



**Many of the Best Attributes of Man Belonged to Mr. Dawe**  
*A Brief History of Philip D. Dawe & Family*

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Philip Devereaux Dawe's portrait hangs at the Prince William County Courthouse on the third floor. The intense look in Dawe's eyes in this rendering leads even the most casual viewer to wonder about this man. For someone who was the son of a wealthy silversmith, was a key player in local politics and who served as the county's Clerk of the Court from 1813 to 1832, surprisingly few details of his life can be found. Dawe does appear to have led a colorful life from the scant documents that remain to tell his story.

### **Son of a Silversmith**

Philip Devereaux Dawe was the son of Philip Dawe. The elder Dawe was a silversmith in Alexandria from about 1772 until 1782 and then in Dumfries from 1782 until 1808.<sup>1</sup> Prior to this time, the Dawe family's whereabouts is uncertain. Many references to various Dawes are sprinkled throughout records in counties south of the City of Richmond, but no links have presently been made to Philip Dawe. For example, a Nicholas Dawe appeared in Survey Report 5866 for the Ports of London, Port Books, Controller of the Subsidy of Tonnage and Poundage in 1677. This Dawe was listed as a merchant who shipped tobacco with shipmaster Robert Bell via Jamaica. Another Nicholas Dawe appeared in 1717 for Hyde County, North Carolina.<sup>2</sup> A William Dawe appeared in 1745 in Beaufort County, North Carolina in the same volume and William Daws was included as an Ensign in the Gloucester County militia in an article in the *Virginia Gazette* on October 21, 1775, while the edition dated June 20, 1766 included a reference to a Capt. Dawes, a merchant living in Boston. Whether this was the same Capt. Dawes mentioned in a later article, dated April 11, 1771, is not known. This latter Capt. Dawes was leader of a Regiment of the Militia in Boston.

Other Dawe references include several notations for a James Dawe. This James Dawe appeared on the Personal Property Tax Rolls for Mecklenburg County, Virginia in 1789 and 1790. Included with James was Isaac Dawe. Other men bearing the name were noted in census and tax lists for several adjacent counties including Lunenburg County, Virginia. As will later be explained, the only firm connection between Philip and others bearing the Dawe surname was with James Dawe of Richmond, Virginia and a William Dawe of London.

Philip Dawe may have been in Alexandria, Virginia as early as 1771, based on deed records cited in Cutten's *The Silversmiths of Virginia*.<sup>3</sup> A deed of lease, dated 1774, from Richard Arell to Philip Dawe for part of Alexandria Lot # 53 as denoted on the 1749 plat of the town.<sup>4</sup> Dawe was described as a "copper smith."<sup>5</sup> The portion of the lot that Dawe occupied was 20' X 40'. He was charged an annual rent of \$17 for his portion. Occupying other portions of this lot were a shoemaker, cartwright and butcher. Arell was a tavern keeper known to have hosted George Washington at his establishment that was

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<sup>1</sup> Hollan, Catherine, *In the Neatest, Most Fashionable Manner, Three Centuries of Alexandria Silver*. Alexandria, VA: The Lyceum, 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Thornton, W. Mitchell, *North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index 1665 – 1900*, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992.

<sup>3</sup> Cutten, George Barton, *The Silversmiths of Virginia, Together with Watchmakers and Jewelers, from 1694 to 1850*, VA, Dietz Press, 1952.

<sup>4</sup> John West's survey, Fairfax County archives, Alexandria Hustings Court, Deed Book H, page 332.

<sup>5</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book L, p. 317.

located at what is now Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. Washington's diaries mention having eaten there sixteen times between 1771 and 1774 and it is the location where Washington met George Mason on July 5, 1774 to draft the Fairfax Resolves, a document whose sentiments are later seen in the Bill of Rights.<sup>6</sup> As early as the 1760's, Arell purchased lots as investments in the town.

Dawe transferred his lease on Arell's lot #53 in Alexandria to William Paton and Jonathan Butcher in 1778.<sup>7</sup> Beyond such deed records, only a few details of his life in Alexandria are known today. One notable fact that is confirmed was Dawe's sale of a gold locket purchased by Mrs. Washington in 1775.<sup>8</sup> Unconfirmed is the statement that Philip Dawe was "...a coppersmith who walked in George Washington's funeral procession."<sup>9</sup> Miller's *Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria, Virginia, 1780 – 1820* noted Dawe's presence by about 1772, describing him as a coppersmith at 105-107-109 Fairfax Streets.<sup>10</sup> Cox wrote that Philip Dawe, coppersmith, built the structures on 105-107-109 Fairfax Street between 1774 and 1785. These were later leased and sold for use as the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary.<sup>11</sup> Dawe was also known to be a member of the Mason's Brooke Lodge No. 47 of Alexandria along with several other men with whom he conducted business and personal affairs including John Williams, George Lane and James Wigginton.<sup>12</sup> These men were all residents of Prince William County.

Dawe apparently built on Alexandria Lot 107 on South Fairfax Street. He also held the adjacent lots numbered 105 and 109, all of which he supposedly occupied from 1774 through 1785. These lots are documented on Mutual Assurance maps.<sup>13</sup> Additional confirmation includes the *Virginia Journal* and *Alexandria Advertiser's* publication of an advertisement on July 21, 1785 reading "To be rented and may be entered on the first day of August, A Genteel three story Brick House on Fairfax Street, next door to Messieurs Williams, Cary and Company's Store, suitable for a genteel family or a wholesale or retail store. Its advantages are needless to mention. For terms apply to Andrew Wales in Alexandria, or the subscriber in Dumfries." Wales was an Alexandria brewer and tavern owner who also established a wharf on the Alexandria waterfront.<sup>14</sup> The National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form (March 1981) documents the structure on 107 South Fairfax Street as being built by Dawe, silver and coppersmith, in 1775 with a warehouse built by Edward Stabler on 105 South Fairfax in 1796. It appears

<sup>6</sup> Van Swearingen, Eleanor Marie, *Richard Arell, His Times, Tavern and Neighbors*, The Arlington History Magazine: Vol. 2, #4, 1964, P. 17.

<sup>7</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book N, p. 30.

<sup>8</sup> Cutten, George Barton, *The Silversmiths of Virginia, Together with Watchmakers and Jewelers, from 1694 to 1850*, VA, Dietz Press, 1952.

<sup>9</sup> Robert Madison, *Walking with Washington: Walking tours of Alexandria, Virginia*. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, 2003.

<sup>10</sup> Miller, Michael T., *Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria, Virginia, 1780 – 1820*, Heritage Books, 1991.

<sup>11</sup> Cox, Ethelyn, *Historic Alexandria, Virginia Street by Street*. Virginia: EPM Publications, 1976.

<sup>12</sup> Callahan, Charles H., *Washington: The Man and the Mason*. Alexandria VA: George Washington Masonic National Memorial Assoc., 1913, p. 301.

<sup>13</sup> Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia. General Business Records, 1795-1965, Accession 28135, Business Records Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>14</sup> Miller, T. Michael, *Wandering Along the Wharf: King to Prince Street*, Fireside Sentinel, VA: Alexandria Library Lloyd House Journal, Vol. V, No. 8, August 1991.

Dawe left for Dumfries by the time of the warehouse's construction and from 1787 – 1795; the merchant firm of Porter and Ingraham were listed as tenants in the land tax records.<sup>15</sup> Finally, in 1805, the lots were sold to Edward Stabler, the apothecary.<sup>16</sup>

Although Philip Dawe's name does not appear in the Alexandria marriage records, at some point he married a woman named Mary Ann (surname unknown). The couple had six children; William, Phillip Devereaux, Nancy, Betsy, Polly and Jane. Dates, birth order and locations of their births are not known, but it seems likely that some of these children were born in Alexandria. Further evidence of Dawe's time in Alexandria appeared in the August 9, 1777 *Alexandria Gazette*, documenting that he ran afoul of popular American sentiment with this report, "At a court of Oyer and Terminer [a state court in criminal jurisdictions] held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, at the Capitol in this City, the following prisoners were brought to their trials, Viz... Philip Daw... of Fairfax for treason, convicted but discharged on a motion in arrest of judgment." The details of this "treason" are unknown though he appears to have been a loyalist. At the time of the American Revolution, it was not unusual for merchants to maintain ties with England. They felt this would ensure continued economic success as most manufactured goods in demand during this period were acquired from England.

In spite of his possible loyalist tendencies, Dawe apparently was back in business quickly. He became a member of the firm Dawe and McIver as early as 1779, when the partners signed a "Petition of the Merchants and Adventurers to Sea, in the Town of Alexandria," to the Delegates of the Commonwealth. This petition begged the designation of a Naval Office at Alexandria so the towns' merchants could more reliably conduct business.<sup>17</sup> Colin McIver, Dawe's partner, is included in Cutten's *The Silversmiths of Virginia*.<sup>18</sup> McIver acquired Alexandria Lot #61 (at Prince and Royal Streets) from William Ramsey by January 26, 1765.<sup>19</sup>

It is not known exactly when Dawe moved to Dumfries. It seems that he may have been operating businesses in Alexandria and Dumfries simultaneously. A petition from Dawe to the Virginia General Assembly stated, "That in the year 1779 your petitioner, who then kept a store in the Town of Dumfries, delivered to one Thomas Aitken [Aiken] a quantity of stationary to be by him sold on commission."<sup>20</sup> The petition continued in detail regarding this business arrangement, including the fact that the stationary apparently sold but before Aitken could pay the appropriate sum to Dawe. Aitken died intestate in 1780. Aitken's administrator, John Murray, did not satisfy the debt.

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<sup>15</sup> Pippenger, Wesley E. *Alexandria and Arlington County, Virginia, Records Index Volume 1*, Maryland: Willow Bend, 2001.

<sup>16</sup> Office of Historic Alexandria Historian Mike Miller, personal communication.

<sup>17</sup> *William & Mary Quarterly*, Second Series, Vol. 2, No. 4, Oct., 1922.

<sup>18</sup> Cutten, George Barton, *The Silversmiths of Virginia, Together with Watchmakers and Jewelers, from 1694 to 1850*, VA, Dietz Press, 1952.

<sup>19</sup> Fairfax Deed Book P, p. 385.

<sup>20</sup> Library of Virginia, Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Reel 164, Box 210, Folder 80, December 1808.

Little is known about Aitken but he was reported to have an impressive library in the Works Progress Administration survey in 1937.<sup>21</sup> A review of Aitken's estate inventory, dated November 6, 1780 and appraised by Evan Williams, Thomas Chapman and Alexander Lithgow, shows he could have been a bookseller. In addition to the usual personal belongings, Aitken's inventory included twenty-four copies of the works of Voltaire, three copies of *Nights of Malta* (a story of the siege of Malta in the 1530s), eight copies of Fielding's works, three copies of Webster's *Bookkeeping* and a slew of instructional books on arithmetic, languages, grammar and so on.<sup>22</sup> Aitken acquired two lots in Dumfries (#28 and #31) via lease and release from Michael Maze in the 1770s.<sup>23</sup>

Aitken's administrator, Murray, was one of the Scotch merchants in business in the Town of Dumfries. According to Prince William County Will Book O<sup>24</sup>, Murray was partner in a butchering business, providing capital to partner Frederick Stifle. At some point though, he must also have been a cooper, since his estate inventory included more than 10,000 staves and one lot of cooper's tool. Coincidentally, Murray's father, a blacksmith also named John, left to Evan Williams in his will the book "Blackstone's on the Laws of England." Evan Williams was an in-law to the Dawe family.

Dawe petitioned the Virginia General Assembly concerning the stationary in 1808 because the sum Aitken owed him was still unpaid. In the intervening 28 years, Aitken's two lots in the Town of Dumfries were escheated to the Commonwealth, as he died intestate. An escheat is the common law practice of transferring the property of intestates to the state. Dawe bid on these two lots and gave his bond on July 30 [1807].<sup>25</sup> Dawe's petition requested that the lots be granted to him, as the amount of his bid, \$43, was less than the sum that Aitken owed him for the stationary for which he remained unpaid. Attached to the petition was an accounting of the goods, a list of fees for the land transaction and the note "Philip Dawe's Petition &c claims. December 14, 1808. Reasonable. Reported." A deed in trust from Dawe to the Escheator for Prince William County appears in Prince William County Deed Book 3, dated April 30, 1808.<sup>26</sup> It is interesting to note that the Escheator, or officer whose duty it was to manage escheats, at the time of this transaction was Dawe's own son, Philip D. Dawe.<sup>27</sup> It seems that Aitken's estate remained in debt even at the time of Dawe's death. "A List of Debts due Philip," dated 1813 and appended to the estate inventory of John Williams, his son in law, included the entry, "Thos Aitken balance due in 1785" at more than five pounds sterling.<sup>28</sup>

At about the same time it can be documented that Dawe first "kept" his store in Dumfries, an entry in the Dettingen Parish Vestry Book dated November 10, 1780 noted,

<sup>21</sup> Morton, Susan R. WPA of Virginia Historical Inventory, 1937.

<sup>22</sup> Prince William County Will Book G, p. 98.

<sup>23</sup> Prince William County Deed Book T, p. 447.

<sup>24</sup> Prince William County Will Book O, p. 253, 285.

<sup>25</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 164, Box 210, Folder 80, December 1808.

<sup>26</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 3, p. 342.

<sup>27</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 3, p. 388.

<sup>28</sup> Prince William County Will Book K, p. 258-66.

“Simpson Hutchinson, orphan of John Hutchinson, age 14, bound until age 21 to Philip Dawe. To be taught to read and write, and the trade of silversmith.”<sup>29</sup> Dettingen Parish was the historic Episcopal Parish for Prince William County. During those times, the parish provided for relief of the poor and orphans. John Hutchinson was likely a small farmer whose will merely stipulates that any property he owned should be sold with the proceeds used by his brother Robert for the care of his children, Simpson, John and Joseph.<sup>30</sup> His inventory was short and comprised of a few personal items such as clothing and quantities of farm produce such as wheat, hay, bacon and veal.<sup>31</sup>

A different side of Dawe’s character than that of caring for an orphaned boy was exposed by his being charged with a breach of the peace. His name appears in the Prince William County records for this transgression in September of 1780.<sup>32</sup> Work balanced by a little mischief perhaps described the elder Dawe’s actions at this point in his life.

Additional early documentation of Dawe’s presence in Prince William County can be found in the Personal Property Tax records (available via the Library of Virginia and RELIC/Prince William County Libraries). Prior to the Revolution, Virginia counties assessed heads of households for tithables on a yearly basis and as described in Hening’s Statutes, tithables were “*all male servants hereafter imported into this collony of what age soever they be, shall bee brought into the lists and shall be liable to pay countrey levies; and all negroes imported whether male or female, and Indian servants male or female however procured, being sixteen years of age, to be listed and pay leavies as aforesaid; such christians onelie to be excepted as are natives of this countrey, or such as are exempted from levies being under the age of sixteen years.*” Thus, tithables were a count of all imported male servants of any age, all imported African and Indian servants, male or female, 16 or older, and all free males of 16 years age or older. Heads of households were required to supply an inventory of tithables to the county court during the month of June each year for the purposes of tax assessment.<sup>33</sup> Once independent from Britain, the tax system changed to one taxing mainly males over 16 and with additional taxes on personal property and land. The Virginia General Assembly passed an act in 1780, modifying the pre-Revolutionary law such that taxes were assessed on “*every free male person, above the age of twenty-one years, who shall be a citizen of this commonwealth, and also upon all slaves, to be paid by the owners thereof, except such free persons and slaves as shall be exempted on application to the respective county courts through age or infirmity.*”<sup>34</sup>

In 1782 the Prince William County Personal Property Tax record book records that Dawe was assessed by Prince William County for two white male tithables above the age of 21 years, two slaves, a horse and 2 cattle. In 1783, he was charged only with the tithe for

<sup>29</sup> Historic Dumfries, Dettingen Parish Vestry Book 1745 – 1785, 1976.

<sup>30</sup> Prince William County Will Book G, p. 72.

<sup>31</sup> Prince William County Will Book G, p. 87.

<sup>32</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book 1778-1784, p. 106.

<sup>33</sup> Hening, Waller, ed., *The Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia, from the First Session of the Legislature*, William Vol. II, p. 84.

<sup>34</sup> Hening, Waller, ed., *The Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia, from the First Session of the Legislature*, William, Vol. X, p. 501.

himself and one slave, one horse and three cattle. The 1784 list again charged Dawe for two white males above 21 years, along with one slave, three horses and 2 cattle. In 1785, the count reverted to a single white male above 21 years, along with one slave, one horse and two cattle. It can be assumed that the other white male counted in these years is neither of Dawe's sons, William or Philip D., as they would have been children. This conclusion is based on the fact that William Dawe qualified to act as an ensign in the militia in August of 1809 (PWC Deed Book 4, p. 14), indicating he was a young man, likely born in the late 1770s to early 1880s. Philip D. Dawe was known to be approximately 50 years of age when he died in 1832. Based on this, he could not have been at least 21 years old in 1782.

The 1787 Personal Property Tax records may help identify the other white male above 21 years. In that year, Philip Dawe was charged for himself, a W. Dawe, J.C. Askie and Richard Askie, along with one slave, one horse and a cow. The identity of the "W. Dawe" counted in 1787 is unclear as Dawe's son, William, was probably still under age. A William Dawe of London is included in Dawe's will. Was this man residing with Dawe at that time? It is also not known who the Askies were, nor why they are only included in Dawe's counts for just the one year. One possibility is that his wife, Mary Ann, was related to the Askies. An alternate spelling of this surname is "Askew." George Washington's tithables for Fairfax County for June, 1761 include a carpenter, John Askew, with whom he had an indenture agreement.<sup>35</sup> Is this John Askew a possible relative of Dawe's wife?

Further confusing Mary Ann Dawe's identity is a document found in the personal papers of the Dawe/Williams family. It includes a Mary Ann Askew, administratrix of John Askew, dated 1804.<sup>36</sup> The presence of this document could lead to further speculation regarding a relationship between the Dawes and Askie/Askews. Yet another supposition as to Mary Ann's background might include the name from which Philip Devereaux Dawe's middle name was derived. Was Mary Ann Dawe related to the Askie or Devereaux family? Could someone from one of the families have resided with the Dawes? No evidence has been located to support either possibility.

The identity of Mary Ann Dawe's family and her marriage to Philip could perhaps be documented in another state. His whereabouts prior to living in Alexandria are unknown. While no records have been located about his earlier residences, it is known that Dawe owned tracts of land in addition to those in Alexandria and Dumfries. His patents for lands in Ohio, acquired under the Virginia Military Warrant Act, appear in Ohio Land Records 1790 – 1907. A 1400-acre tract was surveyed in 1794 and a 400-acre tract was surveyed in 1795. Both conveyances were not signed until 1805. An additional 1000 acres along Panther Creek in Hardin County, Kentucky were surveyed for Dawe in October of 1797.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> W.W. Abbot and Dorothy Twohig, eds., *The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, vol. 7, January 1761-June 1767*, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1990.

<sup>36</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>37</sup> Jillson, Willard Rouse. *The Kentucky Land Grants. Vol. I-II*. Louisville, KY, USA: Filson Club Publications, 1925, Part 1, Chapter III, 1793 – 1856.

The elder Dawe's early presence in Prince William County is also evidenced by his signature as a witness to a deed from William Brown to Alexander Lithgow that appeared in Deed Book W in December of 1784.<sup>38</sup> Lithgow was a well-known Scottish merchant operating in Dumfries. Further, Deed Book W also records Dawe's purchase of a slave, Cate, from Francis Jett during this period.<sup>39</sup> By 1785, Dawe's own deeds, of lease and release, were recorded for parts of Dumfries Lots #35 and 36.<sup>40</sup> These lots were located on Water Street, a route along which goods were moved to the Quantico Creek wharf for shipment. Dumfries Lot #35 was originally sold to William Tebbs in 1759 by the Town of Dumfries' Trustees. Tebbs was a member of the prominent Dumfries family and served as a tobacco inspector at the Dumfries warehouse and as a court justice.<sup>41</sup> Tebbs sold to William and Elizabeth Doyle in 1776, who in turn conveyed to Dawe in 1785.<sup>42</sup> Part of Lot #36 had been the property of Evan Williams,<sup>43</sup> father of Clerk of the Court John Williams, who would later wed Dawe's daughter, Jane.

Dawe's lot ownership in Dumfries, and the businesses he presumably operated in the town, seemingly motivated him to sign a petition to the Virginia General Assembly dated November 19, 1787.<sup>44</sup> The petitioners were concerned about "...the increase in population of the said Town," and "the vices and inconveniences arising from a considerable collection of people without some special laws to guide and govern them..." The collection of people referenced was largely comprised of "Country people and negroes being permitted to bring provisions and carry to private Houses or hawk above the Streets." The petitioners wished to establish a designated "Market House."

The petition related to the increase in population contained additional pleas for assistance in achieving equity to that of nearby cities in bread quality and price and also the importance of keeping the streets cleared for the ease of those wishing to conduct business. It was suggested that all regulations that might be enacted related to the above issues were to be managed by trustees to be appointed for such purposes. Other petitioners included a Dawe/Williams business associate, David Wilson Scott,<sup>45</sup> known merchants such as William Carr and Timothy Brundige, tavern keeper George Williams and, surprisingly, the only woman to sign, Sarah Williams (wife of Evan and mother to John).<sup>46</sup>

David Wilson Scott was born in Maryland in 1766 and died on September 23, 1827 from a pulmonary affection.<sup>47</sup> Scott served as a customs collector in 1791.<sup>48</sup> He was

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<sup>38</sup> Prince William County Deed Book W, p. 30.

<sup>39</sup> Prince William County Deed Book W, p. 338.

<sup>40</sup> Prince William County Deed Book W, p. 271.

<sup>41</sup> Prince William County Order Book, April 1776.

<sup>42</sup> Prince William County Deed Book W, p. 271.

<sup>43</sup> Prince William County Deed Book W, p. 271.

<sup>44</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 210, Folder 28.

<sup>45</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>46</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 210, Folder 28.

<sup>47</sup> <http://mycemetery.org/items/show/280>

<sup>48</sup> *The Virginia Genealogist*, July-September 1960, Volume 4, #3, p. 122.

supposedly engaged in the lucrative West Indies flour trade, but he was in debt.<sup>49</sup> According to an electronic post made by Pippenger, Scott had a warehouse on King and Water streets in Dumfries. He was engaged in general trade with ships frequenting the Caribbean. By 1798, David moved to Alexandria from Dumfries. The goods for sale in his store "...ranged from hardware and saddlery to Madeira wine and the best London brown stout."<sup>50</sup>

Members of the Dawe and Williams families conducted business with Scott, who appears to have been heavily indebted to them.<sup>51</sup> By 1798, he had moved to Alexandria, and was trading in a variety of goods including flour, hardware, linens and wine.<sup>52</sup> His older brother, Richard Marshall Scott, supported this move. Richard Marshall Scott was an Alexandria attorney and member of the Virginia House of Delegates who resided at Bush Hill plantation in Fairfax. He was owner of several mills and tracts of land throughout the region, served as President of the Farmer's Bank of Alexandria and, sadly, lost his wife, Mary Love, in the Richmond Theatre fire of 1812.

Concerns like those of the 1787 petitioners mentioned above, including Scott, were directly related to Prince William County's remoteness to formal government. The area would by today's standards be considered the "back woods." Enforcement of legal codes was inconsistent. In fact, the church functioned as a secular body in addition to its ecclesiastical role. More than half of the laws enacted during Prince William's earlier history were church related. These laws included penalties for use of inappropriate language, non-attendance and the salaries of clergy. Taxation was another civil function of interest to the church.<sup>53</sup>

The influx of those hocking goods at the markets, both small farmers and slaves, was related to the shift from soil exhausting tobacco cultivation to that of wheat, corn and other grains. In an article "Work and Slave Family Life in Antebellum Northern Virginia," the sources reported it is possible some slaves were growing and selling fruits and vegetables to support their families and still other slaves were sent to market to sell their owners' produce and goods.<sup>54</sup> Regardless, the result was that the towns in which markets were located experienced greater numbers of visitors. This was good for business, but resulted in perhaps a more unruly population at the time. The fact that many small farmers were seeking profits by cultivating, transporting and selling goods other than tobacco may be one reason why Dawe began to acquire land outside of the Town of Dumfries.

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<sup>49</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>50</sup> Wesley E. Pippenger, <http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/print.cgi?scott::10080.html>

<sup>51</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>52</sup> T. Michael Miller, *Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria, Virginia 1780 – 1820, Volume 2*, Alexandria: Heritage Books Inc., 1992.

<sup>53</sup> Nelson, John K. *A Blessed Company: Parishes, Parsons, and Parishioners in Anglican Virginia, 1690-1776*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2001, pp. 4.

<sup>54</sup> Pargas, Damian Alan, *Work and Slave Family Life in Antebellum Northern Virginia, Journal of Family History*, 2006; 31; p. 335.

The Land Tax books for Prince William County are confusing when trying to document Dawe's land ownership. In 1788 and 1789, Dawe was charged taxes for one lot. Then, in 1790, Mary Ann Dawe was charged for six lots and Philip was charged with one lot. Tax assessments for town lots are largely illegible for 1791, but it appears that Philip Dawe was charged for one lot. This was unchanged until 1796, when he was assessed for two lots and in 1797 he was charged for three lots. The 1798 Land Tax records elucidate from whom he purchased the two additional lots, one from Foley and one from Graham. The purchase from Graham, in December of 1797, is confirmed in the deed records.<sup>55</sup>

Dawe additionally made transactions on lots outside of the town of Dumfries itself at this point. He purchased 150-3/4 acres from James Foley in January of 1794.<sup>56</sup> James Foley served as a militia captain in 1787.<sup>57</sup> Dawe made a conveyance of three acres on Quantico Creek and adjoining land owned by John Williams to Walter and Sally Graham of Fauquier County in September of 1796.<sup>58</sup> Graham was the Searcher of the Port for Quantico in the 1780s.<sup>59</sup>

Dawe's assessment for three lots of land continued through 1800. Recorded in the Prince William County Land Tax records were notes describing the lots' occupancy, including part of a lot rented to "W. Smith," likely William Smith who married Margaret Williams prior to 1803.<sup>60</sup> Margaret was sister to Jane Dawe's husband, John Williams. The notes similarly state that W. Peyton also occupied part of this lot. The lease to Smith is confirmed in the deed records, stipulating that Smith was to farm the land and build an addition on an existing structure.<sup>61</sup>

In March of 1800, Dawe acquired 123 acres of land on Cabbins Branch from John and Ann Tayloe.<sup>62</sup> The Tayloe family owned thousands of acres of land and operated mills, an iron works and other industrial enterprise.<sup>63</sup> The Prince William County Land Tax book for 1801 indicate Dawe was assessed on several lots in Dumfries: one unnamed; part of a lot where Wm. Smith lives, one lot "now your shop"; one lot [purchased] of Foley; and one lot [purchased] of Graham. The lists for 1802 and 1803 are similar, indicating he held: one lot with his dwelling house; one lot occupied by Smith; one lot with his shop; one lot of Foley; one lot of Tayloe at Cabbins Branch and one lot of Graham. He appears to have engaged in further land acquisition, because in 1804 he continued to be assessed on the lands described in 1803 plus an additional 150 acres from Tayloe as well as land granted to him on the waters of Neabsco Creek. A deed for the sale of four acres of land adjoining John Williams along Quantico Creek was made from Philip Dawe to John Carr in March of 1804, this being the same land Dawe purchased of

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<sup>55</sup> Prince William County Deed Book Z, p. 221.

<sup>56</sup> Prince William County Deed Book Y, p. 349.

<sup>57</sup> Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Edmund Randolph, Library of Virginia, Box 1, Folder 6.

<sup>58</sup> Prince William County Deed Book Z, p. 104.

<sup>59</sup> Virginia Governors Papers – Edmund Randolph To his Excellency the Governor & Counsel, Richmond, Library of Virginia, Box 1 Folder 7, March 11, 1788.

<sup>60</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 2, p. 193.

<sup>61</sup> Prince William County Deed Book Z, p. 119.

<sup>62</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 1, p. 57.

<sup>63</sup> Prince William County Historical Commission, *Prince William: A Past to Preserve*, 1982.

the Grahams in 1796.<sup>64</sup> The 1805 list is not legible and thereafter, little change is seen until Dawe's death in 1808, a year for which no tax records were found. It was not until April of 1808 that the deed book noted Dawe's purchase of Dumfries Lot #s 31 and 28 as part of the Aitken escheat.<sup>65</sup>

During these years when Dawe was engaged in a variety of land dealings, he was involved in community business too. In 1792 and 1793, he served on the Committee of Overseers of the Poor and received money for the upkeep of Mary Ellis, a poor woman. He kept "Mad Molly," a poor woman for six weeks, at six shillings per week, in September of 1793. In December of 1795, it was "Ordered that Philip Dawe furnish such clothes & other Necessities as are wanted for the use of the Poor for the Present and ensuing year in the best terms he can Credit."<sup>66</sup> He also endorsed a school in Dumfries kept by John Georlick. His inclusion in a notice, which appeared in the *Republican Journal and Dumfries Advertiser* on August 11, 1796, indicated that he and several prominent residents had examined the boys attending the school and had found them well prepared in such subjects as English Language, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Practical Geometry, Trigonometry, Surveying, Navigation and Geography. In addition to his interest in education and the rendering of aid to the poor, Dawe supported efforts to improve the overall conditions in the Town of Dumfries when he assisted in the organization of a stock company in 1795 "for opening and improving the navigation of Quantico Creek."

The arrival foreign goods as well as the export of domestic goods at Dumfries had become difficult because of the silting in of the waterways of the region. A petition to the Virginia General Assembly dated November 11, 1795 detailed efforts to organize what was known as the Quantico Creek Navigation Company.<sup>67</sup> The petition described delays in the shipping of produce of the country from Dumfries due to the obstruction of Quantico Creek by mud and sand. This was largely due to the soil erosion from years of tobacco cultivation. It was claimed that a reduction in price was one outcome and that "...the Farmers in its vicinity feel their interests affected, but also those of an extensive part of the back country who in general are constrained to send the Produce of their Lands to more distant Ports along worse roads than those leading to Dumfries." A request for \$10,000 was made, the amount being considered adequate for removal of any obstructions in the creek. The subscribers offered to buy and sell stock at \$50 per share once achieving legal incorporation. The petitioners included Philip Dawe, Robert Graham (Clerk of the Court from 1777-1794 under whom John Williams apprenticed), John Williams (Clerk of the Court from 1795-1812), Thomas Chapman (husband of John Williams' sister, Mary), William Smith (husband of John Williams' sister Margaret), Dumfries tavern keeper Esme Smock, Joseph Gilbert (a Virginia Militia Captain by 1812) and Thomas Cave (husband of Mary Ann Cave with whom the Dawe's had later dealings). Ultimately, the efforts to construct a canal failed in spite of the petitioners' efforts.

<sup>64</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 2 p. 338.

<sup>65</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 3, p. 342.

<sup>66</sup> Historic Dumfries, Dettingen Parish Vestry Book 1745 – 1785, 1976.

<sup>67</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 210, Folder 44.

The value of education and improvement can be seen in Philip Dawe's ownership of books. Although titles of specific books owned by Dawe were not included in the inventory compiled at his death, books that account for the majority of sales in Dumfries for the period 1794 – 1796 are known. The bookseller Timothy Brundige recorded titles and number of volumes sold at the shop of Matthew Carey. Brundige actually served as clerk of the committee to improve navigation on Quantico Creek via the stock company begun in 1795. Rousseau's *Eloisa*, *Arabian Nights*, *Tom Jones*, *Robinson Crusoe*, Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*, books by Alexander Pope, Shakespeare and history books about England and even the French Revolution were sold in Dumfries.<sup>68</sup> Certainly, of the 2140 titles sold from 1794 – 1796 in Dumfries, Dawe was a likely purchaser.

In keeping with his service to the community, Philip Dawe demonstrated close ties to his friends and family by assisting Sarah Williams, the mother of his daughter Jane's husband. Sarah was the wife of Evan Williams who served as clerk of the Prince William Committee of Public Safety at the outset of the American Revolution.<sup>69</sup> Such groups developed throughout America in response to British laws that were considered tyrannical. The committees worked to organize colonists' efforts towards American independence. The Prince William committee authored the Prince William Resolves, one of the earliest American efforts to end British tyranny and extend support to Boston when the port was closed after the Boston Tea Party. Sarah Williams is buried in the cemetery in Dumfries, VA, her gravestone marked and honored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Evan and Sarah's son was John Williams who served as Clerk of the Court for Prince William County from 1795 until his death in 1812.



*Gravestone of Sarah Williams in the Dumfries cemetery*

<sup>68</sup> Napier, James, *Some Book Sales in Dumfries, Virginia, 1794 – 1796*, William and Mary Quarterly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, Vol. 10, No. 3, 1953, p. 441.

<sup>69</sup> American Archives: *Documents of the American Revolution 1774 – 1776*, Series 4, Volume 2, Page 0667.

Sarah Williams apparently operated a tavern at some point following her husband's death in 1783.<sup>70</sup> She apparently stopped doing business as the August 11, 1796 *Republican Journal and Dumfries Advertiser* included the following, ad "To be rented and possession given on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September next, that noted tavern with all its appurtenance in the Town of Dumfries now occupied by Mrs. Williams. For terms apply to Hannah Shute, near Elk-Run Church, or to Philip Dawe in Dumfries." Perhaps Sarah's tavern was not lucrative, as there is evidence of her debts. Dawe paid on Sarah's accounts to Robert Macrae for purchases of fabric and a bonnet between 1801 and 1805.<sup>71</sup> Not much about Hannah Shute is known. There is a John Shute from this period included in the Prince William County Will Books.<sup>72</sup> His inventory was extremely large and included billiard tables and many tablecloths so perhaps this family also operated taverns. John Shute could be Hannah's father, brother or a husband. It is reported that she was married to a Joseph Shumate in Fauquier County in 1797.<sup>73</sup> The ad for the sale of Sarah Williams' tavern referred to Elk Run Church, which is in Fauquier County and claims to be the first Anglican Church in the county at 250 years old.

The Dawe and Williams families held some lots in Dumfries that were adjacent and others that were near one another. The Prince William County Deed Books, Evan Williams, in part, had previously owned Philip Dawe's Dumfries Lots #35 and 36. Dawe's Dumfries Lots # 28 and 31 were directly across the street from George Williams Lot # 30. George was a well-known tavern keep in the Town and likely a cousin to John Williams. George also held Dumfries Lots # 9, 10, 15, 16, 24, 30, 66 and part of 67. John Williams owned Dumfries Lots # 40, 41, 59, 65, 69, 70, 71, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83 and 84. With the death of Philip Dawe in 1808, and then of John Williams in 1812, these lots come under closer scrutiny as the heirs were focused on their own personal gains.

From 1787 until his death in 1808, Philip Dawe's personal property varied only slightly from year to year. The Personal Property Tax lists consistently showed Dawe held from one to four slaves and a single horse. Of note are the years 1790 (when he was charged for three white males above 21 years), 1792 (when he was charged for two white males above 21 years), 1799 when he was charged for two white males above 21 years, and 1803 (when he was charged for three white males above 21 years). It is possible that his son William was residing with his father at times. Or, perhaps one or more of Dawe's daughters' husbands shared his living space? He also had apprentices who may have been enumerated. Further of note is his assessment for a stage wagon in the year 1806. No taxes were approved nor assessed by the General Assembly in Virginia for the year of Dawe's death, 1808.<sup>74</sup> While Dawe does not appear to be extremely wealthy based on the Personal Property Tax lists, his inventory at death and some other land holdings tell a different story.

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<sup>70</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>71</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>72</sup> Prince William County Will Book H, p. 37.

<sup>73</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~lzsrlong/b3686.htm#P63074>

<sup>74</sup> Using the Land Tax Records in the Archives at the Library of Virginia, [http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn1\\_landtax.pdf](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn1_landtax.pdf)

Documentation for some of Philip Dawe's landholdings is not extant except for papers arising from his estate's settlement after 1808. Adding to this confusion is the fact that these bequests were related to an earlier legacy from his heretofore unknown brother, James Dawe, who resided in the City of Richmond.

James Dawe's will was signed on March 29, 1805 and recorded on December 10, 1805.<sup>75</sup> This document contains several interesting clauses, including the request that "the yellow woman Hannah, who now lives with me and her young child by the name of James be both of them, bought and I hereby earnestly request Captain William Richardson to whom they belong to consent to the sale of them and after the said Hannah and her said child have been so bought, it is my will that they both be set free." He further stipulated that all his slaves be emancipated after his death. Another item in the will bequeathed forty pounds cash and free use and occupancy of Dawe's house for two years to commence three months after his death by "...my friend Aubin Massingham who now lives with me in consideration of his faithful services and attention to me..." The will describes the house as one "...in which I now live and carry on business..."

A lengthy clause in James Dawe's will detailed extensive lands including the lease of the house on the corner of the lot belonging to the legatees of John Collins, an interest in a lot of ground on the bank of the canal and co-held by Robert Means, the house and lot on Sydnor Street in Richmond ("my house and lot on the corner of said Sydnor Street now in the occupancy of Ephraim Gaygrover,"), two houses and lots at the place called the Bowling Green about one mile from Richmond, 2-3/4 acres in the Town of Manchester in Chesterfield County and on which there was a stone quarry, one improved lot in the Town of Manchester and seven half-acre unimproved lots in Manchester and 4720 acres in Greenbrier County. Dawe requested his friends William H. Fitzwhylson and Benjamin Tate divide the lands into three equal parts. Two-thirds were to become the property of "...my beloved brother Philip Dawe..." and the third part "to my beloved brother William Dawe..." Philip, along with James Dawe's friends previously mentioned, was named his executors.<sup>76</sup>

Closer examination of documents related to James Dawe's lands reveal several Mutual Assurance Society maps for lots in Richmond.<sup>77</sup> The first of these was dated February 24, 1796 and was underwritten for James Ryan and John Seabrook for buildings in Richmond on the Main Street at Market Square. This prime commercial location was in part detailed by the drawing of structures belonging to James Dawe's friend and executor, Benjamin Tate and "a dwelling house one story high built of wood – occupied by James Dawe, the front as a retail shop 36' by 40'." The lot number for this structure is not indicated. The second declaration form was underwritten to James Dawe and dated October 18, 1797. No lot number is noted. The drawing of the property shows structures built along Market Street and "an alley running west 2.2 feet wide." The structure was valued at \$1000 and described as a dwelling house built two stories high, built of wood, brick covered with wood and some other material that is not legible. The building was

<sup>75</sup> Richmond Will Book 4, Library of Virginia, Reel 3, p. 353

<sup>76</sup> Richmond Will Book 4 1804-1806, Library of Virginia, Reel 3, p. 353.

<sup>77</sup> Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia Declarations. Library of Virginia, Vol. 61, Reel 8.

30' by 15'. Also depicted was a wooden stable, sixteen feet to the rear of the dwelling, and a small wooden house a mere two feet behind the dwelling. A third declaration clearly stated it was for Richmond Lot #8. The dwelling included was valued at \$750 and was described as "Dwelling House, wood, 1.5 story high, 13-1/2 by 60'." This house is located just north of Main Street, along Market Street. The declaration was dated May 20, 1805.

The existence of Dawe family shops in Alexandria, Dumfries and Richmond was unusual for the 1790s. In today's terminology one might refer to this as a "chain store" operation. Properties associated with Philip Dawe's tenancy in Alexandria were retail in nature. And, although Philip Dawe's business in Dumfries was a silversmith, at least on paper, he was clearly also dealing in other goods. This is documented by Dawe's petition to recover funds from Aitken's estate for the stationary the latter sold on commission.<sup>78</sup> Finally, the Mutual Assurance Society maps of James Dawe's Richmond properties make clear reference to a "retail shop."

Philip Dawe most certainly visited Richmond, aside from the reason of visiting his brother, as Henrico County records show that in January of 1806, Dawe and a jeweler, Edward Wanton, purchased a slave, Dick, who was then emancipated. It may be possible that this business was related to the request in James Dawe's will that his slaves be manumitted. Within a few years of working to settle his brother's estate, Dawe himself was dead. The only other details related to the life of Philip Dawe come from the documents generated upon his demise and the causes of his death are not known.

The last will and testament of Philip Dawe of the Town of Dumfries was dated December 18, 1808 and was returned to the court on January 2, 1809.<sup>79</sup> He first requested that all his just debts be paid and then, bequeathed to his "dear Wife during her natural life as follows, the house and Lott on which I now reside including the Corner house on Water Street and the ground attached to it, the tract of land about a mile and a half from Dumfries called Cabbin Branch Farm and negroes Caty, Frank and Robert. I further give unto my dear Wife One Hundred Dollars cash."<sup>80</sup> A third bequest of one hundred pounds was made to "my brother William Dawe of London." Recall that this brother William received a bequest from James Dawe comprised of one-third of his property. No other records have been located pertaining to William of London. It is uncertain as to whether Philip dawe had other siblings. One possibility was Elizabeth Dawe, who signed as a witness to a rental agreement between a George Weaver and Hannah Shute on June 1, 1797 in Prince William County.<sup>81</sup> Her name does not appear anywhere else in any of the records examined. Another possible Dawe sibling was an Ann Dawe, whose name appears in the account of Dawe's estate sale.<sup>82</sup> Like Elizabeth Dawe, Ann does not appear

<sup>78</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 164, Box 210, Folder 80, December 1808.

<sup>79</sup> Prince William County Will Book I, p. 415.

<sup>80</sup> Prince William County Will Book I, p. 415.

<sup>81</sup> Prince William County Loose Papers, Box 1111, p. 114.

<sup>82</sup> Prince William County Will Book K p. 180.

anywhere in any of the extant records. It may even be likely the name was written in error by the accounts recorder, instead of his wife's name, "Mary Ann."

The bequests of Philip Dawe included one to his son, William, who received the "shop and all my tools belonging to the Watch & Silversmiths business." It seems likely this is indicative of William being Philip's oldest son. The remainder of his estate, both real and personal, was to be divided in six equal parts. Four of his children, Philip D., William, Betsy Johnston (the daughter who married Reuben Johnston) and Nancy Dawe each received one-sixth portion. Jane Williams (the daughter who married Clerk of the Court, John Williams) and Polly Hedges (the daughter married to Isham Hedges) received their one-sixth portion with Philip D. and William holding it in trust for their sisters. Dawe's sons were named his executors.<sup>83</sup>

By February 6, 1809, an inventory and appraisal of the estate of Philip Dawe was returned to the court.<sup>84</sup> This inventory was quite extensive and included the slaves devised to Dawe's wife, Mary Ann. Frank, described as a lame man, was valued at \$60. Caty (purchased in 1784-1785 from Jett) and Robert were valued at \$150 and \$200 respectively. Several other slaves are listed including Lizzy (at \$300), Jenny (at \$140), Nell (at \$129) and Lewis (at \$60). A "negroe girl called Harriet, 2 weeks old born June 1810" (valued at \$20) was also recorded. While Dawe was not found in the 1807 Personal Property Tax records for Prince William County and taxes were not assessed in 1808, in all previous years, Dawe was never assessed on more than four slaves. Yet, at his death, he apparently held six and an infant. He further owned two carthorses. This is in keeping with the previous Personal Property Tax assessments.

As might be expected of the owner of a watch and silversmith shop, Dawe's inventory included two clocks, a diamond watch, a silver watch, a flowered silver coffee pot, a plain silver coffee pot, a silver tea pot, a silver cream pot, eleven gold rings and a large gold ring. Additionally, there were numerous silver pieces of flatware and a pair of sugar tongs. His household furniture included a desk, a bookcase and books, four beds/bedsteads, a round table, a large mahogany dining table, a square walnut table, a bureau and numerous chairs. He also possessed a variety of candlesticks and assorted ceramic wares including cream ware, also known as "Queen's Ware," which was made popular by England's Josiah Wedgwood beginning in the 1790s. A lengthy list of other kitchen and household goods was detailed. Not unexpected was his ownership of watch keys, seals and chains and 52 dozen watch gasses. He also possessed several sets of scales, 47 ounces-18 grains old silver and one ounce-12 grains jeweler's gold. Dawe's association with the Masons is confirmed by the inclusion of a gold Masonic medal, a silver Masonic medal, two Masonic Aprons and three sashes.

In addition to goods related to his profession and household, farm tools were included in the inventory. Dawe also held livestock including a cow and calf, yearling bull, heifer, sow and six shoats. It is likely these animals were kept on the farm at Cabbin Branch.

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<sup>83</sup> Prince William County Will Book I, p. 415.

<sup>84</sup> Prince William County Will Book K p. 23.

The men attesting to the accuracy of the inventory and appraisal, valued at nearly \$2000, were William Smith, Thomas Chapman and George Williams. Smith, an occupant of one of Dawe's lots in Dumfries, was apprenticed to John Williams (Jane Dawe's husband) in 1797, to learn the job of clerk.<sup>85</sup> He later married Margaret Williams, the sister of John Williams. Chapman was married to Mary Williams, another of John William's sisters.<sup>86</sup> George Williams was the proprietor of William's Ordinary, a well-known tavern in Dumfries. George was related to John Williams, likely his cousin. Keeping it all in the family in the nineteenth century was certainly the norm.

Following appraisal of Philip Dawe's estate, the property's sale included transactions through December 8, 1812.<sup>87</sup> According to Clerk's loose papers dated December 7, 1812, amounts for purchases at the sale were collected from August to November.<sup>88</sup> Philip D. Dawe acquired a horse, the diamond and silver watches, a clock and many of the silver serving pieces. Along with sundry other items, he purchased the two Masonic medals and a Masonic sash. William Dawe appears to have gained the lion's share of the goods including much of the household and kitchen furniture as well as those items associated with the watch and silversmith shop. Mary Ann Dawe took the carthorse and other livestock as well as some kitchenware and furniture, and some of the agricultural implements. Interestingly, *Euclid's Elements* was included in the books sold. Other buyers at the sale of the estate goods included tavern keep Peyton Norville's purchase of a large mahogany dining table. A startling discovery in the sales account was the existence of an Ann Dawe, previously not noted in any of the papers relating to Philip's life. It is possible she was a sister, as the name is not included in the list of his children in the will. It is also possible that this was really Dawe's wife Mary Ann, who was mistakenly listed as Ann. Her purchases included a card table, trunk, bureau, toilet, old chair and quilting frame, one cricket and cover [a footed vessel], two old umbrellas and twelve yards of cotton cloth.

A substantial, additional inventory of Philip Dawe's estate was attached to the inventory of John Williams who died intestate in 1812.<sup>89</sup> This document was dated December 6, 1813.<sup>90</sup> It is likely that Philip Dawe's additional inventory was attached to that of his son-in-law because, as early as 1810, a suit in Chancery was in progress between Dawe's executors and the rest of the family. Perhaps Williams was managing the estate at this point? No person by the name of Dawe even appears in the 1810 Census.<sup>91</sup> As regards this additional inventory, it was comprised of an old Dutch oven, a cupboard, one silver pen and a single book and the many debts owed to the deceased silversmith, dating from 1785 to 1808. The first item on this accounting was the debt of Thomas Aitken due in 1785. Surprisingly, Evan William's estate owed Dawe. Several references to lands in Kentucky are noted. The remainder of the list reads like a "who's who" of Prince William

<sup>85</sup> Prince William County Deed Book Z p. 106.

<sup>86</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 2 p. 193.

<sup>87</sup> Prince William County Will Book K p. 180.

<sup>88</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, 1812.

<sup>89</sup> Prince William County Order Book #10, 1812-1814, p. 57.

<sup>90</sup> Prince William County Will Book K, p. 258.

<sup>91</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia 1810 Census, Alphabetically Arranged*, Manassas, VA, 1996.

County for that era, including such names as Atwell, Peyton, Graham, Grayson, Hedgeman, Hutchinson, Cannon, Cornwell, Ewell, Keys, Harrison, Lee and Muschett. It appears that Dawe's business was quite extensive and successful.<sup>92</sup>

A few details of Dawe's death were included in a book on Virginia clockmakers and watchmakers.<sup>93</sup> The data in this volume is misleading, indicating that Philip Dawe died in 1812, while a William Dawe, Sr. passed in 1808. The basis for this confusion may well extend from the additional inventory recorded in 1813, five years after Philip Dawe died. No evidence of a William Dawe Sr. was found.

Final settlement of the estate of Philip Dawe would take several years. The elder Dawe's executors, sons Philip D. Dawe and William Dawe, were summoned to appear at the courthouse in Dumfries on the first Monday in August of 1810, thus beginning proceedings that continued through 1816.<sup>94</sup> Records of this suit included a ledger of the amounts collected from individuals at the sale of Philip Dawe's property that took place between August and November of 1812. The documents include a court decree dated June 4, 1812, pitting Mary Ann Dawe, William Dawe of London, Reuban and Betsy Johnston, John and Jane Williams, Isham and Polly Hedges and Nancy Dawe as complainants against Philip D. Dawe and William Dawe as executors. The outcome of this suit in Chancery was that the unsold portion of the deceased's personal estate was divided amongst his children. The Johnstons received the slave, Nell, \$72.78 and a clock. Nancy Dawe was allotted the slaves Lewis and Harriet and \$52.78. Held in trust by her brothers for Jane Williams was the slave Jenny and \$112.78-1/2. Held in trust by her brothers for Polly Hedges was the slave Lizzy and \$112.78-1/2. The document clearly states "We have made no allotment to the Executors observing that they have received their proportions out of the Sales of the Estate as above set forth." Final details related to Philip Dawe's estate come from a report stating that, "...the undersigned Commissioners believe that an equal division cannot be had in consequence of the unequal value thereof unless indeed the same should be sold." The Commissioners reporting were George Williams and James Reid who submitted it on December 7, 1812. The subject was the Richmond real estate.

Thus, the lots in Richmond remained an issue. Philip D. Dawe requested that Commissioners assess the value of the lots that formerly belonged to James Dawe. The lot in the City of Richmond, # 454, was described as formerly belonging to Robert Means, James Dawe and John Graham. Dawe's portion was valued at \$1590 on February 15, 1812. On February 18, 1812, Commissioners viewed Richmond Lot #8 and valued it at \$550. Finally, a tract containing about one acre and described as a Bowling Green in the County of Henrico near the City of Richmond was valued at \$100. The report of the Commissioners was dated February 19, 1812.<sup>95</sup> Certainly the trustees must have wondered at the wisdom of dividing such valuable property. Speculation as to discussions held among the family members regarding merits of a division can be made, but the

<sup>92</sup> Prince William County Will Book K, p. 258.

<sup>93</sup> Whisker, James B., *Virginia Clockmakers and Watchmakers 1660 – 1860*, NY, 1999.

<sup>94</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, Judgments 1816.

<sup>95</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, Judgments 1816.

short-term outcome did not result in sale of the land. And, the matter of the settlement of the elder Dawe's estate persisted.

The Prince William County Court Order Book entry for December 7, 1813 records the Chancery suit of Mary Ann Dawe &c. v. Dawe's Executors stating, "This cause by consent of parties came on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 1813 to be heard upon the papers formerly read in this cause and the report of Commissioners Reid and Williams Whereupon the Court approving of the said report on consideration doth confirm the same and doth adjudge, order and decree Philip D. Dawe and William Dawe the trustees appointed under the will of their Testator Philip Dawe to serve the portions and interests of the complainants Jane Williams and Polly Hedges do hold the said parts of lots in the City of Richmond described as Lot No. 8 & 454 in the Commissioners' report and the schedule annexed and subjoined to the report of the said Commissioners and also the tract of land in the said report mentioned lying in the County of Prince William containing 158-1/2 acres. And that they do collect and receive the rents, issues and profits of the same by equal and even portions unto the said Jane Williams and Polly Hedges during their natural life of each of them. And it appearing to the court by the said report that the aforesaid lotts and land are of less value by the sum of \$39 than the said Jane and the said Polly are entitled as their proportion of the estate of the said Philip Dawe, It is therefore further decreed and ordered that the aforesaid Philip D. Dawe, William Dawe, Nancy Dawe and Reuben Johnston the other four devisees of the aforesaid Philip Dawe do pay unto the aforesaid Philip D. Dawe and William Dawe by equal and even portions the sum of \$39 and that they do place the same out at interest upon good and safe Security and do pay unto the said Jane and Polly annually during the natural life of each of them by equal and even portions the interest accruing from the aforesaid \$39. And it appearing to the Court by the report of the said Commissioners that the aforesaid Philip D. Dawe, William Dawe, Nancy Dawe and Reuben Johnston & wife the other devisees of the said Philip Dawe have agreed among themselves upon the principle of the division of the remainder of the estate of the said Philip to which they are entitled except the lands in Kentucky & Ohio, It is therefore decreed and ordered that so much of the former order of this Court as directed a division among them by the said Commissioners be rescinded and that the Bill of Complaint so far as it prays a division of real estate of the said Philip Dawe lying in the State of Virginia and Alexandria among the said four devisees be dismissed and this cause so far as it relates to the real Estate in the States of Kentucky and Ohio is continued for further proceedings to be had therein."<sup>96</sup>

Several questions are answered by this document. First, the lots in Richmond bequeathed to Philip by his brother James Dawe were Lot #s 8 & 454. Philip Dawe's lands in Ohio and Kentucky remained in his possession until his death. And, it appears that Dawe also continued to hold lots in the City of Alexandria. However, questions persisted as to the equity of the division his lands. The Dawes returned to court on October 3, 1814. This time, the 158-1/2 acres, likely Dawe's land near Neabsco Creek, was in dispute. The Court had ordered in December of 1813 that this tract be surveyed and formally divided with consideration to the quality and quantity of the land and then held in trust by Philip

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<sup>96</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book 10, p. 185.

D. and William for Jane and Polly.<sup>97</sup> Clearly this case was continued for many years. Of the dozen or so Loose Papers from Judgments in 1816 related to this case, one other is of particular interest. Apparently Nancy Dawe intermarried with a Mr. Hore. This man's given name is not known, as the document leaves merely a blank where it should have been recorded.<sup>98</sup> But, this small bit of data clarifies, to some extent, the later involvement of the Hore family with the Dawes and Williams in years to come. Also of note is that tavern keeper George Williams, a likely cousin of John Williams, married Catherine Hore.

Yet another question related to Philip Dawe's real estate remained. This issue appears to have been resolved when Governor Wilson C. Nicholas decided on Dumfries Lot #28 and Lot #31. Recall that these lots had been held by Thomas Aitken and then escheated. The final granting of this land was made well after May 1808, when Dawe purchased them. The deed was finalized on April 10, 1815 with Philip D. and William Dawe as Trustees for Betsy Johnston, Nancy Dawe, Philip D. Dawe and William Dawe.<sup>99</sup>

The disposition of Philip Dawe's lands in Ohio was finally settled in 1819. A deed in trust from John W. Campbell of Ohio to John Gibson, Jr. and Philip D. Dawe, William Dawe, William Hore and Reuban Johnston was recorded September 6, 1819.<sup>100</sup> Gibson served as security for Campbell's \$2973 debt to Dawe's heirs for his purchase of "an undivided tract of land in the County of Brown in the State of Ohio originally patented to Philip Dawe on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1805."<sup>101</sup> Data within this document tells us that Nancy Dawe must have wed William Hore and that Reuben Johnston and his wife Betsy (nee Dawe) had removed to the District of Columbia. Dawe had retained a lot with a house on it in Alexandria occupied by John Lloyd. Philip D. Dawe and Reuben Johnston visited Alexandria for an appraisal of the property that was found to be valued at \$4000, as reported to the court on August 4, 1811.<sup>102</sup> The deed for the sale of this lot was not examined. No information was found related to the later ownership of Philip Dawe's Kentucky lands following his death.

With Philip Dawe's decease, and most of his real estate accounted for, it is of interest to examine the Land Tax records for Prince William County (available via the Library of Virginia and RELIC/Prince William County Libraries). Mary Ann Dawe appeared in the Land Tax books in 1809, the year following her husband's death. The note accompanying her entry actually stated "by P. Dawe's Will." She was assessed on the same property through the year 1816, including 123 acres, the dwelling house lot, and a lot where a person named Pickett lived until after 1810, when it was tenanted by some one possibly named Forger [the name is illegible]. The identity of the person named Pickett mentioned in this entry is not known for sure but Philip D. Dawe would later marry into the Pickett family. No other references to anyone possibly named Forger were found.

<sup>97</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, 1821.

<sup>98</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, Judgments, 1816.

<sup>99</sup> Executive Papers of Governor Wilson C. Nicholas, Library of Virginia, Asession #41612, Misc. Reels 236-240.

<sup>100</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 7, p. 168.

<sup>101</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 7, p. 168.

<sup>102</sup> Prince William County Loose Papers, Box 1082, p. 28.

From 1817 until 1823, the Prince William County tax records show Mary Ann was assessed on two lots in Dumfries, the dwelling house and the one where Forger (?) lived. From 1824 until 1828, she was assessed on two lots in Dumfries. One of these was assessed at the value of \$300 and the other at \$500 with the note “rent reduced.” From 1829 until 1831, her lots were valued at \$300 and \$400 with the note “no charge.” In 1832, her lots were valued at \$250 each and remained as such until 1836 when the entry appeared as “Dawe, Mary Estate.” Oddly, in 1839, the estate was again assessed for 123 acres on Quantico Creek as well as the two lots in Dumfries. This continued until 1870, the last year examined for this research. Of note, beginning in 1844, is the notation that the lots on which Mary Dawe’s Estate was assessed were Dumfries Town Lots # 76-77-78 and Lots #79-89-90. It seems likely the “lots” were comprised of parts of contiguous lots in the town. In this same year, the estate was also assessed for 103 acres on Cabbin Branch, likely the farm bequeathed to Mary Ann in Philip’s will.

As for Philip Dawe’s land in Prince William County not held by his wife, from 1809 until 1813, William Dawe was assessed for the lot with the “shop,” again with the note “by P. Dawe’s will.” It is known that William Dawe conveyed this property with the shop to James G. Evans in 1811<sup>103</sup> but the Land Tax records did not note this until two years later. Philip D. and William Dawe were assessed on two lots in Dumfries from 1809 through the 1830s. Philip D. was also assessed as Trustee for his sisters on 154 acres through at least 1819.

Following his death, some of the personal property left by Philip Dawe can be accounted for in the Personal Property tax records of Prince William County. In 1809, William Dawe was accountable for himself, as a white male over 21 years of age, and one horse. In 1810, Mary Ann Dawe was charged for three slaves and one horse. The estate of Philip Dawe was also included, being charged for one slave. In 1811, Mary Ann held two slaves and a horse. Philip D. Dawe was accountable for one horse, while he and William, as Trustees of P. Dawe, were jointly assessed for one slave. In 1811, William Dawe was not on the list. In 1812, William Dawe was accountable for himself, as a white male over 21 years of age, and one horse. Mary Ann held one slave and one horse in 1812. In 1813, William appears as chargeable for only himself, holding no other personal property, while his mother was accountable for three slaves and two horses. Despite not appearing on the list of Personal Property taxes in 1813, it was in this year that Philip D. Dawe was appointed Clerk of the Court for Prince William County.<sup>104</sup>

Philip D. Dawe reappeared on the Personal Property Tax list for 1814, accountable only for himself and with no personal property. In this same year, Mary Ann paid for one slave. Philip D. Dawe was listed a second time on the 1814 assessment as Trustee for Mary Hedges for two slaves and for one slave each for Margaret Williams and Ann Williams. Margaret and Ann Williams were Philip D.’s nieces and Jane Dawe Williams’ daughters with John, who died in December of 1812.<sup>105</sup>

<sup>103</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 4. P. 370.

<sup>104</sup> Prince William County Order Book #10, 1812-1814, p. 52.

<sup>105</sup> Prince William County Order Book #10, 1812-1814, p. 51.

The 1815 Personal Property Tax records were more detailed than in other years. In this year, William Dawe was accountable for himself as a white male above 21 years, two slaves, two cattle, a bureau, a secretary, a bookcase, two dining tables, one sideboard, six chairs, six pictures and one decanter. Philip D. Dawe was charged for two white males above 21 years. He was also charged for four slaves, one horse, a picture, a gilt frame, one silver coffee pot and one silver teapot. It appears he may have gotten rid of some of the silver serving pieces acquired from his father's estate or perhaps they simply were not assessed. Speculation as to the other white male in his household might include nephews John Williams or Robert Williams, his sister Jane's sons. This younger John became Clerk of the Court at Philip D. Dawe's death in 1832.<sup>106</sup> There is no reference to this John Williams being referred to as a "Junior" or "II," making it important to carefully examine dates when examining documents associated with he and his father. Mary Ann Dawe did not appear on the lists again until 1820, although for some years the records are not legible. From 1816 until 1820, William and Philip D. each appear accountable only for himself and each held one or two slaves and one or two horses. The year 1820 saw great change in Prince William County and most certainly Philip D. Dawe was a party to this via his position as Clerk of the Court.

In 1820, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law to move the Prince William County seat from Dumfries to the new Town of Brentsville.<sup>107</sup> Despite the growth of the new town and Philip D. Dawe's ownership of lots early on, the Personal Property Tax records for the years 1820 through 1825 do not clearly indicate whether he was living "Below the Run," meaning below Cedar Run, in Dumfries or "Above the Run," meaning above Cedar Run at Brentsville. So where was he living at this time? With his mother? On his own? With his sister Jane? Or, someone else entirely?

The records do not clearly point to where Dawe was living. It could have been with several different members of his family who were "heads of household" according to the census records. In 1820, Mary Ann was assessed on one horse. She also appeared in the 1820 Census as head of household at an age of at least 45 years.<sup>108</sup> The record indicates she had another woman, also more than 45 years old, living with her, as well as two boys under the age of ten years. None of Mary Ann's daughters were old enough to be the woman of more than 45 years residing in her home. Besides which, Jane Williams was included as a head of household on the 1820 Census,<sup>109</sup> Betsy (Dawe) Johnston was probably living in the District of Columbia, Isham Hedges (husband of Polly Dawe) was counted as a head of household in Prince William and William Hore was counted as a head of household in Stafford County. Were the two young boys counted in the census possibly Mary Ann's grandsons? It could be that some of Mary Ann's daughters' children were staying with their grandmother in Dumfries. No records pertaining to the

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<sup>106</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 13, p. 47.

<sup>107</sup> Acts of the General Assembly, Chapter LXXXVII, January 20, 1820.

<sup>108</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia 1820 Census, Alphabetically Arranged*, Manassas, VA, 1999.

<sup>109</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia 1810 Census, Alphabetically Arranged*, Manassas, VA, 1996.

children of Betsy, Polly, Nancy or William have been located, leaving the people living with Mary Ann at that time a unidentified.

There is no indication in any records that Mary Ann ever made the move west with the court's removal to the Town of Brentsville. It appears she remained in Dumfries and continued to pay Personal Property taxes on one or two slaves and a horse from 1821 until she ceases to appear altogether in the lists after 1831. Prior to that, she was listed as head of household for several years while being assessed for white males above 21 years. In 1823, she was charged for 2 men and in 1824 for one. After 1825, she is clearly shown to live Below the Run (in Dumfries). In 1828, she was listed with her son, William. After this year, William does not appear on the lists again. Who could possibly have been living with her in 1823 and 1824? Perhaps it was William? Or Philip D.? Or both? At a time when the Court was in transition and there would have been a need for Philip D. to take up residence at Brentsville, was it even possible he resided with his mother? It is unlikely that William was living with his mother in the 1820s, since he was counted in the 1820 Census as head of household, aged 26 – 45 years.<sup>110</sup> He had two women living with him, one between the age of 10-16 years and the other 26-45 years. The latter was presumably his wife, Susan. At that time, he also had three slaves.

A few final traces of Philip Dawe and his wife, Mary Ann, appear in some of the less commonly referenced extant court records. A land survey completed for Jane Williams dated February 20, 1823 was recorded for acreage she received from her father's estate along Quantico Creek.<sup>111</sup> A survey dated January 10, 1824 was drawn of Dawe's lands on Neabsco Creek for the heirs of William Barnes who apparently were assigned some of the property by Dawe's executors.<sup>112</sup> The Clerk's Fee Book entries include "Philip Dawe's Heirs" as charged in 1823 and 1824 for these surveys. In 1827, Mary Ann Dawe was charged Clerk's fees for a suit with someone by the name of Bates. Her suit with Bates resulted in charges again in 1829 when one suit with a James Bates was discontinued, while another with William Bates was under way. A note in the Fee Book indicated "John Williams to pay." In 1831, the suit with Bates resulted in yet another fee, again with the note "John Williams to pay." Mary Ann Dawe apparently died some time after 1831 when she was no longer included in the Personal Property Tax lists nor in the Land Tax records after 1835. Shortly after Mary Ann's death, her son, William Dawe, died also.

### **William Dawe... Not a Silversmith**

The life of William Dawe remains extremely vague. His date of birth and birth order within the Dawe family are not known. One theory holds that William was the older brother since he received his father's business, leaving Philip D. to acquire his education and training as a clerk. No proof of this has been found. Philip Dawe's entry for Personal Property taxes assessed in Prince William County for the 1780s included an additional

<sup>110</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia 1820 Census, Alphabetically Arranged*, Manassas, VA, 1999.

<sup>111</sup> Prince William County Plat Book p. 102.

<sup>112</sup> Prince William County Plat Book p. 108.

white male above the age of 21 years, but this was not his son, William Dawe, who would have been too young.

William qualified as an Ensign in the militia on August 2, 1809.<sup>113</sup> Prior to this, the earliest known reference for a William Dawe appeared in *Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 - 1792*.<sup>114</sup> It is unlikely that this William Dawe was the same one residing in Dumfries in the early nineteenth century. However, the signature on the petition was William Dawe, while another signer, John Williams is a known name in this research. This document, dated August 26, 1787, urged the Kentucky Assembly to grant a division of Bourbon County to ease the difficulties some residents suffered due to the distance to the court and county seat. No clear ties were defined but it is known that members of the Williams family migrated to Kentucky during this period.<sup>115</sup>

The William Dawe and John Williams who signed the petition in Kentucky are not the same as those later living in Dumfries since based on their approximate ages at the time of the censuses of 1810<sup>116</sup> and 1820,<sup>117</sup> they would have been too young. Nevertheless, it is highly interesting that two men bearing these names existed elsewhere near lands held in their families. In any case, William Dawe is known to have been in Dumfries by 1809. He appears in the Clerk's Fee Books for that year as an executor to his father's estate, after Philip Dawe died in 1808.

The 1809 Personal Property Tax records for Prince William County included William Dawe as responsible for himself and one horse. He does not then appear on these lists again until 1812. This was during the period he supposedly qualified for the militia, which may have taken him away from Dumfries. It was also during this time that he sold the lot and silversmith shop bequeathed to him by his father. The deed from William Dawe and his wife, Susan, was dated August 26, 1811. Dawe sold "... a certain house (or shop) in the Town of Dumfries & County aforesaid which was willed to the said William Dawe by his father Philip Dawe deceased..." to James G. Evans for \$150.<sup>118</sup> William Dawe's ownership of this real estate is confirmed in the Prince William County Land Tax records for 1809 and 1810 when he was assessed for the "shop" he had gotten "by Philip Dawe's will." William Dawe was married to his above-mentioned wife, Susan, by 1811, when the deed for the shop was executed. Susan's origins are not known for sure. There is record of a William Dawe marrying a Susanna R. White in Maryland on May 15, 1809.<sup>119</sup> It is possible this is the same couple.

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<sup>113</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 4, p. 14.

<sup>114</sup> Robertson, James R., Louisville, *Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 - 1792*, KT: Filson Club Publications, No. 27, 1914.

<sup>115</sup> Williams Family Papers, Personal Collection

<sup>116</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia 1810 Census, Alphabetically Arranged*, Manassas, VA, 1996.

<sup>117</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia 1820 Census, Alphabetically Arranged*, Manassas, VA, 1999.

<sup>118</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 4, p.370.

<sup>119</sup> Maryland Marriages, 1801 - 1820, St. Paul's Parish Marriages, Volume II.

William Dawe's whereabouts throughout 1810 – 1820 are uncertain since other than the two years he was assessed for the shop, he does not appear in the Prince William County Land Tax records. He does, however, appear in the Muster Rolls of Captain Joseph R. Gilbert's Co. from the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Virginia Militia. William Dawe was recommended by the Prince William County Court to serve as Lieutenant on July 1, 1811.<sup>120</sup> He was then in service in July of 1813 and August of 1814.<sup>121</sup> Dawe's regimental commander was Enoch Reno. The Renos were very early Prince William County residents.<sup>122</sup>

During the time of the War of 1812, Dumfries was a vital American port, shipping and receiving large quantities of goods. It was considered a realistic target for British attack. Most of Prince William's militia remained within the county for this reason, although a few detachments served at Baltimore and in Norfolk.<sup>123</sup>

Organizing the militia in Prince William County was apparently not an easy task as evidenced by a missive sent from Gilbert to James Barbour, then Governor of Virginia.<sup>124</sup> In this letter, Gilbert seeks guidance on enlisting volunteers from the Light Infantry. According to Gilbert, there were inadequate arms and supplies to equip other volunteers whom he described as "...poor laboring people who will have to walk 10 or 12 miles to muster..." He explains to the Governor that to "...arm, equip and be in readiness to march at a moments warning renders it necessary that knapsacks, blankets & c. should be furnished them the expense of which to be defrayed out of my private funds would be impossible..." According to Gilbert's letter, the General Assembly had enacted legislation such that arms were initially provided to the Light Infantry, leaving insufficient weapons for use by the militia. He further inquired about training for cadets. The most basic needs of an army were lacking, revealing just how unprepared the new nation was for war against a world power.

With war impending and the threat of attack on Dumfries, William Dawe was definitely in Dumfries in the spring of 1812. This is evidenced by his service as a juror in the suit "James Smock, Plaintiff against John Williams, William Smith & Margaret his wife, Administrators of William Carr Deceased, Defendants."<sup>125</sup> This is certainly an interesting case if for no other reason than the defendants were William Dawe's brother-in-law, John Williams (Clerk of the Prince William County Court) and Williams' sister and her husband. The case was in court on May 21, 1812 and it involved debts owed by the deceased to Smock. William Carr was one of the Dumfries' original incorporators and trustees in 1759.<sup>126</sup> He was a successful merchant and member of the Prince William Committee of Public Safety at the outset of the American Revolution. The Smocks

<sup>120</sup> Executive Papers of James Barbour, Library of Virginia, Accession #41424, Box 2, Folder 5.

<sup>121</sup> Virginia Militia of the War of 1812, Volume II, Muster Rolls, Richmond: 1852, p. 357.

<sup>122</sup> Historic Dumfries, Dettingen Parish Vestry Book 1745 – 1785, 1976.

<sup>123</sup> Butler, Stuart Lee, *A Guide to Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812*. Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Company, 1988.

<sup>124</sup> Executive Papers of James Barbour, Library of Virginia, Accession #41557, Box 2, Folder 4.

<sup>125</sup> Prince William County District Court Order Books 1807 – 1817.

<sup>126</sup> Prince William County Will Book G, p. 479 and multiple other deed & will book references.

operated an ordinary in Dumfries.<sup>127</sup> Dawe served as a juror, along with another of his brother-in-laws, Isham Hedges (husband of Polly Dawe).

After the trial, Dawe remained in town for the June 17, 1812 celebration of the anniversary of Saint John the Baptist, a commemoration commonly held by the Masons, a society of which the Dawe and Williams men were members. John Williams, William Dawe's brother-in-law, hosted the celebratory supper in Dumfries. William Dawe was clearly charged a fee for dinner and spirits. It is humorous that he apparently stiffed Williams for the meal, as his name and that of brother, Philip D., are only a few not marked paid on Williams' list of the participants.<sup>128</sup> In this same year, the Personal Property Tax records indicate he was charged for one white male above 21 years (himself) and a single horse. In 1813 he was responsible for himself only. He does not appear on the list for 1814.

If William Dawe held so little property, both real and personal, the question as to his occupation must be asked. He was likely engaged in some form of agriculture. It appears that he enjoyed gambling, although this can hardly be considered a way to earn a living. A Grand Jury Presentment was made against Philip D. Dawe, Clerk of the County of Prince William, and for "Wm Dawe silversmith," "for unlawful gaming at cards by playing at the game of loo at the house of Francis Smith."<sup>129</sup> The Dawe boys were not the only alleged participants, as more than fifty names are included in the list of presentments. These men returned to court on May 17, 1814 and pled not guilty. They were found guilty though, and each was fined \$20 by the Commonwealth, certainly a steep sum for that time period.<sup>130</sup> A similar incident occurred in May 1816, when William and his brother-in-law, Isham Hedges, were once again presented for unlawful gaming.<sup>131</sup> Silversmith, soldier, farmer, gambler... if William Dawe sold his shop in 1811 but was still labeled as a silversmith in 1814, where was his business operating?

In 1815, the Personal Property Tax records held William was accountable for himself as a white male above 21 years, two slaves, two cattle, a bureau, a secretary, a bookcase, two dining tables, one sideboard, six chairs, six pictures and one decanter. In 1816 and 1817 he was charged for himself and two slaves, and the number of slaves was reduced to one in 1818. The 1819 list was not legible. While there is no record of William's real estate ownership for this period, he was apparently a head of household in Prince William County, and it seems one with financial difficulties. Was he eking out a living on the former lands of his father, Cabbins Branch Farm?

William Dawe owed many debts. One, to Joseph Shumate for \$69 dated on October 9, 1816, was documented in Judgments for 1818.<sup>132</sup> Three summonses were issued in this case: October 1816, January 1818 and February 1818. Ultimately, Dawe was found

<sup>127</sup> *Republican Journal and Dumfries Advertiser*, February 11, 1796.

<sup>128</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>129</sup> Prince William County District Court Order Books 1807 – 1817, p. 408-409.

<sup>130</sup> Prince William County District Court Order Books 1807 – 1817, p. 424.

<sup>131</sup> Prince William County District Court Order Books 1807 – 1817, p. 475.

<sup>132</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, Judgments, 1818.

responsible for the original \$69 and an additional \$29 more in damages.<sup>133</sup> No details on the causes of the suit are extant. Shumate was from nearby Fauquier County and was possibly a bondsman. He was married to Hannah Shute who was listed as a contact for the sale of the tavern in Dumfries occupied by Sarah Williams.<sup>134</sup> No further family connections between Shumate/Shute and the Dawes or Williams were found.

Philip D. Dawe entered a complaint into the Court on February 5, 1817, against William Dawe and George W. Delaney. These men signed a note promising to pay Philip D. Dawe, Executor of Jacob Merchant, \$37 for a debt dating back to August of 1816.<sup>135</sup> Payment was not made in a timely fashion, and a summons was issued on May 29, 1817.<sup>136</sup> Merchant was another silversmith operating in Dumfries from about 1809 – 1918.<sup>137</sup> The inventory of Merchant’s estate included a set of silversmith’s tools, jeweler’s cases, one lot of old gold, earrings, rings, clasps, keys, buckles, buttons and watch chains.<sup>138</sup> Merchant’s works are highly valued by collectors today as can be seen in shops and at auctions. William Dawe and John Merchant (son of Jacob) later borrowed money and bonded to Shumate, as there is a bond recorded for September 8, 1818 whereby they must pay their debts or owe Shumate two beds and two cows.<sup>139</sup>

Whether Dawe was running a silversmith shop or farming, he was also still with the militia. A patrol duty report dated February 26, 1817 stated, “Return of tour of duty served on patrol by the following persons belonging to Captain William Dawe’s company by order of William S. Colquhoun, capt. Patrol, 36<sup>th</sup> Regmt of Militia.”<sup>140</sup> In spite of financial failure, he had risen in the ranks!

William Dawe’s financial struggles mirrored those of the town in which he lived. The Dumfries economy at this time was beyond repair. Efforts to improve access to the town via Quantico Creek had failed. In spite of this, William Dawe, along with his brother Philip D. and relatives George Williams and his son John W. Williams, worked to organize a fire company in 1819.<sup>141</sup> In this same year, William purchased several items from the estate of one Mary Ann Cave, whose identity is not fully understood.<sup>142</sup>

Philip D. Dawe served as Mary Ann Cave’s executor when the man she named in her will on June 4, 1818, relinquished that right. This man was Joseph Gilbert, Senior. Recall that Captain Joseph R. Gilbert’s Co., the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Militia, included a Lieutenant William Dawe in service in 1813 and 1814.<sup>143</sup> Connections to Gilbert also

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<sup>133</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Loose Papers, Judgments 1818.

<sup>134</sup> *The Republican Journal and Dumfries Advertiser*, August 11, 1796.

<sup>135</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Loose Papers, Judgments 1817.

<sup>136</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Loose Papers, Judgments 1817.

<sup>137</sup> Hollan, Catherine, *In the Neatest, Most Fashionable Manner, Three Centuries of Alexandria Silver*. Alexandria, VA: The Lyceum, 1994).

<sup>138</sup> Prince William County Will Book L, p. 3.

<sup>139</sup> Prince William County Loose Papers, Box 1147, p. 20.

<sup>140</sup> Prince William County Loose Papers, Box 1007, p. 403.

<sup>141</sup> Bethlehem Club of Manassas, VA, *Prince William: The Story of Its People and Places*, 1988.

<sup>142</sup> Prince William County Will Book L, p. 317.

<sup>143</sup> Virginia Militia of the War of 1812, Volume II, Muster Rolls.

included Philip D. Dawe's purchase of four acres along Quantico Creek of Joseph Gilbert by 1814.<sup>144</sup> Lastly, the suit of Dawe's administrators v. Gilbert's administrators was noted in the Prince William County Court Minutes in March of 1834.

Gilbert was linked to Mary Ann Cave as her stated executor and heir to one fourth of her estate.<sup>145</sup> Just how Mary Ann Cave may have been related to the Dawes is unknown. But, speculation as to whether Mary Ann Dawe remarried a man named Cave is answered by the date on Cave's will as 1818 and the fact that Mary Ann Dawe was counted in the census of 1820 and was assessed for land ownership until 1836 at which time the entry changed to "Mary Ann Dawe's Estate."

It appears that Mary Ann Cave was married to Thomas Cave (b. circa 1745 – 12/17/1802) in Prince William County in 1782. Thomas was buried in Dumfries.<sup>146</sup> And, the four daughters and two sons listed in Mary Ann Cave's will cannot be demonstrated as kin to any of the Dawe's in the extant documents. Regardless, Philip D. Dawe had what appears to be a significant relationship with Cave, who held a tavern license in Prince William County for at least the years 1809 – 1818.<sup>147</sup>

While the Caves may have operated an ordinary, based on her estate inventory, Mary Ann Cave was proprietor of a business that sold fabrics. Perhaps it was a general store or a seamstress shop? A lengthy list of a variety of textiles, notions and tools of the trade were noted along with typical household and kitchen furnishings in her estate's inventory.<sup>148</sup> William Dawe purchased of Cave's estate 6-3/4 pounds of alum (an oxide of aluminum used as an industrial hardener and purifier and medicinally as a styptic), one parcel of needles, one silver teapot, one demijohn [a large narrow-necked bottle], one box, a pair of brass andirons and a set composed of a shovel, tongs and poker. The purchase of a silver teapot is amusing in light of his former "profession" of silversmith. Philip D. Dawe was also a purchaser, acquiring a settee and a "Tray, stool, old fringe loom."

William Dawe was counted in the 1820 Federal Census. Oddly, none of the Dawes appeared in the census for 1810, but both William and his mother, Mary Ann Dawe, were counted as heads of household in 1820.<sup>149</sup> William was counted as a white male between the ages of 26-45. Living in his household were a white female aged 10-16 years and another aged 26-45 years, the latter presumably his wife. There are no records indicating William and Susan had any children. He owned three slaves and it was further noted that five people in the household were engaged in agriculture. The slaves were tallied to be one male aged 26-45 years, a female under 14 years and a female over 45 years. Since William was not assessed for real estate in his own right, was he perhaps operating the farm at Cabbin Branch that his father bequeathed to his mother making use of her slaves?

<sup>144</sup> Prince William County Land Tax records, 1814.

<sup>145</sup> Prince William County Will Book L, p. 215.

<sup>146</sup> Ronald Ray Turner, personal communication

<sup>147</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County, Virginia 1805 – 1955 Businesses*, Manassas, VA, 1999.

<sup>148</sup> Prince William County Will Book L, p. 317.

<sup>149</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia 1820 Census, Alphabetically Arranged*, Manassas, VA, 1999.

Evidence of William Dawe's life dwindles further through the 1820s. What is known for certain is that his financial situation had not improved. William Shaw sued William Dawe and Augustus B. Carver for debts in July of 1821 at which time the Sheriff's note stated "Not found."<sup>150</sup> Shaw held a license to operate an ordinary in 1811.<sup>151</sup> In August of the same year, Thomas Lawson sued the men. Lawson was manager of the Neabsco iron furnace.<sup>152</sup> The Sheriff's note on this suit read "received the within amount in full of John Tansill Deputy Sheriff this 1<sup>st</sup> October 1822."<sup>153</sup> Carver was no stranger to court as seen in a lawsuit dated May of 1818. Carver and his wife, Martha, appeared in a plea of trespass for Martha's slander of Elizabeth Kiely, wife of John. Damages were assessed for Martha "maliciously intending to injure" the good name and reputation of Elizabeth.<sup>154</sup>

In October of 1823, William Dawe signed a Prince William County deed book as a witness for a deed in trust from Walter Harrison to Barnaby Cannon (William's brother-in-law) for a debt owed Lawson. The property held in trust was a "mulatto slave, Anne," daughter of Isabel to whom Harrison derived title by virtue of his marriage to Ann Lawson. Ann was the daughter of John Lawson, who by this time was deceased.<sup>155</sup> Yet a third suit for debts was recorded in which William was plaintiff against the two men.<sup>156</sup>

The Clerk's Fee Books document Dawe's additional suits against Norville and Filbert in 1823.<sup>157</sup> The man named Norville in this suit was likely Brentsville tavern keeper Peyton Norville who operated the ordinary on Tavern Square adjacent to the Brentsville Courthouse.<sup>158</sup> A Judge's Execution dated March 6, 1826 indicated William owed a debt of \$3.06 and an additional thirty cents for court costs.<sup>159</sup> The Sheriff's note with this entry stated, "Returned, No Property found." His final appearance in the Prince William County Personal Property Tax list was in 1827, when he was assessed for himself and two slaves. He died before January 5, 1829, when Philip D. Dawe and John Williams executed a bond as his executors.<sup>160</sup>

Even after his death, William Dawe's financial troubles persisted. He had acted as security to James Murray for debts owed to Philip Fitzhugh in a court case dating back to 1824. The continuance of this outstanding debt was noted in the Court Minute Book for 1834.<sup>161</sup> Before this suit was played out, William's executor, Philip D. Dawe died in

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<sup>150</sup> Prince William County Execution Book 1820 – 1824, p. 19.

<sup>151</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia 1805-1955 Businesses*, Manassas, VA: 1999.

<sup>152</sup> Washington, George, diary entry Dec. 19, 1770:

<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/01-02-02-0005-0034-0020>

<sup>153</sup> Prince William County Execution Book 1820 – 1824, p. 24.

<sup>154</sup> Prince William County Loose Papers, Box 1082, p. 41.

<sup>155</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p. 211.

<sup>156</sup> Prince William County Execution Books, October 1823, p. 123.

<sup>157</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Fee Book, 1823, p. 171.

<sup>158</sup> Prince William County Land Records, p. 41, 332.

<sup>159</sup> Prince William County Execution Book 1824-1828, March 26, 1826.

<sup>160</sup> Prince William County Bond Book 5, p. 26.

<sup>161</sup> Prince William County Court Minute Book, 1834, p. 175.

1832. Ann Hore became William's administratrix on September 5, 1836, since Philip D. had died without fully administering on the estate of his brother.<sup>162</sup>

Ann Hore's identity is not known other than her husband was named William. George Williams, of Dumfries tavern fame, had a wife named Catherine Hore. The Dawe brothers' sister, Nancy, was married to William Hore. Perhaps Ann Hore was a niece or even a cousin by intermarriage of the Williams and Hore families. Regardless, Ann Hore did not fully administer on William Dawe's estate either. Sadly, the final settlement was not recorded until years later, on March 1, 1852, when it was ordered "...that John Fitzhugh, Sheriff of this county, do take into his possession the estate of William Dawe, deceased, and administer the same according to law."<sup>163</sup> Ironically, this small scrap of paper was signed by William Dawe's nephew, John Williams (son of John and Jane), who served as Prince William County's Clerk of the Court from 1832 until 1854. This John Williams became Clerk upon the death of his uncle, Philip D. Dawe, in 1832. The estate of William Dawe was finally settled in 1852.

### **Philip D.**

Philip D. Dawe was born in 1782, since his obituary indicated he was fifty years of age when he died.<sup>164</sup> Little is known of his earliest years, but it is likely he resided with his father in Alexandria and/or Dumfries throughout the 1780s and 1790s. By 1789, it seems that Dawe was taken under the wing of his brother-in-law, John Williams. Williams served as Clerk of the Prince William County Court from 1795 until 1812. Documentation of connections between the Dawe and Williams families prior to the mid-1790s is tentative.

Evan Williams, John William's father, and Philip Dawe both served as Overseers of the Poor<sup>165</sup> and both men's signatures appear in the county deed records. They also owned lots adjacent to one another in the town of Dumfries. Closer ties are better documented in a letter dated June 19, 1793. This missive, from John Howison of Mason County, Mill Creek, Kentucky, was written to John Williams. Howison remarks on Williams' breaking off with "HL," while expressing surprise over his marriage to "JD."<sup>166</sup> The identity of "JD" is confirmed in another letter, dated March 4, 1795. This one, from John Howison and wife Letty, extended the couple's congratulations to John on his marriage to Jane Dawe.<sup>167</sup>

With his sister married to Williams, Philip D. Dawe most certainly held an advantage as the heir apparent to the position of Clerk of the Court. This is confirmed by a document penned by Williams stating, "I do hereby certify, that Mr. Philip D. Dawe, has acted as my assistant, in the office of Prince William County, from the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 1801

<sup>162</sup> Prince William County Court Minute Book, 1836 – 1839, p. 54.

<sup>163</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, 1812 – 1857, Box 1, Bundle 2-3.

<sup>164</sup> *Alexandria Phoenix Gazette*, Tuesday, May 22, 1832.

<sup>165</sup> Historic Dumfries, Dettingen Parish Vestry Book 1745 – 1785, 1976.

<sup>166</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>167</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

until this time and is now Deputy Clerk of said County, the date of which he was sworn to perform on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 1804. And it gives me pleasure to add, that I think him in all aspects qualified to perform the duties of a clerk. Given under my hand this 19<sup>th</sup> day of the year.”<sup>168</sup> Thus began a dynasty of Prince William County Clerks of the Court for the Williams/Dawe family, as they more or less held this office from 1795 until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the period of Dawe’s training, one of his nephews, possibly John Williams, was born to his sister Jane and mentor John the elder. This is noted in N. Cox’s letter to John Williams dated September 28, 1802. Cox lived in Kentucky and wrote of his congratulations on the birth of the couple’s son and also sent his greetings to Mr. Dawe.<sup>169</sup>

Dawe’s service as Deputy Clerk either did not keep him fully occupied or he chose to add additional public duties by June of 1807, when his bond to the Governor of Virginia to serve as Escheator for Prince William County was recorded. Holding such offices could be quite lucrative. John Williams acted as Dawe’s security for this \$3000 bond.<sup>170</sup> During his service in this capacity, Philip D. Dawe actually transacted business in 1808 with his father, Philip Dawe, for Dumfries Lot #28 and 31.<sup>171</sup> With the death of his father in 1808, Philip D. Dawe and his brother, William, became executors of his estate. The Clerk’s Fee Books for 1809 shows the fees charged the brothers; seventy cents for reading of the will and an additional seventy cents for copying their father’s will.<sup>172</sup> It was the fees charged by Court Clerks that made the position profitable.

Prior to 1809, Philip D. did not appear in either the Prince William County Land Tax or Personal Property Tax records. He may have lived with his parents as he was frequently out of the area, serving in Richmond. Although he was tasked with settling his father’s estate, Philip D. Dawe did not appear in the Personal Property Tax Lists for 1810, but was accounted for on the Land Tax records for this year. He was listed along with his brother, William, as responsible for two lots in Dumfries and also as trustee for lands bequeathed to his sisters.

Other land dealings Dawe engaged in during this period were not transacted to gain ownership. On April 1, 1810, he was party to a “prison bounds bond” involving 113 acres of land belonging to Moses Lynn. The exact location of this land was not identified aside from a description that it was that land Moses got from his father, Michael Lynn.<sup>173</sup> Later in 1810, a deed in trust was executed between Thomas A. Smith (husband to John Williams’ sister, Margaret) and Dawe for debts Smith owed to John Williams. The land held in trust was known as “Mount Pleasant,” and contained about 160 acres.<sup>174</sup> Smith was actually apprenticed to John Williams in May of 1797 to learn the job of clerk until the age of 21 years,<sup>175</sup> so perhaps the debt was remaining from that time. Keeping tabs on

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<sup>168</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>169</sup> Williams Family Papers, Private Collection

<sup>170</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 3, p. 388.

<sup>171</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 3, p. 389.

<sup>172</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Fee Book 1809, p. 52.

<sup>173</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 4, p. 153.

<sup>174</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 4, p. 274.

<sup>175</sup> Prince William County Deed Book Z, p. 106.

lands and debts in Prince William County would have had to take place when Dawe was not in Richmond.

The House of Delegates to the Virginia General Assembly included Philip D. Dawe as a member for three sessions, 1810-1811, 1811-1812 and 1812-1813.<sup>176</sup> At the time that Dawe first became a Delegate, Governor John Tyler was in office. The 1810 - 1811 session opened on December 3, 1810 and was preceded by an address given by the Governor indicating his concern for the safety of the United States in terms of maritime trade and the actions of foreign nations. He further encouraged internal improvements such as canals, roads and the development of industry. He criticized the state of education in the nation, saying, "...The present education of our country is too superficial."<sup>177</sup> After Tyler's address, the Rules and Orders for the function of the body were presented, one of which stated "No member shall absent himself from the service of the House without leave, unless he be sick and unable to attend." Based on this, it can be surmised that Philip D. Dawe remained in attendance at sessions until Friday, January 1, 1813 when he was excused from service. All of the following references related to Dawe's service are found in the Virginia General Assembly Journals 1807-1815.<sup>178</sup>

The Journals of the House of Delegates are in contrast to that which one would expect to see recorded in a governing body's business today. Numerous requests for the transportation of slaves over state lines appear side by side with petitions for divorce, requests for reimbursement for various goods and acquisition of escheated lands. Dawe does not appear to have played an influential role during his time in the House of Delegates. For the three years he was in service, he did not appear to have served on any of the standing committees, nor did he sponsor many bills, and he did not always appear on the lists of negative and affirmative voters for each bill and petition. In fact, petitions and issues from Prince William County do not feature prominently in the proceedings for the three years examined. By December 8, 1810, the House of Delegates had been in session for several days and it was reported that Prince William County was in conformance with prescribed laws as related to delegates. So, the latest Dawe arrived in Richmond for service was this date.

On December 7, 1810, an entry in the journals indicated that of the two mills owned by Prince William County's James Deneale, one was to be designated as a gristmill while the other one, apparently close by, was to be used for manufacturing. A petition dated December 10, 1810, by Zachariah Ward and others, was read to request the authorization of a manufacturing society in Occoquan. Seemingly, Prince William County was endeavoring to achieve the manufacturing goals described by Governor Tyler in his opening address to the House of Delegates.

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<sup>176</sup> Leonard, Cynthia Miller, *The General Assembly of Virginia July 30, 1619 – January 11, 1978: A Bicentennial Register of Members, General Assembly of Virginia by the Virginia State Library*, 1978.

<sup>177</sup> Virginia General Assembly Journals 1807-1815, Library of Virginia, Reel 331.

<sup>178</sup> Virginia General Assembly Journals 1807-1815, Library of Virginia, Reel 331.

Dawe served on a committee beginning on December 11, 1810 whereon it was “Ordered that leave be given to bring in a bill *To amend an act entitled an act to prevent the destruction of oysters within the Commonwealth.*” Oysters had long been a natural resource to Prince William County with its positioning along the Potomac River and its many other waterways, so this could have been a relatively important role for Dawe. In addition to manufacturing, Governor Tyler’s concerns included internal improvements. A petition for the establishment of a turnpike road from Alexandria to the Town of Occoquan was found reasonable on December 14, 1810. Another petition was submitted for the addition of two gates to land in western Prince William County along the public road leading from Dumfries to Haymarket. This petition, signed by John Maddox, dealt with escheated land that Maddox leased on the former Bristow Tract. The 7500-acre tract was often a subject of contention in the General Assembly and the Chancery Courts throughout the era.<sup>179</sup>

Many of the discussions, debates and votes in the House concerned the salaries for public servants. A recurring issue was the salary for Circuit Judges. Dawe voted in the affirmative for a \$1000 salary for Circuit Judges on December 19, 1810. The act did not pass and a second vote, this time with the proposed salary reduced to \$900, was taken on the same day. The act still did not pass and was tabled. In addition to deciding issues related to public officials outside of the General Assembly, Delegates also passed acts related to their own members. On December 21, 1810, Dawe voted in the affirmative to eject the Lee County Delegate, John McKeon, for “conduct grossly immoral, disgraceful and highly reprehensible, and as such, unworthy of the character of a representative of the people.” A subsequent order was made to elect a new delegate for Lee County. Additionally, as related to the business of counties, Dawe voted against the proposed division of Harrison County on December 28, 1810.

Domestic matters appear to have filled some of Dawe’s time during this session of the Assembly. The bill to amend the act to prevent destruction of oysters was presented on December 29, 1810. Presumably, Dawe would have been involved in this presentation. On January 25, 1811, Dawe was assigned to be part of a commission to bring in a bill related to the inspection of flour in the Town of Dumfries. Wheat and the flour produced from its grinding were of key importance to the local economies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This product’s significance was described in a later petition to the General Assembly, dated January 3, 1820, which acknowledged Dumfries prominence as a port for trade in tobacco in the past but stated, “. . . the husbandry of the country, having exchanged the culture of tobacco, for wheat, which is now the staple of produce, the great bulk of that article, raised in the country, goes either to the large milling establishment of Occoquan, or is manufactured into flour and sent to Alexandria; for it is not believed that a single wagon load of flour or other article from above Cedar Run, finds its way to Dumfries, as a market.”<sup>180</sup> This shows that the Dumfries merchants and millers were attempting to guard their business from the coming change of the location of Prince William County’s

<sup>179</sup> Virginia Calendar of State Papers, March 10, 1794, p. 63.

<sup>180</sup> Petitions to the Virginia General Assembly from Prince William County, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 14, January 3, 1820.

seat, petitions for which had begun as early as 1779.<sup>181</sup> On February 5, 1811, Dawe voted in support of a bill to prevent the destruction of sheep in the Commonwealth. This bill passed with a vote of 102 to 48.

Dawe's other focus at this time was transportation. On January 1, 1811, Maddox's petition to erect the gates on the public road leading from Dumfries to Haymarket was found reasonable. The next day, January 9, Maddox's bill was passed on its third reading. In spite of Dawe's apparent shepherding of the road improvements bills for the county, he voted against an act to improve road conditions on January 10, 1811.

On January 3, the issue of judges' salaries arose again, this time for the Court of Appeals. This was the third reading of the bill in which the salary was set at \$2500. Dawe voted in the affirmative, but the vote was 74 "yeas" to 88 "nays." Another vote was immediately taken with the salary set at \$2000 and the House passed this revised bill. On January 8, 1811, Dawe was designated as part of a committee to bring in a bill to change then names of certain counties. The Journal did not specify which counties were involved, but later he voted against changes to the State Constitution proposed by Accomack County. On February 5, 1811, Dawe voted against amending laws pertaining to the Superior Courts of Law of the Commonwealth.

The 1811 - 1812 session of the General Assembly began on December 2, 1811. The House of Delegates was faced with the extremely contentious issue of the re-chartering of the Bank of the United States. The Bank of the United States was a private institution established in 1781 as a means of coping with the huge debt from fighting the Revolutionary War. Over the twenty years of its operation, many foreign buyers had purchased shares of ownership in the bank. This alarmed American politicians. Congress was faced with the difficult decision of whether or not to re-charter the bank. The House of Representatives' vote was 65 to 64 for postponing the re-chartering while the Senate vote was a 17-17 tie that allowed the Vice President to cast the deciding vote. George Clinton, then Vice President, voted against the renewal of the bank's charter. During the time that the first Bank of the United States was in operation, states continued to charter banks of their own. When the Bank of the United States' charter expired, only these state banks served the nation. However, financing of the War of 1812 greatly weakened America's financial system. Ultimately, in 1816, the Bank of the United States was re-chartered. Before this time, state legislatures chartered many banks to meet the needs of the country.

Virginia was obviously impacted by these changes. On January 21, 1811, Dawe voted in support of the establishment of a branch of the Bank of Virginia in Lynchburg, but on January 30 voted against the incorporation of the Bank of Winchester. By February, the issue of the quality and manufacture of arms arose for the first time in the session. This appears to be a glimpse of major conflicts to come.

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<sup>181</sup> Petitions to the Virginia General Assembly from Prince William County, Library of Virginia, Reel 164, Box 210, Folder 11, October 14, 1779.

The 1811-1812 session of the General Assembly began with the announcement that James Madison was the newly elected President of the United States. In an address to the House of Delegates, Lt. Governor George William Smith discussed land issues and treaties with Chickasaw natives and expressed concerns related to preserving the militia. This again foreshadows the coming conflict of 1812. Although several petitions relevant to Prince William County were presented, the coming of the conflict known as the War of 1812 was prominent in the Journals. Other local concerns also appeared. A petition, dated December 7, 1811, from the Prince William County Overseers of the Poor, complained that funds left for their use by a Mr. Jones were misapplied and redress was being sought. The petition was found reasonable on December 14. Carr Wilson Lane's December 10, 1811 petition was for the sale of escheated lands in Dumfries, late the property of Edward Rice, deceased, to be applied to a judgment against him in the Fairfax County Courts. A petition was presented on December 11, 1811 proposing the rearrangement of the County Court Justices into classes requiring each Justice to attend at least two quarterly sessions.

The continuation of business as usual in the House of Delegates was disrupted by the inclusion of such statements in the Journals as, "Whereas the Assembly is deeply impressed with the importance of the present crisis, touching our foreign relations, and sensible of the encroachments which the great belligerent powers of Europe have been gradually and regularly making upon the rights of the people of the United States..." It was resolved that the General Assembly would support the general government. Debate over how the United States would handle the conflict was rampant. On January 8, 1812, the Delegates voted on the issue of prohibiting all attempts by any state legislature to negatively impact the federal government during the war with England. Dawe voted against any such bill, and on the following day, a discussion was held as regards Britain's redress for damages to the U.S. It was on January 11, 1812 that a vote was finally taken for the General Assembly to enact support to the federal government to declare and fight the war. Dawe voted in support of this bill. The divisive nature of the War of 1812 can be seen when the Federalists who opposed Madison's war resolution actually threatened secession. Nevertheless, Madison declared war.

With the conflict under way, the General Assembly's business resumed decisions about some more usual matters. Dawe voted in support of an act to amend laws concerning slavery on January 13, 1812. The result was that the bill was to be read a third time. The third reading of this bill took place on February 15, 1812 and Dawe voted against an amendment of the laws related to slavery. One wonders what changed his mind. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, he voted in support of an act concerning public roads. Despite these local issues, looming larger was the funding of the war and how the banks should be set up. The political debate over the re-chartering of the Bank of the United States and the role of the state banks must have been devastating in Virginia. An example of this can be seen in the Journal entry for January 14, 1812 which describes the ejection from the legislature of Richard Brent and William B. Giles for voting in favor of a renewal of the charter of the Bank of the United States against prohibitive instructions to the contrary.

Additional bills voted on by the legislature are detailed. On January 18, 1812, Dawe voted against a bill to increase the banking capital of the Commonwealth. He

subsequently voted in support of changing the terms for augmenting the banking capital of the Commonwealth. On January 25, he also voted in support of policies to establish new bank branches to be governed as those of the present Bank of Virginia. Along with this legislation related to the banks, Dawe voted in support of a bill to increase the salary of the Attorney General and on the first reading of an amendment as to how Electors would be selected for the Presidential Elections. He also voted in support of amending the Virginia penal code and against the establishment, continuation and regulation of a public guard in Richmond. On February 13, 1812, Dawe voted in support of establishing Superior Courts of Law in each county, but this bill did not pass with a vote of 32 to 108.

The bulk of the remainder of Dawe's business while in service in the House of Delegates related to the war. Votes encumbering funds for arms were taken and ledgers as to how the money was to be spent were included. On February 18, 1812, a list of the work of prisoners in the state penitentiary was included. Prisoners, both men and women, were tasked with spinning twine, making harnesses and boots, placing the heads on cut nails, producing wrought nails and serving as coopers and blacksmiths. There must have been continued debate regarding the federal authorities and the war. On February 19, 1812, it was resolved that the Assembly believed that state legislatures do not have any right to instruct U.S. Senators and the senators are not bound to obey if told what to do. Dawe was one of 103 Delegates who voted against this bill, with a mere thirteen affirmative votes.

Dawe's final session in the Assembly began on December 3, 1812, the Governor identified Prince William County as a county being most exposed to danger and it was decided it would receive direct distribution of arms. It was during this same period that a number of immigrants from Ireland requested naturalization. A bill "concerning James Deaneal" was read the second time, and on motion of Mr. Dawe, ordered to be recommitted to the same committee." Deneale was a Prince William County miller and inventor. Perhaps his mills were needed for the war effort or, alternatively, they may have been at risk due to their location along the major runs with possible access by the British?

Deneale was prominent in Dumfries for his efforts to boost the economy. First, in the 1790s, he worked to make the silted-in Quantico Creek more navigable to trade ships. By the early 1800s, Deneale invented and patented a corn kiln and an innovative threshing machine. These agricultural improvements benefitted farmers growing the newer crops of wheat and corn.<sup>182</sup> In any case, Dawe did not remain in Richmond long enough to see Deneale's bill through the legislative process. On January 1, 1813, "On motion ordered that Mr. Dawe have leave of absence from the service of this House for the remainder of the session" Dawe returned to Prince William County to assume the role of Clerk of the Court, left vacant by the death of his brother-in-law, John Williams.<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>182</sup> Crothers, Glenn A., *Agricultural Improvements and Technological Innovation in a Slave Society: The Case of Early National Northern Virginia*, University of California Press: Agricultural History, Vol. 75, Issue 2, p. 161.

<sup>183</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book 10, p. 51.

Based on his representation in the legislature, by December of 1810, Dawe was definitely residing in Prince William County. He was assessed for this year for personal property including a horse and one slave. His mother also appeared on this list in 1811, as well as a separate line item for Dawe and his brother, William, as their father's trustees. Philip D. Dawe's Land Tax assessment remained unchanged from that of 1810 through 1813. It was also during this period that his commission as Escheator came to an end, probably due to his changed role in Richmond. This was noted in a slightly later public notice that appeared in the *Alexandria Gazette* dated August 10, 1812. The notice explained that James E. Heath succeeded Dawe in this office. The Executive Papers of Governor James Barbour announced Heath's official appointment as Escheator for Prince William County.<sup>184</sup>

During this period, a major event occurred in 1811, the Richmond theatre fire. Local lore has placed Philip D. Dawe and his sister Jane as surviving victims of this disaster. It may be possible that Dawe attended the theatre in Richmond that December evening with approximately 600 others in the audience. He was serving in the General Assembly in Richmond in December of 1811. It seems far less likely that Jane Williams would have accompanied her brother. According to the 1810 Census, John Williams was head of a household that included Jane and at least seven young children. At least two other young adults and six slaves were also counted. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, few women with the responsibilities attendant to such a household could have easily left home during the holiday season to attend the theatre. Nonetheless, assuming that Jane and Philip were guests at the theatre that night in Richmond, their names do not appear in any of the accounts spawned by the calamity. Several of these accounts, including that of the *Alexandria Gazette* dated December 30, 1811, provide lists of the casualties that included Virginia Governor George W. Smith. Of course, it is not common in such accounts to include a list of the survivors. No other records documenting the survivors have been found, in spite of the publication in 2012 of the book *The Richmond Theater Fire Early America's First Great Disaster*.

The loss of the Governor is remarked upon in the Journals of the of the General Assembly.<sup>185</sup> Dated December 27, 1811, it was recorded "Resolved unanimously, That the members of the House will wear crape on the left arm for the space of thirty days, in testimony of their regard for the memory of George William Smith, Governor of the Commonwealth, and the other distinguished and respectable persons who fell victims to the dreadful conflagration in this city last night." In fact, the House was adjourned until the following Monday in memorial to the victims of the fire. Of additional note is the loss of Dumfries' son Benjamin Botts and his wife. A notice taken out by local attorney John Minor in the *Alexandria Gazette*, dated January 13, 1812 and running for many weeks thereafter, bemoans this great loss and states, "It is with peculiar satisfaction, that the subscriber adds, (by authority) that Mr. Wirt, Mt Hay, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dade, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Stanard, (whenever not engaged on the opposite side of Mr. Botts) will join him in the discharge of this duty, and extend their exertions to Mr. Bott's cases in the Court of Appeals. From the known talents of these gentlemen, added to the exertions of the Subscriber, it is confidently hoped that general satisfaction will be given to Mr. Bott's

<sup>184</sup> Executive Papers of Governor James Barbour, Library of Virginia Accession #41557, Box 2, Folder 6.

<sup>185</sup> Virginia General Assembly Journals 1807-1815, Library of Virginia, Reel 331, December 27, 1811.

clients.” Apparently, many local men, including Williams, lent a hand in closing out Bott’s business. But, at this point, Williams was not long for the world himself.

The year 1812 seems to have been a busy one for Dawe, regardless of whether he was serving as the Prince William County Delegate to the General Assembly or coping with the aftermath of the Richmond theatre fire. While engaged in settling his father’s estate and managing the related suits in Chancery stemming from the settlement, he appears to have been active with the Masons. The Lodge in Dumfries celebrated the Anniversary of Saint John the Baptist at 6pm on June 17, 1812. Hosted by his brother-in-law, John Williams, dinner and spirits were shared to mark the occasion. The meal included a variety of items such as beans, preserves for puffs, punch and toddies. Most certainly other food was offered, but the document detailing the meal, its attendees and their payment is badly damaged. As it was for his brother, William, it is humorous to note that Dawe stiffed Williams for the meal, as his name, with that of William is only of a few not marked paid.<sup>186</sup> Undoubtedly the most remarkable event for Dawe in 1812 was the death in December of his brother-in-law and mentor, John Williams.<sup>187</sup>

The Prince William County Court Order Book entry dated January 4, 1813 stated, “A Majority of the Magistrates of this County not attending according to law to appoint a Clerk of this Court to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of John Williams, late Clerk. It is ordered that Philip D. Dawe be appointed Clerk of the Court pro tempore. And it is further ordered that the Magistrates of this County be summoned to the first day of the next Court to appoint a Clerk to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of the former Clerk.”<sup>188</sup> At the next session of court, in February, Dawe was only one of several who vied for the position.<sup>189</sup>

The Court Order Book entry for February 1, 1813 stated, “The ballot being taken for a Clerk of the Court, the Commissioners reported that Philip D. Dawe had eight votes, Griffin Stith five votes, John Fox three votes, Robert Graham three votes and John Lawson one vote, from which it appears that neither of the candidates had a majority of the whole number whereupon the Court proceeded to again ballot, the results of which is as follows viz. for Philip D. Dawe thirteen votes, Griffin Stith six votes and John Fox one vote, and Philip D. Dawe having a majority of the whole number. In consequence thereof he is appointed Clerk of the Court to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of John Williams the former Clerk. He accordingly took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, the Oath for giving assurance of the fidelity to this State, the Oath of a Clerk of this Court and the Oath to suppress dueling – Then this Court adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o’clock for the purpose of receiving the final qualification of the Clerk and for the Common business of the Court.”<sup>190</sup> The following day, the Court Order book notes a bond from Dawe with James Deneale and Thomas Atwell to James Barbour,

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<sup>186</sup> Williams Family Personal Papers, Private Collection

<sup>187</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book 10, p. 51.

<sup>188</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book, 10, p. 51.

<sup>189</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book, 10, p. 52.

<sup>190</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book, 10, p. 52.

esq, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.<sup>191</sup> Oddly, although Dawe served as Clerk until his death in 1832, another such bond is not noted until September of 1821. One possible reason for this lack may be that several deed books for the period are missing, including Liber 5 and Liber 6. However, no bonds for his service as Clerk of the Court were seen in the extant Liber 4 or Liber 7.

Surprisingly, Dawe does not appear in the Personal Property Tax List for 1812 or 1813. He continued to be assessed on real estate as described above. Was he not spending much time in Prince William County? Another local legend may have its origins in this data. It has long been reported that after the death of her husband John, Jane Williams served as Clerk of the Court with her brother signing for her despite his absence from the county while he was in Richmond. Absolutely no evidence of this can be found. In fact, known samples of Jane's handwriting were compared to many of the county record books and significant similarities were not noted. The mere fact that women were not entitled to most of the rights enjoyed by gentlemen of this era makes the premise unlikely. Jane's name did appear in the Court Order and Minute Books for some quarterly sessions throughout the decade. She was paid to clean the Courthouse and provide firewood for its sessions.<sup>192</sup> Even if Jane were filling the office of Clerk for her brother, the question as to his whereabouts and activities is relevant. If he resided in Richmond, in what occupation or activities was he engaged? No proof has been found.

Several documents were found that do shed light on Philip D. Dawe's activities for the year 1813, although they were not ones related to his profession. The District Court Order Book included an entry for Dawe dated May 17, 1813. In this case, the Plaintiff, Robert H. Clement, sued Dawe for assault and battery. The case was set aside until October at which time a jury found for the Plaintiff and assessed damages of \$6.66.<sup>193</sup> In this same October session, a Grand Jury Presentment was made against Philip D. Dawe, Clerk of the County of Prince William, and for "Wm Dawe silversmith," "for unlawful gaming at cards by playing at the game of loo at the house of Francis Smith."

Francis Smith's bond to serve as constable to the Governor of Virginia is recorded for June of 1808.<sup>194</sup> Smith was also licensed to operate an ordinary from at least 1811-1815.<sup>195</sup> The Dawe boys were not the only alleged participants in the unlawful gaming at Smith's. More than fifty names are included in the list of presentments. These men returned to court on May 17, 1814 and pled not guilty. They were found guilty though, and each was fined \$20 by the Commonwealth, certainly a steep sum for that time period.<sup>196</sup> One wonders at the amusement of the Clerk of the District Court, John Lawson,<sup>197</sup> at recording these suits since he was one of Dawe's opponents in the race for Clerk of the Prince William County Court back in February.<sup>198</sup>

<sup>191</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book 10, p. 53.

<sup>192</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book, 1817, p. 572.

<sup>193</sup> Prince William County District Court Order Book, 1804-1817, p. 418, 488.

<sup>194</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 3, p. 384.

<sup>195</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County, Virginia 1805 – 1955 Businesses*, Manassas, VA, 1999.

<sup>196</sup> Prince William County District Court Order Books 1807 – 1817, p. 424.

<sup>197</sup> Prince William County District Court Order Book, 1804 – 1817, p. 418.

<sup>198</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book, 10, p. 52.

Finding the opportunity to play cards during this period must have been an important release for Dawe. These were the years of the War of 1812, when the new nation was threatened by its old nemesis and the concern that the British could sail right up Quantico Creek to Dumfries was quite real. So real, in fact, that the Prince William County Court records were moved to an undisclosed, secure location. A great deal of speculation over the actual site of the records' temporary housing can be made. What is known is that the documents were removed in-land. A letter from Dawe to the Commissioner of the Revenue in Richmond referenced this scenario stating, "December 29, 1814. Dumfries, Virginia. Mr. Auditor, The reason the within list was not sent earlier was because the records and papers in my office were removed into the County in consequence of the enemy's war approach to this place and were not brought back until some time this month – of the circumstance I appraised the late auditor, Yours respectfully, Philip D. Dawe."<sup>199</sup>

In the year 1814, Philip D. Dawe appeared on both the Personal Property Tax and Land Tax lists for Prince William County. He was accountable for himself, with no other assessed personal property. In addition, he was referenced in separate entries as trustee for his sister, Mary Hedges, who held two slaves and for Margaret and Ann Williams who held one slave each. Margaret and Ann were sister-in-laws of his sister, Jane. With the death of John Williams in 1812, it seems reasonable that Dawe would take a hand in the management of the ladies' property.

In 1815, Dawe was charged for two white males above the age of 21 years, presumably himself and another unknown man. It was not his brother, William, who was charged in his own right that year. Based on their ages in 1814, it is unlikely that this man was any of Jane's several sons including John (who later served as Clerk of the Court from 1832 to 1854), Robert, James E. or Edward. By this time, Dawe had acquired four slaves and a horse. The 1815 assessment provides a particularly interesting snapshot of personal property ownership since other items were included. Dawe was shown to own one picture, one gilt frame, one silver coffeepot and a silver teapot (the latter items presumably those from his father's estate).

Dawe's Personal Property taxes for the years 1816 and 1817 show he was accountable only for himself, three slaves and two horses. The lists for 1818 and 1819 were not legible for Dawe. As for tax on land, for the years 1814 through 1816, Philip D. was assessed on four acres along Quantico Creek purchased of Joseph Gilbert and as trustee with his brother, William, for lands of his sisters. In 1817, it appears Dawe acquired land since he was assessed on the Quantico land, two lots in Dumfries, another lot in Dumfries purchased of Adams plus the lands held in trust for his sisters. The 1818 list indicated that his land holdings remained unchanged and included the note that the two Dumfries lots were purchased of John Merchant. This remained unchanged in 1819.

Dawe's earnings as Clerk of Court enabled him to acquire land and high quality possessions. Typically, the clerk was paid for each time he copied or recorded something.

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<sup>199</sup> Loose Records, Library of Virginia, Business Records, 1814.

An example of this is seen in an account he submitted for payment on September 7, 1818.<sup>200</sup> He received \$1 each for copying eleven judgments, \$3.50 per day for attending court three times and \$1 each for copying three executions for a combined total of \$24.50. This work was done over a period of months and reflects only a small piece of the work he did over that time.

An executors bond dated June 4, 1818 obligated Dawe for settlement of the estate of Mary Ann Cave. Described above in the history of William Dawe, the identity of Mary Ann Cave is confusing. While it is certain that this Mary Ann was in no way related to Mary Ann Dawe, Cave's family has remained mystifying. Later Caves included Macon Cave who owned a general store in Gainesville.<sup>201</sup> As executor for Cave, Dawe was forced to deal with a series of lawsuits attempting to recoup outstanding debts, presumably for the business she operated. Executions for the year 1821 included those for Walter Harrison, Daniel Cole, Zacheus Holliday and Jesse E. Weems.<sup>202</sup> A minor digression is needed to further gain an understanding of a member of the Cave family. As stated before, the rights of women at this time were limited. A brief look at Mary Ann Cave's daughter, Sophia, is a great case study.

Sophia Cave was the daughter and an heir of Mary Ann Cave. In fact, in Mary Ann Cave's last will and testament, she specified a bequest to her daughter, exclusive of her husband, Charles McCaughen.<sup>203</sup> Based on several petitions for divorce made to the Virginia General Assembly, one early 19<sup>th</sup> century woman's plight is illustrated.<sup>204</sup> A few members of the Dawe/Williams clan supported her pleas. Apparently, Sophia Cave married McCaughen in 1803 when he was "...to every appearance an industrious, sober and reputable man..." and that Sophia's "...happiness was clouded sufficiently early – it fled with the industry, sobriety and reputation of her husband. Engaged in a course of unlawful, licentious and excessive pleasures at the gaming table – the tavern and at places, which her sex's delicacy would forbid your petitioner to name. Mr. McCaughen abandoned her society – wasted her means of subsistence and involved her in ruin and distress... In November 1806, he separated himself from your petitioner and remained in the town of Fredericksburg a few months, after which to wit in April 1807 he totally abandoned her nor has she since seen him."

The supporters who signed Sophia's petition for divorce from McCaughen read like a "who's who" of Dumfries – Robert Graham (Clerk of the Court 1777-1794), George Williams (tavern keeper), William Smith (husband of Margaret Williams), Joseph Gilbert (Virginia Militia Captain), merchant Timothy Bundige, Thomas Chapman (husband of Mary Williams) and John Lawson (Clerk of the District Court). After several rejections, and after repeated pleas, a bill was amended, drawn and reported, a remarkable feat for the era in which the events took place. Later, in May of 1823, Sophia's sister, Catherine R. Cave of Baltimore, deeded to her sister, Sophia W. McCaughen of Baltimore, all her

<sup>200</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, Box 1080, p. 298.

<sup>201</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County, Virginia 1805 – 1955 Businesses*, Manassas, VA, 1999.

<sup>202</sup> Prince William County Execution Book, 1820 - 1824, p. 9.

<sup>203</sup> Prince William County Will Book L, p. 215.

<sup>204</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 210, Folder 44.

rights to the estate of Thomas and Mary Ann Cave, including “a claim she has against P.D. Dawe, Adm...”<sup>205</sup>

Nearly one year after Dawe took responsibility for Cave’s estate, he executed a deed in trust for land purchased by Jesse and Mildred Ewell of Thomas Chapman. The land was comprised of two-thirds of Young’s Tract, acreage along Quantico Creek.<sup>206</sup> Based on his estate inventory, dated September 6, 1847, Ewell was a farmer since most of his personal property was comprised of livestock (Horses, cows, hogs, oxen and sheep), farm tools and agricultural equipment including a McCormick plow.<sup>207</sup> Chapman was the husband of Mary Williams, John Williams’ sister.

During this decade, a renewed initiative to move the county seat from Dumfries to a location more central in the county is illustrated by a series of petitions to the Virginia General Assembly. Justifications for this change included the fact that Dumfries was at an extreme end of the county and thus difficult to reach. And, Dumfries was no longer a viable port and center of trade because the extensive cultivation of tobacco resulted in the silting up of Quantico Creek. Westward movement of the county’s population, indeed, the nation’s population, was seen. In an 1820 petition to the General Assembly, Dawe noted “I do certify that by the last return of the Commissioner’s of the Revenue there appears to be 3018 white & black tithables” in Dumfries.<sup>208</sup>

Land speculation may have also played a role in the desire to move the county seat, as many parties with an interest in the move had already invested in lands where the new county seat would be built, on lands formerly held by Robert Bristow. The Commonwealth of Virginia failed to liquidate the 7500-acre Bristow Tract after its escheatment in 1779 because the tenants’ rights to their 99-year leases were upheld in the chancery courts.<sup>209</sup> While some tenants died or moved off the tract, through intermarriage and deed transfers, many anticipated a change of fortune as the term of their leases neared their end. Beginning with a petition dated 1801, followed by several more prior to 1816, Philip D. Dawe’s signature is notably absent from any of the pro-removal petitions. In fact, his name appeared on two petitions against removal of the court that were submitted to the General Assembly in December of 1816.<sup>210</sup> Many of Dawe’s close relatives signatures appeared along with his, including William Smith (husband of Margaret Williams and sister-in-law to Dawe’s own sister, Jane), Thomas Chapman (husband of Mary Williams and sister-in-law to Dawe’s own sister, Jane), George Williams (Dumfries tavern keeper and a Williams cousin) and Barnaby Cannon (husband of Mary Williams, the daughter of John and Jane Williams). Two future pillars of the soon to be created county seat also signed the petition against removal - Benoni Harrison (later owner of the ordinary on Tavern Square in the Town of Brentsville) and Peyton Norville (a relative of Harrison and later keeper of the ordinary on Tavern Square in the Town of

<sup>205</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p.135.

<sup>206</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 7, p. 214.

<sup>207</sup> Prince William County Will Book P, p. 424.

<sup>208</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 14.

<sup>209</sup> Virginia Calendar of State Papers, Vol. VII, 1888, p. 65.

<sup>210</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 210, Folder 110 and Folder 113.

Brentsville). In spite of these efforts against removal, it seems that change was inevitable, possibly due to the economic hardships suffered by Dumfries.

Once the Virginia General Assembly passed the 1820 act to change the place of holding courts, a meeting was held at John Maddox's Tavern to locate a site in the center of the county at which to lay off six acres of land, "...for the purpose of erecting thereon a court-house, jail and clerk's office..."<sup>211</sup> It should be noted that Maddox leased about 1000 acres of the Bristow Tract, upon which his tavern stood. Maddox stood to gain from an influx of people if the county seat were relocated near his property as he had a blacksmith shop as well as the tavern.<sup>212</sup> At the time the removal was set into motion, Dawe certified to the Commissioners of the Revenue in Richmond "...there appears to be three thousand and eighteen white and black tithables."<sup>213</sup> Simultaneous to the submission of this note on January 3, 1820, was the submission of one of the petitions against removal, although Dawe's signature was not included.<sup>214</sup>

Whether he agreed with the move or not, on December 10, 1821, Dawe submitted an account which he certified as correct for the levy of \$100 for payment to Elizabeth Cundiff, wife and heir of William Cundiff, who surveyed the land upon which the new town was to be built.<sup>215</sup> Just five days later, a petition was submitted to the Virginia General Assembly by the inhabitants of Dumfries for the creation of a Board of Trustees to establish policies for "nuisances" and associated fines to be observed in the town. William Dawe, Philip D. Dawe, George Williams, William Smith and Barnaby Cannon all signed.<sup>216</sup>

On January 23, 1822, "an act establishing a town at the court-house of the county of Prince William," was passed. This new town, Brentsville, was to be built upon fifty acres of the Bristow Tract.<sup>217</sup> Immediately prior to this, a petition for the sale of the Bristow lands surrounding the new town was submitted to the General Assembly to benefit the Literary Fund (in 1810, the Literary Fund was established for the purpose of funding schools in the Commonwealth) and to benefit the seat of justice it surrounds for improvement of the land by new owners (as opposed to tenants). Philip D. Dawe, William Dawe and George Williams all signed. Several other men also signed. One was William Claytor, builder of the new courthouse. While records that might further verify this are no longer extant, a recessed, oval plaque in the gable of the structure is inscribed with, "Prince William County Courthouse Built by William Claytor – Architect – 1822." Claytor also constructed a tavern on tavern square for which he was proprietor.<sup>218</sup> Another signer was Abraham Millan, an early Brentsville resident who would become

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<sup>211</sup> Act of the General Assembly, Chapter LXXXVII, January 20, 1820.

<sup>212</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 82.

<sup>213</sup> Virginia General Assembly Legislative Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 14.

<sup>214</sup> Virginia General Assembly Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 14.

<sup>215</sup> Virginia General Assembly Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 20.

<sup>216</sup> Virginia General Assembly Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 21.

<sup>217</sup> Robert Bristoe estate, agent's records, 1780-1822, Library of Virginia, APA 660.

<sup>218</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 364.

jailor and who was also licensed as a tavern keeper,<sup>219</sup> A third, James Fewell, was yet another early resident, businessman and Deputy Sheriff.<sup>220</sup>

William Claytor had a particular interest in the lands in and around the new town. As proprietor of the Tavern Square ordinary, he faced a serious problem. The land upon which it stood and surrounding his newly built business was not legally his. Claytor's petition, dated December 19, 1822, was submitted requesting freehold of the three acres of Tavern Square (in essence a request for the repeal of the fourth section of the act establishing the town). Signing this document along with the concerned Claytor was Barnaby Cannon (husband of Jane Williams' daughter, Mary), James Driscoll (likely the builder of the Brentsville jail on the public lot), and a collection of fellow tavern keepers including Abraham Millan, James Fewell, George Williams, William Dawe and Philip D. Dawe.<sup>221</sup> Clearly some obstacle to satisfactory title to the lot remained since on December 28, 1828 yet another petition was submitted for inclusion of the tavern lands as part of the town. The signers were James Fewell, Thomas R. Hampton (by that time proprietor of the Tavern Square ordinary<sup>222</sup> and brother-in-law to Philip D. Dawe), Philip D. Dawe and his nephews, John and Robert Williams.<sup>223</sup>

During the time up to and immediately after the removal of the county seat from Dumfries to Brentsville, Dawe's land holdings below Cedar Run remained unchanged until 1831 when he was granted 73 acres of marsh.<sup>224</sup> Above Cedar Run, the new town of Brentsville was being established as the survey plat depicted streets and lots which were to be sold by the town's newly appointed trustees.<sup>225</sup> The earliest deeds recorded were sold in 1823.<sup>226</sup> Dawe became a purchaser of lots in the new town.<sup>227</sup>

An exact date of Dawe's departure from Dumfries to Brentsville is difficult to pin point. For the years 1820 and 1822, he was included on the Personal Property Tax Lists as residing Below the Run (in Dumfries). In 1822, he was counted as a white male above 21 years and owner of one slave and two horses. In 1823 he owned two slaves but no horses. Dawe actually purchased a slave known as Gerry on March 5, 1821 at a Sheriff's auction at the courthouse. The date of this purchase took place in Dumfries, since the first court had not been held at Brentsville yet. Gerry was sold to satisfy his former owner, William Nelson's, debts. Dawe was the highest bidder at \$250.<sup>228</sup>

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<sup>219</sup> Virginia General Assembly Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 22.

<sup>220</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, Clerk's Loose Papers, Volume I, Selected Transcripts 1741 – 1826. Manassas, VA: 2004.

<sup>221</sup> Virginia General Assembly Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 23.

<sup>222</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 364.

<sup>223</sup> Virginia General Assembly Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 46.

<sup>224</sup> Prince William County Land Tax records, 1831.

<sup>225</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p. 348.

<sup>226</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p. 60.

<sup>227</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p. 69.

<sup>228</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 7, p. 575.

1821 was the next year since his initial taking of office in 1813, that Dawe's bond for obligations as Clerk can be documented.<sup>229</sup> From September 21, 1821, there is a bond for each year he served, until his death in 1832, after which the bond of Dawe's nephew, John Williams, was recorded. Only a single bond was located for the previous Clerk, John Williams, who served from 1795 until his death in 1812. No explanation for this has been found.

The early 1820s were busy for the court in which he served as Clerk but also for Dawe, the citizen. The Execution Book for 1820 – 1824 holds data for several suits in which Dawe was personally involved. P.D. Dawe, Executor of Jacob Merchant, deceased v. Lewis Dickenson and Francis Jackson was recorded on June 15, 1821.<sup>230</sup> This suit involved the substantial debt of \$154.64. The Sheriff's note indicated the debt was satisfied and the amount paid to Barnaby Cannon. Cannon was the husband of Dawe's niece, Mary Williams. Dawe worked throughout the year to recover debts owed to Mary Ann Cave. Another suit for debt, Dawe v. Daniel Foster and John Linton was recorded on January 7, 1822.<sup>231</sup> Later, in 1823, cases continued from 1821 were cited for Dawe v. Walter Harrison<sup>232</sup> and yet another against William R. Chapman, administrator of James Hayes, deceased.<sup>233</sup> The former case did not result in payment as the book recoded "no property found," while the latter was ultimately settled between Dawe and the administrator.

Although the new courthouse was in use by 1822, possibly as early as July since there is proof the jail was in use at that time,<sup>234</sup> it appears Dawe was assessed for Personal Property Below the Run in 1823. On February 20, 1822, Dawe, along with Peyton Norville, John W. Williams (son of tavern keeper George Williams) and John Gibson transacted a deed to Mary Deneale for approximately twenty acres of land along Quantico Creek that included a water gristmill and a sawmill.<sup>235</sup> Was he divesting himself of lands Below the Run? It can not be determined for certain if Dawe was assessed for his personal property Above or Below the Run in 1824 as a single list not distinguishing the two tax districts was compiled. In that year, Dawe was noted to own one slave, possibly Gerry, and two horses in the Personal Property Tax records. The 1825 list is largely illegible. Finally, in 1826, Dawe is clearly assessed for property owned Above the Run. Interestingly, the entry included "Philip D. Dawe & Nephew," counting two white males above 21 years, five slaves, three horses, one stud horse and three carriages. Perhaps the horses and carriages were needed for frequent travel between Dumfries and Brentsville as the transition of the county seat between the two locations occurred.

Since Dawe was clearly living in Brentsville by 1826, the question of the exact location of his residence must be explored. The living arrangements of the Dawe and Williams families became extremely complex at this point. The 1820 Federal Census did not

<sup>229</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 8, p. 115.

<sup>230</sup> Prince William County Executions Book 1820 – 1824, p. 9.

<sup>231</sup> Prince William County Executions Book 1820 – 1824, p. 52.

<sup>232</sup> Prince William County Executions Book 1820 – 1824, p. 104.

<sup>233</sup> Prince William County Executions Book 1820 – 1824, p. 140.

<sup>234</sup> Virginia General Assembly Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 25.

<sup>235</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 8, p. 325.

include Philip D. Dawe. Although both his brother and mother were counted as heads of household, neither record includes a male of Dawe's age. It seems likely he was residing in Dumfries with his sister, Jane, at that time. The census counted Jane as the head of household, which included two white boys below the age of ten years, one white male between the age of sixteen to twenty-six years and one white male twenty-six to forty-five years old. This latter man was probably Dawe. Since John Williams (Jane's son) was counted as head of household himself, the man aged sixteen to twenty-six years living with Jane may have been her son Robert or her son-in-law Robert Lipscomb.

Robert Williams was married to Lucy Ann Thornton who would account for one of the two white females included in Jane's household whose ages were sixteen to twenty-six years. The other woman was probably Jane's daughter Margaret who was unwed at this point. The two young boys and an additional white female less than ten years old could have been some of Robert and Lucy's seven children. Alternatively, Robert Lipscomb's family could have resided with Jane. Married to Jane's daughter, Anne, the Lipscombs had at least ten children. Jane's household also included eleven slaves. It is certain that the family residing with Jane was not that of her son, John. In 1820, John William's household included John, his wife, Jane E.L. Shaw, one unidentified woman more than forty-five years (possibly Jane Shaw's mother?) and an additional white male aged sixteen to twenty-six years. This last man may have been John's brother James E. Williams who did not appear in the Prince William County land or personal property tax records until later. No slaves were counted for John Williams in 1820.

Regardless of his living arrangements, at least Dawe's work environment was described in the records. The newly constructed Clerk's Office in Brentsville was 26' X 16 feet, with the walls of the foundation two feet thick and of stone. The walls above ground were 22-1/2" thick and built of brick. The roof was slate.<sup>236</sup> This structure was designed to be "fireproof" or as much so as the technology of that time could manage. The survey plat of the public square included in Prince William County Deed Book 8, p. 481 depicts this structure, marked "office," dating to November 30, 1822.

By the very nature of the job, county clerks amassed huge quantities of loose papers in addition to caring for and adding to many books recording deeds, wills, fees, etc. and they must also copy and make new laws available to the public. Early on, much of these records were haphazardly stored in jury rooms, courthouse storerooms, and even in the Clerk's residence. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, book presses were in use for the storage of the myriad records generated by the business of the court.<sup>237</sup> Better organization of the records was needed, especially when court was in session each quarter.

In general, court days in town can almost be likened to a three-ring circus. Large numbers of people with court business and their friends and family arrived in town for the session. Public auctions of the property of debtors and of slaves would take place. Public punishments could be viewed. The taverns would be filled with a party-like atmosphere.

<sup>236</sup> *Palladian of Liberty*, Volume IV, No. 25, p. 1, September 15, 1820, Warrenton/Fauquier County.

<sup>237</sup> Lounsbury, Carl R., *The Courthouses of Early Virginia: An Architectural History*, Charlottesville: University Press, 2005.

Throughout this, the clerk of the court would be set up in a convenient place to provide the services of scheduling cases on the court docket, recording contracts, posting bonds and collecting and recoding documents such as wills and deeds that were returned to the court.<sup>238</sup> Every one of these transactions were recorded in the Clerk's Fee Book, as the Clerk charged a fee of each person who had business with the county. This was the lucrative side of the Clerk's position. In a review of original documents, many contain a note for the fee the Clerk charged. In Brentsville, Dawe would have maintained his list of fees for all transactions, recording the necessary information in the record books and filing returned papers (now often referred to as "loose papers") in order to earn his pay. One difference between Dawe and many other clerks is that Dawe was engaged in another business in addition to serving as Clerk.

The Prince William County Surveyor, Thomas Nelson, created several plats of Brentsville's public lot and the adjacent tavern square. In the earliest, dated May 1821, there is merely the outline of the public lot and tavern square.<sup>239</sup> A later plat, dated November 22, 1822, shows these newly created lots and the town's new streets; Main, Center, Bristow, Providence and Hooe. On the public lot, the "gaol, C.H. and office" are drawn. Tavern square holds what appears to be a square structure labeled "tavern," and three additional ones marked "outhouses."<sup>240</sup>

Two additional plats that were drawn are nearly the same. Both bear the date March 11, 1825. One of these was found in the Prince William County Plat Book,<sup>241</sup> and features the public buildings and one structure labeled "Hampton's" on Tavern Square. This was the tavern built by Claytor (also builder of the new courthouse) and at this time operated by Dawe's brother-in-law, Thomas R. Hampton. On the opposite side of Main Street and slightly to the south of the jail, this plat included a building marked "Dawe's." The other plat, bearing the same date, was recorded in Deed Book 10.<sup>242</sup> It appears to be the most detailed of any of the early Brentsville plats as it includes three structures on the opposite side of the street from the public lot. A building labeled "Smith's House" was included on the southwest end of the town. Two buildings were included opposite the public lot and slightly to the south of the jail, Millan's and Dawe's. The latter likely represents the building presently known as "The White House."

Details about "Smith's House" on the map are unclear. The transfer of leases from Bristow Tract tenants to new property owners in what became the Town of Brentsville was documented by several deeds. Charles Atwell transferred 160.5 acres on Broad Run to John Williams. This land was adjacent to Hugh Atwell's lands and also those of John Gibson (formerly Hutchinson's lands) and William Smith's (brother-in-law to John Williams). Thomas Atwell purchased 100 acres of it was the land from Redmond Grigsby, while an additional 60.5 acres was purchased by Thomas Atwell from Tyler.<sup>243</sup>

<sup>238</sup> (Lounsbury, Carl R., *The Courthouses of Early Virginia: An Architectural History*, Charlottesville: University Press, 2005).

<sup>239</sup> Prince William County Plat Book, unnumbered page following page 90.

<sup>240</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 8, p. 481.

<sup>241</sup> Prince William County Plat Book, p. 114.

<sup>242</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 26.

<sup>243</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 3, p. 286.

Colonel Thomas Atwell was a farmer. His estate inventory included 20 slaves, household goods, a wagon, extensive livestock and farm tools.<sup>244</sup> Deeded on May 22, 1807, Atwell's 100 acres of land was on or near Bristow lots 26, 27, unleased 1, 2 and 6. Williams later deeded it to Thomas Atwell Smith in 1810.<sup>245</sup> He was the grandson of Thomas and Ann Atwell by their daughter Nancy Atwell Smith.<sup>246</sup> Smith subsequently placed the land in trust with Philip D. Dawe.<sup>247</sup>

The possibility of Dawe having connections in the Brentsville area would give him an interest in relocating the courthouse there and also would give him a leg up on competition for money-making opportunities like that of running a public house. Certainly, any building that pre-dated the creation of the town would be of interest to investors and residents planning to relocate with the public buildings. This begs the question, what buildings may already have been constructed prior to 1822?

The "White House," a Federal-style, brick structure, still stands on Lot #9, just across the street from the jail in Brentsville. Every source consulted states the house was built in 1822. Federal-style architecture was quite common in the area but was more prevalent between 1785 and 1815, so if the house was built in 1822, this was near the end of this building style's popularity. The interior of the house is comprised of carved wood mantels, moldings, chair rails, cupboards and built-in shelving. Several historical surveys of the house have described these in detail, remarking on their fine quality and implying that they took some time to craft. Yet, the house appears on even the earliest plat surveyed for Brentsville. How could it have been constructed so quickly? Perhaps it was built in phases? Or, is it possible the house pre-dates the town? There is evidence to support this supposition.

The land from which Brentsville Lots #9-12 were surveyed was originally part of the Bristow Tract. In fact, notes by estate agent George W. Macrae even indicate, "It appears also that Capt. E. [Hancock Eustace, one of the Bristow Tract agents] deducted 50 pounds for that part of Purcell's lot taken off by the town of Brentsville."<sup>248</sup> Prior to the existence of the Town of Brentsville, the Purcells were tenants on Bristow Tract lots #26 and #27. It was a portion of this very land that was taken away from them to create the town. It is thus possible that the Purcells built the home before 1820.

James Purcell was the tenant on the lots at the time of Brentsville's establishment. The records of his family's tenancy on the Bristow Tract extend back as far as 1779.<sup>249</sup> The total acreage for the two lots was 228. That is enough land to diminish claims that the "White House" was built by the Purcells when they had so many locations from which to choose. However, in viewing the topography and locations of the nearby runs, the house

<sup>244</sup> Prince William County Will Book G, p. 441.

<sup>245</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 4, p. 272.

<sup>246</sup> Prince William County Will Book H, p. 494.

<sup>247</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 4, p. 274.

<sup>248</sup> Library of Virginia, Robert Bristoe estate, agent's records, 1780-1822, APA 660.

<sup>249</sup> Prince William County Land Causes 1754 – 1811, March 10, 1798, p 98.

is built at a high point much less likely to flood. This would be essential, since even in modern times, local farmers chat about the destructive flooding around this area. Additionally, maps of this area show that the main road, in the past and today, crosses through the Purcell's lots on the Bristow Tract.

Building the house nearer to the road for easier transport of goods and products might be something the Purcell's wished to do. The Purcells were even "Overseers of the Roads" in 1817 from the Old Chappel to Butler's Ford on Cedar Run.<sup>250</sup> Under "Roads' tithables allotted" the entry read "We the undersigned in obedience to an order of the worshipful Court of Prince William County dated the first day of December 1817 – to us directed have met at the time and place therein named and have allotted the Labourers on Lands to work on the several Roads..." One other document of possible interest regarding the Purcell's building of the "White House" is found in the Prince William County Courthouse Archives in Loose Papers.<sup>251</sup> In this case, James Purcell complained of Walter Warder who apparently stole a horse and bag of meal valuing \$100 in 1818. The house would more likely have been near the road for this type of crime that would require rapid escape after the deed was done. In spite of the possibility that the house was built earlier by tenants of the Bristow Tract, this has never been seriously researched or published.

Local tales ubiquitously claim that it was Jane Williams who built the house in 1822, upon the death of her husband when she had assumed the duties of clerk, with Dawe signing for her. Unlikely for a variety of reasons, the documentary evidence indicates that Jane was assessed for lands in Dumfries, not Brentsville, prior to 1824 and that Lot #9 in Brentsville was purchased by Dawe in 1823.<sup>252</sup> Jane was not assessed for any land in Brentsville until her 1825 purchase of lot #68.<sup>253</sup> She is further not assessed for land adjacent to or associated with lots #9-12 (those held by Dawe) until 1838, six years after his death. The earliest plats of the town have the structure associated with her family labeled "Dawes." As far as Jane serving as Clerk, comparisons of the extant documents signed by the Clerk during the period from Williams' death in 1813 till Dawe's death in 1832 provide no evidence that Jane was serving for her brother. In fact, the only mentions in the Court Order Books of this period were for Jane Williams being paid to clean the courthouse and furnish it with firewood.<sup>254</sup>

One other local story about the White House is that it was constructed of bricks brought from England as ballast on ships engaged in the Trans-Atlantic trade. This seems highly unlikely when you consider the 19<sup>th</sup> century date of construction. It is only likely if the house was built much earlier. Earlier buildings most certainly would have made use of ballast bricks, but by the 1800s, as far in-land as Brentsville and with eleven slaves to assist in the work of making bricks, this is implausible. Other buildings on the lot were added as the town grew.

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<sup>250</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 7, p. 25.

<sup>251</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, 1818, Box 1080, p. 300.

<sup>252</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p. 68.

<sup>253</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 241.

<sup>254</sup> Prince William County Court Order Book 1817, p. 572.

As the earliest lots began to sell in Brentsville, Dawe purchased Lots #s 9 & 10 on April 8, 1823.<sup>255</sup> In 1824 and 1825, he was assessed on the land and improvements made to these lots. The Land Tax records noted Dawe's assessment on two lots purchased of the Brentsville Commissioners with the value of the improvements at \$1500 and the value of the land and improvements at \$2000. This is at odds with the proper assessment of \$50 per lot. Why was Dawe assessed on an additional \$400 for the land? Since it was for the purpose of expanding the prison bounds to comply with state laws that the 1825 plat was even created, could it have something to do with the expansion of the prison bounds to include land in and along Main? No explanation has been found. In addition to acquiring new land in 1824, it was a notable year for Dawe, as he married.

Surprisingly, after forty-two years of bachelorhood, Dawe married Patsy Wynn Pickett on December 21, 1824. The *Alexandria Gazette* reported on January 25, 1825, on page 3, that "...on 21<sup>st</sup> December last, by the Reverend Mr. Williamson, P.D. Dawe, Esq., Clerk of Prince William County Court, to Miss Patty [sic] W. Pickett, of Fauquier County."

Patsy was born February 27, 1801 to James Sanford Pickett and Elizabeth Metcalf of Fauquier County. Her father was a Justice of the Peace in Fauquier County, VA.<sup>256</sup> Patsy's sister, Eliza Metcalf Pickett was married to Thomas R. Hampton the previous year.<sup>257</sup> Hampton was then the proprietor of several Brentsville businesses including a blacksmith shop and the ordinary on Tavern Square. Perhaps Patsy and Philip D. met when she was visiting her sister in the small town? Or maybe she met Dawe because her father served as Justice of the Peace for Fauquier County and they shared court matters? There could even be a connection between the Pickett mentioned in the 1809-1810 Prince William County Land Tax assessment for Mary Ann Dawe/Philip Dawe's estate when it noted "a lot where Pickett lives?" Regardless, at the time of her marriage, apparently Patsy's father loaned her a slave, Maria, who resided with the Dawes until Philip D. Dawe's death.

The residence of the newlywed Patsy, and her loaned slave, Maria, is not certain. The sizable building on Lot #'s 9 & 10 would have accommodated the couple, who shared the space with their nephew, most possibly Robert Williams and his family, who were later thought to live there. In 1825, Dawe purchased an additional lot from Russell Wiggenton. At the time, the lot was unimproved.<sup>258</sup> In April of the same year, Dawe purchased part of Lot #'s 11 & 12 also from Wiggenton and his partner, Abraham Millan.<sup>259</sup> According to local family history, Millan was married to Wiggenton's sister.<sup>260</sup> Finally, in July, Dawe acquired Square 17, comprised of Lot #'s 61, 62, 63 & 64.<sup>261</sup> The Land Tax records indicate Dawe's portions of Lot #11 & #12 were unimproved, while Square 17 was valued at \$120. Based on the rate of \$50 per lot, this assessment does not appear to make

<sup>255</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p.68.

<sup>256</sup> Fauquier County Chancery Court Records, 1847-032.

<sup>257</sup> Personal Ancestral Files of Jim Hughes.

<sup>258</sup> Prince William County Land Tax books.

<sup>259</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 93.

<sup>260</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wd9t/5162.html>

<sup>261</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 90.

sense any more than the assessment for Lot #s 9 and 10. It is known that a building did exist on part of Lot #s 11 and 12, the one that was labeled “Millan’s” on the plat in Deed Book 10.<sup>262</sup>

Abraham Millan’s petition to the Virginia General Assembly, as jailor of the County of Prince William, could be interpreted as evidence of his proprietorship of an ordinary on Lot # 11. Millan was granted an ordinary license as early as 1823 and through part of 1825.<sup>263</sup> Millan’s petition related to a runaway slave named Tom Winslow who was confined to the Brentsville jail on July 1, 1822. Tom remained in the jail until the sheriff sold him on August 15, 1823. Millan “dietet” the man for 412 days and expected payment of \$78.35. For some reason, the proceeds of Tom’s sale were not used to reimburse Millan, resulting in the petition and Philip D. Dawe’s accompanying certification to the Auditor of Public Accounts for the amount owed.<sup>264</sup> It is likely that Millan’s ordinary provided inmates of the Brentsville jail with food during their confinement since it was directly across Main Street. And, Millan would have profited from any such arrangement.

If indeed Millan operated an ordinary in the structure on Lot # 11, then it is possible that a Dawe/Williams’ enterprise were doing likewise in the building on Lot # 9, based on tavern license records. However, inconsistencies between the various plats drawn of the town and irregularities in the land tax records make this part of the story mere supposition. The Plat Book for Prince William County shows an unmarked structure, presumably Millan’s, at the corner of a lot directly across from the jail and southwest of Providence Street.<sup>265</sup> The structure marked “Dawe” is seen in the southeast corner of lot #9. When this plat is compared to the one appearing in Deed Book 10, Millan’s is clearly labeled as lot #11, located southeast of Providence Street.<sup>266</sup> In this second rendering, the building labeled “Dawe’s” is in the southwest corner of lot #9 and possibly infringing on the adjacent lot #11. Obviously, inconsistencies in the drawing/redrawing of the surveys in the county record books can occur. But if you look at the deed for Dawe’s purchase of parts of Lots #11 and #12, it seems likely Dawe’s purchase of 37’ of Lots #11 & #12 was needed to accommodate the fact that the “White House” actually straddles the lot lines. Was the house built prior to the laying out of the town? Or, did Dawe, in the race to have his house built before the removal of the county seat from Dumfries make an error in its build location? Further confusing this is the Prince William Land Tax records.

Dawe purchased two lots, #9 and #10, from the Brentsville Commissioners in 1823.<sup>267</sup> This is confirmed by the Prince William County Fee Book note of May 1823 that his deed was recorded.<sup>268</sup> He was first assessed land taxes on this newly purchased real estate in 1824. Brentsville lots at that time were assessed at \$50 per lot for the land. Assessments were comprised of two numerical figures; first, the value of improvements

<sup>262</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 26.

<sup>263</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County, Virginia 1805 – 1955 Businesses*, Manassas, VA, 1999.

<sup>264</sup> Virginia General Assembly Petitions, Library of Virginia, Reel 165, Box 211, Folder 25.

<sup>265</sup> Prince William County Plat Book, p. 114.

<sup>266</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 26.

<sup>267</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p. 68.

<sup>268</sup> Prince William County Fee Book, 1823, p. 95.

or structures such as houses, stables, privies, slave quarters and others associated with the function of the household and second, the value of the improvements added to the value of the land itself. Dawe's assessment for "2 lots of Commissioners" in 1824 was \$1500/\$2000 as recorded on the Prince William County Land Tax records. This indicates there was significant improvements, perhaps the substantial "White House." However, for some unexplainable reason, he was paying \$400 too much for only two lots of land. Note, although Dawe's deed shows that he purchased lots #9 and #10, the tax records only state "2 lots." In this same year, Jane Williams was charged for a tavern license in Brentsville.<sup>269</sup>

In 1825, Dawe's tax assessment remained the same. In April of 1825, Dawe purchased the parts of lots #11 and #12. The Prince William County Land Tax records for 1826 note this was purchased "of Wiggenton" with an assessment of \$0/\$100. Why was he assessed the full amount for 37' of the lots? Also in 1826, the records show Dawe was assessed for his two original lots but for \$1800/\$2000 with the notation "new buildings added." Note that the value of improvements increased and the value of the land was only assessed at double the \$50 per lot rate, as opposed to five times that in 1824. There is no explanation for this. By 1827, more buildings were added and Dawe's assessment for his two lots was \$2800/\$3000. The parts of lots #11 and #12 remained at \$0/\$100. These assessments remained the same in 1828 and 1829.

Although Dawe obtained Parts of Lots #11 and #12, the other portion of Lot #12 was held by James Fewell, who had purchased it in 1825.<sup>270</sup> Fewell paid fees for a tavern in that year and several subsequent years.<sup>271</sup> While the location of Lots #11 and #12, directly across the street from the Courthouse, was ideal for such a business, just how many taverns were needed in the Town of Brentsville? There were at least several others, including that on Tavern Square, possibly Smith's, and the Dawe/Williams ordinary. By 1834, Fewell sold his share in Lot #12 to Margaret Waggoner.<sup>272</sup> Waggoner's license to operate the tavern on Lot #12 was transferred to her from a man named Knight in 1835.<sup>273</sup> The Fee Bok for 1836 indicates a William Knight was serving as agent at this time, possibly for Fewell.<sup>274</sup> Apparently, Fewell was not even operating the tavern on his own land, but rather operated the Tavern Square enterprise instead. This is documented in the County deed books.<sup>275</sup> Waggoner only held her part of Lot #12 briefly, as its sale to another local Brentsville businessman, Basil Brawner, occurred in November of 1836.<sup>276</sup>

Competition in the tavern business in Brentsville must have been quite stiff. Fewell was noted to have purchased furniture and goods for his tavern(s) in 1837, including "kitchen furniture," five beds, Liverpool ware, stoneware and liquor (champagne, whiskey,

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<sup>269</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Business Licenses 1806 - 1899*, 1999.

<sup>270</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 154.

<sup>271</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Business Licenses 1806 - 1899*, 1999.

<sup>272</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 13, p. 391.

<sup>273</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Business Licenses 1806 - 1899*, 1999.

<sup>274</sup> Prince William County Fee Books 1836 – 1837, p. 109.

<sup>275</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 13, p. 345.

<sup>276</sup> Prince William County Land Records, p. 412.

etc.).<sup>277</sup> A better look at what goods and services a tavern in the town offered can be seen in an account for tavern fare for the year 1838. James Fewell's account to Margaret Waggoner for sundry purchases from January through December includes lodging, stabling/feed for horses, breakfasts, lunches, dinners and rounds of drinks. The latter are described as quarts of whiskey, decanters of whiskey, wine, punch and ticklers.<sup>278</sup>

With so much activity on Lots #11 and #12, the actual lots or portions of lots in Brentsville and the inconsistencies in the land taxes charged to Philip D. Dawe for the land remains a mystery. Possible explanations include that Dawe was involved in some kind of scam or illegal activity. This is highly unlikely considering the public position he held. Another possibility is that the 1822 plan for the town of Brentsville<sup>279</sup> was drawn incorrectly and in the race to establish himself at the new county seat, Dawe built on land that was not his. Once the prison bounds were corrected to be in accordance of state law, Dawe had to purchase additional partial lots to accommodate the location of his building(s). Yet another explanation is that the records that clarify the situation are lost but it may have been that there was a partial lease on Dawe's land by the county for its use in court related activities, at least until construction of the public buildings could be completed. Finally, the earlier hypothesis that the White House was built prior to the laying out of the town is possible.

The local tale of Jane Williams building the White House, the structure that was built on Dawe's land that may have required additional land purchases, does not pan out. In the 1820 Federal census, Jane is counted as head of household whereas Dawe is not listed at all. Jane's household included herself, two white males 0 – 10 years of age, a white male 16 – 26 years of age, a white male 26 – 45 years of age, a white female less than 10 years old and two white females 16 – 26 years of age. Dawe's nephew, John Williams is also counted as a head of household. The land and personal property tax records for 1820 - 1823 indicate they all resided below the run, in Dumfries. Dawe purchased Brentsville Lots #9 – 10 in 1823.<sup>280</sup> At this time, Millan, the jailor, had a tavern license and appears to have owned a structure on Lot #11, directly across from the jail.<sup>281</sup> By 1825, another structure appears, straddling Lot #11 and adjacent Lot #9 and is labeled "Dawe's."<sup>282</sup> Was this structure the White House? In April of 1825, Dawe purchased parts of Lot #11-12 from Russell Wiggenton and his partner Abraham Millan.<sup>283</sup> Also in 1825, Millan was charged for his tavern license for only part of the year and Jane Dawe acquired a tavern license for the months of January through May.<sup>284</sup> From this, it seems that the structure marked "Dawe's" was the White House and the structure marked "Millan's" was now on land that Dawe purchased. Jane's acquisition of a tavern license may indicate she took over the tavern operation of Millan at that time. Additionally in 1825, Jane purchased

<sup>277</sup> Prince William County Land Records, p. 436.

<sup>278</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose papers, Judgments, 1838.

<sup>279</sup> Prince William County Plat Book p. 114.

<sup>280</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 9, p. 68.

<sup>281</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 26.

<sup>282</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 26.

<sup>283</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 93.

<sup>284</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Business Licenses 1806 - 1899*, 1999.

Brentsville Lot #68.<sup>285</sup> She retained the lot for many years but did not build on it as recorded in the Prince William County Land Tax records. Finally, on July 4, 1825, Dawe purchased Square 17, comprised of Brentsville Lot #'s 61, 62, 63 & 64 from Thomas Nelson.<sup>286</sup>

Jane Williams retained the tavern license for the year 1826 making it likely she ran the ordinary.<sup>287</sup> Her son, John Williams also held a tavern license for this year. It is not known where his operation was located, as he does not appear on the Land Tax records or as owner of any lands in Brentsville. Could he have been operating one of the family ordinaries still in Dumfries? In this same year, Dawe purchased Brentsville Lot #7 from Gordon Allison.<sup>288</sup> The Land Tax records indicate Dawe's portions of Lot #11 & #12 were unimproved, while Square 17 was valued at \$120. Based on the rate of \$50 per lot, this assessment does not seem to make sense any more than the assessment for Lot #s 9 and 10. The lots on Square 17 in Brentsville are where he and Patsy moved to have a residence of their own.

In 1827, Jane did not hold a tavern license, while her son, John did.<sup>289</sup> And, in 1828, neither Williams paid the fee for a tavern license.<sup>290</sup> Dawe purchased Brentsville Lot #54 in 1829 from his brother-in-law and the former tavern Square tavern keep Thomas R. Hampton.<sup>291</sup> Jane held a tavern license for 1829 – 1832. Her operation of an ordinary is confirmed in the Clerk's Loose Papers in 1829, when it states a deposition of William B. Tyler was to be taken, "...at the Tavern kept by Mrs. Jane Williams in the Town of Brentsville."<sup>292</sup> Records for tavern licenses do not include any Williams holding such a license after 1832. Meanwhile, a major change occurred in 1830. Dawe sold Brentsville Lot #7 to his nephew, John Williams.<sup>293</sup> At that time, there were no improvements to the lot as shown by Prince William County Land Tax records.

John Williams and his wife, Jane E. L. Shaw, had begun having their nine children as early as 1828. They built a house on Lot #7, that by 1833 was valued at \$450 with the note in the Land Tax records, "new building added." By 1836, the value of the improvements was shown to increase to \$950. Williams and his family remained in the house until 1853 when he sold it after the death of his wife in childbirth.<sup>294</sup>

While these other family events were taking place, the value of Brentsville Lots # 9, 10, 11, and 12 become more of a mystery. The assessments for Dawe's Lots #9-10 increased

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<sup>285</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 241.

<sup>286</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 90.

<sup>287</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Business Licenses 1806 - 1899*, 1999.

<sup>288</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10 p. 436.

<sup>289</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Business Licenses 1806 - 1899*, 1999.

<sup>290</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Business Licenses 1806 - 1899*, 1999.

<sup>291</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 11, p. 416.

<sup>292</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia Clerk's Loose Papers, Volume I, Selected Transcripts 1741 – 1826*, Manassas, VA: 2004, p. 85.

<sup>293</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 12, p. 177.

<sup>294</sup> Virginia Bureau of Vital Statistics Microfilm, 1873 Page: 1 Line: 14.

in value from 1825 (\$1800/\$2000) to 1827 – 1829 (\$2800/\$3000). Notes accompanying the Land Tax assessments include, “new buildings added,” and “Buildings added.” Then, suddenly, in 1830 Lots #9 – 10 are not included in the Prince William County Land Tax records! Dawe (or Dawe’s estate after his death) continued to pay on Lots #11 – 12 for the same amount he had been assessed for #9 – 10 until 1851, when Jane Williams is assessed for Lot’s 9 – 10 and subsequently Lots #11 – 12 do not appear in the records! No explanation can be found for this. It must somehow be related to the inconsistent charge of land tax on the lots, which was never consistent with that of other lots in Brentsville. Somehow, Dawe’s four lots on Square 4 in the Town were assessed differently. Perhaps this was due to their use by the Clerk of the Court for court business. No explanation for this irregularity can be made at this time.

Summarizing the Dawe and Williams domestic arrangements from all of this makes it seem likely that prior to 1824, Dawe and Jane remained in Dumfries, at which time they took up residence at the White House, while operating the tavern next door. Dawe married Pasty Wynn Picket in 1824 and continued to share the residence, until in 1826 when they moved to their home on Lots #61 - 64. By 1827, it seems that John Williams and his growing family had joined Jane in the White House. When John Williams house on Lot #7 was constructed by 1833, he moved his family there (it was right next door). The 1830 Federal Census shows Jane as head of household, Dawe along with his nephew Robert Williams as co-heads of household and John Williams as head of household.

Robert Williams was married to Lucy Ann Thornton by about 1808. They had seven children. Robert does not appear on any of the county’s Land Tax Records, nor in any of the deed books as a landholder. He, apparently, lived with first, his uncle and then his mother until his death in 1848, however, Robert Williams apparently was known to have had his own residence in Brentsville in 1836. Records for the case *Commonwealth v. Abraham*, a slave date to December 22, 1836. After Abraham’s alleged attack on a woman named Mary Jane Hurdle, witnesses were deposed. William Dickenson, who supposedly assisted in the slave’s arrest, stated Abraham was apprehended at “...the House of Robert Williams near Brentsville.”<sup>295</sup>

There are several possible interpretations for this brief statement. The word “House” is capitalized, possibly indicative of the structure’s use as a tavern. Yet, there is no recording of tavern license purchased by Robert Williams for this period. Next, is the use of the description “near Brentsville.” Properties with structures owned by both Dawe and the Williams clan were IN Brentsville. Did Robert possess land with a house outside of the Town itself? Land Tax records for the County do not indicate this possibility. Further description of Robert’s house is made in another deposition in the case. James H. Reid, a Brentsville resident and businessman, described his part in the apprehension of Abraham at Robert Williams’, stating, “... entered said house, passed through the front room into a shed room...” and further indicated “...that the house of Mr. Robert Williams above

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<sup>295</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, Prince William County Virginia Clerk’s Loose Papers, Volume I, Selected Transcripts 1741 – 1826, Manassas, VA: 2004, p. 171-177.

referenced to. Viz, in the occupancy of James W. Driscoll as his tenant.”<sup>296</sup> This merely serves to further muddy the waters of the large family’s real estate!

The mysteries of Dawe’s property may never be solved, although a chancery case after his death clarifies the situation slightly. While purchasing property, building houses and getting married, Dawe still had the job of Clerk of the Court to perform. A financial statement for Dawe’s work as clerk reveals some of his duties. The document read, “Prince William County to Philip D. Dawe of sadi County – February 1826 To making off 74 extracts of deeds &c. for Commonwealth at 35 cents \$25.90 – To copying and setting up the law concerning unloading of ballast &c. \$2.00 – To cash paid Mr. Fitzwhylson for a deed book got by Mr. Sinclair last winter \$10.00 for a total of \$37.90 – By sale of two benches taken from the Court House which were ordered to by sold 51 cents changing the total to \$37.39.”<sup>297</sup>

The Fee Books from this period show that Dawe was engaged in a variety of suits of his own including one in May of 1823 with Weems, Foster, Linton and Brooke,<sup>298</sup> another in 1827 with Wilson, Carter and Bryce<sup>299</sup> and a third with Wright, Kempe, Fewell and Townshend.<sup>300</sup> One other suit recorded in the Fee Book for 1829 was with Tebbs, Bryce and James D. Driscoll.<sup>301</sup> Driscoll was an Irish immigrant who is attributed with construction of the new jail for the county seat in 1822. The Clerk’s Loose Papers include a document dated May 1, 1826 wherein Driscoll requested naturalization, as he wished to settle in the United States. At the time, he was 37 years of age and claimed to have arrived in the United States via Canada.<sup>302</sup> It is curious the jail’s builder would have ended up in a suit against the Clerk of the Court. It may have been related to debt, as the builder of the Courthouse and Tavern on Tavern Square, William Claytor, owed many debts. The Fee Books for the 1820s and even into the 1830s document the many suits, including in 1836, the case of Driscoll v. Claytor. The builder of the Brentsville jail was taking on the builder of the courthouse! It would be incredible if the documentation for this case could be located, but sadly, many of the records were lost during the Civil War.

Dawe and John Williams bond for the administration of William Dawe’s estate appeared in the Prince William County Bond Book for 1827 – 1839 and was dated January 5, 1829.<sup>303</sup> His brother’s disastrous finances continued to haunt Dawe until his death and then his family and others well beyond. Imagine organizing the records of the lawsuits to which Dawe was a party and compare that managing records of the suits for an entire county!

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<sup>296</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia Clerk’s Loose Papers, Volume I, Selected Transcripts 1741 – 1826*, Manassas, VA: 2004, p. 171-177.

<sup>297</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia Clerk’s Loose Papers, Volume I Selected Transcripts 1741 – 1826*, Manassas, VA: 2004.

<sup>298</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Fee Book, 1823, p. 95.

<sup>299</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Fee Book, 1823, p. 42.

<sup>300</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Fee Book, 1823, p. 49.

<sup>301</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Fee Book, 1829, p. 4.

<sup>302</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Prince William County Virginia Clerk’s Loose Papers, Volume I Selected Transcripts 1741 – 1826*, Manassas, VA: 2004.

<sup>303</sup> Prince William County Bond Book, 1827 – 1839, p. 26.

Apparently, by 1830, Dawe was receiving assistance in the Clerk's office. Records have not been found to support Dawe's training of his nephew, John Williams, as clerk but he did serve following Dawe from 1832 until 1854. James Wallace Washington provided services to the Clerk for 20 months from 1828 until 1831. The suit *Washington v. Dawes' Exors* was located in the Clerk's Loose Papers, Judgments, 1835 and shows Dawe owed Washington \$125. An arbitrator negotiated the case and the sum owed was reduced by credits that Dawe's records showed Washington in fact owed to Dawe including general loans and taxes that were paid for Washington by Dawe.<sup>304</sup>

In addition to serving as Clerk, Dawe also served as Inspector of the Jail in 1831, along with James B.T. Thornton and James Fewell.<sup>305</sup> Escapes from the jail were not uncommon during this time. An early example of an escape from Brentsville's jail is documented in a letter sent from the Governor in response to notification of the escape made by the Jailor, Abraham Millan. The governor issued this proclamation, "Whereas it has been represented to the Executive by the Jailor of Prince William County, that a certain Enoch Calvert, who had been secured to the Jail of said County for further trial, by an Examining Court thereof on a charge of highway robbery, did on the night of the 28th Ulto. make his escape from the said Jail and is now going at large: I here therefore thought proper, with the advice of the Council of State, hereby to offer a reward of one hundred & fifty dollars to any person or persons who shall apprehend and convey to the Jail of Prince William County the said Enoch Calvert: And I do moreover require all officers civil and military, and exhort the good people of the Commonwealth to use their best endeavors to apprehend the said Calvert, that he maybe dealt with as the law directs."<sup>306</sup> After Dawe's death, Huriah Graham, purchaser of the Tavern Square tavern,<sup>307</sup> was appointed to replace him as an Inspector of the Jail.<sup>308</sup>

The last will and testament of Philip D. Dawe was dated March 3, 1831.<sup>309</sup> There is no evidence that he was ill at the time. He died on May 16, 1832 at the age of 50. Notices appeared in many newspaper, including the *Alexandria Phoenix Gazette* on May 22, 1832, "Died, On Wednesday last, at Brentsville, Prince William County, VA., Philip D. Dawe, Esq., Clerk of Pr. Wm. County Court, aged 50 years."

Dawe's will stipulated that Patsy, his wife, receive "...the house we live in in Brentsville called the cottage and the four lots appertaining thereto..." She also received his silverware, gold watch, large family Bible, a Bible in two volumes bound in morocco as well as any articles received by the couple from her parents. The remainder of his property, both real and personal, was left to his nephews, Robert Williams and James Edward Williams. Little is know of James. He married Matilda Simmons of Georgetown

<sup>304</sup> Prince William County Clerk's Loose Papers, Judgments, 1835

<sup>305</sup> Prince William County Common Law Order Book No. 1, 1831 – 1842, p. 17.

<sup>306</sup> Turner, Ronald Ray, *Governor John Buchanan Floyd 1849 - 1852 Prince William County papers*, Transcripts, Manassas, VA: 2011.

<sup>307</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 12, p. 464.

<sup>308</sup> Prince William County Common Law Order Book No. 1, 1831 – 1842, p. 50.

<sup>309</sup> Prince William County Will Book N, p. 429.

in 1825.<sup>310</sup> He appears as plaintiff in several suits in the Prince William County Executions Book for 1823 (p. 61, for example).

Dawe's tavern is specifically mentioned in the will, which states the two men must pay "equally any encumbrance on the tavern lot which remain at the time of my death." He also stated that "The reversion of my wife's dower in my real estate I give to my nieces, Mary Cannon and Anne Lipscomb and my nephews Robert Williams and James Edward Williams, the part of Mrs. Lipscomb to be placed in the hands of Robert Williams whom I appoint as her trustee to act at his discretion." Lastly, he added, "Should my mother survive me, I desire my Executors to furnish her from time to time with such necessaries as she may stand in need of. I desire Robert and James E. Williams to pay to my sister Polly Hedges out of my estate I have left them twenty-five dollars each." Robert Williams was named executor. When Robert Williams produced the document at court on June 5, 1832, his brother, John Williams, and a family friend, John Gibson, Jr., were needed to swear that the writing in the document was indeed Dawe's since no witnesses had signed the will prior to his death. After the death of Philip D. Dawe, Clerk of the Court from 1813 until 1832, his nephew, John Williams, became the county Clerk.<sup>311</sup>

Robert Williams' bond as executor to Dawe's estate appeared in Prince William County Bond Book 4.<sup>312</sup> His securities included John Williams and James E. Williams. An inventory bearing the same date of June 5, 1832 was submitted and then recorded on October 9, 1832.<sup>313</sup> The slave, Gerry that Dawe purchased on March 5, 1821 appears in the inventory valued at \$150. The inventory contained the expected furniture and household goods. Dawe must have dined well considering he had a large sideboard, 2 dining tables and 12 Windsor chairs. The silver coffee and teapot, silver flatware, silver plated candle sticks and the gold watch, along with the Bibles was listed. The silverware was valued at \$46, gold watch at \$40 and his bedstead, counterpane, two blankets; pair of sheets, bosulster and two pillows were valued at \$40. He apparently had smokehouses, as trays described as being located in them were included and his cottage had a cellar where other possessions were stored. He also had an ox and ox cart and a barouche and harness, the latter valued at \$120. Of note is the portion of the inventory titled "A List of Property at the Tavern." Items at the tavern included six Windsor chairs, one arm chair, two large dining tables, 18 small pictures, a map of North and South America, a map of Virginia, a settee, one bed and bedstead, one tester bedstead and beds, one iron chest, three fondues, one bed, bedstead, counterpane and boulder, one bed, blanket and boulder, one bed, bedstead (tester) and boulder, 2 beds, bedsteads and boulders and another set that was marked "olde", two small fenders and five hogs. Seemingly, the tavern was capable of sleeping quite a few guests!

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<sup>310</sup> Pippenger, Wesley E., *Georgetown, District of Columbia, Marriage and Death Notices, 1801-1838*. Heritage Books Inc., July 2004.

<sup>311</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 13, p. 287.

<sup>312</sup> Prince William County Bond Book 4, p. 135.

<sup>313</sup> Prince William County Will Book O, p. 275.

Once Dawe's personal property was appraised, a sale was held for which the account was dated for June 5, 1832 and submitted to the court on December 5, 1836.<sup>314</sup> Robert Williams purchased the lion's share of the property. Gerry, Dawe's slave, does not appear on the list of sales. The widow is listed as obtaining those items stated in the will. Surprisingly though, Patsy Dawe renounced the will in November of 1832.<sup>315</sup>

Patsy Dawe's renunciation states "To the worshipful county Court of Prince William Your Oratrix Patsy W. Dawe doth by these presents make known to your worships that having been advised by council that the provisions made for her by her late husband, Philip D. Dawe, in his last will and testament as admitted to record in your office, is unsafe for her to rely upon; Therefore, Patsy W. Dawe widow of the late Philip D. Dawe dec'd do hereby relinquish and renounce the provisions made for me in said last will and testament and do claim the benefit of the law for the widows of intestates and ask that this relinquishment may be recorded as evidence thereof..." This was on November 5, 1832. No doubt, the Dawe/Williams family was scandalized! It was not long after that a bond is recorded on February 5, 1833 for Robert Williams as executor for James E. Williams who had died before any of the mess was solved.<sup>316</sup>

When Patsy Dawe married Philip D., her father "loaned" her the use of a slave, Maria, who was valued at \$500.<sup>317</sup> When Dawe died, Patsy supposedly returned Maria to her father, who in turn sold the slave. After Patsy renounced Dawe's will, Robert Williams filed a suit against Patsy for Maria, even though she was not included in his estate's inventory as was his slave Gerry. Robert Williams filed his executorial account for Dawe's estate on June 5, 1833. A Chancery Court case ensued in the Fauquier County Courts when Robert pushed for payment of funds for the value of Maria. Rather than pay the amount resulting in the judgment against her, Patsy stated that once Williams settled Dawe's accounts, there would be a surplus in what was owed her to cover the judgment.

The case dragged along and then Patsy moved to Jackson County, Mississippi. The case was not ended until 1847, after the death of Patsy. Just days before her death, Patsy assigned her legal power of attorney to Benoni Harrison on March 4, 1846.<sup>318</sup> This document further stated that if her money was collected after her death, it should go to James Pickett for the use of her unwed sisters, Ann J. and M. Eloise Pickett. Harrison was related to the Norville family and later proprietor of the Tavern Square ordinary in Brentsville. The *Alexandria Gazzette* published on March 30, 1846 (p. 2) carried Patsy W. Dawe's death notice, "Died at the residence of Mr. M.E. Thomas, in the city of Jackson, Miss., Mrs. P.W. Dawe in the 46<sup>th</sup> year of her age, after a long and tedious illness, which she bore with much fortitude and resignation. She was the daughter of Mrs. James S. Pickett of Fauquier Co., VA and came to the south in the fall of '44 under the direction of her medical advisor, with a hope of restoring her health. That hope of her friends has been disappointed and after sustaining her affliction for nearly three years, she

<sup>314</sup> Prince William County Will Book O, 278.

<sup>315</sup> Prince William County Will Book N, p. 514.

<sup>316</sup> Prince William County Bond Book 1827 – 1837, P. 87.

<sup>317</sup> Fauquier County Chancery Court Records, 1847-032.

<sup>318</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 19, p. 130.

has sunk at last, quietly and peacefully into the grave, full of that confidence and calmness which belong alone to Christians.”

The suit of Patsy Dawe verses Philip D. Dawe’s estate was one of many with which his Executor, Robert Williams had to contend. For example, a Judgment dated February 5, 1836 details the debt of Dawe to the firm Kerr & Fitzhugh. They tried to recover the funds from Robert Williams but then the suit was continued when Norman R. Fitzhugh died. Ultimately, the estate was responsible for paying James D. Kerr.<sup>319</sup> In other events, in 1849, Margaret Foster (daughter of Jane Williams) sold her interest in the Tavern lot to John Williams, her brother.<sup>320</sup>

After the death of Dawe, his nephew, John Williams became Clerk of the Court.<sup>321</sup> He served until 1852 when he left for Washington, DC to serve under President James Buchanan. Taking in the position after Williams’ departure was Philip D. Lipscomb, Dawe’s grandnephew. Jane Williams’s daughter, Anne, married Robert Lipscomb. They had ten children, the eldest of whom was Philip D. Lipscomb who died in 1866. M.B. Sinclair, another Williams’s relative took up the post until 1869.

Philip D. Lipscomb served as Clerk until 1865, when in the midst of the Civil War, local lore states he abandoned his office due to stress of the events in the area. He died insolvent in 1866. This insolvency is detailed in a Chancery suit *Hunton & Bro v. Catharine Purcell, etc.*<sup>322</sup> The records stated that two years after Lipscomb drafted his will in 1863, “...his estate had greatly diminished in value by the loss of the most valuable portion thereof, to wit his negro property by the result of the war.” Eppa Hunton was his executor and was faced with repaying Lipscomb’s many debts out of his estate.

Eppa Hunton was an attorney in Brentsville. He was a Brigadier General in the Virginia militia (Confederate Sates Army), was Commonwealth attorney for Prince William County from 1849–1861 and then served in the United States Congress from 1873 – 1881.<sup>323</sup> When Hunton requested a settlement for Lipscomb’s wife, Elizabeth (Foster) and their infant son, Philip Dawe Lipscomb, it was discovered that at some point a fraudulent agreement had been made involving her dower property and that there were no funds available. Lipscomb’s claim to an interest in Philip D. Dawe’s lots in Brentsville was the only asset of value held at his death. But Dawe’s estate remained unsettled.

It was not until January 17, 1872 that the administration of Philip D. Dawe’s estate was completed. The administrator at that time was the former county Sheriff, William E. Goodwin.<sup>324</sup> On the same page appears the same report for John Williams. Why had so much time elapsed between Dawe’s death and the final report on his estate? An

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<sup>319</sup> Prince William County Clerk’s Loose Papers, Judgments, 1856.

<sup>320</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 20, p. 201.

<sup>321</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 13, p. 47.

<sup>322</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1871-024.

<sup>323</sup> <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000999>

<sup>324</sup> Prince William County Will Book R, p. 788.

incredibly convoluted and lengthy Chancery suit caused confusion and distress for the family in the intervening years!

### **Chancery Suit Over Dawe's Lands – the Tavern and “Cottage” lots**

The case P.D. Lipscomb, et. al. verses P. D. Williams (1866 – 1883) details the fracas over Dawe's real estate in Brentsville.<sup>325</sup> The tangle resulted from Dawe's death, Patsy Dawe's subsequent renunciation and then the death of Dawe's executors. James E. Williams died in 1833<sup>326</sup> and then Robert Williams in 1848.<sup>327</sup> Dawe's executors, both died intestate. The end result was that over many years and with later deaths and the moving away of those bequeathed the land, the lots were divided and sub-divided such that ownership ended as one-half of one-sixth of the lot!

“The Cottage” lot was where Dawe resided and included the house and Brentsville Lots #61-64. Dawe's will stated, “The reversion of my wife's dower in my real estate, I give to my nieces Mary Cannon and Ann Lipscomb and nephews Robert Williams and James Edward Williams...”<sup>328</sup> Since James died intestate in 1833, his portion of the lot was divided between his mother and siblings. Mary Cannon sold her portion to P. D. Lipscomb. John T. Williams (son of John Williams) sold his portion to William E. Lipscomb (son of Ann Williams and Robert Lipscomb) in 1859 for \$125 with Eppa Hunton as his security. Then, William E. Lipscomb testified that he had purchased “Four lots in the Town of Brentsville known as ‘The Cottage’ for \$125” in 1860. Then, on August 8, 1866, this sale was sworn to by M. B. Sinclair (who served as Prince William County Clerk of the Court).<sup>329</sup> With the case continuing for years, it was decided the lots would be sold and the funds from the sale would be distributed among the interested parties. Eppa Hunton, Jr., as Special Commissioner, conveyed the real estate to E.E. Meredith on May 2, 1778.<sup>330</sup>

Ownership of “The Cottage” and four lots was thus decided. Brentsville lore purports that when John Williams died in 1812, Jane Williams moved out of the White House and into “the cottage in the yard” so that her son John and his wife, Jane E.L., could take up residence. Since John Williams died in 1812, in Dumfries, before Brentsville even existed as a town, he never resided in the White House. Jane's son, John, and his wife built there own home, on Lot #7 in Brentsville, and did not live in the White House for very long, if at all. So, it seems unlikely Jane moved into a dower cottage. It does seem possible that there is confusion between “the cottage in the yard” and Philip D. Dawe's residence known as “The Cottage,” which was only 2 blocks away from the White House. In fact, the Tavern Lot was located between Dawe's “Cottage” and the White House and the remaining family would fight one another over that lot until May of 1883.

<sup>325</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

<sup>326</sup> Prince William County Bond Book 5, p. 87.

<sup>327</sup> Pippenger, Wesley E., *Georgetown, District of Columbia, Marriage and Death Notices, 1801-1838*. Heritage Books Inc., July 2004.

<sup>328</sup> Prince William County Will Book N, p. 429.

<sup>329</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

<sup>330</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 31, p. 565.

The Chancery suit over the Tavern lot began on May 27, 1860 when the first order was entered.<sup>331</sup> Initially, a Special Commissioner, Aylett Nicol (husband of Mary Ann Williams, daughter of John Williams and Jane E.L. Shaw) was appointed to sell the house and lot in Brentsville, referred to as the “Tavern Lot” at public auction. It was sold for \$1050 to Charles Iardella (husband of Ann Elizabeth Williams, the daughter of John Williams and Jane E.L. Shaw). The court records then show that the war began and final payment was never made on top of which the Commissioners records were destroyed during the conflict. Final payment was not made and ultimately Iardella moved away. Compounding confusion was the fact that Iardella’s security in the purchase, John T. Williams (his wife’s brother) was deceased.

Nicol reported in 1866 that he knew information about the lot because he had served as the lot’s agent prior to the war until 1866. The facts he shared were:

- Fall of 1852 – Mr. and Mrs. Dickenson claimed that J.S. Fewell occupied the lot until July of 1856 and then rented it to them. During this time, the Dickenson’s made \$310 worth of repairs and this was accepted in lieu of rent. J.S. Fewell was James Fewell who was the original purchaser of part of Lot #12 from the Trustees of the Town of Brentsville in 1825.<sup>332</sup> Fewell also operated the tavern on Tavern Square across the street in the 1830s.<sup>333</sup>
- From April 1854 until April of 1857, William C. Steele rented the lot for \$100 per year.
- There probably was a rental from January to April of 1856 but Nicol was unsure.
- Milton Fitzhugh rented the lot from April 12, 1857 till April 12, 1858 for \$125 and then stayed on until September 28, 1858 with two of John Williams’ sons boarding for him.
- Mrs. Ann Fitzhugh rented from September 28, 1858 until January 1, 1860 for \$156.25. Nicol believed that the Williams boys boarded with her at this time.
- Charles Iardella rented the lot for one year after Mrs. Fitzhugh and during this year “purchased the property at common sale.” Nicol never collected his rent and a suit is now pending for it. Iardella vacated during the war. A separate chancery suit, Nicol v. Iardella was found.<sup>334</sup> In the suit it was recorded that Iardella rented the house and land of “the Tavern lot” for \$125 per year but vacated on July 7, 1860 without paying his rent. Apparently he then purchased 1/6 interest (Mary Cannon’s portion) of the lot. In the suit, he was summoned but was out of state. James E. Williams (son of John Williams and Jane E.L. Shaw) sent a letter to Iardella to determine if the lot could be re-sold. He later stated the “rent of my father’s property” was before the war and as one of his heirs he wanted the suit settled amicably and he also requested that his “Aunt Peggy” do the same. “Aunt Peggy” was Margaret Williams Foster, Jane’s daughter and later executrix. She was married to the wealthy Redmond Foster. Ultimately, consent was given to re-sell the property.
- The property was re-occupied by different person during the war.

<sup>331</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

<sup>332</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 10, p. 154.

<sup>333</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 13, p. 345.

<sup>334</sup> Prince William County Ended Chancery Causes, 1878.

- Mrs. Mary F. Holland occupied it at the close of the war through January 1, 1868, paying her rent to John Camper. Several Williams's offspring were intermarried with the Hollands.
- Mr. John L. Sinclair rented the property until it was sold to William W. Thornton. Thornton was a relative of Lucy Ann Thornton, Robert Williams' wife.

The sale of the tavern lot in Brentsville to W.W. Thornton took place on September 6, 1869 for \$900 as decreed by the Chancery Court.<sup>335</sup> But the case did not end there! Debate over the equity of the settlement continued. In October of 1874, E.E. Meredith (later purchaser of "The Cottage" lots) was appointed Special Commissioner for the purpose of taking evidence to confirm Nicol's accounting. When the Court met for the May session on 1875, Nicol did not appear and was ordered to do so at the next term. Meanwhile, Thornton was ordered to continue his payments for the lot. In October of 1875, William W. Thornton was ordered to pay William Williams (youngest son of John Williams and Jane E.L. Shaw) \$50 for his share in the property. Nicol did not appear at this session either and was once again ordered to do so.

The May 1876 Court session arrived and Nicol still did not appear in court. Previously, in April of that year, Charles Iardella gave a deposition. He claimed that he purchased the lot and house from Nicol for \$1050 in 1860, paying 10% cash and gave his bond for the balance. Then the war came and he moved out of state. He never paid the bond and the house and lot were resold. He then bought 1/6 interest from Mrs. Cannon in 1861 and gave deed to William E. Lipscomb to be recorded by the Clerk of the county but Lipscomb failed to have that done. Iardella claimed to have spent nearly \$600 improving the property and was not aware if Nicol had spent money on it. At this same Court sessions, Nicol, now a judge, failed to appear to settle the debt to E.E. Meredith.

By the October Court session, the cause had been revived and the following list represents the two sides in the manner:<sup>336</sup> At this session, W.W. Thornton was ordered to pay \$50 each to the following interest holders: A.W. Sinclair, Joseph B. Reid, C.E. Nicol (attorney for the heir of Mary Jane Nicol).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary A. Lipscomb</li> <li>• John W. Lipscomb</li> <li>• William H. Hixson &amp; Margaret</li> <li>• B? Shepherd &amp; Bettie</li> <li>• William Stickler &amp; Virginia</li> <li>• Henry Holland &amp; Martha</li> <li>• William E. Lipscomb</li> <li>• Howman Abbingon &amp; Sallie</li> <li>• Eppa Hunton (Exec. Of P.D.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William E. Goodwin, Sheriff (Commissioner for John Williams, deceased)</li> <li>• Margaret Foster</li> <li>• Margaret Ann Goods</li> <li>• Charles Iardella &amp; infants of Anne, his wife</li> <li>• Aylett Nicol</li> <li>• William E. Goodwin, Sheriff</li> </ul>
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<sup>335</sup>Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

<sup>336</sup>Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

<p>Lipscomb)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth M. Lipscomb</li> <li>• P. Daniel Lipscomb</li> </ul>	<p>(Commissioner for James Williams, deceased)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. C. Barbour</li> <li>• M.M. Barbour &amp; his wife, Ida Nicol</li> <li>• Charles Nicol</li> <li>• John A. Nicol</li> <li>• Gustav Williams</li> <li>• Mortimer Williams</li> <li>• Minnon Williams</li> <li>• ? Williams</li> <li>• Williams F. Williams</li> <li>• Thomas W. Lyons &amp; Sommer</li> <li>• Margaret Foster, Exec. Of Jane Williams, deceased)</li> <li>• William E. Goodwin, Sheriff (Commissioner for P.D. Williams, deceased)</li> <li>• Lucien Davis &amp; Emma</li> <li>• John Sinclair &amp; Virginia</li> <li>• Sallie M. Williams</li> <li>• John T. Williams</li> <li>• Margaret R. Williams</li> <li>• Mary R. Williams</li> <li>• A.W. Sinclair</li> <li>• James Sinclair</li> </ul>
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By March of 1877, a notice was published in the *Manassas Gazzette* that Monday, April 9, 1877 was the final date set to ascertain who was entitled to funds to settle the account of Aylett Nicol. In May, William Dickinson was examined and asked to describe the repairs and costs on “what was known as the lower tavern in the Town of Brentsville.” The use of the term “lower tavern” clearly distinguishes it from the ordinary on Tavern Square, across the street. It appears from the records that many researchers have confused these two over the years. Dickenson’s response was that Nicol employed him with a contract for \$160. Nicol was to furnish the materials. Dickenson claimed he also made approximately \$30 - \$40 in repairs outside the contract. He estimated the probable cost of materials used in repair of the house and stable at \$75 and an additional \$40 for mason work materials, mortar and lime. Dickenson would certainly have been capable of a few repairs to the structure as he was known to have worked in construction and was actually contracted to build a bridge over Cedar Run in 1829.<sup>337</sup>

<sup>337</sup> Prince William County Deed Book 11, p. 464 and Prince William County Fee Book, 1829 – 1834, p. 39.

The next week, May 15, 1877, E.E. Meredith reported that Judge Nicol had finally appeared on May 12 to file a report on his role as agent. It was then decreed that Nicol's report was inadequate and he was ordered to appear in person before Judge Meredith within the next thirty days. On September 22, 1877, Aylett Nicol was examined and claimed he never received any money in his role as receiver. He said that Thomas Fewell rented the property in 1854 and worked to repair it. He purchased materials and employed workmen with the consent of the principle parties interested. He stated that after the war, the property was in the hands of Mrs. Holland with John Camper as agent for Iardella to collect her rents. Nicol did not know the amount collected.<sup>338</sup> The Alexandria Gazette published an interesting notice on November 4, 1867, stating "Tavern Lot (lately occupied by Mrs. Holland as a hotel) for sale at public auction as decreed by Circuit Court on Chancery suit between Mary A. Lipscomb at al (plt) v. John Williams at al (def)." The paper again published this same notice on April 16, 1868.

When Mrs Hollnd vacated the property, John L. Sinclair occupied it from 1868 – 1869. Sincalir was husband to Robert Williams' daughter, Virginia Taylor Williams. Nicol said he did not receive any rent from Sinclair, nor knew of amounts collected. Finally, he explained that Major Thornton purchased the property from Commissioners on January 1, 1870.<sup>339</sup>

Judge Nicol gave more testimony on September 22, 1877, which included the addition that he had rented the property to William Steele for one year on April 5, 1856. Philip D. Lipscomb acted as Steele's security and later a judgment was "obtained against Steele and his security," as there was a credit on account for \$20 because of some repairs made by Steele and to be deducted from his rent. Nicol further recalled that on April 12, 1857 he rented the lot to Milton Fitzhugh for one year at \$125. He stated that by September 28, 1858, James E. Williams and John T. Williams (sons of the "principle owner of the property" boarded with Fitzhugh and this board was credited on Fitzhugh's rent. Nicol clearly stated that he never collected any money from Fitzhugh. At this time, the property was rented to Ann Fitzhugh until January 1, 1860 for the amount of \$156.25 and then she stayed on until July 1, 1859 when Charles Iardella occupied it. Iardella stayed until he purchased the property in 1860 from Nicol as Commissioner of the Court but Nicol never collected any rent from him. Nicol was later appointed Receiver on October 11, 1866 but his agency was never put into writing. He "assented" to Sinclair's tenancy in 1868-1869 as he knew Sinclair's father, M.B. Sinclair would cover the costs if needed. He clearly stated that he did not recall Thomas Fewell paying \$250 per year as was otherwise suggested. He said that all repairs were made with assent of the interested parties with enough rent collected to cover them. He also did not recall P.D. Lipscomb purchasing materials for repairs.<sup>340</sup>

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<sup>338</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

<sup>339</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

<sup>340</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

On May 2, 1878, Thornton was ordered to pay the parties with an interest in the property (Sallie M. Williams, Margaret E. Williams and Charles Iardella). It was found that Nicol was indebted as agent for \$178.11 for the period from January 1, 1860 for rents and then the lot's sale. On May 14, the court acknowledged that Nicol's account as agent was settled. It was also determined that the cost of the lengthy suit would be drawn from the sale of both the Tavern and Cottage lots. The distribution of funds for the sale was made to Jane Williams, her children and grandchildren as follows:

- 1/12 to Charles Iardella;
- 1/12 to the estate of Anne Lipscomb;
- 1/12 to Jane Williams' estate (she died after 1861 without funds<sup>341</sup>);
- 9/12 to be divided equally between the heirs of John Williams and Robert Williams.

In the weeks that followed, Special Commissioner Hunton's report on distribution of the funds occurred and the case was dismissed from the docket on May 15, 1883.

In summary, Dawe's real estate in the town of Brentsville was divided between his heirs' children after many years of squabbling. He owned Lots 11-12 on which the Lower Tavern was built some time after 1820. This became commonly known as the "Tavern lot" or the "Lower Tavern" and should **not** to be confused with the tavern across the street on Tavern Square that was next to the public lot and courthouse. Dawe also owned Lots 61, 62, 62, and 64, on which he resided and which was known as "The Cottage." Dawe's nephews died, leaving the lots to their heirs, and ultimately the lands were to be divided in twelfths! A Chancery suit ensued, the Chancery Court being the "court of equity," in which many family problems were solved.<sup>342</sup>

The Chancery case took more than twenty years to resolve claims on the tavern lot, which generated various testimony and depositions shedding light on the activities that took place on the property. During this period, Dawe's sister, Jane Williams, was assessed for the land taxes on the property at a value of \$350 for the buildings. Jane appears to have died sometime shortly after 1860. Sadly, she died intestate and without funds. Margaret Foster, her daughter, was ordered to make an accounting of her property in May of 1867.<sup>343</sup> In May of 1869, it was recorded that the Court found Jane's assets to be insufficient to pay her debts and thus ordered her real estate to be sold by Aylett Nicol.<sup>344</sup> It appears that Jane was not living on lands in the Town of Brentsville at the time of her death but rather on land she owned on Kettle Run, adjoining the lands of P.D. Lipscomb. In spite of owning land in Brentsville and still retaining ownership of lots in Dumfries, Jane's estate was sued for insolvency.

The Chancery suit of Philips vs. Williams lends some details of her final years.<sup>345</sup> In the final months of her life, Jane Williams purchased sundry goods from several creditors

<sup>341</sup> Prince William County Chancery Order Book #2, p. 213.

<sup>342</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-008.

<sup>343</sup> Prince William County Chancery Order Book #2, p. 159.

<sup>344</sup> Prince William County Chancery Order Book #2, p. 213.

<sup>345</sup> Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Prince William County, 1883-019.

including John Philips and others. She died intestate, and these establishments then sued her estate. What is most interesting about the information contained in these records is the glimpse it lends into the final days of a strong woman who survived great changes over the years. The records include an account of items purchased and at what cost. Most of the accounts record purchases from 1860 – 1861. Some of the purchases included 3 lbs sugar (.30), soda crackers (.10), cheese (.30), dozen eggs (.20), candles (.20) 1/2 gallon molasses (.23), 12 yards blue cotton (1.68), vinegar (.20), 1 bottle of Cannon’s Bitters (.38) soap (.15) and a 1/2 pound of tobacco (.37). What a simple life the wife, sister, mother and grandmother of some of Prince William County’s most influential men lived in her final days.

Jane’s lands in Brentsville were sold after her death, but in 1865, following the Civil War, the note in the land tax record stated, “\$300 off for damaged buildings.” Then, in 1870, the value increased to \$650, with the note, “\$600 added for buildings.” This likely represents the construction of the Bauder House, a structure whose remains are visible on the lot even today, in the form of a tumbledown brick chimney.<sup>346</sup> The White House still stands on the adjacent lot. Archaeological investigations of the tavern lot have revealed structural evidence as well as cultural remains confirmed in the extant historical documents. The greater body of evidence attesting to the lives of Philip D. Dawe and his family rests in the Prince William County Courthouse Archives... and on the wall on the third floor of the Courthouse.

The portrait of Philip D. Dawe that hangs on the third floor of the Prince William County Courthouse today has a note that goes with it. On the letterhead of Thomas H. Lion, a Manassas attorney, and dated June, 1928, is a list of the grand-nieces, great-grand-nieces and great-grand-nephews that presented it. These include: Mrs. Margaret R. Barbour (Manassas, VA), Miss Florence Sommerville Lion (Manassas, VA), Comfort Lion (Manassas, VA), Douglas Harlan Lion (Manassas, VA), Hon. Charles Armstead Sinclair (Manassas, VA), Mrs. E. Herbert Bash (Manassas, VA), Mrs. Eugene B. Giddings (Manassas, VA), Eugene Davis (Manassas, VA), Mrs. P.L. Proffitt (Manassas, VA), Miss Emma Lois Davis (Manassas, VA), Mrs. Samuel Polend (Manassas, VA), Charles Eppa Lipscomb (New York, NY), Philip D. Lipscomb (Bristow, VA), Mrs. James Fisher (Ft. Thomas, KY), Mrs. John A. Nicol (Mt. Ida, VA), Miss Mary L. Nicol Alexandria, VA), Mrs. John A. Dunn Richmond, VA), Mrs. Sanford Mitchell (Lee, VA), Mortimer Palmer Williams (Washington, DC), Reynolds Williams (Alexandria, VA) and Mrs. William C. Hall (Charleston, WV).

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<sup>346</sup> Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form, 76-247

## Family Relationships of the Dawe & Williams Families

**Philip Dawe (d. 1809 ) m. Mary Ann ? (d. 1830s)** – their children were:

- William Dawe (d. 1829) m. Susanna R. White
- Philip Devereux Dawe (d. 1832) m. Patsy Wynn Pickett (d. 1846)
- Nancy Dare m. William Hore
- Betsy Dawe m. Reuben Johnston
- Olly Dawe m. Isham Hedges
- Jane Dawe (d. 1860s) m. John Williams (d. 1812)

**Evan Williams (d. 1783) m. Sarah Carter (d. 1812)** – their children were:

- John Williams m. Jane Dawe
- Mary Williams m. Thomas Chapman
- Margaret Williams m. William Smith
- Elizabeth Williams m. Edward Powell

**John Williams (d. 1812) m. Jane Dawe (d. 1860s)** – their children were:

- John Williams (d. 1868) m. Jane E.L. Shaw ((d. 1853) – their children were:
  - Mary Ann m. Aylett Nicol
  - Anne Amelia (died in infancy)
  - Margaret Philippi m. James Sinclair
  - Ann Elizabeth m. Charles Iardella
  - John Thomas
  - Sarah Sommerville m. Thomas W. Lion
  - Rosa (died young)
  - James Edward m. ? Smith
  - Williams Franced m. Josphine Cainbell
- James E. Williams (d. 1833) m. Matilda Simmons
- Robert Williams (d. 1848) m. Lucy Ann Thornton (d. 1855) – their children were:
  - Virginia Taylor m. John Sinclair
  - Emma J. m. Lucien Davis
  - Philip D.
  - Sarah M. (Sallie) m. William W. Thornton
  - Margaret Roberta m. C.C. Barbour
  - J. Taylor m. 1) Jane Berry & 2) Bettie Williams
- Margaret Williams m. Redmond Foster (d. 1848)
- Mary Williams m. Barnaby Cannon (d. 1828)
- Anne Williams m. Robert Lipscomb – their children were:
  - Philip D. m. Elizabeth Foster
  - Mary A.
  - John W.
  - Margaret H. m. William J. Hixson
  - Robert C. m. Mary ?
  - Virginia M. m. William Stickler
  - Martha m. Henry Holland
  - Sallie m. Thomas W. Abington
  - William E. m. Henrietta Holland
  - Elizabeth L. (Bettie) m. Armistead Payne

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