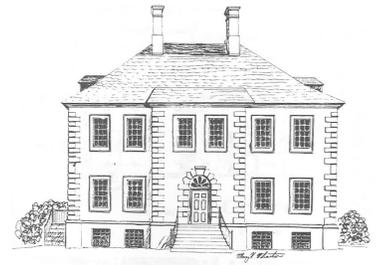


Carlyle Connection

“It’s a fine beginning.”



A Glimpse at John Carlyle’s Extensive Landholdings

By Susan Hellman

As most of you know, John Carlyle owned at least three area plantations in addition to his properties in Alexandria. Jim Munson’s book and other writings go into some detail discussing Torthorwald, but only briefly mention Lymekilns and Bridekirk, indicating that their exact locations are unknown. A little bit of sleuthing reveals both locations, as well as several other properties owned by Carlyle.

An excellent source for information on some of Carlyle’s holdings is an 1837 chancery case between the heirs of Carlyle Fairfax Whiting, John Carlyle’s grandson, who died on September 8, 1831 (1). When Whiting passed away, he did not leave instructions for the division of his real estate. His wife, Sarah M. Whiting, passed away intestate before her husband’s estate was settled. Carlyle and Sarah Whiting’s heirs were their five children: Charles Henry, G.W. Carlyle, Fairfax H., William W., and Ellen M. In this chancery case, G.W. Carlyle Whiting petitions the court to sell three tracts of land that descended to the five children from their mother. The chancery case lists the real estate owned by Carlyle Fairfax Whiting and Sarah M. Whiting at their deaths:

“...a tract of land in Fairfax County called Danby, containing about two hundred and thirty acres, a tract of land in said County called Centre Lodge containing about eighty nine acres, a tract of land in Alexandria County containing about three hundred and twenty five acres, a tract of land called Morven partly in Alexandria County and partly in Fairfax County, containing about seven hundred and ten acres, a tract of land called Bridekirk partly in Alexandria and partly in Fairfax County containing about fifteen hundred and forty one acres, a tract of land in Fairfax containing about one hundred and seventy acres, and a

tract of land in Berkley County containing about one thousand acres, a wharf in the Town of Alexandria, a lot between Union and Water streets in said town, a lot in the said town on Cameron street, and a lot in said town near the Jail, and an undivided moiety of three tracts of land in Hampshire County. That the three first mentioned tracts of land descended to the children before-named from their mother, and all the rest from their father.”

Although this chancery case was initiated 57 years after John Carlyle’s death, it indicates that the family retained ownership of several of John Carlyle’s properties, including Lymekilns and Bridekirk. Carlyle may have owned the lots and wharf in Alexandria as well. By 1760, Carlyle and Dalton owned 4 lots in town in addition to their residences (2), and Fairfax County deeds include several more Alexandria real estate transactions by John Carlyle. Northern Neck Grants at the Library of Virginia indicate that Carlyle owned multiple properties in Hampshire County, some in partnership with John Dalton and William Ramsay (3). As the chancery case notes, Danby, Centre Lodge and 325 acres in Alexandria came from Sarah Whiting, and therefore were not owned by John Carlyle. These three properties were sold, with the proceeds distributed to the heirs.

To find Lymekilns, identified as about one thousand acres in Berkeley County in the 1837 petition, a close reading of John Carlyle’s will provides excellent clues. The 1780 will refers to his “Track of Land in Berkley County Called Limekills on the neck of the Potomac River near the mouth of Opekon Creek...” (4) Carlyle devised this land to his grandson, Carlyle Fairfax Whiting. Maps of the Opekon Creek vicinity of Berkeley County, now West Virginia, place

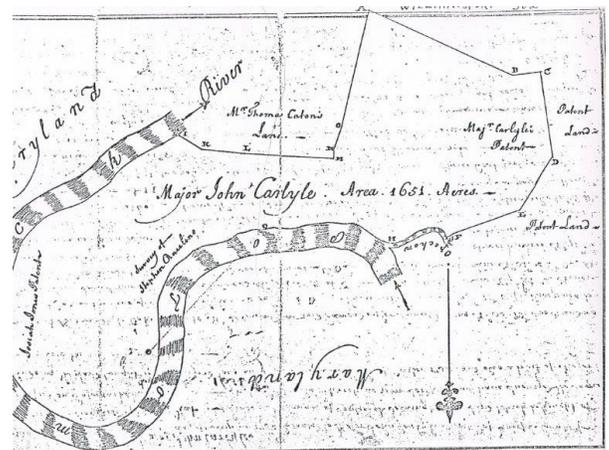
Lymekilns in an area now known as Whiting's Neck. Of course the name Whiting is an obvious indication of Carlyle ownership. Street names in this part of Berkeley County include Carlyle Road and Whiting's Neck Road.



Whiting's Neck is marked by the red star.

To establish Lymekilns, John Carlyle purchased 394 acres in Frederick County, Virginia, now Berkeley County, West Virginia, in 1751. Ten years later, the overall area was resurveyed and found to contain far more acreage than originally believed. Lord Fairfax granted John Carlyle the 1257 acres of "surplus & waste land," giving Carlyle the entire neck area of 1651 acres. Carlyle received everything on the property "Royal Mines Excepted & a full third part of all Lead Copper Tin Coals Iron Mine & Iron ore that shall be found thereon." (5) In plain English, Carlyle received a third of any mining proceeds and Fairfax retained two-thirds of any profit. The figure at the upper right is the 1761 plat of this property, labeled "Major John Carlyle Area 1651 acres." In 1773, Carlyle conveyed a moiety, or half share, of this property to Preeson Bowdoin of Norfolk. Quitrents, a type of land tax based on the feudal system, went to Thomas, Lord Fairfax (6). By this point, Carlyle had a mill on the property, as it is mentioned in the metes and bounds of the parcel. Carlyle and John Dalton also conveyed a moiety to Bowdoin for another 147 acres of land in Berkeley County. This land included 10 acres "being the same on which the Bloomery stands" purchased by Carlyle and George William Fairfax in 1761 (7). In addition to a bloomery, which was an iron-smelting furnace, the tract also contained mills. As with the previous moiety to Bowdoin, quitrents were due to Thomas, Lord Fairfax. With several mills, mines, and a bloomery, Carlyle had an extensive business operation at Lymekilns. Over the years,

Carlyle sold off pieces of Lymekilns, ultimately whittling the size of the property down to approximately 900 acres.



The 1761 survey of Carlyle's property. For some reason, the surveyor chose north to be down, but you can see the same bend in the river as the map to the left.

According to Don C. Wood with the Berkeley County Historical Society, Whiting's Neck was named for Carlyle Fairfax Whiting, who never lived there (8). Land taxes indicate that by the time Whiting inherited the property, the mills, mines, and bloomery were gone. After Whiting's 1831 death, Lymekilns was divided among his five children, with each child inheriting approximately 195 acres. By 1840, Charles Henry Whiting owned 206 acres with a building valued at \$300, indicating he may have constructed a house there, as he moved to Lymekilns the following year to practice medicine. His four siblings each owned 195.34 acres with no buildings (9). William Whiting also built a house on his share of his father's estate. Don Woods identifies the derelict dwelling depicted below in 1972 as the Whiting/Tabler House on Whiting's Neck.

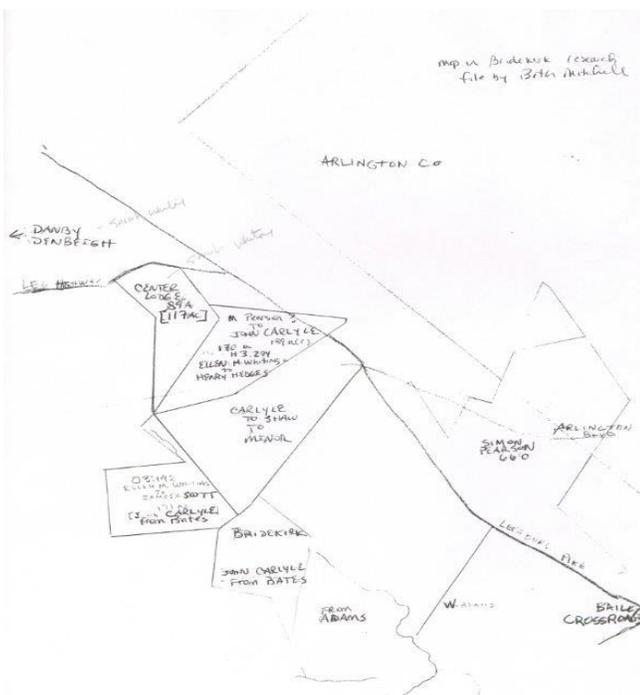


The frame portion on the right side of the house was allegedly built around 1847 by William Whiting, who by this time resided in Washington, D.C. (10) and most likely used the house as a weekend or summer retreat. A later owner, Levi Tabler, built the brick wing on the left side of the house circa 1866 (11). The Whiting family did not remain in Whiting's Neck for long. Area maps indicate that by 1894, no Whitings owned land in Whiting's Neck.

Finding Bridekirk took a bit more digging than finding Lymekilns did, but research materials are closer at hand and easier to access. As Alexandria was part of Fairfax County from 1752-1800, most of the Carlyle-related land and property records are found in the Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives. Fairfax County was formed out of Prince William County in 1742 and many of these records are also at Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives. In addition to deeds, Fairfax County historical records include several maps created by Beth Mitchell, a fantastic researcher, historian, cartographer, and one of my personal heroes. Beth used the metes and bounds from deeds to map out land parcels, showing land ownership in 1760 and in 1860 for the entire county. Beth also made a rough sketch of the Bridekirk property and adjacent parcels, including Sarah Whiting's Centre Lodge. Her sketch below shows the several parcels that Carlyle owned in that area. Bridekirk is bottom center. By comparing

Beth's Bridekirk sketch to her Fairfax County 1860 overlay map (12), I was able to pinpoint Bridekirk in the Bailey's Crossroads area. The Congressional School on Sleepy Hollow Road in Falls Church is located at the northernmost point of Bridekirk, and Lake Barcroft appears to be the southern boundary. The parcel identified as Bridekirk is only a small portion of Carlyle's land in that area. He owned the area roughly contained by Leesburg Pike on the east, just north of the Falls Church/Fairfax County line on the north, Annandale and Sleepy Hollow Roads on the west, and Lake Barcroft on the south. One version of Beth's 1760 map labels a 151 acre parcel here as "Col. Carlyle's Barracks." I can't wait to figure out what that is!

What else did Carlyle own? Fairfax County Deed Books and Minute Books list over 600 transactions made by Carlyle, either as an individual or in partnership with Dalton and other parties. I am still wading through them, but have come across some real gems. For example, at one point in time, Carlyle owned most of what is now the Town of Herndon. In addition to land transactions, the Archives also contain information regarding personal property transactions. For example, Carlyle purchased "two negro men Slaves named Will & Adam" from Thomas Smith in 1746 (13). In 1763 he owned a ten-year old slave named Smart (14). In 1772 he owned another ten-year old slave, this one named Matthew (15). Carlyle was one of Fairfax County's biggest slaveholders between 1749 and 1760, owning a total of 27. Only seven other landowners in the county owned more slaves than Carlyle. George Washington was number one with 88 slaves during that time period (16). In addition to slaves and land, Carlyle owned warehouses, ordinaries, and mills, including a mill on Holmes Run and another on Four Mile Run at Torthorwald. Ordinaries stood on two lots of land in Alexandria owned by Carlyle and Dalton in 1760. Fairfax County Minute Books include intriguing references to all sorts of Carlyle transactions and activities. I am hoping that a thorough review of these records will reveal even more about the life of this fascinating and successful man. At this point, I have only scratched the surface and have much more research to do. I will keep you all posted on my progress.



Endnotes:

1. Fairfax County (Va) Chancery Causes, 1803-1970, Gdns of Ellen Whiting (minor) vs. Charles H. Whiting etc., 1843-022, Local Government Records Collection, Fairfax Court Records, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
2. Mitchell, Beth. Fairfax County, Virginia in 1760, An Interpretive Historical Map. Office of Comprehensive Planning, Fairfax County, Va, 1987.
3. Hampshire County (Va), Northern Neck Grants P 1771-1775, p. 226 (Reel 296), I 1757-1781, pg. 286-287 (Reel 294), M 1762-1765, p. 341 (Reel 295), The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
4. Fairfax County Will Book D1, pg. 203.
5. Frederick County (Va), Northern Neck Grants K 1757-1762, p. 320 (Reel 294), The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. Note: There are several other Northern Neck Grants to Carlyle in Frederick County, but this particular one is quoted in the text.
6. Berkeley County, WV Deed Book V2, pg. 282.
7. Berkeley County, WV Deed Book V2, pg. 284.
8. Wood, Don C., "Discovering Berkeley County: Whiting's Neck," The Journal, February 12, 2006, section E4.
9. Berkeley County, WV Land Book, 1840.
10. Berkeley County, WV Land Book, 1847.
11. Berkeley County, WV Land Book, 1867.
12. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/1860maps.htm>.
13. Fairfax County Deed Book B1, pg. 240.
14. Fairfax County Minute Book 1763, pg. 55.
15. Fairfax County Minute Book 1772, pg. 90.
16. Mitchell, op.cit.

News from the Educator

Last year in my summer column I mentioned how excited I was to see the summer camp continue to grow. This summer I am happy to say the camp did grow beyond any expectation I had when I initially started working at Carlyle House two years ago. In two years our summer camp has increased by over 300%! Our first year only offered one session with 9 children, compared to this year, which had three sessions with a total of 42 children. The camp has become a premier program at Carlyle House that continues to engage children through fun educational activities. This year's activities included making self-portraits, silhouettes, and colonial games. New field trips this year included the waterfront, The George Washington Masonic Memorial, and Gunston Hall for our Friday trip. At Gunston Hall, campers toured the mansion and compared the architecture of Gunston Hall to Carlyle House while learning about George Mason, his first wife Ann, and their children. Campers also had the opportunity to visit the school house and learn about 18th century schooling practices and the education the Mason children received. The highlight of this trip was visiting the 18th century kitchen with the campers helping the cooks prepare a meal. The meal included macaroni a la parmesan, green beans with dressing, and ice cream for dessert. Once again Camp Carlyle was a success with children expressing interest to return next year. Registration for 2016 will open in January so I will be back in summer camp mode very soon. Can't wait until next year!



~Vanessa Herndon

News from the Curator

It's been a busy and exciting summer with collections and programming! Our annual collections inventory was successfully completed in June. We then hosted two successful "Jazzy June" concerts at the beginning of the summer in partnership with the Alexandria Black History Museum. We hope to plan more programs in partnership with this wonderful jewel of a museum in our neighborhood!



We will be having a very busy fall as we premiere new programs and special events including a Scottish Heritage Weekend on September 19th-20th, a fun zombie program on October 17th, and a "Behind the Scenes" Curator's Tour on Saturday, October 24th (see photo).

Carlyle House is taking a break from re-enacting the funeral of John Carlyle to give the "Colonel" a vacation from the excitement of being "buried" each year. However, the "Death and Mourning" interpretation will still take place in the museum. A new twist this fall instead of the funeral is that we will have a "Walking with Zombies" program on Saturday, October 17th. Visit the gardens where you will encounter history "walkers" and then enter our spooky vaults for a fun night "Walking Dead" style. Tickets can be purchased from Footsteps to the Past, our walking tour partner.

As a Friend of Carlyle House, we are pretty sure you love history, decorative arts, and/or architecture. Would you like to learn more about these topics and African-Americans in Alexandria in the 18th and 19th centuries? Carlyle House will start offering special guided tours to the public throughout the year. Guests will enjoy a

personalized, behind the scenes tour of the mansion with either the Curator, Director, or Educator, depending on the topic. Our first special tour will be with the Curator on Saturday, October 24th at 10am. Tickets can be purchased through our website.

Our most exciting new event this fall, will be a fantastic, fun weekend of events, "Outlander Style"! To celebrate the Scottish heritage of John Carlyle's family, come see us on Saturday, September 19th and Sunday, September 20th. Details are below:

September 19

**Fashion Show featuring the Appin Regiment: 10am-11am

Granfling School of Highland Dance: 11:15am-12pm

The Devil's Tailors Concert: 12:30pm-1:30pm

City of Alexandria Pipe and Drums: 1:45pm-2:15pm

September 20

**Outlander Tea (and Tour): 11am

(**Reservations required.)

One of the most popular shows on television is based upon a book series called Outlander by Diana Gabaldon. In fact, it has reignited interest in Scottish culture and heritage. We invite you to come to Carlyle House for a weekend of Scottish heritage, Outlander Style! On Saturday, September 19th, at 10am, don't miss a Scottish fashion show featuring dress from the time period when Jamie, Claire AND John Carlyle lived! Members of the Appin Regiment, an 18th century Scottish Living History group, will model the fashions and demonstrate weaving and dyeing. Enjoy shortbread baked by popular local "dessert destination," The Dairy Godmother, included in the ticket price.

On Sunday, September 20th, at 11am, Carlyle House is hosting an Outlander Tea! Celebrate Scottish Heritage at the oldest stone house in Alexandria. After the tea, join us for a special Outlander accented tour of the museum! One

lucky person will win a special Outlander-themed gift basket donated by The Scottish Gourmet and raffled off during the tea. Advance reservations are required for the tea.

Check out our partnering organizations' websites and show them your support as well!

City of Alexandria Pipe and Drums:
<http://capd-online.com>

Granfling School of Highland Dance:
<http://granfling.weebly.com>

The Appin Regiment:
<http://appins.org/wordpress>

The Dairy Godmother:
<http://www.thedairygodmother.com>

The Devil's Tailors:
<http://www.thedevilstailors.com>

The Scottish Gourmet, USA:
<http://www.scottishgourmetusa.com>

We hope to see you at some of our events this fall!



~Helen Wirka



Carlyle House *Upcoming Events*

Carlyle Crafts and Games Day

Saturday, August 29; 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a day of 18th century crafts and games! Decorate an 18th century fan, paint a selfie (self-portrait), make a necklace, and much more. You will also have the chance to play some colonial games such as Graces, and Hoop and Stick. This event is designed for children ages 3-12, but all are welcome! Craft activities are available while supplies last.

Celebrate Scottish Heritage

Saturday, September 19; 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

During the Alexandria Arts Festival weekend, stop by Carlyle House for some Scottish fun, Outlander Style! Starting at 10am, enjoy a Scottish fashion show discussing dress during the times of Jamie, Claire AND John Carlyle. At 11:15am the Granfling School of Highland Dance will give a free performance of Scottish dancing, which has strong roots in history. Then at 12:30pm, the Devil's Tailors will perform using period style instruments. And don't miss the appearance by the City of Alexandria Pipe and Drums! Shortbread (baked by the Dairy Godmother!) will be provided as refreshments. Admission Fee.

Outlander Tea

Sunday, September 20, 11:00 a.m.

Carlyle House is hosting an Outlander Tea! Do you love the books and/or the television show? Then come join us for tea on the Magnolia Terrace! Celebrate Scottish Heritage at the oldest stone house in Alexandria, home of John Carlyle. One lucky person will win a special Outlander-themed gift basket donated by The Scottish Gourmet and raffled off during the tea. Advance reservations are required for the tea. Admission Fee.

Please give us a call or check our website for more details on our happenings.

Friends Board

Officers

Shelly Miller
President

Suellen Savukas
Vice-President

Lindsay Borst
Recording Secretary

Benjamin Fiore-Walker
Treasurer

Directors

Jason Ankele
Rosalind Bovey
Debby Christie
Mary Ruth Coleman
Audrey Davis
John Dumsick
Bonnie Fairbank
Mark Hill
Michael Hobbs
Mary Knapp
Sue McIver
Joan Merow
J. Dean Norton
Keith Rouleau
Deborah Rudolph
Patrick Sheary
Carole Smith

Emeritus:

E. Hunt Burke
Oscar P. Fitzgerald
J. Wm. Middendorf II

Museum Staff

Susan Hellman
Director
Helen Wirka
Curator
Vanessa Herndon
Educator
Kayla Marciszyn
Collections

Carlyle House Historic Park is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.



News from the Site Director

Many of you have asked about whether or not your membership dues are tax deductible. After consulting with several attorneys, we finally have the definitive answer and it is...sort of. According to the IRs, Friends benefits of two parties per year count as a financial benefit. Our parties average out at a cost of \$28 per person each year. This means that \$7 of a \$35 individual membership is tax deductible. However, for a family membership, the IRS assumes that at least two of you are attending the parties. This computes to a \$56 yearly benefit, which is more than the \$50 membership fee. Therefore, no portion of the family membership is tax deductible. We will include this information in future membership mailings. Of course ALL of your donations above and beyond the membership fee are tax deductible. A huge thanks to Mark Hill for helping me with this.

We greatly enjoyed seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting in June. We overcame many challenges to have a delightful evening. The party took place on L'Hermione's last day in Alexandria, which created parking difficulties, but gave several Friends the opportunity to see the ship before it sailed northward. The heavens opened while Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of NOVA Parks, was addressing the group and we had to move inside temporarily. Shelly Miller did a fantastic job working with Bittersweet Catering to provide a delicious meal. Don't miss the Friends annual holiday party on January 10, 2016. Moving the party from December to January last year delighted so many Friends that we decided to do it again this year.

Set your DVRs! In January, the PBS program, *Mercy Street*, will air immediately following *Downton Abbey*. This Civil War era drama takes place at our own Mansion House Hospital. Filming wrapped in Richmond and Petersburg, and we're looking forward to seeing "our" story on the silver screen. We will try not to get too upset over historical inaccuracy.

Keep an eye out for the fall fashion issue of Northern Virginia Magazine, which was photographed in our gardens! And Fox 5 featured Carlyle House as one of the "Five Must-Sees in Alexandria" on their July 10 morning show. We were the only historic site listed.

Thanks to you all for your goodwill and support! I hope you've had a wonderful summer.

~Susan Hellman



Susan and Helen and L'Hermione

Carlyle House Historic Park

A property of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

121 North Fairfax Street ~ Alexandria, Virginia 22314

www.novaparks.com

