



Mulberry Island Notes

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

JULY 2022

The Free State of Warwick

PEN SKETCHES OF VIRGINIA SECTIONS

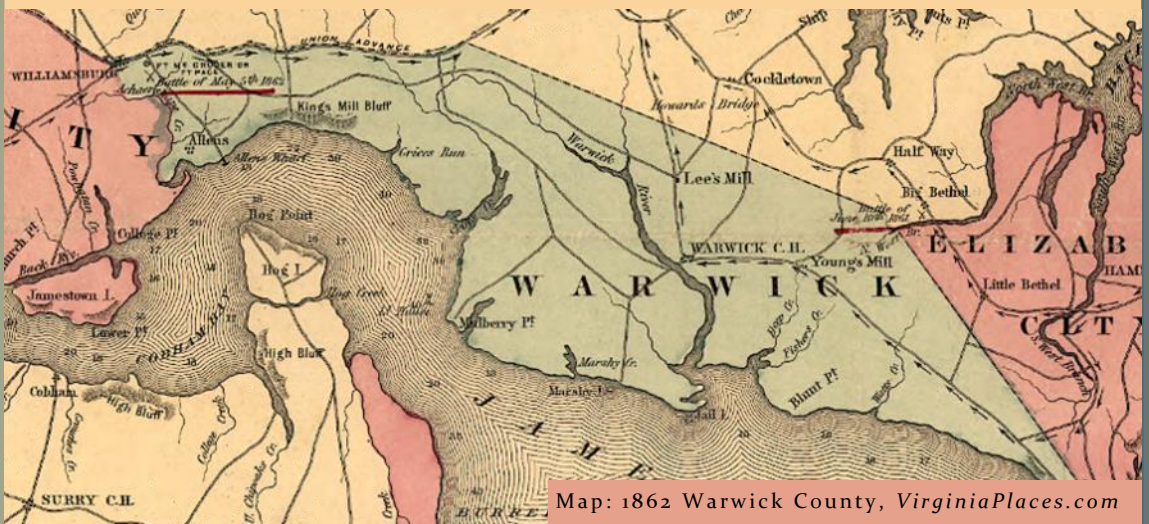
Warwick County the South Carolina of Virginia Bailiwicks

GREAT POLITICAL FIGHTERS

Keen Sportsmen and Earnest Seekers After Office

They Attend to Their Own Business and Let Balance of World Wag as it Will.

Times, Volume 17, Number 235, November 9, 1902



Map: 1862 Warwick County, VirginiaPlaces.com

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FOR
NON-MEMBERS
Donations Appreciated

Warwick County is the land of superlatives, where human nature has reached the *ne plus ultra* in many respects. It is the land of the limit along many lines. Unimportant as to dimensions, this little bailiwick makes as much fuss in Virginia affairs as any three of the big counties in the State, a fact due to the fervid and aggressive disposition of the inhabitants. Their most striking characteristic is their habit of standing for what they consider their rights under all circumstances and in any event. On a question of personal privilege, they are as unyielding as the eternal hills. Upon matters abstract, their rigidity is almost as pronounced.

They contend for a principle with the same tenacity that they fight for a prerogative.

It is said, and with some show of truth, that there is something in the atmosphere down here on the southern end of the Peninsula which induces a tendency to "scrap." One may well believe it. It is in evidence that the most peaceable of mortals may come thither and breathe the atmosphere for a few months with the almost certain prospect of imbibing the bellicose spirit that seems inherent in those raised up along the lower James.

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THE PEDESTRIAN

MEMBER NEWS AT ITS BEST

Courthouse Records are Almost Ready for Primetime

The long effort to preserve and catalogue Warwick County's history in the 1810 Courthouse is reaching a milestone. And though the cataloguing work is ongoing and the collection is continually growing, a large number of completed historical records will soon be available for public consumption.

A search function will be enabled through our website that will allow anyone to search our database and the results will be reachable through standard search engines as well. We'll let everyone know when it's up and running. Thank you to our volunteers for their help and members for their support of this worthy endeavor.

Photo Negative Project is Yielding Results

The society was honored to recently receive a donation of a final box of photo negatives to add to our Histand collection of amazing aerial photography. This misplaced box was sent to us by James Histand, Jr. and contain lost images not seen by modern eyes. They are dated from 1948 to 1965 and cover a wide area of old Warwick Co.

The effort to develop these images was taken on by VP Henry Piland and involves photographing the negatives while they are placed on a light box. Then, those images are inverted using software that allows them to be developed and enhanced as needed. The job is large in that there are several hundred images which all need multi-step processes performed to yield results.

Thanks to Henry for his solid work!

Volunteers Needed for 62nd Annual Denbigh Day

After a pandemic downtime, the Denbigh Day Parade and Festival will be roaring back on Saturday, September 17th. The event starts off with a parade at 10 am and runs till 4 pm at the site of the old Denbigh Elementary School (Now Courthouse Way Community Center).

Henry the Mule will be making an appearance as Denbigh's honorary dead mule. There'll be a full day of entertainment, festival foods, and activities for children, with amusements and Teeny Tiny Farm animals for petting.

The Warwick County Historical Society plans a booth at Denbigh Day and will coincide with an "open house" at the 1810 courthouse. Volunteers are needed at both sites.

Exciting Program Coming to WCHS March 15, 2023

Principal Archaeologist Nicholas Lucchetti and Curator Bly Straube of the James River Institute for Archaeology will highlight Balthrope's legacy and the significant artifacts recovered during their 1980s' exploration.

The fascinating ownership of Balthrope (or Boldrup) reads like a Who's Who of colonial Virginia figures; easily earning it designation on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1626, ancient planter William Claiborne patented 5,000 acres along the Warwick River above Denbigh. Captain Samuel Stevens next acquired the estate in 1631. His wife, Frances Culpeper, inherited the estate upon his death. Governor Sir William Berkeley married the wealthy widow, and sold the 1,350-acre plantation to his close advisor Colonel William Cole in 1671.

The Use of the Past; The Ground We Stand On

"Every generation rewrites the past. In easy times history is more or less of an ornamental art, but in times of danger we are driven to the written record by a pressing need to find answers to the riddles of today. We need to know what kind of firm ground other men, belonging to generations before us, have found to stand on. In spite of changing conditions of life, they were not very different from ourselves, their

thoughts were the grandfathers of our thoughts, they managed to meet situations as difficult as those we have to face, to meet them sometimes light-heartedly, and in some measure to make their hopes prevail. We need to know how they did it."

"In times of change and danger when there is a quicksand of fear under men's reasoning, a sense of continuity with generations gone before can stretch like

a lifeline across the scary present and get us past that idiot delusion of the exceptional 'Now' that blocks good thinking. That is why, in times like ours, when old institutions are caving in and being replaced by new institutions not necessarily in accord with most men's preconceived hopes, political thought has to look backwards as well as forwards."

John Dos Passos 1941

Praise for J. Thomas Newsome

Courtesy of The Newsome House Museum & Cultural Center



Newport News Attorney,
Joseph Thomas Newsome
(June 2, 1872 - March 8, 1942)

JOSEPH THOMAS NEWSOME was born a few years after the dismantling of slavery into very humble circumstances in Sussex County, Virginia. His early education was limited to a few months of schooling a year, but community leaders realizing his potential encouraged him to further his studies.

Through hard work and self-determination, he finished the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute in Petersburg, and received his law degree from Howard University. After marrying his former college sweetheart, Mary Beatrice Winfield, they located to Newport News. Their elegant 1899 Queen Anne residence served as the hub of the local black community. From their home, the Newsomes led the fight for social justice for African Americans in Southeastern Virginia. The Warwick County Colored Voters League and a campaign to construct a permanent Huntington High School for African American youth were two of the many projects launched from there.

In addition to being the premier black attorney in Southeast Virginia, he edited *The Newport News Star*, a weekly black newspaper, and was a prominent church leader. In 1921, at the height of Jim Crow and in opposition to the segregated political process, Newsome ran for state attorney general as part of the Lily Black Republican Party ticket. In tribute to him, when he died in 1942 the city courts were closed on the day of his funeral. More than a 1,000 mourners attended the service.

Below: *Richmond Planet*, March 13, 1911. Volume 25, Number 18, 1 April 1911



David
Gardiner
Tyler
(1846 - 1927)

To Whom it May Concern:
I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the excellent character of Attorney J. Thomas Newsome, a member of the bar of this court. He has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession before me as Judge of this, the Fourteenth Circuit of Virginia, for the past seven years and I have always found him a sober, industrious, reliable attorney, a man of high intelligence and a good citizen.
Given under my hand this 13th day of March 1911,
D. G. TYLER, Judge Circuit Court of Warwick County, VA.

David Gardiner Tyler - US Congressman. The son of President John Tyler, served in the Confederate Army as a private in the Rockbridge Artillery, which was part of the Army of Northern Virginia's 1st Virginia Battalion. He served from 1863 until the surrender at Appomattox in 1865.

He was elected as a Democrat to represent Virginia's 2nd District in the United States House of Representatives, serving from March 4, 1893 to March 3, 1897.

To Whom it May Concern:
J. Thomas Newsome has been a successful practitioner of law at the bar of the court over which I preside for some twelve or more years. I doubt if there is a colored lawyer in the State who is in all respects his equal, and I feel satisfied he has not a superior. His success has been as much due to his trustworthiness as to his ability, I think. I have found him very careful to make good to court and bar any undertaking he might make for himself or his client. He is zealous and industrious in representing the interests of his clients; but, so far as I have been able to see, lets not his zeal trespass upon his honor. He seems to throw his influence on the side of the betterment and uplift of his race.
Very Truly T. J. BARHAM, Judge Corporation Court of the City of Newport News.



Edward
Cooper
Madison
(1857 - 1937)

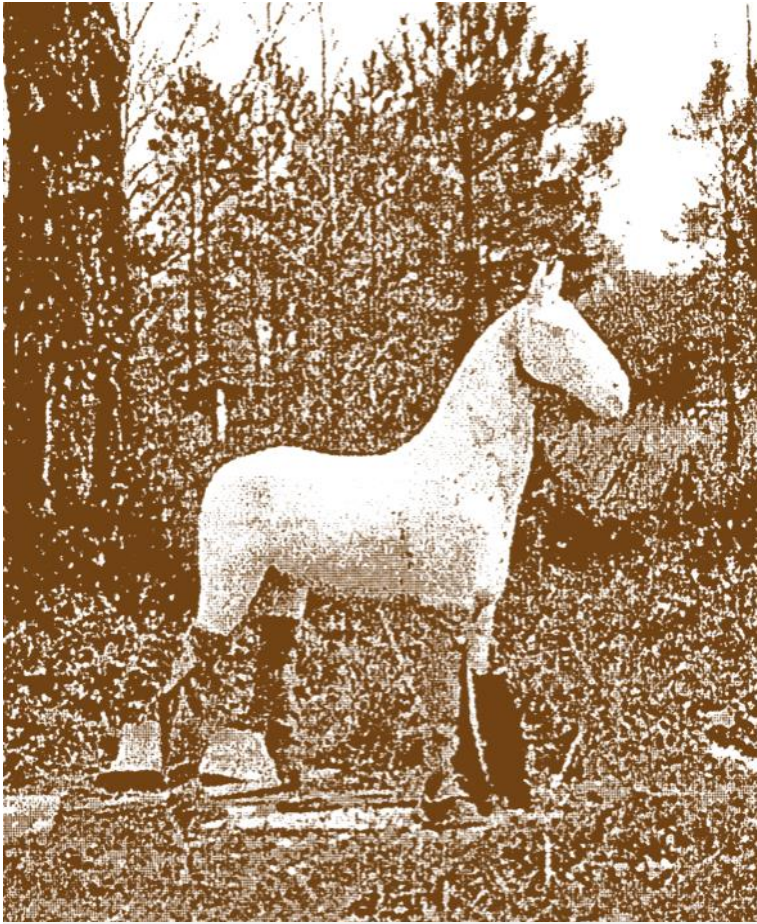
I concur in the above as to character, etc.
E.C. MADISON, Chief of Police,
Warwick County, Va.

Born in Sunnyside, Orange County, VA. on March 5, 1857 to Dr. James Ambrose Madison and Lucy Maria Hiden; Edward Cooper Madison married Elizabeth Fox "Lizzie" Stagg and had four children. He passed away on Dec 5, 1937 in Denbigh, Warwick Co., VA.

Edward Cooper Madison was third cousin to President James Madison. (*Ancestry.com*)

REMEMBERING THE WHITE HORSE

Gloria Piland Rogers



Images of America , Newport News by Jane Carter Webb Photograph by A C Brown, courtesy of the Webb collection

It has been nearly a century since folks traveling cross-country by automobile began to get their kicks on Route 66. If, however, you were in Virginia and heading north from Carolina or the Norfolk area you might have taken a ferry across Hampton Roads or by 1928 you could have crossed the historic James River on what was then the world's longest bridge. As you began your journey through rural Warwick County you would have been traveling on Route 60.

Granted, the scenery here was quite different from that along Route 66. While there were no teepees or buffaloes there were a couple of old gristmills, a few herds of cattle and the White Horse. He stood in the middle of Warwick on the east side of the highway above Causey's Mill and just below Crigler's Auto Court. (Right)

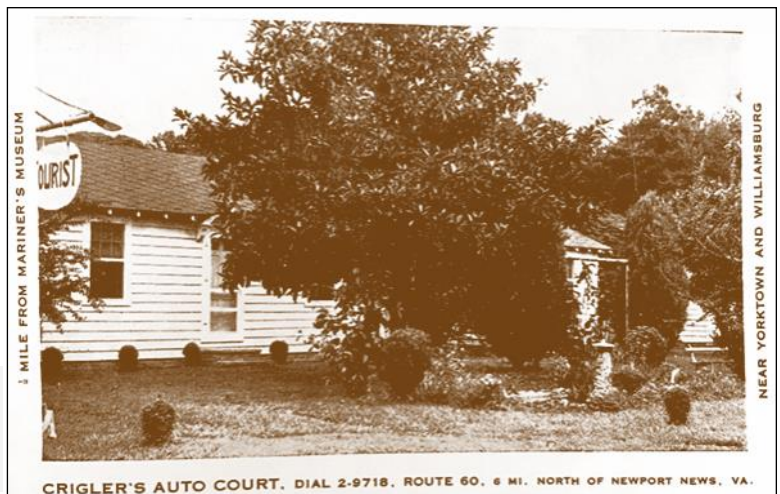
Source: *Daily Press*; Monday, March 1, 1999, pp. C1 & C2, "Shoes on this lane came in fours" by Jennifer Williams-Valqui
Personal knowledge

I saw him twice each day on the way to and from Morrison Elementary School, Orcutt Avenue Baptist Church, the Village Theatre and on shopping trips to Hilton or Newport News. Like Mr. Joe Walters who brought our mail, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night" prevented this faithful equine "from the swift completion" of his purpose. But what, I wondered, could his purpose be for it appeared to me that he could not do anything.

Throughout my childhood he stood motionless on Warwick Road with his nose pointing toward Shoe Lane. And that, I discovered at some point, was the sole purpose for which he was created. His one and only reason for being was to direct folks to a riding school located just a short distance down Shoe Lane. Though I often heard him referred to as the stone horse or the concrete horse, a 1999 *Daily Press* article stated he was made of plaster-of-Paris.

According to that article, Dorothy Shade owned the school which was originally located at Camp Morrison where Warwick Shopping Center is today. In the early 1930s she acquired the Shoe Lane property and after marrying R. W. Mitchell in the 1940s she changed the name to Briarpatch Riding Academy.

When the Mitchells left the area in 1948, Eddie and Ellen Huffman purchased the farm. Their daughter, Sally Sue Andrews, recalled that during their ownership, horse shows were held there and became quite popular. I remember passing by on Sunday afternoons and seeing the horses prancing, trotting and skillfully jumping the rails.





Morrison Elementary School of 1940s & '50s was located in the former Morrison High School building, circa 1929. In this aerial view from a 1950s Warwick High School annual, it can be seen attached to the rear of the new high school. The smaller white building on the right and the long lower building on the left were temporary metal buildings added in the late '40s and were referred to as the "chicken coops". The road behind the school is the present Gatewood Road.

By the late forties many Newport News residents were moving into the county and Warwick's midsection was the choice location at that time. As the population here increased so did the traffic on Warwick and the poor White Horse began to suffer. I don't recall how much longer he remained at the corner but I believe he witnessed Route 60's name change from Warwick Road to Warwick Boulevard.

Frequently, especially on Sunday mornings, it was obvious he had been involved in a traffic "accident" the previous night. Over time his injuries became more and more serious and I was crushed when I learned that his wounds were not accidental. It seems there were youngsters ----- not Warwick Farmers, I'm sure --- who got a thrill from running their cars into the poor old fellow in an attempt to knock him down. Finally he was retired from duty and moved down on the farm but then progress eliminated the farm. After it was sold to land developers a new residential area appeared which included streets named Paddock Drive and Briarpatch Place.

I don't know where the horse went after that and today even the corner of Warwick and Shoe Lane has disappeared! Sometimes I can hardly recall where it used to be because the entire east end of the road --- from Moores Lane out to the highway --- is now part of the beautiful Christopher Newport University campus. In the aforementioned news article, the late Juanita Granger who lived on South Moores Lane and was Dorothy Shade Mitchell's stepdaughter, is quoted as saying, "We had our riding school and used to ride our horses all back where CNU is now."

It's been many decades since the White Horse was put out to pasture but occasionally as I travel in that area I can almost envision him standing there on the side of the road near the Subway Station. I'm confident I am not the only one who has missed this famous Warwick landmark since he left his spot on old Route 60.

Gloria Piland Rogers



James Daniel Crigler Sr., 81, 107 Lucas Creek Road, Newport News, died Thursday in Riverside Hospital after a long illness. A native of Madison County, he had been a Peninsula resident since 1919. He was a graduate of the College of William and Mary. Crigler was a coach and teacher at Morrison High School (now Warwick High School) until his retirement in 1945. After his retirement he owned and operated Crigler Auto Court (now Warwick Motel) until 1956.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Marion Freeman Crigler; a son, James Daniel Crigler of Charlottesville; a sister, Mrs. Clyde C. Sedwick; and a brother, Robert F. Crigler, both of Orange, and two grandchildren.

A graveside service will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in Peninsula Memorial Park by the Rev. William R. Kyle, Jr. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday in Jennell Funeral Home.

Crigler taught Science and was the Athletic Director at Morrison High School

Daily Press; Friday, 7 January 1977, p. 21

The Free State of Warwick

Times, Volume 17, Number 235, November 9, 1902

CONT. FROM COVER



There is something wrong and abnormal about the lungs of that individual who has been here any length of time and will not "scrap."

Indeed, there is something the matter with him if he does not acquire a certain unholy joy in the pastime.

THE FEUD POLITICAL

At any rate, the people of Warwick will fight and to the bitter end, be the weapons what they may. This disposition is especially noticed in politics. The feud political never ends. Men may come and men may go but the feud political goes on forever. It may originate in some comparatively unimportant division of sentiment upon some abstract proposition, or in some slight personal difference. It does not matter. The parties to the schism enlist themselves body and soul in the cause, employing in its behalf their time, energy, intelligence, diplomacy and, if need be, their fists.

But through it all, the individual is never for a moment obliterated. The keynote to the character of the Warwick-er is personal independence. He has enough of it, occasionally perhaps, too much. There are times when it was politic if not agreeable to banish self-consideration and surrender personal claims.

Representing the essence of the Republican idea, the true Warwick man stands first of all for his home and

family; after that, his magisterial district is exceedingly close to him. Then, in order, come his county, state and country. For the world at large he cares not overly much. For the opinion of the same he cares not at all. He hoes his own row and paddles his own canoe. He is the best of fathers and husbands, the very best; his equal in this respect is not to be found. As a neighbor, he may or may not be the most desirable. If you are his friend, he is the finest neighbor in the world. He will give you anything on earth he has and put himself to endless trouble to do you a favor. He is kindly, tender, generous. If you are an enemy, he simply ignores your existence unless you happen to collide with him whereupon you may find that he can be very attentive.

POLITICAL HEIRLOOMS

The love of office is as inherent in the good man of Warwick as the love of hunting. His achievements in both respects are notable. The best huntsmen of the effete east are to be found in this little county: the best sportsmen, also, the best officeholders. As far as possible, offices are handed down from father to son until they have become almost hereditary in certain cases. If they cannot be passed on directly down through the generations, they are at least kept in the family, very much as treasured heirlooms. One does not like to see an heirloom pass to the possession of a stranger.

The man of Warwick loves his dog, his horse and his gun. The Warwick dogs and horses can't be beat; in which respect they are like their owners. They are game. It is a fact worthy of note that in a community

Warwick County Courthouse Square, c. 1948,
James L. Histand, Sr. collection—WCHS



where you find fine horses and fine dogs, you are absolutely certain to find fine people. In old Virginia the three are inevitably and inextricably associated. They stand for the spirit of the olden times. In them, other days live again. In Warwick, barring the absence of slaves, there has been little change since the war. The people live very much as they used to live and haven't taken the trouble to adjust themselves specifically to new conditions. They have succeeded in making a number of new conditions adjust themselves to them. It is a picturesque and interesting combination. One could not desire a change. We love the people of the little county because they are so independent and free, so nonchalant, because they have within them the spirit of the impossible old days, and care very little how the world wags so they get what is coming to them; because they do not meddle with the affairs of others but will die in their tracks before they will let anybody meddle with theirs because they resent imposition: because, if their enmities are strong and lasting, their friendships are enduring and everlasting.

THE OLD FREE STATE

It is not a matter of wonder that with such a people, Warwick County got the name of "The Old Free State of Warwick." There is nothing fanciful about the title. The people had a reputation of attending to their own business and of brooking no interference from the outside. Since early days they have managed their own affairs irrespective to a large degree of the rest of the state. They administered the business of the county to suit themselves, and administered it well, but their attitude was always that other counties, and the state in general had very little to do with them. The county was practically a free and sovereign state. Its relations with other counties and with the central government at Richmond were reserved and dignified as were the relations of Virginia with the Federal Government at Washington in the era when the states' rights idea was dominant.

An illuminated Warwick Courthouse
Daily Press, November 29, 1983



The 1884 Warwick Courthouse with "Chuck," c. 1890

The idea is dying out in Warwick more slowly than in any other section of the country, only down here it is called county rights instead of states' rights. The theory is the same. Its application is simply restricted. The old fathers of the republic would feel very much at home in the free State of Warwick could they revisit Earth.

W. P. JOHNSON



MULBERRY ISLAND & THE CIVIL WAR

April 1861 - May 1862

Fort Eustis Historical and Archaeological Association March 1963

Excerpts of the work of historian Emma-Jo L. Davis

Continued from the April 2022 edition of Mulberry Island Notes

THE TEMPO INCREASES (8 JANUARY - 7 MARCH 1862):

On 8 January the enemy sounded the Swash Channel off Mulberry Island and again Magruder thought an attempt might be able to land between Land's End and Mulberry Island and carry the little water-battery from the rear. However, Mr. Noland, who apparently had been persuaded to remain at his post in spite of the problems of rank, was still in command at Mulberry Island Point and Magruder felt that with the assistance of the vessels of the James River Squadron and with the fort under Noland's command, such an attack would be unsuccessful.⁴² Magruder asked again that Mr. Noland be commissioned, but this time he suggested that he be made a lieutenant colonel instead of a major as he had previously recommended. By 16 January Noland received his commission as a lieutenant colonel.

Magruder also reported in January that 30 Negroes were working at Mulberry Island; 200 were needed.⁴³

On 19 January 1862, Colonel Hill Carter, commanding at Jamestown, protested to Magruder a proposal to move his guns to Mulberry Island.

... In my humble judgment it would be bad policy to abandon the defenses at Jamestown and concentrate upon the one point at Mulberry Island, although if there be not guns enough for all the batteries, I admit the policy of giving preference to Mulberry Point and Harden's Bluff If Jamestown is to be abandoned, I can only hope that Yorktown and Mulberry Island will be made impregnable, else the Peninsula will be in danger, and perhaps Virginia overrun.⁴⁴

On 31 January, the fourth false alarm since the fortifications were erected, Magruder telegraphed his forces that a fleet of 63 Federal vessels had been seen off Fort

Monroe, including 8 gunboats and 2 sloops of war with 22 guns each. He ordered, "Have everything put on the alert. Put on the alert the officers in charge at Land's End, Mulberry Point, and ships of war in James River, and Hardy's (Harden's) Bluff."⁴⁵ If vessels were seen coming up the James River, a gun was to be fired from Land's End and repeated 5 minutes afterwards.⁴⁶

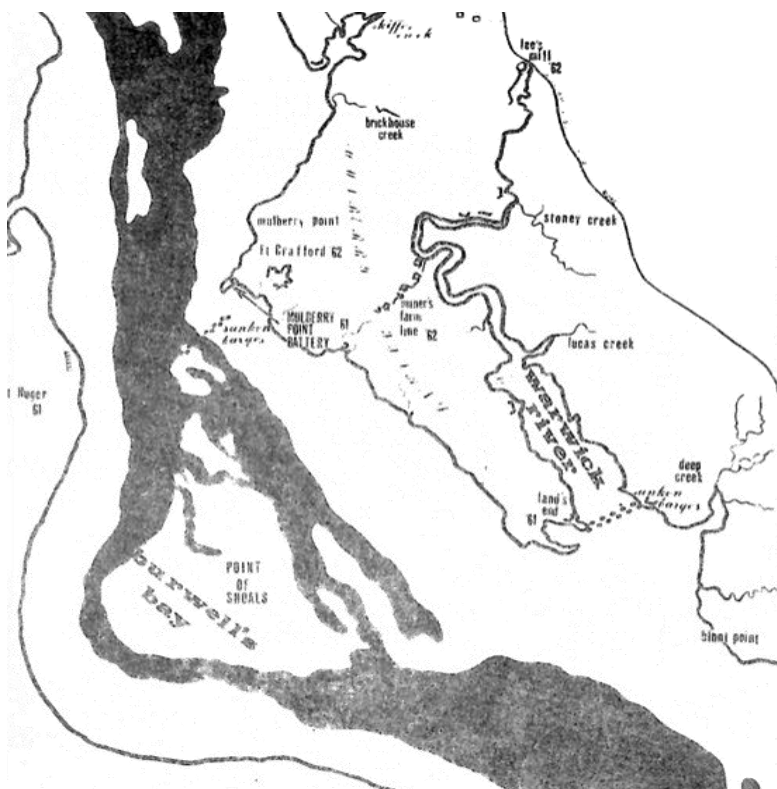
The next day Magruder reported to Richmond that the lower defenses on the James were exceedingly weak and ought to be strengthened without delay. He suggested building another battery at Mulberry Point and said that the Mulberry Island Point Battery "should be made impregnable on the land side which could be done easily,"⁴⁷ certainly a change of opinion from the previous summer. However, this recommendation was accepted and work began on a large covering work on high ground about a half mile from the water battery. This fortification was built around the Crafford farm house mentioned earlier and its purpose was to protect the water-battery from a land attack. It was usually referred to in the official records as the "covering work at Mulberry Island" and sometimes as Mulberry Island Fort. After the war it came to be known locally as Fort Crafford, for the family on whose land it was built.

An abstract return for February shows 2 officers and 76 men present at Mulberry Point and 36 officers and 555 men at Land's End with 4 pieces of artillery, presumably that of the Richmond Howitzers.⁴⁸

When Commander Tucker, captain of the C.S.S. *Patrick Henry* was asked in February about the possibility and practicability of obstructing the James River to close it to enemy vessels, he pointed out several places where this could be done. However, he reported, "The depth of water near Mulberry island precludes the possibility of piling; the water will not permit it."⁴⁹

By late February another area of Mulberry Island had been fortified in addition to the water-battery on the Point, the entrenchments at Land's End, the one-gun battery on the Warwick River, and the covering work begun at Crafford's Farm. The new line was the area known locally as Miner's Farm (owned by W. C. Miner mentioned earlier) and included a series of fortifications running from the Warwick River across Mulberry Island to the James River approximately a mile below the Mulberry Island Point Battery and a half-mile below Crafford's Farm. (See Map on adjacent page.) (Actually, the new work then going up to protect the water-battery was part of this line but was deliberately separated from the Miner's Farm line so that troops stationed on the line could withdraw to the large fortification to withstand a siege, if necessary.)

The detachments of the Richmond Howitzers and the entire Fourteenth Virginia Infantry Regiment fell back to the left flank of Mulberry Island 4 or 5 miles above Land's End to the Miner's Farm line late in February. The diarist recorded,



Mulberry Island is the nearest water-battery on the north side of James River to Newport News, and mounts seven or eight heavy guns. It is supported by the Day's Point battery on the south side of the James, mounting seventeen guns. Magruder, as soon as we reached this place, sent us six hundred negroes to throw up heavy fortifications. Our position here is quite a strong one; On our left flank is the Warwick River, on our right is a deep marsh and the heavy battery at Mulberry Island, on our front is a broad, open field, our guns commanding it. Reinforced by the Fifth Louisiana Infantry.⁵⁰

On 4 March 1862, Magruder was ordered to send 5,000 troops to Suffolk to aid in the defense of Norfolk, as headquarters in Richmond, not knowing of whether the expected attack would be upon Centreville in the north or the peninsula or Norfolk, tried to prepare for all three eventualities. Among the troops withdrawn from the Peninsula was the Fourteenth Virginia Regiment on Mulberry Island. Hodges was directed to take with him his tents, 5 days' rations, as few cooking utensils as possible, his ammunition, and 20 spades and axes, "turning over the remains of the same, besides whatever picks and shovels he may have, to acting quartermaster of the Fifth Louisiana Volunteers."⁵¹ Magruder protested this order to the War Department, pointing out that this left only a small garrison at Yorktown and "the covering work at Crafford's Farm at Mulberry Island with one regiment to defend it."⁵² (Presumably this regiment was the Fifth Louisiana.)

The company in charge of the four pieces of light artillery, that is Captain Young's unit which had been changed from an infantry company to an artillery battery, was to stay on Mulberry Island,⁵³ but the third company of Howitzers (Captain Moseley's unit) was also sent to Suffolk, along with the Fourteenth Virginia.⁵⁴

Emma-Jo L. Davis

⁴³ *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901, Vol. II, 788-789, hereafter referred to as ORA. ORA IX, p. 34; ORN 6, p. 753.

⁴⁴ ORA LI, Part II, pp. 445-446.

⁴⁵ *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies*, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922), Vol. 6, p.703, hereafter referred to as ORN.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ ORA IX, p. 38-40.

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 49

⁴⁹ ORN VI, p. 775.

⁵⁰ White, LOC. Cit.

⁵¹ ORA IX, p. 51

⁵² Ibid. ⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ ORN VII, p. 555-556.



The "Smith Hotel," approx. 1900—Photograph by Nelson Baer

Political Differences turn Personal at Denbigh's Smith Hotel

Mr. E. C. [Edward Cooper] Madison has written the *Daily Press* the following letter:

Editor *Daily Press*:

Replying to the issue of the *Evening Journal* of the 25th (which by chance reached my eye) under the head "No War of Words," I desire to correct the many errors and misstatements made therein. Where it says "At the meeting, Dr. Crafford pointed his finger and branded the statement as a black lie," this is incorrect. What was said was "Those statements are lies," and I replied "I will hold you personally responsible for those words," which I shall do. Now as to what Mr. C. C. Crafford had to say. I was passing out of the hotel and had gone some way when I heard my name called; on turning around and looking back I saw C. C. Crafford, his brother and two other men whom I did not recognize.

C. C. Crafford called or beckoned me to them and said: "You said you wanted to see Doc; here he is, it's time, settle it." I replied "I could see him fit any time and would." He replied "Well, there he is, settle it with him. I will promise you I will keep hands off." I replied "I would set-

tle it when I saw fit." Then he said "I or he (did not catch exactly which, nor would it make the slightest difference) can lick you in a pair of minutes." I replied "Well, I do not know about that, but that we were not down here for that purpose, nor would fighting settle the chairmanship." He replied "I don't know about that." I said "I don't think so any way." Then there was a moment which I heard nothing, and started off. He then said, "You haven't sand enough to fight him." I replied as I went off, "That is all right about my sand, Charlie, I will attend to that." Then I left, as there was some talking going on which I did not hear and supposed they were talking among themselves.

I had no words whatever with Dr. Crafford, nor do I propose to be pushed into a public street fight for the amusement of anyone. I will resent what was said before the meeting of the chairmen, and further, prove every statement I made to be true. I can do both by printed clippings and advertisements from the press and Democratic citizens of the county. I have already written Mr. C. C. Crafford concerning what was said at the meeting and otherwise.

E. C. MADISON

Daily Press, Volume 4, Number 181, 2 August 1899

ATROCIOUS MURDER!

On Friday, the 1st day of January, at Stony Run in Warwick County, was committed, in the presence of a large concourse of persons, a murder, which, for enormity and height of crime, has rarely if ever attracted our notice, attended with circumstances of the most aggravating and horrid.

On the Tuesday previous to the day on which this transaction occurred, Mr. William Malicote, of the county of Surry, rode up with a large loaded horse whip to Mr. Thomas Hughes, on the main county road, near the residence of Mr. Augustine Moore, and after exchanging a few words with said Hughes relative to his (Malicote's) marriage with the sister of Hughes, he endeavored to horsewhip him, in which he succeeded in part only, for after using the whip twice, Hughes wrested it from him and gave him one or two blows in return, and so walked off, taking with him the whip which was afterwards ascertained to be the property of Thomas Malicote, Esq.

William Malicote, meanwhile, went in search of a gun, but Hughes awaited not his return. They thus parted with mutual threats, and on Friday Mr. Hughes attempted to use the same whip in the same way on Malicote that had been practiced on him by the latter, but a few days before; on this occasion Malicote ran, and Hughes became the pursuer; but unfortunately fell, which Malicote perceiving, turned and ran up to him, and as he was in the act of rising, plunged, with savage barbarity, a large dirk immediately through his left lung, into the heart, having previously armed himself for the purpose—and fearing the interposition of the law, he speedily mounted a horse provided for him by his brother Robert Malicote, and made off in presence of many officers of the peace.

R. D. Brown, Esq ordered an inquest over his body, who brought in “that the deceased came by his death by a stab from the hands of William Malicote.” Whereupon Mr. Brown offered a reward for his apprehensions, in

which he was joined by some other high-minded citizens but he has not been arrested up to this time.

Phenix Gazette, Volume 6, Number 1382, 11 January 1830

Lynchburg Virginian, Volume 8, Number 45, 18 January 1830 (*Ran same story as above and added:*)

Mr. Hughes was in his 18th year, and lived in Norfolk, with Mr. John G. Colley, shipbuilder in that town. In Warwick, he was beloved by all who knew him, whose friendship was of any value.

His last words were a request that Dr. Corbin (his sister's husband) might be sent for. The doctors accordingly attended, though confined at the time he received the message by an attack of pleurisy, and the shock to his feelings was so severe as to render it doubtful whether he will ever recover. Dr. Hubbard afforded every aid in his power to the unfortunate Hughes, but his manly spirit had received its final summons.

Plot To Obtain Money Fails

Southside Sentinel 31 August 1934

Harpersville Merchant is
THREATENED IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN \$8,500
(Newport News, Va., Aug. 25, 1938)

One York County youth was in Riverside Hospital dangerously wounded tonight and another was being held incommunicable in Newport News jail after the failure of what police said was a plot to extort \$8,500 from Charles L. Harper, wealthy wholesale merchant of Harpersville, Va.

William Tabb, Jr., of Tabb, Va., was shot and wounded by police as they trapped the pair today. Robert J. Hudgins, 19, also of Tabb, was jailed as a fugitive from justice. Police said Harper had received notes threatening injury unless he "came across."

The first note was found under the steering wheel of his car August 15. "If you do not come across," it read, "you will lose more than if you did and you, or some of your family, might get hurt."

The "might" was heavily underscored. A second note was found August 17 and a third last Thursday. Police in ambush near the house saw the third note delivered and marked their men.

Last Saturday, Sheriff Bickford Curtis and Deputy Sheriff J. J. Taylor went to the house and hid in a position commanding both front and back doors. At midnight a man leaped from a passing automobile and walked toward the door. The officers ordered him to halt but he ran through a field towards some woods. Taylor aimed and fired with a sawed-off shotgun and brought the man down. He regained his feet, however, and resumed flight. The deputy fired several more shots but it was a bullet from Sheriff Curtis' revolver which finally disabled Tabb.

Demands for the \$8,500 were met with notes written by Harper on orders of police of which excuses were offered as a stall until the net could be closed in.



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THE WARWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED TO FURTHER DISCOVER AND MEMORIALIZE THE HISTORY AND PEOPLES OF OLD WARWICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, A BYGONE ORIGINAL SHIRE OF THE ENGLISH CROWN DATING TO 1634. WARWICK COUNTY, WITH ITS SEAT AT WARWICKTOWN AND DENBIGH BY 1810, PLAYED A ROLE IN THE DRAMATIC STORY OF AMERICA'S FOUNDING. THROUGH HARD TIMES AND PLENTY, THE COUNTY ENDURED FOR THREE CENTURIES AND WAS WITNESS TO TURBULENCE AND TRIUMPH IN THE GROWTH OF A YOUNG VIRGINIA.

HAIL TO THE SPIRIT OF THE
FREE STATE OF WARWICK!

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Sheriff Resigns, Name On Ballot

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Sept 25, 1951

Once a public official resigns it doesn't mean he's out of office. That's the way it's worked out near here in Warwick County. Sheriff R. B. Curtis, for 20-years law enforcement officer in Warwick, resigned last week to take a security force job in a hydrogen bomb plant in South Carolina.

There has always been an opposition group to Curtis in the county and when he resigned the opposition reasoned it had a good chance to put one of its own men into office. But not so.

Curtis' present term ends December 31, 1951. But he is the unopposed Democratic Party nominee in the coming general election, having won over the opposition candidate in the August primary.

Curtis resigned too late for anyone else to file. He said tonight he had the last laugh. He can't resign what he hasn't been elected to and is sure of re-election for another four years.

The only solution is that he withdraw his name from the general election ballot. He disclosed last night that he won't do that—under any circumstances.

Suffolk News-Herald, Volume 29,
Number 227, 25 September 1951

Legendary Warwick County sheriff, Robert Bickford Curtis (1905 - 1991), descended from a long line of Curtis family who held the same position. Mr. Curtis began as deputy sheriff under his father and was only 19 when he was deputized by Judge C. Vernon Spratley, two years younger than the law allowed. Taking over as sheriff in 1931, he held the position until his retirement in 1951 after serving five successive terms. He later served on the last board of supervisors for Warwick County and actively supported consolidation as shown in this July 1957 *Daily Press* image.