Contributions to this column are requested from Confederate veterans and other persons familiar with the history of the War Between the States. Narratives of particular engagements and personal adventures are specially requested. All contributions should be sent to The Editor of the Confederate Column, Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

NORBORNE BERKELEY SPLENDID SOLDIER

Tribute to His Memory—A Gallant Colonel. Sans Peur et Sans Reproche.

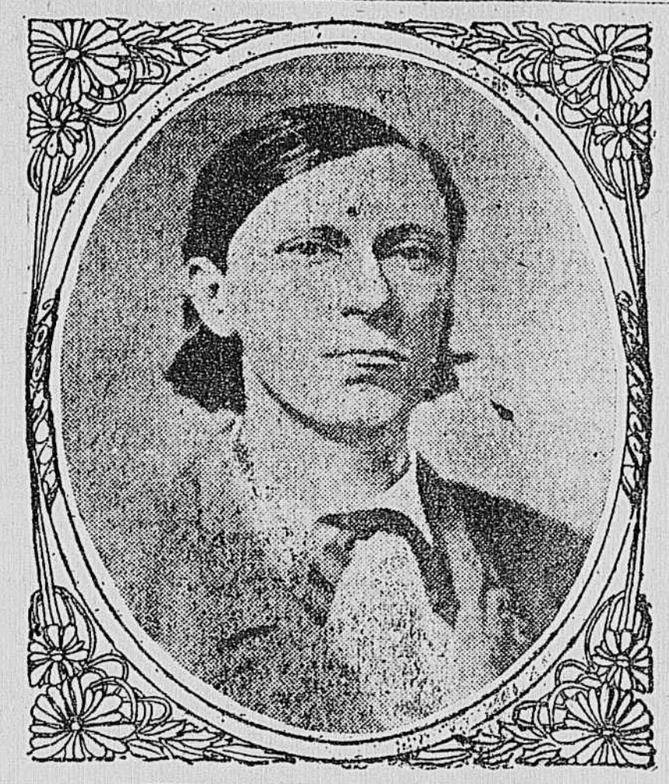
BY M. G. ELZEY, M. D.,
Surgeon Eighth Virginia Regiment.

In the recent death of Colonel Norborne Berkeley, of the Eighth Virginia Regiment, C. S. A., in the eighty-fifth year of his age, the survivors of our Lost Cause morn one of their bravest and truest companions in arms. Descended from one of the oldest and most distinguished families of Virginia, he was himself esteemed by all who knew him as one of the truest men of his day.

The inheritor of an ample fortune, he married early in life a woman descended from the same ancestry, and brought his bride to his newly-established and beautiful home, situated upon a commanding height overlooking the village of Aldie, in Loudoun county, Va.

There, in the midst of affluence, he lived the simple life of a country gentleman, beloved and honored by all who knew him, and there his children were born. Generous to a fault, active in every public enterprise, a churchman and lay-reader, attentive to every public duty, liberal in behalf of every worthy cause, his whole influences and example were for good. The writer, some years his junior, has known him from childhood as a near neighbor of his father and friend of his early manhood. He also served with his regiment during a greater part of the War Between the States; was afterwards associated with him in the faculty of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, the writer occupying the chair of theory and practice of scientific agriculture, and Colonel Berkeley, as adjunct to that chair, was farm manager, teaching the application of the science to the practice of that great profession, agriculture being a concrete science, as the basis of a complex art. It is evident that two men could scarcely know each other better. The greater part of the writer's service in the army was with Colonel Berkeley's regiment. He feels accordingly well qualified to form an opinion of his character and abilities, and he sincerely believes that a more perfect type of the gallant soldier and Christian man never lived. A soldier devoted to his duties, differential to his superior officers, kindly considerate of his subordinates, himself he always thought of last of all. In all relations of life Norborne Berkeley was a man blameless and true; a man without reproach. He has gone to his reward, leaving behind him the record of a blameless life and not an enemy upon the face of the earth. His epitaph may well be written:

"Whatever record leaps to light
He never shall be shamed."



BRIGADIER-GENERAL ROGER A. PRYOR.

THE LAST CAPITAL OF THE CONFEDERACY

BY B. BOISSEAU BOBBITT,
In the Birmingham Age-Herald.

Weep not that the world changes—did it keep
A stable, changeless course, 'twere cause to weep.
—Bryant.

Since Homer first sang to the deeds of prowess performed by Hector, the godlike Achilles and other Greek heroes before the walls of sacred Troy, and thus immortalized that place, in all nations the names of places at which notable events affecting the governments and institutions of those countries, have occurred have been carefully memorized and zealously guarded for their historical and patriotic value by the people of those countries. Runnymede has come down to us through the dim history of the middle ages to have a marked significance since there it was that John, King of England, in the year 1215, A. D., signed that great instrument of human liberty guaranteeing some of the inalienable rights of man, the Magna Charta. The act of abdication signed by the Emperor Napoleon on April 6, 1814, at Fontainbleau has made the name of that palace famous in French and European history. The surrender of Napoleon III, of an army of 90,000 men in September, 1870, which event marked the retirement of aforesaid Emperor as a factor in European politics, and by which event the empire founded by him of which he had been the head ended tragically, made Sedan a name in history that will endure. Yorktown has justly become a memorable name in American history on account of its being the place where, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis's forces, American national liberty and independence were first definitely assured.

In the history of our country, then, Yorktown marks the first definite step in the progress of events upon which the foundation of our nation as an independent and self-governing country rests. Likewise, Danville should mark the final step in the solution of the greatest and most perilous national crisis which our nation has endured, and upon which our entire future welfare and well-being for all time depended, for it was there that the final scenes in the Civil War drama were by the Confederate government enacted.

The end of the war, when the Confederate government left Richmond, its capital, and became a wanderer, having no place, seemingly, wherewithal it might become permanently established, was only partially assured. But during the occupation of and subsequent retreat from Danville by the government, the end of the strife and bloodshed was definitely assured.

I shall not here in any way enter into a discussion in regard to the relative merits of the legal and constitutional or moral questions involved in the conflict between the Northern and Southern States. To do so would be outside of the scope of the subject dealt with in this article. However, I must here digress to the extent of saying that it is now by impartial historians conceded to be a well established fact that the Confederate States had undoubtedly a well defined constitutional right to secede from the union, but every one admits that for them to have exercised this right as they did was, to say the least, extremely impractical and injudicious.

"However much we may differ in our opinions in regard to these things, the fact remains that these events of which I have spoken, constitute to all Americans a subject of supreme interest. And to our people, it naturally follows, that the end of the civil government in the Confederate States with the last wholly official act, a proclamation, by the highest executive authority, together with some of the particulars in regard to those things attendant upon those acts, is ever a subject of acute interest knowing these things, and also knowing that no definite and accurate detailed accounts of them which is easily accessible to the public has been prepared, and wishing to preserve for the benefit of posterity, as well as of ourselves, the actual facts, I have taken some pains to secure a recital of them at first hand from one who was intimately associated with Jefferson Davis and his Cabinet during those closing scenes which heralded and marked the fall of the Confederate government and who is undoubtedly the best qualified living person to recount them. Any statement made by this person would require no corroborative proof, which, however, is not lacking, to substantiate it.

Hon. Jefferson Davis, in his "Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government," says: "Though the occupation of Danville was not expected to be permanent, immediately after arriving there rooms were obtained, and the different departments resumed their routine labors." Since this was the last place at which the departments carried on their routine labors, and since while they did this the capital was located here; therefore this place is entitled clearly to the distinction of being called 'The Last Capital of the Confederacy.'"

When it became evident to General Lee that it would be impossible for him to longer hold the defenses guarding the capital, his main line of defenses at Petersburg having been broken, which necessitated a withdrawal of his other forces, he advised President Davis, in a telegram received by him while attending divine services, that Richmond should be evacuated by the government simultaneously with the withdrawal of his army. So, with his Cabinet, and attended by his staff, President Davis left at once for Danville. This was on April 2.

Upon arriving at Danville, the presidential party was met at the depot, taken to his residence and entertained by Major W. T. Sutherlin, a wealthy and prominent citizen, who held the offices of commissary and commandant at this place, and who had been a member of the Secession Convention of Virginia. Here the President and his Cabinet remained until April 10. Here also were the Cabinet meetings held, the proclamation issued, and orders transmitted. During this time the Sutherlin mansion constituted de facto the capitol of the Confederate States. A house on Wilson Street was obtained by the Government for the use of the President's staff, and the offices of the various departments, and there all routine government business was transacted.

The last full Cabinet meeting which was ever held by the President met with him in one of the sitting rooms of the Sutherlin mansion. All of the members of the Cabinet attended this meeting except the Secretary of War, General J. C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky. There were present: Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State; Trenholm, Secretary of the Treasury; Davis, the Attorney-General; J. H. Reagan, Postmaster-General, and Mr. Memminger, formerly Secretary of the Treasury; also Mr. Harrison, the President's private secretary.

Mr. Davis, while in Danville, remained at his temporary home and capitol very little. He was very busily engaged in examining into the fortifications surrounding the place, which he reported as very faulty, both in construction and design. He was also actively engaged in formulating plans relating to the design which he had formed of having Lee retreat to the Virginia State line, where he could be able to form a junction with Johnston, the army so thus combined making a final stand on the banks of and in the country contiguous to the Dan and Roanoke Rivers. The execution of this design which he had in mind, had its accomplishment proved possible, would have enabled the leaders to have obtained much better terms than an unconditional surrender. However, as it happened, Grant was able to, and did by a flank movement which his position aided him in making, prevent the contemplated move on Lee's part, forced the crippled army to retreat towards Lynchburg, where it was surrounded on all sides and compelled to capitulate. This surrender of Lee's army on April 9 made the fall of the civil branch of the Confederate government inevitable.

Until the news of Lee's surrender reached him, President Davis was very hopeful and confident of the ultimate triumph of the Confederacy. In fact, the tone of the proclamation issued by him on the 5th, soon after his arrival in Danville, is, as he admits, "viewed by the light of subsequent events, it may be fairly said was oversanguine." The following is a copy of the proclamation referred to:

"The general-in-chief found it necessary to make such movements of his troops as to uncover the capital. It would be unwise to conceal the moral and material injury to our cause resulting from its occupation by the enemy. It is equally unwise and unworthy of us to allow our energies to falter, and our efforts to become relaxed under reverses, however calamitous they may be. For many months the largest and finest army of the Confederacy, under a leader whose presence inspires equal confidence in the troops and the people, has been greatly trammeled by the necessity of keeping constant watch over the approaches to the capital, and has thus been forced to forego more than one opportunity for promising enterprise. It is for us, my countrymen, to show by our bearing under reverses, how wretched has been the self-deception of those who have believed us less able to endure misfortune with fortitude than to encounter danger with courage.

"We have now entered upon a new phase of the struggle. Relieved from the necessity of guarding a particular point, our army will be free to move from point to point, to strike the enemy in detail far from his base. Let us but will it and we are free.

"Animated by that confidence in your spirit and fortitude which never yet failed me, I announce to you, fellowcountrymen, that it is my purpose to maintain your cause with my whole heart and soul; that I will never consent to abandon to the enemy one foot of the soil of any of the States of the Confederacy; that Virginia, noble State, whose ancient renown has been eclipsed by her still more glorious recent history; whose bosom has been bared to receive the main shock of this war; whose sons and daughters have exhibited heroism so sublime as to render her illustrious in all time to come—that Virginia, with the help of the people and by the blessing of Providence, shall be held and defended and no peace ever made with the infamous invaders of her territory.

"If by the stress of numbers we should be compelled to a temporary withdrawal from her limits of those of any other border State, we will return until the baffled and exhausted enemy shall abandon in despair his endless and impossible task of making slaves of a people born to be free.

"Let us, then, not despond, my countrymen, but, relying on God, meet the foe with fresh defiance and with unconquered and unconquerable hearts.

"JEFFERSON DAVIS."

The foregoing, the last proclamation of the President of the Confederate States, is not often seen, therefore, it is given in its entirety. The table on which this proclamation was written is now in the possession of Mrs. W. T. Sutherlin, relict of Major Suterlin. It is of unusual design, with carved legs, being made of heavy mahogany. It has upon it a beautiful slab about two and one-half feet by five in size, of mottled Egyption marble. This table, I was informed, has been repeatedly sought by those having control of the Confederate Museum at Richmond, but, naturally the family is reluctant to relinquish possession of so valuable a souvenir.

Mr. Davis and the capitol of the Confederacy were at the Sutherlin mansion for a week. On the morning of April 10 President Davis, accompanied by Major Sutherlin, went downtown. While there they were unofficially informed of Lee's surrender on the previous day. At first, although the probability of such an event taking place had been suggested to them by existing circumstances, the news seemed incredible. Several hours subsequently, however, official confirmation of the tidings was afforded them.

Under the conditions then existing the only possible course of action left for the consideration of the President was for him to immediately, without any delay whatsoever, proceed further South. This course of action, the results of which were uncertain, was at once put into execution. Taking with him only a grip containing some important papers, he, with his Cabinet and staff, boarded a train, which had been hastily made up, for Greensboro. He left as it happened none too soon, as a party of Federal soldiers who had been sent to cut the road arrived at a trestle a few miles south of the city just after the train carrying the President had passed over.

After the President had gone to the depot, Mr. Memminger, who had been confined to his bed for several days with a severe attack of neuralgia, and from whom the bad news had been carefully kept, accidentally learned of what had happened, got up and dressed at once, and insisted on going to the depot. There being no other conveyance available, the carriage being at the depot, he and his wife rode there in a farm wagon. The entire party left all their heavier baggage in Danville, only taking those things that could be carried in grips and valises.

The last capital of the Confederacy had then been vacated by the government, and fromt thence "The Bonny Blue Flag that bears a Single Star" ceased to represent a nation. Moreover, from this time the Confederate government was no longer a government, but only the scattered and broken head of a disorganized and demoralized resistance to the re-establishment in the Southern States of the authority of the United States government.

LEE'S SURRENDER.

Confederate Commander Planned Final Attack That Was Never Made.

(Major A. R. H. Ranson, in Harper's.)

"When I arrived at headquarters, General Lee was in a tent sitting with General Longstreet on some bundles of rye straw (the ground being wet from the rain), at the upper side of the tent, with one candle for a light. I made my report, and the general told me to wait, as he wished to see me. He asked me if I had had anything to eat, and I told him no. He said he was sorry he had nothing to offer me. He gave me a bundle of straw and told me to sit near the door. It had been raining all afternoon, and I was quite wet. I was also very tired, so I put my foot through the bridle rein of my mare standing outside, and, lying down on the bundle of straw, was soon asleep.

"I was awakened by voices, and, looking up, saw the colonel I had left in charge of the troops at the bridge standing in the tent. He reported that the rations had not arrived, and the starving and discouraged troops had all deserted in the darkness, leaving their arms in the trenches. General Lee heard him to the end of his account, and then with a wave of his hand dismissed him. Turning to General Longstreet, he said: 'This is very bad. That man is whipped. It is the first time I have seen one of my officers who had been whipped. It is very bad.' The conversation between the generals was then resumed in low tones, and I again fell asleep. I must have slept for some length of time, when I was awakened by General Lee's voice, speaking in loud tones, louder than I had ever heard from him. He was saying, 'General Longstreet, I will strike that man a blow in the morning.' General Lee sometimes spoke of General Grant as 'that man' and of the Federal army as 'those people.'

"General Longstreet replied in low tones, giving the strength and condition of his command, and the strength and position of the enemy, and concluded by saying, 'But you have only to give me the order, and the attack will be made in the morning.' Again the conversation was resumed in low tones, and I fell asleep. I must have slept for an hour at least, when I was awakened by the loud, almost fierce, tones of General Lee, saying, 'I tell you, General Longstreet, I will strike that man a blow in the morning.' General Longstreet again recounted the difficulties, ending as before, 'General, you know you have only to give the order, and the attack will be made, but I must tell you I think it will be a useless waste of brave lives.'

"Thinking I had been present long enough at such an interview, I coughed and got up from the straw, and, drawing back the flaps of the tent, looked out into the darkness. General Lee said, 'Captain Ranson, I beg your pardon; I had forgotten you. Go now and get something to eat and some rest. I will see you in the morning.'

"I found my poor mare lying flat on her side in the rain and fast asleep. It was past midnight and very dark, but I reached our camp, though neither I nor my mare got anything to eat that night.

"The morning came, and I listened for the sound of our attack, but all was still. There was no attack; our fighting days were over."

(This is very interesting so far as it relates to the tenacity with which General Lee clung to the hope of extricating the surviving fragments of his army from the toils by which it was environed. But whether the interview took place on the night preceding the surrender of either of the two previous nights Captain Ranson is mistaken in thinking that the attack meditated by the commanding general was not essayed.

On Sunday morning, the 9th of April, what remained of Jackson's Corps, now under Gordon, was drawn up facing to the west where Sheridan was known to have interposed his cavalry force on the direct road to Lynchburg. Mahone's and Fields's divisions were placed in position to suport Gordon's advance.

At early light the advance was made with spirit and with momentary success. Sheridan's horsemen were forced to abandon the highway after a brief resistance, during which a charge of the Confederate cavalry broke the line opposed to them and captured a number of prisoners and several guns of a light battery. But the retirement of Sheridan developed the presence in his rear, formed in masses, of a strong force of Federal infantry, and the development of this force suspended the forward movement while the fact was made known to General Lee. Then came the decision, after which "our fighting days were over."

The obstacle encountered was a corps of full 20,000 men; Lee had that morning, according to Colonel Walter Taylor's report, a total of less than 7,000 bayonets. These would have sufficed to clear the way of the cavalry and made good the route to Lynchburg; for General Ord says that the presence of his troops was just in time to save Sheridan from defeat. Lee would not sacrifice his men against the hopeless odds found in their front, and surrender followed as a consequence of the knowledge obtained by Gordon's brave attack. Details of the last aggressive dash of the Army of Northern Virginia are to be found in the memoirs of Longstreet and Gordon, as well as in the official records of Grant's army.)—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Birthday of Robert E. Lee.

The heroes and demigods that the Southland has given to history have been singularly well-rounded men, pure in purpose and devoid even of selfish ambition. That eloquent Irishman, Charles Phillips, said that "in the production of Washington it does really appear as if nature were endeavoring to improve upon herself, and that all the virtues of the ancient world were but so many studies preparatory to the patriot of the new. Individual instances no doubt there were; splendid exemplifications of some single qualification. Caesar was merciful, Scipio was continent, Hannibal was patient, but it was reserved for Washington to blend them all in one, and, like the lovely chef d'ocuvre of the Grecian artist, to exhibit in one glow of associated beauty the pride of every model and the perfection of every master."

Robert Edward Lee was in everything the peer and parallel of Washington, except in the difference of fortune of the revolutions of which they were respectively the military chieftains.

Lee was a greater general than Washington, measured by the vaster scale and the more brilliant and successful splendor of his operations—as great in respect to generalship almost as Napoleon Bonaparte, but incomparably greater than Bonaparte as a man in all the vicissitudes of fortune.

How different the attitude of Lee at Gettysburg and that of Bonaparte at Waterloo. Look at the picture of the distraught Corsican as he sits his horse lost amid the ruck of his vanishing legions and one sees but a baffled and beaten man with no thought but for himself and his crumbled crown and sceptre. Then look at Lee at Gettysburg—the Waterloo of the Southern Cause—as "with untold magnanimity assuming all the responsibility for the fateful day—attributable to another's error or another's fault; smiling and tranquil, he rides among his shattered and disordered columns, rising above the terror and turmoil around him, sublime, serene, undaunted; they halt at his command and rally to the magic of his call."

Robert E. Lee loved the Union. Like Ben Hill, Alexander Stephens and other eminent Georgians, he was opposed to secession. But he had been taught to revere his State as his sovereign mother, and when Francis P. Blair brought to him from President Lincoln and General Scott the tender of the supreme command of the armies of the United States, he replied: "Mr. Blair, I look upon secession as anarchy. If I owned the 4,000,000 slaves in the South I would sacrifice them all to the Union. But how can I draw my sword against Virginia?"

The Times-Dispatch GENEALOGICAL COLUMN

Humphrey Toye Tabb in 1746 took up land on Piankatank, but he was by no means the first of the large family of that name who came to Virginia.

The emigrant was Humphrey, too. He patented land—a small quantity at first—in Elizabeth City county in 1637. In 1638 he added to his first fifty acres 100 more, thus evincing his successful experiment. In 1656 he took up 900 acres more in the same county. He had in 1651 branched out and taken up 1,000 acres in Northumberland. He had married twice—Joanna first, and Anne second—but the years refuse to disclose the surnames of either; and he had one son, Thomas (2).

Thomas (2), known as Thomas of "Old Poquoson," married Martha—surname also unknown (women didn't even have always the right of their maiden name in that remote age)—and had Humphrey (3), died young; Thomas (3), John (3), William (3), Edward (3) and Elizabeth (3), who married George Burtenhead.

John (3) Tabb, the second son to survive of Thomas (2), lived also at "Old Poquoson," which is the territory in Elizabeth City county between Back River and the Poquoson River. He married Martha, daughter of Richard Hand, who gave to his children most interesting ancestry. Her mother was Frances Purefoy, daughter of Thomas and granddaughter of Thomas Purefoy, justice, Burgess, 1629-30; councillor 1631-32. Issue of John (3) Tabb and Martha Tabb were Thomas (4), of Amelia; Edward (4), of Gloucester; William (4) and John (4), of Gloucester, who lived in Kingston Parish, and whose son, Humphrey (5) Toye, also of Kingston Parish, took up land in 1746. Humphrey Toye Tabb married Mary Peyton ten years after he patented this land. His wife was daughter of Thomas Peyton, and granddaughter of Major Robert Peyton, of Islehan—the emigrant. If they had children they unfortunately do not appear, but for the want of heirs to this Humphrey Toye Gloucester was not destined to lack citizens of the name of Tabb. John (3) Tabb had another son, Edward (4). Indeed, he was his second son. Thomas (4), the eldest son, went to Amelia county and founded "Clay Hill." His son, John (5), reached the highest mark politically of any member of this family.

It has ever been thought that Edward (4) Tabb came to Gloucester from Amelia, but he and his wife, Lucy Todd, lived in Cumberland county from 1756 to 1764. In 1770 they were certainly in Gloucester, and perhaps earlier.

Lucy Todd was daughter of Christopher (3) Todd, of Toddsbury, and Elizabeth, his wife. She was born in 1724, and even then the estate of Toddsbury had been in the family for many years. Her father was the ninth child of Thomas (2) Todd, of Toddsbury. All of the children left the nest but this Christopher (3) Todd, who inherited it. His grandfather, Thomas (1), had settled the place in 1664.

Christopher (3) Todd died in 1743, and left children, Thomas (4) and Lucy (4), who was nineteen years old at his death, and married Edward Tabb six years afterwards, and seven years after her marriage she was living in Cumberland county. Probably she went there as a bride. Her brother kept bachelor's hall in Gloucester until she returned to bear him company. Lucy died in 1791, her brother in 1794; then the estate went to Lucy's son. Edward Tabb had died eight years before his wife, and perhaps Uncle Thomas looked after his children, or, at least, was their close adviser. Of course, they were long ago grown, for Philip, the eldest son, was forty-one years old when his mother died. The children of Edward (4) Tabb and Lucy Todd were Philip (5), Lucy (5) (who married —— Cary, and went to Georgia; Senator Ben Hill was one of her descendants); Thomas (5), Martha (5), married Rev. Armistead Smith; Elizabeth (5), married John Patterson, of "Paplar Grove," Mathews county; Pauline (5), married George Wythe Boothe.

Philip (5) Tabb inherited "Toddsbury from his uncle, Thomas Todd, and thus "Toddsbury" became the nursery of the Gloucester Tabbs, who left the parent nest to found other and grander houses, but none that ever could touch "Toddsbury" in its priceless artistic beauty. It stands as it did 200 years and more ago, a jewel in architecture, with its quaint porch and the porch chamber above; its wide hall and exquisitely panelled rooms. It is not vast, but it is perfect. It is of that subtle, but compelling architecture which simply satisfies. The lawn of "Toddsbury," with its glorious trees, is of velvet softness, and rolls to the river, which is a beautiful lake adorned with mansions of unusual beauty.

Philip (5) Tabb, of "Toddsbury," married Mary Mason Booth, and had Thomas (6) Todd Tabb, of "Toddsbury"; John (6), of "White Marsh"; Philip (6) Edward, of "Waverley"; Maria (6) Mason, died young, and Henry (6) Wythe, of "Auburn." In the early nineteenth century these great houses were maintained with much luxurious comfort.

Thomas (6) Todd Tabb inherited "Toddsbury." He married, first, Lucy Armistead Smith, and secondly, Elizabeth Forman, of Maryland. His children sold their ancestral estate. By his first marriage he had Philip (7), who died early; John (7) Henry, who built his house, "Newstead," on a part of the "Toddsbury" estate; George (7), Edward (7) Tabb, Maria-Mason (7) Tabb, and several children who died young. By second wife, Elizabeth Forman, Thomas Todd Tabb had Lucy (7), who married Mr. Brewer; Emory (7), who married James K. Dabney, and Thomas (7) S. Tabb, who moved to Texas.

John Henry (7) Tabb represented the oldest branch of the Gloucester Tabbs, being the oldest son of the oldest son. He married Margaret Adams, of Danville, and had seven children. Two only live in Gloucester now—John Newstead Tabb, of "Chowan," and Miss Maria Tabb, of "Newstead." She is the only Tabb living on the original Todd land grant in Gloucester county. George (7) Edward Tabb, the second son of Thomas Todd Tabb, of Gloucester, married Miss Mary Randolph, and founded "Woodstock," in Mathews county. Here to-day live his daughters—Mrs. Ellen Lane and Mrs. Katherine Harrison Robertson. His son, George Randolph Tabb, lived and died in Richmond, and his sons live in this city now. Maria Mason Tabb married the well known artist, William Hubard. Her daughter, Ellen, married Rev. John Lloyd, and her son, William J., married Mary Frontman, who, with her son, lives in Richmond.

The children of Thomas Todd Tabb by his second wife, Elizabeth Foeman, were Lucy, who married Brewer; Emory, who married James K. Dabney, of "The Exchange," and Thomas S., who married Ada Billups, went to Texas and had Dabney and Walter.

Nobody who ever knew her could ever forget Mrs. James K. Dabney—a fitting expression of the ideals and accomplishment of her forefathers, who breathed the very air in which she lived and died. A home-maker of the rarest type, she was also the friend and hostess, and in our memory rises a summer morning visit to "The Exchange," when the lawn in velvet green dipped to the blue waters, when the trees cast long, cooling shadows; when the house was dim and hushed, and when Mrs. Dabney told of old times at the houses on the river, which she so happily remembered.

Mr. and Mrs. James K. Dabney had James, who died early; Louile, who married James Duncan, and lives in Norfolk; Thomas Todd, who married Marie Kean, and lives near Richmond; Franklin, William, Lee and Evelyn. The latter now alone keeps up the customs and traditions of a lovely home.

John Tabb (6), the second son of Philip (5), of "Toddsbury," lived at "White Marsh," which had formerly been owned by the Rootes. We referred to "White Marsh" two weeks ago. As the home of John Tabb and Matilda Prosser it was the seat of unusual elegance; indeed, of grandeur for its day. The "White Marsh" garden was proverbial, and instead of the poorer people and the negroes of the county saying "Rich as Croesus," they said "Rich as old John Tabb." He had two sons—John (7) Prosser and Philip (7). John Prosser married Rebecca Lloyd, of Alexandria, who was the beloved mistress of "White Marsh." She was beautiful, good and clever, and "White Marsh," with its flowers and trees, was the seat of a wide-spread hospitality.

Her portrait and the portrait of Mrs. John Tabb are owned by her descendants, and are both very beautiful. Perhaps "White Marsh," with all its beauty and its social glory, had its very proudest moment when, in the spring of 1870, General Robert E. Lee, the near kinsman of its mistress, visited there. His son, Robert E. Lee, Jr., says in his "Recollections of General Lee": "About thirty miles, as the crow flies, from my place down York River is situated, in Gloucester county, 'White Marsh,' an old Virginia home, which then belonged to Dr. Prosser Tabb, who, with his wife and children, was living there. Mrs. Tabb was a near cousin of my father, and as a little girl had been a pet and favorite. He had seen but little of her since the war, and when 'Cousin Rebecca' learned he was to be at the 'White House' she wrote begging him to pay her a visit. This he had agreed to do."

General Robert E. Lee and his son, Robert, set out from "Romancoke" and drove to West Point, where they boarded the Baltimore boat, and got off at Cappahoosic Wharf and drove nine miles to "White Marsh." When General Lee got off the boat he could hardly move for the enthusiasm of the Gloucester people. All the Tabb family met our sainted hero on the "White Marsh" front steps, and the house was so full of guests that the general and his son slept together, but the "White Marsh" rooms and the "White Marsh" beds were so big that it didn't matter. The next day General Lee "walked about the beautiful gardens and was driven over the plantation and shown the landscapes and water views of the immediate neighborhood." Mr. Graves, the overseer (negroes were scarce then), drove the carriage. He had been a soldier, and when General Lee complimented him Mr. Graves replied: "Yes, General, I stuck to the army; but if you had in your entire command a greater coward than I was you ought to have had him shot." General Lee replied: "That sort of a coward makes a good soldier." The Tabbs wished to have everybody to shake General Lee's hand, but he was not equal to it, and only a few favored friends came, and they said: "The greatest event in our lives has occurred; we have seen General Lee." And the greatest event at "White Marsh," we think, was this visit of Robert E. Lee. One of the Tabb boys asked him: "What is in store for us poor Virginians?" and he replied: "You can work for Virginia to build her up again—to make her great again. You can teach your children to love and cherish her." These words from immortal lips were spoken at "White Marsh."

"General Lee," so his son says, "was touched by the love and kindness of these dear relatives." The children of "White Marsh" at this time were John, who married, first, Judith Coleman, and second, Mary James, and lives at "Summerville," in Gloucester; Maud, who married Captain John Perrin; Lloyd, who married Susan Selden; Prosser, who married Nellie McKensie, and Rebecca, who married Samuel G. Brent, of Alexandria.

Philip (6) Edward Tabb, third son of Philip, of "Toddsbury," founded the beautiful estate of "Waverley," not far from "Toddsbury," up the North River. Perhaps this was a part of the original Todd land grant, but we can't tell. He married Emmeline Allmond, and had Edward Tabb; May, who married Judge W. W. Crump, of Richmond, and Emmeline, who married Dr. John S. Wellford, of Fredericksburg, later of Richmond. The lives of the Crumps and Wellfords were human symphonies worthy of their birth in a mansion by the waves guarded by the forests of old Gloucester.

Dr. Henry Wythe Tabb, the youngest son of Philip, of "Toddsbury," crossed the river to build his home, but it was in sight of his birthplace, "Toddsbury." He founded beautiful "Auburn," one of the stateliest houses of Virginia. His first wife was Hester Van Bibber. She had no issue. Secondly, he married Martha Tompkins (there is a lovely portrait of her), and had Mary Eliza, Sally Van Bibber, Lucy Carter, married Dr. Wilkins. Thirdly, he married a charming woman, Ellen Foster, younger than his own daughter, and had Henry A. Tabb, of New York; Cynthia, who married her cousin, John N. Tabb, and Susie, who married David Saunders.

Miss Sally Van Bibber Tabb was a character known and loved by everybody, and having no children of her own she worked for the children of other people.

An old Confederate soldier told an unique tale on Miss Sally, who was then bringing up her young sisters at "Auburn." He arrived late one evening and found Miss Sally churning in the dining room. Being of a courteous nature, he offered to churn for her. She gladly consented, and he churned, churned, churned with a dasher for an hour or more. Then he remarked casually that there seemed to be no butter in that milk. Miss Sally smiled. "Well, maybe not," she said; "a good piece of butter has come and I have taken it up, but I was in hopes I'd get some more." Of course, nobody will fully understand this who has not churned with a "dasher"—up and down, up and down!

Miss Sally had a lawsuit, and her cousin, General William B. Taliaferro, was her lawyer. Both of them were in the evening of their lives. The general charged a fee, and Miss Sally didn't like it. "William, do you remember you are charging a poor orphan?" was her reproach.

"Well, Sally, please remember," the general answered, "I am a poor orphan myself."

"Toddsbury," "White Marsh," "Newstead," "Waverly," "Woodstock," "Auburn" and "Somerville" were fine residences in Gloucester, in which the Tabbs lived in royal style. "Toddsbury," "White Marsh," "Waverly" and "Auburn" have passed from the family. "Newstead," "Summerville," and "Woodstock" still remain.

Gloucester Land Grants (Continued).

3. Major Thomas Hansford, of Bacon's Rebellion. His father's will, 1654, left plantation on Felgate's Creek "to him and his brother Charles. He was born 1646 (deposition), and after the death in Gloucester of his brave chief, General Nathaniel Bacon, was captured and hung, 13th of November, 1676, by the overzealous old Governor Sir William Berkeley (who also suppressed John Buckner's printing press in 1682). Gloucester was the arena of much historic action at this period, and Major Pate's, on Poropotank Creek was the favorite rendezvous of Bacon and his brave patriots. Hening's Statutes of Virginia gives a list of all who were punished by the Governor and their modes of punishment, and some were made to crawl on their knees with a rope around their necks and beg for pardon. He was executed before the division of his father's estate, and the court granted administration on his estate November 30, 1678. His widow, Elizabeth, died 1677, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Jones. Issue: William, died 1709; Thomas, John, Elizabeth and Mary, who married William Hewett, Jr. Of these, William, of Breton Parish, who died 1709, married, before 1699, Mary ——. She married, second, 1710, —— Power, and was executrix of William Castles, deceased, whose other surviving executors—William Randolph, Sr. and Jr., and John Stith—brought suit against her, 1710. William Hanford's executors, 1709, were his brothers-in-law, William Hewitt and David Moss, and friend, Richard Kendall. Witnesses: James Hubard, Richard Wood and Thomas Harrison. Children: William, Thomas, David and Elizabeth Hansford, of whom William was surveyor Bruton Parish, York county, 1723. In a hand-to-hand fight with Colonel Digges in Bacon's war, Major Thomas Hansford had his forefinger cut off.

4. Charles (2) Hansford was guardian of his martyred brother, Thomas, children in 1676, and was dead in 1702. In 1677 he owned an instrument called a Treble, which, being broken by James Lucas, he was ordered by the court to replace it at a cost of 1 pound 8 shillings. Charles Hansford married, about 1679, Elizabeth Folliott (widow of Josiah Moody, and a daughter of Rev. Edward Folliott, will 1683). He was justice York county, 1699. Charles Hansford's estate was divided, 1716, between his children—John, William, Charles, Martha and Lydia (who married Henry Duke). His executors were William Hewitt and John Hansford. John and Charles Hansford built their mill on Felligate's Creek in 1716. Will of John Hansford, of York, Hampton Parish (1748, p. 1750), legatees: "Son William all my property; to Matthew Hubard, 100 acres, and his mother, Elizabeth Hubard (probably his daughter), to live on it; to Mildred Hubard, to daughter, Ann Hansford; grandchildren, Susanna, Rebecca and William Haney; to daughter, Elizabeth Collier, and grandchild, Rebecca Collier; to daughter, Lydia Wagstaff."

5. Elizabeth (2) Hansford, married, first, Christian Wilson, and second, Randolph Holt, of Surry.

6. Margaret (2) Hansford, died probably before 1677.

7. Mary (2) Hansford, married, 1666, Dr. Thomas Robins, son of John Robins, of "Robins's Neck," Gloucester county. Her father in his will, 1654, left 650 acres to his three daughters—Elizabeth, Margaret and Mary. She was also a legatee in the will, 1675, of her mother, Mrs. Edward Lockey (above). "To my sons, Thomas, Charles and William; daughter, Mary Robins, and grandsons, John and William Robins." The other children not mentioned in the will were Thomas, Richard, George and Benjamin. Of these, only the descendants of John Robins are known. He married Jane Throckmorton, and had Mary, born 1693; William, born 1715, and Albion Robins. Of these, William, will 1752, married, 1737, Elizabeth Coleman, and was ancestor of the families of Robins now in Gloucester county.

Answers to Queries.

Kenyon Descendant may learn something by applying to William A. Crozier, who lives at Hasbrouc Heights, New York.