



HISTORY OF GLENMORE

PART III

(This is the third in a series of articles to be published by the Glenmore Community Association in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of our community by Frank and Peggy Kessler. This article and future ones are intended to inform residents who have recently moved into Glenmore about the rich history of our community and its surrounding areas.)

The previous article ended with brief descriptions of the owners of Glenmore in the 1800s and 1900s, ending with the sale to Frank and Peggy Kessler in 1989. More will come in future articles about these owners, but it is interesting to speculate about what may or may not have been the link between Glenmore properties and the surrounding areas. Several grants, or patents, were cited including the current 1200-plus acres now comprising Glenmore. The most relevant of course was the 1732 grant to Henry Runalds, the date corresponding to that on the entrance to Glenmore. In research about Glenmore, it was found that according to an *American Guide Series* publication *Jefferson's Albemarle*, compiled in 1941 by the Works Projects Administration (WPA) in the State of Virginia, a grant of 2500 acres for the "Belmont" estate might also have included Glenmore property.

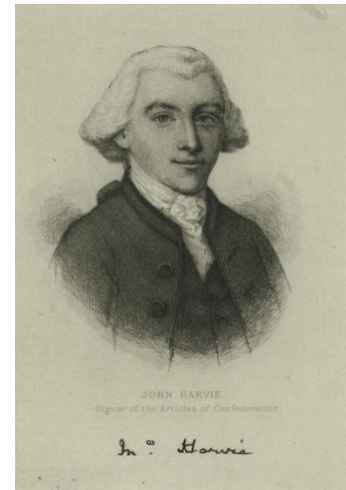


In this article links between Glenmore and Belmont are explored, focusing on stories about the Harvie family that lived at Belmont, and the Randolph family that lived at Edgehill, adjacent to Belmont. These two families became related by marriage, and their relationship could well have involved Glenmore in several ways. Belmont and Edgehill



are neighboring properties to Shadwell, and a turn north on Routes 22 and 231 off Route 250 at the Shadwell store will take the driver past both of these estates. Information about the Harvie and Randolph families come from “The Public Career of John Harvie”, a 1938 Master’s thesis by Mary Foy Hester at the University of Virginia, and the material found in *Jefferson’s Albemarle*, mentioned earlier.

John Harvie was born in 1706 at Gargunnoch in the shire of Sterling, Scotland. He settled in and acquired Belmont (some sources indicated he was granted the property while others say he purchased it from a Joshua Graves). Harvie developed a solid reputation in Albemarle County as a lawyer, and was admitted to the Virginia bar in 1747. He became friends with Peter Jefferson who appointed him guardian for Peter’s son Thomas Jefferson. Thomas often sought the advice of Colonel Harvie, and in one letter asked whether “it would be an advantage to enter college or to remain at the Mountain.”



Colonel Harvie married Martha Gaines, of a very prominent Virginia family. They had nine children born at Belmont. One son, John, was born in 1742, one year before his illustrious neighbor and later good friend, Thomas Jefferson. When the elder Harvie died in 1767, Belmont was willed to his wife, Martha. Martha Gaines Harvie sold her interest in Belmont to her son John, who stayed behind when she subsequently moved her family to Georgia. Like his father, young John Harvie became a successful lawyer in Albemarle. He was also a major land speculator, acquiring 173,000 acres in surrounding states of Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania as well as 6,300 acres in Albemarle County that may have included part of what is now Glenmore.

At age 30 young John Harvie married Margaret Norton Jones, daughter of Gabriel Jones, a well-educated but profane Welshman who later became executor of Lord Fairfax’s estate in northern Virginia. The younger John Harvie became a Colonel in the Virginia militia, a member of the Continental Congress in the crucial years 1777-1778, and moved to Richmond in 1780. He was mayor of Richmond in 1785-86 and became one of the first directors of the Bank of Virginia. John and Margaret Harvie also had nine children, one of whom, Lewis, became private secretary to

President Jefferson. Perhaps the most colorful of the offspring however was a daughter, Gabriella, who apparently inherited some of her grandfather's traits.

Gabriella Harvie was well known in Richmond society during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. At the young age of 18 she married Thomas Mann Randolph, who was then 86 years old and already had several children and grandchildren. Thomas Mann Randolph had inherited extensive property, including Edgehill, which was named in honor of the field on which Cavaliers and Roundheads first joined battle. The house stands on a part of the land William Randolph of Tuckahoe patented in 1735. Thomas Mann Randolph had also been Governor of Virginia, and one of his children, Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr. married Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha Jefferson.

Evidently Martha Jefferson was quite upset when she learned her father-in-law appeared ready to marry Gabriella, a girl about Martha's age and one for whom she had no love. Martha Jefferson Randolph wrote her father a strong letter about the upcoming marriage but received parental advice with a flavor of that given Laertes by Polonius. On July 17, 1790, Thomas Jefferson wrote "*Colonel Randolph's marriage was to be expected. All his amusement depending on society, he cannot live alone.*" Thinking Martha's fear might be that her husband's heritage would be decreased, Jefferson also advised discretion, saying



"Besides your interest, which might be injured by a misunderstanding, be assured that your happiness would be infinitely affected...Therefore, my dear child, redouble your assiduities to keep the affections of Colonel Randolph and his lady (if he is to have one) in proportion as the difficulties increase. He is an excellent, good man, to whose temper nothing can be objected, but too much facility, too much milk. Avail yourself of this softness, then, to obtain his attachment."

Responding to Martha's comments about Gabriella's disposition, Jefferson wrote "*None of us, no not one, is perfect...Your situation will require peculiar attentions and respects to both parties...Former acquaintance and equality of age will render it the easier for you to cultivate and gain the love of the lady.*" So much for Jefferson's views on an older man marrying a younger woman. But this did not end the story. For Gabriella there were material benefits although maybe not romantic ones. It seems that the aging Colonel Randolph's will called for his property, including Edgehill, "to go to his wife and son, Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr." Gabriella, being with child when Colonel Randolph died, soon had a son whom she decided to also give the name

Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr., the same as his older half-brother. One would think the elder Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr. would contest the will, but knowing the wit and wisdom of Gabriella Harvie Randolph, he quietly surrendered his claims. In some accounts of the Harvies and Randolphs it is reported that Gabriella let her son Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr. live for a time in the house at Glenmore. And we do know that Thomas Eston Randolph and his wife, Jane Cary Randolph, sister of Governor Thomas Mann Randolph, owned Glenmore between 1805 and 1813, having bought the property from Johnson and Temperance Rowe for 140 pounds, English currency.



Gabriella Harvie Randolph later married Dr. John Brockenborough, who for several years was president of the State Bank of Virginia. Their Richmond home would later become the White House of the Confederacy.

As a bit of more recent local history, Belmont was featured in the movie “Giant” as the location where Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson met. The house, the fields and fences, the horses and even a train on the railroad tracks that run through Keswick across from Belmont were shown in the film.

