of things did not continue long. On the 31st day of January 1677, a body of regular soldiers arrived from England, which had been sent out at the request of Sir William Berkeley, made many months before. With this force, there came Commissioners, duly authorized by the King, to inquire into the causes and authors of the disturbances. After soon after this, the tranquility of the Colony was restored permanently.

Such is the history of Bacon's Rebellion. A commotion, which, in its commencement, seems to have had no other object, than to secure the inhabitants of the frontier against the incursions of the hostile Indians. The imprudence of Sir William Berkeley, the Governor, by inducing him to hazard this necessary, and proper attempt, gave fair occasion for the breaking out of other discontents, which had long been felt in other parts of the country. The steps then taken, necessarily caused the cooperation of the two classes of malcontents, who, being a majority in the Assembly, were so able to accomplish all the attainable objects of either. Here the commotion would probably have stopped, but for the second mischievous proclamation of the Governor. This, by destroying all the remaining confidence of the country in him, forced the malcontents into insurrection, which, however, even then, had no other than a personal object; as is sufficiently proved by the ill-concerted scheme of Oldfield and Bolden, to seize the person of the Governor. The failure of this project, while it excited the indignation of the old Governor more highly, gave a new character to the insurrection. It might then have assumed a new object, possibly, but for the death of General Bacon. While he lived, but few excesses were committed. But the numerous depredations and cruelties practiced by the Governor's party, after Bacon's death, procured retaliation on the part of the insurgents; and this must certainly have ended in a dreadful state of things, but for the reasonable arrival of the troops and Commissioners from England, and the recall of Sir William Berkeley.

That he could have had but little to do with the proceedings of that body, the Assembly summoned afterwards, by General Bacon, and his associates, in August 1676, never met.
The other important event occurring during the life of Colonel Souther Littleton, in which he had any agency, was as has been said, the Treaty with the Five Nations, concluded at Albany in New York in 1677. It must be a matter of curiosity to most of the present generation, to learn what circumstances could possibly exist, in 1677, to render it desirable to the government of Virginia to send agents to Albany in New York, there to negotiate a Treaty with the savages dwelling on the great lakes. To explain this extraordinary matter, it will be necessary to give some account of these people.

Before the English established their first settlement in America, at Jamestown, the French had discovered Canada and made a settlement there at Quebec. By the French historians, we are told that when this settlement was made, about the year 1603, the French found a numerous tribe of Indians, who call Iroquois, dwelling on the river Saint Lawrence, in the vicinity of the present town of Montreal. This tribe of Iroquois, better known to the English afterwards as Mohawks, and who called themselves Mingos, occupied the region about the mouth of the Iroquois river, now called the Mohawk, and on the lakes Iroquois and Sacrament, or Champlain and George.

From these their primitive seats, probably, the Mingos extended their conquests on both sides of the river Saint Lawrence, above Quebec, and on both sides of the lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron. In this career of conquest, unlike most other savage tribes, they successively incorporated their conquered enemies into their confederacy, which confederacy was afterwards distinguished as "the Five Nations"; and upon a subsequent addition of another tribe to the confederacy, it received the appellation of "the Six Nations." See Golden's "Five Nations." Vol. 1, page 87.

The Senecas, who live to the west; the Mohawks, to the east; and the Onondagas, between them, are the elder tribes. The Cayugas and Oneidas are the younger tribes. The Mohicans or Tuscaroras, who were taken into the confederacy in 1712, make the sixth nation. See Jefferson's "Constitution of State."
Governor Bowne says, in his Administration of the British Colonies, that about the year 1664, the Confederacy had carried its arms as far south as Carolina, and as far west as the Mississippi, over a vast country, extending twelve hundred miles in length, and about six hundred miles in breadth, where they destroyed whole nations, of whom there were no accounts then remaining. Every part of this region they visited in their periodic expeditions, either for hunting or war; pausing, to the south, as the cold weather approached, and returning, to their more northern habitations, with the advancing spring.

During these expeditions, they sometimes encountered the Indian tribes dwelling about the head of Chesapeake Bay, and to the west and northwest of Virginia. Some of these tribes, either driven by the power or flying from the expected ravages of such a formidable foe, fell, in their turn, upon the Virginia Indians, dwelling in the immediate vicinity of the colonists. The usual consequence of this, was a border war between the colonists and their savage neighbors, whose necessities as well as habits induced them to perpetrate many acts of hostility and barbarity.

The outrages which caused the first expeditions of General Bacon against these Indians, in 1676, were, very probably, due to the causes I have stated. To prevent a repetition of such mischiefs, by removing the causes from which they generally proceeded, was a subject that occupied the early attention of the government of Virginia, very soon after tranquillity was restored to the colony upon General Bacon's death.

The Colony in Maryland, had been exposed to similar mischiefs, by the same causes. And as the two Nations were in close amity, with the English in New York, Maryland endeavored to use the influence of that colony, to establish a firm and lasting peace with these savages. For this purpose Colonel Courcy had been sent by Maryland, as an envoy, to Albany. To this gentleman, Sir Herbert Jeffries, the Governor
of Virginia, had committed the interest of this colony also, until he could dispatch Commissioners of his own to the same place. Colonels Southy Littleton and Colonel William Kendall, were afterwards appointed such Commissioners, on the part of Virginia. They proceeded to Albany, and there confirmed the peace which Colonel Courcy had already concluded with the Five Nations.

Colonel Southy Littleton died, in Albany, during this negotiation; and the Treaty was signed by Colonel Kendall alone, on the part of Virginia. The chief objects of this Treaty, were that the Five Nations should recall all their warriors from Maryland and Virginia, and that they should not thereafter molest the Indians within these colonies.
II. Gertrude Littleton.

Gertrude Littleton, the youngest child of Colonel South, was born in Virginia, Littleton, and was very young at her father's death, in 1679. To his well, he committed her to the guardianship of Major Edmund Bowman, with I presume was her uncle. This is the same man, record to our ancient histories, as to have been ordered to appear before the Council, for treasonable words used concerning King James the Second, and of whom the Justices of Accomack were ordered to take bond with security, for his appearance and good behavior. This was in 1686, during the administration of Lord Howard of Effingham. But the history of that day, will probably satisfy all who read it, that the circumstances stated, ought rather to be considered as evidence of the sagacity of Major Bowman than of his turbulence and evil disposition. He may have been, very probably, the first in Virginia to utter openly what many of the wisest and best in England then thought; and what, very soon afterwards, was proclaimed throughout the realm of Great Britain, by the authority of the Parliament itself.

When Gertrude Littleton grew up, she married Henry Harmanstow, a descendant of one of the oldest and most reputable families on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He died in the year 1709, leaving a will now recorded in Northampton County Court. Gertrude Harmanstow survived her husband many years, but never married again. She died in 1722.

It appears by her will, a copy of which I have, that she had had several children, none of whom were then living, however, except her son Henry and her daughter Sophia. Two others of her daughters had married and died, during their mother's life. One of these daughters, Esther, had married John Straton, and left no issue. The other had married — Eyre, and had left a son Littleton Eyre, the grandson of the present John Eyre Esq. of Eyre Hall in Northampton County. To this grandson of hers, Gertrude Harmanston devised part of her estate.

If the accounts which tradition has handed down to me concerning this lady are correct, she was a most singular woman, indeed. After the death of her husband, she
managed all her estates herself, with as much industry, skill, and attention, as any man could have done. Mounted on horseback, she rode from one end to the other of the Eastern shore, visiting her different plantations; and was reputed one of the best managers there. During her widowhood, she acquired, by her own enterprise and exertion, several landed estates and much other property, for the settlement of which, according to her own inclination, she procured the passage of an Act of Assembly. By some means or other, she had picked up some knowledge of the law; and she was said to have prepared, with her own hands, not only all her own deeds, contracts, and other legal instruments, but even to have given written opinions upon legal questions submitted to her by her neighbors and friends. The Honourable James Henry, who was still one of the Judges of the General Court, after I came to the bar, has often told me, that during the period he practiced on the Eastern shore, where he resided on the early part of his life, he had seen several of these legal opinions given by Mrs. Harmanston, formerly, which were even then held in high repute there; and as he thought, were singularly correct. But my grandfather Walker, who I have heard say that this lady had been a client of his, and that he too had seen many of her legal opinions did not appear to consider them so remarkable for their correctness, as being, female productions. However, if the Act of Assembly, referred to above, or her own will, be, either of them, her own composition, and tradition affirms that both are, they manifest, unquestionably, no mean specimen of the legal skill of that day.

Part of the plate bequeathed by this will to her grandson Littleton Farewell, marked G.H., was still preserved in my family, a few years since, having been handed down to me from generation to generation since her death, now more than a hundred years ago. Other similar plates, I have recently seen in the possession of John Eyre, esquire, derived to him, in like manner, from his grandfather Littleton Eyre.

Henry Harmanston, the husband of Gertrude Littleton, was a native of Northampton county. I have not obtained any particular information concerning him from the records of that county, though a whole side was blank, and his
family was one of the oldest there. Mention is made of a Mr. Harm
for this is the name of Harmonson as it was formerly written and
still generally pronounced on the Eastern Shore, in a patent granted
to one Roger Saunders, in 1632. This Mr. Harm, who I doubt not was
the ancestor of Henry Harmonson, is described in this patent as
being a landed proprietor, at its date. His land was coterminous
with that granted by this patent to the same Saunders, which land
was situated in the Old Plantation of Accomac. Therefore, this
Mr. Harm must have been a very early settler on the Eastern Shore;
and was established there, probably, before Colonel Nathaniel
Skelton, settled himself in this region.

Henry Harmonson was a widower at the time of his
intermarriage with Gertrude Skelton. It appears, by his will,
that he left several children, by each of his two marriages. Of these,
Matthew Harmonson, who was afterwards distinguished as Major
Matthew Harmonson, and who became a man of some notoriety in
the County of Northampton, was his eldest son by his first wife.
Henry Harmonson, the other son, was the child of Gertrude
Skelton, and was born after his father's death. The youngest
child of Henry Harmonson and Gertrude his wife, who was
born during her father's life, was a daughter, Sophie Harmonson.
It will be of her only I shall have occasion to speak hereafter.
IV. Sophia Harmanston.

Sophia Harmanston was the youngest daughter of Henry Harmanston and Bertha, his wife. She was born in the County of Northampton about the beginning of the last century, for she is mentioned by name in the will of her father, which bears date the fifth May 28th, 1709, and she was a married woman, having four children, who are all named and provided for in the will of her mother, which bears date September 11th, 1702.

When Sophia Harmanston grew up, she intermarried with William Tavewell, of whom I will speak presently. This event occurred about the year 1721, probably, for by the will of her aunt Sarah Custis, which bears date April 12th, 1720, a legacy is bequeathed to her kinswoman Sophia Harmanston, who must have been unmarried at that time; and what has been already stated, will suffice to show that Sophia Harmanston must have married soon afterwards. She survived her husband William Tavewell, but never married again, and died about the year 1755. I believe her body is interred in the old grave yard situated to the southeast of the present dwelling house at Ellington, where she dwelt at the time of her decease.

William Tavewell.

William Tavewell, who intermarried with Sophia Harmanston, was the first, and so far as I have ever heard, the only person of my name who ever came to this country. The few persons of this name now in it are all of them his descendants. He was an Englishman by birth, but from what part of England he came I know not. He was born in the year 1671; and his family, in England, was respectable, I believe. This seems to be certain, not only by the anecdotes I have mentioned at the commencement of these sketches, and by another I will presently relate, but also by the ancient armorial insignia of his crest and shield. And that he must have been a young man of some consideration, is sufficiently shown, by the fact of his marrying the daughter of Bertha Harmanston, during the life time of her mother. In these days, the pride of family was great; and it cannot be doubted that Bertha Harmanston was a woman of much discernment and great discretion, who being possessed of an estate of a few thousand pounds, left the management of it to her family, and turned over to them the disposition of it, and she left them also the management of the family, and turned over to them the disposition of it, and she left them also the management of the family, which they carried on for more than a century.
certainly, through a line of ancestors among the most conspicuous persons in the county during that period, and having married her other daughters into the most respectable families then existing in that region, neither this old lady herself, nor her connections, would ever have espoused to such a marriage, unless the situation of William Talcwell (who was then quite a young man) had been unexceptionable at least.

He was a lawyer by profession, and seems to have had a very extensive practice in the County of Northampton, where he resided. I have seen many declarations, pleas &c. in the records of that county, which are drawn and signed by him. Indeed, I do not recollect to have found a single important case there, in which he is not mentioned as being of counsel with one of the parties litigant.

A mourning ring, now in the possession of my wife, informs me that he died July 6th 1762, aged sixty one years. And as the will of Berthaude Wmson, dated in 1703, shows that he was then a married man, having had five children by his wife, I infer that he came to Virginia about the year 1716. This supposition is confirmed by the date of a deed for some land bought by him of one So age, which deed is of record in Northampton County Court; as well as by the fact that he is one of the subscribing witnesses, and probably the draughtsman of, the will of Sarah Curtis before mentioned, which will bears date April 16th 1720.

The records of Northampton county, in which county he lived and died, give but little information concerning William Talcwell nor do I expect to find much there. For although the early records of this and of the other ancient counties of Virginia, contain a good account of what occurred there soon after their settlement commenced, yet before the year 1700, these records had become what they now are, the depositories of the common assurances of property and the records of the judicial proceedings. The county courts, from such sources, but little biographical information can, of course, be derived. I will mention a single extract only, as description of the manners of the times. In the year 1728, an order of Northampton County Court is entered, making an allowance of twenty five pounds of tobacco to William Talcwell, for original heads produced by him. That seems to have been a custom prevalent in the County of Northampton at this time, that every.
house keeper should produce a certain number of the heads of
coons or squirrels, for each tithable in his family; and in default of
doing so, that he should pay a certain quantity of tobacco for every head
not produced. Those who produced more heads than were required of
them, had credit for the surplus, to be paid by the delinquents;
and all the accounts were arranged each year, when the County
levy was laid. This custom, afterwards became a law, which
embraced the whole Eastern shore and Northern Neck of
Virginia.

In the order mentioned above, and in several other instances
wherein he is mentioned in the records of Northampton County,
he is distinguished as Captain William Tagewell; and old
Mr. Brick house of that county, the only one who knew him
personally, with whom I have ever conversed, always called him
old Captain Tagewell. Mr. Brick house could recollect little else
of him, however, than that he was an old man when he
(Brick house) first saw him; that he was much afflicted with
the gout; and that he always wore a large white wig.

My grandmother has frequently told me, that after her
marriage with my paternal grandfather, a letter was received
by him, which was addressed to his father, the William Tagewell,
but did not get to hand until after this old man's death. The
letter was written by some connexion of his in England, who
requested that the old man would send one of his sons to the
writer, which son the writer promised to make his heir. The
writer stated in the letter, that domestic calamity had deprived
him of all nearer male relatives, and that he felt a desire to
keep the estate in the family. My grandfather proposed to
send over his brother John, when he grew old enough; but the
death of my grandfather, prevented this plan from being
carried into execution. My father also informed me, that
his uncle John Tagewell had mentioned the same thing to
him, while he was a boy, and was about to send him to
England; but that he was prevented from going, by some
cause which I have now forgotten.
Connecting all these circumstances, and considering them as facts, as I have no doubt they are, the following sketch will probably exhibit the true history of William Tagewell. He was the younger son of respectable English parents, who, although in comfortable circumstances, yet had not enough to provide well for all their children, who were numerous. This younger son, therefore, after receiving a good education, was put to study the law. When he had acquired some knowledge of his profession, he came to Virginia about the year 1730, to push his fortunes here; and he then settled himself in the County of Northampton. Here he commenced the practice of the law; and some years afterwards he married Sophia, Barramson, the daughter of an old, wealthy, and most respectable family, long established in that region of the country. Some ten or twelve years after his marriage, his wife's mother died. Under her will he acquired a considerable augmentation of his fortune; and being afterwards afflicted with the gout, he then quit the practice of his profession and passed the residue of his life, in a retirement made in some measure necessary by this disease. After his departure from England, the family he left behind him there, with which he seems to have kept up a regular intercourse while he lived, became nearly extinct, in its male branches at least, and its name now, most probably, remains no longer, except with such of his male descendants as yet exist in Virginia.

William Tagewell, as I have stated, died July 6, 1792. He lived about two miles from the present court house of Northampton County, at Elkington, now the seat of Wm. A. Cooke, one of his descendants. Here his remains are interred together with those of his wife, in the brick graveyard nearly in front of and not very far from the present dwelling house.

Sophia Tagewell did not survive her husband long. She had several children all of whom died within five during the lifetime of the latter. Since writing the above, I have seen, in a Canadian newspaper, an obituary notice of 'the Reverend Samuel Tagewell,' who seems to have been an Englishman and the Rector of one of the Parishes in Upper Canada. This is the only instance in which I have ever met with the name of Tagewell, in all my reading, except as that of William Tagewell or of some of his descendants.
Several children during their marriage. Of these four only Lillian, Gertrude, Ann, and John survived their parents. Three others, Henry, William, and another daughter, called Ann, had died infants and without issue during their father's life.

Gertrude Tagewell, the eldest daughter, intermarried with Mr. John Stratton, of Northampton County, and left descendants, of whom I shall have occasion to speak hereafter. Ann, the youngest daughter, was brought by her brother Lillian, who was her guardian, after the death of their parents, to the County of Brunswick, where he then resided. Here she married, first, the Reverend William Newton, the rector of the parish of Saint Andrew in that County, by whom she had children. She survived her husband, and after his death she married, a second time, the Reverend Arthur Emmerson, by whom she had children also. Of these descendants I shall have occasion to speak hereafter.

John Tagewell, the youngest child of his father, was brought by his brother Lillian, who was his guardian, after the death of their parents, to the County of Brunswick, where he then resided. Here he commenced the study of the law, under the direction of his brother; but he dying, before John had completed his legal studies, he then removed to the City of Williamsburg. There he finished his legal education, and having obtained a licence, he commenced the practice of the law in that vicinity. He attained eminence as a lawyer, and enjoyed the most lucrative practice of any one at the bar, probably. At the commencement of the Revolution, John Tagewell succeeded Mr. Byrnes as Clerk of the House of Burgesses. From this situation he was transferred to the Bench as one of the judges of the General Court. This office he continued to hold so long as he lived. He died about the year 1780, much esteemed and regretted by all who knew him.

John Tagewell married Sarah Bolling, the daughter of Colonel John Bolling, of Chesterfield. By her he left several children, all of whom, however, are dead, and their race has become extinct, except in the case of Doctor William Tagewell, his second son, who has resided recently in the City of...
Richmond, but leaving a son and several daughters, with the together with myself and my own children, the name of Ragewell now exists. There is none other of this name in the United States, I believe.

V. Littleton Ragewell.

Littleton Ragewell, the eldest child of William Ragewell and Sophia his wife who survived his parents, was born in the County of Northampton, about the year 1725. When he attained the proper age, he was placed by his father in the Secretary’s Office, in the City of Williamsburg, about the year 1745. After completing the customary term of five years in this Office, he returned to the County of Northampton, and there commenced the study of the law, under his father. For those designed for this profession, the Secretary’s Office was an admirable preparatory school; therefore Littleton soon Ragewell, being so prepared, made such proficiency in his legal studies as to obtain a license to practice. As the course of his future life was probably regulated very much by the circumstances of his having been brought up in the Secretary’s Office, an excellent institution, which has long since ceased to exist, this will be the proper place to give some account of this valuable establishment, the regulations of which have now passed into very general oblivion.

The Office of Secretary of State, was of ancient origin in Virginia. In the Ordinances established by the London Company, on the 24th of July 1621, as a Constitution for the Colony, there is to be found the name of Christopher Davidson, who was thereby appointed Secretary of State; and our ancient histories inform us, that Mr. John Rolfe and Master John Pong had each of them been Secretary of State, before that period. So that the Office was probably as coeval with the Colony itself. By the Ordinance above quoted, the Secretary was made one of the Council of State, and he derived his authority directly from the Superior Council of the Company in England.
After the dissolution of the Charter granted to the London Company, in the provisional government, they appointed, for the colony, by the King, the office of Secretary of State; and we find the name of William Claiborne there mentioned as such Secretary. This office was continued even afterwards, during the existence of Virginia as a colony, in England; and it ceased with the revolution only. The Secretary of State received his appointment directly from the crown. But after the death of Mr. John Carter, as I have heard, the office was granted by the King, as a mere sinecure, to some favorite in England; and Mr. Thomas Nelson, who succeeded Mr. Carter, and who was the last Secretary in Virginia, although nominally such, was really but the Deputy of a principal Secretary in England, to whom he paid an annual stipend for his office.

In dignity, the office of Secretary was next to that of Governor; and in emolument, the office of Secretary was thought to be the better. Besides the rents or profits of several estates in different parts of the colony, which were annexed to his office, the Secretary was entitled to his fees of office, (including the clerkship of the General Court) to a certain portion of the annual fees of the Clerks of all the County Courts, and to other perquisites. These emoluments, exclusive of those received from the Clerks of the County Courts, exceeded one hundred and ten thousand pounds of Tobacco, when Beverley wrote.

It was the business of the Secretary, to keep the public records of the country, and to take care that they were fair, and regularly made up; to keep all writs both ministerial and judicial; to make out and record all patents for land; to register the return of all imposts of escheat, all probates of wills and letters of administration, of all births, burials, marriages, and emigrants, of all tavern licences, of all public officers in the counties, and of many other things. From this office, always kept at the seat of government, all writs of
election issued, and in it all Proclamations were recorded.

As an incident to the duty of keeping all the public records, the country, and taking care that these were regularly and fairly made up, the Clerk of the General Court and the Clerks of all the County Courts were considered as but surrogates of the Secretary, from whom all these received their appointments originally. Of this enormous patronage the Secretary was deprived, in the year 1645, and it was then bestowed upon the Governor. But the act making this change was repealed, in 1652, and by a new law then passed, the power of appointing their own clerks was vested in the County Courts respectively. These Clerks, however, were even then required to pay the Secretary the usual compensation and fees as formerly.

Both these Acts were repealed at the general revival of all the statutes, made in 1667, after the Restoration. In consequence of the repeal of these two Acts, the power of appointing the Clerks of the County Courts became again vested in the Secretary, as an incident of his office. But by an Act of Assembly, passed in 1670, the power of appointing, and removing, their clerks, was declared to be an inherent and unquestionable right belonging to the County Courts. All the Acts of this Assembly, however, were afterwards abrogated by a Royal proclamation, and were also repealed by the Assembly itself. The power of appointing these Clerks, then reverted to the Secretary, as was generally supposed. And this power was constantly exercised by him ever afterwards, without question or doubt, until a short time before the commencement of the Revolution.

Then, although no new law had been enacted, in reference to this matter, the County Courts, in several instances, began to assert a claim to this power, as their necessary and inherent right. In the beginning of this contest, the County Courts, while asserting such a right on their part, yet regularly appointed and qualified
The nominee of the Secretary, so associating all controversy with that Officer. But afterwards, as I have heard, the County Court of Brunswick, upon the death of Stillson Tarrewell, refused to qualify the appointee of the Secretary; and appointed a Mr. Fisher and in his stead. This caused a legal investigation of the subject. The question was brought before the old General Court. By this Court, it was decided in favour of the Secretary. An Appeal from this decision, was thereupon taken by Mr. Fisher, to the King in Council. The Revolution came on before this Appeal was decided; and the new Constitution, by continuing in office all the then existing Clerks of the County Courts, and by directing that future vacancies in such offices should be supplied by the respective County Courts, put an end to all such doubts.

The office of Secretary of State, to which such multifarious and burdensome duties, as I have before mentioned, were attached, necessarily required many subordinate agents, to aid in the performance of these duties. The compensation of such agents, if they had been procured in the usual mode, would have absorbed a large portion of the emoluments of the Secretary, especially after the deduction from these emoluments, by the payment of the annual stipend to the principal Secretary, in England. To avoid this, the following judicious plan was adopted by the Secretary, at a very early day, I believe; and it was continued ever afterwards during the existence of the office.

By the permission of the Secretary, any young man of a respectable family, of proper age and who wrote a fair hand, upon either his own, or the application of his father or guardian, might enter the office, upon these conditions. He was to continue in the office, as a Clerk, for the term of five years, if not sooner discharged by the Secretary. During this whole period, the young man was to be maintained at his own charge; and was to receive no wages. At the expiration of the five years, if he had conducted himself properly during that term, he was at liberty to continue in the office, upon wages, if he thought proper to do so; or he might leave it. Whether the young man then left the office or not,
however, if he exercised to maintain a good character, he was enti-
to have the first clerkships at any County Court that might be vac-
ate, and which he desired. He did not forfeit his right to a clerkship so
came, by refusing to accept the first or any other vacancy that
might occur. He retained this right as before, until such a vacancy
happened as he liked to fill; and he was at liberty, then, to claim
it.

If any young man, who had served out his probationary term
satisfactorily, did not wish to accept a Clerkship, he was at
liberty to discontinue his privileges to any officer in the like situation
and the contract was always approved by the Secretary, who did not
hesitate to bestow the vacant clerkship upon the assesses. In that
case, however, the claims of the parties were considered as being
fully satisfied. No deviation from any of these rules was ever made
except as to the counties of York, Gloucester, Hampshire and Carolina.
The four clerkships, Secretary Nelson retained for himself;
and bestowed them upon the members of his own family, who
had been brought up in his office, like others.

The Clerk of the General Court, who had the general
superintendence of the Secretary’s office, was he upon whose
report of the qualifications of the young man, the Secretary always
relies; in granting his permission to enter the office, upon the
terms above mentioned. And a report made to the Secretary, by
this officer, of the misconduct of any person attached to the
office, was surely followed by the discharge of the reported
deliquent.

Such was the Secretary’s office, into which Stillson
Dagewell was introduced about the year 1745, when he was
about eighteen years of age. While he resided in the City
Williamsburg, as a probationer in the office, during a
casual visit to some friends in the neighbouring County of
Surrey, made one the Clerk’s vacation, he there met with
Mrs. Mary Bray. A mutual attachment was the consequence
of their acquaintance, which was afterwards expanded into an
engagement between them. After he left the Secretary’s Offi-
cise, and had obtained a license to practice the law, he
returned to the western shores, to fulfill his engagement. In this time the Clerkship of the County of Brunswick became vacant, Littleton Tagewell applied for and obtained this Clerkship from Secretary Nelson. This appointment was the more desired by him, because Brunswick was then a large County contiguous to that of Southampton, where the family of his intended wife resided.

Having obtained this Clerkship and married, Littleton Tagewell purchased a landed estate in the County of Brunswick, situated on Nottaway river, and established himself upon it. Soon after he removed thither, his father William Tagewell died. By this event, Littleton Tagewell acquired an augmentation of his fortune. He thereupon purchased another landed estate, which was then in the County of Brunswick also, but is in the present County of Greensville, and is situated on the Otter dam Swamp that falls into the Meherrin river. Upon this estate he built and improved it very much; and thither he then removed, where he ever afterwards lived; and here he died about the year 1761. His remains are interred in the grave-yard near the dwelling-house on this estate.

Besides his Clerkship, Littleton Tagewell practiced the law in several of the Courts of the Counties contiguous to Brunswick; and he was doing well in his profession at the time of his death. He died intestate, in competent circumstances, leaving two children, Henry and Sarah Tagewell. The latter of these children died an infant of tender years, soon after her father. So that the name was then confined to his son, Henry, and to his brother John Tagewell. The latter, as I have said, was brought by his brother, after the death of their mother, from the County of Northampton to the County of Brunswick; and as he never afterwards returned to the Eastern shore, as a resident, the name of Tagewell then became extinct in that region.

The short life of Littleton Tagewell, furnishes no event in which he had any share, that is worthy of mention,
except what I have already stated. He died about thirty-three
years of age; and during the brief periods of his manhood, he changed
the place of his abode several times. From the City of Williamsburg,
and he returned to the County of Northampton, about the year 1780, from
about the year 1752, to the County of Brunswick. Here also he changed his residence after his first establishment
there; and he was chiefly employed throughout his whole life there,
in the duties of his office, of his profession, and in completing his
new establishment on the other dam swamp. This was a task of no
easy performance, in a remote region of the Colony, at that day.
Yet it was executed by him with both skill and taste. What I have
said of him, will show that his life was exemplary, and that
his life, although not distinguished in any way, was spent
innocently and usefully.
Mary Gray, the wife of Littleton Tagwell, was the eldest daugh-
ter of Colonel Joseph Gray and Martha his wife, whose maiden
name was Simmons. Both Colonel Joseph Gray and Colonel John
Simmons, the father of Martha Simmons, were descendants of
two old families in the County of Isle of Wight, whose ances-
thad often represented that County in the General Assembly.
When the County of Isle of Wight was divided, in 1738, the abodes of
both Joseph Gray and John Simmons were found in the new County
Southampton, of which they became distinguished inhabitants, fill
the first offices in it, as did their descendants afterwards for
several years.
Colonel Joseph Gray left seven children, two sons and
five daughters. Of his sons, I very well remember Colonel Edwin
Gray, the eldest. He represented the County of Southampton many
years, as well before, as during, and after the American Colu;
After his death, one of his younger sons, Edwin Gray, succeeded
him as the representative of Southampton County in the
Virginia Assembly. But about the year 1796, he was elected
member of the House of Representatives of the Congress of
the United States, for the District of which the County of
numerous ann v. y. opus.
Southampton was a pond. He continued to represent this district for a great many years, and as long as he resided in it. In the latter part of his life, however, he married a second wife, a lady who lived in the town of Portsmouth, after which event, he removed thither. Here he dwelt even afterwards while he lived; and there he died without issue.

I also remember James Gray, the younger son of Colonel Joseph Gray, but not so well as I remember his brother Colonel Edwin. James Gray resided in the County of Southampton, on the family estate which he derived from his father, and on which his father had lived. I recollect visiting him there, when I was a boy, in pursuance of my father's directions. At the commencement of the Revolution, James Gray entered the Army of the United States and served in it throughout the war. He bore the commission of a Captain; and was severely wounded in the battle of Germantown. I am not aware that he ever filled any civil office. He left several children when he died. His eldest son, John C. Gray, was a member of the Virginia Assembly while I was a member of that body. He afterwards succeeded his cousin Edwin, as a member of the House of Representatives of the United States. But he resigned this situation after serving a single term, I believe.

Of the five daughters of Colonel Joseph Gray, I can say but little. Mary, his eldest child, married Littleton Tagewell, as I have said. She survived her husband, and married a second time, the Reverend William Tamming. By this marriage she had a single child, a daughter, Mary Smith Tamming, who when she grew up intermarried with her cousin John Wickham esq. Of them, I shall have occasion to speak more fully hereafter. Mary Gray survived her second husband and all her children. She died about the year 1807, at the house of her sister Mrs. Edmunds, in the County of Brunswick, where she had resided during her latter years.

The second daughter of Colonel Joseph Gray was called Sarah. She married Major James Hall, a respectable gentleman who resided in the County of Brunswick (now Greensville) on the