



Prince William Reliquary

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REL-I-QUAR-Y: (*noun*) A receptacle for keeping or displaying relics.

A TASTE OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WINE HISTORY: WHO KNEW?

By Ray Olszewski¹

“We could in the United States make as great a variety of wines as are made in Europe, not exactly of the same kind, but doubtless as good.” Thomas Jefferson, 1808.²

Introduction

In September 2006, Prince William County will have its first farm winery³ open at The Winery at La Grange near Haymarket, Virginia. This historic event establishes Prince William County as a presence in the already growing Virginia wine industry. In 1975, when the Virginia Farm Winery Act was passed, there were only 3 wineries in Virginia, and today, there are over 100 operational wineries⁴ – Thomas Jefferson would have been proud!

The occasion calls attention to Prince William County’s past in wine making and results in finding the county actually does have a rich and significant history in wine making! Business records show wine making, albeit small in comparison to today’s wine industry, started in the mid-19th century and continues today. For example, who knew that a winery operated on property that is now part of the Manassas Battlefield grounds between 1950 and 1958? Who knew that grapes grown on a 40-acre vineyard in Manassas produced an award winning wine at the 1900 Paris Exposition? Who knew that a wine company in Haymarket made and produced wine in the 1800s?



This article, and others to follow, provide an account of Prince William County’s wine making history and is presented as a ‘tour’ of its significant past. The tour starts with an historical account of the businesses known to have engaged in wine making. The second stop on the wine tour takes place on 1.3 acres of property where the Sciutto Winery operated for nearly ten years on what is now part of the Manassas Battlefield Park. Future articles will include Robert Portner’s viticulture activities in Manassas, Virginia, the *Mill Park Wine Company*, and the rich history behind La Grange, where *The Winery at La Grange* will open to the public for wine tours and tastings for the first time in September 2006.

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² George M. Taber, *Judgment of Paris: California vs. France and the Historic 1976 Paris Tasting That Revolutionized Wine* (New York: Scribner, 2005), Part One.

³ In 1975, the Commonwealth’s Farm Winery Act was passed. It provides that farms with vineyards are allowed by right to produce and sell wine on their property. Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, “Small Wineries Distribution System”; online at www.vafb.com/legis/fact_sheets/wineries.htm, accessed 18 July 2006.

⁴ “After Four Centuries, Virginia Wines Have Come of Age,” *Virginia Wine*; online at www.virginiawineries.org/about/index.html, accessed 17 July 2006.

The Business of Wine Making in Prince William County

In the 18th and 19th centuries, it was common for farmers to make wine as they grew vines and to consume any wine they made. When the Seventh U.S. Census was taken in 1850, one of the questions asked was the number of gallons of wine produced in each household?⁵ The earliest account of any business using the word “wine” in its description was in 1888 when the Mill Park Wine Company used it. However, there were many others in the business of making alcoholic beverages called “distilleries,” primarily brandy and whiskey, and these are listed in Figure 1.⁶

Earliest Year Activity Recorded	Name	Place	Entry
1866	Sandy Reid	Occoquan, VA	He paid a twelve month \$18.13 Internal Revenue Tax in October 1866 as a distiller.
1866	David T. Arrington	Brentsville, VA	Listed in the November 1866 Internal Revenue Records as a distiller and paid a \$18.13 tax. He also paid a \$40.00 tax for retail Brandy.
1866	William S. Chapman	Brentsville, VA	Listed as a Brentsville distiller in October 1866 and paid a \$18.13 tax. He is also in the 1877-1878 business directory as the county commissioner of revenue.
1866	Warren Davis	Occoquan, VA	Paid a \$18.13 tax and is listed as a distiller.
1884	Heineken Distillery owned by C.A. Heineken	Haymarket, VA	C.A. Heineken owned and operated a small still close to Haymarket, manufacturing Brandy to sell to bar rooms from the 1800s to about 1900. The Distillery is listed in the 1884-1885, 1888-1889, 1890-1891 and 1897-1898 Virginia business directories.
1888	Mill Park Wine Company owned by C.A. Heineken	Haymarket, VA	Listed in the 1888-1889, 1890-1891 and 1893-1894 in the Virginia business directories as a distiller.
1888	M.W. Horton	Coles Township	Listed as having a ordinary in the 1873 and 1874 business licenses. In the 1877-1878, 1880-1881, and 1884-1885 business directories he was listed as a general merchant and in the 1888-1889 and 1890-1891 business licenses as having a distillery.
1890	Franz Peters	Mill Park and Haymarket, VA	Was listed as a brandy manufacturer in the 1890s business licenses.
1890	Kiewit Distillery	Independent Hill	Went out of business because of prohibition. The two story building was across from what is now Samsky's Market and burned in the early 1990s.
1893	Davis Distillery owned by A.J. Davis	Lansdown, VA	Is listed in the business records in the late 1880s and early 1890s. In the 1893-1894 Virginia business directory A.J. Davis is listed under Distillers with the location listed as Voy.
1893	John G. Keys Distillery	Manassas, VA	Listed in the 1893-1894 and 1897-1898 Virginia business directory. He also had a business license for a small brandy still in 1890s and early 1900s.
1896	George A. Bradfield	Brandsford Branch, VA	Paid a business tax to operate a small brandy still.
1896	Nokesville Distillery, James Kiewit	Nokesville, VA	“For the next thirty days I will sell 100 proof pure and over six months old whiskey at \$1.50 per gallon. No discounts on larger quantities; no fractions of gals. Sold at this price. To those who want to know why and wherefore I want to tell in confidence that I need the cash.” ⁷ In the 1897-1898 Virginia business directory.
1907	Portner Brewing Company	Manassas, VA	Listed in the 1907 Virginia business licenses.
1900s	J.B. Ashby	Waterfall, VA	Retail merchant, paid a \$10 license fee in 1920 and 29 Apr 1925. J.B. Ashby also owned and operated a distillery in the early part of the 1900s at Waterfall.

Figure 1. List of known businesses engaged in making alcoholic beverages from 1850 to 1955 in Prince William County.

⁵ Beverly R. Veness, “1850 Prince William Co. Agricultural Census Index,” *Prince William Reliquary*, vol. 1, no. 1 (January 2002), 14; available online at www.pwcgov.org/library/relic.

⁶ Ronald R. Turner, *Prince William County Virginia 1805-1955 Businesses* (Manassas: R.R. Turner, 1999).

⁷ Turner, *P.W.C. Businesses*, 120, citing *Manassas Gazette*, 28 Feb. 1896.

Information uncovered in additional sources identifies businesses engaged in the production of alcoholic beverages not referenced in the 1999 publication. These are provided in Figure 2. *Mr. Turner, who has conducted extensive research into Prince William County businesses, is in the process of updating his 1999 edition of Prince William County Businesses and recognizes these as valuable additions.*

Earliest Year Activity Recorded	Name	Place	What is Known
1861	Unknown	Manassas, VA	Willow Green (The Wheeler House) is referenced as having a substantial still which made Apple Brandy ⁸
~1884	Robert Portner	Manassas, VA	A 40-acre vineyard and winery existed on Annaburg Property producing 100,000 pounds of grapes ⁹
1895	Mr. Wagener	Manassas, VA	"Mr. W. has a large vineyard, and makes about 2,000 gallons of wine a year." ¹⁰
1949	John Sciutto	Manassas, VA	Operated the Sciutto Winery from 1949 to 1958 on property now part of the Manassas Battlefield Park.

Figure 2. Findings and referenced sources reflecting additional businesses engaged in the production of alcoholic beverages in Prince William County.

The 18th Amendment which enacted Prohibition in 1920 blocked many legitimate distilleries from producing alcoholic beverages any further, at least legally. In 1933 Prohibition was repealed, but it wasn't until 1949 that county resident Mr. John Baptista Sciutto established Prince William County's first operational winery. The establishment, which made and sold wine, operated for nearly ten years on a parcel of land which later became part of the Manassas Battlefield Park.

The Winery on Manassas Battlefield 1949 – 1958

The tour of the Sciutto Winery begins with a photograph of the winery taken in 1956 (Figure 3) showing several unidentified buildings located on Route 29, about a quarter of a mile from where Routes 29 and 234 intersect. The Virginia Department of Transportation architectural plans to improve Route 29 also depict the Sciutto Winery.¹¹ Ray Brown, Manassas Battlefield Park Cultural Resources Manager, provided the plans, and described the location of the winery as being "at the site of the now abandoned horse trailer parking lot on the north side of Route 29 just west of the abandoned driveway to the law enforcement office." Brown added, "The legacy of the winery has continued into the present and most of the Park staff refers to the old horse trailer lot as the "winery parking lot."¹²

The largest building on the left shown in Figure 3 is probably the building where the wines were stored and where tastings and sales occurred. The picture, taken by an unknown photographer, looks in a westerly direction towards Gainesville, Virginia. Figure 4 is a photograph taken in 1960 after Mr. Sciutto passed away. The unknown photographer was looking eastward towards Centreville, Virginia, when the photo was taken. Immediately behind the Sciutto Winery are smaller buildings probably used at one time for the wine making, perhaps a barrel room, and maybe the wine cellar or storage. Two other buildings farther back appear to be either a residence and/or offices as both have

⁸ Joseph Mills Hanson, *Bull Run Remembers...The History, Traditions and Landmarks of the Manassas (Bull Run) Campaigns before Washington 1861-1862* (Manassas: National Capital Publishers, 1957), 181.

⁹ Michael Gaines, *The Shortest Dynasty, 1827 – 1947* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 2003), 275.

¹⁰ *Prince William Reliquary*, vol. 1, no. 3 (July 2002), 57, quoting the *Fairfax Herald*, May 1895.

¹¹ Virginia Department of Transportation, *Plan for Proposed Highway Project on U.S. Route 29* (1954).

¹² Ray Brown, e-mail message to author, 8 August 2005.

chimneys and TV antennae attached to them. Sciutto reportedly had lived in a “cottage” on the property.

Today, the grounds are overgrown with cedar and the property where the winery once stood is now a path for equestrians.



Figure 3. John Sciutto’s Winery and other unidentified buildings looking west on Route 29/211, taken in 1956.
Photo courtesy of the National Park Service, Manassas National Battlefield Park.



Figure 4. Photo of Sciutto Winery looking east towards Centreville, taken in 1960.
Photo courtesy of the National Park Service, Manassas National Battlefield Park.

John Baptista Sciutto – Realtor, Vintner, Entrepreneur, Marketer

Prior to 1948, there is little known about the winemaker and owner of the Sciutto Winery, John Sciutto. In 1948 he lived in Manassas as he did pay his poll tax for that year.¹³ Recent information obtained from Ronald Ray Turner, a local expert on Prince William County businesses, reveals that Sciutto was in real estate prior to purchasing the land on which he built the winery. In 1948, Sciutto formed Sciutto Properties, Inc. along with Rose B. Harrison, Vice President, and Milton Kaplan, Secretary. On August 9, 1948, as the Corporate President of Sciutto Properties, Inc., Sciutto purchased 1.3 acres of land from Frank and Mary Pannill for \$2,500.00. He bought the property on time paying 6 percent per annum at \$58.34 a month.¹⁴ Not until after he opened the winery did he really grow to become well-known and well-liked in the local area and in the Washington, D.C. social circles. That came about because of his wine and the annual celebrations he held at the winery.

Without the several articles written by Aubrey Graves, a writer for *The Washington Post*, there would not have been much more to know or to tell of his legacy as a vintner. Graves who was known as “The Squire of Grigsby Hill,” wrote at least five articles about Sciutto from 1953 to 1958. Graves’ articles provided enjoyable renderings of John Sciutto’s life during his productive years as owner of the Sciutto Winery. Graves was there also at the sad ending of the significant era in Prince William County’s history.

Graves’ first article, written in July 1953, added much evidence about Sciutto’s background. Graves reported that Sciutto was born in the Savona-Genoa area of Italy and came to America about 1931 at the age of 22. According to Graves, Sciutto left his wife and two children in Italy and his reason for leaving was to get away from Mussolini who was just coming into power at the time. Sciutto’s ancestral background in wine making was deep; he claimed his family had been making wine in Italy for five centuries. Sciutto stubbornly advocated making his wine the old-fashioned Italian way – “...all grape juice – no water, sugar, alcohol or chemicals are added,” and ... “carries authority [alcohol by volume] ranging 10-13 percent.”¹⁵

The fruit for the wine came from California each fall by refrigerated railroad cars into Manassas.¹⁶ It is not certain that all of it came from California. One in particular may not have and that is the Norton, which is more indigenous to Virginia. One of the many photographs published by *The Washington Post* shows several grape crates with the label “Valley Beauty” clearly shown in the background.¹⁷ Research on that label identifies the crate is from the Cesare Mondavi & Sons Vineyard located in Lodi, California (see Figure 5).

¹³ “Poll Tax List for Prince William County, Virginia, Manassas District (1940s),” *Prince William Reliquary*, vol. 2, no. 1 (January 2003), 16.

¹⁴ Prince William County Deed Book 133: 133, Prince William County Courthouse, Manassas, Va.

¹⁵ Aubrey Graves, “You Handle Grapes Just So To Give Wine Its ‘Bouquet’,” *The Washington Post*, 5 July 1953, p. B2.

¹⁶ Aubrey Graves, “It’s a Lot of Fun, This Making Wine at Bull Run,” *The Washington Post and Times Herald*, 25 Oct. 1954, p. 22.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

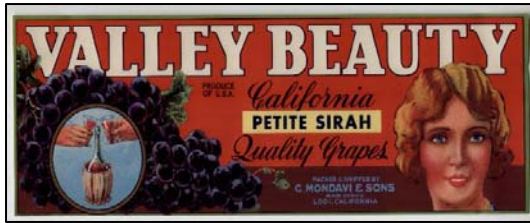


Figure 5. Image of Valley Beauty wine label.
Courtesy of www.thelabelman.com.

A 1953 *Washington Post* advertisement found Sciutto's wines sold for 98 cents a fifth or \$11.00 a case.¹⁸ The varietals he made were Freisa, Norton Red, Dolcetto, and Moscato. The ad is shown in Figure 6 and the wines' descriptions are provided below:

VINTAGE	PRICE	CASE
1949 Red Bordeaux	.59	6.95
1949 White Bordeaux	.59	6.95
1942 Loville Haut Brion (Green)	1.19	12.95
1949 St. Julien	1.39	14.95
1949 St. Emilion	1.39	14.95
1949 Graves	1.39	14.95
1947 '49 Sauternes	1.59	17.50
1949 Trinitzelmer Louisauburg	1.59	16.50
1948 Ch. Louisauburg (Margaux)	2.25	24.50

Figure 6. Ad for Famous Sciutto Table Wines, in *The Washington Post*, 20 Oct. 1953.

Freisa: (Pronounced: FRAY-zah) is a medium bodied red wine grape grown in the Piedmont area of the Savona/Genoa area in Italy. What is interesting is the red Freisa grapes must be aged for two years before bottling and often produces a highly acidic, pale cherry red wine ranging from still to slightly sparkling and dry to sweet.

Norton Red: This is a well-known native to North America with an alias name of Virginia Seedling as in 1835; Dr. Daniel Norton of Virginia developed this grape varietal. A Norton wine is dark and inky with flavors of plums and cherries. It is not sure if Sciutto obtained the Norton fruit to make his wine from California or Virginia.

Dolcetto: This red grape is like the Nebbiolo, grown predominately in northern Italy. The wines have a low acidity and do not age well. They are low in tannins and the name Dolcetto derives from the Italian phrase, "little sweet one." The fruit produces wines that are fairly sweet even though the sugar levels of this grape are no higher than the norm. It is the low tannin level that exaggerates the sugar level and explains the sweetness.

Moscato: This is known as Muscat in California and is a white grape used for both Asti Spumante, Moscato d'Alba and other sparkling white wines.

Old Italian Style Wine Celebrations

Wine festivals or celebrations in Virginia are known to date back to 1976 when the first one was held near The Plains, Virginia.¹⁹ Sciutto's Old Italian style of celebrating wine making may have been, however, the first known wine festival in Virginia, occurring twenty-years earlier.

The major attraction of the Old Style Italian wine making was the grape stomping. "We use feet, pretty girls' feet, to crush 'em," Sciutto replied to Graves' probing Sciutto about his grape mashing method. Sciutto, the ultimate marketer, showed Graves a calendar that had a photograph of three "carine" or "little honeys" standing in a grape vat

¹⁸ *The Washington Post*, 20 Oct. 1953, p. 6.

¹⁹ "Celebrating Virginia Wine: 1976 – 2005," *Virginia Wine Gazette* (Bernardsville, N.J.: Recorder Publishing Co., Harvest 2005), p. 19, 20.

crushing the grapes. The same photo appeared in Graves' article identifying the girls as Lucia Stabile, Priscilla Brooks and Ann McAdoo, of Falls Church, Virginia.²⁰

The annual fall celebration followed the same agenda over several years. First, was the blessing of the fruit. A photograph published in *The Washington Post* shows the Rev. George Ecker, of All Saints Catholic Church, Manassas, blessing the fruit with holy water. Then came the stomping of the grapes, and when that part of the festivities was over it was time to draw a few bottles of the previous year's wine and begin to celebrate. An Italian buffet was opened and was described by Graves as "a table full of delicacies like crushed garlicky olives, salami, antipasto, and wine—both red and white. Smithfield ham, grown in the Norfolk area, lends a flavor of Virginia."²¹

Over the years, many joined in the autumn festivities at Sciutto's Winery. Formal invitations went out each year to about a hundred of John's closest friends. Congressmen, Senators, generals, and judges came, watched and enjoyed the activities at Sciutto's Winery. Sciutto became a "local hero" for the wine he made and the celebrations he hosted. "Among the noted was Italy's Ambassador to the United States, Alberto Tarchiana, who would often drive out to enjoy his countryman's sparkling wine and John's equally famous chicken-and-spaghetti suppers."²² The "girls" and the grape stomping were probably the main attraction of these celebrations. John drew "young carine"²³ from Fairfax, Chantilly, Culpeper, and Warrenton. Even models from the Patricia Stevens Finishing School in Washington, D.C., came to be part of the grape stomping.

The grape stompers would have to "step lively" as the grapes were ice-cold having just arrived in refrigerated railroad cars. They did not stomp very long as they would experience chilblains (a nonfreezing injury to the feet). Carol Breeden of Manassas was once crowned the "Queen of Grapes" in the fall celebration of 1955. Her princesses were Valerie and Regina Stabile from Falls Church.²⁴

The grape stomping, as it turns out, was more for show than productivity. Sciutto revealed to Graves in one article that "...not all of John's wine flows between the pinkies of pretty girls. Once the photographers left, out comes the mashing machine. It's not so photogenic, but John gets a lot more juice a lot quicker that way."²⁵ Enrico Torina, his assistant and John, would use the hand operated machine John had brought with him when he came to America in 1931.²⁶

The Wine maker who died of a Broken Heart

Sadly, in the fall of 1956, the Sciutto Winery lost its license to make wine. Aubrey Graves reported in one article that there was something wrong with a batch of wine the revenue agents had sampled.

²⁰ Aubrey Graves, "You Handle Grapes Just So To Give Wine Its 'Bouquet'," *The Washington Post*, 5 July 1953, p. B2.

²¹ Aubrey Graves, "Grapes Stomped Italian Style in Ceremonies at Bull Run," *The Washington Post*, 3 Nov. 1953, p. 21.

²² Aubrey Graves, "The Ladies Get Chilblains in Ancient Grape Gavotte," *The Washington Post and Times Herald*, 30 Oct. 1955, p. E2.

²³ Italian for "Little Honeys."

²⁴ Graves, "The Ladies Get Chilblains," p. E2.

²⁵ Graves, "Grapes Stomped," p. 21

²⁶ Graves, "The Ladies Get Chilblains," p. E2.

Sciutto claimed sabotage and a few days later, he had his first heart attack.²⁷ Another source revealed that Sciutto may have had a problem with the ‘books’ he was required to keep. Graves further reported: “After his recovery, Sciutto persuaded the authorities to test the rest of his stock aging in barrels. It measured up and after agonizing weeks of interminable red tape, his license was restored, but John was emotionally exhausted. Before he could take up his work again; came the second stroke.”²⁸

In his final article Graves wrote that the doctors called John’s strokes, heart attacks, but close friends of John diagnosed him more specifically as “heartbreak failed the proud little Italian.”²⁹ His health diminished and, his heart too broken to make his wine any more, the Sciutto Winery turned into a grocery store. John Sciutto’s fatal day came on February 15, 1958 when his car crashed during a snowstorm a quarter of a mile from where the winery stood. Virginia State Police reported a car driven by a soldier passed two other cars and smashed head-on into the panel truck Sciutto was driving at the intersection of Routes 29 and 234. Dr. Robert A.W. Latimer, County Medical Examiner at the time, said Sciutto’s death apparently was caused by a heart attack (the third one) brought on by the shock of the accident.³⁰

John Sciutto’s obituary read as follows:

“SCIUTTO, JOHN BAPTISTA – Suddenly, on Saturday, February 15, 1958, at Manassas, Va., JOHN BAPTISTA SCIUTTO, beloved husband of Maria Valenti Sciutto of Savona, Italy, and father of two sons. Friends received in the Baker & Son Funeral Home, 314 North West st., Manassas, Va. Requiem mass will be offered at the All Saints Catholic Church, Manassas, Va., at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5. Interment Sacred Heart Cemetery, Hoadly, Va.”³¹

As part of the research for this *Reliquary* article a visit was made to the Sacred Heart cemeteries in Hoadly, Virginia, to try and locate Sciutto’s headstone. But, there was none to be found. A very, very sad ending to John Baptista Sciutto and his legacy and the heritage he left as a prominent vintner in Prince William County’s history of wine making.

Remnants of the Sciutto Winery

The only known remnant left of the Sciutto Winery is a bottle of Freisa wine which is now in the possession of the Manassas Museum. The story of how the bottle came to the museum began in July 2002 when Ray Olszewski, President of the Heritage Hunt Chapter of the American Wine Society in Gainesville, Virginia, received a letter from Mr. Bob Boyd of Gainesville, Virginia, who wrote:

“There was a vineyard and winery on the Manassas Battlefield in the mid-1950’s. It was located on Route 29 approximately ½ mile north of the Stone House on the same side of the road. Mr. John Sciutto made and bottled his wine and sold it at his store at that location.

I have a bottle of freisa grape wine made by Mr. Sciutto. \$250.00. Bob Boyd”³²

²⁷ Aubrey Graves, “John Leaves Choice Toast to Yule He’ll Spend Abed,” *The Washington Post*, 16 Dec. 1956, p. B2.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ “Vintner Sciutto Dies in Manassas Crash,” *The Washington Post and Times Herald*, 16 Feb. 1958, p. A3.

³¹ “Died,” *The Washington Post and Times Herald*, 4 March 1958, p. B2

³² Letter from Bob Boyd to the author, undated, but postmarked July 2002.



Figure 7. Sciutto Winery bottle of Freisa Wine now held at the Manassas Museum. Notice the ornate label showing what appears to be a coat of arms or heraldry which has not been further identified.

Photo courtesy The Manassas Museum, Manassas, Va.

Curious, Ray called Mr. Boyd who revealed that his brother-in-law was a “revenue agent” during the ‘50s and made visits to the Sciutto Winery a couple of times a year and one time asked to see the ‘books.’ Sciutto kept telling the agent that he made good wine and encouraged him to try some, but each time the agent declined and told the wine maker he needed to keep books meaning an accountability of what he made and sold. A few years later, Boyd was contacted by Olszewski and found out that the bottle was now in the hands of the Manassas Museum.

Olszewski met with Roxana Adams, Manassas Museum Curator / Deputy Director who had the bottle in the back room of the museum. As it turns out, the Museum purchased the bottle from Mr. Boyd for \$200.00 with the assistance of Jan Alten, owner of the Opera House Gourmet. In the photograph, you can readily see that the bottle is seven-eighths full and is sealed with both a cork and a screw top. Another remnant that came to be known about but not found is a 1632 wine dipper which Graves reported Sciutto had showed to him during one winery visit.³³ Also, there are reports that a porch table and a copper measuring vat from the winery are in the possession of Manassas residents. And, as for the “mashing machine,” well,

Aubrey Graves reveals later that one actually did exist reporting it was brought from Italy and its whereabouts remain unknown. John had persuaded one of his two sons to come to Manassas but he did not stay very long, returning to Italy. Just before his second stroke, John dropped by Grigsby Hill Farm leaving a “Christmas gift of a bottle of his choicest wine and a piece of exquisite porcelain fashioned by his artistic son.”³⁴

So therein is the beginning and hopefully not the end of John Baptista Sciutto’s story, one of Prince William County notable vintners. John Sciutto can be credited in establishing Prince William’s first winery. John Sciutto’s one-man, hand-crafted wine making in rural Prince William County can now be recognized. John Sciutto can now be identified as one who no doubt established one of Virginia’s earliest if not the first wine festival and celebration.

“*In Vino Veritas*” ~ “*In Wine There Is Truth*”.³⁵

Who knew?

Figure 8. John Sciutto, 1953.
Photo courtesy *The Washington Post*.³⁶



³³ Graves, “You Handle Grapes Just So,” p. B2.

³⁴ Graves, “John Leaves Choice Toast,” p. B2.

³⁵ Roman historian Pliny the Elder's observation in *Historia Naturalis*.

³⁶ Graves, “Grapes Stomped,” p. 21.

**THE TOWN OF MAYVILLE,
DUMFRIES MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA.**

Little is known of the Town of Mayville. It was incorporated May 14, 1903¹ and its first mayor was J. Frank Wheat. When Mr. Wheat dies in 1908, his obituary only says he is of Dumfries.² Members of the town council were: Jonas Barnhouse, F. W. Hornbaker, Noah Milstead, Walter H. Keys, and Andrew Watson.³ Mr. Ron Turner, a Prince William County historian, informed us that R. S. Abel General Store is listed in Dumfries every year except in 1909 when the place of business is listed as “Mays Place” and in 1910, when the location is listed as “Mayville.”⁴ The location of the town would have been directly west of present Dumfries, on lands now belonging to Prince William Forest Park.

If anyone has any further information about Mayville, please let RELIC know.

Beverly Veness/RELIC

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY.

**CHAP. 232.—An ACT to incorporate the town of Mayville, in Dumfries magisterial district,
Prince William county.**

Approved May 14, 1903.

1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of Virginia, That the town of Mayville, in Dumfries magisterial district, Prince William county, Virginia, shall be, and the same is hereby, made a town corporate, under the name and style of the town of Mayville, and by that name and style shall have and exercise the powers hereinafter granted.

2. That the government of said town shall be vested in a council of five, to be chosen annually by ballot on the second Tuesday in June. Any person entitled to vote in the said district, and residing in said town, and shall have registered in accordance with general law for the registration of electors in town elections, shall be entitled to vote at all elections in said town. All elections shall be held as provided by general law for towns. The clerk of said town hereinafter provided shall issue to the five persons receiving the highest number of votes a certificate of election, and before entering upon their duties as councilmen shall take the oath for the faithful performance of their duties as prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the State of Virginia.

3. Said council, or so many of them as have qualified, shall meet on the first Monday of September thereafter and organized by choosing a mayor, clerk, and sergeant from among the residents of the said town, which officers shall hold their respective offices for the term of two years when qualified. Said officers shall qualify as hereinbefore provided for. All the officers of the town shall serve without compensation, except as hereinafter provided. The council shall appoint its own time of meeting; a quorum shall consist of a majority of those who have qualified; and any vacancy among any of the officers of the town caused by neglect to qualify, or for other reasons, shall be filled by the said council.

4. The mayor shall be the presiding officer of the council, but shall have no vote except in case of

¹ “An Act to Incorporate the Town of Mayville,” 14 May 1903, Virginia, *Acts of Assembly*, 1903, Chap. 232, p. 346. Found at Fenwick Library, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

² *Washington Post*, 28 Nov. 1908, p. 3; digital image, *ProQuest Historical Newspapers* (<http://www.proquestk12.com>). Available to PWPLS cardholders at www.pwcgov.org/library, Electronic Resources.

³ “An Act ... Mayville,” *Acts of Assembly*, 1903, Chap. 232, p. 347, paragraph 9.

⁴ Ronald R. Turner, *Prince William County Virginia Business Licenses 1900-1928* (Manassas: R. R. Turner, 1999), p. 1.

a tie, or unless he shall be one of the councilmen. He shall have the jurisdiction and authority of a justice of the peace of Prince William county, in said town, and shall have special jurisdiction of the enforcement of the town ordinances, and shall be entitled therefore to charge such fees allowed a justice of the pace [sic] for like services. He may call special meetings of the council by giving notice to each member thereof. The sheriff of said county shall respect and obey the warrant or mittimus of the mayor in the same manner as any magistrate of said county. The clerk of said council shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the council; shall provide the books and stationery therefore; shall make out the certificates of election; shall issue warrants upon the sergeant, ordered by the council, and shall have the power to administer the oath of office to any of the town officers, and for his services under this charter shall be allowed annually a sum to be fixed by the council : provided, the same shall not exceed twenty-five dollars per annum.

5. The sergeant shall collect the taxes imposed by the council, and shall pay all warrants signed by the mayor and countersigned by the clerk. He shall have power and authority of any constable within said town, and shall be entitled to same fees allowed by general law to a constable for like services. He shall perform all duties of overseer of roads or streets in said town in accordance with general law. It shall be the duty of the sergeant, under the direction of the council, to cause the streets of said town to be worked, and shall, for his public services, be allowed annually a sum to be fixed by the council, not to exceed the sum of sixty dollars per annum; the sergeant shall, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, execute a bond in the penalty of five hundred dollars, with sureties to be approved by said council, conditioned according to law; said bond and all other papers of said town shall be filed and preserved by the clerk.

6. The council shall adopt such ordinances for the preservation of good order, health, and property in said town not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Virginia, and may provide fines and penalties for the violation of any ordinance, ten dollars, or imprisonment for not more than twenty days.

7. The clerk shall assess all real and personal property within the said town, and for that purpose shall have access to the land and property book of the commissioner of the revenue for said district; such property shall not be assessed at a higher value than for State and county purposes. Said clerk shall make out tax tickets for taxes imposed by the council against the owners of all property within said town, and place same in the hands of the sergeant for collection, and take receipt therefore. The council may annually levy a tax upon all property within said town for town purposes not to exceed twenty cents on the one hundred dollars value thereof. The council may on the first day of May, nineteen hundred and three, and annually thereafter, impose a license tax on all persons engaged in business within said town, not to exceed, however, one-half of the amount imposed by the State for like purposes. It shall be the duty of the clerk to issue a license to each person engaged in business for which a license may be imposed by the council, and shall place the same in the hands of the sergeant for collection. Said sergeant shall have the same power to enforce collections thereof as now provided for the collection of taxes.

8. The following are hereby declared to be the bounds of said town: Beginning at King's mill, on Quantico run, and extending east with said run to the iron bridge at Dumfries; thence south with the long distance telephone line to the line of James H. Horton; thence west with said Horton's line to the stage road; thence east with said stage road to the Cauborough [Carrborough] road; thence west with said Cauborough's to the line of James Bates; thence north with said Bates' line to Quantico run, and thence down said run to the place of beginning.

9. Jonas Barnhouse, F. W. Hornbaker, Noah Milstead, Walter H. Keys, and Andrew Watson, or a majority of them, are hereby empowered to qualify before any magistrate or notary public, and thereupon they shall constitute, until the first day of September, nineteen hundred and four, the council of said town of Mayville, and as such may organize and elect a clerk and sergeant, and perform all the duties of said council. J. Frank Wheat is hereby made mayor of said town until September first, nineteen hundred and four.

10. The officers of said town and the council thereof shall have all powers granted to officers and councils of towns corporate under existing general laws of the State of Virginia.

11. This act shall be in force from its passage.

**OCOQUAN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI, 1928-1941**

[Continued from Vol. 5, No. 2]

The following is an early alumni newsletter of Occoquan District High School, published in 1941. A copy was provided to RELIC by Judy Kilby of Conover, N.C., who acquired it from her aunt, Wilda Bourne Sampson (Class of 1933). Judy Kilby's mother is Marjorie Rose Bourne (Class of 1941), born in Woodbridge, Va., daughter of W. G. Bourne and Fanny Allen. Marjorie married Richard Elmer Tyrrell, born in Washington, D.C., son of William Middleton Tyrrell and Margaret Wilson. Marjorie and Wilda's younger sister Estelle Bourne also graduated from O.D.H.S.

Retyped by Beverly R. Veness

CLASS OF 1937

Vera Anderson is married to Ralph Benjamin Berry, and lives in Quantico, Virginia.

Eleanor Austin lives in Dumfries, Va. and is employed by Paris Auto Service, Quantico, Va.

Dorothy Bradley went to Strayers Business College, then moved to California. She is now married.

Elinor Brawner lives at Dumfries, Va. She is employed by the Marine Sundry Shop, Quantico, Virginia.

Elizabeth Brawner is unemployed and is living at her home, in Dumfries, Virginia.

Miguel Chaves moved to the West Coast where he attended an art school. He worked in a "Hot Shoppe" and later married. He is now the proud father of a daughter.

Dorothy Davis is living at home in Hoadly, and is working in Manassas for the Bull Run Power Company.

Winifred Dunivan married Victor Knot. She has a government position and is living in Washington, D. C.

Frank Hornbaker is employed at the D. C. Penal Institution. He lives at home in Occoquan, and is part owner of the local movie establishment.

Mary Jean Halloway is the fourth grade teacher at Dumfries Elementary School. She attended Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Va., for three years.

Pete Katsarelis has worked in his father's restaurant and also for David Shapiro. He is living in Quantico.

Myron Lynn went to Strayers College, but left when he received an appointment to the Navy Yard, where he is now employed. In December, 1940 he was married to Margaret Dudley, a teacher at O.D.H.S. They are living in Occoquan.

Mildred Mauck is working at the "Valley Camp" near Woodbridge.

Warren Lloyd worked part time in the Sanitary Grocery Company. He is in the active Marine Reserve. He hopes to become an expert rifleman. He lives in Quantico.

Cynthia Lacey is living in Occoquan. She took a post graduate course at O.D.H.S. After completing this course she attended Strayers College and is at present employed in a Washington office.

Ione Rison lives in Dumfries and works at the Post Laundry in Quantico.

Stanley Reid is employed as a secretary at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington. He is living at Gum Springs, Va. He attended Boyd's Secretarial School.

Margaret Louise Sheppard lives at 319 Great Lake Drive, Decatur, Georgia.

Harry Winfree is a sophomore at V.P.I., in Blacksburg, Virginia.

CLASS OF 1938

Norma Alexander is now living with her aunt in Alexandria. After graduating she took a post graduate course and later secured a position with the Nemo Institute in New York City. She resigned and came to Alexandria. She went to Strayers College and is now employed at the Alexandria Gas Light Company.

Elzora Allen is married to Charles Dewey and lives at 3122 Ravenwood Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. She is employed by the Government.

Dorothy Mae Campbell is living in New York City.

Lafoe English is married to Rena Marena. He is living at the new airport, where he is employed as a Diesel engineer.

Isabelle Hensley attended Strayers College, and is now living at home in Hoadley, Virginia. She is employed in The First National Bank in Quantico, Virginia.

Bill Hensley moved to Parris Island after graduation. He re- [*sic*, returned?] to Quantico for several months but has gone back to Parris Island where he is employed in a laundry.

Bob Hendrick joined the Marine Corp after graduation from high school. He is now stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Eunice Jellison is living at home in Woodbridge. She is employed at the Bank of Occoquan.

Frederick Liming is living in Quantico and is employed by a construction company.

Emory McInteer lives at Quantico. He has been working in his father's hardware store since graduation.

Frederick Liming is living in Quantico and is employed by a construction company. [Same sentence repeated as above.]

Elsie Lunsford took a business course at Manassas High School. She is now married and is living in Falls Church, Virginia.

Cecilia Markle has moved to California. She married a Pacific Coast League Baseball player.

Billy Marshall is living in Triangle, Virginia. He is employed at Manassas, Virginia.

George Mann is living in Fredericksburg, Va. and is employed with the Sunshine Laundry.

Carlton Post joined the Marine Corp. After training at Parris Island he was transferred to Honolulu.

Ambrose Petellat is married and lives in Alexandria. He is employed as a guard at the D. C. Penal Institution.

Mary Sisson married a marine in Quantico, Virginia.

Woodrow Taylor is employed by the Government at the Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia.

Elwood Waite is employed in the Government, in Washington, D. C.

CLASS OF 1939

Dorothy Abel is married and lives in Joplin, Virginia.

Dorothy Browne lives in Woodbridge. After graduation she attended the Washington School for Secretaries. She is now employed as secretary to the manager of the Woodbridge Clay Products Company in Washington.

Thelma Carney is living in Woodbridge. She is married to Edward Best.

Doris Jean Cato is living in Dumfries. She attended the Washington Comptometer School and is now employed by the Government as a Comptometer.

Gladys Gordon is living at home in Minnieville. She has held positions in several department stores in Washington.

Dorothy Gordon is living at home. She was taking the post graduate course at Occoquan High School, but is now working at Falls Church, Virginia as a secretary.

Claggett Hawkins is living in Woodbridge. He was employed at the Peoples National Bank in Manassas as a bookkeeper. He is now employed as an auditor in the Hamilton National Bank, Washington.

Walter Jagiello attended Naval Academy at Annapolis after graduation.

Morgan Hensley is taking a business course in Manassas High School. He is living at home in Hoadly.

Charlotte Howlett is living at home in Triangle. She is employed at the Civil Service Commission in Washington, D. C.

Eula Jellison lives in Woodbridge. She had a NYA job in Miss Vaughan's office in Occoquan District High School, but is now employed as a secretary at the Sanitary Grocery Company in Washington.

Melvin Lieberman went to George Washington University. He is now a messenger in Washington.

Natalie Lieberman attended Strayers College after graduation from high school. She is now living in Washington, D. C.

Warren McInteer is attending Randolph Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.

Louise Mills is married.

Doris Perks is married to Joe Macelli. They live in Washington.

Geraldine Porter is living in Quantico.

Rue Purcell is living at home in Hoadly. He is working with his father at a saw mill.

Ben Purvis is living at home in Quantico, Virginia.

Elizabeth Reid lives in Triangle, Virginia. She is employed in the First National Bank in Quantico as a bookkeeper.

John Slovensky is employed as a secretary in the Rayon plant in Front Royal, Virginia.

Lucy Stefko is living at her home near Manassas, Virginia.

Orva Walker is working in Quantico, Virginia.

Wallace Winfree is living at his home in Dumfries, Virginia and is working in Quantico, Virginia.

Hazel Wolfgang is in training for a nurse in a hospital in New York City.

[In handwriting is "Class of 1940."]

Lively Abel is a freshman at V.P.I. in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Chester Bourne is attending the University of Richmond.

Amy Browne is going to the Washington School for Secretaries in Washington, D. C.

June Brawner attended the Comptometer School in Washington, D. C. She is working as a comptometer operator in the General Accounting Office in the Civil Service in Washington, D. C.

Hilda Amidon is a telephone operator with the Central Mutual Telephone Company, Inc. in Triangle, Virginia.

Mildred Bryant is married to Joe Mentzer and is leaving [living] in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Howard Crawford is studying at the Columbia Art School in Washington, D. C. He lives at home in Quantico, Virginia.

Jesse Curtis lives at home in Minnieville. He is working at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Ellen Haislip went to a card-punching machine school in Washington, D. C. She is now working.

Dick Hicks is attending the NYA school in Manassas.

Gladys Hinton is taking the post graduate course at Occoquan High School.

Henry Hinton lives at home in Woodbridge, Virginia. He works in the Potomac Yards.

Hedwig Jagiello is taking the Post Graduate course at Occoquan High School.

Gilbert Liming is at home in Dumfries, Virginia. He is employed by a construction company in Quantico, Virginia.

Vivian Napier is at home in Fosam, Pennsylvania, attending her mother. She was married recently.

Christine Nelson is at home in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Mitchell Raftelis is attending V.P.I. in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Mary Katherine Sanford is working at the Woodbridge Clay Products Company in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Geraldine Safely works at a drug store in Quantico, Virginia.

Virginia Shanklin is a freshman at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Ellen Thompson is attending Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Rachel Watson is taking the Post Graduate course at Occoquan High School.

Barbara Webb is attending Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Mary Etta Dunivin is living in Manassas, Virginia.

THE FACULTY

Miss Elizabeth Vaughan is principal of Occoquan District High School. She teaches algebra and general mathematics. She lives at Woodbridge.

* * * * *

Ruth Austin teaches the third and fourth grades at Occoquan School. She lives at Occoquan, Virginia.

Aileen Baker is married to Fred Lynn and they live in Occoquan. They have two children.

Eleanor Baker is teaching in Arlington, Virginia. Her home is in Lovington, Virginia.

Mary Page Barnes is teaching in Waynesboro. Her home is in Amelia.

Ada Basham is the first grade teacher at Occoquan. She lives in Woodbridge.

Anna E. Blough is married and living in one of the southern states.

Mildred E. Bodwell teaches history, commercial arithmetic and coaches girls' athletics. She lives in Woodbridge.

Maude Brown is the commercial teacher at O.D.H.S. She lives in Woodbridge.

Pauline Brown teaches the fourth and fifth grades in Occoquan School. She lives in Occoquan.

Lula Brydie is married to James Gee and they live near Blackstone.

Ethel Cadmus is teaching near Portsmouth. Her address is 618 Linden Ave., Portsmouth, Virginia.

Clyde C. Caldwell was from Sinking Creek, Virginia. No other information is available.

Margaret Dudley is married to Myron Lynn and lives in Occoquan. She teaches the fifth and sixth grades.

Ellen E. Eskridge is married to Walter Saunders and lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Florence Gossom was married to Robert Wayland before she stopped teaching. She is making her home in Occoquan.

Alice M. Graybill is living in Nokesville, Virginia.

Wanda Griffin teaches English and serves as librarian of the school. She lives in Occoquan.

Alonzo B. Haga is principal of a high school in Norfolk County, Virginia.

Myrtle Hall is married and living in Washington. She is secretary to one of the managers in Woodward & Lothrop.

Arthur G. Harman is principal of a school at Elkton, Virginia.

Mary D. Hood lives at 109 West Princess Ann Road, Norfolk, Va.

Evelyn Irons is principal of the Elementary Grade School at Dumfries, Va.

Jacquelyn Johnston is married to W. T. Rice. They have a son, John, who is two years old. They live at 8 Hernleigh Road, Wheeling, W. Va. where Mr. Rice is employed as a track supervisor for the Penn. Railroad.

Montgomery Johnston is the seventh grade teacher at O.D.H.S. He lives in Occoquan.

Martha Keller is the second grade teacher at O.D.H.S. She lives in Woodbridge.

John M. Kline, Jr. is living in Port Republic with his wife and daughter, Betty Jean. He is an agricultural teacher in a high school near Port Republic.

Dorothy Lankford is married to Ned Bradford and lives in Manassas.

Ethel Laudermilk lives at Edinburg.

Mabel Lewis was married while teaching at O.D.H.S. No other information is available.

Nellie Long is married and living in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Mary Agnes Love is teaching in Danville, Va. Her home is in Kenbridge, Va.

Jane Lynn is teacher of home economics and typing in O.D.H.S. She lives in Manassas.

Grace Madden is teaching in Clifton Forge, Virginia.

Willie P. Marshall is keeping house in Woodbridge. She has a son, Thomas.

Fanny L. Minnick is married and living in Durham, N. C.

Ellie V. Morris is married to Wilton Hixson. They are making their home in Lorton, Virginia.

Hazel Neale is living at her home in Bealton, Va. She is teaching in the school there.

Jesse Neale is teaching in a high school in Henrico County, Va.

R. Worth Peters is principal of Manassas High School. He is living in Manassas with his wife and three children.

Selma Piland teaches French at O.D.H.S. She also has two classes in English and history. She lives in Woodbridge.

Margaret Powell teaches the first, second and third grades in the Quantico Grade School. She lives in Quantico.

Frank G. Sigman lives in Manassas. He teaches English, Latin, Geometry and general Mathematics.

Edythe Mae Thomasson is married to William Sanford. They have a new home at Woodbridge. They also have a little daughter, Marsha. Mrs. Sanford is employed in the Department of Labor in Washington.

A. J. L. Waskey teaches history, science, and coaches boys' athletics.

Ercelle Weedon is living in Quantico, Virginia.

Alice Leo Williams is Mrs. Charles Fairfield Whitley and lives Smithfield, Virginia.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION - 1941

Laura Abel
Virginia Sanford
Annie Slovensky
Alan Lloyd
Ruth Beckner
Manuel Katsarelis
Marjorie Bourne
Kathleen Cato
Mary Petellat

Clifford May
Evelyn Dean
Schuyler Jellison
Forrest Persons
George Katsarelis
Leon Bushey
Richard Oertley
Irene Gnadt
John Russell

SCHOOL BOARD

R. C. Haydon—Supt. of Schools
Sue Frances Ayres—Supervisor
D. J. Arrington—Chairman
Fred M. Lynn
Mrs. Floy H. McInteer
Mrs. Anita D. Piercy
A. T. Barnes
N. N. Free

The 1941 Occoquan High School yearbook is dedicated to the Alumni. It says:

“TO THE ALUMNI They have shown this year more than ever that they at their graduation have not lost their interest in their school. So it is the pleasure of the staff of the 1941 “Indian Echoes” to dedicate it to the Alumni.”

The last page of the yearbook before the advertisements start has:

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT

The Hintons can boast the largest number of graduates for any one family. There have been five graduates from this family—Frances, Louis, Nellie, Gladys, and Henry. The Gordons and Hensleys tie for second place with four each.

There have been 188 persons graduated from O.D.H.S. in thirteen years. The smallest class, 1929, had only one member, Donald Sides. The largest class, 1939, had 25 members.

Miss Vaughan has been principal of Occoquan High School for ten years.

Graduates of O.D.H.S. are at present not only in many states of the United States, but also China, and Honolulu.

OFFICERS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS:	VICE PRESIDENTS:	SECRETARIES
'36 Jane Selecman	Janet Murphy	Muriel Hicks
'36 [sic] Janet Murphy	Harold Lloyd	Muriel Hicks
'37 Mildred Wilcher	Thomas Joyce	Jane Selecman
'38 Janet Murphy	Norma Alexander	Sara Bubb
'39 Cynthia Lacey	Janet Murphy	Nick Katsarelis
'40 Doris Bubb	Thomas Joyce	Dorothy Browne

TREASURERS:	REPORTERS:	SOCIAL CHAIRMEN:
Francis Malcolm	Lawrence Hoover	Burnetta Brockett
Francis Malcolm	Lawrence Hoover	Burnetta Brockett
Francis Malcolm	Margaret Burdette	Mary Joyce
Myron Lynn	Cynthia Lacey	Howard Petellat
Francis Malcolm	Stanley Reid	Mary Joyce
Evelyn Herring		Ellen Haislip Amy Browne

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE OF VIGILANCE, For Prince William County.

[*The Jeffersonian*, Warrenton, Va., Saturday, July 4, 1840, p. 3; list repeated July 11]

[*The Jeffersonian was a partisan newspaper favoring states' rights and supporting the Democratic candidate Martin Van Buren for President. These men apparently agreed with that view. The opposition Whigs supported William Henry Harrison.*]

John W. Tyler	John Davis	Henley Groves	Peyton Norvill
James H. Reed	Alexander P. Lynn	John Dickerson	John D. Dogan
John Williams	Henley Groves	Richard Annis	James D. Tennill
William F. Purcell	John Dickerson	John Annis	Thomas B. Gaines
William S. Feuell	Richard Annis	William Stounell	Joseph Ellis
James A. Evans	John Annis	James Lee	Wm. Roach
Major Robert Williams	Wm. Stounell [Stonnell]	Z. A. Kankey	B. E. Harrison
James Purcell	James Lee	Arrington Evans	Willis Foley
Col. James Feuell	Richard Stonnell	Henley Duval	John Graham
Dr. John Gray	Z. A. Kankey	William Brinn [?]	Sanford Pickett
Dr. James B. T.	Arrington Evans	Samuel Tancil	Richard O. Shirley
Thornton	Henley Duval	George A. Farrow	Henry Haislip
W. H. Clifford [?]	Wm. Brinn [?]	John Fox	Richard Graham
John F. Reid	Samuel Tancil	Strother Renoe	Dr. Richard Marsteller
Thomas J. Shaw	Samuel Fisher	Mortimer Farrow	Samuel Haislip
John O'Rear	Hugh W. Davis	Isaac Florence	Benjamin Ricketts
Stephen French	Mason French	Edward J. Spence	John Latham
Joseph Johnson	John Brammel	Wm. Cockrell	B. Newman
Maj. E. O[']Rear	James Foster	Wm. H. A. Merchant	Charles H. Hunton
Benjamin Johnson	Robert Bates	Robert B. Merchant	Rev. John S. Trone
Johnson Cockrell	Henry Milstead	A. H. Waters	Jacob Delaplane
John Conner	Wm. Brammel	Wm. D. Dowell	Lawrence Cole
Benson Lynn	Charles Shaw	John B. Merchant	Dr. James W. F. Macrae
Sandford Thurman	John Hutchison	Thomas Nelson	Wm. Tyler
Robert Leachman	Manassah Russell	Seymour Lynn	John Florence
Benjamin Farrow	Mortimer Carney	Isaac W. Davis	Philip Warder
John Robinson	Moses Copin	Moses Mathews	T. B. Warder
John Thomas	Bazil Cole	Maj. George G. Tyler	Richard C. Hayes
George W. Macrea	Warren Davis	Edmund Newman	
William Davis	Bazil Brawner	Richard Gill	
Spencer Carter	Alexander P. Lynn	Capt. Wm. P. Cundiff	

DUMFRIES DISTRICT COURT LAND CAUSES 1793-1811

*Transcribed by William M. Balderson, Jr.
Edited by Donald L. Wilson*

(Continued from Vol. 5, No. 2)

[This concludes the case of Robert H. HOOE vs. Thomas BIRD, and begins the case of Catesby GRAHAM vs. Jane and William GRAHAM, in partition. The GRAHAM siblings were among the children of John GRAHAM, founder of Dumfries (1711-1787).¹ John's widow Elizabeth GRAHAM left a will probated in 1795 in Dumfries District Court. That will book is now lost, but a copy of the will is available at the Library of Virginia.² Although this case says "a copy of [the will] is hereto annexed," it has not found within this book. The land in question is located in Loudoun County. / DLW]

[Page 108, continued]

Pursuant to an order of the Worshipful Court of Prince William County bearing date *[blank]* day of *[blank]* 1797 I commenced a survey of the lands on dispute between Robert Howson HOOE Plaintiff and Th^s BIRD Deft on the 16th day of October in Company with a sworn jury when I was directed by Mr. DADE the Plts attorney to begin at figure **1** an old Stump near the mouth of the Rusha

[Page 109] Branch extending thence N29W29 poles to **A**, a marked Hickory corner on the bank of Bull run thence N26½W62 to **B** inside of Col^o BLACKBURNs fence no corner found thence S35½W with a line of marked trees 804 po to **C** ab^t one pole West of the red oak proved by CONGROVE this is all that was done at this meeting except a line run for the Plt. and one for the deft see the other plot. Then on the 23^d day of April in presence of the Commissioners M^r. SWAN and M^r. HARRISON I was directed by M^r. HARRISON the Defts attorney to begin at figure **1** where the Plt. began running thence N 1° W over Bull run 30 poles to figure **2** no Corner found thence N27 W62 po to figure **3** in BLACKBURNs old field thence S35W at the distance of 316 po angled to BLACKBURNs supposed White Oak corner which stood at right angles ab^t 9 po west of the line which tree was found to be very near the line by the Plt. continuing the course 420 po. where we discovered a White oak marked as a Corner at right angles 5 po and 2 links from the line to the West, still continuing the course to the distance of 806 po to figure **4** angle N80W21 po to **C** where the Plt. Ended his survey and I was discharged given under my hand the 15 day of April 98. Henry D. HOOE S[urveyor].P.W^m

James GAINES, James BERK, W^m, GAINS, W^m BROWN & Frances MONTGOMERIE } sworn
Chain men

[Page 108-A, a sheet pasted into the book. Obverse shows a plat of Rusha Branch and Bull Run with dotted lines **ABC** and **1234**.]

¹ Horace E. Hayden, *Virginia Genealogies* (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.: 1891; repr. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1973), 162-163.

² "Burned Record Counties Database," at www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/local/burned/index.htm.

[Page 108-A, Reverse]

	M ^r Robert H. HOOE	D ^r .	
1797	Oct ^r 16	To running three lines y ^r suit ag ^t BIRD	6.30
	17	To one Plot	1.05
1798	April 23	To running three lines	6.30
		To one plot	<u>1.05</u>
		E[rrors]. Excepted	14.70
		Henry D. HOOE	S P W ^m .
1797	Mr. Thomas BIRD	D ^r .	D C [dollars and cents]
	Oct 16	To running one line	2.10
1798	Ap ^l 24	To running six lines 2.10 ea	<u>12.60</u>
		E. Excepted	14.70
		Hy D. HOOE	S P W ^m Co

Mem^o for the Clerk.M^r. Langhouse DADE att^y for the Plt. attended two daysM^r. SWAN also for the Plt. two daysM^r. HARRISON appeared for the Deft.

Henry D. HOOE

[Endorsement] HOOE Rob^t. H. } Award
 Tho^s. BIRD }

Decem^r 1798 Award Ret^d and confirmed on Motion of Deft
 Appeal granted, bond to be given at or before n[ex]^t Court
 HOOEs Costs \$38.52 // Passe[?]

[Page 110] [*Marginalia:*] **GRAHAM vs. GRAHAM**

To the Worshipful Court of Prince William in Chancery now setting Humbly Complaining sheweth unto your worships Your Orator Catesby GRAHAM that a certain Elizabeth GRAHAM mother of your Orator previous to her death made and executed her last will and testament a copy of which is hereto annexed to which your Orator refers praying the same may be made a part of this bill by which she bequeathed unto your orator and a certain Jane GRAHAM & William GRAHAM whom your orator prays may be made Defendts to this bill a certain tract of land situate in the County of Loudon containing six hundred & odd Acres & share & share alike. And your Orator has applied to the Deft^s for division of the same, but they have ever declined making the same pretending a part was in dispute & claimed by Col^o Levan POWELL, all which actings and doings are contrary to Equity & Good conscience and in as much as your orator is remediless in a Court of Law to the end thereof that the s^d Deft^s may a true & perfect answer make to the premises as fully as if the same were here again repeated and interrogated and that equity may be done in the premises your Orator prays the Commonwealths writ of Sp^a &^c HARRISON For Pltf.

[Page 111] The Answer of William GRAHAM to the Bill of Complaint of Catesby GRAHAM Complainant. - This Deft saving and reserving to himself all benefit of exception to the manyfold

uncertainties and imperfections in the said bill of complaint for answer thereto saith That he is willing and desirous of a Division of the lands mentioned in said Complainants Bill agreeable to the true spirit and Intention of the Will of the said Elizabeth GRAHAM Devisor of the said land and according to the spirit and Intention of an agreement made between the Complainant, the Deft and the other Defendant Jane GRAHAM Dated the 5th day of December 1795 which is hereto annexed to which this Deft refers praying the same may be taken as part of his ~~bill~~ answer and this Deft denies he was ever oppos^d to making a Division in the form and manner aforesaid, Provided the lines and boundaries of said Land should be first ascertained and provided also that the said Complainant shall account for such Rents or parts of rents as he the said Comp^l. shall have received accruing from said land. And he the said Deft. Further denies all Combination without that &^c. William GRAHAM Sworn to before me this 16th day of November 1797 William BARNES*

[*Marginalia*] * To the worshipfull Court of Prince William County in Chancery Sitting. The separate answer of Jane GRAHAM (of Lawful age) to a bill of Complaint in the said court introduced by Catesby GRAHAM against herself and W^m GRAHAM sheweth &^c This deft saving to herself all kind of exceptions to the many Errors &^c on the Plts bill of Complaint for answer saith. That she acknowledges herself to be one of the devisees of Elizabeth GRAHAM as is stated in the Bill of complaint - and that it is her desire that a division should be made of the land devised by Elizabeth GRAHAM to the persons stated in the bill of Comp^t as by the prayer of the s^d bill is requested &c & humbly prays the Court to decree accordingly &c Jane GRAHAM Prince W^m Sc^t. I hereby certify that the within bill was sworn to before me this 7th day of Aug. 1797. Chs TYLER

[Page 112]	At Rules held November 1796.	Continued Bill
	December	Ditto
	January & February 1797	Ditto
	March April & May	Continued
	June, Bill on time	
	July	Cont ^d for answers
	August	Ditto
	Sep ^t Jane GRAHAMs answers filed & Contd for W ^{ms}	
	October	Replication as to Jane and set for hearing Bill taken for confess ^d as to W ^m & set for decree.

In Court November the 11th 1797. This cause came on by consent & on hearing the bill and answer & agrem^t filed It is ordered and decreed that John TYLER, Benj GRAYSON and Martin S. HANCOCK or any two of them do divide the land in the bill mentioned agreeable to the true intent, spirit and meaning of the last Will and Testament of Eliz GRAHAM decd. and of the agreement before mentioned and make their report to the Court ...

=====

In Court Feby the 6th 1799 - It appearing to the Court that the Commissioners appointed by a former interlocutory decree in this court to divide the land in the bill mentioned have failed to perform the same, It is ordered that Simon TRIPLETT, Joseph LANE and Francis PAYTON be added to the said Comms, & that any three of them do divide the said land agreeable to the true intent, spirit and meaning of the last Will and Testament of Elizabeth GRAHAM dec^d and of the Agreement men^d in the aforesaid interlocutory decree & make their report to the Court.

[Page 113] In Court April 1799 Continued for report

May Continued

April the 9th 1800 - The Comr^s appointed by the Interlocutory order and decree in this cause having divided the Lands mention^d in the Compl^s Bill as directed by said interlocutory decree among the Compl^s & Defendants and having made a report and survey of the manner in which s^d division was made and the Court having inspected, heard and read said report and survey, and approving of the same; Therefore It is ordered and decreed that the Complt and his heirs in severalty be entitled to the Lott N^o. 3 described and bounded as by said survey; and that the Deft. Jane and her heirs and hold and enjoy in severalty the Lott N^o 2 described and bounded as by the said survey, and

that the Def^t William GRAHAM & his heirs hold and enjoy in severalty the Lott N^o. 1 described and bounded as by the said survey & the Def^{ts} are enjoined and decreed at the Costs of the Compl^t to convey unto him all their right and interest in the Lands with their appurtenances contained in the Lott N^o 3 described and bounded as aforesaid upon condition that the Compl^t first convey all his right to lott N^o 2 described and bounded as aforesaid to the Def^t. Jane at her proper cost and charge and all his right unto the Def^t. William & his heirs to Lott N^o 1 and the Lands with their appurtenances described therein at the Court and Charge of the said

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[Page 114] William GRAHAM, and the said def^t William at the Cost of the said Jane the other def^t is decreed and enjoined to convey to her and her heirs at her costs all his right to lott N^o 2 and the Lands with the appurtenances described therein and the Def^t Jane is ordered and decreed to convey unto the Def^t William and his heirs at his cost all her right to the lands with the appurtenances described & bounded by the lott N^o 1 & lastly the Costs of this suit is directed to be divided between the parties and they are decreed & or^d to pay the same according thereto---

The following papers are filed viz.

[Here is a plat with metes and bounds, showing the three adjoining lots mentioned, each containing 250 acres, 3 roods, 0 perches. Land is shown lying south of Beaver Dam [Run], with north toward the bottom of the page. Measurements shown: From A, S80° 30' W 65 ¼ [poles or perches] to B, N50W100 to C, N31°W 229¼ to D, N15E 40 to E, N49½ E 66 ½ to F, N 49 ½ E 156 to G, S [N?] 49° 30' W 222 to H, follow Beaver Dam to I, N [S?] 27E 248 to K, S27W 86 to L, S58° 45' W 86 to M, S19E 142 to A.

M to F is N39.45W 248. G to K is S39.45E 228. Lot No. 1 is ABCDEFMA. Lot No. 2 is FGKLMF. Lot No. 3 is GHIKG.]

On a Scale of 100 perches to an Inch Surveyed November 29th 1799 p[e]r Jo: LANE D.S.L.C.
[Deputy Surveyor of Loudoun County]

[*To be continued.*]

CLOVER HILL FARM IN THE WAR OF 1812

[*A 1923 Manassas newspaper published this account of the fire that destroyed the home of Joseph B. Johnson at Clover Hill.¹ What is interesting is the mention that during the War of 1812, relics from the National Museum were brought to this house and stored for safekeeping. We have not found any other proof that this truly happened. / BV*]

FIRE DESTROYS HISTORIC HOME

Estate Been In Johnson Family Since 1770 – Fire Started From Defective Flue.

The home of the late Joseph B. Johnson, at Clover Hill Farm, about a mile from Manassas, was totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday afternoon.

The fire, which broke out in an upper room, from a defective flue, had gained such headway by the time the fire department had arrived, that it was found utterly impossible to save the building, so attention was turned towards removing the furniture.

This estate, which has been one of the landmarks of Prince William county, came into the hands of the Johnson family in the year 1770. The old stone building, occupied by some of the members of the family since the fire, was in use at that time as a weaving house. This building, which was within fifty feet of the flames, was saved with much difficulty.

The building destroyed was erected in 1885 on the foundation of the old house destroyed during the Civil war, it in turn having been built prior to 1814, as relics from the National Museum were brought there and stored when the British burned Washington.

In the present fire a chest was burned which was used as a war chest during the war of 1812, by Capt. John H. Dye, a member of the family.

Two of the original buildings of the farm are still standing, one being the old stone house occupied by the family from 1865 to 1885, and the other a building used as a slave cabin.

A number of pieces of antique furniture were destroyed on account of being too heavy to get out, but the greater part of the household goods was saved.

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William M. Balderson Jr., Judy Kilby, Ray Olszewski, Beverly Veness, and Donald L. Wilson

¹ *Manassas Journal*, Friday, 9 February 1923, p. 1.