

CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT

JOB PEARSALL

of Fort Pearsall, Hampshire County, Virginia

This chapter has been in part deleted. See Note, page 1041.

SECTION 1.

JOB PEARSALL, son of John Pearsall, Chapter 45, Section 35; resided at Nantmeal Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and Fort Pearsall, Hampshire County, Virginia; also at Patterson's Creek, Hampshire County, Virginia. He married Bithia Bull, daughter of Thomas Bull of Nantmeal Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. It is very possible that some of her family came along with Job Pearsall to Virginia as the census of 1783 contains the name of Samuel Bull as living in Shenandoah County. Children:—

1. John Pearsall. Chapter 48, Section 2.
2. Benjamin Pearsall. Chapter 49, Section 1.
3. Eleanor Pearsall, resided at Hampshire Co., Virginia; married Daniel Hale.
4. Rachel Pearsall, resided at Hampshire County, Virginia; married first — Berkeley, who was a son of William Berkeley who resided in County Stafford, Virginia, in 1728 as is shown by the following Fairfax grant recorded in Book C, page 141: February 27, 1728, Right Hon. Thomas Lord Fairfax of Leeds Castle, County of Kent, and Baron Cameron, Scotland, and William Cage of Milgate of Barnshead in said county, the devisees in trust and sole executors of the last will and testament of the Right Hon. Catherine, Lady Fairfax, deceased, proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia, convey to William Berkeley of the County of Stafford, land in said county on Awotonick and Williams branch, bounded by Dennis MacCarty, Colonel Mark, Thomas Crasseley.
5. Margaret Pearsall. See Z, this Section.
6. James Pearsall, killed in the Revolutionary War, served in the 4th Virginia Regiment [Virginia Magazine, vol. 1, page 206], Yorktown, April 15, 1778. 4th Virginia Regiment, one month's pay from March, 1778, James Pearshall, Pay Roll for detachment of different regiments on their march to headquarters under command of Captain Berkeley and Lieutenant Samuel Gill, April 14, 1778. Number 28 on the list James Parthall, private.
7. Richard Pearsall. Chapter 52, Section 1.

In colonial times there were a number of manors, or great landed estates, granted under the then existing laws of England, to persons of note and quality in Virginia and in some of the other provinces. Holders of such estates enjoyed special rights and privileges. Manors were formerly called baronies and entitled the rightful possessor to lordships, and such lord or baron was empowered to hold domestic courts for redressing misdemeanors and nuisances and settling disputes

among tenants. Among the manors of limited privileges in Virginia may be enumerated the manor of Greenway Court, with a domain of 10,000 acres. The great manor of Leeds, which has figured so extensively in the courts of Virginia, contained 150,000 acres within the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier and Frederick. The South Branch manor, in Hampshire County, embraced 55,000 acres; Paterson Creek manor, in Hampshire County, 9,000 acres. There were still other manors in different parts of the state. In New York there were several manors created; under the Dutch the baron or proprietor of the manor lands was called the patroon. [Washington's Journal, 1747-8, by J. M. Tonar, M. D., page 39-40.]

Job Pearsall was vested with the manor of South Branch of the Potomac and was the mesne tenant and as such he exercised the rights incident to a lord of an English manor. Among the rest he held a court and he seriously objected to any one assuming to bring suit against him in the regular county court of Winchester. This of course did not meet with general approval, hence we find many attempts to annoy Job Pearsall by obtaining judgment against him in the Winchester court, which judgments Job Pearsall promptly settled.

The Land Records of Hampshire County, Virginia, disclose:—Deed Book 1, page 107, deed dated July 29, 1761, wherein Samuel Earl and Elizabeth, his wife, of Frederick County, convey to Job Pearsall of Hampshire County, land on the South Branch on the River Potomac, County of Hampshire, being part of the survey for which Samuel Earl obtained a deed from the proprietors of the Northern Neck, May 5, 1749.

Deed Book 1, page 111, deed dated March 10, 1762, wherein Job Pearsall and Bithia, his wife, convey to Bryan Brian of Winchester same land as above on the Great South Branch of the Potomac.

Deed Book 1, page 199, Power of Attorney, John Hopkins, County of Anson, Province of North Carolina, to Job Pearsall of Hampshire County, Virginia, to make a deed to Thomas Cresap of Frederick County, Province of Maryland, land in Hampshire County, on the Great South Branch of the Potomac, witnessed by Enoch Floyd, Lambeth Hopkins and Enoch Innis.

Deed Book 1, page 200, deed dated December 12, 1763, wherein Job Pearsall, attorney for John Hopkins of North Carolina, conveys to Thomas Cresap of Frederick County, Province of Maryland, land described in the Power of Attorney; witnesses, Samuel Dew, Enoch Innes. The latter is a very interesting signature in view of the part that Colonel James Innes of North Carolina was at this time playing in the history of this section of Virginia.

As to the grantee in the deed, he was the son of Colonel Thomas Cresap, the founder of the family in America, who was born in Skipton, Yorkshire, England, in 1694, and who at fifteen years of age came to America, where he located at Havre de Grace, Maryland. This Thomas Cresap, Jr., was the second son of the first marriage of the founder.

It will be recalled that Thomas Jefferson, in his notes on Virginia, charges Captain Michael Cresap with being infamous for his many Indian murders, and particularly for murdering Logan's family in cold blood. While Doddridge adds the further charge that Cresap was the cause of Dunnmore's war. It is a fact that Dunnmore rewarded Cresap by giving him a Captain's commission in the

militia of Hampshire County, Virginia, notwithstanding that at the time he resided in Maryland. Thomas Cresap was a brother of the historical Captain Michael. In view of the latter's appointment in the Virginia militia it would be easy to work out that this deed from Job Pearsall was therefore an important link in the chain of events leading to the Dunmore war. Thomas Cresap, Jr., was killed in battle with the Indians on Savage mountain. His brother Michael became the first captain of the Maryland Rifle Battalion in the Revolutionary War, in which he lost his life, and is buried in Trinity Churchyard, New York City. The father and grandfather of Job Pearsall had been closely associated with Captain Thomas Cresap in the war between the Penns and those who claimed under Lord Baltimore the title to the lands south of the fortieth parallel, in what is now the State of Pennsylvania, particularly in Chester and Lancaster counties. The reader will no doubt have read of the same in Chapter 45, Sections 24 and 35.

Deed Book 1, page 345, deed dated November 10, 1766, wherein Job Pearsall and Bithia, his wife, convey to Luke Collins, land on the south branch of the Potomac. (Washington in his journal notes that on November 9, 1749, he surveyed a tract of land for Luke Collins on Cacaphehon bounded by Barnaby McHandry. Collins had come over the York road, from York County, Pennsylvania. His ancestors had located in Maryland long before 1670, and in 1685 they were in Talbot County.)

County court held at Frederick, August 6, 1767, Job Pearsall as assignee of Thomas Bull sued Charles Smith on an overdue promissory note for which he obtained judgment. Thomas Bull lived in Nantmeal Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He was the father-in-law of Job Pearsall, hence the assignment of the overdue note and the suit brought by Job Pearsall. The ancestor of Thomas Bull had first settled in Delaware, where he had married the sister of Samuel Lucas. He removed to Maryland, where he died in 1668. They were Maryland Quakers. His son, Thomas Bull, came to Nantmeal Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, where he was a member of the Friends Meeting on the Trego farm. It was his son Thomas who was the father-in-law of Job Pearsall.

The Records of the Land Office of Virginia at Richmond, Virginia, disclose, Patent Book P, page 31, patent dated April 20, 1771, by Thomas Lord Fairfax, etc., etc., which recites:—whereas the late Job Pearsall of Hampshire County did before his decease inform my office of a certain tract of land, part of a large tract formerly granted to Joseph Hamlin by deed from said office dated June 7, 1749, and known and distinguished by the name of Lot No. 1, situate on Pater-sons Creek in the said county, and that the said Joseph Hamlin died intestate without any known heirs, and having made no legal disposal of said part, whereby it escheated to me as lord of the fee, etc., and the said Job Pearsall having entered the same as escheat, and an advertisement having been issued from my said office which appears by certificate from under the hand of Samuel Dew, Deputy Clerk of said county, and have been set up at the court house of the county aforesaid three several court days, agreeable to the usual and accustomed method in my office, and recovery of said part having been made and a plat thereof re-

turned from under the hand of John Moffett, and John Pearsall, heir-at-law of the said Job Pearsall, having applied for a deed for the same, it appeared that Caveat had been entered by Ann Purcell and Henry Begley on behalf of some infants, and the day having been appointed for determining the dispute the matter being fully heard and determined by me in favor of the said John Pearsall. The land conveyed is Lot No. 9, on Pattersons Creek bounded by Henry Begly.

The lands on the South Branch did not settle as fast as was expected, hence the payment of the rent for the whole tract became a heavy burden to Job Pearsall so much so that there were several parcels from time to time taken from the original fifty-five thousand acres, until in 1760 Lord Fairfax and Job Pearsall made a final and mutual release of the Manor, which resulted in Job Pearsall obtaining the fee simple title to a large part of the manor lands and to some lands which were originally included in the Manor of Pattersons Creek. This necessitated the laying out of a town to be the county seat.

In the history of Hampshire County, Virginia, it appears that Romney, the county seat, was laid off by Lord Fairfax and established by law in the month of November, 1762. His lordship laid off fifty acres into streets and half acre lots. The town improved very slowly; it did not contain more than fifty families in 1833. The town of Romney lies on the northwestern turnpike which runs from Winchester to Parkersburg and is located forty-three miles west of Winchester on the South Branch of the Potomac River; southwest of the town, about half a mile, is a bluff overlooking the South Branch valley called Fort Hill. On this hill you can see plainly where the old fort stood. The old tumble-down chimney shows plainly. This is the site of the celebrated Fort Pearsall. The flat on the bluff overlooking the river, on which the town of Romney stands, was one time called Pearsall's Flat. It got this name because it was part of the land which was included in Job Pearsall's manor of South Branch. And just southwest of this flat is the other flat called Fort Hill because it was the site of Job Pearsall's home.

Job Pearsall continued to live at Fort Pearsall for several years after this but the town across the river, with its claims to be the seat of the county government, was always an eye-sore as well as a disturbing influence to this old baron and therefore sometime shortly before his death he removed to his holdings on Patterson Creek. Here he did not feel so crowded in by newcomers as in his old home on the South Branch which overlooked the county seat. Prior to the breaking up of the Manor of South Branch, Job Pearsall was its tenant militis, holden of Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax of Cameron in the Kingdom of Scotland and proprietor of the lands on the Potomac and Rappahannock in the Northern Neck of Virginia in America. This was the rank and station of Job Pearsall, and no chief lord of a manor, either in England or America, ever held his fee in a more lordly manner or had to yield greater military service for the same.

All this recital sounds very strange as to happenings in American history, but so far as Job Pearsall was concerned it was nothing more than a to be expected incident in his life story, specially moving, in the first instance, from his desire to get away from Pennsylvania where his father and grandfather had been among the last of those who having settled in the country just south of the forty-first parallel of latitude had continued to support the title of Lord Baltimore against

the claims of the Penns. But that he came to the South Branch of the Potomac was due entirely to the persuasion of Lord Fairfax, who specially wanted him to be tenant of the Manor and assume the responsibility of protecting this frontier against Indian depredations. That Lord Fairfax should select him for this service was due to the inter-related history of the Fairfax and Pearsall families.

At the foundation of these statements there is a very interesting and delightful historical story to which, although it may seem like a digression from the main story, the reader's attention is specially invited, as being of more than family interest; largely because it centers in the warm friendship and long association of Lord Fairfax, George Washington and Job Pearsall at a critical period of American history.

The reader will recall that Margaret Peshall, daughter of Sir John Peshall, the first Baronet, had married Richard Brent, son of Richard Brent and Elizabeth Reed. That Margaret Brent, her sister-in-law, and Giles Brent, her brother-in-law, had come to Maryland where they had become associated with Thomas Pearsall in maintaining the Kent Island on the Chesapeake as a trading post. The larger bulk of the tobacco trade was, nevertheless, in 1639, transferred to New Amsterdam, particularly to Long Island. That in 1638 the brothers George, Thomas, Henry and Nicholas Pearsall removed to Hellgate Neck where they started the town of Pearsall, later called Hellgate Neck, and later called an outlying connection of the town of Middleburg. That Thomas Pearsall, their father, remained in Virginia and Maryland, placing his youngest son Samuel Pearsall in charge of the Talbot County or Kent Island place. It will serve to clearness in reference to the history of the sons of Job Pearsall, if we say that several of the descendants of Samuel Pearsall were also contemporary with Job Pearsall in Hampshire County, Virginia, as the reader can more readily determine by referring to Chapter 54.

The Brents continued for several generations to be prominent in Maryland and Virginia; during this period the troubles incident to Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia caused the English king to appoint Thomas, Lord Culpeper, Governor of Virginia. His first act was to declare full and unqualified indemnity to all for their conduct in Bacon's Rebellion and to allow reparation to those who should be reproached for their conduct upon that occasion. This popular act, added to the pleasing and conciliatory manner of his lordship, so won upon the good nature and simplicity of the Assembly that they passed an act which made the import and export duties perpetual instead of annual. And they made the same henceforth subject to his Majesty's sole direction and disposal. The king was so delighted with this acquisition to his power that he greatly added to the salary of Lord Culpeper and gave him an annuity, while the Assembly gave him a tonnage duty on every vessel trading to Virginia. Lord Culpeper thereupon proceeded to England to enjoy his new wealth. It was at this time that George Brent, son of George Brent and Marianna Peyton and grandson of Richard Brent and Elizabeth Reed, was induced by Lord Culpeper to come to America, where he was on May 2, 1683, appointed by the Governor and Council, Receiver General north of the Rappahannock. He was also partner in the practice of the law with William Fitzhugh. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 17, page 309.]

Lord Culpeper, however, desired greater wealth, so he began to intrigue for a large grant of land in the western parts of Virginia, and to accomplish this he joined with several others who were then basking in the king's favor. In 1684, King Charles II issued letters patent to Ralph Lord Hopton, Henry, Earl of St. Albans, John Lord Culpeper, John Lord Berkeley, Sir William Morton, Sir Dudley Wyatt, and Thomas Culpeper, their heirs and assigns forever for all of the territory or parcel of land situated within the heads of the rivers Rappahannock and Potomac, and bounded by the courses of these rivers. There is now no complete copy of this letters patent in this country but it is recited in an act of the Virginia House of Burgesses, passed in 1736. The region thus granted has been known ever since as the Northern Neck of Virginia. It was after this and some time prior to 1687 that George Brent, along with Richard Foote and Robert Stafford of London, merchants, and Nicholas Hayward, also of London, received from the proprietors of the Northern Neck of Virginia a patent for a large tract of land which was subsequently confirmed by special grant from King James II, dated February 10, 1686/7. This grant had been under consideration for some time as, April 27, 1664, Governor Charles Calvert writes to his father, Lord Baltimore, we hear nothing as yet of the patent which some Bristol merchant has of that neck of land betwixt Rappahannock and Potomac. Lord Culpeper bought other large blocks of land along the waters of the Potomac and the Rappahannock. All his lands were carefully selected by his agents who acted under the direction of George Brent, his lordship's agent. This brought the families of Brent, Culpeper, Fairfax, Baltimore and Pershall-Pearsall into close business relation. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 17, page 309. Virginia Report Hist. & Archives, vol. 1, page 191.]

Referring again to the patent for the lands in the northern neck of Virginia. Years passed away and in time Lord Hopton, Lord Culpeper, Dudley Wyatt and Thomas Culpeper died. The first having before death transferred his interest to John Trethaway, who surrendered his interest to the king, that his Majesty might issue new letters patent therefor to him and his associates, Sir William Morton, John Lord Berkeley and Henry Earl of St. Albans. These proprietors sold their interest to Thomas Lord Culpeper, to whom the title was confirmed by King James II. This vast estate descended in 1719 to his daughter Catherine, who wedded Thomas, the fifth Lord Fairfax, and the proprietary passed to their eldest son Thomas who became the sixth Lord Fairfax. He never married, but later came to Virginia and assumed the management of the estate. [West Virginia Report History & Archives, vol. 1, page 192.]

Charlotte Culpeper, another daughter of Lord Culpeper, married John Pershall, Esq., the last male descendant of Sir John Pershall, the first Baronet, as has been more fully set forth in Chapter 26. The daughter of this, the last Sir John Pershall, married the third Earl of Breadelbane, and she and her sister were contemporary with their first cousin, the sixth Lord Fairfax. This family relationship between Fairfax and Pearsall explains much that would otherwise be impossible of comprehension concerning the events which subsequently grew out of the close relationship between Job Pearsall, Lord Fairfax and George Washington. Lord Fairfax must be given credit for being an exceptionally good judge of men, specially young men. The settlements then being made by Fairfax called for a

pecially good person of administrative ability, of great courage, a brave fighter and one filled with that diplomacy which would secure peace with the Indian even though his hunting grounds were being taken by the white settlers. It is to the credit of Lord Fairfax that it can be said that of all who in the history of our country were called upon to rule the frontier, Job Pearsall stands pre-eminent.

Exploration and settlement of the Shenandoah valley had preceded the coming of Fairfax by more than ten years. Morgan ap Morgan locating as early as 1726 on Mill Creek. In 1732 Joist Hite with a large party came from Pennsylvania, cutting their road from York, and crossing the Potomac about two miles above what later came to be called Harpers Ferry. This road at York connected with the road to Lancaster, thence to Philadelphia, thence to New York. This whole stretch of road in the history of Western Virginia became known as the York road, and it was the way by which most of the settlers came to the Northern Neck of Virginia. In the same year Alexander Ross came along this road to Virginia accompanied by a number of Pennsylvania and Maryland Friends. They settled on Opequan Creek, a branch of the Potomac, where they soon had meetings and by 1735 had a quarterly meeting at Hopewell. This emigration was largely promoted by the Powells and other families of Tuckahoe Meeting in Talbot County, Maryland, who had established meetings for the New England refugees at Tred Haven in Maryland, and at Trego farm in Chester County, Pennsylvania, which latter place adjoined a Pearsall farm. Thus we see that these Friends were all old neighbors and friends of Job Pearsall. He married Bithia Bull, as we have already stated, a Chester Quakeress, and it is likely that some of these settlers were related to his wife. All these early emigrations were primarily induced by the unsettled land titles in Pennsylvania caused by the fight between the Penns and the Baltimores as to the Proprietorship of that section. This quarrel was taken advantage of by Virginia where the House of Burgesses of Virginia did much to encourage the infant western settlement in the Northern Neck. In 1734 it was enacted that for the encouragement of all the inhabitants already settled west of the Shenandoah river, and all who shall settle there, that they shall be free and exempt from public, county or parish levies for the space of three years, and all who settle there within said three years shall be exempt for the remainder of the said period. [West Virginia Report Hist. & Archives, vol. 1, page 194; Jones, Quakers in American Colonies, page 296.]

The boundary lines between the grant of Lord Fairfax and the lands of Virginia were not determined, so there were settlers who no doubt innocently settled on the South Branch as early as 1735. When it was determined that this was within the bounds of the Fairfax holdings some of these settlers made satisfactory arrangements with Job Pearsall as tenant in chief of the Manor of South Branch. There were others who refused to acknowledge the rights of Job Pearsall and these he summarily ejected. The names of Coburn, Howard, Walker and Rutledge are preserved by the local historians as being among those whom Job Pearsall compelled to vacate because they were not willing to acknowledge that these were not the lands of Virginia.

At first the Virginia lands of Fairfax were in the management of an agent appointed by Lady Catherine Fairfax. There had been considerable ill feeling aroused in the mind of Lord Fairfax at the way his inheritance in England had been managed by his mother and this caused him to distrust her American agent. Lord Fairfax therefore wrote to William Fairfax, Esq., his father's second son, who held at that time a place of considerable trust and emolument under the government of New England, requesting him to remove to Virginia and take upon himself the agency of the Northern Neck. With this request Mr. Fairfax readily complied and as soon as he conveniently could he removed with his family to Virginia and settled in Westmoreland County. He there opened an agency office for the granting of the proprietary lands. Shortly after this Lord Fairfax determined to go himself to Virginia and to visit his estate and the friend and relation to whom he was so greatly obliged. Accordingly, in the year 1739, he embarked for America and on his arrival in Virginia he spent twelve months at the home of Mr. Fairfax in Westmoreland County. Here he became so captivated with the climate and the beauties and produce of the country, that he formed a resolution that after he had settled his family affairs in England he would return to Virginia and spend the remainder of his life upon his vast and noble domain there. It was before this time that Job Pearsall, by request of Lord Fairfax, removed from Chester County, Pennsylvania, and settled on the South Branch manor of which he was made a Tenant in Chief by Lord Fairfax. The best view, however, of this matter is that the manor was first granted to John Pearsall, who later released the same to his son Job Pearsall. John Pearsall then, or at least very shortly thereafter, returned to Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Job Pearsall, upon arriving on the South Branch of the Potomac, put up a temporary fortification in the form of a log house built so as to be capable of being defended against Indian attacks.

Lord Fairfax returned to Virginia in 1746, at which time he changed some of his plans concerning the large manors he had set aside on the head waters of the Potomac River. He did not, however, change his plans concerning the South Branch manor except to somewhat reduce its size. The manors of Fairfax and Patterson he did away with entirely. He opened a land office first in Fairfax County, later in Frederick County, and began to make regular deeds for his lands. The records of his land office are now in the Land Commissioner's Office of Virginia in the capitol at Richmond. The earliest grant concerning Hampshire County bears date 1747, while most of the grants in the first volume are dated 1749. [Kercheval, History of Valley of Virginia, page 66.]

On his return Lord Fairfax went to Belvoir, which was only a short distance below Mount Vernon. Here Lord Fairfax remained for several years. Among all the gay folks at Belvoir there came rather unwillingly, induced by his widowed mother, a shy lad, George Washington by name, to make his first timid plunge into society. There had been a great deal of discussion among the Washingtons as to what to do with this son. Mr. Fairfax had used influence to procure for him a position in the English navy but his mother would not hear of it. Laurence Washington, a half-brother of George Washington, had, in 1743, married Anne, eldest daughter of William Fairfax of Belvoir. As a consequence Job Pearsall and

George Washington both stood toward Lord Fairfax in the light of a distant relation by marriage, but not by blood. Lord Fairfax bound these two men to him so firmly that their association makes one of the most interesting chapters in American history.

Finding that his young cousin, George William Fairfax of Belvoir, was quite as full of unemployed energy as George Washington, Lord Fairfax despatched them upon an expedition to explore his immense possessions beyond the mountains. Fair as the promised land, and watered by a river so beautiful that the Indians called it Shenandoah, Daughter of the Stars. Their task was to survey and make maps of this vast tract of wilderness, and with eager zeal the two friends set forth. If we follow the traditions current in Hampshire County, then it was at this time that Job Pearsall, under the direction of George Washington, built the stockade fort on the South Branch manor. By this we are to understand that it was not a public fort, large enough to hold a garrison, but was the largest and highest type of private fortification. It consisted of a large double log house with an entry or passageway between, and two stories in height. At some distance from its walls a stockade was formed by setting on end firmly in the earth, a line of strong posts or logs called palisades, in contact with each other, thus forming a barrier or defensive fortification ten or twelve feet high. The enclosed space in which the house stood was the stockade. The house itself was sometimes called a palisade fort. The upper story of the house was provided with loop holes for rifle firing upon an enemy outside of the stockade wall. There were heavy gates made of puncheons for ingress and egress. The stockade fort was built at a different location than that occupied by the first building that Job Pearsall erected.

Washington kept a journal in which he enumerates the names of about two hundred men for whom he surveyed lands, or who were connected in some way with the surveying operations. This journal discloses quite clearly that his work on the South Branch was confined, so far as surveying was concerned, to the Fairfax manor. The South Branch manor was not opened to general settlement until some time later, when it was surveyed by James Gunn. [History of Hampshire County, page 330.]

Lord Fairfax remained at Belvoir, but this proving very inconvenient to the majority of the settlers who, coming in by the York road, traveled west of him, he therefore determined to remove to a fine tract of land on the western side of the Blue Ridge in Frederick County, where he built a small neat house which he called Greenway Court, and laid out one of the most beautiful farms consisting of arable and grazing land, and of meadow two or three miles in length, that had been seen in this quarter of the world. Here he lived the remainder of his life in the style of an English country gentleman. He was a friend and father to all who held and lived under him. At this time the county of Frederick included the manor of South Branch. As the country became better settled new counties were organized in order that the inhabitants might have convenient access to the place where taxes were collected, public functions performed and justice administered. By the Act of the House of Burgesses passed in November, 1753, the county of Hampshire was formed. It then included all of the present county, all of Mineral County and parts of Morgan, Hardy, Grant and Tucker Counties of the present

state of West Virginia. The county seat was located at Fort Pearsall. [Burnaby's Travels in N. A.; Report of Hist. & Arch., West Virginia, vol. 1, page 195.]

We have now come to a period of wars which affected this section of Virginia very severely. From the coming of the first white settler, in 1724, to that part of the Northern Neck of Virginia included in Hampshire County, for a period of nearly thirty years, the white man and the Indians lived together in peace and harmony. The Shawnees had their wigwams at Old Town, Maryland, and other points on the Potomac. They also had a town at Shawnee Springs, in Frederick County, which is the site of the present town of Winchester. On the South Branch they had a town at the Indian Old Fields near the head of the stream. The Tuscaroras were on Tuscarora Creek where now is the city of Martinsburg, Berkeley County. In 1753 emissaries from the western Indians came among the valley Indians inviting them to cross the Allegheny Mountains. In the Spring of 1754 the Indians suddenly and unexpectedly moved out entirely from the valleys formed by the streams tributary to the Potomac. This movement was caused by the western and northern Indians acting for the French, and was the beginning of the alliance between that nation and the Indians. The object of the French was to control the Ohio valley, upon which the English were now beginning to encroach. [Ibid., page 201; Kercheval, page 88; Hadden, Washington and Braddock, page 8.]

Although a lucrative business had been carried on for some years by Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia fur traders with the Indians of the Ohio valley, no systematic effort on the part of the English colonists had been made to establish settlements west of the Allegheny Mountains. George Washington had pushed his travels so far west, and had talked with so many adventurers who had penetrated to the Ohio, that he carried to his home the most glowing accounts of the possibilities of the country which was now a wilderness, given over to the Indian for his hunting ground. As a result of his representations, in 1748, Thomas Lee, president of the Virginia council, associated with himself twelve others, among whom were Robert Dinwiddie, Laurence and Augustine Washington, brothers of George Washington, and John Hamburg a wealthy merchant of London. They formed themselves into a company known as the Ohio Company. They received a royal grant in March, 1749, for a tract of 500,000 acres of land lying on the south side of the Ohio between the Monongahela and Kanawha Rivers. The company was to build a fort and maintain a garrison sufficient to protect its settlers.

In 1751 the Ohio Company built a small store-house which was later known as Fort Ohio. This was a block house situated on the site of the present town of Ridgeley in Frankfort district, Mineral County, West Virginia. This was opposite both to Wills Creek and what was later called the Nemaquin trail. It was not long afterwards until a fort was built at the mouth of Wills Creek, so that the fort of the Ohio Company has been overlooked by most of the historians. This trail however was then the only means of reaching the forks of the Ohio. The next year Colonel Thomas Cresap, who then lived at Shawnee Old Town, was employed by the Ohio Company, of which he was also a member, to cut a road from Wills Creek to the mouth of the Monongahela. He selected for his assistant

a Delaware Indian by the name of Nemacolin who resided at the mouth of what is known as Dunlaps Creek on the Monongahela River. They followed the old trail and hence both the road and the trail acquired the name of the Indian who helped to lay out the road. [West Virginia Rep. of Hist. & Arch., vol. 1, page 200.]

Prior to the grant to the Ohio Company, and before their effort to open up the same by laying out the Nemacolin road, the way to the Ohio and to the country both north and south of that river and of the Potomac River led past the Fort of Job Pearsall on the Manor of South Branch. At this place the main road and the great trail crossed so that the travel to the west continued on across the mountains coming to the Ohio River at about where Parkersburg, West Virginia, is located. The travel to the north and south followed the Catawba Trail which extended from the Great Lakes in New York to the Gulf of Mexico. After the opening of the Nemacolin Road the travel to the Forks of the Ohio went north from Job Pearsall's along the Catawba trail, crossing the Potomac at Cresaps, and then continued along the new road which began at Wills Creek, now the city of Cumberland, Maryland. Thus we see that for a time all movements of travel or warfare in Virginia's north-west country, as well as on this frontier, passed by Job Pearsall's fort. As a consequence he was so well situated strategically as to command a very large territory and to be able to give the greatest amount of protection to the settlers on the lands of Lord Fairfax. But at a very early date a more direct road, called the New Road, was opened from Winchester to Wills Creek.

The Ohio Company's grant was for lands situated between the Monongahela and Kanawha Rivers and bordering on the Ohio River. The success of their venture would open up a territory far northwestward of the then frontier of Virginia. At the time this grant was made it was believed to be entirely within the bounds of Virginia, but later, on the extension of Mason and Dixon's line for its full length, it was found that part of the grant was within the bounds of Pennsylvania, which accounts for this and some Virginia patents being located within the limits of Pennsylvania.

Prior to the departure of the Indians from the valleys of the Potomac, the French began active measures to secure to themselves the Ohio valley by erecting a cordon of forts, to extend from Lake Erie down the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers. This news soon reached the ears of the governor of Virginia, who in the fall of the same year despatched George Washington to demand of the French an explanation of their design and warn them off. He started on his journey October 30, 1753; he soon reached Greenway Court where he met and talked with Lord Fairfax; from here he passed on to Job Pearsall's on the manor of the South Branch where he tarried a while.

The French Indians had just prior to this made a raid into the South Branch district but were driven off. Not, however, without the loss of a white lad whom the Indians captured and carried with them when they retreated. Washington, in his diary under date of November 25, 1753, records among the incidents of meeting the Indian Chief, Half King, that the Indians inquired what sort of a boy it was who was taken from the South Branch for they were told by the Indians that a party of French Indians had carried a white boy by the Kuskuka town towards the lakes. Kuskuka was Shanapins town of the Six Nations just above Fort

Duquesne on the Allegheny River. Washington after he left Fort Pearsall passed on over the Catawba trail and traveled to the Ohio Company's warehouse, where he arrived November 14; from here he followed the Nemacolin road and after passing Gist's new settlement he reached the Monongahela. He continued his journey until he arrived at Fort Venango in northwestern Pennsylvania, on December 4th, and found the French flag flying over the log house from which Fraser, the English trader, had been driven. The French officer in command refused to discuss the questions involved in the remonstrance of Virginia, but stated that he intended to hold his position by force of arms. His mission fulfilled, Washington started back. On January 6, 1754, he arrived at the forks of the Ohio. From here he proceeded as steadily as possible towards the settled parts of Virginia. He stopped at Job Pearsall's only long enough to tell that experienced Indian fighter and far-sighted man the result of his trip to the French, and to urge him to keep in touch with all the movements of the French and Indians upon the frontier. On the 16th of January he had reached the governor at Williamsburg and made his report. [Washington's Diaries by Fitzpatrick, vol. 1, page 50.]

Before Washington had returned from his mission to the French forts, the Ohio Company had appealed to Governor Dinwiddie for government protection at their fort, already begun at the forks of the Ohio. In compliance with this request, early in January, 1754, William Trent was commissioned a Captain and he was, at the time of Washington's return, engaged in erecting a strong log storehouse at the mouth of Redstone Creek on the Monongahela River. John Fraser was commissioned as Lieutenant and Edward Ward as Ensign of the same company, and they were directed to proceed with one hundred men to the forks of the Ohio where they were to finish and garrison the fort already begun. Ensign Ward reached the forks of the Ohio on February 17, hoping that he would have it completed and be reinforced before the arrival of the French forces. [Hadden, Washington and Braddock, page 15.]

In the meantime the authorities in the east were not idle. The intentions of the French being now understood, the governor of Virginia acted with energy to resist their encroachment. A regiment was raised in Virginia under the command of Colonel Joshua Fry, with George Washington as second in command. The latter was directed to advance at the head of two companies of this regiment and he reached Winchester in good time. With his usual carefulness Washington kept an accurate diary of his movements. It is odd, but nevertheless true, that only one place is mentioned by name in this journal; namely Job Pearsall's on the South Branch of the Potomac. From a memorandum of his expenditures it has been determined that when he marched from Winchester he proceeded to Edwards Stockade on the Great Cacapahon Creek, thence he marched to the Stockade Fort of Job Pearsall on the South Branch. The record in his journal covering this occasion reads as follows:—April 19, 1754, met an express who had letters from Captain Trent at the Ohio demanding reinforcements with all speed, as he hourly expected a body of eight hundred French. I tarried at Job Pearsall's for the arrival of the troops, where they came up the next day. When I received the above express I despatched a courier to Colonel Fry to give him notice of it. [Washington's Diaries, by Fitzpatrick, page 73.]

What a day and a night and a day again. Historical and momentous, yet only a gathering of friends of the young surveyor whom they had learned to love during the time when in the employ of Lord Fairfax, he was free to come, welcome to stay as long as he liked, and to go when he pleased. In after years how this meeting must have stood out in the remembrance of this family. Every male person present except Job Pearsall and his son Benjamin Pearsall, who died in Dunnmore's War, even the lad Richard Pearsall, then only thirteen years of age, lived to take part in the Revolutionary War on the side of the American Colonies. The three daughters also married men who became Revolutionary soldiers. What excitement there must have been about the old manor house, and how its living room, with its great fireplace and its walls covered with the trophies of the chase, must have been crowded with visitors. The roaring log fire must have taken off the chill of the mountain air of early springtime. And in the night by its light wonderful things must have been said. Then all the while mother Bithia, busy with the duty of providing food for all this company, must have marshalled her maids and daughters so that the meals were like the feasts of the Norsemen, so heavily were the tables laden with food.

Although the country was new, their acquaintance of less than a decade, and it had only been a short while since they had seen each other, nevertheless, old times must be talked about and anxious inquiries made concerning one's absent friends of the locality. Then a year or two makes lots of difference in the maturity of a boy or girl; hence at this opportunity his acquaintance with the young folks had to be renewed.

But what a change in the visitor. He was the young man who before this came in the garb of the pioneer carrying surveying instruments. Now he came appared as a mounted warrior, whose steed was bedecked with military trappings, while he now graced the uniform of a Lieutenant-Colonel of militia, with sword at his side and pistol in his belt. Then he seemed like an overgrown youth, now he was a man entrusted with the greatest responsibility that can come to a human being, that of leading his regiment into battle. His duty was more than that. The Colonel commanding had sent him in advance to prepare the way and gather reliable information concerning the enemy and his movements.

Job Pearsall commanded a domain far beyond the bounds of his landed ownership. His influence was potent over a field as large as a state, and his means of keeping informed concerning the happenings within his territory, were the perfection of well organized detail. But first the boys had to have a chance to tell their stories. Then they were off, as were the other runners, to bring in the neighbors who could possibly have information concerning the trail that led to the forks of the Ohio. All the afternoon and all night the runners kept coming and going, and it was little sleep that Washington got. By the light of the fireplace he listened to recitals and obtained information which the modern man would not think could have been so accurately gathered. Then there were Job Pearsall's especial Indian friends who had hurried to tell him of the doings along the northwest trail and of the bodies of armed men that journeyed on the way to the forks of the great river. Then there were those who had come hurriedly over the Catawba trail, all the way from the great waters of the north, where their red masters, the

cruel Six Nations, were holding war dances and singing of the expected victory over the Englishmen. Then there were the long talks between Washington and Job Pearsall, when the latter imparted information concerning men and places of which he alone had knowledge. No wonder that all this stood out so vividly in the mind of Washington that the only place he named in his journal was that referring to this visit. Speaking of this occasion in the very mildest terms, one would be compelled to say that at the least this was a historical event of the utmost importance in subsequent American history. The mutual trust and confidence this day and night cemented, as we shall presently see, gave this country the great leader in the Revolution by which she won her freedom. For had not Job Pearsall been one in whom could be placed unmovable dependence, and who was as firm as a foundation built upon a rock, the conspiracy which later developed against Washington would most likely have succeeded and he would not have had the opportunity, in the French and Indian War, to have gained the confidence of the American people.

On the second day, being joined by the forces under Captain Adam Stephens, Washington marched down the South Branch of the Potomac, crossed at Cresaps, and then continued up the Potomac to Wills Creek. On his way down the South Branch he learned for the first time that Ensign Ward had surrendered the half-completed fort at the forks of the Ohio to the French. Two days later, Ensign Ward arrived at Wills Creek, bringing the intelligence which confirmed the surrender of the works at the forks of the Ohio. The military expedition under Washington was soon thereafter ended. There were two battles May 28, 1754, and July 4, 1754, at Great Meadows. At the latter Washington surrendered on condition that the garrison should march out with the honors of war and be permitted to retain their arms, and march unmolested into the inhabited parts of Virginia. By July 9 the army was back at Wills Creek, from whence it proceeded by way of Fort Pearsall on the South Branch to Winchester. What a sad day that was to Job Pearsall and his associates, but these frontier folks were accustomed to the varying changes of warfare. To them defeat meant only preparation for final victory. The oncoming hordes of French and Indians did not find Fort Pearsall unprepared for their attack. As a consequence this little fortification stands out as the one rock-like place which could not be dashed to pieces by the exultant Indians. It was here that the tide of French aggression lost its force, although it did sweep by its flanks towards Winchester. But the fact that Fort Pearsall stood unconquered, made the movement by the enemy against Winchester abortive. When Washington arrived at Winchester he left the troops and more hurriedly proceeded to Williamsburg, where he made a full report and received a vote of thanks from the House of Burgesses, after which he returned to Mount Vernon. [History of Hampshire Co., page 213.]

In September following, Colonel James Innes of North Carolina marched the same troops to the mouth of Wills Creek where he constructed Fort Mount Pleasant, the first regular fortification on the frontier of Virginia. Colonel James Innes was a Scotch-Irishman, resident of New Hanover County, North Carolina, where he was a near neighbor to and friend of Edward Pearsall, cousin of Job Pearsall. In 1754, at the beginning of the war, Innes had been placed at the head

of a regiment of North Carolina Militia, raised to cooperate with Virginia against Fort Duquesne. He marched to Virginia where he joined the forces of that province. He had not proceeded far before it was discovered that Virginia had entirely failed to provide quartermaster and commissary stores for this part of the expedition. His regiment was thereupon disbanded and returned to North Carolina, but Colonel Innes remained to hobnob with the governor, who as we shall presently see finally appointed him to succeed Washington in command of the forces in the Northern Neck of Virginia. [Moore's History of North Carolina, vol. 1, page 66.]

The next year the name of the fort at the mouth of Wills Creek, at the request of General Braddock, was changed to Fort Cumberland, by which name it has ever since been known. Braddock's expedition did not march past Fort Pearsall, as he opened a new road up the valley to the Potomac, and then along the river to the mouth of the South Branch, where he joined the old road that led to the fort at the mouth of Wills Creek, crossing the river at Thomas Cresaps. The opening of this road proved to be one of several unfortunate military projects carried through by Braddock, and which all seemed to be filled with trouble-making opportunities for his successors. It is not to be thought that he had defeat in mind when he marched from Winchester, building this road as he progressed towards Fort Cumberland, but after his defeat this road left the country open to the attacks of the French and Indians as far east as Winchester. Instead of having to go down the South Branch passing Fort Pearsall to reach Winchester, the Cumberland road made an easy way for the enemy from where the Catawba trail crossed the Potomac to Winchester. This as we shall presently point out, was to have an important and controlling influence upon the history of this locality during the rest of this war.

Braddock's disastrous expedition ended July 18, 1755, with the arrival of the survivors, under the command of Colonel Dunbar at Fort Cumberland. While here he was met with earnest requests from the governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia that he would post his troops on the frontier so as to afford some protection to the inhabitants. To all these entreaties he turned a deaf ear and continued his hasty march through the country, not considering himself safe until he arrived at Philadelphia. Thus by the defeat of Braddock, and the withdrawal of his army, the borders of Virginia's back country were protected by Fort Cumberland, where a garrison was stationed commanded by Colonel James Innes, and Fort Pearsall on the South Branch of the Potomac, which was manned by Job Pearsall, his sons and his neighbors. For some reason or other the Indians had a wholesome respect for Job Pearsall and his fort was never invested by them.

The defeat of Braddock aroused the colonies, but, unfortunately, there was for some time a want of unity of action. On the 4th of August the Assembly of Virginia decided to act alone and granted a large sum for the defense of the province. Washington was given the command of all the forces raised and to be raised in Virginia, with the privilege of raising his own field officers. He immediately established his headquarters at Winchester and made a tour of inspection of all the stockades and block houses on the frontier, including the stockade of Job Pearsall. The number of troops was totally insufficient for the protection of the

settlers. The country was open to the French and Indians who penetrated almost to Winchester. Braddock, as we have seen, opened a new road between the latter place and Cumberland, and the enemy passed in armed bodies openly along this highway. They did not pass by Fort Pearsall on the old road. The Indian hordes which came from the country to the north killed and despoiled at their pleasure. They were not at all restrained in their depredations, as they were acting under the strong incentive of their French allies. Their incursions were everywhere stained with blood and slaughter, and devastation marked the inroads of these cruel and merciless savages. Every planter of name or reputation, except Job Pearsall, seems to have become an object of their insidious designs. As to Job Pearsall, for some reason of other they had a marked respect for his ability, not only to defend himself, but to strike back in greater measure than he received. It is difficult to comprehend this as the little stockade of Job Pearsall stood on the outermost angle of the three points of frontier defense, but nevertheless, while the French and Indians freely passed by Cumberland and strongly threatened Winchester, they avoided Job Pearsall's; in fact they seem to have made no serious attempt to pass this stockade fort. The Indians well knew that with a repulse of the army at Braddock's field there was no protection for the frontiers of Virginia except such as the settlers themselves could provide. One of the first settlements to receive a visit from the savages was that of Job Pearsall, where their attack was met in force, with the result that while one man of Job Pearsall's force was wounded, ten of the Indians were killed and many more were wounded, so that they speedily drew off and did not again attack this fort; everywhere else the war was carried on relentlessly and it is estimated that three thousand Virginians lost their lives at the hands of the French and Indians at this time.

The advance of the enemy upon Winchester was followed by so many disasters to the settlers that the most serious apprehensions were entertained for the safety of Lord Fairfax and the family of Greenway Court, which was located over forty miles farther east than Fort Pearsall. In this crisis, importuned by his neighbors to retire to the inner settlements of Virginia for security, Lord Fairfax is said to have addressed his nephew in the following manner:— [History of Hampshire County, page 38.]

The danger we are exposed to, which is undoubtedly great, may possibly excite in your mind apprehension and anxiety. If so, I am ready to take any step that you may judge expedient for our common safety. I myself, am an old man, and it is of little importance whether I fall by the tomahawk of an Indian or by disease and old age; but you are young, and, it is to be hoped, have many years before you. I will therefore submit it to your decision, whether we shall remain where we are, taking every precaution to secure ourselves against the outrages of the enemy, or abandon our habitation and retire to the East to the country within the mountains, that we may be sheltered from the danger to which we are at present exposed. If we determine to remain it is possible, notwithstanding our utmost care and vigilance, that we may both fall victims. The whole district will immediately break up and all the trouble and solicitude which I have undergone to settle this fine country will be frustrated and the occasion perhaps irrecoverably lost. After a short deliberation they decided to remain. No greater comment

could be made concerning the perils of those at Fort Pearsall at this time than that Lord Fairfax seriously considered the advisability of retiring to the settled parts of Virginia. Nevertheless at no time was there any thought given by the occupants of Fort Pearsall as to the necessity of abandoning this fort and retiring to the settled and more protected parts of Virginia. Job Pearsall instead made the Indians respect his ability to defend this place and consequently they left him alone. The road that ran west from Winchester through Fort Pearsall remained open during most of the time, for Captain Thomas Cocke's journal in 1755 says he marched from Winchester September 8, reached Piercehalls on South Branch on the eleventh, lay there the twelfth, and marched to Hedges on Patersons Creek on the thirteenth. [Johns Hopkins University Studies, volume 43, 1925. *The Virginia Frontier 1754-1763* by Louis K. Koontz, page 138. *Burnaby's Travels in N. A.*]

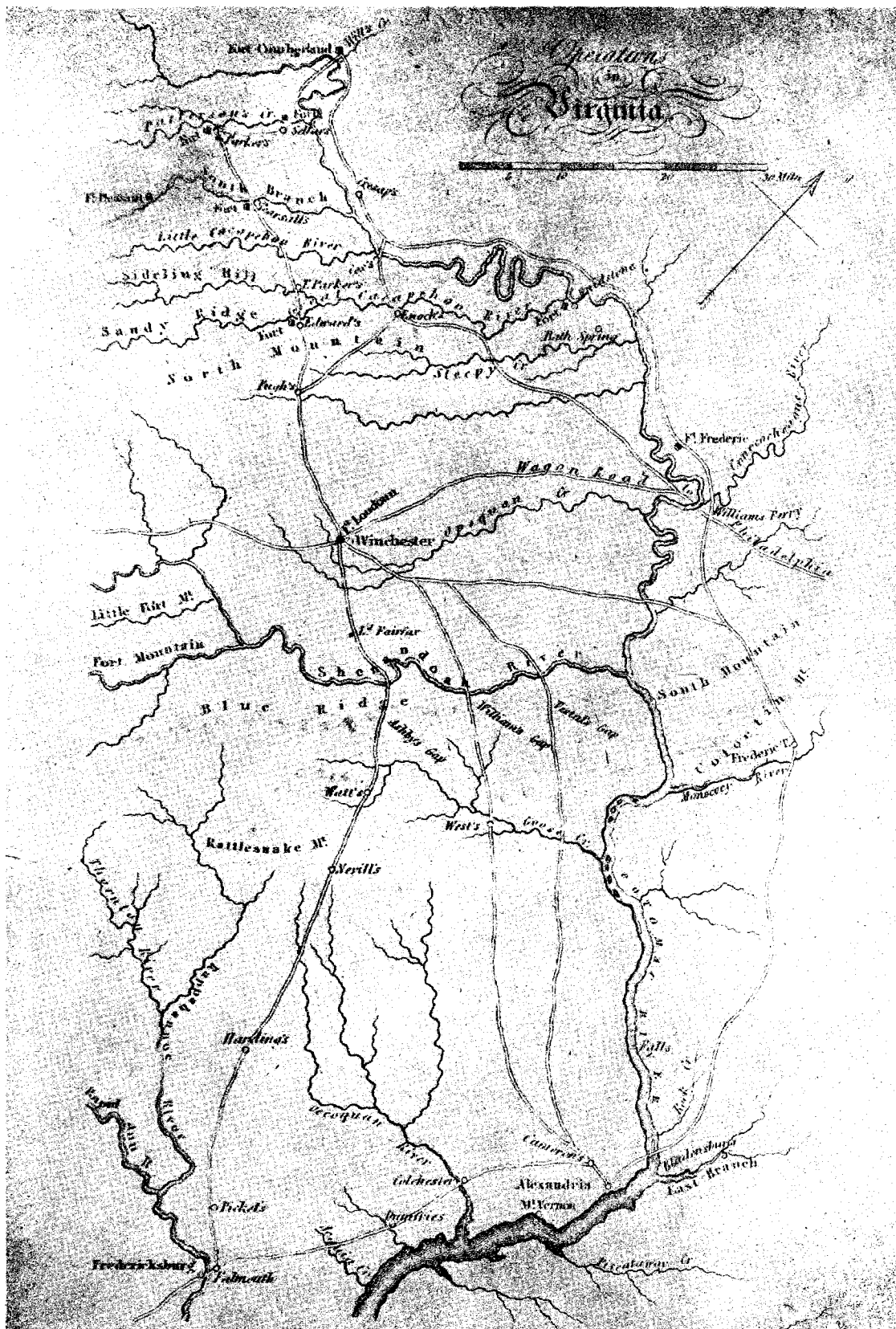
Washington was deeply affected by the scenes he witnessed at this time, and overcome by his want of means to alleviate the sufferings of the people, so he addressed a letter to the governor of Virginia in which he said: I see their situation, I know their danger and participate in their sufferings, without having it in my power to give them further relief than uncertain promises. In short I see inevitable destruction in so clear a light, that, unless vigorous measures are taken by the Assembly, and speedy assistance sent from below, the poor inhabitants now in forts must unavoidably fall, while the remainder are flying before the barbarous foe. In fine, the melancholy situation of the people, little prospect of assistance, the gross and scandalous abuses cast upon the officers in general, which is reflecting on me in particular, for suffering misconduct of such extraordinary kind, and the distant prospect, if any, of gaining reputation in the service, cause me to lament the hour that gave me a commission, and would induce me, at any other time than this of imminent danger, to resign, without one hesitating moment, a command from which I never expect to reap either honor or benefit; but, on the contrary, have an almost absolute certainty of incurring displeasure below, while the murder of helpless families may be laid to my account. The supplicating tears of the women, and moving petitions of the men, melt me with such deadly sorrow, that I solemnly declare, if I know my own mind, I could offer myself a willing sacrifice to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease. Washington finding himself in this emergency without the means to act in a strong and warlike manner towards the enemy, had recourse to the only thing that he could do at this time and under these circumstances. He took his available force out to Job Pearsall's and rebuilt his stockade so that it became a fort suitable to hold regular troops. Job Pearsall found the means to do this, and Washington found the men to do the work. Here he had a tried friend in whom he could rely in any emergency who was competent to wage successful Indian warfare and outwit the French. It was manifestly for the good of the inhabitants that this man should be given the means whereby he could hold the country until Virginia authorities were ready to act efficiently to expel the enemy. [Howe's Virginia, page 100.]

In April, 1756, when the Assembly met at Williamsburg, Washington hastened thither to mature plans for defense on the frontier. Here at least there was a desire to do the right things. Money was voted and the militia forces increased. In May an act was passed which recited:—whereas the frontiers of this country

are in a very defenseless situation and openly exposed to the incursions and depredations of our cruel and savage enemies, who are daily destroying the lives and estates of the inhabitants of that part of the colony, and it is necessary that forts should be erected in these parts to put a stop to these violent outrages of the enemy and to protect the inhabitants in their lives and property. Be it enacted that a chain of forts shall be erected to begin at Henry Enoch's on Great Capeapon, in the county of Hampshire, and extend to the South Fork of Mayor River in the county of Halifax. [Henning's Statutes of Virginia, vol. 7, page 25.]

Washington hastened back to Winchester where a council of war was held at Fort Cumberland, July 10th, 1756, Colonel George Washington, President, Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Stephan, Captain Christopher Gist, Captain Thomas Cocke, Captain George Mercer, Captain Henry Woodward, Captain William Bronaugh, Captain Robert McKenzie, Captain David Bell, Captain Henry Harrison. The President having informed the Council that the General Assembly had resolved upon building a chain of Forts for the protection of frontiers—To begin at Henry Enoch's, on Great Capeapon, and extend in the most convenient line to Mayoriver—the building of which forts was not to exceed two thousand pounds—and as the fixing upon the places judiciously was a matter of great importance to the country—he desired their advice thereupon: and put the following Questions . . . Sixthly—Are the forts built by Captain Waggener upon the South Branch to be deemed in the chain intended by the Assembly. The forts built by Captain Waggener have had the desired effect—the inhabitants of that fertile district, keep possession of their farms; and seem resolved to pursue their business under cover of them.—They are therefore to be looked upon in the chain intended by the Assembly.—The Council are of opinion that it will be found necessary to maintain a Blockhouse at Pearsalls, to secure that difficult pass, and keep the communication open. [Hamilton, Letters to Washington, vol. pp. 301-304—omitted by Ford and Sparks, cited from Johns Hopkins University Studies, vol. 43, 1925. The Virginia Frontier, 1754-1763, by Louis K. Koontz, p. 157. Howe's Virginia, page 100.]

Notwithstanding all that he had done for the defense of the frontier Washington later found that he had become the victim of base calumnies which were being circulated against the army, and indirectly against him as commander-in-chief, and which seemed for a while to gain public credence. By degrees, says Sparks, the plot was unraveled. The governor being a Scotchman was surrounded by a knot of his Caledonian friends who wished to profit by this alliance and obtain for themselves a larger share of consideration than they could command in the present order of things. The discontented, and such as thought their merit undervalued, naturally fell into this faction. To create dissatisfaction in the army and cause the officers to resign from disgust, would not only distract the councils of the ruling party but make room for new promotions. Colonel Innes, the governor's favorite, would ascend to the chief command and the subordinate places would be reserved for his adherents. Hence false rumors were set afloat and the pen of detraction was busy to disseminate them. The artifice was easily seen through and its aims were defeated by the leaders on the patriotic side who looked to Washington as a pillar to support their cause.



COPY OF MAP MADE BY GEORGE WASHINGTON
SHOWING FORT PEARSALL UPPER LEFT CORNER

This was the first test of Washington, both as a commander-in-chief of many separate armed forces all working in harmony to a desired end, and also of him as a statesman, having to meet the plots of his adversaries. It soon became evident that he was a capable military commander, and fortunately, his plans for the defense of Virginia at once commanded confidence because of their unity of purpose and perfection of details. The results obtained disclosed that Washington had for military problems a far reaching conception of the difficulties to be overcome as well as of the sequence of his adversary's actions. As to the disturbing conditions caused by the conspiracy against him, he overcame these by being true to his friends and loyal to his duty, while at the same time ignoring his enemies. Here you have a summary of the steps by which Washington rose to the highest eminence in history, and came to be known as first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen. The author of these famous words might have added, first in the malignant designs of his enemies. In all these movements, both military and political, Fort Pearsall was the key to the situation and Job Pearsall was the controlling factor, for so long as the latter and his fort were working loyally with Washington it was not in the power of his enemies to thwart his plans. The reasons for this statement will more clearly appear as this story proceeds. The hotbed of the conspiracy against Washington was at Cumberland where Innes, the Scotchman from North Carolina, was in command. Washington upon his return to the frontier built a fort at Winchester which was named Fort Loudon, where he had his headquarters, and there he was near his old friend and faithful supporter, Lord Fairfax. He prior to this, as we have seen, personally superintended the enlargement of the stockade at Pearsalls into a first class fort to hold a garrison. This was a place where his friends were also in supreme control. By erecting these two forts he made Fort Cumberland entirely harmless as a place where the conspirators could render only half-hearted execution of his commands. In fact by reason of Braddock having opened a road between Cumberland and Winchester, Fort Cumberland was now so badly located with reference to the general defense of the province, that Washington recommended its abandonment, or rather a removal thereof, to a better military situation.

Fortunately, so important an event in our family history is not the subject of conjecture but is sustained by the testimony of both George Washington and Job Pearsall. In the journal of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1766-69, page 101, appears the petition of Job Pearsall, of the county of Hampshire, setting forth that in the year 1756 a large fort was erected on his land by Colonel Washington of the Virginia regiment and a great quantity of his timber cut down and used, as well by the inhabitants as by those of the garrison, until the end of General Forbes' campaign in the winter of the year 1758. This is confirmed by Washington in the map he made at the time, and in his letter dated from Winchester April 24, 1756, to John Robinson, Speaker of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, wherein he says [Sparks' Washington, vol. 2, page 152]—A strong fort is to be erected at this place [Winchester] for a general receptacle for all the stores and a place of residence for the commanding officers, which may be garrisoned by one company for the security of the stores, serving also as

escorts for wagons, that are going higher up. It is the most public and convenient post for intelligence of any in the country, and approaches nearest to the parts that will ever be attacked by numbers. I have found by experience that being just within the inhabitants is essential, in giving orders for the defense of the people; and that Fort Cumberland is of no more use towards that purpose, than Fort George at Hampton [that is a fort on the Atlantic seaboard], for the people, as soon as they are alarmed, immediately fly into it; and at this time there is not an inhabitant living between this place and Fort Cumberland, except a few settlements upon the manor [South Branch], around a fort [Fort Pearsall] we built there, and a few families at Edwards', on Cacapehon River, which makes this very town [Winchester] at present the outermost frontier.

At Fort Cumberland I would have one company garrisoned to secure the place to procure the earliest intelligence and cover the detachments that may be sent towards the Ohio, which is all the use it can ever be put to. In the next place, I would propose that a good fort should be erected between this and Fort Cumberland, in a line with the chain of forts across the country and garrisoned by two companies.

This interesting letter of Washington's also discloses that the first fort constructed by Washington at this time was Fort Pearsall and that he had finished it and stationed a garrison there before the Assembly had authorized this work to be done. This agrees with Job Pearsall's statement in his petition to the House of Burgesses that he was never paid for the same, not even for the destruction of his timber caused by the construction of the fort. On the other hand the fort at Winchester never was entirely finished. John Pinkerton who visited it in 1760 records that it was then not only unfinished but not likely to be finished as the Assembly felt that with Fort Pitt in possession of the English the fort at Winchester was not needed.

The third fort utilized by Washington was known as Fort Edwards. [West Virginia Report Hist. and Arch., vol 1, page 208.] It was a stockade or private fort already erected and situated on or near the site of the present village of Capon Bridge in Bloomery District, Hampshire County, on the land of David Edwards and his brothers. Washington records in his journal that he surveyed the lands here for David Edwards November 11, 1749, and for Thomas Edwards March 30, 1750, and for Joseph Edwards a certain tract of waste land adjoining that of David and Thomas Edwards. It was not long after the fort was occupied by the Virginia Militia before it was attacked by the French and Indians. April 18, 1756, Captain John Mercer, with one hundred men of Washington's own regiment, sallied forth from the fort in pursuit of a body of French and Indians that were operating in the vicinity. The Virginians were ambuscaded and Captain Mercer, together with a large part of his men, was killed and scalped. Lieutenant Rutherford bore the sad tidings to Colonel Washington at Winchester, and then rode to Williamsburg bearing messages from Washington, who at the same time wrote Lord Fairfax, County Lieutenant of Frederick County, urging him to order out the militia for the defense of the border settlements, and telling him that unless ammunition could be gotten into Fort Edwards that night the remainder of the troops and inhabitants that are there will more than

probably fall a sacrifice to the Indians, as the fort was surrounded and an assault expected at once. The reader will notice that this engagement occurred six days before the date of Washington's letter to John Robinson, and discloses that at this very time the enemy had control of the road down the Potomac almost to Winchester, and that Washington was powerless to reach even to Fort Edwards without further reinforcements. This left Fort Pearsall many miles within the enemies' lines. This engagement was however the high water mark of the invasion of the Northern Neck of Virginia by the French and Indians. It was the movement of the forces at Fort Pearsall against the rear of the enemy that so materially aided Washington in pushing them back beyond the South Branch of the Potomac.

August 14, 1756, Washington was able to write to Governor Dinwiddie that his forces had built some forts, and altered others, so that the enemy was confined to the South Branch as far as any settlers had been molested, until there only remains one body of inhabitants, at a place called Upper Tract, who needed guard and thither he had ordered a party. Shortly before this Washington had erected a fort on the west of the South Branch in Mill Run District, now Pendleton County, West Virginia, which he named Upper Tract and had garrisoned with sixty men under the command of Captain Waggener. At this time the fort at Upper Tract was able to stand off the enemy but on April 27, 1758, it was attacked by French and Indians who captured and burned the fort at which time Captain Dunlap who was in command and some sixty others were killed. There was another fort farther down on the South Branch situated at the Indian Old Fields in what is now Morefield District, Hardy County, West Virginia. This was called Fort Van Meter after the name of the man upon whose property it was erected. In this year of 1756 the battle of the Trough was fought within sight of this fort. It is said to be the bloodiest battle ever waged between the white and the red man in the valley of the South Branch. The garrison from Fort Van Meter, then called Fort Pleasant, were nearly all slaughtered. [History Hampshire Co., page 196; West Virginia Report Hist. and Arch., vol. 1, pages 214, 215.]

By reason of its position Fort Pearsall became, in 1756, the chief depot of supply in Virginia for all the advance operations on the south side of the Potomac River, and enabled Washington to so handle his forces as to confine the French and Indians to the country around the forks of the Ohio.

The movements of Washington were so successful that they proved to be very disconcerting to the Scottish clique associated with the governor, so the latter determined to completely undo the plans of Washington. This he proposed accomplishing by securing the countermand of General Lord Loudon, then in command of his English Majesty's troops in America, and by issuing such orders as would practically dismantle Fort Loudon at Winchester and make it impossible for Washington to adequately handle the forces at Cumberland. This expedient was to be accomplished by an order to have all the garrisons on the South Branch repair to Fort Pearsall. [Sparks' Washington, vol. 2, page 208.] No doubt the authors thought that Washington would disobey this order and then he could be removed by the governor. In this they were entirely mis-

taken as Washington at once proceeded to execute the Governor's command. Among the orders given at this time by Washington was one to Captain William Bronaugh on the South Branch, dated Fort Loudon, 17 of December, 1756, Sir:—You are strictly required, immediately upon receipt of this, to transmit your provisions and stores to Captain Waggeners fort [Upper Tract], and there leave them. Then march your company to Pearsalls in order to escort a quantity of flour to Fort Cumberland where you and your whole company are to remain. I expect you will pay due regard to this order and put it in execution with the utmost alacrity, as it is in consequence of the express direction from the Governor and council. I heartily commiserate the poor unhappy inhabitants left by this means exposed to every incursion of a merciless enemy, and I wish it were in my power to offer them better support, than good wishes will afford. You may assure the settlement, that this unexpected and, if I may be allowed to say, unavoidable step, was taken without my concurrence or knowledge; that it is an express order from the Governor, and can be neither evaded nor delayed. Therefore any representations to me of their danger, and the necessity of continuing troops among them, will be fruitless; for, as I have before observed, I have inclination, but no power left, to serve them. It is also the Governor's order, that the forts be left standing for the inhabitants to possess if they think proper. Orders in the same terms were likewise sent to the commanders of the several other forts and a copy of this order was immediately transmitted to the Governor, who saw at once that he had assumed a great responsibility and had shifted the blame for inevitable failure from Washington to himself, so the order was promptly countermanded.

Other commands were given at this time by the Governor which were equally foolish. [Sparks' Washington, vol. 2, page 211.] It is no wonder, says Sparks, that Washington should complain as he often did of the confusion and inconsistency of his orders. The Governor at one time ordered him to march from Fort Loudon to Fort Cumberland more men than he had under his command at the former post, and still leave a number sufficient to keep up the garrison at the former fort and continue the work. When this order was countermanded as absurd and impractical, another was issued calling in all the men at the stockade forts, sending one hundred to Fort Cumberland and retaining the same number at Fort Loudon, by which means the smaller forts essential for the defense of the people would be evacuated and a large number of men left unemployed. A third order was necessary to remedy the blunders of the other two by trusting the matter to the discretion of Washington. The Governor's settled determination to sustain Fort Cumberland betrayed him and his council into a series of hasty resolutions and wild mistakes.

In the meantime General Lord Loudon had fallen in with the suggestion of Governor Dinwiddie and had written to the Governor:—As to the affair of Fort Cumberland, I own it gives me great uneasiness, and I am of the same opinion with you, that it was very material to have supported that fort this winter and after that we could easily have made it a better post then ever it has been, from what I hear of it. I cannot agree with Colonel Washington in not drawing in the posts from the stockade forts in order to defend that advanced one; and I

should imagine much more of the frontier will be exposed by retiring your advanced posts near Winchester, where I understand he is retired, for, from your letter, I take it for granted he has before this executed his plan, without waiting for any advice. If he leaves any of the great quantity of stores behind, it would be very unfortunate, and he ought to consider that it must lie at his own door. This proceeding, I am afraid, will have a bad effect as to the Dominion [Virginia], and will not have the good appearance at home.

From this extract it is manifest that Lord Loudon, who was then in New York, and had never visited Virginia, had no accurate knowledge of the transactions in question and that he had been misled by the Governor's letters. It is extraordinary that the Governor should have sent such statements to Lord Loudon knowing their inaccuracy and foreseeing that Colonel Washington would discover on the face of them an unfair attempt in some quarter to prejudice him in the mind of Lord Loudon.

The Governor was nonplused by Lord Loudon's want of action in the matter as it imposed upon the Governor the duty of communicating to Washington the commanding General's criticism of his actions. The Governor consequently felt called upon to add a palliative by assuring him that Lord Loudon's criticisms were entirely confined to Fort Cumberland. He was afraid you would evacuate and dismantle that fort before his letter reached me. Nor can you think that he either prejudices or has any bad opinion of your conduct. This evasive reply was not only unsatisfactory and suspicious but it at once disclosed the source of the secret opposition that was attempting to thwart Washington's well thought out plans. It also disclosed that so far as the frontier was concerned there were opposed to this faction only the personal friends and adherents of Washington, Fairfax and Job Pearsall. The position of the latter was peculiar in that he commanded the fort which was admittedly the key to the whole situation and although he was intimately acquainted with the family of Colonel Innes, and had acted as attorney in fact for North Carolina folks akin to him, nevertheless Job Pearsall did not waver a moment in his loyalty to Washington. It was this support that so completely upset the plans of the clique that were cooperating with the Governor to discredit Washington, for no doubt they had counted on the support of Job Pearsall which would have made it impossible for Washington to have so placed his forces as to nullify the secret opposition of Colonel Innes and his friends.

Washington replied to Governor Dinwiddie under the date of December 19, 1756, from which we make the following extracts:—In consequence of your letter I despatched orders immediately to all the garrisons on the South Branch to evacuate their forts, repair to Pearsalls, where they would meet the flour from this place and escort it to Fort Cumberland. I fear the provisions purchased for the support of these forts and now lying in bulk will be wasted and destroyed, notwithstanding I have given directions to the assistant commissary on the branch and to Waggners company to use their utmost diligence in collecting the whole and securing them where his company is posted [Fort Pearsall]. * * * I should have been exceedingly glad if your Honor and the Council had directed in what manner Fort Cumberland is to be strengthened; that is, whether it should be made cannon proof or not; and that you would fix the sum beyond which we

shall not go, for I must look to you for the expense. It is interesting to note how anxiously both sides were seeking at this time the support of Job Pearsall. The movement directed by Washington to concert all the outlying forces at Fort Pearsall, while in exact accord with the directions of the Governor, was so entirely opposite in its effect to what the latter had hoped for that it seems as though Washington and Job Pearsall had arranged the movement for the very purpose of bringing about the discomfiture of the Governor and his military clique. Washington in his letter to the governor further said:—I have read that paragraph in Lord Loudon's letters, which you were pleased to send me, over and over again but am unable to comprehend its meaning. What scheme it was, that I was carrying into execution without waiting advice, I am at loss to know, unless it was building a chain of forts along our frontiers which I not only undertook conformably to an act of Assembly and by your own orders, but with respect to the places, in pursuance of a council of war. If, under these circumstances, my conduct is responsible for the fate of Fort Cumberland, it must be confessed, that I stand upon a tottering foundation indeed. I cannot charge my memory with either proposing, or intending, to draw the forts nearer Winchester. The garrison of Fort Cumberland, it is true I did wish to have removed to Cox's which is nearer Winchester by twenty-five miles; but not farther from the enemy, if a road were opened from thence to the little Meadows, which place is about twenty miles distant and the same from Fort Cumberland, and more in the warriors' path [the Catawba Trail] * * * His lordship, I think, has received impressions tending to my prejudice by false representation of facts, if I may judge from a paragraph of one of his letters to the Governor, on which is founded the resolve to support Fort Cumberland at all events. [Sparks' Washington, vol. 2, page 209.]

On the same day, December 19, 1756, Washington wrote to John Robinson:—You are no stranger I presume to the late resolutions the consequence of which I meditate with great concern. We are ordered to reinforce Fort Cumberland with one hundred men, and to enable me to carry that number thither, all the stockade forts on the Branch are to be evacuated and in course all the settlements abandoned, except what lie under the immediate protection of Captain Waggeners Fort [Fort Pearsall] the only place exempted in their resolve. Surely his Honor and the Council are not fully acquainted with the situation and circumstances of the unhappy frontiers, thus to expose so valuable a tract as the [South] Branch, in order to support a fortification in itself of very little importance to the inhabitants of the colony. This has the object in view Fort Cumberland and, to maintain it, the best lands in Virginia are laid open to the mercy of a cruel and inhuman enemy. The civil and military authorities who were located on the Atlantic sea-board could not get the view that the enemy was really the Six Nations of Indians located in central New York, together with their allies, the Indians of the Ohio and Southern country, acting in conjunction with the French from Canada. This made the north and south trails of extreme importance. The Catawba trail which they used crossed the Potomac and went on down the South Branch, which was blocked from the lower country by Fort Pearsall, while Fort Cumberland was west of this trail from the north, where it reached the Potomac River. The latter fortification was therefore in a military sense useless so far as

the main object of defense was concerned and this Washington tried to impress on his superiors in the east. [Sparks' Washington, vol. 2, page 214.]

Fort Cox, referred to by Washington as one of the defensive places to succeed Fort Cumberland, was a stockade situated on the lower point of land on the Potomac at the mouth of Little Cacapon River where on April 25, 1750, he had surveyed a tract for Friend Cox. The difficulty with the location of Fort Cumberland was, as we have said, that it did not block all the regular trails used by the Indians, but left open one of the very best ways the Indians had for reaching the Potomac from the north. Thus their war parties could entirely ignore Fort Cumberland in their expeditions through the Shenandoah valley. As a consequence Washington maintained Fort Cumberland and Forts Edwards and Cox thus completely disarming the opposition to his plans and still making them effectual in defending the country against the French and Indians. Cox's Fort was erected in pursuance of the orders issued by Washington May 23, 1756, to Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Stephen and it was furnished by supplies from Fort Cumberland. It was not much more than a settlers' fortification and very quickly disappeared after the close of the war. Washington on his journey to Ohio in 1770, visited the spot, where all signs of the fort had disappeared. [West Virginia Report of Hist. and Arch., vol. 1, page 210.]

Thus we see that in this year of defensive warfare, Fort Pearsall was the one place which not only stood like a rock against the encroachments of the enemy, but it was a vital part of the general defense. It is remarkable the respect that the Indians always seem to have had for this fortification. It is true that there was at all times a respectable command of soldiers maintained at this place. But as to them the enemy would have paid no more respect than they did to the larger force at Cumberland; that is, to ignore them. It was the presence of Job Pearsall and his force of Indian fighters that commanded the Indians' everlasting respect. It is a pity that we cannot have a complete record of those who served under Job Pearsall. The nearest approach to this is to be found in the list of claimants for payment for supplies furnished at this time to this fort. While the army supplied its own wants, claims were allowed for other commissary supplies, principally meat, furnished by the following, who lived either at or neighbor to the fort:—Job Pearsall, George Parker, John Dickson, John Kirkendall, Sarah Decker, John Foreman, William Buffington, Margaret Snider, Mary Snider, Nathaniel Kirkendall, Henry Van Meter, Thomas McGuire, Benjamin Kirkendall, David Gummery, James Fowler, Abraham Hite, Joseph Edwards, David Edwards, Jeremiah Smith, John Walker, John Crouch and Benjamin Rutherford. This list, of course, does not include the name of every neighbor of Job Pearsall, but it affords a glimpse as to the personnel of the band of patriots who supplemented the regular militia stationed at Fort Pearsall. As Maxwell and Swisher, the historians of Hampshire County, say: Washington's letters are a glowing picture of Hampshire County as it existed in the darkest hour of the French and Indian war. When Washington drew that picture he did it with all the facts before him. Only two small clusters of families were between Winchester and Cumberland; one of these was seeking protection at Fort Edwards at Cacapon, the other at Pearsall's Fort on the bluff overlooking the present bridge across the South Branch of the Poto-

mac, about half a mile south of Romney. It is no wonder there is a blank space in the court records of Hampshire County, from June 11, 1755, to the end of 1757, as nobody was left in the county to hold a court. [Journal of House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1752-58, pp. 378 and 450. History of Hampshire County, page 332.]

In March, 1757, Washington attended a meeting at Philadelphia of several governors and principal officers summoned by Lord Loudon to consult upon a comprehensive and united plan for the next campaign. It was decided against Washington's advice that the principal effort should be made on the lakes and Canada border while the southern and middle colonies were to be left on the defensive. This made the history of 1757 in Virginia a repetition of the previous years' Indian hostilities. May 16, 1757, Governor Dinwiddie instructed Washington to station a garrison of forty-five men under Captain Robert McKenzie at Fort Pearsall.

The full text of the instructions reads as follows:—You are, so soon as you arrive at Fort Loudoun, to inform the Officers that the Assembly having consider'd the great Expense the Virg's Regim't has cost the Country from the No. of Companys it has consisted of, and those Companys not half compleat in proportion to the vast Charge of Officers, It is resolv'd, for the better saving of Expenses and establishing a proper Regulation, that the said Regim't shall consist only of ten companies of 100 Men each; that all the Captains but seven be reduc'd. Those I have thought proper to continue are Captains Mercer, Waggoner, Stewart, Joshua Lewis, Woodward, Spotswood, and McKenzie. To those discontinued in the Command of Captains (not from any particular Misconduct or Demerit imputed) You are to offer Lieutenants, and compleat the No. of Lieut'ts to 20 out of the eldest Subalterns, unless there be some whose Conduct does not entitle 'em to the Preference. The Ensigns for the Regim't are to consist of 10, and to be fill'd up in the same Manner, having regard to their Character and Behaviour. After the Companys are form'd You are to occupy the following Posts in the following Manner till y'r Numbers are increas'd, Vizt.:

At Fort Loudoun, 100 Men, commanded by Yourself. At Maidstone, 70 Men, commanded by Capt. Stewart. At Edwards', 25 Men, commanded by a Subaltern. At Pearsall's, 45 Men, commanded by Capt. McKenzie. In the Neighborhood of Butter Milk Fort, 70 Men, commanded by Capt. Waggoner. At Dickinson's, 70 Men, commanded by Maj'r Lewis. At Vass's, 70 Men, commanded by Capt. Woodward. You are to remain at Winchester, and there use your utmost Diligence and Care in forwarding the public Works w'th all possible Expedition. [From Johns Hopkins University Studies, volume 43, 1925; The Virginia Frontier, by Louis K. Koontz, page 107.]

At the same time he named the forts which then constituted the main defense of the frontiers of Virginia. Of these forts Loudon, Pearsall and Edwards have already been referred to. On the South Branch he names Fort Buttermilk, a stockade situate about three miles above the present town of Morefield in South Fork District, Hardy County, West Virginia. Here Washington was ordered to station a force under Captain Thomas Waggener. He also names Fort Maidstone which was situate on the bluff at the mouth of Great Cacapon River now in Bath District, Morgan County, West Virginia. Here Washington was directed to

station a force under command of Captain Stewart. Kerchival, in his history of the valley, mentions without name a fort on the fourth branch of the Potomac seven miles above Romney, and another fort about eight miles above the first named. It was at this fort that the only recorded incident of Indian depredations occurred in 1757. Two Indian boys made their appearance near the fort and some of the garrison went out with the intention of taking them. It was simply a ruse for the purpose of leading the Virginians into an ambushade and the result was that several of the garrison were killed. These were probably the Forts, Dickinson and Vass, named in Dinwiddie's order. [Virginia Historical Society Collections, vol. 4, page 622; West Virginia Report Hist. and Arch., vol. 1, page 209.]

The only special incident relating to Fort Pearsall, in 1757, is told by the following despatch:—Fort Cumberland, June 14, 1757, Sir: Six Cherokee Indians who just now came from Fort Duquesne say that six days ago they saw a large body of troops march from that garrison with a number of wagons and a train of artillery and by their route must intend an attack upon this garrison. I am your most humble and obedient servant, Jno. Dagworthy. P. S. Two days afterwards these Indians saw the army on their march on the side of the place where Braddock was defeated. James Livingston forwarded this letter to Washington, stating that he had written to Mr. Baker to detain these Indians at Pearsalls until they hear from you. But am afraid it will not be in his power as they are fully bent to see the great man that is come from King George and expect presents. They staid but four hours after the letter was explained to them. Washington upon the receipt of this communication wrote to the Governor as follows:—Fort Loudon, June 16, 1757, Sir: This moment the enclosed letters came to my hands, I have not lost a moments time in transmitting them to you as I look upon the intelligence to be of greatest importance. [Archives of Maryland, vol. 31, page 229.]

The third year a concerted action of the colonies under General Forbes resulted on December 25, 1758, in his army taking peaceable possession of Fort Duquesne or rather of the place where it had stood as the enemy had burned and abandoned it the day before. While this closed the white man's war so far as it related to this section, it by no means took away the danger from the Indian allies of the French. It is true that men began again to farm and clear the wilderness but always there was the overshadowing danger from the lurking savage and everywhere they had to depend upon the protective care of the nearby fort.

The close of the French and Indian War did not put an end to the Indian troubles but greatly increased their force. The peace of 1763 by which the provinces of Canada were ceded to Britain, was offensive to the Indians, especially as they very well knew that the English government, on the ground of this treaty, claimed the jurisdiction of the western country generally; and as an Indian sees no difference between the right of jurisdiction and that of possession, they considered themselves as about to be dispossessed of the whole of their country, as rapidly as the English might find it convenient to take possession of it. The Indians had to choose between the prospect of being driven to the inhospitable regions of the north and west; of negotiating with the British government for continuance of the possession of their own land; or of taking up arms for its defense. They chose the latter course. The plan resolved on by the Indians for the prose-

cution of the war, was that of a general massacre of all the inhabitants of the English settlements in the western country, as well as of those on the lands of the Susquehanna, to which they laid claim. Never did military commanders of any nation display more skill or their troops more steady and determined bravery, than those red men of the wilderness in the prosecution of their gigantic plan for the recovery of their country from the possession of the English. It was indeed a war of utter extermination on an extensive scale. This war raged violently in western Pennsylvania and in the Northern Neck of Virginia. [Kercheval, Virginia, page 259.]

Here again we are called upon to notice that the tide of battle passed by Fort Pearsall. Even under these circumstances the Indians either had a fear of Job Pearsall or he may have commanded the allegiance of so many of their individual members that they could not organize an expedition against him. Which is all the more remarkable as Job Pearsall was very active in his pursuit of the war against the Indians in their depredations against other fortified places all around him. An instance thereof is recorded by Kercheval who says:—in June, 1764, information of Indians having been seen on the South Branch, Major White went in the afternoon to warn the people of their danger, who set out for the nearest fort. But one party found night coming along when they had reached Mr. Lloyds. They concluded to stay there all night. In the morning, as soon as day appeared, they resumed their journey but before they were out of sight of the house the Indians attacked them and killed, wounded or took prisoners twenty-three persons. The Indians with their prisoners encamped the first night at a spring on what is now the Romney road between the North River and Little Cacapon. The next day they stopped on the banks of the South Branch, near where Romney now stands, to eat their dinner. While thus engaged a party who were stationed in Fort Pearsall, lower down the river, and who had just returned from a scout, discharged their guns in order to clean them. This alarmed the Indians and they hurried over the river, with their prisoners. [Kercheval, Virginia, page 259.]

Job Pearsall in his petition to the House of Burgesses of Virginia says—that in the year 1763 the Indian war began at which time your petitioners plantation was a second time pitched upon for a garrison and said fort repaired at the further expense of the said timber which continued to the winter 1764. He further shows that he was ever willing to promote the service of his country and did many times pilot the officers and parties to different places and was obliged to return by night for security and in every inclement season by which his constitution is impaired to that degree that he is rendered physically incapable of supporting himself and a numerous family. The petition was presented in 1766; the matter drifting along to 1769 when it was ended by Job Pearsall's death. Job Pearsall during the later years of his life was confined to his chair with rheumatism. It must have gone hard with the old fighter to be dependent upon others for all his personal wants. He was however a rich man and his son John Pearsall ranks among the richest men in his day in Hampshire County. [Journal of House of Burgesses, 1766-69, page 101.]

The historians of Hampshire County say—George Washington fully appreciated the character of the people on the western frontier when he said in the most

discouraging season of the Revolution; that if driven from the lower country by overwhelming force he would retreat to the mountains and raise the standard of liberty there and hold that rugged country for freedom. No doubt he had Hampshire County among other mountain regions in mind when he spoke. No county along the range of mountains was better known to him than was Hampshire. He had walked over its hills and camped in its valleys before the county was formed and before he was known to fame. He knew that Hampshire pioneers refused to be driven from their country by the Indians but held out at the Forts at Pearsalls, and on Cacapon, when all the rest of the country between Winchester and Cumberland had been given up to pillage. These things no doubt he called to mind when he seriously considered what he would do if driven from the lower country by the overwhelming forces of the British. It should, however, be remembered that at the time referred to, when Washington obtained this high estimate of western character, one of the preeminent leaders of this country was Job Pearsall, and the one place that at all times stood solid and impregnable was Fort Pearsall on the South Branch, and that the one true faithful friend, especially at a time when he needed a friend, was Job Pearsall, tenant militis of the manor of South Branch, holden of Thomas Lord Fairfax of Cameron, in the kingdom of Scotland, and proprietor of lands on the Potomac and Rappahannock in the Northern Neck of Virginia. [History of Hampshire County, page 348.]

Z. MARGARET PEARSALL, resided at Frederick and Hampshire Counties, Virginia; married Richard Jackson. Children:—*1. William Jackson. *2. Thomas Jackson.

The Jacksons are descended from Anthony Jackson of Lancashire, England, who emigrated to Ireland in 1649. Isaac Jackson, son of Anthony, born 1665, married Ann, daughter of Rowland Evans of County Wicklow and removed to near Ballytown. They were married at Old Castle 2nd mo. 29, 1696, O. S. Their children were Rebecca, born 1, 25, 1697; Thomas born 11, 9, 1698; Isaac born 7, 1, 1701, died 12, 5, 1701; Alice born 8, 29, 1706; William born 2, 24, 1705; Mary born 2, 24, 1705; James born 2, 10, 1708; Isaac born 5, 3, 1710, died 8, 13, 1710; John born 10, 16, 1712; Isaac born 1, 13, 1715.

Isaac and Ann Jackson, with their surviving children, excepting Thomas the eldest, who remained in Ireland, and Rebecca who came a few years before her parents, emigrated to America in 1725. They settled in London Grove, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Richard Jackson was the grandson of Isaac Jackson of Chester County, Pennsylvania. According to the Steere genealogy he was the son of Isaac Jackson, who, with his sons Josiah and Richard, was living in Frederick County, Virginia, before 1745.

The Jackson family made a deep impression upon the history of the Northern Neck of Virginia. They built Fort Jackson which was situated on Ten Mile Creek, in what is now Sardis District, Harrison County, West Virginia. It was erected in 1784 in the valley of this creek and here were enacted some of the most horrid scenes of the border wars. This is now the town of Clarksburg, the county seat of Harrison County, West Virginia. They also built Fort Jackson within the present boundaries of Pennsylvania, the site of which fort is now Waynesburg, the county seat of Greene County, Pennsylvania. Samuel Jackson, a

descendant of the same common ancestor, married Rebecca Dickson, 1, 15, 1749-50, daughter of John and Rebecca Dickson, and they removed from Chester County, Pennsylvania, to Redstone, Fayette County, where he and Jonathan Sharpless built and operated the first paper mill west of the mountains. Thus bringing all branches of the Jackson family into this southwest section. It is from this ancestry that General Stonewall Jackson of the Confederate army was descended. Some of the members of the Peirsol family in West Virginia insist that he was descended from Margaret Peirsol, and said that they had personal mementos of him which had come to them because of their relationship.

SECTION 2.

JOHN PEARSALL, son of Job Pearsall, Chapter 48, Section 1; resided at Fort Pearsall and Pattersons Creek, Hampshire County, Virginia; married Hannah Lyons. Her family were among the early settlers in Hampshire County. They originally came from Maryland where they were situated before 1670 and gave their name to Lyons Creek in Ann Arundel County. Later John Lyons was found in Talbot County a member of Fishing Creek Friends Meeting and connected with the Powells, who contributed so heavily to the Friends Meeting on the Trego farm in Nantmeal Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. No children. They adopted a child, Neomy, who later married Ebenezer McNary.

The Records at the Land Commissioner's Office, Richmond, Virginia, disclose: Patent Book M. 174, page 32, Patent dated August 30, 1762, wherein Thomas Lord Fairfax Baron etc., granted to John Pearsall of Hampshire County, land on the North Branch of the Potomac. Confirming the settlement made between Job Pearsall and Lord Fairfax concerning the ending of the Manor of South Branch.

According to the Pennsylvania Archives, 1765, in 1774 there was a Virginia Regiment, including a Pennsylvania Sergeant, located at Fort Pearsall during Dunmore's War, although by this time the tide of emigration had carried the frontier much farther west and the active operations of the war were confined to the country drained by the waters of the Ohio River and its tributaries.

[illegible]

Factum

