & occupation of the said Mills & Lands. That the said agreement was reduced to writing *Turn over* [*sic*]

[Page 226] Writing [*sic*] & the said GRAHAM Gave his Bond for the performance, or entered unto [into] articles of agreement which the said Deponent witnessed & further saith not.

Robert SCOTT

Prince W^m Coty Sc^t [*Scilicet, namely*]

The Deposition was Sworn to by Robert SCOT before me one of the magistrates for the County aforesaid this 5th day of May 1784

Alex^t LITHGOW

The Deposition of William SCOTT aged fifty three Years or thereabout taken in a suit in chancery depending before the Court of Prince William Between Bertrand EWELL gent Thomas THORNTON Clerk & Maryann his wife Compl^s and John GRAHAM Gent defendant - This Deponent being Sworn deposeth and saith that upwards twenty years ago he was present & Called on as a witness when the said GRAHAM rented his Mills on Quantico run to the said EWELL that the first proposals were that the said

EWELL should have the Mills for six years & liberty of taking timber for the Term for the saw Mill off a tract of Land called Racoon Hill belonging to the said GRAHAM which the Deponent understood contained about five hundred acres but Before the Bargain was concluded the said EWELL tore the writings and said he would be entirely off for the Rent he was to give for the Mills was too much that immediately after the said EWELL and GRAHAM came to the following Bargain that the said EWELL should have the said GRAHAMs Grist and saw Mills for the Term of six Years the said EWELL paying the said GRAHAM six hundred pounds in a short time which was to be paid in the hands of a certain John SEMPLE gent then a man of the

[Page 227] First credit and moreover the said GRAHAM was to make Deeds to the said EWELL for the said Tract of Land called Racoon Hill forever in consideration of the said six hundred pounds that being the rent oreginally proposed when EWELL refused to close the bargain & without which the said EWELL had refused to be concerned with the Mills – That the agreement was Reduced to writing & this Deponent believes a Bond given by the said Defendant for his performance which this Deponent signed as a witness – That the said EWELL soon after entered into the occupation of the said Mills and this Deponent believes continued possessed of them for the afs^d term of six years and further saith not[.]

William SCOTT

Prince William County to wit

By Virtue of a Dedimus to us Directed we Whose names are hereunto Subscribed have Caused to come before us the Within named William SCOTT and in presence of the Complanants & Defendants Council Who on the part of his Client acknowledged he had received Legal notice, the said William being sworn upon the Holy Evangelist made and subscribed the Within Deposition Witness our hands Sixth Day of September one thousand seven hundred & Eighty six

Jesse EWELL

Alex^r LITHGOW

The Deposition of Cuthbert BULLITT gent taken in the suit in chancery Depending in the court of Prince William Bertrand EWELL gent Thomas THORNTON Clerk & Maryan his wife Compl^s ag^t John GRAHAM gent Defendant

This Deponent being sworn saith that sometime before the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five he was applied to being [*bring*] a suit by the said EWELL against the said GRAHAM respecting the Lands called Racoon Hill and

[Page 228] a writing under the hand & seal of the said GRAHAM was put into his hands but what he did with the said writing he cannot recollect, and further saith not

Cuth^t BULLITT

Prince Wm County to wit

By Virtue of a Didimus to us Directed we Whose Names are hereunto subscribed have caused to come before the within named Cuthbert BULLITT and in presence of the Complainant and Defendants Council Who on the part of his Client acknowledged he had received Legall Notice the sad [sic] Cuthbert being Sworn upon the Holy Evangelist made and Subscribed the Within Deposition Witness our hands this sixth Day of Septer [*sic*] Seventeen Hundred and Eighty six

Alex^r LITHGOW

William LINTON

[*To be continued.*]

List of Soldiers 1943 and Their Confederate Soldier Ancestors

List by unknown author is written on Velvetone Oil Mural wallpaper and is in fragile condition.
From the Gossom Papers in the RELIC Manuscripts Collection¹

1943  Soldier USA

1861  1[865]Ancestor CSA

Benjamin A. Gulick
John Marvin Tyler
Carroll Leith
John M. Douglass Jr.
Jas. Edward Douglass
James G. Gibson
George T. Gibson
George R. Galleher
Robt. M. Weir
Thomas Ramsay Taylor
William E. Tyler III
Francis Watson
Burns Thomas
John D. Moore
Robert Edwin Skinner
Gibson Hutchison
Arthur W. Sinclair
Herman Smith
Shirley Thomas
Richard Pickett
Barton Pagett
Robert N. Tyler
Ralph B. Russell
Thomas M. Carruthers
Elmer I. Carruthers
Edward J. Carruthers
William G. Jordan
Richard Jordan

Ludwell Hutchison
Edmund A. Tyler
B. F. Leith
A. B. Moore
A. B. Moore
E. C. Gibson
E. C. Gibson
Marion Galleher
Thomas O. Taylor
Thomas O. Taylor
Edmund A. Tyler
Winston Carter
B. F. Leith
John Chinn
Chas. E. Skinner
E. C. Gibson
Thomas O. Taylor
Wm. Randolph Smith
Wm. Randolph Smith
J. P. Smith
J. P. Smith
Capt. Robt. H. Tyler
E. L. Bennett
John Carruthers
John Carruthers
John Carruthers
John Jordan
John Jordan

¹ Items found by the staff of the Prince William County Historical Commission in the old Gossom home known as Mount Atlas, in the area of Waterfall on Bull Run Mountain, were given to RELIC, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia, and are now a part of RELIC's manuscripts collection. This is item 101.1 in the Gossom Papers.