

SHERWOOD FOREST - Home of President John Tyler

Located in Charles City County on Route #5
near the Benjamin Harrison Bridge.

BERKELEY - Birthplace of Benjamin Harrison

Located on Route #5.

Both of the above are open daily including
Sundays from 9:00 am. to 5:00 p.m.

ADMITTANCE - \$2.50 each

SHERWOOD FOREST

The entrance (R) to SHERWOOD FOREST (R) is at 34 m. This was the home of John Tyler, who became President of the United States, and birthplace of his son, Lyon Gardiner Tyler, long president of the College of William and Mary and eminent Virginia historian.

Though the estate has the James as one of its boundaries, the house is a mile or more from the river. The frame structure rambles from a two-and-a-half-story central unit through lower wings and dependencies, all connected by passageways, to a total length of about 300 feet.

In 1842 President Tyler purchased the estate, called Walnut Grove, from Collier Minge and remodeled a Colonial house on it. Lateral additions from time to time finally produced the present structure, completed during ownership of David Gardiner Tyler (1846-1927). Among mementos preserved here is the silver pitcher that was presented to President Tyler by the ladies of Brazoria County, Texas, upon the admission of the 'Lone Star State' in 1845. Though it was burned black in the Richmond fire of 1865, its inscription is still legible.

John Tyler (1790-1862), born at Greenway (*see above*), a stone's throw from the birthplace of the Whig President whom he succeeded in the White House, was graduated from the College of William and Mary, served as Virginia assemblyman, congressional representative and senator, and as governor of his State. Though he cast his lot with the Whigs in 1833 and with the Democrats in 1844, neither party could claim his wholehearted allegiance or ever gave him its support. In 1840 the Whigs nominated William H. Harrison for the presidency, and Tyler for the vice-presidency, because they thought he could hold the southern Whigs who were being deflected from the party by antislavery agitation. When President Harrison died one month after his inauguration and was succeeded by Tyler, storms, long gathering, broke immediately. Tyler had become the nominal leader of a party whose policies he actually disapproved; Henry Clay remained the real Whig leader. Congressional debates were focused upon the occupation of the Oregon country and the annexation of

Texas. Slavery and the extension or limitation of slaveholding territory were the real issues. The Whig President, who was a Calhoun Democrat, favored annexing Texas, a vast slaveholding country, and defied the Whigs who had elected him. Though neither party renominated him in 1844, the election of James K. Polk, Democrat and annexationist, was in a sense a vindication of Tyler's policy and enabled him to sign the annexation bill shortly before the inauguration of his successor.

In 1845 Tyler retired to Sherwood Forest. In 1861 the Virginia legislature commissioned him to confer with President Buchanan concerning Federal occupation of Fort Sumter. On February 4, 1861, he presided over the ineffectual peace conference in Washington, from which he returned to urge secession. After his State had seceded, Tyler was made chairman of the committee that conferred with Alexander H. Stephens, Vice President of the Confederate States, who had been sent to Richmond to form a treaty of alliance between Virginia and the Confederate Government. He was a member of the provisional Confederate Congress and was elected to the permanent congress January 18, 1862, but died before that body met.

At 34.5 m. is a junction with County 618.



JOHN Tyler was the first Vice-President to succeed to the Presidency, twice Governor of Virginia, United States Senator, member of the House of Representatives, State Senator and member of the House of Delegates of Virginia, Chancellor of William and Mary College, President of the Peace Convention of 1861 and finally a member of the Confederate Congress.

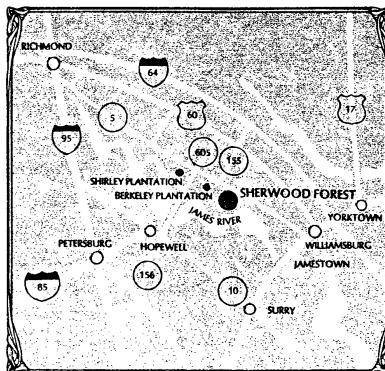
SHERWOOD Forest was the home of President John Tyler (1841-45). Considered the longest frame house in America, it is 300 feet long. Built ca. 1730, altered and renovated by President Tyler in 1844, the house looks very much as it did when Tyler retired from the White House in 1845, and brought with him to Sherwood Forest his bride of several months, the beautiful Julia Gardiner, of Gardiner's Island, New York. Since this time, the Plantation has been continuously occupied by members of the Tyler family, and has been a working plantation for over 240 years. All of the original 1600 acres are still in the Tyler name.

THE house contains a private ballroom 68 feet in length, and is superbly furnished with family heirlooms of the 18th and 19th Century. President Tyler's porcelain, china, silver, mirrors, grondules, tables, chairs, and other furnishings are still in use at Sherwood Forest. In the library are the books of Governor Tyler (President Tyler's father), President Tyler, and President Tyler's son, Dr. Lyon Gardiner Tyler, President of the College of William and Mary.



Sherwood Forest

HOME OF
PRESIDENT JOHN TYLER
Charles City County, Virginia

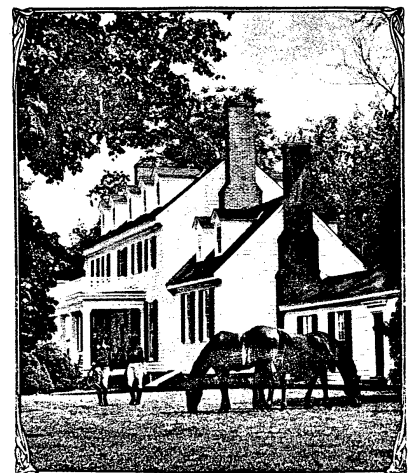


Visit Sherwood Forest, a James River Plantation, which is located in Charles City County on Scenic Virginia Route 5, the John Tyler Memorial Highway. A pleasant drive from either city, Sherwood Forest is only 35 miles East of Richmond, 18 miles west of Williamsburg.

Individual groups are welcome. Inquire about our group discount. Open daily, except Christmas Day, 9:00-5:00. For further information call 804/829-5377 or write Sherwood Forest, Charles City County, Virginia 23030.

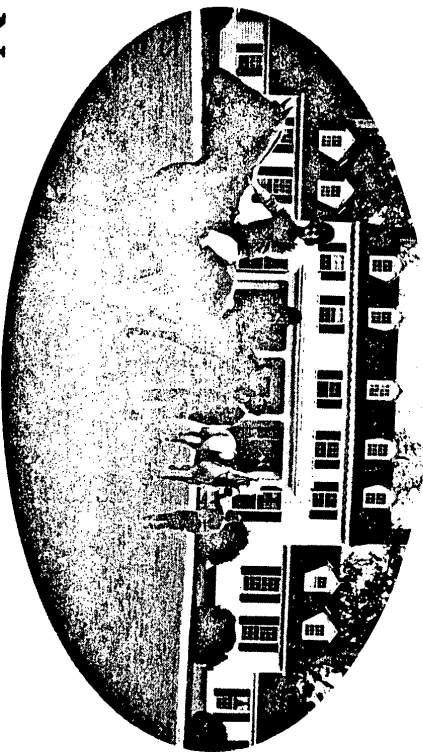
Sherwood Forest

HOME OF
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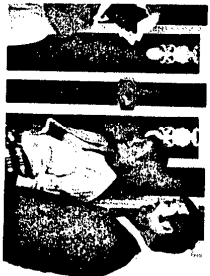


John Tyler

Sherwood Forest has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior.



NORTH view of the President's home shows the 300 foot length of the house. There are over 80 varieties of century old trees in the gardens, 37 of which are not indigenous to the area. The large Gingko behind the house was brought by Admiral Peary in the mid-19th Century when Tyler re-opened the Trade Route to the Far East.



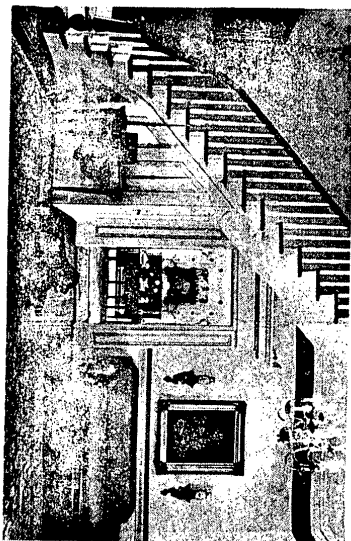
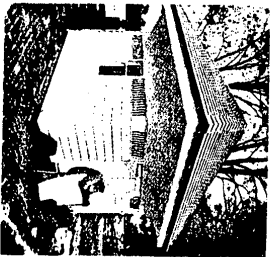
THE Gray Room was President Tyler's family sitting room. Furnished with a mixture of family heirlooms of the 18th and 19th Century, this room has been occupied for two hundred years by a ghost, the Gray Lady, who descends the hidden staircase and rocks until dawn in a non-existent rocking chair.



THE North door is a handsome example of the Regency Period, with plaster moulds from the designs of the New York architect, Milnad La Fever. The original coffin shaped door knocker was chosen by President Tyler and is engraved with the name Sherwood Forest.

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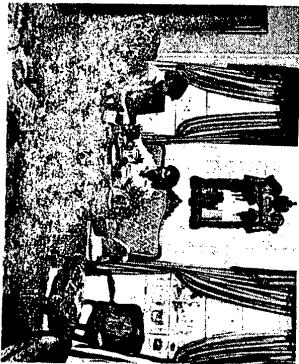
HE dining room wall paper was chosen from France by Julia Gardiner Tyler in 1844. It remained on the walls for 135 years. It has been reproduced and re-hung in its original position. The tea service originally belonged to Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The 18th Century silver urn was given to Capt. Alfred Hart Hillis, Tyler's grandson-in-law and commander of "Anchors Aweigh."



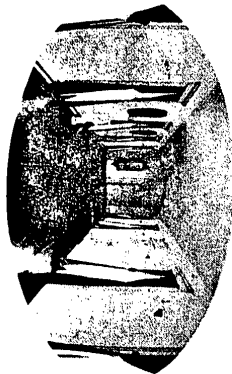
THE Main Hall is part of the original 1730 House. The staircase is of native walnut and pine. All the hardware is original to the house. The portrait of Julia Gardiner, the President's bride, hangs above the sofa.



THE Milk House was built during the third quarter of the 18th Century. Entire overhangs are made of exposed plaster of paris. The handmade bricks bordering the structure are more than 200 years old, and have never been set in mortar.



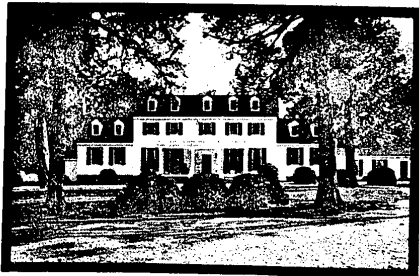
AFTERNOON tea is served in the Drawing Room from President Tyler's Rose Medallion tea service and the American four caddy tea pot.



THE elegant ballroom is unique with its arched ceiling and American Empire woodwork, designed by Julia Gardiner Tyler in 1844. A frequent 19th Century visitor was Margaret Beekman of New York, the President's sister-in-law, who wrote with praise: "Champaigne flowed unceasingly, of the finest kind, with two breakfasts being served, one at 1:30 and one at 3:30 in the morning."

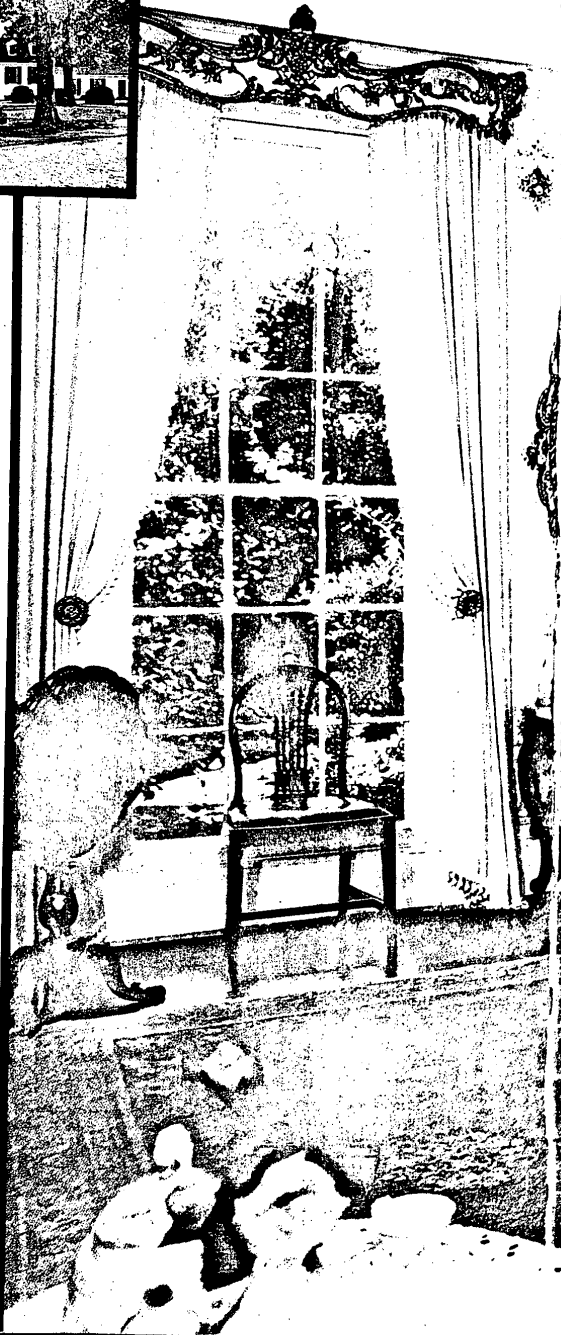
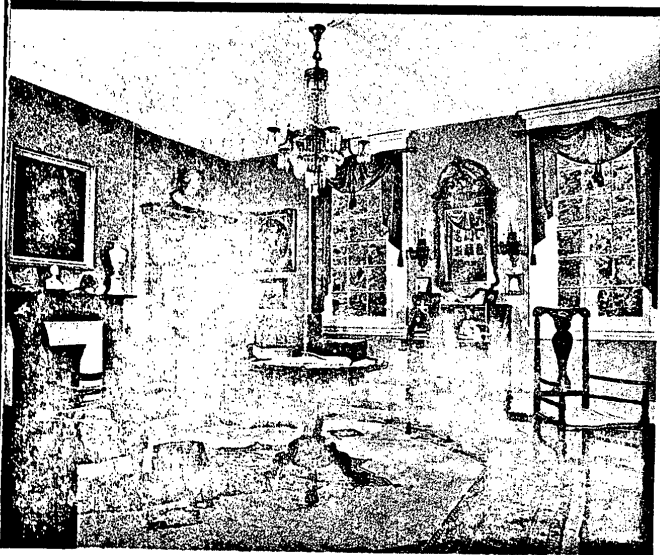
Plantation for a President

Fabulous restoration of the house where President Tyler lived, worked, and danced the Virginia reel—now open for visitors to share its treasures.



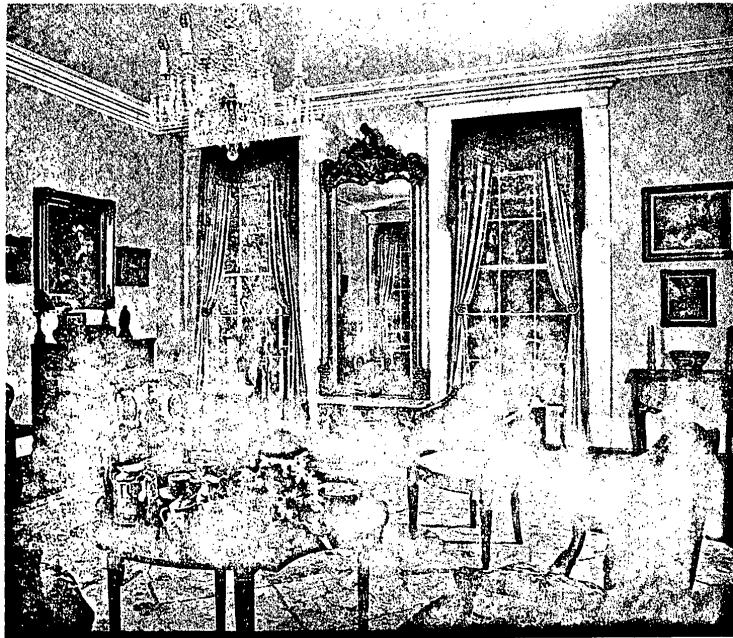
VITALE

When President Tyler left office in 1845, he retired with his bride, Julia Gardiner, to a 1730 house on 1,600 acres along the James River in Charles City County, Virginia. He renamed it Sherwood Forest (for Robin Hood, whom he admired for putting public welfare before private gain), and added a colonnade and a ballroom, making it the longest frame house (300 feet) in the United States. The house was scarred by Union occupancy during the War Between the States, yet today, owned by the President's youngest grandson, Harrison R. Tyler, the house stands completely restored, and its 1,600 acres are still a working, family owned plantation.



Above: The Gray room, President Tyler's family sitting room, which takes its name from "The Gray Lady," a ghost said to have haunted it for 200 years. On the President's table is one of his books, with the mark of a burn and rifle-shot dating from the occupation by Union troops. Stools were gifts from the Thomas Jefferson family. **Right:** The dining room, with original French china, and wallpaper pattern chosen by his wife. The original paper, ordered from France in 1844, was removed and copied in 1976. The gilded valances were bought by the President's mother-in-law for \$7.50 apiece. White Spode tea set belonged to Meriwether Lewis. **Top:** Sherwood Forest, a working plantation, open to the public.

AN H&G MUSEUM HOUSE



PLANTATION FOR A PRESIDENT

The house is alive with irresistible history: The ballroom was designed for reels; the living room was once the President's bedroom, where he and his First Lady often breakfasted in bed; and in the drawing-room window stands an 1830s teapot with a lock: At the time, tea in Virginia was selling for \$80 a pound.

VITALE



Above: A bedroom on the second floor, furnished mostly with antique family pieces inherited by Mrs. Harrison R. Tyler. Framed fans on the wall are American 19th century. Shaving stand on Queen Anne table is Charleston Hepplewhite. Linen bedspread with patterned chintz cutouts dates from first half of 18th century. **Top, left:** The drawing room. On tea table (Baltimore, circa 1770), tea set sent to President by Emperor Tao Kuang in gratitude for opening trade routes to China. **Left:** The ballroom, 68 feet long, designed by the President's wife for Virginia reels. Hand-hewn pine floor. **Right:** A corner of drawing room: 1720 Boulle clock, 1750 English petit-point fire screen.





When the present Tylers began restoring the house, only a third of the original furniture was still intact. But, using Julia Tyler's voluminous and enthusiastic correspondence as a source of reference, they matched colors, copied wall-papers, and added other heirlooms brought in by later Tyler brides, notably Mrs. Harrison Tyler herself, who directed the entire restoration. Matching foundation bricks, floors, doors, and paneling were found in two neighboring 18th-century houses, one of them formerly a Tyler property. Among the original furnishings ordered by President Tyler's wife for the house, and still in place today, are: a silver cake basket on the dining room table, and two pairs of girandoles bought for \$37.50 a pair. All the door knockers and knobs were chosen by the President himself. Sherwood Forest is now a National Historic Landmark. It is located on State Rte. 5, 18 miles west of Williamsburg, and open to the public daily from 9 to 5 except on Christmas day. For information write Sherwood Forest, Charles City County, Va. 23030.

BERKELEY

Right here to BERKELEY (R), 0.2 m., the birthplace of a signer of the Declaration of Independence—Benjamin Harrison—of a president of the United States—William Henry Harrison—and ancestral home of another president—Benjamin Harrison. Berkeley stands between detached dependencies at the head of low terraced gardens above the James. Its warm red brick walls rise two stories to a deep cornice beneath a massive gabled roof. Two tall chimneys pierce the ridge near the ends above widely spaced dormers.

The chalk white of an unusual quantity of interior hand-tooled woodwork is accentuated by plaster-tinted walls. The spacious, deeply corniced, transverse hall is broken midway by a broad elliptical arch springing from fluted pilasters. A pair of drawing rooms are attractively joined by double-arched openings that flank their common chimney. A glass panel in the wall now reveals 'B. Harrison,' traced undoubtedly by the builder in the temptingly wet base plaster.

The estate was a part of Berkeley Hundred, a grant made to Sir George Yeardley, Richard Berkeley, and others in 1610. The proprietors instructed the settlers of the 'Town and Hundred' that 'the day of our ships arrival . . . shall be yearly and perpetually kept as a day of Thanksgiving.' The *Margaret* landed her passengers at Berkeley, December 4, 1610—a year and 17 days before the Pilgrims arrived to establish their Thanksgiving Day.

Abandoned after the massacre of 1622, the Hundred was later acquired by John Bland, whose son Giles lived here until executed for his part in Bacon's Rebellion. Confiscated by Governor Berkeley, the land was purchased by Benjamin Harrison (1673-1710), attorney-general of the colony, treasurer and speaker of the house of burgesses. Benjamin Harrison, his son, began to build this mansion in 1726. With two daughters, he was killed by lightning during a 'violent Thunder Gust' in July 1745. His son, Benjamin Harrison (1726-91), who installed the handsome interior woodwork, was the signer, a governor of Virginia, and father of William Henry Harrison (1773-1841), who emigrated to the Ohio Territory. William Henry Harrison achieved his distinction in the Northwest Territory, of which he was the first secretary, and which he represented in Congress. The victory of Tippecanoe in 1811 gave him a lasting epithet and 19 years later the campaign slogan that won for the Harrison-Tyler Whig ticket success at the polls. He died, however, one month after his inauguration. His grandson, Benjamin Harrison visited his ancestral home as President of the United States.

Benedict Arnold plundered Berkeley in 1781, and the estate, called Harrison's Landing, served as a base and camping-ground for the Federal army after McClellan's withdrawal from Malvern Hill. Near his transports and under protection of gunboats, McClellan was safe from attack by pursuing Confederate infantry, who stopped short of the river. Though McClellan remained in this position until mid-August, Lee began to withdraw his army on July 13, to oppose General John Pope in northern Virginia.

On the same road WESTOVER, at 2.3 m. (grounds open daily, adm. \$1; house open

April Garden Week), once home of the Byrd family and one of the earliest houses built on the grand scale in Virginia, stands at the end of a road that winds between woods and fields. Gates of wrought-iron, made in England long ago, swing between simple posts on which are perched two leaden eagles with half-spread wings. The over-throw is probably the finest piece of old English ironwork in America. The dark red brick mansion looks upon the James across a semi-elliptical lawn framed by great tulip poplar trees. Flanked by a pair of story-and-a-half wings connected by passages, the central rectangular mass rises two stories to a steep hipped roof, with dormers. Windows with shutters and low-arched headings of brick are evenly spaced in two tiers, separated by a string course of brick painted white. The extremely tall chimneys, in pairs at both ends, are important features of the composition. But the exterior chiefly depends for accent on the centered entrances, which are framed by pilasters that support a frieze, cornice, and elaborate pediment. The pediment over the north portal is segmental, while the cornice of the pediment over the garden door is of the broken scroll type with the scrolls framing a pineapple. Within, four large rooms are divided by a transverse hall. The walls are paneled between high dados and deep cornices. At the back of the wide hall, an open-string stairway with scroll step-ends ascends behind delicate spiral balusters in sets of three. On the east side, next to the library, where once reposed Colonel Byrd's outstanding collection of almost 4,000 volumes, is the drawing room. Tall pilasters frame the doors and the mantel, which is faced with black marble having a white marble trim—imported from Italy.

Westover Plantation was selected by Captain Francis West in 1610 for his nephew Henry, son and heir of Thomas, third Lord Delaware. At the time of the massacre of 1622 Francis, John, and Nathaniel West had separate plantations here; the Indians killed two men at each. In 1633 Thomas Pawlett represented the plantations in the house of burgesses and in 1637 purchased the Westover tract. The Bland family in 1688 conveyed 1,200 of these acres to 'Will Bird' for £300 and 10,000 pounds of tobacco. This first William Byrd, son of a London goldsmith, had settled at 'The Falls,' where he founded a business fortune. His son, William Byrd II (1674-1744), built the present mansion and a tradition of abundant living. Construction, begun about 1730, was completed before 1735. Westover suffered early from two fires, the last in 1749. Most of the fine interior trim was probably installed during the second renovation. The 'Black Swan,' as Colonel William Byrd II was called, wrote amusing records of his travels about Virginia and spent a good deal of his life in London, where, as a grandee from the 'new wilderness,' he astonished society with his elegance. He thwarted the romance of his eldest daughter with the Catholic son of the dissolute Earl of Peterborough and the beautiful Evelyn Byrd returned to Westover, where she died at the age of 28, a disconsolate spinster. The other five cygnets, four daughters and a son, offspring of two marriages, married well into the 'closed corporation' of Tidewater society. Byrd's tomb in the garden bears his long, self-composed epitaph, which leaves a reader equally impressed by the record of his remarkable accomplishments and his serene egotism in thus advertising them. The son, William Byrd III, was a prodigious gambler and dissipated the family fortune.

During the Revolution Benedict Arnold landed here more than once and corresponded regularly with the Byrd family, whose Tory sympathies are clearly shown in letters written later by Cornwallis. He said in part to the Lords of the Treasury in 1780, 'She [Mrs. Byrd] had, to my knowledge, reason to expect that she should receive reimbursement at New York for the supplies which were furnished from her plantation to the various corps of British troops which passed by Westover, but she was utterly disappointed [in her claim for £6,600].' Cornwallis refers also to the Byrds as 'sufferers of a certain description.' But Arthur Lee guessed correctly when he wrote to Colonel Bland in 1781: 'I have reason to think she [Mrs. Byrd] will not be tried at all, because care having been taken to keep the witnesses out of the way.' Sales and good marriage alliances dispersed a large collection of portraits belonging to a family that has been an outstanding contributor to Virginia's tradition of expansive social life.

During the War between the States, the fields and lawns were frequented by Federal troops, who destroyed the east wing and damaged the main building. The house has, however, been restored, fairly well, on the whole, though the symmetry of one dependency has been altered.

At the site of the church are horizontal slabs—one of them covering the dust of the first Benjamin Harrison of Berkeley—and Evelyn's elaborate tomb. Here also is the tombstone of Captain William Perry, who died the '6th day of August Anno Domini 1637.'



Ben Harrison

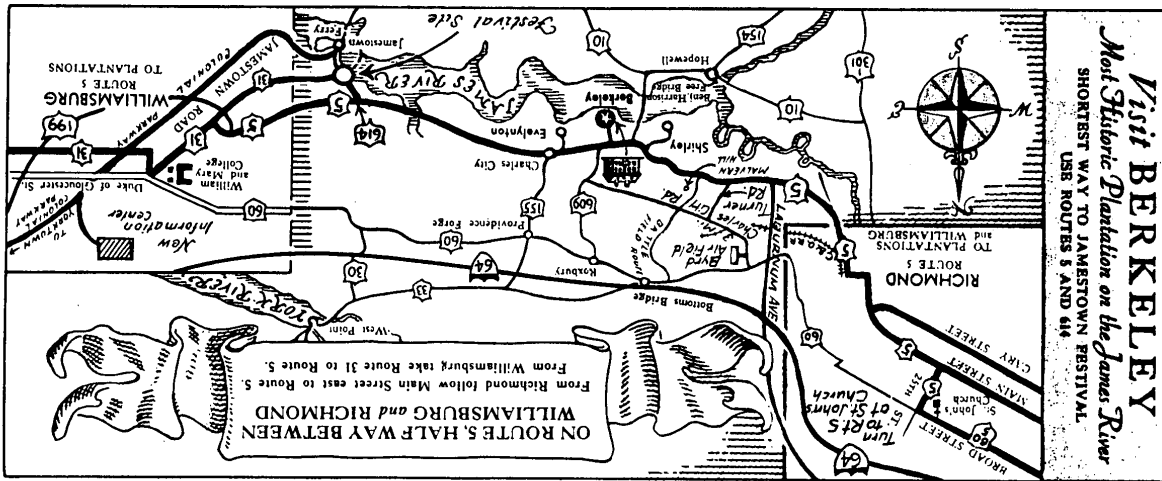
Member of the Continental Congress,
Signer of the Declaration of Independence,
thrice Governor of Virginia.



Wm. Harrison

First Secretary of the Northwest
Territory, Indian fighter, ninth
President of the United States.

WILLIAMSBURG

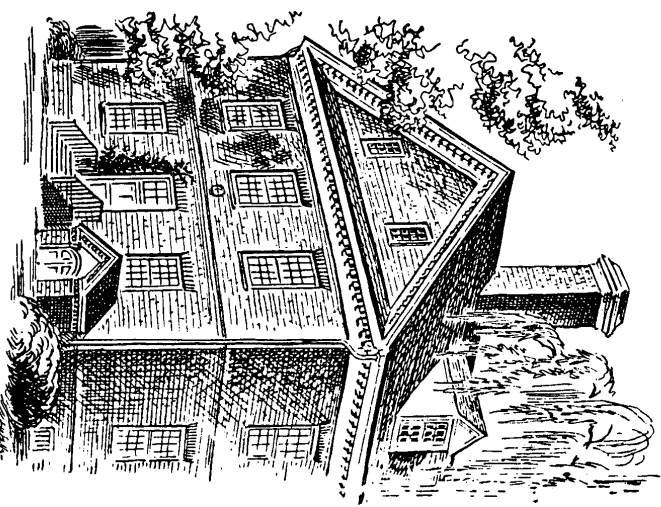


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Berkeley
1619 1726

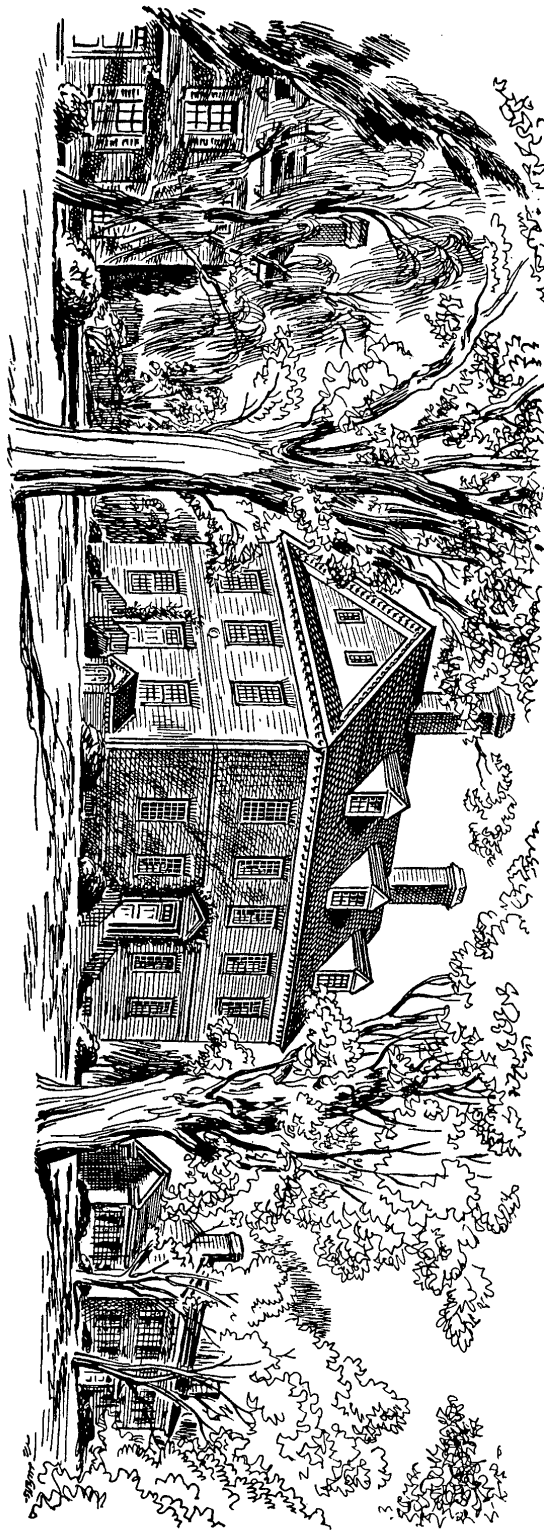


A James River plantation,
ancestral home of a Signer of the
Declaration of Independence and
two United States Presidents.

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Open 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Mon. Thru Sun.

WILLIAMSBURG



B

ERKELEY has no peer among the James River plantations as a center of historical interest and as a beautifully restored example of the mansions that graced

Virginia's "Golden Age." The land on which it stands was part of a grant made in 1619 by King James I to the Berkeley Company and was designated "Berkeley Hundred." On December 4, 1619, the settlers stepped ashore there and in accordance with the proprietors' instructions that "the day of our ships' arrival . . . shall be yearly and perpetually kept as a day of 'Thanksgiving' celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day more than a year before the Pilgrims arrived in New England. This was but the first of many notable events connected with this property, for it was destined to have close association with men prominent in our nation's history.

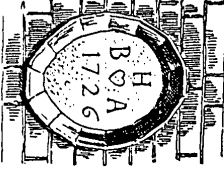
It was as the home of the Harrison family

that Berkeley achieved its greatness. The early Georgian mansion, which is said to be the oldest three-story brick house in Virginia, was built in 1726 by Benjamin Harrison, a leader in colonial affairs. His son, Col. Benjamin Harrison, inherited it. Member of the Continental Congress, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, active in the Revolution and thrice Governor of Virginia, this Harrison was himself enough to bring glory to his house. His close friend George Washington often was entertained there, and indeed, every President from Washington to Buchanan enjoyed Berkeley's famous hospitality.

Further prestige came to Berkeley in the next generation through Col. Harrison's younger son, William Henry. He made his reputation in the Northwest Territory, of which he was the first Secretary, and as a great Indian fighter, he came to be called "Old Tippecanoe." When he was elected President of the United States, he returned to write his inaugural address at Berkeley in the room in which he had been born. The

Harrison family was to produce yet another President in Benjamin, the grandson of William Henry. As the ancestral home of two Presidents, Berkeley has a distinction almost unique, shared only with the Adams House in Massachusetts.

In America's wars, Berkeley did not escape unscathed. In 1781 it was plundered by British troops under Benedict Arnold. During the War Between the States, it served as headquarters for General McClellan after his withdrawal from the Battle of Malvern Hill. Federal troops were encamped in its fields, transports and gunboats anchored in the James. While quartered here with McClellan in the summer of 1862, General Butterfield composed "Taps." At this time, the estate was known as "Harrison's Landing."



Berkeley Dairymen