CABELL FAMILY HOMES
Primarily in Nelson, Buckingham & Amherst Counties, Virginia

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SECTION I

PREFACE
INTRODUCTION

This information was compiled over many years, originally intended solely for the use of my immediate family.

This is not intended to be a literary masterpiece. Rather, my original purpose was to gather information on various Cabell homes, primarily in Nelson, Buckingham and Amherst County, Virginia, for my own personal use. Hopefully, more information will be added, corrected and updated. Any information others have will be greatly appreciated. This information constantly is being updated. I have plagiarized, misspelled, made typos and made plenty of mistakes.

I am grateful to the homeowners, Cabell Foundation, Inc. members and historical societies for making their homes and resources available to me, as well as the many authors through the years who have loved and valued these unusual homes.

Archer Guy Minardi
Richmond, VA

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1998

Updated 2008
FOREWORD

The Cabell Foundation, Inc. is deeply indebted to Archer Minardi for so graciously lending us her personal research, included herein. She has spent many hours searching articles and volumes long out-of-print. Her long efforts will enhance our knowledge and be a valuable resource for members of The Cabell Foundation as we seek to learn more about the family.

In 1947, Archer’s uncle, Briscoe Guy, then a student, wrote a fascinating paper for an English class at The University of Virginia. His primary resource was Alexander Brown’s *The Cabells And Their Kin*. Though written over fifty years ago, much of Briscoe Guy’s paper is still pertinent:

“Riding through the Virginia countryside, one is impressed at once by the number of old homes and towns of past centuries. If the traveler chances upon some of the ‘back country’ roads, where modern hands have had little effect, he will see small towns and plantation homes that have remained unchanged through the years....”

“For two and one-half centuries, the James River in Virginia was the center of population, travel and trade. ... By 1730, settlements along the James had advanced as far as Scottsville. It was in this year that a young doctor, who had at first settled lower down on the James in Goochland County, now decided to move westward beyond the farthest settlements.

“Beginning about 15 miles above Scottsville, Dr. William Cabell staked out all the lowgrounds on both sides of the James River for twenty miles in the present counties of Amherst and Nelson. By picking only the lowgrounds, he left the interior to be taken up at his leisure, knowing that no one else would want the land without having access to the vital river transportation.

“... By selecting his home at the lower end of his grant on the banks of Swan Creek, Cabell established the parent plantation which in the course of forty-seven years was to enjoy so much trade that the settler’s sons were prompted to establish a town on
the site (Warminster.) Cabell’s prime motive for moving to this wilderness area was probably the profits to be reaped in the development of frontier lands. He realized that this land was in the path of civilization moving up the river and would soon become very valuable.

“As a result of Cabell’s land development activities, Warminster estate gradually began to grow into a community which served the surrounding plantations for some miles away through the supply trade down the James. It was the custom for the large landowners to get tenants to rent the various tracts, or else sell off the land at a profit. (By law, three out of every fifty acres had to be improved.)

”...Coincident with the settling of the surrounding lands, Cabell realized that he was in a perfect position to transform the shipping of his own supplies into a full scale commercial venture to supply the other landowners from the warehouses in Richmond via the James....The location of Cabell’s plantation afforded a convenient site for a mill and warehouses to accommodate the other landowners’ exports. In view of the fact that the roads to Richmond were all but non-existent, the river was left as the quickest, cheapest, and easiest means of transportation.”

“...Dr. William Cabell held great prestige as first settler, land-owner, and leader of the community....”

“It was just two decades after Cabell’s first settlement that the county of Amherst was formed (1761) from the lower half of old Albemarle County. Cabell’s start had led others to settle to such an extent that two new counties were formed; crops were regularly exported to Richmond; and business was flourishing....”

“At this point, the sentiment against Britain had come to a head, and the Revolution was to begin....Shortly after the Revolution, trade of all sorts was increased, but due to the importance of tobacco in the life of that day, this staple was the dominant concern of everyone....”

“In the Colonial period in Virginia, the county played a much larger part in local life than it does today....County officers...all enjoyed much more prestige than they do today.” Dr. Cabell held many public offices and his sons, who all owned large tracts of land, followed his footsteps into public life. “They joined that group unofficially known as the ‘ruling aristocracy....’
When old Dr. Cabell died, "... his youngest son, Nicholas, inherited the family residence, and the entire lower end of the parent plantation..." The town of Warminster was duly laid out, with lots on either side of the road; owners of the lots had to build within three years.

"The hill overlooking the James had been completely transformed in the half century since Dr. Cabell settled. Instead of being in the midst of a wilderness traversed only by Indians and hardy buffalo hunters, the ... land was in the center of a flourishing district..."

**GROWTH OF THE COMMUNITY**

"...When Dr. Cabell staked out his claim on the upper James, he pushed fifty miles farther west than the last known white settlement....All comforts of civilization would have had to be obtained entirely by his own efforts, since his only link with other settlements would be the rocky James which was often impossible to navigate... Timber had to be cut, nails, bricks, shingles, etc. fashioned out of the materials at hand, land cleared to raise food, a mill constructed..., a landing built for the infrequent trips downstream....He must have foreseen the time when there would be many plantations besides his own at the foot of the Blue Ridge.

"Civilization moved rapidly. Before the Revolution, all of the Piedmont area of Virginia had been settled. Since land was abundant and cheap, the settlements spread out over a large area. Roads were poor, and it sometimes took a whole day to get to a neighbor’s house only twenty-five miles away.

"...The plantation owner’s moneyed income was derived almost solely from tobacco which was planted year after year without thought of crop rotation....But each settler had to solve that one enigma common to all, the elements....

"During this period, Cabell’s plantation became a gathering center....We can imagine whole families setting off for the day to Dr. Cabell’s, to get supplies, exchange ideas, and indulge in the pastimes of the day."
Through these excursions, the people of the area gradually came to know each other rather intimately. In discussing their common problems, partaking of their few pleasures, and consummating business transactions, the leaders among them began to be known as such.... This... resulted in a close knit society where social positions were divided much more sharply than they are today. The leader or 'man in the great house' was regarded as the oracle of the common people.

By education, experience, and perseverance, the leader outshone the rest in all matters. He was not a member of the aristocracy merely because of his wealth, but as a result of his general integrity.... There were many who belonged to that sect which Jefferson called the natural aristocracy....”

**GROWTH OF THE FAMILY**

When the Founder’s sons grew up, they generally settled parts of their father’s land and married into other families nearby, or even into their own families. There are many cases of the joining of first cousins and some of double first cousins....

...Through these intermarriages and the common problems of struggling for a living, there grew up a very close spirit of helpfulness and hospitality which became a tradition throughout Virginia. They were more than willing to help one another in times of trouble or need. Visits of a week or more were common, those of several months not unheard of.

To counteract the rigors of an isolated life and relieve the danger of losing the benefits of civilized life which their fathers had gained, this “wilderness society” introduced many institutions which they had known in England... Drinking, gambling, and “bull sessions;” an excuse for gathering of any sort; court days, elections, and the “political bowl of punch,” church, trading, racing, and club meetings.

...Schools sprang up at an early date, since it was normal for those who had earned a position to want to equip their sons to retain it. Secondary instruction was generally given by a tutor who was either persuaded to set up a small school for the neighborhood, or else to come to the homes to give instruction to children of several families, rotating among plantations for several months.
...As long as Virginia remained a colony, the Church of England was the established religion. Before and during the Revolution, the Church lost favor and was gradually reduced in size. However the Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, and Quakers grew in number and strength during and after the Revolution."

PROSPERITY

Just before the turn of the 19th century, conditions for a period of prosperity seemed good. Reasons were twofold: Tobacco and Transportation on the river. Members of younger generations of the Cabell family began to build homes appropriate to their wealth and their positions in the community. Social life flourished; education progressed toward more classical schools and colleges of higher learning, the established church gradually began building up its membership again.

“As before, the weather remained the big question in everyday life....Damaging floods occurred annually...Severe droughts often caused financial losses by delaying shipments at crucial times....American politics were fluid or pliable....Members of the government were for the most part honest and sincere....They were in government because they had a real desire to put into practice the ideals which they had fought for....Patriotism stirred up by the Revolution and the greater relative importance of the position probably were important factors. ‘The one family rule’ custom was also a contributing factor, since the young men of the family were well trained and educated in the ways of politics early in life.”

DECLINE

As the 19th century progressed, however, “The tobacco trade began losing ground due to competition from small towns nearby, and also adverse weather conditions. Droughts, heavy rains, and early frosts had a fatal effect on the crops ...for the period 1806-1808....The James River and Kanawha Company, established in 1835, took over the James River Canal and built it as far as Lynchburg....The new waterway opened up a whole new era of agricultural prosperity for the State as a whole, but for towns such as Warminster, it meant only ruin....Instead of bringing in trade, the canal
spirited away the last remains of what little there was left.” Roads were poor and it was difficult to improve them to encourage trade.

...With the loss of all hope of a revival of trade, the gradual decline of the 1820’s and 1830’s became an abrupt drop in prosperity. As a result, “The inhabitants headed for ‘greener pastures’. Some members of the Cabell family moved as far away as Kentucky.

The period from Dr. William Cabell’s first settlement, through the 19th century, saw many changes and developments in Nelson, Amherst and Buckingham Counties. In the beginning, “these counties became ‘kingdoms,’ in which...landowners exerted much influence and generally obtained the highest elective offices, a practice which gradually evolved into the custom of ‘one family rule.’...A society of country gentlemen owning large estates gradually grew up which was characterized by a warm hospitality and helpfulness....”


Brown, Alexander. The Cabells and Their Kin. Union Hill. 1895

But civilization continued to move on up the James River. Other towns and areas gained importance, and many of the early Cabell homes were left to struggle on through the 19th and 20th centuries. Now, in 2002, some are beginning to reawaken to their earlier potential.

Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale MacIntosh
Haverford, Pennsylvania
August 1, 2002
SECTION II

MAPS
SECTION III

HOMES
BENVENUE

Benvenue was the home of Robert L. Brown (1820-1880) and his first wife, Sarah Cabell Callaway (1820-1849) before they moved to Sunnyside. They were the parents of Alexander Brown, author of *The Cabells and Their Kin*. He was the grandson of Robert Rives and Margaret Jordan Cabell (daughter of Col. William Cabell, Sr.). Sarah Cabell Callaway was the granddaughter of Col. William Cabell, Jr. and Anne Carrington Cabell.

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 397-400, 466
BLUE ROCK

Blue Rock was the home of Sarah Carrington Cabell (1795-1851) & Dr. Thomas Massie (1783-1864). She was the daughter of William Cabell & Anne Carrington and granddaughter of Col. William Cabell & Margaret Jordan.

The original house no longer exists. Another home has been built near the original site.

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 410, 431
Nicholas Cabell (1750-1803) of Liberty Hall, gave part of his estate to his son George (1774-1827). Bon Aire was built by 1798(1) on 940 acres.(3) It was designed after his cousin George’s house, Point of Honor in Lynchburg.(3) George later moved to Lynchburg and then to Richmond and Bon Aire was sold when he died in 1827. Cabell’s and Their Kin says it was sold during George’s lifetime. In 1972 the property was bought by Ormonde Wilcox and his wife, Barbara Dallas Cabell, great, great granddaughter of Nathaniel Francis Cabell (Liberty Hall) and great, great, great granddaughter of Col. Nicholas Cabell, Sr.

The woods to the north of the property abut Edgewood. The cemetery is east of the house and stables to the west. The Federal “T” plan brick house (the bricks were made at the Liberty Hall kiln(3)) is laid in Flemish bond with 3 interior end chimneys on the north, east and west walls. The house is 2 stories with a central pavilion and has 1 ½ story flanking wings with dormers. The house is over a raised basement. It is a distinctive Palladian design with a narrow two story center with low one story wings. Jeffersonian influence is seen in the Chippendale railings of the double portico and in the staircase which is tucked in a side arch between the entry hall and the library. A 12 ft. wide & 4 ft. deep archway divides the entrance hall from the library.(1) There are three rooms in the basement, three rooms plus an office & large room on the main floor and two attic rooms on the second floor. The double doors at the main entrance are still barred with oak timbers. The doors on the main level are wide cross & Bible design and have the original brass locks.(3)

It was remodeled in the 1940’s and again in the 1950’s.(3) Doric columns have been added to the portico and beneath the portico a balcony with supporting iron brackets has been added. In addition, a tack room had been added to the west and a country kitchen with an open porch has been added to the east replacing the original kitchen.(1) In the 1950’s an annex was added along with a second dining room, the kitchen, two storage rooms and a porch.(3)

Sources:
1. Tuckahoes & Cohees, Seaman, p. 323
2. Daily Progress, 5/80
3. 2 untitled articles from Nelson Library
Bon Aire

Photo 1930's before the disastrous alterations (view from southwest)

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
Bon Aire

Elizabeth Richardson
2008
BonAire

Elizabeth Richardson 2008
CENTRE HILL

Centre Hill was the home of Mary Cabell (1727-1760) and William Horsley (1726-1760). It is the present site of Gladstone Station. It was built on land owned by her father, Dr. William Cabell and was built prior to 1744.(2) It was the western most home site of the early Cabell homes. In 1763 the land was deeded to her four living children. Her son, William Horsley lived at Centre Hill and enlarged the estate by 2345 acres in 1780 and 1781. William’s son, Robert Horsley was the next to live in the home. There are no remains of the house today although in 1991 part of the property remained in the Horsley family.

Mary Cabell and William Horsley are thought to be buried here. (3)

Sources:
2. Untitled article from Nelson Co. Library
COLLETON

In 1783, Col. William Cabell, Jr. (1759-1822) moved the house in the Union Hill yard that he had been living in since January, 1781 to the Colleton estate which had previously been given to him by his father, Col. William Cabell. Col. William Cabell had lived in the house prior to building Union Hill. Col. Cabell, Jr. remained at Colleton until he moved to Union Hill in 1803.

Evelyn Carter Byrd Cabell (1844-1910) purchased Colleton with her husband, William Russell Robinson (1841-?) in 1885. Russell Robinson “with characteristic if deplorable 1885 efficiency tore out all the beautiful paneling at Colleton and he substituted for the fine old wood mantles, new ones in either marble or soapstone. He also put in a modern steam heating system which proved to be a failure.” (3) Evelyn (Eva) was the daughter of Clifford, granddaughter of Frederick and great granddaughter of John. The Robinson’s had two children, Wirt and Clifford Cabell Robinson who is buried at Soldier’s Joy.

The original one room house was incorporated into a larger home. The house was dismantled in the 1960’s. (2)

Sources:
1. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 15, 216, 219, 284, 398, 590
2. Cabell Family Homes in Nelson County, Merkal
3. 3/19/39 letter probably from Wirt Russell Robinson (1893-1967), 1955-88 Cabell Scrapbook, pp. 7-9
Colleton

Gantt
EDGEWOOD

Edgewood was built in 1790 by Robert Rives on a town lot in Warminster.(1, 2, 3) Robert Rives (1764-1845) lived there with his wife Margaret Cabell (1770-1815), daughter of Col. William Cabell and Margaret Jordan of Union Hill. They lived at Edgewood from 1791-1803 when they moved to Oak Ridge. In 1807, Edgewood was sold to Joseph Carrington Cabell (1778-1856), son of Nicholas Cabell and Hannah Carrington of Liberty Hall.

Joseph Cabell added wings to the home along with a kitchen and enlarged the central building at the rear.(1) At the time of his death in 1856, the house consisted of 12 rooms, 2 of which were libraries. The oldest part of the house was the double H which opened to small verandas at the front and back and was linked to the side wings by one story passages. There was a Jeffersonian staircase.

Mary Carter Cabell, Joseph’s wife, lived at Edgewood till her death in 1862 at which time the property was sold to Philip B. Cabell, son of Nathaniel Francis Cabell. In 1925 the house was owned by Philip’s son, Joseph Hartwell Cabell. (3) Mary Cabell Somerville, daughter of Joseph Hartwell Cabell then became the owner followed by Robert Self (great great grandson of Philip Barraud Cabell) and his wife, Ruth Ewers. (9)

Although the house burned in January, 1955 (6), there remains in the yard, the St. George Tucker cottage, where Mrs. Mary Carter Tucker and her husband lived. Mrs. Tucker was the mother of Joseph Cabell’s wife, Mary Carter. Both Mrs. Tucker and her husband are buried in the graveyard. In a letter dated August 31, 1820 from Joseph C. Cabell to John Hartwell Cocke of Bremo, Joseph notes that he is pulling together material out of his house for the cottage for improvements. (10) Two University of Virginia workman, Lyman Peck and Malcolm Crawford were responsible for the interior woodwork. (10)

In addition to the St. George Tucker Cottage, some of the cottage dependencies also have survived. There is a smokehouse, dairy, dovecote, round brick ice house and frame slave quarters. “These are arranged in a linear pattern forming a street of buildings.” (6) According to Bob Self, the original frame slave quarters no longer exist as they burned in the 1940’s. A new structure was built on the original foundation.

The antebellum smokehouse is a small square building with closely set studs and a pyramidal roof supported by a king post truss and vertical vents.

Adjacent to the smokehouse is the dairy which is frame with a pyramidal roof and distinctive “S” shaped vents. There are remnants of faceted finials.

Along the row is the dovecote which is a square frame building with pyramidal roof and faceted finials.

“The three pyramidal-roof dependencies date to or at near the time of the main house (1790). All three buildings incorporate king-posts in their roof framing. King-post trusses, however, are something entirely different and do not occur in the smokehouse or either of the other two.” (10)

The icehouse is an above ground round brick building laid with 4 course American bond. The original conical roof burned in 1955. The pit is lined with stone. It has a dry well which collected water from the melting ice.
The granary is noted for its diamond notching.

The log corn crib (or cornhouse) also has diamond notching and is a triple crib log structure.(6) Bob Self notes that the granary and the cornhouse are one in the same as a granary no longer exists.

The cemetery, where Joseph Cabell is buried, is about 50 yards on the west side of Rt. 626 & 604.(5)

The property is on the southeast side of Rt. 626, 1.4 miles northeast of intersection with Rt. 743.

Sources:
1. Historic Virginia Homes & Churches, Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., p. 201
2. The Measure & Mirror of Men, Marmon, p. 8
3. Nelson Co. Times, Claiborne, p. 16
4. History of Nelson Co., Home Demonstration Clubs
5. Cemetery sheet from Nelson Co. Library
6. Historic Resources of Nelson Co., pp. 29, 39-41, 46, 57, fig. 18, 33, 39, 62, 63, 71
7. “In the Beginning” undated article from Nelson Co. Library
8. “Nelson County History” undated article from Nelson Co. Library
10. Robert Self, notes of 4/14/02
Edgewood

Edgewood 1913

NORTH

Edgewood 1914 and 1923 as altered

Merkal
EDGECRWOOD, NELSON COUNTY

Robert A Lancaster


UVA
Edgewood
Edgewood – Tucker Cottage

Bob Self
Edgewood – Tucker Cottage

Hannah Carrington Cabell

2002
Edgewood
Edgewood

1968

1977

2008

Bob Self
Edgewood

2002
Edgewood
Edgewood Ice House

1961

1977

Bob Self
Edgewood
Edgewood
ELM COTTAGE

Elm Cottage, built by John Cabell (1743-1815), was located about a mile down river from Green Hill in Buckingham County. After John’s death at Elm Cottage, his son Frederick purchased this property and Green Hill from his Father’s heirs. (Also see Forkfield)

According to Peggy Dixon, the house pictured below is the Cunningham House that was built near the remains of two massive chimneys of Elm Cottage.

Sources:
1. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 157, 265
2. Peggy Dixon, 6/08
FERNLEY

Fernley, which was on route 605 in Buckingham County, no longer exists.

Clifford Cabell (1810-1871), son of Frederick and grandson of John, lived at Fernley with his wife, Margaret Couch Anthony (1814-1882). They are buried at Fernley. Clifford was a doctor and a farmer.

Clifford and Margaret’s daughter, Mary Washington Cabell (1846-?) married John Cabell Early (1848-?) at Fernley in 1876. John was the son of Henry Ann Cabell (1822-1890), grandson of John Jordan Cabell and great grandson of John. (1)

Fernley was a two-story frame home with a rock foundation and 3 rock chimneys. It had a center hall with a room on each side (approximately 20 x 20) with fireplaces on the inside walls. The first floor windows were from ceiling to floor while on the 2nd floor there were 3 dormer windows across the front. The reverse dormers contained lead troughs set into the roof. The lead was removed and used for bullets during the War Between the States. A two story front porch was supported by large wooden posts, which were supposedly pulled down by Union troops and used for firewood. There was a one-story kitchen at the rear of the main floor. There were 2 more rooms on the rear. To the left of the back of the main house was an icehouse and in 1988 (and in 2004) the original barn, which was approximately 100 yards from the original house, was still standing. (2, 3)

During the War Between the States, a hospital was built in the woods behind Fernley, hidden from the Northern troops. Dr. Clifford Cabell treated the Confederate soldiers in this hospital. (4)

Evelyn Carter Byrd Cabell Robinson, Clifford’s daughter sold the property in the 1880’s to Josiah and Isaac Golladay (Golloday) and Josiah raised his family at Fernley. Josiah’s grandson, John J. Miller, who sold the property in 1991, thinks the house was destroyed by fire in the 1930's.

Sources:
1. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 589-590, 599
2. Charlotte Miller letter, 1/26/1988
4. Peggy Dixon, 7/2/08
5. John J. Miller, 7/8/08
Wirt Robinson (1864-1929), grandson of Clifford Cabell, was born at Fernley and spent his summers at Fernley. He kept a journal of his activities during these summers and his life in Richmond from 1878-at least 1882. In 1883 he entered the Military Academy at West Point. (See Colleton)
Fernley Site
Fernley Map

Nancy Faxon
FORKFIELD

Dr. William Cabell deeded Green Hill and Forkfield to his son John. John left the property to his daughter Paulina (1780 - ?) and upon her death, her brother Frederick (1768 – 1841) bought Forkfield from her estate. (1)

The house was built about 1832. The eastern section is original and the western section was added about “50 years later.” “The windows & sashes were replaced c.1900 & the east portico added c. 1920. The spring house on the north & the greenhouse & porches on the south are mid 20th century.” (2) The east front is in Flemish bond while the rest is English bond. (2)

Sources:
1. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 154, 265
2. VA Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form
Forkfield

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
Mary Elizabeth Cabell (1791-1867) & her husband Dr. George Callaway (?-1822) lived at Colleton while building Glenmore. She was the daughter of Col. William Cabell, Jr. & Anne Carrington and granddaughter of Col. William Cabell, Sr. & Margaret Jordan. Their daughter, Sarah Cabell Callaway, married Robert L. Brown at Glenmore in 1842. Their son, Alexander Brown (author of The Cabells and Their Kin), was born at Glenmore in 1843.

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 397, 466-7
GREEN HILL

Green Hill, built by John Cabell (1743-1815), was a mile above Elm Cottage in Buckingham County. Frederick had purchased Green Hill from his father’s (John) heirs. Frederick’s son, Louis (Lewis) Warrington Cabell (1814-1890) inherited the property. (1) In the 1880’s Louis Cabell sold the property to Madison P. Dixon who built a home on Green Hill’s foundations about 1886. The house was said to be an exact replica of John Cabell’s Green Hill. The Dixon’s sold the property and the house was demolished in the 1980’s. (2) The property is now part of the James River State Park.

According to the Dixon’s, there was garden behind the house where John Cabell was buried. When they plowed the garden, bricks, from the graveyard, would surface. (2)

Sources:
1. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 154, 156, 265, 593
2. Peggy Dixon, 6/08 & 7/08
Green Hill

c. 1886 house built by Madison Perry Dixon - 1890’s views
Green Hill

c. 1886 house built by Madison Perry Dixon
1960’s views

Peggy Dixon
HAREWOOD

Harewood was built about 1810. It was one-story with a central chimney and had an attic reached from outside stairs. The western part of the attic was raised, a stair hall added and a two-story addition was added in 1855 but not completed until 1875. In 1907 there was another two-story addition.(1)

Harewood was the home of Dr. William Hare, husband of Elizabeth Cabell (1776-1802). After his wife’s death, Dr. Hare moved to this estate. Hannah Carrington Cabell (1751-1817) lived at Harewood after the death of her husband, Col. Nicholas Cabell (1750-1803) to take care of her grandchildren.(2)

John Massey purchased the property in 1872 and it remains in the family. (3)

Sources:
1. Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 169, 284
3. Bennett Saunders, 1/08
INGLEWOOD

Inglewood, located between Norwood and Arrington, was built in 1829 by George Washington Cabell (1802 - 1869) (1, 4) son of Samuel of Soldier’s Joy and grandson of Col. William Cabell, Sr.. It was inherited by his son Patrick Henry Cabell (1837 –1907) followed by George Washington Cabell (1873-1943) and his brothers and sisters. Mrs. Caroline Cabell Tucker says the house was named in 1829.

The house was used as a school from the 1890’s until after WW I. Cabell descendants owned the house till 1958.

George Washington Cabell was an attorney and county judge. He held court at Inglewood, in the dining room in cold weather and on the lawn in warm weather. The prisoners being sentenced stood before him on “Judgement Rock”.(2)

The Mogle’s who bought the house in 1958 made a number of changes. A small wooden porch was replaced by a two story columned brick portico. Crown molding was added to plain rooms. Modern heating & plumbing were added. The house has reeded wooden mantles and pine floors. The broad doors have original iron locks and keys. The carved handrail made from a single piece of walnut is also original.(2)

Sources:
3. Article & reminiscences by Mrs. Boyd Tucker (Caroline Cabell Tucker)
4. The Daily Progress, 5/7/72
LIBERTY HALL

Dr. William Cabell (1699 - 1774) moved his family from Licking Hole Creek in Goochland County to the present day Nelson County in 1742 and settled near Swan Creek. Although not his original residence, Cabell built a home on Swan Creek. He named this area and named his home Swan Creek Plantation. He constructed buildings, including a mill (on Rucker’s Run) and warehouses and built one home then a second home closer to the river. The original house was a 1 ½ story frame home with 2 rooms and a passage on each level. The home was built by slaves with timber from the property and wrought nails made on the place. Later in life, Dr. Cabell put the house on wheels and rolled it up the hill. Robert A. Lancaster says that Nathaniel Francis Cabell moved the house in 1837 to the site of the earliest home of Dr. William Cabell.

Nicholas Cabell (1750 - 1803), the youngest son, inherited Swan Creek Plantation upon Dr. William Cabell’s death. In 1774, Nicholas raised the roof and made the house a full two stories and widened the main part of the house to encompass eight rooms instead of four. During the American Revolution, the name was changed to Liberty Hall, showing their patriotism. In 1790 a two story addition was added on the west side and connected to the main house with a closed passage.

Upon Nicholas’ death, Liberty Hall was inherited by his son, Nicholas Cabell, Jr. (1780-1809) who died six years later. The home passed to his son, Nathaniel Francis Cabell (1807-1891). Nathaniel tore down most of the house, saving only the 1790 addition to which he added several times. In 1836-7, he built an east wing & passage. In 1839, a smaller room at the end was added and in 1843 a passage and chamber was built on the south. He also changed the approach from the south to the north necessitating the relocation of the offices. Nathaniel lived at Liberty Hall until a few years before his death in 1891.

The house burned in 1895.

The site of Liberty Hall is three miles east of Route 56 on Rt. 626. A few yards from where the house stood is the cemetery. There is a monument and slabs marking the graves of Dr. William Cabell, his wife Elizabeth Burks, Nicholas and his wife Hannah Carrington, Nicholas, Jr., and other Cabells.

Sources:
1. Historic Virginia Homes & Churches, Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., p. 198
2. Cabell Family Record, Elizabeth Cabell Guy Richardson
3. Nelson County Times, Claiborne, p. 16
4. History of Nelson County, Home Demonstration Clubs
5. Cemetery sheet from Nelson Co. Library
Liberty Hall

Merkal
Liberty Hall

Robert A. Lancaster

Site

2004
Liberty Hall

Bob Self
“Little has been found regarding Midway, William H. Cabell’s farm where he lived from 1801-1809/10. The property was part of Dr. William Cabell’s original holdings, which were turned over to his son Nicholas along with Dr. Cabell’s home Swan Creek/Liberty Hall. Nicholas in May 1799 gave his son William H. Cabell 800 acres of this property which became Midway.

When William H. Cabell married Elizabeth in 1795, the couple had first lived with her parents, Col. and Mrs. William Cabell II at Union Hill. But in January 1801, William H. and his wife moved to “my own house at Midway”. Unfortunately, Elizabeth died the following November.

In 1805, William married Agnes Sarah Bell Gamble, and they resided at Midway when Cabell was not in Richmond serving in the government.

In 1809 or 1810, Governor William H. Cabell moved directly across the James River to Repton/Montevideo, which he had purchased from his first cousin Joseph Cabell. When William found himself in financial straits after standing security for a friend who went bankrupt, he found it necessary to sell both Montevideo and Midway. The latter was apparently bought by his brother Joseph C. Cabell in 1823.

Joseph never lived at Midway, and upon dying childless in 1856, he left the farm to William H.’s son, Dr. John Grattan Cabell. Grattan immediately moved from Richmond to Midway, but after several years, he sold it and returned to Richmond.

Nicholas Cabell, Sr.’s grandson, Nathaniel Francis Cabell, wrote that most of Nicholas’s papers were burnt at Midway House. However, no description of the house has been found so far, nor the date it was built or when it burned.”

Source:
Cabell Family Records, Elizabeth Cabell Guy Richardson
1800’s House at Midway

Gear from mill wheel

11/02
MIDWAY MILL

Midway Mill is situated midway between Richmond and Lynchburg along the James River & Kanawha Canal on Mayo’s Creek. It was originally owned by William H. Cabell (1772-1853). It is a late 18th century 4 ½ story stone building (1) supposedly built by Italian shipbuilders (2). The original mill was built in 1787 powered by water from Goose Creek. The original frame mill was replaced with the present 4 story stone structure in 1830. The mill’s stone foundation walls are 42 inches thick. A brick archway was constructed to funnel water from the Kanawha Canal to the mill. A small community developed around the mill which remained in operation until 1925 (2).

The mill was demolished in 2001.

Sources:
2. Virginia Landmarks Register, 1987 edition, p. 280
3. Under the Blue Ledge, Pollard, p. 196
Midway Mill

1997
Midway Mill site after 2001 demolition

3/04
The site of Montevideo is located on the James River about 9 miles northwest of Buckingham Courthouse. (From the Courthouse, take Route 60 west, Route 56 northwest, then Route 604 (or 602 or 601) north, and it should be on the east side of the road.)

Joseph Cabell, Jr., son of Joseph and grandson of Dr. William Cabell, is said to have built the original house in 1785 and named it Repton. A W.P.A. form in the 1930’s said that it was supposed to have been ‘a lovely home…one of the finest in the country’ with numerous glass windows on the side overlooking the river.

In 1809, Joseph decided to migrate to Kentucky, and sold Repton to his cousin William H. Cabell. The latter changed the name to Montevideo because of its beautiful view.

In Mutual Assurance Policies of 1809 and 1812, the dwelling house stood just south of the James River, and was described as a two-story wooden home with large porch facing north toward the river, another with a balcony on the southern side of the house, and a smaller one on the west side. It was 45 x 54 feet with a wood (shingle) roof and a brick cellar throughout. Outbuildings, none of which stood within 30 feet of the house, included a 38x38 ft one-story wooden barn with sheds on both ends.

It was here at Montevideo that Gov. Cabell’s daughter Louisa Elizabeth, married Henry Carrington in May 1820. In 1822, Gov. Cabell moved to Richmond.

The story of how Montevideo passed to its new owner varies. One tale says that Major Charles Yancey (who owned adjoining property on the east) won the estate from Gov. Cabell in a card game, and gave it to his daughter Mrs. Charles Morris (see Traveller’s Rest). But probably a more reliable account is that of Bessie Dunlop, Gov. Cabell’s great granddaughter. In writing of her grandfather Henry Carrington, who married Gov. Cabell’s daughter and with whom Mrs. Dunlop grew up, she says that after ‘Cabell’s failure when Montevideo, his home, was put up for sale….(Carrington), when running up the bidding was astonished when it was knocked down to him. It was a serious blow. He had to sell it at a loss and to assume debt which the closely following Civil War prevented his diminishing. This burden he carried the rest of his life.’ This obligation must have contributed significantly to the debt which necessitated selling Henry Carrington’s home, Ingleside (Charlotte County) after his death.

Another tale tells how Montevideo came to be destroyed by fire during the Civil War. ‘Mr. Morris found one of the colored boys asleep while minding the cows and tied him to a board, as punishment. The child’s mother who was a slave and maid in the house, to retaliate started a fire in one of the bureau drawers, which destroyed the whole house. The colored boy grew up and was a well known colored preacher in the county for many years.’

After the fire, the family moved into the overseer’s house, which in the 1930’s was still occupied by descendents of the Morrises.”

Source:
Cabell Family Records, Elizabeth Cabell Guy Richardson
Montevideo

Cumberland County, Virginia

**SOUTH : LAND OF JOHN PERKINS ESTATE**

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**OVERSEER'S HOUSE, 1936**

Elizabeth Cabell Guy Richardson
Montezuma was initially called Spring Hill, due to the many springs on the property (7) but the name was changed as the home was built over an Indian burial ground. (2) Most sources say the house was originally built by Col. William Cabell (1730-1798) (2, 6, 7) in 1790 (2, 6) while others say it was built between 1783 – 1790 (7). Emmy Farrar says it was built for Hector in 1780. In 1794, Col. William Cabell’s son Landon (1765-1834) lived at Montezuma but moved to Nassau Plantation. Hector (1768-1807), Landon’s brother, lived there at least from 1798 till his death. Margaret Cabell McClelland (1785-1863), daughter of Col. William Cabell, Jr. (1759-1822) and Anne Carrington and her brother Mayo Cabell (1800-1869) lived at Montezuma (2) from 1814-1863. (1) After Margaret McClelland’s death, it was sold at public auction to the Hubards whose son William married Elizabeth Cabell Callaway, granddaughter of Col. William Cabell, Jr. and Anne Carrington. In 1992, their descendents still lived at Montezuma. (The Somervilles acquired the property in the 1920’s). (2)

Montezuma is a brick house with enclosed Georgian end chimneys and the doors, windows and asymmetrical interior are Federal. The Piedmont Federal style house is two stories with an English basement (7). Jeffersonian ideas are seen in the Chippendale railing, lentil above the upstairs window and the location of the staircase - in a narrow northwest corner. The windows on the first floor have unusual eave-like projections with miniature gables on top. The wing to the east has a steeply pitched gable roof. (2) There is a Roman revival dwarf portico. The fireplace hearths are made of soapstone (7). “The front entrance hall is centered by a slightly flattened arch supported by fluted pilasters. Cross of Lorraine doors have original iron locks. Deep set windows have nine over nine sashes, and windows on the west side are narrow to protect the house against heat from the afternoon sun. All walls are brick and the floors are supported by beams 14 inches square.” (8)

The house is about ½ mile east of Norwood or two miles south of Union Hill on Rt. 626.

Sources:
1. 20th Century Cabells & Their Kin, Randolph Wall Cabell
2. Tuckahoes & Cohees, Seaman, p. 321
4. Untitled article from Nelson Co. Library
5. The Cabell’s & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 232, 235, 370-2
6. Nelson County Times, 5/22/80
7. Under The Blue Ledge, Pollard, p. 197
8. Old Virginia Houses, The Piedmont, Farrar, p. 95
Montezuma
Montezuma

Robert A. Lancaster

Bob Self
Montezuma

Dietrich
Montezuma

11/02
Montezuma
Montezuma
Montezuma
Montezuma

Back Stairs

2008
MOUNTAIN RETREAT

Mountain Retreat was the Nelson County home of John Horsley (died 1850) & Mary Mildred Cabell (1802-1880). He was the son of Charles Yancey Horsley & Margaret Harris; grandson of John Horsley & Mary Chambers Yancey; great grandson of John Horsley & Fanny Starke; great great grandson of John Horsley & Mary Cabell. Mary Mildred Cabell was born at Soldier’s Joy & was the daughter of Frederick Cabell & Alice Winston and granddaughter of John Cabell.

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 302, 312, 419
Mountain View stands on land originally patented by the Reverend Robert Rose (1704-1751). (3) His son, Col. Hugh Rose (1743-1797), later lived on part of his father’s patent at Geddes Plantation, which included what was to become Mountain View. (1)

There is conflicting information regarding the history of Mountain View. One tradition holds that it was built around 1740 by Col. Hugh Rose. (1) However, this is unlikely, as the land it stands on was not patented by the Reverend Robert Rose until 1744 (2) and Rose did not move to Amherst County till 1748. Also, Hugh Rose was not born until 1743. (3) Other sources state that the house was built by William Spencer around 1740, but Spencer did not purchase the property until 1798 (4). It also would have been highly unusual for a house like Mountain View to have been built in a relatively undeveloped area at such an early date.

A probably more reliable estimate of the home’s age is c. 1780 or “the last quarter” of the 1700’s, which appears on two forms at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. This opinion was “based upon the building components” by someone (presumably an architectural historian) who had examined the building in detail. (1)

According to a codicil to the 1794 will of Hugh Rose, a house was standing on what was to become the Mountain View property at that time. In 1798 William Spencer bought the property from Hugh Rose’s daughter (4), and reportedly named it Spencer’s Plantation. The house originally stood on the east side of a small nearby peak known variously as Spencer’s Mountain or Rose’s Mountain. (1, 4)

In the early 1830’s, a new stagecoach road was built through the area, and the house supposedly was moved to its present location to be more convenient to this road. (1)

Dr. Paul Carrington Cabell (1799-1836) bought the property in 1834 (4), renaming it Mountain View. (1) Dr. Cabell, who had grown up at Union Hill, was the great grandson of Dr. William Cabell, and the son of Anne Carrington and Col. William Cabell, Jr. He already owned a large adjacent tract of land, but he and his wife, Mary B. Irvine (1801-1857) made their home at Mountain View. Upon Dr. Cabell’s death in 1836, his son Dr. William Irvine Cabell inherited the property and lived and practiced medicine at Mountain View until his own death in 1855. He never married. The property apparently then passed to his sister, Ann Cabell Davis, who sold it within a few years. Paul and Mary I. Cabell along with their son, William I. Cabell are said to be buried at Mountain View in unmarked graves. (1, 5)

In 1877, Mountain View was purchased by the Jones family, a descendent of whom still owns and occupies the property. Rebec Vineyard is also located on the property today.

Very few changes have been made to the main house or the outbuildings. “The main house is two-story clapboard, mortised and pegged timber structure.” There is a central hall and two parlors and two chimneys. Behind the main section of the house is a one-story section consisting of the dining room, kitchen and screened porch. The front porch was added during the second half of the nineteenth century. “The original flooring of the entire main house is heart of pine. The plaster walls are trimmed with simple moldings including flat chair rails and baseboards. The south first floor room and the addition have more elaborate Greek Revival mantels and trim. The details in the hallway and the north room are typical of the federal period. The fireplace in the north room has an elaborate molding consisting of a frieze with reeded end tryglyphs and plain metopes.”(1)
“A remarkable ensemble” of largely unaltered outbuildings are thought to have been built by Dr. Paul C. Cabell in the 1830s and 1840s. These include a doctor’s office, well house, smokehouse, log carriage/icehouse and two chicken coops. Dr. Cabell, a “pioneer in the field of public health in Central Virginia” built the rare one-room doctor’s office. “It is a gabled structure with a lean-to-section on the north side. Underneath the main office is a root cellar that has an earthen floor and fieldstone walls.”(1)

The house is on US 29 and north of Route 610 near Clifford in Amherst County.

Sources:
1. Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2. Maps & list of Nelson/Amherst patents by Michael Crabill
3. Dairy of Robert Rose, Fall, pp. xiv, xv
4. Deeds, wills and maps of Amherst County/Albemarle County
5. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 219, 227, 419
6. Ella Hanson Magruder
7. Amherst County Historical Society
8. Elizabeth Guy Richardson
Mountain View

Ice/Carriage House

Smokehouse

Well House

Chicken Coop

Night Chicken Coop/Play House

2008
Mountain View

Dr. Paul Carrington Cabell’s Office
Mountain View

Amherst County Historical Society
Mulberry Grove was the Buckingham County home of Col. Joseph Cabell (1732-1798) & Mary Hopkins (1735-1811). Their daughter, Ann Cabell (1771-1840) & Robert Carter Harrison (of Ampt Hill in Cumberland County) were married here & two of their children were born here in 1789 and 1791.

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, p. 561
NASSAU PLANTATION

Col. William Cabell gave his son Landon (1765-1834) Nassau Plantation on 10/28/1793. Col. Cabell had bought the property from Dutch settlers. The property was originally known as Job’s Valley then Huntley. Landon married in 1794 and lived at Spring Hill / Montezuma until he moved to Nassau. Landon sold the plantation to his brother-in-law, Robert Rives and moved to his wife’s estate, Rose Hall in Amherst where he is buried.

The house is no longer in existence.

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 72, 23
OAK RIDGE

In 1790, Robert Rives (1764-1845) married Margaret Cabell (1770-1815), daughter of Colonel William Cabell and Margaret Jordan of Union Hill. They lived at Edgewood in Warminster from 1791-1803. In 1798, Margaret inherited part of the land comprising the Oak Ridge estate and Rives purchased the remainder of the land from the other heirs.(1) The original tract of land was called Nassau and was bought by Colonel William Cabell in 1780.(2) He purchased 2380 acres on both sides of Dutch Creek and Rucker’s Run and 1970 acres on the south fork of Rucker’s Run and the head branches of the Tye River. He gave the 1970 acres to his son Samuel (Soldier’s Joy) in 1798. In 1793 he gave 800 acres on Rucker’s Run to his daughter Margaret. By 1800 the Nassau tract was known as Oak Ridge.(3)

Rives built Oak Ridge in 1801-1802 and they moved in in January 1803. Rives lived there till his death in 1845 and his unmarried daughter, Margaret Jordan Rives, lived at Oak Ridge until her death in 1862. Her younger brother, Alexander (1806-1885) (Robert and Margaret’s only child born at Oak Ridge), inherited Oak Ridge. Alexander’s second wife was Sallie Kearsley (married 1862), daughter of Dr. George Watson. They lived at Carlton near Monticello, so Alexander’s widowed daughter, Isabella (1836-1899), lived at Oak Ridge. Due to the Civil War, Alexander sold Oak Ridge on December 2, 1867.

In 1901, Thomas Fortune Ryan bought Oak Ridge and 1070 acres. By 1928 he owned 4791 acres. Ryan died in 1928 and his wife Mary lived there until her death in 1937. Oak Ridge was sold to Ryan’s grandson, Joseph James Ryan in 1938. Upon his death in 1970, it was left to his nephew, Peter Brady who owned the place till 1989, although he never lived at Oak Ridge. It was sold for $7 million and was bought in 1990 by John C. Holland of Norfolk.

The original house was brick covered with wood. It was 2 stories with a basement and was 59 x 45 feet. The wood and brick front porch was 20 x 10 and the back porch was 12 x 10. It is presumed that most of the materials were imported from England and that Rives used local carpenters and his own slaves to build Oak Ridge.(3) “The house can be described as 4 rooms over 4, although additional spaces had furnishings as well. Five rooms were equipped with beds. The polished floors were made of oak. Margaret Rives King believed that the carpets and rugs were from Turkey. The rooms on both floors had fireplaces.” (3) The first floor consisted of a parlor, passage, dining room, sitting room and chamber. The second floor had 4 bedrooms and a passage room. The 34 x 22 kitchen was 60 feet behind the east side of the house. The 15 x 15 smokehouse 20 feet from the rear porch. The one story brick and wood 18 x 15 office was 50 feet behind the west side of the house. “Out buildings were also represented by the back office, barn, stable, tobacco barns & spring (or ice) house.” “We can also assume there were shops for blacksmiths, carpenters & coopers. The ground at the back of the house was terraced down to a mountain brook and was called the Falling Garden.” (3)

Sources:
1. Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., p. 205
2. Tuckahoes and Cohees, Seaman, p. 340
3. The Measure and Mirror of Men, Marmon, pp. 1, 6, 8, 9-11, 13-15, 19
4. Historic Resources of Nelson County, p. 21

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OAK RIDGE, NELSON COUNTY

Robert A. Lancaster

Gantt 2006
Oak Ridge

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
Honeysuckle and boxwoods obscure gardens, hiding one-room stone office building, marble steps and earlier use of tennis court and pool.
OLD NORWOOD

Norwood or Old Norwood was built in 1856 by William Daniel Cabell (1834-1904), son of Mayo, grandson of William, Jr., great grandson of Col. William. The property was originally part of the Union Hill estate. (1)

The two-story frame house with gable roof overlooks the James River. The original house was an L-shaped plan. An addition was added in 1870 making it a T-shape house. There was another addition in 1937 and in 1969 the front entrance was moved to the side and a portico with two-story columns was added. The original servants quarters and smokehouse remain.

General Sheridan & his cavalry camped at Norwood and Union Hill in March 1865. After the Civil War, Norwood became Norwood High School for young men and served as a private prep school for UVA. It became a college in 1872. Later it was a dancing school and then a summer camp. (2)

Sources:
1. Nelson Co. 150th Anniversary, 5/1957
2. Montague, Miller & Co. Realtors sales brochure
3. Untitled article from Nelson Co. Library
4. John Heilmann notes
5. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, p. 425
6. VA Dept. of Historic Resources
Old Norwood
Old Norwood
Point of Honor was built by Dr. George Cabell (1766 - 1823), son of John. George bought the land in 1805 and by 1806 was living in the house which was originally called the “Mansion House”. (2) The Point of Honor brochure says the house was built about 1815. The house is in Lynchburg on Daniel’s Hill, above the James. The house was given its present name “after the bloodless conclusion of a duel which took place on a point of land between the James River and Blackwater Creek.” (2)

It is a Federal style house with an unusual double octagon bay facade with “a cross front hall and a square room to the rear between the octagonal wings.” (3) It also features distinctive motifs and finely crafted woodwork. All three floors are similar having 3 main rooms plus a hall. Between the wings, there is a two-story porch.

The house was inherited in 1823 by George’s son, William Lewis Cabell. He renovated the house in 1828 but both he and his wife died in 1830 of TB. They had no children and the house was left to his wife’s father, Judge William Daniel. (2)

Sources:
1. Point of Honor Brochure
2. Point of Honor Its Past Its Potential, Chambers, pp. 1, 2, 15
ROCK CLIFF

William Andrew Horsley (1815-1887) owned & died at Rock Cliff. He was the son of John Horsley of Mountain Retreat, and his first wife Philadelphia Hamilton Dunscombe; and great grandson of Mary Cabell & William Horsley (3).

Rock Cliff is one mile west of Wingina on Rt. 647, and fronts on the James River. The original house on the property, built in 1825, is of peg and beam construction and now serves as an office. The main house was built in two stages by Dr. William Andrew Horsley. The first section, a two over two with center hall, was built in 1840 and an addition was added in 1880. Other buildings include a smokehouse, an outside kitchen, a cutting house and the first public schoolhouse in Nelson County. (4) Square notching is found on the cutting house and saddle notching on several outbuildings. (1)

When Rock Cliff’s builder, Dr. William Andrew Horsley, died, he left 637 acres equally to his five children. These parts were subdivided among their heirs, resulting in pieces as small as 1/84th of the total. Over a thirty year period beginning in 1930, his grandson, Dr. William Horsley Gantt, doggedly reassembled all the pieces into one 637 acre whole, and prevented the house from falling down. Dr. Horsley’s great grandson, William Andrew Horsley Gantt, II and his wife Digna, have restored the house and purchased an additional 330 contiguous acres to create the present property. They have lived at Rock Cliff since 1987. (4) There is a family graveyard behind the house in which Dr. William Horsley Gantt is buried. Dr. Gantt worked with Nobel Prize winner Pavlov in Leningrad until 1929 and was himself, recommended for the Nobel Prize though not selected.

The land has been in the family since 1734. (4) According to Andrew Gantt, “In the past century, the following houses (at least in the Cabell land grants) have fallen down, burned down or been removed: Liberty Hall, Edgewood, Colleton, Red Gables, Green Hill, Montevideo, Yellow Gravel and Union Hill. Rock Cliff is the only frame house that has been in the family continuously and survived.” (4)

Sources:
1. Historic resources of Nelson County, pp. 29, 39-40
2. 20th Century Cabells & Their Kin, Randolph Wall Cabell, p. F-2
3. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 302, 303
4. Dr. Andrew H. Gantt, II
Rock Cliff

Office

Smokehouse

Kitchen

Cutting House

4/02
“ROCK CLIFF”: 1940’S VIEW

Front View

Back View

Gantt
SLATY BRANCH / LANEVILLE

Joseph Carrington Cabell (1778-1856) inherited Slaty Branch from his father Nicholas. The property was about a mile below Warminster. After his marriage he bought Edgewood from Robert Rives which became his home.

Philip B. Cabell (1836-1904) son of Nathaniel Francis Cabell, farmed at Laneville while living at Edgewood.

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 287, 660
SOLDIER’S JOY

Soldier’s Joy was built between October, 1783 - September, 1785 by Samuel Cabell (1756-1818), son of Col. William Cabell & Margaret Jordan of Union Hill. The house was designed by Col. Cabell and built by James Robards of Goochland. (2,3,4,5) The cost was $635. (4) Col. William Cabell wrote in his diary that on “August 16, 1783, I agreed with James Robards of Goochland to build Samuel a dwelling house, kitchen, smokehouse and dairy. It is to begin next October.”(3) Samuel and his wife, Sally Syme moved in October 1, 1785. (3) It is a late Georgian “L” shaped home of heart of pine and poplar with a central hall containing an elegant open-string dogleg staircase. (2) There is intricate interior woodwork. The house is simply detailed, single pile, with a center passage, dining room, hall parlor with chamber ell (wings). (4) On the west side of the central hall was a 20 x 20 room. There was a smaller room on the east and an alcove to the north with another room in the rear. (2)

The house was remodeled in 1806 by James Oldham, one of Jefferson’s workmen. It was developed into a 5 part Palladian house with one-story hyphens and 1 ½ story wings were added to the east and west. Fine Federal woodwork was also added at this time along with the 2nd floor Palladian door. (5)

Other changes include the rebuilding of the 1st floor Palladian door and front porch which was enlarged using the original columns. The rear porch is original. Two original windows have been closed and a third window replaced with a door. A back porch was added to the northeast corner in the 1920’s. (4)

“The passage is 10 feet wide with an open-string stair with a paneled soffit fills the center passage. The ceiling medallion is not original but replaces one of the same size. The back hall door led to a small porch (10 x 10) which has not been rebuilt.” (5)

The dining room is 18 x 16. The ceiling is 12 feet high. The entablatures (en tab’le cher) which encircle this room are of special note for its deep cornice & punch-and-dentil motif. Also of note are the arched openings. A built in cabinet located between the arched opening & the hyphen door is an especially fine feature. Both cabinets date to the Federal expansion in 1806. The small door inside the arch was used as a service entrance when food was prepared in the outside kitchen. The entablatures over the doors have the same pattern in the frieze which was used in the west wing wainscot. Wall of troy molding is used in the frieze above the three doors in this room. (5)

The hall-parlor is 20 x 20. The ceiling is 12 ft. The entablatures which encircle the room show skilled gouge work which produces a dentil-like effect, & the frieze is composed of reeded triglyphs & flower petal metopes. The entablatures over the doors also illustrate imagination & skilled hand - - producing dentils & fluted triglyphs. A carved vine pulls the panel together. From the original floor plan, the doors on each side of the fireplace led to closets with windows. In 1806, during the Federal expansion, the door on the left led into the west hyphen. (5)

The chamber-ell is 16 x 16 with 12 ft. ceiling. This room is also called a wing in the building contract. An open fireplace was closed when a central heating system was installed in the 60’s. The original floor plan shows an outside entrance where the closet is today. The plan also shows a closet with a window on the left on the wall of the fireplace. The building contract specified a pair of stairs between the wing and the adjoining dining room – between the walls, without rails or balusters. This led to the bedroom above. The framed plat of this property was traced to William G. Brown in July 1908 from an original by W. A. Hill, SNG in April 1868. (5)
The original kitchen was located to the north of the house and was 22 x 18.(5)

“The dairy is also located to the north of the house. The wooden grill work is believed to be like the original. The rafters are shiplapped & pegged. The nails are stamp headed. It is underpinned with Flemish bond. The brick work has not been restored at this point.”(5)

In 1825, Samuel Cabell, Jr. sold the house to Daniel Higginbotham whose sister-in-law was Margaret, Samuel J. Cabell’s daughter. At Higginbotham’s death, it was sold to John London.

In 1865, heirs of John London sold the house to Peachy Harmer Gilmer.

According to an untitled article in the Nelson County Library, Margaret, Alice & Clifford Palmer bought Soldier’s Joy in 1894. These were the children of Alice Winston Cabell Palmer, grandchildren of Clifford Cabell (1810-1871), great grandchildren of Frederick (1768-1841) and great grandchildren of John Cabell (1743-1815). (6, 7) In 1924, Margaret Cabell Palmer sold the house to Charles H. Wood, Sr.

The house was being used as a barn when Mr. Wood bought the home. Mr. Wood sold the north wall of the 24 ft. left wing, which was the ballroom, to the Cincinnati Art Museum and parts of the remaining woodwork to Mirador to be used in the music room. The dilapidated right wing which had been used as a living room and nursery, was torn down and replaced with a smaller version of the original. The woodwork was used in the present living room. The east hyphen is now used as a bedroom. The raised paneled doors, staircase, arched doorway in the dining room and the 2nd story doorway leading to the front balcony remain intact.

The home is owned by Mrs. Charles Wood, Jr.

In the cemetery, an iron fence has replaced the original rock wall. A few stones remain of a tall rock pyramid where Samuel and Sally are supposedly buried.

The property is ½ mile southwest of Wingina on Rt. 647 and 1/10 mile up a private road. It is 1.5 miles east of the intersection of routes 647 & 626.

Sources:
1. Historic Virginia Homes & Churches, Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., p. 203
2. Tuckahoes & the Cohees, Seaman, p. 317
3. History of Nelson County, Home Demonstration Clubs
5. Untitled notes from the Nelson Co. Library
6. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, p. 591
7. 20th Century Cabells & Their Kin, Cabell, p. 263
Soldier’s Joy

SOLDIER’S JOY, NELSON COUNTY

Robert A. Lancaster
Soldier’s Joy

Dietrich
Soldier’s Joy

Bob Self
Soldier’s Joy
Soldier’s Joy

Cabell Guy
10/06
Soldier’s Joy

11/02
Soldier’s Joy

Nancy Wood
STRUMAN

Struman was left to Frederick Cabell by his father John. The property was on the north side of the James above Buffalo Station in Nelson. Frederick’s son, Frederick Mortimer Cabell was born there in 1802 and died there in 1861. The house burned about 1959. (2) Frederick and his son, Frederick Mortimer Cabell were buried there but there is no evidence remaining of the graveyard.

Sources:
1. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 265-6, 588
2. Fern Ferneyhough letter, 7/15/59, 1955-88 Cabell Scrapbook, p. 68
SUNNYSIDE

Sunnyside was the home of Margaret Baldwin Cabell & Robert L. Brown (his second wife). Margaret (1826-1877) was the daughter of Mayo Cabell & Mary Cornelia Baldwin, granddaughter of William Cabell & Anne Carrington, great granddaughter of Col. William & Margaret Jordan Cabell. Robert was the son of Lucy Shands Rives & Alexander Brown, grandson of Margaret Jordan Cabell & Robert Rives, great grandson of Col. William & Margaret Jordan Cabell. Both Margaret & Robert died at Sunnyside and are buried at Union Hill, home of his eldest son, Alexander Brown.

The one and one-half story home was built in the 1790’s as a tenant home on one of the Cabell’s plantations. An addition was added in the early twentieth century.(2)

“The original section of the house is the gabled roof section with later dormers. The central entrance door has a tree light transom, and the dormers and gabled ends are ornamented with scrollsaw cut barge boards.” “The earlier, larger addition is the gabled block added to the west and south of the original block.” “It has a boxed cornice with returns and a hipped roof entry porch on its west wall reached by wood steps.” This addition was added in 1918. “Another earlier addition was made to the northeast side of the original block. This two-story kitchen ell has an end chimney.”(2)

Sources:
1. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, p. 466
2. Virginia Department of Historic Resources
THREE SPRINGS

Three Springs was the home of Susan C. Withers and Patrick Cabell Massie (1829 – 1877), son of Sarah Carrington Cabell Massie & Dr. Thomas Massie. (see Blue Rock).

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, p. 412
TRAVELLER’S REST

Several sources state that Traveller’s Rest was built about 1724 in Buckingham County by William Horsley who came from Warminster, Wiltshire, England in 1724. Horsley married Mary Cabell (1727-1760) in 1744 and brought her to his newly built home. Their daughter Mary supposedly inherited the home. The sources also say that Francis Westbrook Spencer, his wife Mary Horsley Spencer and their daughter Nancy lived at Traveller’s Rest in 1769. (1, 4, 5, 6)

According to The Cabells and Their Kin and 20th Century Cabell’s and Their Kin, William Horsley (1726-1760) was not born until 1726, so could not have built Traveller’s Rest in 1724. These books also state that it was William Horsley’s father, Robert, who emigrated from Warminster, England supposedly with Dr. Cabell. William Horsley was a tutor in Dr. William Cabell’s family. Also according to these two books, William and Mary Cabell Horsley, who lived at Centre Hill, had four surviving children, William, Robert, Elizabeth and John, but they had no child named Mary. William and Mary Cabell Horsley’s grandson, John Horsley (1785-1827) married Mary Chambers Yancey, daughter of Major Charles Yancey (1770-1857) and Anne (Nancy) Spencer Yancey (1769-1795). (2, 3)

If Traveller’s Rest was built in 1724, it would be the oldest house in Buckingham County and one of the oldest in the Piedmont.(1)

The original brick house was four rooms with a wide center hall. An addition was added in 1850 at which time it was weatherboarded.(4) The center section is two stories with end chimneys and an overhanging slate roof. The entrance has a two story enclosed porch and a diamond pattern railing separates the two levels.(1)

The house remained in the Cabell family until 1971, when it was bought by Col. and Mrs. Jonathon Leet.(1)

Sources:
1. Old Virginia Houses, The Heart of Virginia, Farrar, p. 133
2. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 80-81, 328-9, 331, 506
3. 20th Century Cabells & Their Kin, Cabell, pp. 39, 60
4. WPA Report, Buckingham Historical Society
5. The Courthouse Burned, Pennington, Book I, p. 90
6. Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia, p. 270
Traveller’s Rest
UNION HILL

In 1763, Dr. William Cabell deeded part of the land granted to him in 1738, to his son Colonel William Cabell, Sr. (1730-1798). Col. Cabell added to this land which eventually encompassed 25,000 acres, extending six miles along the James River east of the Tye River and back 10 miles in a northwest direction beyond Montreal Station (Shipman).

Prior to building Union Hill, Col. William Cabell, Sr. lived in a house in the yard built around 1760 that was moved in 1783 and became known as Colleton. Col. William Cabell, Sr. began building Union Hill in 1775 on the site where an old Tuscarora Indian town once stood. The house, which was completed in 1778, took four years to build. As the Revolution cut off supplies, the house was built primarily with materials from the place. Beams & boards were cut from heart of oak, pine, poplar & walnut from the property. Bricks were fired in a local kiln. Nails & spikes were forged by hand in the blacksmith shop. Hardware, locks & glass were probably brought from Williamsburg.

The late Georgian house was 40 ft. x 60 ft. It was symmetrical double pile, center passage type house. The house was two-story wood with clapboard siding with a basement, attic & cellars. The roof was shingled. There were 4 chimneys laid in flemish bond so each of the eight rooms had its own fireplace with carved mantles of which no two were alike. The underpinnings, cellar, walls & chimneys were made of brick. The central passage was 20 x 40 with 4 rooms, each approximately 20 x 20. There was the drawing room, main salon, dining room and library. The rooms were uniformly decorated with paneling and wainscoting. The second floor was identical (4 large bedrooms) except part of the hall was enclosed for an extra room. Ceiling height was 12 feet. The Georgian features included “rigid symmetry, axial entrances, geometrical proportions, hipped roof, sash windows, and walls with pine lathe covered with plaster, and a 4 ft. high wainscoting of highly raised panels. The mantle ends of each first floor room were fully paneled and the open-string dogleg staircase in the central passage has walnut grain. Outside, the ramped shoulders of the exterior end chimneys were Georgian but Federal style was found in the more delicate decorations on the porch, columns and molding.”

Outbuilding included a spinning & weaving house, sewing room & laundry, storeroom for fruits & vegetables, picking house, dyeing house, smokehouse, kitchen, coach house, ice house, barns & stables, cow houses, chicken house, overseer’s house, dwellings for servants, slaves & craftsmen, cobbler's shop, blacksmith shop, cooper's shop, wheelwright’s shop, masons shop, tannery, distillery, gristmill, corn house, tobacco house, and dairy. It was a self-contained village.

Because the Union was so important to the patriots during the Revolution, the house was named Union Hill, for the union of colonies to form a new country. Union Hill was completed February 25, 1778 and became the home of Col. William Cabell and his wife, Margaret Jordan. Their youngest child, Elizabeth, lived at Union Hill with her husband, William H. Cabell (son of Nicholas) until 1801.

Union Hill was inherited by Col. William Cabell, Jr. (His wife was Anne Carrington). He moved from Colleton to Union Hill in 1801 or 1803 and remained there till his death in 1822. It was left to his son, Mayo (1800-1869), youngest surviving of his 14 children.

In 1873 the property was bought by Alexander Brown (1843-1906), author of The Cabells and Their Kin and himself, a great grandson of Col. William Cabell, Jr. Alexander Brown
married twice, to sisters who were also his cousins, daughters of Mayo Cabell and grand-
daugthers of Col. William Cabell, Jr. In 1915, Union Hill was owned by Lucy Gilmer Cabell, 
another daughter of Mayo Cabell and sister-in-law of Alexander Brown.(1) She bequeathed it 
to her brother, Edward Marshall Cabell (youngest of Mayo’s 16 children). In 1969, the property 
was sold by two of his children, Randolph McGuire Cabell and his sister Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale, 
to Bass Construction Company of Richmond.

In 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Royal E. Cabell, Jr. purchased the house and moved it to 1551 Carriage 
Lane in Goochland County (Patterson Ave. to Rt. 644, Millers Lane). A modern house has been 
built on the property.(8)

By 1898 most of the outbuildings had decayed. Two porches and two chimneys had been 
repaired and the shingled roof had been replaced with tin. An early 20th century kitchen had 
been built on the side and the small room upstairs had been converted into a bathroom. 
Electricity had also been added.(8)

Col. William Cabell (1730-1798) is buried in the Union Hill cemetery along with his wife 
Margaret Jordan (1742-1812) and possibly their daughter Elizabeth (1774-1801), wife of 
William H. Cabell.(12) Also William Cabell, Jr., his wife, Anne Carrington Cabell, Patrick 
Henry, Jr., Alexander Brown, and many others in both marked and unmarked graves. The 
graveyard is now owned by The Cabell Foundation, Inc.

The property is between Wingina and Norwood on the James River. It is 1 ½ miles southwest 
of Wingina on Rt. 647. 0.2 miles north of 647 and 1.4 miles east of 626.(12)

Sources:
1. Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., p. 199
2. Tuckahoes & Cohees, Seaman, p. 316
3. Diary of Robert Rose, Fall, pp. 147, 229, 272
4. History of Nelson County, J. B. Coincon, p. 33
5. The Measure & Mirror of Men, Marmon, p. 6
6. History of Nelson County, Home Demonstration Clubs
7. Unnamed article from Nelson Co. Library
8. Cabell Family Record, Elizabeth Cabell Guy Richardson
9. Cabell’s of Union Hill, Randolph Wall Cabell, pp. 5-6
10. Untitled article from Nelson Co. Library
12. Cemetery lists from Nelson Co. Library
13. Cabell Family Homes in Nelson County, VA, Merkal
Union Hill

UNION HILL, NELSON COUNTY

Robert A. Lancaster

UVA Web Page
Union Hill

Dietrich
Union Hill

Randy Cabell
Union Hill
Goochland
**VARIETY MILLS**

Variety Mills is located on Rucker’s Run, a tributary of the Tye River. It was originally owned by Col. William Cabell (1730-1798) and Col. William Cabell, Jr. (1759-1822) sold the mill and 700 acres to his brother-in-law, Robert Rives (married to Margaret) in 1814.(2)

There were seven mills in the Variety Mills area. The oldest mill was the first of several buildings commissioned by Col. William Cabell about 1760. (The Diary of Robert Rose says Dr. William Cabell erected a mill in 1735 (4) but this is unlikely.) In addition to the three story stone merchant mill, there was “a flour mill, sawmill, shoemaker’s shop, rock hewn distillery, wood cooper’s shop, Union factory for producing wool and cotton before and after the Civil War and a dwelling with a kitchen.” There was also a corn mill, a tannery and a store. It was called Variety Mills because of the variety of items produced. Variety Mills was the source of Col. William Cabell’s wealth.(2)

The mill was built in two sections. The oldest section of the mill is stone with a later frame addition. There are “jack arches with keystones over the first floor openings and elaborate quoining on the main block. There is a large stone corner chimney on the 3rd floor. Standing-seam metal covers the skillfully constructed beam roof. The mill turbine wheel apparently sat on the building’s north face, however, the race no longer exists, having been destroyed when Rt. 655 was rerouted to pass directly in front of the mill.”(2)

“The only other extant building at Variety Mills is an early 20th century frame store, which has been converted into a cottage. A large stone chimney sits overlooking the mill and the store and is believed to be the original house site. Only traces of the Variety Mills community exist, and the mill has not functioned since 1918.”(2)

Variety Mills is on Rt. 655. The other six mills, which no longer exist, were between the mill and Rt. 653.

**Sources:**
1. 20th Century Cabells & Their Kin, Randolph Wall Cabell, p. F-3
2. Historic Resources Identification & Assessment of Nelson County, VA, pp. 32, 48
3. The Measure & Mirror of Men, Marmon, p. 9
4. Diary of Robert Rose, Fall, p. 147
Variety Mills

Dietrich
Variety Mills

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
Variety Mills

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
Variety Mills

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
Variety Mills

2002
VARIETY SHADE

Variety Shade(s) was a two-story clapboard house with gables. It was built in the late 18th century and had later additions. The house was located in Buckingham County.

*Today & Yesterday* says the original part of the house was built by Col. William Mosley about 1798. *The Cabells and Their Kin* says in 1779 Joseph sold Winton and moved to Variety Shade. He did not live at Variety Shades very long. He shortly moved back to Zion Hill/Yellow Gravel.

The house was “located on Wingina Road about 9 miles from Buckingham Court House” near the intersection of route 649 and 56. The house no longer is in existence.

Sources:
*Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 151-2*
*Today and Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia, p. 284*
*Virginia Department of Historic Resources*
VERDANT VALE

Verdant Vale, located in Amherst County near Waugh’s Ferry, was the home of Elizabeth Horsley McCulloch (1749-1821) and her husband Roderick McCulloch (1741-1826). Elizabeth was the daughter of Mary Cabell and William Horsley.

Roderick McCulloch had been a tutor for Col. William Cabell, Sr. at Union Hill and Elizabeth had been one of his scholars. They were married at Union Hill in 1768 and moved to Verdant Vale after the Revolution.

After the house burned about 1819 or 1820, the McCullochs moved in with their daughter, Isabella McCulloch Waugh (1784-1860), on the adjoining farm. Upon Roderick’s death, his son, William H. McCulloch inherited Verdant Vale and sold it to his sister, Isabella in 1834.

Elizabeth and Roderick McCulloch are buried in a graveyard on the place.

Source:
Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 189-190, 317-320
Wilderness is located on route 667 in Buckingham County. “It is not known exactly when this house was built but dates on the stones in the graveyard go back to 1773.” (1) “The original house was a story and a half and had a large chimney built of sandstone quarried on the place. The house has been raised and added to but retains much of its original charm.” (1)

William Meredith Cabell and his wife, Mildred Kidder Eldridge, who lived at Wilderness, are buried in the graveyard. (2)

William Meredith Cabell (1823-1898) was the son of Col. Edward A. Cabell, grandson of Col. William Cabell, Jr., and great grandson of Dr. William Cabell. William Meredith Cabell and Mildred Kidder Eldridge (1823-1902) were married in 1867 and had no children. (3)

Sources:
1. The Courthouse Burned, Pennington, p. 79
2. Digna Gantt
3. The Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, p. 416
4. Today & Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia, p. 276
5. WPA Report, Buckingham Historical Society
Wilderness

Gantt 2002

Cliff Wood
Wilderness

Cliff Wood
WINTON

Winton, or Old Winton in Amherst County was built for Joseph Cabell (1732-1798) in 1771 or 1772. In 1779, Joseph sold Winton to Samuel Meredith who married Jane Henry, sister of Patrick Henry. Upon selling Winton, Joseph moved back to Buckingham to Variety Shades.

“The spacious frame house has hip roof, deep cornice with fine dentil trim. A two story columned front portico also has deep cornice, cube modillion and dentil work. The interior is distinguished by fine woodwork and a graceful staircase with acanthus leaf carving. The elegant mantle in the drawing room is said to have been carved by Hessian prisoners of war. It features reeded panels, fluted pilasters, a massive pediment and fine beading. Cornice and wainscoting are carved to match.”

The property is now part of a country club.

Sources:
1. Tuckahoes & Cohees, Seaman, p. 349
2. History of Nelson Co., Coincon, p. 34
3. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 145
ZION HILL/ SION HILL/ YELLOW GRAVEL

Zion Hill was located between Warminster and Wingina on the James River in Buckingham County. It was a large brick building made from bricks molded on the place.(2)

In 1766 the House of Burgesses established a public ferry from the Zion Hill estate in Buckingham Co. to Dr. William Cabell’s land in Amherst (now Nelson County). At this time Joseph (1732-1798) was living at Zion Hill. Joseph lived in Buckingham Co. then moved to Winton in Amherst Co. in 1771. He moved back to Buckingham in 1780 to Variety Shade and then back to Zion Hill where he died and was buried.(1)

According to Virginia Department of Historic Resources, William Cabell built Zion Hill in 1785 and gave this home to his grandson, Charles Horsley; however there is evidence that Joseph resided at Zion Hill in 1766 and Charles Horsley was not William Cabell's grandson, but Mary’s great grandson.

The house no longer stands.

Sources:
1. Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, pp. 143-5, 152, 255
2. Today & Yesterday in the Heart of Virginia, p. 280
3. Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Zion Hill/Yellow Gravel

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
Zion Hill/Yellow Gravel

3/07
SECTION IV

MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES
CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church is located in Norwood near the James River and the Kanawha Canal. Built about 1843, it was “the successor of the Old Revolutionary or English Mission Church, which was the first church established in Nelson County.” (1) There are six stained glass windows and hand carved woodwork. (1) The original trustees of the church were Mayo Cabell, Robert Brown and F. Peters. (1)

Source:
1. VA Department of Historic Resources
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge, VA, was built in 1833 by Robert Rives near his home, Oak Ridge. Originally the church was called Rives Church. There are three windows on each side and two at the front entrance.(1) Originally “there were two entrances: a main entrance and one for the slaves. After the Civil War the main entrance was closed off and a window was put in its place. The former slave entrance is used today as the main entrance.” (2)

In 1850, the Episcopalians took charge of the non-denominational church that was in need of much repair. In 1913, a vestibule and tower were added to the front and a cross added to the top in honor of Mrs. John Horsley.(1)

Sources:
1. Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2. Cabell Foundation Newsletter, 6/06, Digna Gantt
Trinity Episcopal Church
Tye River

2002
WARMINSTER

The town of Warminster developed around the land holdings of Dr. William Cabell, who settled in Nelson County in 1742. The town was near Swan Creek and was a quarter of a mile from the James River. The site provided “a good landing at the head of the river navigation; the creek itself would furnish power for a mill; and broad rolling hills on the great bend in the river provided a home site which was by no means displeasing.” Dr. Cabell sold off some of the land to promote the growth of Warminster.

Dr. Cabell started a bateau line to Westham, above Richmond, to promote transportation and trade of tobacco, crops, etc. for his family as well as neighbors. He built a warehouse, depot, ordinary and a mill with a hospital over the mill.

Due to increased trade following the Revolution, the town was formally established by an act of the General Assembly on November 13, 1788. Since Dr. Cabell had died (1774), his son Nicholas provided the land for the town and the money for a tobacco warehouse.

In the 1820’s with the tobacco trade diminishing, Warminster began to see its decline. The Masonic Lodge was removed in 1820 and many lots remained unsold. In 1840 a section of the James River Canal opened between Richmond and Lynchburg taking away the last trade that remained for Warminster. Poor roads and the canal were the primary reason for the demise of Warminster.

Today, all that remains of the town is an open field. Nearby the remains of the old mill on Swan Creek and the Liberty Hall Cemetery can be seen, where there is a monument to the memory of Dr. William Cabell and his wife.

Source:
Warminster: Ghost Town of the Virginia Countryside, Briscoe Guy
E. A. Watson, 1936
Cabell Scrapbook, 1955-88, p. 13
Warminster

Train Station

School

Bob Self
Warminster

Store

House

Bob Self

202
Warminster Mill

Swan Creek

2006
In 1803, the Virginia General Assembly established Cabellsville one mile west of here on the Old Stage Road, on 25 acres owned by Congressman Samuel Jordan Cabell. The village was platted before Nelson County was formed from Amherst County in 1807, and the new community developed around the first Amherst County courthouse constructed after that county was created in 1761. After the formation of Nelson County, its justices continued to meet periodically in the old building in Cabellsville until a new courthouse was erected on land that James Loving donated in Lovingston.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, 2004
The Cabell Windows  
Chapel of St. Nicholas  
Church of St. John  
Frome, England  
The Cabells & Their Kin, Brown, 1994 Edition  

Briscoe & Peggy Guy, 1987
SECTION V

COUNTY OF HOMES
NELSON COUNTY

Benvenue - not sure about existence
Blue Rock - original house no longer standing
Bon Aire - still standing
Centre Hill - no longer standing
Christ Church - still standing
Colleton - no longer standing
Edgewood - only Tucker cottage remains
Forkfield - still standing
Glenmore - not sure about existence
Harewood - still standing
Inglewood - still standing
Liberty Hall - no longer standing
Midway - no longer standing
Midway Mill - demolished 2001
Montezuma - still standing
Mountain Retreat - not sure about existence
Nassau - no longer standing
Oak Ridge - still standing (with major changes)
Old Norwood - still standing
Rock Cliff - still standing
Slaty Branch/Laneville - not sure about existence
Soldier’s Joy - still standing
Struman - no longer standing
Sunnyside - still standing
Three Springs - not sure about existence
Trinity Episcopal Church - still standing
Union Hill - parts of it are still in existence in Goochland Co.
Variety Mills - falling down

AMHERST COUNTY

Mountain View - still standing
Rose Hall - not sure about existence
Verdant Vale - no longer standing
Winton - still standing

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY

Clover Plains - not sure about existence
Elm Cottage - no longer standing
Fernley - no longer standing
Green Hill - no longer standing
Montevideo/Repton - no longer standing
Mulberry Grove - not sure about existence
Traveller’s Rest - still standing
Variety Shade - no longer standing
Wilderness - still standing
Zion Hill/Sion Hill/Yellow Gravel - no longer standing

LYNCHBURG

Point of Honor - still standing
SECTION VI

PICTURES OF VARIOUS CABELLS
Agnes Sarah Bell Gamble Cabell
Mrs. William H. Cabell
1783-1863

Frances Claiborne Guy
Anne Carrington Cabell
Mrs. William Cabell, Jr.

1760-1838

Cabells & Their Kin, p.222

Frances Claiborne Guy
Edward Carrington Cabell
Son of William H. & Agnes Gamble Cabell
1816-1891

Frances Claiborne Guy
Elizabeth Hannah Cabell
Mrs. E. H. Daniel

Daughter of William H. & Agnes Gamble Cabell
1811-1892

Frances Claiborne Guy
Hannah Carrington Cabell
Mrs. Nicholas Cabell, Sr.

1751-1817

Frances Claiborne Guy
Henry Coalter Cabell

Son of William H. & Agnes Gamble Cabell
1820-1889

Frances Claiborne Guy
Joseph Carrington Cabell
Son of Nicholas & Hannah Cabell
1778-1856

Archer Guy Minardi

Cabells & Their Kin, p. 288

Bob Self
Joseph Hartwell Cabell

Son of Julia B. & Philip B. Cabell
1863-1955

Bob Self
Julia Calvert Bolling Cabell
Wife of Philip Barraud Cabell
1834-1923

Bob Self
Nathaniel Francis Cabell

Son of Margaret & Nicholas Cabell, Jr.
1807-1891
Parents of Dr. William Cabell

Nicholas Cabell   1667-1730

Rachel Hooper Cabell   ?-1737

On loan to the VA Historical Society by
Frances Claiborne Guy, Dr. Herbert A. Claiborne,
& estate of Catherine Claiborne Hall
Nicholas Cabell, Sr.

1750-1803

UVA Web Page

Frances Claiborne Guy
Nicholas Cabell, Jr.
Son of Nicholas & Hannah Cabell
1780-1809

Archer Guy Minardi
Philip Barraud Cabell
Son of Ann B. & Nathaniel Francis Cabell
1836-1904

Bob Self
Dr. William Cabell

1699-1774

20th Century Cabells & Their Kin

Henry Cabell

Cabell Foundation Portrait
William H. Cabell

Son of Nicholas & Hannah Cabell
1772-1853

Jackie Bledsoe

Ann Nelson

Archer Guy Minardi
William Cabell Carrington

Son of Louisa Elizabeth Cabell & Henry Carrington
Grandson of Elizabeth & William H. Cabell
Great Grandson of Margaret & Col. William Cabell, Sr,
and
Hannah Carrington & Nicholas Cabell

1821-1851
Dr. William Andrew Horsley

Son of John & Philadelphia Horsley
Great Grandson of Mary Cabell & William Horsley
1815-1887

Cabells & Their Kin, p. 305
William Cabell Rives

Son of Robert & Margaret Jordan Cabell Rives
Grandson of Col. William & Margaret Jordan Cabell

1793-1868
SECTION VII

GENEALOGY
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<th>ELIZABETH BURKS</th>
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<td>Liberty Hall</td>
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<th>William Horsley</th>
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<td>1726-1760</td>
<td>Traveller’s Rest ?</td>
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<th>Colleton</th>
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<td>1742-1812</td>
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<th>Yellow Gravel/Zion Hill</th>
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<td>1740-1781</td>
<td>Struman</td>
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<th>Elizabeth Jones</th>
<th>1760 ?-1802</th>
<th>Forkfield</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frances Johnson</th>
<th>1788 ?-?</th>
<th>Elm Cottage</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colonel Nicholas</th>
<th>Hannah Carrington</th>
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<tr>
<td>1750-1803</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>MARY CABELL</td>
<td>WILLIAM HORSLEY</td>
<td>Centre Hill</td>
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| 1727-1760        | 1726-1760        | Traveller’s Rest?
|                  |                  |                  |
| William          | Martha Megginson | Above Centre     |
| 1745-1791        | 1745-1793        | Hill             |
| Robert           | Judith Scott     | Centre Hill      |
| 1748-1786        |                  |                  |
| Elizabeth        | Roderick McCulloch| Verdant Vale     |
| 1749-1821        | 1741-1826        | in Amherst        |
| John             | Fanny Starke     | Below Centre     |
| 1752-1808        | 1749-?           | Hill             |
|                  |                  |                  |
| 2 more died in infancy |                  |                  |


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<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>Sarah Syme</td>
<td>1756-1818</td>
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<td>Col. William, Jr.</td>
<td>Anne Carrington</td>
<td>1759-1822</td>
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<td>Landon</td>
<td>Judith Scott Rose</td>
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<td>Montezuma</td>
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<td>Hector</td>
<td>Paulina Cabell</td>
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<td>Margaret</td>
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<td>William H. Cabell</td>
<td>1774-1801</td>
<td>Union Hill</td>
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<td><strong>COLONEL JOSEPH CABELL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1732-1798</td>
<td>1735-1811</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
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<td>1753-1771</td>
<td>1740-1776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph, Jr.</td>
<td>Pocahontas Rebecca Bolling</td>
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<td>1762-1831</td>
<td>1765-1803</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>John Breckinridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>1769-1858</td>
<td>1760-1806</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>Robert Carter Harrison</td>
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<td>1771-1840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Col. William J. Lewis</td>
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<td>1772-1855</td>
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<td>Winton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cabel</td>
<td>1743-1815</td>
<td>(10 children)</td>
<td>Green Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulina Jordan</td>
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<td>Frances Johnson</td>
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<td>Frederick</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Burks</td>
<td>1800-?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulina</td>
<td>1780-?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alfred Dillard</td>
<td>1798-?</td>
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<td>Athaliah Miller</td>
<td>1826-1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Cate Wells</td>
<td>1821-1850</td>
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<td>Lavinia Charleswood</td>
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<td>NICHOLAS CABELL</td>
<td>HANNAH CARRINGTON</td>
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<tr>
<td>1750-1803</td>
<td>1751-1817</td>
<td>Liberty Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>William H.</th>
<th>Elizabeth Cabell (see Col. William)</th>
<th>Union Hill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1772-1853</td>
<td>1774-1801</td>
<td>Midway</td>
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<td>Montevideo</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agnes Sarah Bell Gamble</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. George</td>
<td>1774-1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1774-1817</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliza Fitzhugh May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>1776-1802</td>
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<td>William Hare</td>
<td>1760-1818</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Carrington</td>
<td>1778-1856</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Walker Carter</td>
<td>1780- ?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slaty Branch</td>
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<td>Edgewood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midway</td>
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| Nicholas, Jr.          | Margaret Read Venerable | Liberty Hall |
| 1780-1809             | 1782-1857              |             |

| Mary Ann               | Benjamin Carrington    | 1768-1838   |
| 1783-1850             | 1768-1838              | 1768-1838   |

| Mayo Carrington        |                         |             |

| Hannah                 |                         |             |

| Henningham             |                         |             |

| Paul C.                |                         |             |
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Virginia Department of Historic Resources
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