John Thomas Hoskins and Midway

by Joseph Page Pollard*

My maternal grandfather, John Thomas Hoskins, was a notable gentleman in his time. He lived through the trying period immediately preceding, during, and after the Civil War. He was too old at the time of the war for conscription but served the Confederacy as a captain in the Home Guard. His family took in wounded soldiers on occasion during their convalescence. He served as justice of Essex Co., was a delegate to the Democratic State convention of 1860, as Collector of The Port of Tappahannock and in the Virginia State Legislature. He was a nephew by marriage of Judge Spencer Roane and a life long friend of Edmund Ruffin, Editor of the Southern Planter. His letters were compiled and published in limited edition by Susie Warner Maddox.

John Thomas Hoskins was born on 26 April 1817 at Holly Springs (between St. Paul’s Church and Bruington) King and Queen County, Va. and died on 22 Nov 1891. He was the son of Thomas Hoskins and Ann Buckner Hoskins.

Thomas Hoskins (b. 1779) was born at Mount Pleasant, the ancestral Hoskin’s home since about 1660. The residence at Mount Pleasant was said to be identical to Hillsboro (brick ends and frame between). This plantation was located just across the Essex line in King and Queen County on the road from Saint Paul’s Church to Bruington. Holly Springs was cut from the original Mount Pleasant tract. Between the tracts was located a water mill, Hoskin’s Mill. From this mill came the millstone later moved from Holly Springs to the adjoining Midway in Essex County by John Thomas Hoskins when he moved there in 1853, and still later to the Point, Bohannon, Mathews County, Va. (by Joseph Page Pollard). Beyond this, the history of the stone is not known. It may predate Holly Springs and could have been moved there from Mount Pleasant. Examination of the stone reveals that it was essentially unused in the mill probably because of damage from an accident in transit from England or, more likely, during installation in the mill. Superficial damage to an arc of the exterior was due to heat from the burning residence at Midway in 1893. The similarity in construction of the Mount Pleasant and Hillsboro residences would support a date of around the year 1740 for the construction of Mount Pleasant. Holly Springs was established as a residence for Thomas Hoskins and Ann Buckner. Thomas Hoskins was a captain of King and Queen Militia, and a member of the County Court and Sheriff. His father, Col. John Hoskins (1751-1813) was Captain of the King and Queen Militia in the Revolution and in the Siege of Yorktown. Later, he was presiding justice of the County Court and Colonel Commander of the Militia. Thomas Hoskins was born 27 Oct 1779; died 15 Oct 1836 and his wife Ann Buckner was born 28 Nov 1785; died 2 Jan 1864. They were married 9 Feb 1809.

John Thomas Hoskins (born 1817) married first Gabriella B. Taliaferro of Elson Green, Caroline County, Va. She was born on 8 May 1825. They were married on 17 May 1842. They had a daughter who died soon after birth and a son born at Holly Springs on 10 Feb 1845 named Thomas Taliaferro Hoskins. “Tommy” was killed at Manassas in 1863. A Colt handgun recovered from him is in the possession of Joseph L. Pollard. On 20 Jan 1847 another son was born, Richard Lewis Hoskins. Richard married Adelaide (Addie) Waring born about 1851 near Ware’s Wharf, Essex County, Va. Richard and Addie had two daughters, Gabriella B. Taliaferro Hoskins born 17 Dec 1872 (my “Aunt” Gay of Greenlevel, White’s Shop P.O., King William County, Va.) and Margaret Lawson Hoskins born 10 Aug 1875 (my “Aunt” Mag who lived at Midway for many years after the death of her husband, Floyd Newbill). Addie, their mother, died on 13 Aug 1878 (age 27), and Richard, their father, died at Midway of typhoid pneumonia on 1 March 1879 (age 32). Their two daughters were reared at Midway as though they were siblings of my mother and her brothers and sisters. Gabriella B. Taliaferro Hoskins, first wife of John Thomas Hoskins, died at Holly Springs on 23 April 1848.

John Thomas Hoskins (b. 1817) married second Hannah Elizabeth Ware (b. 28 Dec 1852) at Bellvue, immediately down river from Ware’s Wharf, Essex County, Va. They were married on 30 Aug 1853, resided at Midway, and reared a large family. Hannah Elizabeth Ware Hoskins was the daughter of Edward Macon Ware and Catherine E. Waring. Bellevee stood on a low bluff on the river bank. The house was built by Hessian soldiers who elected to stay after the Revolutionary War. They

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also built Retreat (Haile home near Minor, Essex County, Va.). The houses were of identical design. Bellevue was shelled by a Union gunboat attempting to proceed up river but held back by the fort on Lowry's Point during the Civil War. The house was penetrated by cannon balls in several places, but none of these exploded on impact. The old cannon ball at Midway, now in possession of the R. B. Gill family, was one that missed the house and failed to explode. Edward Macon Ware was on his deathbed during the shelling. A slave waived a white cloth, and the shelling ceased. He died on 27 Mar 1863. His wife, Catherine Waring Ware, died at Bellvue on 25 Jan 1890, on her 77th birthday. The writer holds photographs of both of the above ancestors.

When John Thomas Hoskins and Hannah Elizabeth Ware were married (1855), the father of the bride offered the pair an estate on the Rappahannock River which he would buy for them as a wedding present. On inspection of the property, John Thomas Hoskins became firmly stuck in the muddy road into the property. He refused the estate. Instead they agreed on Dr. Minor's property which was for sale. This property, Midway, adjoined the Holly Springs property. The Holly Springs property subsequently was sold out of the family (sometime after the Civil War). The bride stood to inherit Ware property upon her father's death. This Ware property passed to their oldest daughter, Kate, upon her marriage to Charles C. Warner and became Sunny Side. This daughter, therefore, received her inheritance early and did not inherit Midway property. This fact eventually caused some confusion in the deed when the Midway property was divided and passed to a later generation.

Midway comprised a tract of land which lay on the divide between the Rappahannock and Mattaponi Rivers. The boundary line between King and Queen and Essex Counties ran through the Midway property following a road which has become Route 360 (east of St. Paul's Church) and a secondary road, Route 621 (north of St. Paul's Church). The Midway property probably was originally settled by a Mr. Jones. A full sized bricked up grave, covered by a white marble slab with John Jones inscription, was located in a field to the north of the residence until about 1956 when it was moved to St. Paul's Church graveyard. The Midway property was purchased by Dr. Jefferson Minor (probably from the Jones' family) for use as a girl's school. This school existed for several years and became well known in its time. For information of the schools of this area and time, refer to a thesis for Master's Degree at the University of Virginia Dept. of Education by Russell B. Gill about 1939. Upon the death of Dr. Minor, the property was obtained by John Thomas Hoskins, partly through of his bride's father and partly through purchase.

The original residence at Midway was a one and a half story frame structure facing southeast with the rear side extended by a shed roof. The shed portion had a brick floor and was used as a dining room. The kitchen was a separate building adjacent to this part of the house. Subsequently a full two story addition was made on the southwestern end of the building with a small entryway made between the second story level and the upper halfstory level of the older house. The disparity of height between the two parts of the house provided a location for tree leaves to accumulate. A spark from the chimney landing on leaves accumulated there caused the house eventually to burn in 1893.

The road which ran through Midway was the main road from Richmond to Tappahannock. Midway was a route stop on the stage coach line. The building which served as a post office in those times still stands with its mail slot in the door. The road originally ran rather close beside the southwest side of the residence in a more or less straight line to St. Paul's Church and through the churchyard on the east side of the church between the two graveyards. With the need for campus space for the girl's school, the roadway through the yard was moved to a location in a southwesterly direction to a position later marked by a line of ancient cedar trees. The road was subsequently moved even farther to its present location. There are depressions crossing the yard showing each successive location of the roadway. Moving the road served to change the line between King and Queen and Essex Counties, with Essex gaining land, including St. Paul's Church which was built in 1838 on land, then west of Tappahannock-Richmond highway. This land came off of the "Holly Springs," the older Hoskins Platinum which adjoined Midway on the south in King & Queen Co. The bricks for this church were made on Holly Springs. The Midway yard at one time occupied about 13 acres, including a garden, slaves' quarters, barns and store houses. Brick foundations of the latter may still be found near the present entrance road.

A school building existed, located just to the west of the residence, built over the depression of the original roadway. When the residence burned, the family moved into the school building on a temporary basis, but it did not become economically possible to rebuild the residence. As a consequence the remodeled school building (the roof of the portion of the house towards St. Paul's Church was raised from 1½ story to a full 2 stories) became the residence of Hannah Ware Hoskins, widow of John Thomas Hoskins, her daughter, Page Hoskins, and her husband Joseph Lawrence Pollard. Joseph Page Pollard was born in this house.

A recreation area existed for the girl students in the extreme western corner of the Midway property. It was located in a pleasant meadow with facilities for picnics, campfires and games beside a clear, babbling brook.

The graveyard for slaves at Midway was located close to the Retreat property line. If one goes in a northeasterly direction along this property line beyond the present pine tree grove, one comes to a deeply eroded gulch in the soil. Beyond this eroded area is a level place extending between the property line and a gravelly roadway leading to the old ice pond. This is the site of the graveyard. Several walnut trees grew here during my boyhood.

In olden times, drinking water had to be obtained from a spring. The spring for Midway was called the Old Spring. The slaves' quarters were located between the residence and the Old Spring. There are several branch streams which make up on the Essex side of Midway. One makes up on the edges of the field along the Retreat property line. It flows onto Retreat. The second branch begins at the old Lily Pond. The third branch runs from the Old Spring. The fourth branch makes up behind the old barns and farm animal quarters. The fifth branch makes up on what was Aunt Nettie's property. All of these branches drain into a stream which runs onto Retreat property and into the larger swamp which makes up from St. Paul's Church around the Crow's property (later Klein's). The original Midway property line was just beyond this later swamp. A piece of high ground in this area was known as "Uncle" Daniel's orchard. This old orchard area is now the site of the Walker Lumber Company's saw mill. "Uncle" Daniel was a highly respected slave. I have the apple press that he used to make apple
juice. All of the streams on the Essex County side of Old Midway (and Retreat) drain into the Piscataway Creek and thence into the Rappahannock River, whereas all streams on the King and Queen County side drain into the Mattaponi River. The stream that makes up at Miller’s Tavern (not on old Midway property) drains into the Dragon Run and thence into the Piankatank River. From its geographic location, astride the water drainage divide between the local rivers, it is only logical that the name Midway was selected for the original tract of land. Midway and Retreat are located on land with the highest elevation above sea level in Essex County.

After the death of John Thomas Hoskins, the Midway property was partitioned among the children of his second marriage (except Kate who inherited Ware property). Thomas received property from St. Paul’s Church to the easternmost line towards Miller’s Tavern in Essex County. Nannie received property directly across the road (now Rt. 360) to the southernmost line in King and Queen County. Nettie, Mary and Edward received the Church Field tracts extending from St. Paul’s Church to the Midway residence tract in Essex County. Lizzie received the land across the road, a parcel on each side of the present Rt. 621 in King and Queen County extending to the old Holly Springs line. Emma received the adjoining property to the westernmost line bound by Rt. 621, comprising all of the remaining property in King and Queen County. Page received the property along the Retreat line from Rt. 621 to the northernmost line extending to the residence tract. Joseph L. Pollard eventually obtained title to the Edward tract and the residence tract which, along with the Page tract, comprised the Midway of the writer’s time.

Shortly after the Civil War, Union soldiers who had been permitted to convalesce at Midway presented John Thomas Hoskins with two small pecan trees in appreciation of their care. One of these trees was planted between the site of the residence and the school house (later residence demolished in 1883) and the other just north of the old post office building. Both trees were standing in 1983. The tree near the post office was entered in a contest for the largest pecan tree in the Commonwealth of Virginia, but it did not win.

The children of Capt. John Thomas and Hannah Ware Hoskins were Kate Waring Hoskins, born 18 July 1854; died 1 Jan 1934; married Charles C. Warner and resided at Sunnyside, near Ware’s Wharf. She was the mother of Selden, Charles, Thomas and Susie. Ann Buckner Hoskins, born 23 Feb 1856; died 21 Feb 1946, married William Talbot Eubank. They resided at several places but eventually across the road and just southeast of St. Paul’s Church (later sold to two lumber companies). He built the house on land inherited from Midway. She was the mother of Robert (Rob), Judith, “Lad” Tom, Joe, William, Nancy, Edward and Mary. The family often called her Nannie, and her gravestone is so inscribed. Gabriella Hoskins was born 20 Oct 1857; died 20 July 1858. Mary Elizabeth Hoskins, born 12 July 1859, died 25 July 1946, married John Thomas Baird. They lived at Plant City, Florida. She had children; Katherine Ware and Burgess Buckner Baird. Martha Etienne Hoskins, born 28 May 1861; died 5 May 1927, married Junius Broadus from Cherry Walk (between Miller’s Tavern and Dunbrooke). Her children were Woodford, Thomas Nash and Etienne. Her residence was between Midway yard and St. Paul’s Church in the “Church Field.” Edward Macon Ware Hoskins, born 16 April 1863; died 28 Mar 1948, married Mable Wilkerson. They had no children. They lived in Arlington, Va. J. Thomas Hoskins was born 16 Sept 1864; died 10 July 1865. Emma C. Hoskins, born 23 Apr 1866; died 15 Aug 1962, married Robert Gaines Haile and lived at Retreat-adjourning property north of Midway. Her children were: Anna, Robert, William and Edmund. Thomas Hoskins, born 13 Sept 1867; died Aug 1948, married Lucy Broadus. They had no children. His final home was Snugly, just beyond St. Paul’s Church and across the road from Aunt “B’s.” He built the house on land inherited from Midway. Hannah Elizabeth Hoskins, born 20 Sept 1869; died 23 Mar 1958, married William Todd Henley and lived at Hillsboro, on the Mattaponi River. Her children were; Joseph, Elizabeth, Hoskins, William Todd, and Virginia. Page Hoskins, born 18 Feb 1872; died 7 July 1965, my mother, married Joseph Lawrence Pollard of Rosewood, Indian Neck P.O., King and Queen County, Va. on 16 Oct 1907. The residence in which he was born was moved to Williamsburg and reassembled. It is located a block from the capitol and is used as a law office. Her only child was Joseph Page Pollard. She resided at Midway all her lifetime. They reared Russel Benjamin Gill as a foster son.

For nearly one hundred years an annual family reunion of the descendants of John Thomas Hoskins was held at Midway, sponsored by Hannah Elizabeth Ware Hoskins who resided there until her death in 1913, and later by Page Hoskins Pollard, until her death in 1965. Records of many of these reunions exist in the custody of Russell B. Gill, Jr.

The remains of John Thomas Hoskins rest in the graveyard of St. Paul’s Church. He died from a cerebral accident (stroke) on 22 Nov 1891 while preparing wood for his fireplace at Midway.

Lawson E. Waring*

by JUDGE THOMAS R. B. WRIGHT

(from the Tidewater Democrat, later the Rappahannock Times for Nov. 20, 1900.)

It is our sad duty to announce the death of Dr. L. E. Waring of Essex county, who died at Tuscara, the old family residence of Capt. Wm. L. Waring, the grandfather of his wife, last Sunday evening February 4th, after a short illness.

He was the older son (Spotswood Wellford being the other) of John Waring, Esq., who married the accomplished Katherine Gray, daughter of that saintly and venerable man Mrs. Lucy Yates Gray of Tappahannock, and of Dr. Thomas B. W. Gray.

Dr. Waring was born at Port Tobago, the old colonial residence on the Rappahannock river August 23rd 1835. His mother having died while he was very young, and his father having become blind, Lawson Waring spent his boyhood under the tutelage and refined Christian influences of his grandmother, Mrs. Gray, who was daughter of Dr. Robert Wellford, a lovely woman, and, who is remembered, and recorded in history as “one of the noblest and most finished monuments of Christ’s perfect workmanship in the flesh,” and who as the

*This obituary was written by Judge Wright at the request of Dr. Waring’s niece, Katherine W. H. Warner. Thomas R. B. Wright was Judge of the 12th judicial circuit and was a Confederate veteran, having served in Company F, 55th Virginia Regiment. He was the father of state Senator William A. Wright of Tappahannock.
spiritual mother and chief ornament of the community, for the forty two years of residence here, and as the gifted educator of the highest grade and widest reputation, graduated 800 young ladies, in many instances the daughters and grand daughters of former pupils, many of whom rise up today to call her blessed. Under such environments and influences Lawson Waring lived, and his whole life was the exemplification of a polished and courteous gentlemen, soft and gentle manners, delicate and refined feelings, and charming personality in the circle of friends and home.

Dr. Waring took to the profession of medicine as an inheritance. Dr Robert Wellford his great-grand father of England was a surgeon in the English army during the Revolutionary war, and at its close, he settled in Fredericksburg, and married the beautiful and accomplished Catherine Yates of that city, since then his descendants, Dr. John Spotswood Wellford and Dr. Beverley R. Wellford have adorned the science and practice of medicine in Virginia as professors and practitioners in medical colleges.

The study of medicine by Dr. Waring in Philadelphia was interrupted by the civil war. While in active service during the war, he was transferred from Company B (Capt. Sydner) 40th Va. Regt. to the medical department and was exceedingly apt and efficient. He was at Chincabago Hospital, Richmond, during the two last years of the war, and while there he graduated in the medical college of Virginia in 1865.

His hospital experience added to a fine intellect, acquired ability and professional knowledge, a thorough equipment for general practice. Since then he has practiced in Essex, and consecrated his life to the poor of his community. He has served his day and generator going in and among them, and spent the best efforts of his life in good deeds and kind acts for these people in visiting and nursing the sick, the afflicted and the distressed, without money, price, and the qualification of worldly ambition, and these acts and deeds speak for a well spent life, and make those who follow on, rise up, too, to call him blessed. This kindly, unaffected, modest gentleman, this humble, unostentatious man, with his pleasant smile, who met us every day, passing in and out with a certain reticence of modesty in the sphere that God placed him, will be sadly missed.

He married two lovely, charming women, Miss Johnson, of New Kent, the first time, and the second time Miss Emma Chilton Ware, daughter of the esteemed and honored Edward M. Ware, deceased, of Essex and sister of our honored Robert L. Ware, E. M. Ware and Mrs Hannah E. Hoskins. The widow and three children survive him.

At his home, which he intensely loved and, in his home life, Dr. Waring was seen at his best, and in his most exalted character and sphere. It was the home of the purest love and happiness, and his wife and children clung to him as delicate tendrils.

He volunteered as a Confederate soldier in the Lee Rangers under the gallant Gen. Wm. H. F. Lee. He served in the West Virginia campaign under the chivalrous Gen. Robert V. Garnett, of Essex, who lost his life at Cheat Mountain. He was afterwards transferred to the 40th Va. Regt. (Col. John M. Brockenbrough), and was in active service during the memorable battle of 2nd Manassas and other battles in which that gallant soldier participated.

Dr. Waring was a member of the Protestant Episcopal church, and died in that faith. He was buried in the family grave yard, at Bellvue, of the Ware family. R. H. Waring elder of the Rappahannock Christian church, impressively and appropriately laid him to rest in the presence of a large concourse of sorrowing friends and relatives, looking to a blessed immortality.

As we stood at the open grave we felt as Byron did, when he wrote: "I feel my immortality over sweep all pain, all tears, all time, all fears, and peal, like the eternal thunders of the deep into my ears this truth—thou livest forever!"

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Fort Lowry Cannon Search

by Clyde P. Smith

This is an account of Mr. Smith's findings concerning Fort Lowry, from an address he delivered before the Essex County Historical Society on January 19, 1986. Mr. Smith is a member of the National Underwater Marine Agency and on its Board of Trustees since 1980. He has worked on several major diving expeditions at Hampton Roads, Richmond, and Charleston, South Carolina in which 22 Civil War ships were located.

On the afternoon of Friday, October 1, 1982, and the morning of Saturday, October 2, 1982, a search was conducted in the offshore vicinity of Fort Lowry, approximately six miles south of Tappahannock, Virginia on the Rappahannock River. We were searching for several canons that had been lost in transit to Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1862.

The operation was based on a Zodiac inflatable boat. The search on Friday afternoon was conducted with an experimental Schonstedt Instrument Company, gradiometer. This experimental unit is a hand-held, submersible unit with underwater earphones. The gradiometer, while being held over the side of the Zodiac, did not provide sufficient strength to pick up targets in the water, which was up to 12 feet deep. During the search on the morning of Saturday, October 2, 1982, we utilized a larger, more powerful magnetometer manufactured by an unknown English maker. We hit a number of targets between 100-200 meters offshore in approximately 12 feet of water, just north of the Fort Lowry site. Clyde Smith dove on these targets with the hand-held experimental Schonstedt instrument and was unable to positively identify any of these targets. The bottom of the river in this area is covered by a very soft mud and the diver probed into the mud up to his elbows with the hand-held mag. While strong targets were identified, it was impossible to determine the exact nature of these targets.

The marsh area immediately behind the original location of the fort was searched by Mike E. Storie from Norfolk, and a number of targets were identified. It is felt that these targets are probably cannonballs from the original shelling of Fort Lowry.

Currently, there are no plans to go back and search the river adjacent to the Fort Lowry location. However, we may plan an expedition into the marsh in an attempt to recover cannonballs.

The Schonstedt experimental gradiometer worked well. It is felt that the bicycle handle on this unit should be replaced with a pistol-type grip, in that the unit is held in one hand while submerged, leaving the other hand for line handling, etc. In addition, the gain control is on the front of the housing and requires completely turning the unit around to make gain adjustments. If this gain control could be placed on the back of the housing, it would simplify adjustments.
Of concern to the diver was the fact that this gradiometer is negatively buoyant and in zero visibility conditions, such as the Fort Lowry expedition, if the unit were dropped, it would be virtually impossible to relocate and recover it. It is suggested that a foam sleeve or other type of floatation device be attached so that the unit be slightly positive. In addition to the above individuals, Commander James C. Jameson participated in the search as coordinator and dive master.

Mr. Wellford then expressed appreciation and thanks to the hostesses for the social hour following the meeting. Mrs. Nan Page Carlton and Mrs. Anne Scott Wright, co-chairmen, Mrs. Ann Warner, Mrs. Lib Smither, Mrs. Katherine Mann and Mrs. Mary Evans. The meeting adjourned and all were invited to the Woman’s Club for refreshments.

The Essex County Historical Society met Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. April 20, 1986 at "Fairview" the home of Mrs. William Justin Waring, with our president, Mr. Hill B. Wellford presiding. Mr. Wellford welcomed a large group of members and thanked Mrs. Waring for having us meet at her lovely old home on this beautiful but windy afternoon. Mrs. Waring then welcomed the group and explained that it gave her family pleasure to have us and she would like it to be a memorial to her husband, who died last July, who had worked so hard to restore their home over the years and so we do Memorialize this meeting to his honor. Mrs. Waring then gave a short talk about the building of Fairview and when it came into the Waring family. Thomas Lawson Waring and his wife, Mary Ann Derieux, were the first Warings to move into the original house which has been added to a number of times. William Justin Waring and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Trible, added a section when they were living here, when Mrs. Waring died and John S. Waring, Sr. who was oldest of 8 children had to give up the house, the family insisted that they should be able to buy it back whenever their fortunes permitted. It was not until 1942 that my husband, William Justin Waring was able to get the house back. It was in terrible condition and took a great deal of care, hard work etc. to get it restored to its lovely state today, the mantels and the floors are of heart pine and all original.

Mr. Wellford thanked Mrs. Waring for her very interesting talk and said she was not only a charming hostess, but also a darn good speaker. Mr. Wellford expressed our sorrow at losing two members since our last meeting, Mrs. Roberta A. Piper and Mrs. Robert Wheat, both were long time life members, who had contributed greatly to our society. Particularly, Mrs. Wheat has given several hundred dollars to purchase books and papers for our Society's files in the Court House and to be used in the Library's Historical reference shelves.

Mr. Wellford then asked Mrs. Wright, Secretary, to read the minutes of the January meeting. The secretary read them and they were approved. Mr. Smither, treasurer, gave his report of dues received and expenditures since the last meeting leaving a total balance in checking and savings of $1750.42.

Mr. Wellford then turned the meeting over to our Vice President and Program Chairman, Carroll Garnett, to introduce our speaker. Mr. Garnett introduced another guest, Mr. William H. B. Thomas, Project Director of the Archeological Site, which is the topic our speaker, Mr. Robert A. Hodge, who is helping at this site, has chosen. Mr. Garnett spoke of how grateful we are to have Mr. Hodge again as our speaker. We remember the delightful and interesting talk on the "Mad Stones" which Mr. Hodge gave last spring at "Poplar Forest" the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ellis. Mr. Garnett said, Hill and I were determined to have him again as soon as we could and today he is going to talk about the "Enchanted Castle of Gov. Spottswood." This site is very close to Germanna College and Mr. Hodge is Assistant Professor of Biology. Until 3 years ago this site had not been discovered.
Mr. Hodge lived up to his previous excellence and gave us such a marvelous talk about Governor Spottswood and his building of his “Enchanted Castle” in what is now Orange Co. but at the time was still a part of Essex County which makes us doubly interested. William Byrd of Westover when visiting Governor Spottswood in 1732 called it an “Enchanted Castle” in his diary, which seems to be the only written evidence of this castle. This program was so interesting, many of the members expressed a desire to visit this site and Mr. Thomas invited us as a society to come to the Germanna Celebration they are having on July 20th. Since this date coincides with our regular meeting date this summer, many members would like to go there instead of having our meeting in the Court House in Tappahannock.

Mr. Wellford thanked Mr. Hodge for his most interesting and enlightening talk. He also thanked Mrs. Waring again for having us and opening her home. He also thanked Mrs. Agnes Ware, Chairman, Mrs. Lib Smith, Mrs. Frances Garrett, Mrs. Thelma Aaron, Mrs. Betsey Ware, Mrs. Margaret Hilton, Mrs. Mabel Ware, and Mrs Frances Wayman as hostesses for the delicious refreshments served in the lovely dining room of the Waring home. The meeting adjourned and a delightful social hour followed.

Anne T. Wright, Secretary

Officers of the Society

President .................. Hill B. Wellford
Vice President ............... Carroll Garnett
Treasurer .................. Ludwell Smither
Secretary .................. Anne T. Wright

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Charles W. H. Warner, Chairman
Mrs. William A. Wright, Mrs. J.M. Evans

Meetings are held quarterly in the Essex Court House, or in an historic home or church of the County. Dues are $5.00 per year. For copies of publications send $2.00 to Mrs. J.M. Evans, Box 8, Tappahannock, Virginia 22560.