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Prelude to a Town

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CHAPTER #1 - PRELUDE TO A TOWN

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It would seem, in retrospect, to have been an unusual place for a town. With no waterway, no major traffic intersection, no railroad, no courthouse, and only a sparsely settled frontier population, Stanardsville in 1794 seems to have possessed none of the usual stimuli requisite for the creation of a town. Its only commercial advantage in that era seems to have been that the location afforded a convenient "stagecoach stop" for those traveling the "Richmond Road" between the Shenandoah Valley and Fredericksburg or Richmond. Yet, however, with the town being nestled among the green foothills below the purplish horizon of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west, and with the fertile, undulating land of the Piedmont to the east, a more idyllic location for natural scenic beauty could hardly have been imagined.

Subsequent chapters of this book will focus on specific facets of Stanardsville's history. In this opening chapter, however, our scope will be considerably larger, the primary goal being to put the founding of Stanardsville into the broader context of state, regional and local history. Our concern here is mainly with the long progression of historical events, some antedating the town's formation by more than a century, and most occurring well beyond the town's environs, that ultimately set the stage for the founding of the town of Stanardsville in 1794. This long saga of events comprises an integral part of Stanardsville's engaging legacy as a town on the western fringe of the Virginia Piedmont.

- LOOKING WESTWARD -

From the founding of the first English settlement in Virginia at Jamestown in 1607 and for several decades thereafter, the struggle for survival in Tidewater seems to have left the colonists with little time or inclination to consider the greater wilderness that lay to their west. As the pace of immigration to Virginia became more pronounced in the 1640-1670 era, however, there was a natural progression of English settlements farther inland along the

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waterways of the Tidewater region. This push westward was furthered by men such as Edward Bland, William Byrd, Abraham Wood and Cadwallader Jones, all of whom advocated and sought greater commerce with the Indians of the inland tribes, and some of the more daring fur traders of this era penetrated westward to remote outposts near the fall lines of the James and Rappahannock Rivers.

One of the earliest serious attempts at exploration of the western Piedmont of which we have record occurred in 1653. In this year, a group of "divers gentlemen" applied to the colonial government for permission to organize an exploration "to discover the mountains."¹ Permission was granted subject to their going "...with a considerable partie and strength both of men and ammunition,"² but this proposed expedition never materialized.

Governor William Berkeley, who was no advocate for education or learning in general,³ wished nevertheless that more might be learned about the interior of the Virginia colony. So passionate was his interest that in the spring of 1669 he planned to personally lead an expedition of 200 volunteers, who were to be drawn largely from the militia regiments on the frontier, and who were to travel beyond the mountains "...to find out the East India Sea."⁴ This bold proposal was not sanctioned by the British Crown, however, and it was finally aborted due to an unusually rainy season in the colony.

When the weather and other vicissitudes permitted another attempt, Governor William Berkeley commissioned three expeditions, two of which were to be made to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Instead of leading these expeditions himself, however, Berkeley gave the command to John Lederer, a young, well educated native of Hamburg, Germany who arrived in Virginia early in 1669.⁵

Launching his first expedition from an Indian village called Shickehamany near the falls of the York River, John Lederer set out westward on March 9, 1669 with three Indian guides for the "Apalataean Mountains."⁶ Braving the elements through the wilderness, Lederer reached the present Blue Ridge Mountains on March 17, 1669,⁷ and the general consensus is that he intersected the mountains somewhere in either present Greene or Madison County.⁸ Remaining in the Blue Ridge for one week, and scaling in the mountains on foot through the snow and cold, he found no means of passage through the range of mountains, and so on March 24 he turned eastward and retraced his trail to Tidewater.

John Lederer's second expedition to the Blue Ridge Mountains began near the falls of the Rappahannock River on August 20, 1670.⁹ Traveling with one Col. Catlet, nine mounted Englishmen, and five

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Indians on foot, Lederer and his party reached the mountains on the sixth day of their journey. Reaching the top of the Blue Ridge by foot "with much ado," as Lederer wrote, the party toasted the King's health with brandy (a precedent that would be followed two generations later by Governor Alexander Spotswood). Being again unable to find a passage through the mountains, however, Lederer and his entourage "unanimously agreed" to turn back, and never proceeded beyond the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains.¹⁰ Lederer erroneously believed, as did Governor Berkeley, that all lands west of the Blue Ridge lay in Spanish territory, and fearing capture by the Spanish, it is doubtful that Lederer would have proceeded beyond the crest of the Blue Ridge even had such a westward passage been discovered.¹¹

Did John Lederer pass through or near the present site of the town of Stanardsville a century and a quarter before the town's formation? Was this young German visitor to Virginia the first white man in this English colony to enter present Greene County? John Lederer's expeditions have been the subject of controversy among historians for centuries, and the vagueness of his own writings makes it difficult to now pinpoint the exact routes taken on his journeys into our region. Some inaccuracies in Lederer's writings served to obscure the importance of his accomplishments, causing derision rather than salutation in his own time,¹² and his explorations failed to stimulate any discernable increase in the settlement of the Piedmont region.

The first significant settlement in the Piedmont by white men was not made until 1700 when the colony granted 10,000 acres of land at Monakin, the site of an abandoned Manacan Indian village, to French Huguenots fleeing the persecutions of the French King Louis XIV.¹³ Located some twenty miles above the falls of the James River, Manakin was located in present Powhatan County.¹⁴

At the turn of the century in 1700, the Piedmont remained largely an unexplored and unsettled frontier, and despite the fledgling and ill-fated settlement at Manakin, the fall line of the James River was still referred to as being the "World's end."¹⁵ Aside from a general knowledge that France and Spain claimed certain lands somewhere beyond the mountains, the 72,000 colonists in Virginia's Tidewater still had virtually no conception of the size or geography of the continent on which they resided.

In 1705, the colonial government offered a monopoly on trade to any party who should thereafter "at his or their own charge, make discovery of any town or nation of Indians, situate or

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inhabiting to the westward of, or between the Appalatian mountains.¹⁶ This was obviously an incentive to encourage the frontiersmen to trade with the Indians west of the Blue Ridge, and indirectly to spur further exploration there. Just how much such trade was already under way by the time of the Spotswood expedition in 1716 is difficult to determine from extant records.

- THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR -

In the early 18th century, the governorship of Virginia was largely a titular role conferred upon members of the British aristocracy who never saw the Virginia shore.¹⁷ Lieutenant-governors were thus appointed to actually administer the daily functions of government and to preside over the Virginia House of Burgesses.

In 1710, Lt. Col. Alexander Spotswood, 1676-1740, was appointed lieutenant-governor of Virginia, and he arrived in the colony in June of that year to a warm reception at Williamsburg.¹⁸ Born at Tangier in Africa, but descended from a distinguished Scottish family,¹⁹ Spotswood's rise to prominence, if not predestined by his family's eminent station, was augmented by his own significant military career before arriving in Virginia.²⁰ In what may have been one of the most blatant examples in history of sending the proverbial fox to guard the chickens, Spotswood was sent to Virginia with a mandate from his superiors to put an end to land speculation in the colony.²¹

Whereas earlier leaders, explorers and traders in Virginia had looked westward primarily for commerce, Lieutenant-Governor Alexander Spotswood looked westward principally for advantages in military strategy. He saw the Blue Ridge Mountains as constituting a natural barrier of defense for the Virginia colony against a possible French invasion from the West, but only if the English moved to occupy and claim the strategic mountain passes before the French had an opportunity to do so. The French possessions in Canada and Louisiana would also be made more vulnerable, Spotswood reasoned, if the English could place settlements near Lake Erie to cut off the line of communications between the two French possessions, and to prevent the eventual joining of the French possessions in Canada and Louisiana.²²

It was commonly accepted in Spotswood's time that the Great Lakes lay just north of the Virginia colony, and the main question

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in Spotswood's mind was whether Lake Erie would be easily accessible from the passes of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia.²³ In seeking the answer to this question, the lieutenant-governor in 1716 organized an expedition which he personally led westward into the wilderness (and into history).

Alexander Spotswood was a man of energy and intelligence, but he was also a lover of pomp, circumstance and a good party, and his expedition to the Blue Ridge Mountains was characterized by great fanfare. Whereas most explorers and traders traveled in small parties with only a few Indian guides, Spotswood set out with an expedition party totaling 63 men, 74 horses, numerous dogs and an incredibly vast amount of alcoholic beverages.²⁴

The entourage included everyone from aristocratic land barons to their personal slaves and Indian guides, and as one historian has written, they "made quite an autumn picnic of it."²⁵

The lieutenant-governor and his party set out from Germanna, a fledgling German settlement in Spotsylvania County, early on the afternoon of August 29, 1716.²⁶ Seven days later, at about one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, September 5, 1716, Spotswood and his men reached the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains, reputedly at Swift Run Gap west of the present site of Stanardsville, where they drank toasts to the health of King George I and other members of the British royal family.²⁷ By nightfall of the same day the cavaliers had reached the present Shenandoah River, the westernmost terminus for Spotswood and the main body of his expedition party.²⁸

The exact routes taken by Spotswood and his entourage have been a subject of controversy for many years. Tradition holds, as previously noted, that the party crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains at Swift Run Gap west of the present site of Stanardsville, and the writings of John Fontaine, who was a member of the expedition party, lend weight to this theory.²⁹ Some modern scholars, however, dispute this tradition, holding that Spotswood actually crossed the Blue Ridge some thirteen miles north of Swift Run at Milam Gap near Big Meadows, and that he intersected the Shenandoah River near the present village of Alma about 14 miles north of Elkton.³⁰

Following his return, Spotswood created the "Tramontane Order" for those gentlemen who had toasted the King's health with him at the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and as a commemorative, he awarded a small symbolic golden horseshoe with the inscription "Sic juvat transcendere Montes" to each of the gentlemen who had earlier

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accompanied him on the expedition.³¹ It was said that these golden horseshoes were miniatures small enough to be worn on a watch chain,³² and the gentlemen of the colony who participated in the expedition came to be known as the "knights of the golden horseshoe." This colorful gesture was apparently not overshadowed by the fact that Spotswood then tried to charge the costs of the golden horseshoes to the British government, but the government refused payment.³³

In 1722, Lieutenant-Governor Spotswood traveled to Albany, New York, where he participated in the negotiation of a new treaty with the Six Nations of American Indians, including the Iroquois, in which the Indians agreed to stay beyond the Potomac River and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.³⁴ This Treaty of 1722 superseded an earlier and less restrictive Treaty of Albany, made in 1684, which had merely confined the Indians to the eastern slopes and foothills of the Blue-Ridge.³⁵ The new Treaty of Albany of 1722 effectively opened the entire Piedmont region of Virginia to English settlement.

If Alexander Spotswood had been somewhat out of character as an explorer in the wilderness in 1716, his expedition had nevertheless managed to quickly become a subject of fascination and folk lore for Virginians at all economic and social levels.³⁶ Spotswood was much more in character in subsequent years as a land speculator, businessman and promoter of settlements in the Piedmont region.

In pursuing his personal wealth in the Piedmont, Spotswood had no aversion to disobeying reform laws which he had personally initiated,³⁷ and he began a series of dubious land dealings in the region even before his golden horseshoes had been distributed.³⁸ Irrespective of his questionable personal scruples, however, Lieutenant-Governor Alexander Spotswood nevertheless played a profound and leading role in the early settlement of the Piedmont region of Virginia.

- EARLY LAND GRANTS -

Some of Spotswood's "knights of the golden horseshoe" of 1716, and members of their families, became "knights of land speculation," as did Spotswood himself, in the years following the expedition. While ostensibly the 1716 expedition had been undertaken to serve national interests, the members of the gentry on the expedition were even then viewing vast virgin lands which

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they might later obtain by grants from the British Crown. This appetite for the king's good land in the Piedmont region, including the areas that now comprise Stanardsville and Greene County, became voracious during the decade of the 1720's.

In 1722, a land grant was issued on 24,000 acres of land in what was then Spotsylvania County to eight prominent Virginians, including notably William Stanard, 1682-1732, of Middlesex County.³⁹ Known commonly as the Octonia Grant, this expanse of land extended from near Spicer's Mill on the Rapidan River in Orange County westward for some twenty miles across present central and north-central Greene County to the Blue Ridge Mountains.⁴⁰ When the eight grantees subsequently failed to comply with the terms of the grant, however, litigation ensued which eventually resulted in the grant being reissued solely to Robert Beverly in 1729.⁴¹ The town of Stanardsville stands today on a part of this early land grant.⁴²

The Octonia Grant extended northward to South River, and just north of the Octonia Grant, Francis Conway, a kinsman to the Stanard family, patented lands between South River and Middle River (a/k/a Conway River) in 1732.⁴³

Speculators were also moving into areas south of the present site of Stanardsville by the late 1720's, and grants issued by the Crown in these areas tended to be in the range of 800 to 1,000 acres. For example, George Taylor, who later became a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, and who was a collateral ancestor of President Zachary Taylor, patented 1,000 acres in the Amicus and Williams River areas in 1728.⁴⁴ Almost simultaneous to the 1728 Taylor grant, Samuel Estes was granted 900 acres of land along Roach's River near Celt to present Bingham's Mountain.⁴⁵

As these and numerous other early land speculators subsequently sold and leased smaller parcels from their original grants to the incoming settlers, the wilderness from Conway River south to Roach's River, including the area where Stanardsville stands today, soon began to show signs of the presence of His Majesty's subjects. There were still relatively few pioneers actually settled beyond the eastern fringe of present Greene County, however, when the Stanardsville area became a part of the newly formed county of Orange in 1734.⁴⁶

The decade of the 1730's brought new attention to the western Piedmont, and this was due in no small part to the controversy over the boundary lines of the Fairfax Proprietary. Lying to the north of the Octonia Grant, the vast Fairfax Proprietary extended from

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the present Greene-Madison County line northward 76.5 miles to the head spring of the Potomac River, and from there eastward to the Chesapeake Bay.⁴⁷ A dispute over the boundaries of the massive Proprietary gave rise to litigation, beginning in 1730, between the Colony of Virginia and Lord Fairfax (Thomas, Sixth Lord).⁴⁸ It was to require fifteen years of litigation and exacting surveys to resolve the dispute, and Lord Fairfax ultimately prevailed in 1745.⁴⁹

The final decree upheld Fairfax's contention that his domain extended southward to the "first spring" of the Conway River at what is today the Greene-Madison County line.⁵⁰ This final demarcation of the sprawling Fairfax Proprietary served to settle title to lands throughout the entire western and north-central Piedmont regions of the colony, which in turn stimulated settlements in those areas.

In 1744, the governors of the colonies of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and the leaders of the Six Nations of Indians, held a conference at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A treaty was signed at this meeting which gave Virginia official title to all lands within the colony which the Iroquois had formerly claimed.⁵¹ With this treaty, the last vestige of Indian claim to lands in the western Piedmont and Shenandoah Valley was finally extinguished.

- THE INFLUX -

From the mid-1700's through the post Revolutionary War era, the main story for the Stanardsville area was the rising population due to the continuing arrival of settlers. The wilderness was steadily giving way to small farms as increasing amounts of land came under cultivation with the growing population.

Some few early residents immigrated to present Greene County directly from England and Ireland.⁵² The majority, however, were natives of Virginia migrating westward. Of the later, some families came from Spotsylvania, Orange, Culpeper and other counties to the north and northeast, having originally followed the Rappahannock-Rapidan corridor from eastern Virginia. Other families migrated from Abemarle, Louisa, Hanover and other counties to the south and southeast, having earlier followed the James and Rivanna River basins westward from eastern Virginia.

From the Shenandoah Valley, families of Scot-Irish and German ancestry migrated into present Greene County, settling especially

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but not exclusively in the mountains and western foothills. From coastal Maryland, there was a significant wave of migration during the 1780's and 1790's, to areas predominantly along the Greene-Albemarle County line.⁵³ The slave population and a few free blacks accounted for the sizable African-American presence in the Stanardsville area in that era.

These early waves of immigration and migration brought a cross-section of people from diverse nationalities, religions and cultures into the greater Stanardsville area, and later into the town itself. Of the numerous "Rappahannock River families" who migrated into the area, one of the most prominent was the Stanard family of Spotsylvania County.

- WILLIAM STANARD -

William Stanard of "Roxbury" in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, was a gentleman of wealth and influence, and his ancestry was replete with ties to some of the Rappahannock River's most aristocratic families.⁵⁴ He was a great nephew of Robert Beverly who acquired the Octonia Grant in present Orange and Greene counties in 1729, and he was a grandson of William Stanard (1682-1732) of Middlesex County who was one of the eight original grantees of the Octonia lands in 1722.⁵⁵

The eldest son of Beverly Stanard and Elizabeth Beverly Chew Stanard of Spotsylvania County, William Stanard of "Roxbury" was an adolescent at the time of his father's untimely death in 1765.⁵⁶ His father's last will and testament, written on February 20, 1765, directed that young William be put to school, and that he continue at school until becoming "...liberally and genteely educated."⁵⁷

William Stanard of "Roxbury" married Elizabeth Hill Carter of "Blenheim," Albemarle County, daughter of Col. Edward Carter.⁵⁸ A lineal descendant of some of Virginia's most prominent citizens, such as Col. Edward Hill of "Shirley Plantation" in Charles City County and Colonial Governor Robert ("King") Carter, Elizabeth Hill Carter Stanard's ancestry was as endemic to the James River aristocracy as her husband's was to that of the Rappahannock.⁵⁹ William and Elizabeth Stanard had twenty-three children, but some died in early infancy, and only fourteen survived to adulthood.⁶⁰

In addition to inheriting the "Roxbury" estate in Spotsylvania County, William Stanard also became the owner of 6,000 acres of land in present Greene County.⁶¹ Stanard's sweeping plantation is believed to have originally run eastward from Stanardsville beyond

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the Fredricksburg Road, westward to the Blue Ridge Mountains and northward to South River.⁶² Stanard's plantation was comprised of what had formerly been the western end of the Octonia Grant, and the plantation included between six and seven percent of all of the land area within present Greene County.

William Stanard moved from his "Roxbury" estate in Spotsylvania County to his "Octonia Tract" plantation in Orange County (present Greene County) sometime prior to May 27, 1779.⁶³ He was residing in Orange in 1780 and 1781, when he supplied brandy, beef and fine flour to the American troops during the final years of the Revolutionary War,⁶⁴ and also when, in 1781 he had a transaction on land in Spotsylvania County with Fielding and Betty Lewis of Fredericksburg (brother-in-law and sister of George Washington).⁶⁵

In or before 1783, however, Stanard moved back to his native Spotsylvania where, on December 18, 1783, he was appointed a justice of the peace.⁶⁶

William Stanard had no aversion to looking well beyond the borders of Spotsylvania County for investment opportunities. By the mid-1790's, for example, in addition to his vast Virginia landholdings, Stanard was also owner of an undivided partial interest in a 26,000-acre parcel of land on the Dan River in North Carolina.⁶⁷

It was a land development endeavor that William Stanard of "Roxbury" initiated in western Orange County in 1794, however, that is of special concern to us here.

- STANARDSVILLE -

Early in the year of 1794, at which time he was residing at his estate in present Spotsylvania County, William Stanard founded the town of Stanardsville in western Orange County (present Greene County). He did so by subdividing 45 acres of his land lying on the "Richmond Road" into one-half acre lots, and he began selling the town lots in March of 1794.⁶⁸ A following chapter will more fully address the manner in which the lots were originally platted.

On December 19, 1794, the Virginia General Assembly passed an Act which gave Stanardsville formal status as an unincorporated town.⁶⁹ Interestingly, the town's name as written as two words, "Stanards Ville" or "Stannards Ville," with the letter "v" capitalized, in a number of early deeds.⁷⁰

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At the time of the founding of Stanardsville in 1794, George Washington was in his second term as president of the United States, and there were only two incorporated cities and five incorporated towns in the entire state of Virginia.⁷¹ Charlottesville, which had been established as a town in 1762, and Harrisonburg, which had been established as a town in 1780, were still small, unimpressive and unincorporated villages.⁷²

While the area that now comprises Greene County was no longer the wilderness in 1794 that it had been when white men first began to settle here in the 1720's, it was still quite rural in the 1790's with only a number of scattered hamlets, and it wasn't long before Stanardsville became the largest village in western Orange County.

Five years after forming the town of Stanardsville, William Stanard of "Roxbury" offered to donate four acres of his land adjoining the town of Stanardsville to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of "...erecting an arsenal for the repository of public arms."⁷³ The site of the proposed arsenal was on what is now Route 33, circuitously referred to in a state paper of that era as "...the main road leading from Staunton, through the Swift Run Gap, to Fredericksburg."⁷⁴

As the town of Stanardsville progressed in its developmental stage, its founder seems to have become increasingly involved in the affairs of distant Spotsylvania County. After serving as a justice of the Spotsylvania County Court for many years, William Stanard of "Roxbury" became the high sheriff of Spotsylvania in 1802, an office which he held for two years.⁷⁵ He also became a member of the Virginia House of Delegates in the state legislature.⁷⁶

William Stanard of "Roxbury," founder of Stanardsville, died in 1807, and his funeral was conducted in Fredericksburg. During his funeral service, a candle was inadvertently overturned which started a fire that brought great devastation on the town of Fredericksburg, reducing about half of the town to ashes.⁷⁷

As Stanardsville had surely become a busy little village by 1807, William Stanard had lived long enough to see that survival was assured for the picturesque little town that he had founded in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and to which he had indelibly attached the honorable surname of Stanard.

- EPILOGUE -

In this chapter, our concern has been with the long pageantry

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of time, people and events that ultimately set the stage for the founding of the town of Stanardsville in 1794. With this historical perspective on the town's heritage at its founding, we now move on to explore other aspects of Stanardsville's long and engaging history in following chapters.

1. John Fiske, Old Virginia and Her Neighbors, Vol. II, (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co.), "1879" p. 384.

2. Ibid.

3. Jean Gottmann, Virginia At Mid-Century, (New York, N.Y.: Henry Holt and company), 1955, p. 545. Berkeley's philosophy was, in effect, that the dissemination of information tended to breed insurrection.

4. Alan Vance Briceland, Westward From Virginia, (Charlottesville, VA.: University Press of Virginia), 1987, pp. 94, 95, for details of Berkeley's proposed expedition in 1669; George F. Willison, Behold Virginia: The Fifth Crown. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co.), 1951, pp. 396, 397, gives the date of Berkeley's aborted expedition as 1668.

5. Briceland, Westward from Virginia, p. 96.

6. Sir William Talbot, Baronet, The Discoveries of John Lederer, (London, England, 1672; reprinted Rochester, N.Y., 1902) p. 9.

7. Ibid.

8. Virginius Dabney, Virginia, The New Dominion. (Garden City, New York.: Doubleday & Company, Inc.), 1971, p. 46, gives the mountains of Madison County as the probable destination; Davidson C. Miller, Esquire, "Greene County--Its Early History," Greene County Magazine, Vol. 7, (Stanardsville, VA.: Greene County Historical Society), 1990, p. 55, cites High Top Mountain or Saddleback Mountain in Greene County as the probable destination. At least one other source corroborates the High Top Mountain-Swift Run Gap area as having been the most probable destination for Lederer.

9. Talbot, John Lederer, p. 23.

10. Ibid., 25.

11. Lederer wrote: "I though(t) it not safe to venture my self amongst the Spaniards, lest taking me for a Spy, they would either make (take) me away, or condemn me to a perpetual Slavery in their

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Mines." Briceland, Westward From Virginia, p. 96. Briceland's theory is that Lederer may have been under orders from Governor Berkeley not to proceed beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains for fear of provoking the Spanish.

12. Alf J. Mapp, Jr., The Virginia Experiment, (Richmond, Va.: The Dietz Press, Inc.), 1957, p. 216: Lederer believed that he had received no "welcomè and applause" for his explorations, but only "affronts and reproaches."

13. Dr. John E. Manahan, Ph.D. Ed., The Huguenot, Pub. No. 25, (The Huguenot Society Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia, Inc., Publisher), p. 5; William Edwin Hemphill, Marvin Wilson Schlegel, and Sadie Ethel Engelbert, Editors, Cavalier Commonwealth, History and Government of Virginia, (Webster Division, McGraw-Hill Book Co.), p. 91.

14. Ibid.

15. Gottmann, Virginia at Mid-Century, p. 78.

16. John W. Wayland, Ph.D., A History of Rockingham County, Virginia, Harrisonburg, VA.: C.J. Carrier Co.: 1980, 3rd pr.), p. 33, quoting Hening's Statutes, Vol. 3, p. 468.

17. J.R.V. Daniel, A Hornbook of Virginia History, Richmond, VA.: Virginia Department of History of the Virginia Department of Conservation & Development), 1949, p. 99, states that the practice of appointing absentee governors of the Virginia colony began in 1697.

18. Sir Leslie Stephen & Sir Sidney Lee, Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. 18, (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 1917, p. 817; Academic American Encyclopedia. (Danbury, Cn.: Grolier, inc.), 1985, Vol. 18, p. 198; Fiske, Old Virginia, pp 370 & 371.

19. Ibid. Alexander Spotswood's father, Robert Spotswood, was the personal physician to the governor of Tangier in Africa. A descendant of the Spottiswood family, one of Alexander's direct ancestors had served as secretary of state for Scotland, and still an earlier member of his family had been chancellor of Scotland.

20. For more on Spotswood's military career in Britain, see Stephen and Lee, Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. 18, p. 817.

21. Hemphill, Schlegel and Engelberg, Cavalier Commonwealth, p. 91.

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22. Fiske, Old Virginia, pp. 387 and 388 for Spotswood's reasoning and his personal writings on military strategy.
23. Ibid.
24. Dabney, Virginia, The New Dominion, p. 79. Raleigh Travers Green, Genealogical And Historical Notes on Culpeper County, Virginia, (Baltimore, Md.: Regional Publishing Co.), 1983, at p. 38 cites the size of the expedition party as "about fifty persons."
25. Fiske, Old Virginia, p. 385.
26. Green, Culpeper County, quoting John Fontaine's journal.
27. Ibid., p. 40. The general concensus by most students of the Spotswood expedition is that the party passed within one to two miles of the present site of the town of Stanardsville en route to Swift Run Gap.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid., pp. 38-40.
30. Dabney, Virginia, The New Dominion, p. 79.
31. Green, Culpeper County, pp. 37,42.
32. ibid., p.42.
33. Ibid. p. 37.
34. Josiah Look Dickinson, The Fairfax Proprietary, (Front Royal, Va.: Warren Press), 1959, p. 135; Mapp, Virginia Experiment, pp. 216,217; Gottmann, Virginia at Mid-Century, p. 78. (Green, Culpeper County, p. 42, refers to Five Nations of Indians rather than Six.)
35. Dickinson, Fairfax Proprietary, pp. 133,135.
36. Fiske, Old Virginia, p. 385, for popularity of the Spotswood expedition among his contemporaires; Green, Culpeper County, p. 37, for extent of early exaggerated folklore concerning the expedition.
37. Hemphill, Schlegel and Engelberg, Cavalier Commonwealth, p. 91
38. Clifford Dowdey, The Virginia Dynasties, (Boston & Toronto: Little, Brown & Co.), 1969, p. 278; Willison, Behold Virginia, p. 351.

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39. Calder Loth, Editor, The Virginia Landmarks Register, 3rd. ed, (Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia Historic Landmarks Board, University Press of Virginia), 1987, p. 178. This William Stanard is not to be confused with his grandson of the same name who later founded the town of Stanardsville.

40. J. Randolph Grymes, Jr., The Octonia Grant in Orange and Greene Counties, (Ruckersville, Va.: Seminole Press), 1977, appendix E; Orange County, Virginia deed records.

41. Thomas Edward Johnson, A History of Greene County, Virginia, (Stanardsville, VA.: Greene County Publishers, Inc.), pp. 74, 110.

42. Grymes, Octonia Grant, p. F-3 and map exhibit.

43. O. Garth Fitzhugh, "Conway-Fitzhugh Cemetery," Greene County Magazine, Vol.7, (Stanardsville, Va.: Greene County Historical Society), 1990, p. 52; Nell Marion Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 3, (Richmond, Va.), 1979, p. 417.

44. Verified through Orange County, Virginia Court records; the grant was issued, however, before Orange County was formed from Spotsylvania. For Taylor's service in the House of Burgesses, see John H. Gwathmey, Twelve Virginia Counties, Baltimore, Md: Genealogical Publishing Co.), 1937, repr. 1979, p. 281.

45. Mr. Stewart Estes Wood of Glen Allen, Va., supplied the writer with a copy of the Estes land grant, and the late Mr. Clarence Bruce of Earlys ville contributed oral history regarding its boundaries; original is recorded in Spotsylvania County, Virginia Court records.

46. Daniel, Hornbook, p. 17.

47. Dickinson, Fairfax Proprietary, p. 9.

48. Virginia Magazine of History & Biography, Vol. 34, pp. 36 & 37, as quoted by Dickinson, Fairfax Proprietary, p.7.

49. Ibid.; Dickinson, Fairfax Proprietary, p. 10.

50. Dickinson, Fairfax Proprietary, p. 10.

51. Ibid., p. 135.

52. In 1749, for example, William Monroe, Richard Lamb, Samuel Bird and William Sims testified in Orange County Court of their recent immigration from Great Britain, and Jane Morris, James Collins and Elizabeth Douglas testified to their recent immigration from Ireland. (Orange Co., Va. Order Book 5, p. 234.).

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53. One exception was John Melone, who came from Maryland and purchased a lot within the town of Stanardsville in 1795. (See Orange county, Va. D.B. 21, p. 235; Melone's migration from Maryland contributed by Mr. & Mrs. William M. Melone of Sun City, Az.)

54. William Stanard of "Roxbury" was a direct descendant of the Beverly, Chew, Conway and Eltonhead families, to name only a few.

55. Genealogies of Virginia Families, Vol. 4, (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co.), 1982, indexed by Judith McGhan, pp. 549-551, for genealogy of the Stanard family.

56. Beverly Stanard and Elizabeth Beverly Chew were married in Spotsylvania County, Virginia on April 19, 1750 so it is unlikely that William was more than 14 years old, at most, when his father died in 1765. (Elizabeth Petty Bentley, Virginia Marriage Records, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Pub. Co.), 1982, p. 552, for marriage date.)

57. William Armstrong Crozier, Virginia County Records, Volume 1, "Spotsylvania County, 1721- 1800," (Baltimore, MD.: Genealogical Pub. Co.), 1971, p. 22, for Beverly Stanard's will.

58. Grymes, Octonia Grant, p. 7; Virginia Families, Vol. 4, p. 550.

59. William and Mary College Quarterly, Vol. 22, No. 4, April, 1914, p. 269; Rev. Edgar Woods, Albemarle County in Virginia, (Charlottesville, Va.: Michie Co., 1901; repr. 1989, Heritage Books, Inc.), p. 163; The Virginia magazine of History & Biography, 1898, Vol. 5, p. 409.

60. Virginia Families, Vol. 4, p. 549.

61. William Stanard's father, Beverly Stanard, inherited 6,000 acres of the Octonia Grant from his uncle, Robert Beverly, in 1733 (Johnson, Greene county, p. 74). William Stanard was eldest son and principal heir of Beverly Stanard, and apparently the 6,000 acres of the Octonia Grant was part of William's patrimony.

62. Grymes, Octonia Grant, Map exhibit.

63. Ruth and Sam Sparacio, Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, (1778-1786), (McLean, VA.), 1986, p. 14, which verifies that Stanard was actually living on his "Octonia tract" in Orange (now Greene) as of May 27, 1779, and that the parcel retained the Octonia name at that date.

64. Orange County, VA. Minute Book 2.

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65. Crozier, County Records, Vol. 1, p. 357.
66. Wilmer L. Hall, Ed., Journals of the Council of the State of Virginia, Vol. 3, 2nd. ed., (Richmond, Va.), 1969, p. 318.
67. Crozier, County Records, Vol. 1, pp. 485, 486.
68. Grymes, Octonia Grant, pp. 43, F-8, F-9 and F-10. (Reference here is to actual dates on which deeds were written and dated, without respect to dates of recordations in court records.)
69. Ibid. pp. 43 & F-3.
70. For some examples of the town name being so spelled, see Orange county, Va. D.B. 21, pp. 2, 47, 49 and 235.
71. J. Devereux Weeks, Dates of Origin of Virginia counties and Municipalities, (Charlottesville, VA.: Institute of Government. University of Virginia). 1967, pp 8 and 10.
72. Daniel, Hornbook, pp. 27 and 29.
73. G.W. Flourney, Calendar of Virginia State Papers , Vol. 9, (Richmond, Va.), 1890, p. 70.
74. Ibid.
75. Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden, M.A., Virginia Genealogies, (Washington, D.C.: The Rare Book Shop, publisher), repr. 1931, p. 279.
76. Ibid.
77. Workers of Writer's Program, W.P.A Virginia; A Guide to the Old Dominion, (New York: Oxford University Press), 1940, p. 217.