

Hazelfield – Woodbury – Western View
Research Notes
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September 2007

Tucker – Coleman Papers, St. George Tucker Letters on Microfilm
(College of William and Mary, Earl Gregg Swem Library, Special Collections)

Jefferson County Land Tax Records (Berkeley County Historical Society)

Miscellaneous other sources

[added information is in bold]

Henry St. George Tucker (1780-1848) came to Winchester, Virginia in 1802 to establish himself as a lawyer. He worked mostly in Chancery in Frederick, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties. In 1806 he married Anne Evelina Hunter, daughter of Moses and Ann (Stephen-Dandridge) Hunter of Berkeley County. Henry and Evelina lived in Winchester until 1812 when they had to surrender their lease to the house they occupied. They lived in a tavern with their four children from October 1812 to July 1813 when their house was completed on their Frederick County farm purchased from “Mr. Street” in 1810.

Hazelfield

The 800-acre tract known as Hazelfield was owned by Adam Stephen and given to his daughter Ann Stephen at the time of her marriage to Alexander S. Dandridge in 1780. Ann Stephen Dandridge retained the Hazelfield tract after Dandridges death and her subsequent marriage to Moses Hunter in 1787.¹ In 1813, Evelina’s brother David Hunter was killed in battle (the same David Hunter who owned the 14½-acre spring tract at Boidstone’s Place). David Hunter was set to inherit the farm known as the Strode farm (today the “Stone House Mansion”). This farm, which adjoined Hazelfield, was purchased by his father Moses Hunter from the Adam Stephen estate, after his marriage to Ann, and devised to son David in 1798.² After young David Hunter’s death the land was apparently set to be devised to Evelina and her brother Moses, along with their widowed mother Ann until her death. Henry and Evelina Tucker apparently planned to purchase Moses Hunter’s interest

¹ Information from “Hazelfield” National Register documentation.

² Information from “Stone House Mansion” National Register documentation. This is the farm described in the 1786 Jonathon Clark survey: Adam Stephen “under John Strode,” stone, 34 x 24, 2 story, cellar, 2 lower floors laid & lath'd below, very few glass in the windows, 2 chimneys, old barn, 54 x 20, without floor or doors, in cultivation and very bad order, 184 a. third rate high land, 16 a. in meadow. NOTE: this contradicts what Don Wood told me about the Orendorff house being the same house listed in 1786 under Adam Stephen’s name (see Millbrook property history). On the 1798 house tax there were two listings for the Moses Hunter estate, one valued at 157.50 and the other at 131.25, both tenanted.

in the farm. Henry St. George Tucker wrote to his father, St. George Tucker, on January 8, 1814:

The expiration of the lease of a tenant in Berkeley, dissolved upon the devises of an [old] lady of that county (of whom my wife [is] one) an indivisible piece of property, which all parties are anxious to preserve in the family, and which in its present situation cannot be disposed of but at a sacrifice. I have determined to take it on myself & have concluded an agreement to that effect. I was led to this among other reasons by this [foremost] one; that Mrs. Hunter who is overwhelmed by her loss might be [enabled?] [unintelligible series of words] build on her estate [unintelligible series of words] from which [latter?] plan she has become [entirely?] anxious to remove. Surrounded as she is by objects which serve to keep alive her grief, and by a Society of intemperate federal politicians whose expressions in relation to public affairs are calculated to wound very deeply those who have suffered by the war, her children cannot but be anxious for this change.

To meet this engagement I have made every practicable arrangement, but in the present state of things, there is so little certainty that I think it prudent to endeavour to do more. I therefore take the liberty of enquiring, whether, if I am otherwise disappointed, it will be convenient to you to lend me \$2000 about the 1st of July...

Several years after the death of Moses Hunter, the Jefferson County tax record showed Ann Hunter (then a resident of Berkeley County) with an 800-acre tract and a 163-acre tract she held "for Hunters Heirs," presumably the "Stone House Mansion" property (NR documentation). Both tracts were taxed together at \$6.86 up to 1812. In 1814, Ann Hunter's 800 acres were described as adjoining "A. Neal" (Abraham Neill) and the 163 acres as "same land" (in 1816 the two tracts were combined as 963 acres). The two tracts were taxed beginning in 1814 at \$12.18 indicating that there was a significant change on the property, probably the construction of the Hazelfield house to which Ann Hunter retired and lived out her life. Presumably the Stone House Mansion continued as a tenant house on the large farm.

By 1817, the Hazelfield acreage, as listed on the land tax record, was reduced to 887 acres. In 1820, Hazelfield adjoined "Lewis Neill" and its building value was stated as \$2,500. This value remained unchanged up to 1835, the year following Ann Hunter's death. In 1840 (1841 tax record) 680 acres of Hazelfield, adjoining "Lewis Neill," with a \$2,500 building value was transferred to Henry St. George Tucker. According to the National Register documentation of both Hazelfield and Stone House Mansion, both buildings were part of Tucker's estate after his death in 1848.

Still living near Winchester, Virginia in 1824, the Henry St. George Tucker family included nine children (listed by order of birth according to HSGT letters): St. George (d.1826), Ann (who HSGT described as "a tiny fairy" in 1810 when she was 11 months old), Frances, David Hunter (b. June 1815), Randolph, Dandridge, Beverley, Virginia, and Mary (two more came after that

and several died). The Tuckers visited Hazelfield often, as well as staying at Shannondale Springs and their own Sulphur Springs on the west bank of the Opequon Creek. HSGT wrote to his father in July 1826 from his Sulphur Springs property in Berkeley County: "In this retired spot I gather nothing worth telling. Though much alone I am not solitary. The tranquility of my situation is delightful to me."

Woodbury

Henry St. George Tucker's father, St. George Tucker, died in 1827. Writing less frequently to his brother Nathaniel Beverley Tucker and half-brother John Randolph, HSGT was writing from Winchester until December 24, 1832 when he began writing from "Woodbury, Jefferson County." HSGT also wrote to his friend John W. Campbell several letters confirming his move from Winchester to Jefferson County: one dated 1831 in which HSGT invited Campbell to come visit them in Winchester, and the other letter dated September 29, 1833 in which HSGT wrote "my residence is now near Leetown, Jefferson County." (Charles Campbell Papers, in Tucker-Coleman Papers collection)

It was in 1832 that HSGT purchased a 240-acre farm from Richard Baylor's heirs, as noted on the 1833 tax record, with a building value of \$1,000. It was probably in this Baylor house that HSGT lived with his family through 1832-33 while their new house was under construction (see 1809 Varle map).³ The 240 acres were described as adjoining "James Hite."

In his book first published in 1833, A History of the Valley of Virginia, Samuel Kercheval included a section called "Items of General Interest" in which he wrote:

Judge Henry St. G. Tucker has erected in the neighborhood of Leetown a most splendid stone building, rough-cast, finished in beautiful style, three stories high; but the writer does not recollect the exact size of the edifice, but it is a very large building. (7th edition, 1986, p. 357)

In 1834, a \$6,000 building value was "added for New House" on the HSGT tax record, for a total building value of \$7,000, possibly indicating that the old house was retained on the Woodbury property. It is noted in the Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society that the Baylor family cemetery is located in the yard next to the Woodbury house (Vol. 7, Dec. 1941).

HSGT, who established a law office in Winchester in 1802, opened his own small law school in Winchester in 1825. He began teaching at the University of Virginia in 1841 and is credited with instituting the "honor system" there. Despite his service in the Virginia Senate and the U.S. Congress, as well as President (Chief Justice?) of the Virginia Supreme

³ In 1798, Richard Baylor had a Mutual Assurance Society policy on "my plantation" (btwn James & Joseph Hite and Jn Mark & A. Weaver), including \$1,500 for the house, a frame 2 story dwelling measuring 36 x 18 feet, covered with wood, "seal'd and plaistered" and \$625 for the log barn. On his 1805 MAS record the plantation was called Mount Pleasant.

Court, HSGT lived a relatively quiet and private life in Winchester and in Jefferson County after 1832.

On June 8, 1844, Tucker sold Woodbury to Dr. P. Rogers Huffman (Hoffman), and died four years later (1848) in Winchester (Tales of the Tuckers, p. 16).

Western View

In 1826, James Hite of New Hopewell, son of Col. Thomas Hite and brother of Frances (Mrs. Carver) Willis, purchased a tract of 274 acres adjoining Travelers Rest from John Lisle (land tax record). The property had a building value of only \$100, but Hite already had a house on his adjoining New Hopewell estate.⁴ Col. James Hite married Lydia Peterson on May 12, 1831 (Martinsburg Gazette, May 26, 1831) – the same year he built a “new Brick Dwelling and stone Barn,” valued at \$3,300 on the tax record (1832), on his 274-acre Lisle tract. (1831 was also the year that James Hite and his partner Jacob Newcomer purchased the Hopewell Mills property on the Shenandoah River at Little’s Falls.)

Samuel Kercheval wrote in A History of the Valley of Virginia, first published in 1833, “James Madison Hite, Esq., resides in an elegant brick mansion contiguous to the stone bridge.”⁵

Just two years later, in 1835, HSGT purchased 330 acres “from James Hite” according to his 1836 land tax record. The tract, adjoining Travelers Rest, had “56 acres added on survey.” The property already had a building value of \$3,400. This was the farm complex that became known as Western View, said to have been constructed by HSGT for his daughter, which is clearly not the case.⁶

Ann Evelina Hunter Tucker (HSGT’s “tiny fairy” daughter) married Dr. Alfred Thurston Magill, around 1827 (first child born in 1828 – online genealogy). He was from Winchester, Virginia and was a professor of medicine at the University of Virginia. Dr. Magill died in 1837 at the age of 33 after a “painful and lingering” illness (Martinsburg Gazette, June 14, 1837). He and his wife Ann, and their four children were living at Woodbury at the time of his death, according to the newspaper obituary.⁷

⁴ As late as 1806, Frances Hite, mother of James, was taxed on her dower of 250 acres while James was taxed on 480 acres at a slightly higher rate, indicating perhaps that he was taxed on the house. In 1813 the 250 acres was added to his tax list, presumably at the death of his mother Frances.

⁵ (7th Ed., 1986, p. 359) This statement may actually cause confusion and may not be useful as Kercheval was not writing exclusively about Jefferson County. Thus his reference to “the stone bridge” may refer to the Silas Harry stone bridge nearby in Berkeley County which was newly constructed in 1832. We do not know if James Hite owned property in that area. We do know that he had recently constructed his elegant brick mansion at Western View and it seems likely that Kercheval is referring to this. Was there a stone bridge nearby in Jefferson County?

⁶ Bushong (1972, p. 163) states: “Not far from *Woodbury* is another home which was built by Judge Tucker for his daughter, Ann Evalina Hunter Magill.”

⁷ Mary Tucker Magill: “Born in Jefferson county, Virginia, August, 1832, daughter of Dr. Alfred Thurston Magill and Anne Evalina Hunter, daughter of Judge Henry St. George Tucker; she was educated at Richmond and at the University of Virginia, where her father was professor of medicine. After the war she

Ann E.H. Magill was still living in her father's house at the time of the 1840 census. Henry St. George Tucker, by then in his 50s, was listed with 10 children under the age of 20 in his household, along with his wife (50-60), 2 males (20-30), and one female, aged 30-40 (Ann). At least five of Tucker's children were still under the age of 20, and Ann Magill's four children would have been still young as well.

In 1840 or early 1841, HSGT sold 200 acres of the Western View tract with a building value of \$3,000 to his daughter Ann E.H. Magill. Tucker's remaining 130 acres of the former Hite tract had no building value listed. Mrs. Magill is said to have sold Western View in February 1843 to James Vincent Moore (MJCHS, Vol. 7, Dec. 1941, p.15). It is not clear that Ann (Tucker) Magill ever lived in the Western View house at all, and it may never be known if she or any of the other adult Tucker children might have occupied the house. The 1840 census is recorded alphabetically so it is impossible identify neighbors of Woodbury or Western View at that time.

There are various manuscript collections within the Tucker – Coleman Papers. The “Thomas Jefferson Papers” include correspondence with both St. George Tucker and Henry St. George Tucker (HSGT) among others. TJ invited HSGT to join the UVA faculty in 1825, which he declined to do until 1841 (Beverly Randolph Tucker, Tales of the Tuckers, 1942). The “Tucker Papers” are supposed to include a HSGT memorandum book dated 1801-1806, which the archivists were unable to locate – but it appears to be too early to be relevant anyway. The “St. George Tucker Papers” included several accounts books, 1778-1827 and 1785-1818, which were interesting but did not relate to Woodbury at all.

In the “Brown, Coalter, Tucker Papers” was an 1828 letter from HSGT to John Thompson Brown in Clarksburg discussing issues of law, nothing really of interest. But there were also several drawings by Brown of two house designs dated 1827 (see attached files). The first shows details of a mantel and window and door trim, as well as an elevation and plan. House No. 2 is of particular interest because it has a gable entry and in plan it shows a transverse hall.

Thus far we have a number of houses constructed in Jefferson County that have the transverse hall plan: Hazelfield (1815), Cedar Lawn (1825), Western View (1831), and Woodbury (1832).

We have copies of the Hazelfield National Register nomination, part of the “Stone House Mansion” National Register nomination, an abstract of the Kennersley National Register

established, with her mother, a boarding school at Winchester, Virginia. She contributed sketches to periodicals and corresponded with various newspapers, and was the author of "The Holcombes," a story of Virginia home life; "Women, or Chronicles of the Late War;" a "School History of Virginia," generally used in the public schools of the state; and "Pantomimes, or Wordless Poems."” Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography, Volume III, Chap. VII--Prominent Persons

nomination, and the Colonial Williamsburg Research Division article on the St. George Tucker House by Carl Loundsbury.

A search for Hite family papers turned up a collection at the Handley Library in Winchester, Virginia. The Hite-Bowman-Hall Family Papers are primarily focused on Jost and Isaac Hite. There is some genealogical material on the "Jacob Hite Family", "Correspondence, 1830-1855" (33 items, manuscript), and "Legal documents, 1824-1859" (16 items, manuscript).

All other Hite papers in other repositories were from Isaac Hite of Belle Grove.

Also of possible interest, the Conrad & Tucker Law Firm Records collection at the Handley Library. This includes "Miscellaneous papers, c. 1830-1860, manuscript" which may or may not cover some of Henry St. George Tucker's time there.