south side of the Eleazer river, a few miles above. The present village of Oldfield, where he held a large landed estate, they left many children, with all of whom I was well acquainted when I was young; but I know very little now of their descendants.

The third daughter of Colonel Joseph Gray was called Ann. She married a Mr. Blount, of the County of Southampton, who she survived and afterwards married a Mr. Blow of the same county. She survived her second husband also and then married a third time Mr. Giles Godwin of Chuckatuck in the County of Nansemond. By her first husband, Blount, she had one child, a son, Henry Blount, who I remember as a student of law in my father's office, when I was very young. He died, as I have understood, unmarried. His mother had no children by either of her two last marriages.

The fourth daughter of Colonel Joseph Gray was called Jane. She married a Mr. Hewson, a respectable merchant of the town of Petersburg. They both died before I was born, leaving an only child, a son, William Hewson, with whom I was very well acquainted. He married and removed to Norfolk, where he held some property. When I came to Norfolk to reside, I found him living in the County of Prince Ann, which County he then represented in the Virginia Assembly. During the administration of Mr. Jefferson, he was appointed Post Master of Norfolk, an office which he held for many years. But having lost his wife, by whom he had two sons, both then married, they all removed to the State of Tennessee. There he married a second time, as I have heard, but I know nothing more of him or his descendants.

The fifth and youngest daughter of Colonel Joseph Gray was called Lucy. She married Colonel John Floyd Edmunds, a very respectable gentleman who resided in the County of Brunswick. They left many children, I believe. But with the exception of their eldest, a daughter, who I recollect as a visitor at my father's house, while he lived in Williamsburg, I never was acquainted with any of them. I have good reasons for believing, however, that the descendants of Colonel Edmunds are numerous and very respectable in the County.
of Brunswick even at this day, although I know none of them.

This is all I think it necessary to say here concerning the descendants of Colonel Joseph Gray, the father of my paternal grandmother.

Littleton Tazewell lived but a few years after his marriage and died March 17th 1737. His remains are deposited in the present County of Hampshire in the estate he poor held here situated about four miles from the present village of Rockville on the Widows Swamp. This was but a part of the county of Brunswick and latter my grandfather removed during his life by desiring his first son wch was christen in Butter new and is what is now a part of this county. My father during his life sold both these estates with great profit.

After the death of my grandfather my grandmother married a second time the Rev. William Fanning a learned, witty, jovial and good man. By whom she had one single child a daughter called Prager. The Fanning, I was brought up with her and was few months younger than myself and I felt for her the affection of a brother. When she grew up she married John Meekman soap of the city of Richmond and dying left two sons William Fanning Meekman and Edmund Fanning Meekman whom I conversed and value as the nearest cousins I have except my own children.

Littleton Tazewell died intestate. At his death he left two children—Nancy Tazewell and Sarah Tazewell. Of these Sarah died soon after her father, an infant of tender years and without issue.

Littleton Tazewell himself after his short time comparatively recent I have been able to collect little information than of any other of my ancestors. The nature of his office would have excluded him from all others if in other respects he might have aspired to such. And his rapid transitions and frequent changes of residence during his short life gave but little opportunity for any to become well acquainted with him. His youth was spent in Williamsburg in the Secretary’s office. Here his early manhood in Brunswick County in the study of the law and his last four years in Brunswick and during the short residence here he changed his place of abode. All I have ever heard of him was from my grandmother his wife who used to say he was a very industrious worthy good man much devoted to his family but carried off so frequently from them by his law suit that he spent but little of his time at home during the short period of their marriage.
VI. Henry Farewell.

Henry Farewell, the only son of Sillaton Farewell and of Mary Gray his wife, was born in the County of Brunswick, on the 6th day of November 1752. His father died, intestate, when Henry Farewell was quite young, leaving two children, himself and a younger sister called Sarah. She did not survive their father long, and died an infant. In consequence of these events, the whole estate of Sillaton Farewell devolved upon Henry Farewell, his sole surviving child.

This estate consisted of two plantations in the County of Brunswick, with all the necessary slaves, stocks & for their proper cultivation. One of these plantations, that on which Henry Farewell was born, was situated on the south side of Nottoway River. The other, to which his father afterwards removed and where he died, was situated on the Oldham Swamp, on the north side of Brunswick River, four or five miles below the present village of Belfield, then called Rich's Ford. Both these plantations were afterwards sold by Henry Farewell, when he purchased estates in the neighborhood of Williamsburg. The former, to a Mr. Mason, I think; and the latter to Colonel Benjamin Harrison of Brandon.

After the death of his father, Henry Farewell was placed under the guardianship of his grandfather Colonel Joseph Gray, of whom I have already spoken. By this guardian, he was sent to school first under the tuition of a Mr. Sutter, an Englishman, who kept school, then much celebrated, in the County of Surry, near Colonel Allen Cocke's, with whom Henry Farewell was boarded. This mansion of Colonel Cocke, of late years, has been called Bacon's Castle.

Under the tuition of this Mr. Sutter, Henry Farewell learned to read, to write and to cipher. He wrote an excellent hand and was a good accountant. I have often heard him say, that all Sutter's scholars were remarkable for writing well and being good accountants. It was this saying of his, probably, which, when I began to practice the law, caused me to notice that the handwriting of all attorneys from this region was unusually good. An observation, the truth of which I have had occasion to witness often since; and which makes me, from a feeling of the lasting effects of early habits and associations, and from proper pithy, to remark, it is true.
While he was at this school, his mother married the Reverend William Tamming, and Colonel Tony, his grandfather and guardian, dying soon afterwards, Henry Taggwell was then placed under the guardianship of his stepfather, Mr. Tamming. He was a very worthy man, who had been well educated himself, and having no child of his own, he became much attached to his step-son and ward. By Mr. Tamming, Henry Taggwell was soon removed from Salters's School, and placed under the tuition of a Mr. Gordon, to learn Latin and Greek. Gordon was a Scotchman, who kept a Grammar School in the County of Surrey, at Swan's Point, near Mount Pleasant, the mansion of Colonel Hartwell Cocke, with whom Henry Taggwell boarded.

Mr. Gordon was thought to be an excellent tutor of boys. This character of him I have often heard from his pupils, with many of whom I afterwards became acquainted. And that such was the opinion of my father and grandfather, is certain. In the year 1783, they united in a very strong application to Mr. Gordon, who was then established in Smithfield, requesting him earnestly, to come to Williamsburg, to superintend my early classical studies. But he declined this application upon the ground of his advanced years.

Henry Taggwell soon became a great favourite of his tutor, as I have often heard from his schoolfellows of that day. Mr. Gordon preserved upon him unusual attention, so much indeed as to bring upon the old man, from the other scholars, the charge of partiality to this favourite pupil. Of this partiality, if it really existed, Henry Taggwell was prudent enough to suspect. His progress in this school must have been very rapid, for about the beginning of the year 1770, he was taken from it and placed by his guardian Mr. Tamming, at the College of William and Mary. Here he most distinguished himself, and certainly the most so of any in the Southern Colonies.

Henry Taggwell continued at Williams and Mary until sometime in the year 1772. During this interval, however, he was occasionally sent to be educated in the wilderness, under the care of his guardian Mr. Tamming.
judge) as sufficiently qualified to commence the law. He was, therefore, removed from college and placed as a student in the office of his uncle Mr. John Tagewell, who was a lawyer of high reputation and very extensive practice in the city of Williamsburg.

This gentleman was very much attached (as was quite natural) to his promising young nephew, and devoted more than the customary attention to the direction of his legal studies. Under such favourable auspices, Henry Tagewell advanced rapid and in December 1770, he obtained a licence to practice. He had just entered upon his twenty-fourth year; but the law then in force did not require the applicant for a licence to be of age. His licence was granted by John Randolph, the Attorney General, and by George Wythe esq., each of them filling a high place at the bar of the old General Court, by which Courts they had been appointed examiners, by persuasion of the Act Assembly, upon this subject, then in force.

While residing in Williamsburg, as a student of law, Henry Tagewell had become attached to Dorothy Elizabeth Walter, one of the daughters of Benjamin Walter, esquire of that name. This attachment had been reciprocated on her part, and met with the full approbation of all their friends. Their marriage was postponed only to allow him an opportunity of completing his professional studies and of obtaining a licence to practice. This being granted him, they were married in January 17,

Soon after his marriage, Henry Tagewell removed to the County of Brunswick, and established himself on his paternal estate on the Oceanarm swamp. Having settled himself, he immediately commenced the practice of the law in the Counties of Brunswick, Southampton, Suffolk and Surry. His commencement was made under most flattering prospects, far exceeding his expectations and fully equal to his most sanguine wishes. But this bright dawn was soon obscured by unexpected events, even when he had no control.

Many years before the period of which I am now
The fees of the different Officers of the Government had been regulated by an Act of Assembly that prescribed the mode in which these fees might be collected. It had long been the custom to make them a temporary Act, and to renew it from time to time; when it was about to expire. The last Act of Assembly upon this subject, was passed in February 1772. It declared that it should continue, and be in force from and after the 25th day of April next (when the preceding Act would expire), for and during, the term of two years, and no longer. The Assembly which met in 1774, was suddenly dissolved by the Governor, Lord Dunmore, before the Act for renewing the Fee Bill, as it was called, could be passed. In consequence of which, the Act of 1772 expired, according to its own limitation.

At first, this circumstance does not seem to have been generally noticed, or if observed, to have produced any effect, for such they had feared before without being productive of any mischiefs or inconveniences. But at length, however, some distinguished persons expressed an opinion that during the suspension of the Fee Bill, the Courts of Justice ought not to proceed to the trial of any of the cases depending before them. This opinion, it is probable, was rather the result of what they thought would be highly expedient, than of any conviction of what the law required. The condition of the Colony, at that time, was awfully perilous; and nothing seemed to promise any relief, but the convention of the Assembly. A measure to which the Governor was known to be much opposed. To compel him to convene an Assembly, no means seemed to be so efficacious as the exclusion of the Courts of Justice, for a cause which none but the Assembly could remove. Besides, the storm of the Revolution was obviously approaching fast; and it was thought highly inexpedient, at such a juncture, to suffer the people to be harassed by the demands of their creditors, the greater part of whom were British merchants.

These opinions, were for some time confined to the leading men only. At length, however, they were generally disseminated, and as they spread into the country, they were adopted and acted upon by the
Magistrates of the different County Courts, who, by the year 1775, had refused to go upon their dockets, before they had sanctioned such a measure, this by their course. Thus the Counties in which Henry Tazewell practiced, were no more closed for the transaction of business, within very little more than the year after he had begun to practice the law.

In the spring of the year 1776, Lord North conciliatory as it was called, for restoring quiet to the Colonies, was commended by the British Ministry to all the Colonial Governors in America. Upon the receipt of this communication, Lord Dunmore, the Governor of Virginia, determined to convene an Assembly, in which he might be submitted. For that purpose, he ordered writs to issue for holding elections of members of the Assembly, which body was required to convene in Williamsburg, the seat of government, the first day of June, 1776.

At this election, Henry Tazewell became a candidate to represent the county of Brunswick, in which he then resided. He was opposed by the two old members, who had represented the County, for several years, and were endeared to the people by the course they had pursued as members of the preceding Assembly, 1774. But such was the popularity he had acquired, that although he was then quite young (only in his twenty-second year) and had in the County but little more than twelve months, he was as one of its delegates, beating Colonel Daniel Fife, who, one of its delegates.

In April 1775, the gunpowder was secretly removed from the public magazine at Williamsburg by order of Lord Dunmore, the governor. In consequence of this act, Henry at the head of a body of men from Hanover marched down toward Williamsburg, and having compelled Col. Carter the revenue general of the revenue in this colony, to pay the amount of the supposed value of the powder to the inhabitants again to their homes. This was the first act of open resistance authority in Virginia, produced much excitement among the people and North's conciliatory plan (as it was called) arriving about this time. To appease this excitement and to quiet the people, the governor Dunmore called a pro
The adjourned General Assembly retired from its palace on board a man-of-war then lying in the river opposite York. For want of intercourse between the Executive and Legislative branches of the government, the adjournment of the Assembly could proceed no further in its business and therefore adjourned to meet on the 12th of October following. A sufficient number to form a quorum met on that day, those who did meet adjourned to December 7th, 1775.

On that day also a quorum not appearing, the members present adjourned to meet again on the 6th of May 1776. On this day however the Convention (composed of the same persons) was also convened and when several of the members of the Assembly met on that day, it was decided that they would "rather proceed to business on adjournment as a house of Burgesses" and thus terminated the political existence of the last Virginia assembly held under the royal government.

After the adjournment of the Assembly as such, in June, 1775, the members, who were also delegates to the Convention, agreed to meet in Richmond as a Convention on the 17th of July following. The body accordingly assembled at that time and place and made the necessary preparations for creating the new government under the governor who was still in the colony at Norfolk. A military force was created and organized and a temporary executive established called the Committee of Safety and having completed the arrangements the Convention adjourned to meet again at the same place on the 1st of December, 1775.

On that day the Convention again assembled and having made some further provisions necessary for the good of the colony, disposed themselves to April 1776. A new election of delegates to the Convention took place under an ordinance which had been adopted by that body in 1775. The new members thoroughly elected Williamsburg on the 10th of May 1776, when the old assembly being terminated and the State declared "freed and independent," this terminated their expiring relations with Great Britain and erected her mint as an empty honor. With the people, the committee reported this present constitution of Virginia, which was unanimously adopted by the Convention on the 29th of May, and on the 4th of July following the Congress at State declared these colonies free and independent. Thus terminated the connexion between Great Britain and the her mint as an empty honor. With the people.
presenting his professional course. In this situation, he raised a troop of Maryland in the E. P. of Saint-Marc (where he resided) under the recommendation of the Convention of Maryland, and was made its captain. With this body he afterwards marched to Williamsburg, but the organization of the forces adopted by the Convention, forming a more permanent force, this and all the other volunteer were then discharged.

In April 1775 an election of the members of the Assembly (which as I have stated was as summoned by the Governor to meet the 15th day of June) was to take place. The members chosen at this election would also be delegates to the Convention according to the ordinance of the last Convention upon this subject. This Convention, therefore, was one of great interest, and Henry Clayville declared himself a candidate for his county. The County of Brunswick was then very large and he had not situated in it more than twelve months. The old members were the men of influence, had long represented it, and were more or less adopted to the people by the course they had pursued during the session of the Convention, and of the Assembly in the preceding year.

Yet much was the standing he had acquired in the County during his short residence there, that he was elected after a severe contest. He then was but little more than twenty-one years of age.

When the Assembly met (which as I have stated was the last held under the royal government), Henry Clayville, also a young man and a new member took an active part with those who were most disposed to peace, motion to extremity, but to adopt some compromising course that might leave open the door of reconciliation between the colony and her parent state and terminate the differences then unhappily existing and restore tranquility to the agitated country. In this course he was supported by some of the warmest and truest patriots in the Assembly, by Dickinson, Pendleton, Island, Stanwix, &c. but were opposed by Henry the Lee, Page, and Jefferson.

An anecdote I have very frequently heard related, will show, that the course then pursued by Henry Clayville, was much disapproved of by the latter, gentleman particularly. During the session of the Assembly, Mr. Clayville signed a set of resolutions respecting his own opinions and the plan which ought to be adopted. These resolutions he designed to offer upon some fit occasion; and in the mean time was soliciting to submit them to the examination of those for whose opinions he felt the most respect. Mr. Dickinson had seen and approved them; and upon some occasion while Mr. Clayville was exhibiting his paper to another gentleman, a Mr. Lyon, another member from King and Queen, professing by at time sister lookout on this shoulder and read it a
There was probably no single man in the whole colony who had ever thought of resistance and certainly not one who wished a separation. The local measures as adopted by the militia council of the public committee printed circulars and attempted to restrain these efforts and to quiet them. If prudent plans had been adopted,

Unfortunately for Great Britain, however, the selection as governor for her colony at this juncture was a man who, probably, the most unfit of any that could have been found at such a critical juncture. The facts and indications of these men, pecuniary measures, his own disposition, and changed circumstances and tempers must be pointed to as the only means of preventing a separation. The first separation was not decided on by the majority of the people. To this prepared to use them as much as by those who thought such a course unnecessary and some of the best patriots in this country were warmly opposed to the organization of a military force adopted by the convention in July 1773. The abandonment of this measure in June 1775 produced the necessity for organizing a provisional government for the county and the county, however, it is a course he pursued compelled the employment of the employment of the force that had then been provided for defense. Nearly the opposing forces first met in Virginia in December 1775, and at the battle of the Great Bridge the first blood was shed. Their cause in this first encounter gave confidence to the colonists and prepared them for the war. This known to

not be carried on with the temporary government then existing of course a new government was necessarily created; and the independence was almost forced upon a people who began the struggle with feelings of loyalty as subjects hid, and were driven by necessity to act as rights what they would have been much better pleased to have enjoyed from the indulgent kindness of the mother country.

It is not my purpose to write the history of the nation but merely that of a single family. To this therefore let me return. The act under which most of the legal fees in Virginia were demanded, was a temporary statute, and was limited in its duration to the 12th of April 1774, eight last statute pays. Upon this statute in February 1773, when the Assembly which met in May would have continued this act longer no doubt but that they were succeeded by the revenue in May 1774 as I have stated, the consequence was, as the fee bill not being then continued expired of course, and thus the court of justice in the county was closed.

Henry Taggawell who had given before this commenced the practice of the law and I have said was thus deprived almost entirely of all opportunity of
a copy, it read in part: "Doctor, with great appro
of the resolutions and immediately communicated to every per
who conceived to be the object of this paper: by whom it was prepared and how it was
prepared to employ it. Mr. Jefferson, when this house met, took occasion in an
address he was making to determine as enemies all those who contemplated
preparing any measure calculated to paralyze the effects the house was then
making to impeach its course; and stating that he was informed such a plan was then
in contemplation, he therefore made the young gentlemen who projected such a course to
reflect upon it carefully and know its consequences. The remark naturally produced
inquiring to the person to whom they were intended to apply and Mr. Jayne being
been designated as that person, became in his place and avowed himself to be the
young members who had contemplated proposing a set of measures that his judgments
approved and which he hoped the house would adopt. Whether this was the
result in most cases, he should do, he should do what he believed to be his duty
by presenting these proposed measures at the proper time, and that he should
not be detained from the performance of this duty by such discussion
as the house had heard addressed to them. Some warm discussion was
produced by these circumstances and the house adjourned under great
excitement. Of the adjournment many members became designs to see the
proposed resolutions which had yet been publicly exhibited and Mr. Jayne
very willing to showed them to all who wished to see them. By some they were
highly approved of, and by others a desire was expressed that they should
be proposed the next day. To others the objects and sentiments of the
resolutions were also agreeable, but they did not consider the present
as the fit occasion for presenting them. And by others again, they in
disapproved entirely. Even in this latter class, however, while they disapproved
of the resolutions, were highly incensed at the course which Mr. Jefferson
those who acted with him pursued. They considered this as highly impr
sufficient to stop all precaution of deliberation and to enable a
means which certain members might not choose to approve. Such
therefore, while they were opposed to the resolution, encouraged with its
approach them entirely on the idea that should be proposed the next
in order that while they opposed the resolutions themselves they might
an opportunity of expressing their respect and regard for those who might a
them and their indignation at the course pursued by Mr. Jefferson and his
The gentleman can an old member known
for his firmness and most zealous civics in the County and often proved
was apt to be very violent and implacable. He took occasion in the course
of the evening to let those with whom he usually acted distinctly understand
that the resolutions would be proposed the next day and all the who
were opposed to them himself, yet be highly respected all those who would support them,
and was prepared to censure in the strongest terms, all who should
make such an attempt as he had intimated that day. An attempt
which he regarded as more dangerous to the liberties of the people than any they were
then opposing, inasmuch, as its necessary effect was, to prevent all freedom
of deliberation, and to submit the direction of all matters, to the dictation
of a few leading men. The conference which took place between many different
members during the course of this evening indicated very plainly the debate that the
debate the next day would be more or less moral on the most important
Robert Carter Nichols esq; who had seen the resolutions and had approved
them, but didn't wish them to be brought forward, applied to Henry Sampson early the
next morning to lend him the paper. This application was readily granted, and
Mr. Nichols being thus in possession of the paper, carried it to Mr. Jefferson for his
perusal, stating to him at the same time what he had heard would be the
course pursued that day. The perusal of the document satisfied this gentleman that
it had been misrepresented and the contents of Mr. Nichols convinced him that his
content on the preceding day was alike unmeritorious and erroneous. These opinions
he imparted very frankly to Mr. Nichols and authorized him to express the same.
Mr. Jefferson felt at what had occurred. Both these gentlemen, while they differed
as to the opinion expressed in the resolutions concerned in thinking that was not the proper time to announce it, Mr. Jefferson, therefore readily prevailed upon
Mr. Nichols to use his influence with the author not to press them at that time
this the writer had no difficulty in effecting, for the author had not intended
originally to bring the resolutions forward on that occasion; and was stimu-
ated to change his purpose, merely by the irritation produced by what had occurred,
and the persuasions of some of his friends who had become highly excited by
the same cause. This irritation and resentment being appeased, however by the frank
acknowledgement of Mr. Jefferson, Henry Sampson, vastly willing, acquiesced in
the advice of his worthy friend Mr. Nichols and readily agreed to postpone
his plan to a more fit occasion. The conduct of Lord Dumoine by concurring
in the same.
This assembly adjourned the last part of June 1775. Previously to their separate houses, the members (as I have before stated) agreed to meet in Convention on 17th of July following at Richmond. Thence thencefrom Henry Tayloe advised, and took his seat as a member of that body. At this reign, Patrick Henry brought forward his great proposition for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defense and defense protection of the Colony. The force proposed was only two regiments, but this was then deemed adequate to defend and protect the country against the attempts of the alienated governor. This was the only enemy Virginia had to apprehend at that time. A committee of safety was also created to discharge executive functions which the governors had performed. And after providing for a new election of members to their own body to be made in the following April, and passing some other ordinances of less importance, the Convention adjourned to meet again at the same place on the 1st of December 1775.

Before this period arrived there had been several skirmishes between Dunmore's marcyely forces and the militia of the Colony, in which some blood had been shed, and during the session of the Convention the overwar of New York had to be taken place, and the war of Norfolk had taken place. Everything therefore manifested the necessity of organizing additional forces; and hence seven new regiments were created; a number of appointing sheriffs was also decided, and a number executed for the trying of offenders, and particularly the enemies of the country. This Convention during its reign adjourned from Rich.
Williamsburg in order to be near the scene of conflict, and after dispatching its business dispersed itself. All the proceedings of this body during each of its sessions were such as to do the country injustice demanded the most absolute unanimity therefore power amongst its members, and no diversity of thought or sentiment existed as to the acts of any of its ordinances.

In April 1775, a new election of delegates to the Convention took place in conformity to ordinance of July 1774. At this election Henry Clay, who was again elected, as one of the body to represent the County of Richmond, and repaired to Williamsburg where the Convention on the 6th May 1775.

Before this body examined the situation of the country as it had become obviously plain, that all concerned in the opinion, some better and more permanent government was necessary than what then existed, the acts of the different revolutionary tribunals then existing throughout the whole country, although sustained by the opinion of the people yet wanted the sanction of law. A legislature endowed with plenary power over legislative power was therefore indispensable, not only for this reason, but to provide the necessary ways and means of calling for the resource of the country to carry on the conflict in which it was then engaged. The committee of the only executive then existing, was too numerous to perform either that one purpose, or that promissory of decision and action, which military, above all others most requires. Hence the people, honestly called for a more government; and the members chosen to this Convention were every one elected under the expectation that a new government would be established by them. Soon after the meeting of this body, therefore, on the 15th of May 1776 it was resolved that a committee be appointed to prepare a declaration of Rights, and such a plan of government as will be most likely to maintain peace and order in this colony, and secure substantial and equal liberty to the people. Such a committee was accordingly appointed, consisting of the most distinguished members and esteemed patriots in Virginia the Convention. Amongst these the names of Mr. Archibald Cary, Mr. James Mercer, Mr. Robert Carter Nicholas, Mr. Patrick Henry, Mr. Bartholdmon Sandridge, Mr. Richard Bland, Mr. Paul Carrington, Mr. Thomas Lashwell Lee, Mr. John Blair, Mr. William Fleming, Mr. John Barretta, Mr. Aaron Page, Mr. James Madison, Mr. Henry Mason, among several others, are still remembered with high estimation; and of this committee Henry Clay, who was one of the members. On the 12th of June 1776 the declaration of rights and on the 29th of the same month the present plan of government was put by this committee and adopted without a dissenting voice on these great principles.
It is unnecessary to relate the particular acts of this convention further, it will be sufficient to state that after choosing a governor, and other official officers to fill the new government into operation, and adopting such ordinances as the public good was thought to require, as to all of which the almost unanimous voice of the convention, adjured to meet again on the 7th of October 1776, as one of the co-representing branches of the General Assembly.

Henry Taggert continued to attend this body as a member during this session, and was elected a third time as one of the deputies from the County of Brunswick in April 1777. He meantime continued however uninvolved in any of the affairs of the Convention, and after the passage of the Act establishing the General Court, he retired from public service.

The former House of Burgesses, the seat of his profession was again open to his pursuit, and under the latter act of the Convention, he returned and again resumed his office, and the lucrative practice at the bar, the extent of his influence very successfully accompanying his nephew, who had then recently lost his wife, to induce him to abandon his residence in the County of Brunswick, and come to Williamsburg to weld up the John Taggert's legal business, and take a seat at the bar of the General and the supreme courts. In 1778 he therefore returned to Brunswick as a resident and practicing in Williamsburg for a season his political life and resumed his professional labors that had been so long interrupted.

Mr. John Taggert was a lawyer of high standing, who for many years prior to his elevation to the bench, had enjoyed probably, the most extensive and lucrative practice of any lawyer in the State, and to all this, his nephew and elector. Henry Taggert had come a fair prospect of succeeding. The bench of Virginia at this time possessed the finest field for the advancement of young practitioners which could be desired. The crowd of old and eminent counsels who formerly flourished in these bars was all (with a very few exceptions indeed) removed and succeeded in other pursuits. Pendleton, Wythe, Blair, Mason, and Nicholas, had been elevated to the bench; Henry had been made Governor, and Jefferson was in Congress. None of the old practitioners of such standing, remained at these bars; and of the young men who entered the lists with him at this time, Edmund Randolph, the Attorney General was the only one who promised to become a formidable competitor to Henry Taggert.

Such were the flattering prospects before him at this period, and which dated his hopes of soon acquiring both fame and fortune on this new pursuit, upon which he entered his twenty-fourth year. These hopes however vanished they could only remain in his mind as fragments of a profession.
been now full recruited for a time at least. Bounty followed upon him from every quarter, and he soon stood at the head of his profession among its highest practitioners, with his friend, Edmund Randolph. These happy days were not of long continuance however. The frequent invasions of the country by the enemy during the years 1777, 1778, and 1781, renewed the necessity of frequently closing the Courts of Justice; and the post of prosecuting our affairs in the Army induced the Secretary of the year 1778, to remove the seat of government from Berkeley to Richmond. The bright prospects of Henry Agnew to attain wealth and power in his profession soon were suspended by these events; and, not knowing what to do with himself, he sold off the property he had purchased upon his removal to Williamsburg and for some years led an unsettled and wandering life, passing his time occasionally in Greensville at his plantation house, and at other times attending his Courts when they would be opened for a season.

In this state he knows not what to do, or where to fit himself and being constantly exposed to the infection of this smallpox, which the British armies had brought with them, and spread throughout the country,

he submitted to insurrection for this disease. He had the smallpox most dreadfully in 1777, and it was several years before his constitution recovered from the shock so inflicted upon it. To add to his misfortunes, the British army under Lord Cornwallis in its march from the more southern states into Virginia, in the year 1780, passed the Delaware at York's ford, very near the estate of Henry Agnew, and while there plundered him of many slaves and much other property. So that when the war terminated in 1783 he found himself in as better circumstances than he had been when he began the work in 1774.

The capture of Cornwallis at York on the 20th of October, 1781, terminated the war which had raged so fiercely in Virginia for some time previously to that event. And it was only after the French, army which remained in Williamsburg during the winter of 1781-2 and part of the succeeding spring, removing the people westward, and confining in their security, consternation tranquility, and invited the assumption of regular pursuit. Henry Agnew availed himself of this first gleam of the first gleam of the approaching sunshine, to reestablish himself somewhere, and to commence his professional labours. Williamsburg was the spot where most of his early friends resided, where he had first begun his career of professional emolument, and to which some interrupted and unfinished legal engagements again called him. Here was therefore that he again fixed his abode and from hence he attended the superior and inferior Courts which sat in Richmond, and the Court of Admiralty that most determining the removal of the seat of government still continued to hold its sittings in Williamsburg.
...after the conclusion of the war, the bar of the different counties were attended by one man and some distinguished counsellors, then had appeared there when Henry Tagwell first took his stand at their bar, yet he soon rose above some competitors to his former rank. This rising was in part to that of none, one only the Attorney general Randolph, some in the public parts, expected ever him. But he continued to maintain his high standing even afterwards, while he remained in practice. During this period the leading counsellors besides those I have mention were: James Monroe from Fredericksburg, Colonel John Taylor of Carolina, Thomas Mckenzie, Charles Lee, John Francis Mercer of Virginia, Samuel Hardy, Andrew Ross, John Marshall, and Chief Justice of the United States, Colonel James Irius, afterwards Attorney general, and occasionally Patrick Henry, with many others not men peculiar, many of these latter then were, or soon became the most eminent lawyers in the United States. To have acquired and maintain such a rank as he held amongst such competition and especially with such judge as Randolph, Wythe, Elwin, Dwyers, and Waller, there being present in these courts, is sufficient evidence of the legal acquirements of Henry Tagwell.

After the second establishment in Williamsburg, Henry Tagwell was unanimously elected by its citizens a member of the Assembly from that City, and continued to represent it even afterwards without opposition as long as he was eligible to that body. In this situation and while he was in the midst of his professional course, the death of the Honorable Bartholomew Cumberland, one of the Judges of the General Court, occurring a vacancy in that Court, Henry Tagwell was prevailed upon by his friends, and particularly by the solicitude of Patrick Henry, cap the then governor of Virginia, to accept the appointment. He was accordingly commissioned by the execution in the summer of 1785 and this appointment was confirmed unanimously by the Assembly, at the October session in this year. At this time he was not yet two and thirty years of age. In the year 1787, the Convention which had met in Phila for the purpose of revising the existing federal system, produced the new Constitution of the United States, as the result of the combine wisdom of America. By one of the resolutions of this Convention, the proposed constitution was to be laid before Congress, and afterwards to be submitted to a Convention of delegates in each State to be chosen by the people thereof, under the recommendation of its Legislature, for their ratification and ratification. In consequence of this the Legislature of this State, in their October session 1787, had passed an act directing the manner in which these delegates should be chosen, and that they should meet in Richmond... Under this in all restrictions of qualifications:...
delegates were assumed and any of the judicial or executive officers of the
government were eligible. The agitation produced by the examination of the important
question now presented the decision of which was supposed to involve the Union
that had been equal'd by nothing but that occasioned by the first great question
of resistance. The friends and enemies to the adoption of this new Constitution are
distinguished as Federalists and Antifederalists, and equally zealous and active in
their exertions to promote the interests of their respective sides. The Governor and
the Judges of the superior courts, members of the Senate, and all three of the most
distinctive in the State were candidates for seats in the Convention; but Henry
Tagewell was not one. He arrived at this time in Williamsburg, and in that
part of it which was in the County of York, from one of the then of which I do
of course he must be elected if he was chosen at all. His intimate friend
Colonel James Bonner, who had succeeded him as the member of Assembly
from Williamsburg, when he was elected to the bench had already announced
himself as a Candidate for the Convention also from that town. And in
York his old friends General Thomas Nelson and W. Pelham (afterwards
Judge Pelham) who had long represented that County in the Assembly, pleased
themselves in like manner as solicitors for seats in the Convention. To all
and each of these gentlemen Judge Tagewell was opposed in opinion when the
great question then agitating, he being opposed to the adoption of the proposed
Constitution, while they were in favor of it. The majority of the people
in Williamsburg and York were Federalists, and all the popularity
of Judge Tagewell at this time was such, that had he offered in the contest
probably, he would have been
between him and any of the other would most sharply and doubtless, yet
such a contest would necessarily have brought him into warm conflict with
old friends whom he sincerely regarded, and who already were incumbents of
places in the office to which they again wished to be appointed. On such circumstances
he refused to become a candidate for either place, and uniformly assisted all
applications to him on that subject, invariably declaring that no consideration
should induce him, voluntarily, to oppose himself to those friends whom he
loved and esteemed so highly.

While this subject is before me, my recollection is called to an incident
that occurred at the York election, which is favorable to all concerned in
it, which I will state. After Judge Tagewell refused to become a candidate
for the County, the Antifederalists put up two persons by the name of Hyde,
affiliated to General Nelson and W. Pelham, for the Convention.
election was about to commence (and it was expected to be a very closely contested one), the poll officers had already prepared the polls, headed with the names of the four candidates: three gentlemen had already taken their seats on the bench, as is customary, and the proclamation had already been made by the sheriff, inviting the freemen to come forward and vote, of this justice an old man by the name of Charles Evans, stepped forward, and addressing himself to General Beale and Mr. Cutting somehow, that he had always voted for them as they would acquaint, and that he had never formed any opinion about his votes in that he had left them to that coming with intent to vote for him again; but on his way to the court, hence he had reflected, that his vote this day, would not be reflective of his confidence in these gentlemen, as much as of a wish that the present Constitution should be adopted. In this situation, he had examined the instrument, upon the adoption or rejection of which he was then called on to decide, so far as his single suffrage would go; but that all his examination had not satisfied him what opinion he ought to express upon the subject. That having one opinion himself upon this question, it had caused him, on impulse to oppose one, by voting in favor of any of the candidates, who had already formed and declared a decided resolution as to the cause they should pursue of election. In his past, wanting information as he did, he could reconcile it to himself, to vote for anyone who having decided already, further information would be of no advantage. That if the question were, no record could dispute for him to decide unknown and unprevious matters, he could not rationally vote for the person to whom he ascribed himself, for as to such subjects, their minds were as impartial as his own, and he had unlimited confidence (which experience had taught him was well meant) in their judgments, when accosted with such impartiality. Not as there was every a single and a known proposition to be settled, which all concurred in any considering, as the most important of any that had ever come before the people, since the question of Independence, he thought it was not to prejudice such a question, when it had not been fully examined. Hence, he had made up his mind, to vote in favor of persons who so far as he knew had formed one opinion as yet, who were still open to conviction, and unpledged to support any other, and who should be well qualified to determine wisely what they were prepared to examine impartially. Those reflections had called to his recollection John his two fellow citizens, George Wythe and James Blair, and he hinted his friends would excuse him of upon this occasion he directed the sheriff to record his vote in favor of these distinguished patriots, whose age and retirement by keeping them aloof from the warm conflict that had been.
Carrying on, had then still to be improved, and whose long experience, and well approved past services, while they gave a fairness of their wisdom, also prefaced strong claims to the gratitude of their county. Scarcely were these words uttered by Adams, when General Nelson, stepping from the bench, where he had taken a seat advanced to him, and saying him by the hand, thanked him in the warmest terms for what he had said and done; adding that though Mr. Davis had got the start of him in the good cause then to be seen, he would sooner lose an ounce to precede him in the support of Mr. Wythe and Mr. Blair, whose merit none knew better than himself. He therefore directed the sheriff to record his vote in favour of these gentlemen and soliciting all those who might have come to the Courthouse intending to vote for him, not to consider him a candidate, but to follow his example in supporting these persons. Mr. Peri's son followed, General Nelson in this course, and Mr. Wythe and Mr. Blair were elected by a unanimous vote. When this election was over, General Nelson addressing the people observed that as they had elected these gentlemen without their knowledge, it would be well to complete they had no, began, and to assure the approbation of the persons elected, and their consent to serve. He therefore proposed that they should proceed in a body from York to Williamsburg, and be themselves the bearers of their own request that the persons elected would accept the appointments. This proposition was carried by acclamation; and General Nelson placing himself at the head of his followers, they moved in a body to Williamsburg, where upon their arrival they ranged themselves quietly in front of Mr. Wythe's house, and appointing their as their spokesman, he presented himself in their behalf to the old man, and announced what had occurred. When General Nelson entered the room, I was writing a letter to Mr. Wythe, and never shall I forget the countenances of these two great men upon this occasion. That of General Nelson was satisfaction which the lighted up with the consciousness of having willingly done a good deed never fails to inspire. His address was short and concise, for his utterance was always quick. He remarked to Mr. Wythe, that after he had not expected to have seen him at the election that day, yet he regretted that he had not been there for he would have seen exemplified very strongly the truth of a sentiment the conviction of a sentiment, which his whole life had manifested sufficiently, that the people were their own best governors. "True to the mark, the freeholders of York county, have this day unanimously elected you sir as one of their representatives in the next Convention." And