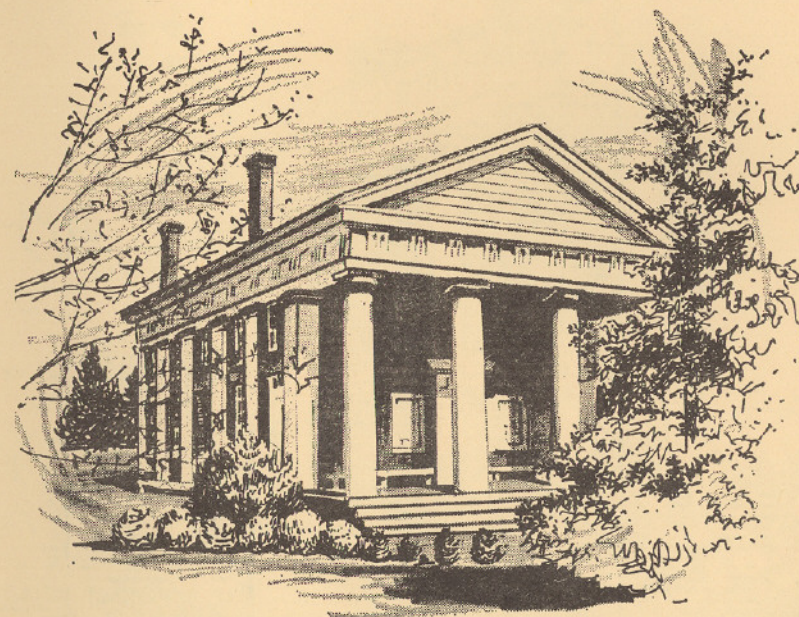


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COURT HOUSE, PALMYRA, VIRGINIA

Built in 1830

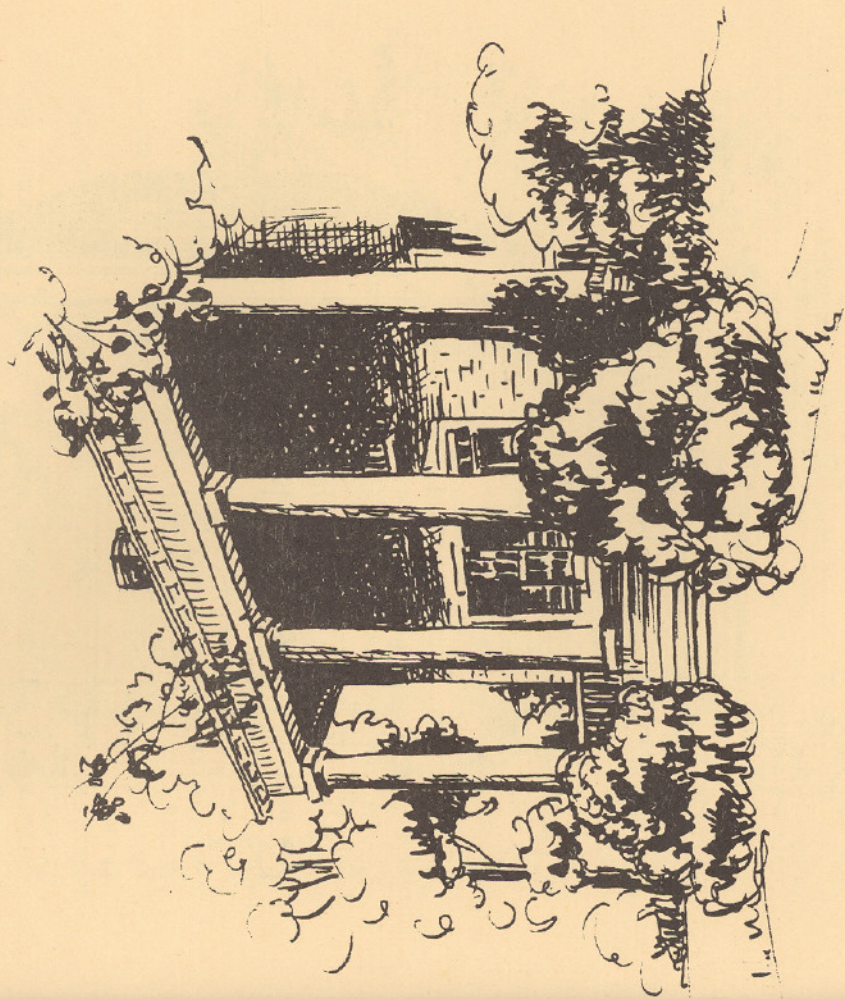
WILLIAM GALT, JR.

1801-1851

ANTEBELLUM FLUVANNA PLANTER

By

G. MELVIN HERNDON, PhD.





Glen Arvon
Plantation Home Built by William Galt, Jr.

WILLIAM GALT, JR., 1801-1851: ANTEBELLUM FLUVANNA PLANTER

Part I

As young boys, William and Hugh Galt frequently sat on the docks at Irvine, Scotland and watched as coal from the Ayshire coal fields was loaded aboard coalers destined for Ireland. Greenock, located in adjoining Renfrewshire, rivaled Glasgow on the eve of the American Revolution as Scotland's chief port for tobacco from the American colonies and was a major port for the West Indian trade. Perhaps in search of excitement, fame, or fortune, or all three, the two Galt brothers journeyed to Greenock. In 1775 William and Hugh were involved in a "smuggling scrape" and William, age twenty, deemed it wise to leave his native land. By design or accident, he wound up in another major tobacco market across the Atlantic — Richmond, Virginia, sometime during the year 1775. He entered the mercantile business in Richmond and at the time of his death in 1825 was reputed to be one of the wealthiest men in Virginia.¹ His will confirms the fact that he was indeed a rich man.²

William Galt never married but kept close ties with some of his kin in Ayshire. Over a period of years he brought several young Scottish boys, all relatives, to Richmond and trained them in his prosperous mercantile firm located on Franklin between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets. John Allan, a nephew, and Charles Ellis, a cousin to Allan, originally served as clerks in the Galt firm. In 1800 Ellis and Allan formed a mercantile partnership in Richmond, financed largely by Galt.³ John Allan is remembered largely as the foster father of Edgar Allan Poe.

Several years later William Galt adopted three orphaned Galt brothers in Scotland—William, James and Robert. The elder Galt once referred to them as "my near kinsmen." His chief interest in them was reputed to be their mother, Jean Malcolm, the woman he loved but lost to Captain William Galt, also of Ayshire. Out of this union came six children in as many years, two of whom died in infancy. Sometime between 1805 and 1811 both the Captain and his wife died leaving four orphaned sons.⁴ It was in 1811 that William Galt heard of the fate of the four Galt orphans and had them placed in the home of widowed Elizabeth Galt in Irvine. He then sent word to Allan Fowlds also in Irvine, "to see that they were properly educated," and agreed to bear the entire expense.⁵

Eight days before President Madison signed the declaration of war against the British in 1812, the elder William Galt wrote eleven-year-old

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William, second oldest of the four Galt brothers, the first of a series of important letters, some of which were delayed because of the war:

You are no longer the poor orphan boy, for from thence forward I have considered you my son and her son [the widowed Elizabeth Galt] and ... altho in your early days you have been so unfortunate as to loose both your father and mother at a tender age yet you have a consolation that very few orphan children meet with in the good fortune in finding another William Galt for a father and another Mrs. Galt for a mother, who feeds you and clothes you, and is now giving you a good education and is very desirous you sh'd be a good scholar and a Clever boy and that you should grow up to be a Clever man....⁶

Included in the letter was a long list of instructions on how to conduct himself, as well as the nature of the proper education for a young lad. "I wish you to learn to be a good English and Latin Scholar," he continued, "to speak & write both languages correctly, also to spell correctly...." He then informed his newly adopted son that he had also made arrangements for dancing and music lessons, as "I wish you ... to learn to dance neatly and to learn all the accomplishments that the dancing Master teaches Boys at the School."⁷

Towards the end of the letter Galt explained that he considered the two younger Galt brothers, James and Robert, "my sons too." He instructed young William "to tell them you have got a letter from your Virginia Father and theirs also." Thomas, the eldest of the four brothers, was not taken in by the elder Galt. He was fourteen years of age and had already gone to sea and apparently refused the gracious offer. Galt ended his letter with the following reference to Thomas: "You see William how much better you are off than your Brother Thomas, who has to encounter all the risque and dangers of the Sea to earn himself a few coarse clothes to wear and a little coarse food to live on.... How different is your situation my Son & how different it will be if you are a clever Boy and follow my counsel."⁸

For the next several years the elder Galt continued to write his son William; he inquired about the progress of his education and gave more advice on the proper conduct for a young lad. He emphasized obedience, church-going and hard work, especially at school, and scolded the boy for not writing. Harsh words turned to those of kindness and sympathy as he commented on the recent death of Mrs. Galt, young William's adopted mother. "Where William," he wrote, will the third [mother] be found? I fear none of your friends will step forward & say to you, William you have lost two mothers I will be the third from hence forward." He then added, "Remember you have a father yet living who will not forsake you if you follow his advice."⁹

In June, 1816, the first letter from William Galt, Jr., finally reached his father in Richmond. The elder Galt was delighted and replied immediately. "I am well pleased to see that you write a good strong round hand... I do not observe that you have spell'd wrong or used bad grammar, indeed

William your letter is so well wrote that I cannot help thinking you have had some assistance in writing it & I am well pleased with it." He then expressed approval that young William had decided to continue his formal education and had enrolled at the academy in nearby Kilmarnock.¹⁰

By the end of the year William, Sr., had received several reports from teachers at the academy and from relatives in Scotland regarding his son's progress at school. "These accts. of you," he wrote young William, "have raised my anxious hopes and expectations of your cleverness and in the same degree they have increased my love & esteem for you...." He then added, "I want you to come out to me next fall...., to come out in a ship that will sail about the middle of next August...so as to arrive here about the 1st of Octr. after the warm season is over."¹¹ In May, 1817, William wrote his son to make preparations to come to Virginia and that he had instructed Allan Fowlds in Irvine to purchase for him such winter and summer clothing, shoes, and boots that would be needed in Virginia. "I look forward with pleasure," he concluded, "to the period when I expect to receive you as my adopted son, and to welcome you home to your father's house in this city."¹² Anxiety mounted as William, Sr., anticipated the arrival of this adopted son he had never seen. In two letters, written only weeks apart, the father insisted that William, Jr., take the first boat possible out of Greenock or Liverpool for Norfolk, Baltimore, or New York and sent specific instructions as to who to contact at each of the above locations and how to get from either of the suggested ports to Richmond.¹³ William, Jr., sailed for Norfolk, Virginia, sometime during the latter part of August or early September, 1817.¹⁴

William Galt, Jr., was sixteen years of age when he joined his adopted father in Richmond. For the next seven years he was educated in the business world by the astute, successful, and prosperous William Galt, Sr. The elder Galt, almost seventy years of age and anticipating at least partial retirement, made William, Jr., a partner in the mercantile firm in September, 1824. The original firm of William Galt was officially changed to "William and William Galt, jun."¹⁵ Early in 1825, William, Jr., wrote a favorite cousin in Scotland that he was now in partnership with his father and then added: "As I manage it [the business] entirely, you may readily imagine it helps keep my time fully occupied."¹⁶

When William, Jr., left Scotland in 1817 his twelve-year-old brother James was preparing to enter Kilmarnock Academy to prepare for his future emigration to Virginia to live with his adopted father. For the next several years James corresponded with his brother in Richmond and kept him informed as to his studies at Kilmarnock. On a number of occasions he expressed his gratitude for having been adopted by such a generous father, "who supplied his every need."¹⁷ In 1821 the sixteen-year-old James completed his education at Kilmarnock and sailed to Virginia. In early

September, 1821, Allan Fowlds wrote William, Jr., that he was taking James to Glasgow to be put on board the *Tobacco Plant* bound for City Point, Virginia.¹⁸ Soon after his arrival in Virginia, James related that he was "much pleased with the country."¹⁹ The two remaining Galt brothers were not so fortunate. Robert, James' twin brother, died in Irvine after a long illness in 1817, shortly after young William's departure; and Thomas had become the "black sheep" of the family.²⁰ Even some of his close kin in Scotland turned him away when he came home occasionally from the sea ragged and financially destitute.²¹ William Galt, Sr., was a very generous man to many of his relatives, but he never gave Thomas a cent.

While James was completing his schooling at Kilmarnock, William, Jr., was using the dancing and music lessons from his academy days to advantage with the young ladies in Richmond. Word reached relatives in Scotland that William "was quite a ladies man." Mary Allan, a favorite cousin, wrote William and expressed her approval of the manner in which he was conducting himself and her utter contempt for young men who frequented "the Tavern, Billard Room [and] Card Table." Subsequent correspondence between William and Mary revealed that he was "showing great affection" to a particular young lady; Mary requested a description of this Richmond belle.²²

The young lady in question was Roxanna Dixon, a niece of Mrs. John Allan. William described her "as beautiful and a first-rate performer on the Piano, [she] has received a good education." "As to cash," he continued "she has more than I have, which is no inducement to me for marrying her," to which he quickly added, "tho no serious objection." He then explained that they planned to be married in a matter of months, and then for some unexplained reason lamented, "tho the fickleness of Virginia ladies has often shown itself."²³ William and Roxanna were married in Richmond on September 14, 1825, by the Reverend W. B. Hart.²⁴ Although William's adopted father died about six months before the marriage took place, he obviously approved of the forthcoming event. In his will he bequeathed "to Roxanna Dixon, one thousand dollars."²⁵ The couple had two children, William and Frances Allan, both of whom died in infancy. Roxanna Dixon Galt died on April 17, 1828.²⁶ About two years later William Galt, Jr., married Mary Bell Taylor, daughter of Thomas and Lucy Harrison Singleton Taylor and granddaughter of Benjamin Harrison, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence and father of President William Henry Harrison. After a honeymoon trip to Washington, D.C., and a visit with relatives in Baltimore, the newlyweds made their home in Richmond.²⁷

William Galt, Sr., died March 26, 1825, at the age of seventy at the home of his nephew, John Allan, on the corner of Fifth and Main Streets in Richmond.²⁸ "Old Galt," as he was sometimes called, was by this time a very wealthy man. In addition to the mercantile firm, he owned considera-

ble real estate in the cities of Richmond and Lynchburg, plantations in Amherst, Campbell, Fluvanna, Goochland and Monroe counties, several hundred slaves, several saw and grist mills, and stock in the Bank of Virginia.²⁹ John Allan inherited the largest share of the estate, receiving real estate in Richmond and three plantations consisting of some 6,000 acres, known as the "Byrd," located on Byrd Creek in Fluvanna and Goochland counties, "with slaves, stocks and property of all kinds belonging thereto."³⁰ Edgar Allan Poe, Allan's foster son, later estimated the value of Allan's share of the Galt estate at \$750,000.³¹ "Old Galt" left William and James Galt an "equal moiety in value of my landed estate in Fluvanna," called "The Fork" which contained three plantations on the James River (approximately 6,000 acres), "with a like moiety of the slaves, stock and property of all kinds belonging thereto." In addition, William, Jr., received several pieces of real estate in Richmond.

The fact that James was neither twenty-one years of age nor a citizen of the United States, though he had announced his intention to become naturalized, posed a minor problem. By law he was not capable of "taking and holding real estate." The will provided that if James were not given a clear deed to his share of the Fluvanna estate within twelve months after becoming a citizen, he was to be paid the sum of \$90,000.³² Galt's will posed a more serious legal problem with regard to the firm of William & William Galt, Jr. The contractual agreement of September 24, 1824, created a five-year partnership, but called for immediate termination upon the death of either partner.³³ The will provided that the business carried on in Richmond "under the firm of William & William Galt, jun. be continued for the benefit... of the said John Allan, William Galt, jun. and James Galt, each being equally, that is to say, one-third interested, and that the said James Galt... be admitted by the said John Allan and William Galt, jun. and actually exist as a partner in the said business, as soon as he attains his full age of twenty-one years...."³⁴

John Forbes, attorney and friend of the Galts, was consulted. It was his opinion that although both the provisions of the original partnership and the operation of the law called for the end of the partnership with the death of one of the partners, the "effect of the clause in the will is to counteract this result and to continue the business for the period limited by the articles, substituting in lieu of the deceased, Messrs. Allan and J. Galt—the former an immediate *active*, the other because of infancy a passive partner, Mr. J. Galt to exist as an active partner of the original partnership might terminate the business if he wished, "but as this act would defeat the will, he would certainly forfeit the benefit of the bequest."³⁵ Thus according to Forbes, the partnership should continue until 1829, i.e., the remainder of the five-year period as provided in the original partnership agreement between William Galt, Sr., and William Galt, Jr., drawn up in 1824.

Although William Galt, Sr., left the bulk of his estate to John Allan,

William, and James Galt, Jr., some twenty heirs were named in his will—many of them relatives living in Scotland. The will was complicated and difficult to execute because it called for the sale of some of the property and divided interests on certain investments, and several persons were named to receive an undetermined amount of cash from the residue of the estate.³⁶ As one of the executors, William Galt, Jr., spent much of the next ten years attempting to settle the estate. Several of the heirs, especially those in Scotland, accused the executors of negligence and deliberately delaying payment; others were impatient or claimed to be in dire financial straits and demanded a portion of their inheritance immediately.³⁷

It is not clear whether the business partnership of Allan, Galt, and Galt was dissolved in 1829, which would have been the end of the five-year partnership specified in the original agreement between William Galt, Sr., and Jr., or whether it continued until the death of John Allan in 1834.³⁸ Both William and James were still living in Richmond as of 1834 and had not made any effort to divide their inheritance in the Fluvanna estate bequeathed in "equal moiety" until that year,³⁹ though construction of two fine identical plantation homes on beautifully chosen sites in Fluvanna had already begun.⁴⁰ The two houses were completed or near completion so as to allow the Galt brothers to move from Richmond to their plantations in the fall of 1835.⁴¹

The Fork estate bequeathed to William and James "in equal moiety" consisted of 5,985 1/3 acres divided into three plantations — upper, middle and lower — extending along the James River for some five miles. On July 22, 1834, they agreed to divide the estate as equally as possible. One story repeated frequently is that they drew lots for the choice of location. William received the upper plantation and James the lower, complete with slaves, stock and farm equipment — and each a new plantation home. Division of the land, slaves, livestock, and farm equipment was not completed until 1839. In 1838 William and James drew up an agreement identical to the one made in 1834, had it recorded in the Fluvanna County Court House, and then proceeded to divide the remainder of the property.

Two persons were selected, one by William and one by James, to divide the middle plantation so that the total acreage for each would be as nearly equal as possible. When the division was agreed upon and the boundary line run between them, William's plantation consisted of 3,031 acres and James received and 2,921. Fifty-seven acres of the best bottom land received by William had already been condemned for use by the James River and Kanawha Canal Company. As provided by the Galt will of 1825, a 33-1/3 acre tract containing a grist and saw mill was held jointly, along with Bartlett, the slave miller. A third person was then appointed to assist in dividing the slaves, livestock and farm equipment on the middle plantation so as to equalize such property between William and James. This was done with much care and in minute detail. For example, William received a

total of 114 slaves and James 113. The slaves were divided into four categories: first-rate hands (men and women) under forty years of age, men and women over forty, boys and girls age eight to fourteen, and boys and girls under eight. Care was taken so as not to break up families. The skilled craftsmen were also divided equally.⁴² William named his plantation "Glenarvon" and James called his "Point of Fork," retaining the name William Galt, Sr., had given the entire Fluvanna estate.⁴³

Little serious farming seems to have been carried on until the final division of the property was made in 1838. From 1827 until he moved to Fluvanna County in 1835, William seems to have been more interested in raising fine horses and Greyhound dogs.⁴⁴ In 1837 he sold only seven hogsheads of tobacco. In 1838 he marketed twenty-three, about half the amount produced annually after 1839.⁴⁵ At the beginning of 1839 William and James began separate and distinct farm operations and from January 1 of that year until his death in January, 1851, William kept detailed daily records of the activities on his plantation.⁴⁶

William Galt, Jr., was well prepared to enter seriously a planting career in 1839. He possessed an ample amount of land, labor and farm equipment — all debt free. More important, he was mentally prepared to tackle the economic problems of the period and to become an important part of the agricultural reform movement in antebellum Virginia.

The twenty years following Galt's arrival in Richmond were a period of heavy emigration West and Southwest. It was a continuation of the traditional westward movement heightened by the realization that the old methods of agriculture offered little hope. From 1820 to 1830 the rate of population increase fell from 37½ percent to 13½ percent. The total increase of whites in the period 1830-1840 was slightly over 3 percent. Many counties in the Tidewater and Piedmont regions lost population. The primary factor in this development was soil exhaustion. It was generally agreed that farmers had either to flee their impoverished lands or make a major and concentrated effort to improve them. The appeal of new land was indeed powerful and the inducement to reform agricultural practices consequently weak.

The years 1820-1830 were largely a period of experimentation and readjustment, with agricultural decline and emigration the most noticeable characteristics. By 1840, however, certain fundamental changes were being made which were to give Virginia a fairly prosperous system of general diversified agriculture. The problem of soil improvement was being attacked and this served to initiate a change in the whole agricultural outlook in Virginia. After 1840 considerable progress was made and a new system established. For the first time since early colonial days farmers were able to improve their soils, and they entered into a system of agriculture that offered permanency as well as profit. According to Avery O. Craven, by 1860 Virginia was in the best agricultural condition that it had

ever known.

The agricultural revival, well under way when William Galt, Jr., ex-merchant, began farming in earnest in 1839, was the result of the efforts of a host of farmers determined to restore fertility and increase productivity on Virginia's worn-out soils in a variety of ways. One important factor in the new agriculture was the continual improvement of farm machinery. Numerous types of plows for breaking and preparing the seed-bed and cultivating the crops were now in use, as well as implements for planting and harvesting crops. The iron plow was in a high state of development and good plowing was emphasized by every "improved farmer" — plowing a deep furrow with the disposition of the furrows in such a way as to prevent or reduce washing. Deep plowing resulted in greater absorption of water with less washing; it provided greater room for root growth and a greater supply of available plant food, as well as a more even supply of moisture. Many of the plows required from three to five horses or oxen to draw them and they cut a furrow eight to ten inches deep. Subsoil plows were being widely introduced. Hillside or horizontal plowing was introduced as a means of preventing erosion on rolling lands. Thomas Mann Randolph of Albemarle County has been given credit for this development as he perfected a plow with a reversible share which enabled him to turn the furrow down the hill going and coming. Cyrus McCormick of Rockbridge County had developed a more practical reaper by the 1840's.⁴⁷ Galt's 1851 estate inventory included a wide variety of farm implements, many of them considered essential by progressive planters: 19 cultivators, 3 scrapers, 9 coulter, 6 four-horse plows; 12 two-horse plows, 4 one-horse plows, 2 hillside plows, 2 two-horse sub-soil plows, 5 winged cultivators and 6 harrows; 15 cradles, 2 McCormick reapers, a horse-powered threshing machine and two wheat fans; 2 corn planters, 6 corn coverers, corn shellers and a corn crusher; and numerous lesser tools such as axes, hoes and scythes.⁴⁸

The addition of more animal and vegetable manures to the soil together with the introduction of artificial fertilizers constituted a vital part of the improvement program. John Taylor of Caroline became the most notable proponent of returning manures of all kinds, animal and vegetable, to the soil. The credit for the introduction of plaster of Paris or gypsum apparently belongs to John A. Binns of Loudoun County. Binns found that gypsum greatly benefited grass plots and by using it on clover he raised his worn and exhausted farm to a high degree of fertility. The introduction of grasses opened the way for an increase in livestock and thus a greater supply of animal as well as green manures, while legumes aided fertility by the accumulation of nitrogen in the soil. Artificial grasses became essential in the development of better systems of crop rotation. Until grasses came along, the alternate planting of tobacco, wheat, and corn only led to a rapid soil depletion. All the forces of exhaustion, from erosion to the removal of

plant food, had free play year after year until forced abandonment gave the soil a long rest from cultivation and the opportunity to recover somewhat.

The chief figure in the movement to find ways by which worn and exhausted soils might be restored was Edmund Ruffin of Prince George County. His most significant experiment was the use of calcareous manures to correct the acidity of the soil, the addition of organic matter and the use of proper crop rotation. Soil acidity prevented the release of plant food in the soil. Consequently, the addition of animal and vegetable manures did little to restore fertility until the acidity was corrected. It was Ruffin's discovery that made many of the other agricultural practices really work.

The introduction and wide adoption of the practice of using Peruvian guano also played an important role in rejuvenating the soils. It was considered universally beneficial and was transportable to the interior with relative ease. By 1850 it had become so popular that the supply rarely equalled the demand.⁴⁹

Fundamental to any effort at improvement of the soil, and consequently the agriculture of the region, was introduction of better means of transportation. Farm produce had to find its way to a profitable market before other changes could be made. Internal improvements and new markets were thus essential foundations for agricultural prosperity. As early as 1820 agricultural improvements followed the rivers closely, and those counties on the rivers all showed a degree of economic awakening. By the early 1830's little progress had been made on the James River Canal. It extended from Richmond to Maidens Adventure dams - a distance of only twenty-seven miles. However, in 1835 the James River and Kanawha Company replaced the old James River Company, and by 1840 the canal had been extended an additional 120 miles, to Lynchburg, Virginia.⁵⁰

William Galt's plantation was located approximately 60 miles from Richmond, and he was fortunate that the canal ran through his property.⁵¹ Boats capable of carrying 80 tons made the trip from Lynchburg to Richmond in three days. Glenarvon was thus only a day away from the Richmond market. Reasonable proximity to market meant reasonable freight costs for Galt. In 1847 freight rates via the canal were ½ cent per ton per mile for tobacco, 3 cents per ton for wheat and 1 cent for corn.⁵² It may be mere coincidence, but Galt did not begin serious farming until after the canal was open from Glenarvon to Richmond. Galt also had his own canal boat, a *bateau* drawn by two horses, to move goods from one part of the plantation to another. Frequent business trips to Richmond were made on the packet boat which passed through Glenarvon every other day. The canal made large quantities of plaster of Paris, lime, and guano readily available to Galt.

Perhaps Galt's non-agrarian immigrant background was an asset. Since he had to learn the business of farming from scratch, he harbored no inhibitions about experimenting with new procedures, crops, and imple-

ments and adjusted readily to the new agriculture of the period. Having inherited a debt-free plantation complete with farm equipment and a labor force also helped. While such prominent figures as John Taylor of Caroline, Edmund Ruffin, and others have rightly received much of the credit for agricultural reform in antebellum Virginia, it was the many active participants such as William Galt, Jr., who made the reform movement a reality and a success. When Galt died in 1851 he possessed a copy of every issue of the *American Farmer* published since 1839, as well as many issues of the *Cultivator*. His agricultural practices suggest that he read each volume carefully. For first-hand advice Galt was fortunate to have an experienced and innovative planter, John H. Cocke, as a friend and neighbor.⁵³

Most essential of all to a new agriculture was the effort to find ways by which worn and exhausted soils might be restored and maintained and to get farmers to put them into practice. Galt was more fortunate than many planters in that 369 of his 3,031 acres of land were fertile low grounds bordering the James River;⁵⁴ and he was as concerned about maintaining the fertility of his bottom land as he was in restoring that which was washed, worn, and exhausted.

Green manures, including legumes, were an important part of Galt's restoration efforts. He sowed large quantities of timothy, herds grass, orchard grass, clover and peas. It was not unusual for him to harvest his own peas, clover, and grass seed, though he frequently purchased some of each. Clover was unquestionably Galt's favorite for both hay and fallow. He sowed it alone for hay and fallow on upland, bottom land, and new ground, with small grain, orchard grass, herds grass, or timothy, or with all three. It was an essential part of his rotation system, including a "light sowing" on the tobacco land. Herds grass, orchard grass, and timothy were sown separately or in combination, and with oats for hay and fallow on corn and wheat land. Blackeyed and Gallivant peas were sown alone and frequently in the corn fields between the rows of corn and plowed in with the cultivators. Peas were harvested for food and seed and the vines cut for hay or left for fallow.⁵⁵

The use of artificial grasses not only was important in crop rotation, but also for increased supplies of animal manure; and of course the nitrogen fixing legumes themselves aided fertility by the accumulation of nitrogen in the soil. In 1839 Galt's workstock consisted of 15 horses, 8 mules, 23 oxen and 7 unbroken steers. In 1851 he had 40 horses, mules, and colts, and 24 oxen. From 1839 to 1851 he increased his cattle from 23 cows and calves to 80 milk cows, 31 calves and 4 young steers. The workstock were kept confined all year long and the cattle were penned in November and fed through the winter. In addition to grasses and clover hay, wheat straw and corn stalks were fed as roughage in the cattle pens, thus adding to the accumulation of manure. Tobacco stalks, leaves from the woods, and weeds cut from the fields were also hauled to the farm pens. Galt usually

butchered around 100 hogs annually. They were normally penned from early September until they were killed in December.⁵⁶ This practice also produced considerable animal manure.

All the animal manure was usually spread during the months of March, April, and May. During this three-month period, weather permitting, two wagons and several ox carts hauled manure daily on the Galt plantation. The manure was plowed under as soon as it was spread. In doing so, Galt was following the advice given in the *American Farmer*, which recommended that manure be spread no faster than it could be plowed under "to prevent exposure to air and the sun."⁵⁷ Most of the animal manure was reserved for the tobacco land. Corn and clover were manured on a more selective basis. However, "gullied places" and "thin knobs" took precedence over all other areas. By the end of May each year the stables, cowpens, and hog lots were scraped clean of manure. All straw and corn stalks not consumed as feed and bedding in the cattle pens during the winter were hauled and scattered on the poor or thin spots; rotten straw and hay at the bottom of the stacks, unfit for animal consumption, were scattered on the hillsides. Tobacco stalks, leaves from the woods and the heavy growth of weeds cut along the canal banks were also consumed in the above manner. Rocks and brush were hauled to gullied areas to help check erosion.⁵⁸ Anything that would decompose was hauled either to the fields or the cowpens.

Galt purchased and used large quantities of plaster of Paris and lime, delivered to the plantation by boats on the James River canal. Plaster was delivered in barrels and was frequently hard and lumpy and had to be pulverized before spreading. This was done by watered-powered hammers at Galt's grist mill. Lime and plaster were applied to clover and grasses, wheat, corn, and tobacco. Galt's standard rate of application for the above crops was one bushel per acre. This was in line with recommendations that appeared in the *American Farmer*.⁵⁹ Always willing to experiment, Galt wrote in 1841 that he was adopting a "new system of sowing plaster on the clover and not on the wheat, believing that plaster makes the wheat more liable to rust."⁶⁰ Apparently he was soon convinced that there was no relationship between the use of plaster and wheat rust for in a couple of years he was once again sowing plaster on the wheat land.

He applied lime and plaster in one of two ways: added to the manure before it was hauled out and spread on the fields, or sowed immediately after the manure had been scattered and both were then plowed under. Occasionally he waited until the clover was in leaf before applying it to that crop.⁶¹

By the time of his death in 1851 Galt had become a firm believer in the use of guano, and he seems to have been among the first in Virginia to use it on a regular basis. In the early 1820's a small sample of guano came into the possession of John Skinner of Baltimore, who gave it some notice in

the pages of his *American Farmer*, but no permanent results followed. Not until its benefits had been proven in England did it receive a new trial in the United States in the early 1840's.⁶² Galt first mentioned the use of guano in April, 1845, when he sowed a mixture of 1/2 bushel of guano, 2 bushels of plaster, and 2 bushels of "woods earth" on each of his tobacco-plant beds. In May and June of that same year he had the women slaves put a "handful" of a mixture of guano, plaster, and ashes around each hill of corn in front of the plows. In 1846 he experimented with different mixtures of guano, plaster, and ashes on his corn and applied the same mixture to some of his wheat. By 1850 he had abandoned the above mixture for corn and wheat and changed his method of applying guano. Guano was sown on the wheat land before it was fallowed in preparation for seeding. For corn, he put the guano in the furrow, covered it with a few inches of earth, and then planted the corn. On bottom-land corn he used guano only on the sand bars and under the hills "where pumpkins were planted." Galt used guano under his tobacco for the first time in 1850, placing a small handful in each hill. For Galt and others, guano had become a fundamental factor in the agricultural revival and its use was limited only to the amount that could be secured and the capital with which to make the purchases. Shipments to Baltimore increased from a few tons in 1843 to 445 tons in 1844 and to 25,500 tons in 1852. After 1852 other ports received shipments, and Norfolk and Alexandria became distributing centers for Virginia.⁶³

Erosion on the highlands on Glenarvon was a constant problem. Plowing on the contour was religiously adhered to by Galt. On places too steep to plow, the ground was broken with hoes and seeded and covered with straw or brush, or both. Water furrows, or terraces, were constructed on the contour and maintained throughout the year. After every rain workers with hoes were sent to the fields to open the clogged furrows and repair the breaks. Rotations that prevented the same field from being row-cropped year after year also helped prevent erosion. Extra amounts of animal and vegetable manures and guano were applied to eroded spots. Workers with wheelbarrows regularly hauled soil to fill small gullies resulting from a freshet. Thus Galt used all principal remedies for controlling erosion.⁶⁴

The greatest difficulty in maintaining productivity on the bottom lands was drainage — to reclaim land or to prevent crops from drowning. Galt used two procedures to deal with these problems — blind, or closed, drainage ditches and bedding of the land. Blind ditches resulted in no loss of arable land and provided for the easy passage of machinery. Although there was much discussion on the proper width of beds, Galt preferred to plant on 14 to 16 foot beds, after some years of experimentation.⁶⁵

By the time Galt began serious farming in 1839 general farming was gradually replacing the old-type tobacco plantation in a large part of the Virginia tobacco district.⁶⁶ Galt joined the movement to make tobacco only one of several money crops; however, he made no deliberate efforts to

curtail tobacco production on Glenarvon. Galt was among those who believed that soil exhaustion should not be blamed on tobacco as such, and that tobacco culture could be reconciled with well-ordered and progressive plantation management. He produced 46 hogsheads of tobacco in 1839 and by 1850 had increased his production by several hogsheads. In the period 1839-1850 he averaged around 50 hogsheads annually. Due to weather conditions he naturally experienced both good and bad years. In 1846 he harvested and sold only 34 hogsheads; on the other hand, on several occasions he produced over 50. In addition to constantly clearing new ground for tobacco, he applied animal and vegetable manure, guano, and plaster to tobacco land and practiced a tobacco, wheat, clover rotation, noting that such a rotation would restore the exhausted soils.⁶⁷

The first requirement for a good tobacco crop was an ample supply of healthy tobacco plants. This meant greater uniformity of growth and the completion of planting before the end of June. Tobacco planted in July might not ripen for cutting before frost. Galt usually sowed 6,000 to 8,000 square yards of plant bed annually, "quite enough for planting three such crops as mine." A heavy application of finely chopped stable manure prior to seeding the plant bed provided for greater fertility and more rapid plant growth; beginning in 1845 guano was also added, and several weeks before planting time a second application was made. If the rains did not provide adequate moisture for good growth, the beds were watered from a nearby stream.⁶⁸

During the period of plant bed growth the fly, or, as it is now known, the tobacco flea beetle, attacked the young plants and sometimes severely damaged or even destroyed them. In May, 1842, Galt wrote, "Plants very backward and have been very much destroyed by the Fly, one bed of 1900 yds. in the new ground entirely destroyed and another about half."⁶⁹ Ashes, a common remedy in the 18th century, were still being used. Galt experimented with numerous ingredients - lime, sulphur and plaster, lime and ashes, a combination of plaster, lime, brimstone, ashes and manure, a mixture of guano, plaster and ashes. The above formulas seem to have had little effect. In 1847 Galt tried yet another — a mixture of tanners' oil (2 gals.) and ashes (3 bushels). Several days after the above application, Galt wrote in his journal: "Ashes and Tanners Oil on plant bed had a very fine effect, the plants not injured afterward by the fly." However, by 1850 he was using a formula he had first used in the mid-1840's — a mixture of guano, plaster and leached ashes.⁷⁰ The guano was probably the most effective of the three ingredients in that it stimulated more rapid plant growth and minimized the damage.

One of the most striking qualities of Galt as a planter was his willingness to experiment. Throughout the colonial period and until early antebellum days, there were only two major types of tobacco — Oronoko (Orinoco) and Sweet Scented.⁷¹ However, through the spread of tobacco culture to

new soil types and the inevitable hybridization, more distinct strains were soon identified. Although Galt preferred Oronoko, he frequently tried other varieties. In January, 1845 he sowed several Oronoko plant beds and one "called the Heartwell Tobacco." In one of the Oronoko beds he also sowed "a square yard ... with California Tob. seed sent me by Hon. E. W. Hubbard from the Patent Office." The following year he sowed half of an Oronoko bed in "Marvin Tob. Seed." The only variety that came to rival Oronoko at Glenarvon was White Stem.⁷²

In 1843 Galt described an interesting and unique procedure performed immediately after planting the tobacco — "clodding." Each plant was covered with a clod of dirt to shade it from the hot sun. Several days later the clods were removed. Galt described the procedure in the following manner: "[Thursday] Finishing planting tobacco in the meadow and clodded it, then clodded the lowgrounds planted yesterday and taking the clods off that planted on Monday and Tuesday which all looks very well." He concluded his remark with the following observation: "The tobacco crop stands remarkably well where it had been clodded and is a good deal missing in part of Cox's Field where it was not Clodded."⁷³ It is interesting to note that clodding was never mentioned in Galt's journal before or after the 1843 planting season. He usually planted around 100 acres of tobacco and if all were clodded it would have involved between 400,000 and 500,000 plants. The experiment probably did not save enough replanting time to be worth the effort. Clodding and unclodding some 500,000 tobacco plants would indeed be a time consuming task.

As already noted, after 1845 Galt was a firm believer in the use of guano under his tobacco crop; otherwise, tobacco culture at Glenarvon followed traditional, decades-old practices. While tobacco production declined somewhat in the entire Virginia-North Carolina district in the decade 1839-1849,⁷⁴ except for one bad year, Galt managed to increase production of the crop. He was more fortunate than many planters because of the proximity of the James River Canal. He built his tobacco prize-houses on the banks of the canal, which made transportation to the Richmond market even more convenient.

Not only did Galt increase tobacco production, he increased other crops as well, as he, like other planters of the period, increasingly practiced more general farming. Wheat was his second most important money crop. In the decade 1840-1850 Galt gradually increased his annual wheat production from 2,800 to 5,000 bushels. All but 500 to 700 bushels reserved for seed were shipped to Richmond. While the weather, wheat rust, and the Hessian fly were factors affecting wheat production, the increase in wheat production at Glenarvon was due principally to improved per acre yields rather than to an increase in acreage planted. Galt normally sowed 300 to 350 acres and the number of bushels sown remained about the same — 600 to 700 bushels. For example, in 1840 he sowed 704½ bushels and harvested

2,880. In 1850 he sowed 609½ bushels and sold 4,999. Improvement in soil fertility via crop rotation, fallowing grasses and clover, the use of plaster, lime and guano, clearing of new ground and experimentation with new varieties of wheat explains the increase in wheat production at Glenarvon. From 1839 to 1850 Galt sowed ten different varieties of winter wheat. In 1840 he averaged about 8 bushels per acre; in 1850 approximately 16. On one occasion he harvested 39 bushels of Red May wheat per acre on new ground which produced, in Galt's word, "an unexampled yield...of clean seed wheat when threshed."⁷⁵

Increased production resulted in increased harvesting problems, which Galt met headon. He followed the advice of agricultural reformers and had his cradlers abandon the traditional practice of having the cradler "handle" the wheat as it was cut — i.e., catch the wheat in the left hand with each sweep of the cradle, placing it in neat piles. They urged the adoption of the Northern method of laying it in a swath with the backward motion of the cradle, to be gathered up by the rakers and binders. More importantly, by harvest time in 1844 Galt had purchased a McCormick reaper.⁷⁶ Although Cyrus McCormick patented his reaper in 1834, he sold his first two machines in 1840 — one in Northern Virginia and the other to a man from the James River district. He sold six in 1842, 39 in 1843 and 50 in 1844 for \$100 each, by which time he had developed a fairly practical machine.⁷⁷

On June 11, 1844 Galt wrote of his new reaper: "This morning started McCormicks Reaper to cutting the low ground wheat, which in standing up wheat it does admirably, but in tangled and fallen down wheat it does not cut it well." He was apparently pleased with the performance of the reaper in 1844; by harvest time in 1845 he had purchased his second one.⁷⁸ A good cradler could cut 2½ to 3 acres of wheat per day, McCormick's reaper 12 to 15.⁷⁹ To hasten the harvest, and to cut the fallen and tangled wheat and that on the steep hillsides, Galt still used a dozen cradlers along with the two reapers.

After being cut the wheat was tied in bundles or sheaves and shocked (12 sheaves to a shock) or stacked reasonably close to the location of the threshing machine. On the Galt plantation the threshing was done at the wheat barn, which contained an upper area capable of housing about 10,000 sheaves of wheat, a machine shelter which housed the horse-powered threshing machine and two wheat fans to clean the wheat after threshing and a cellar to store the threshed grain. In July, 1848, while threshing wheat, Galt's wheat barn caught fire and burned. The threshing machine and fans were saved but the barn, along with 2,000 bushels of wheat in the cellar and about 800 shocks of wheat stored in the barn, were destroyed. A bucket brigade fought the fire until it was finally extinguished by a thunderstorm. According to Galt the fire was caused "by failure and neglect of the overseer in not stopping the machine after dinner and oiling it — and the fire was communicated from the gudgeons." The following

year he began erecting a new wheat barn of brick construction, from brick made at the plantation kiln. However, in order to complete the barn by harvest time in 1850, 4,000 brick were brought in by boat from Richmond. He also bought a new threshing machine.⁸⁰ The fact that Galt purchased two reapers and a new threshing machine and built a new brick wheat barn clearly suggests the importance of wheat production in his agricultural operations. The wheat crop provided an additional bonus considered of great importance. All the wheat straw and chaff were carefully stacked at threshing time and fed to the penned livestock and used for bedding. That which was not consumed was trampled, adding considerable bulk to the valuable animal manure in the pens.

Although corn production was an important part of Galt's general farming, it was not an important money crop. Most of the corn produced was consumed on the plantation, by man and beast — grain, cob, shucks, stalk and all. Cornmeal ground at the plantation grist mill fed the Galt family, the overseer and 152 slaves; large quantities of corn, including the cob, were crushed and fed to the livestock — 40 horses, mules and colts, 19 oxen, 80 cows, 26 yearlings and calves and over 200 hogs and pigs; corn fodder, shucks and stalks were fed to the penned cattle in the winter. That which was not eaten became a part of the all-important manure heap. Surplus old corn, sometimes as much as 700 bushels, was shelled and shipped to market at harvest time to make way for the new crop in the corn houses.⁸¹

Galt planted between 100 and 150 acres of corn annually, and production ranged from 1,150 to 1,300 barrels (4,500 to 5,000 bushels). Per acre yield in Piedmont Virginia varied from 35 to 50 bushels.⁸² Although Galt never gave any hint as to his per acre yield, he probably did better than 35 bushels, especially on his bottom lands. He practiced a four-year rotation of corn, wheat and two years of clover or grasses. The corn land received a fair share of the animal manure. Beginning in the mid-1840s he was putting a handful of guano, plaster, and ashes (2-6-10 ratio) around each hill of corn or sowing it in the furrow just prior to planting; and he frequently sowed peas in between the corn rows. One indicator of the fertility of his corn land can be seen in his method of thinning the corn. The number of stalks left in each hill was determined in part by the fertility of the soil, varying from one to three. Galt left two stalks per hill.⁸³

Galt used two methods of harvesting corn. One was to cut the tops of the corn just above the ear, tie them into bundles which were shocked in the field until cured. The blades on the corn stalk below the ear (fodder) were pulled off, tied into bundles and hung on that part of the stalk still standing. Many farmers believed the dried blades contained more nourishment than an equal quantity of hay. Others argued that the amount of labor required was excessive and that the pulling of the blades before the corn was ripe injured the crop. The ear of corn was pulled off the stalk and shucked later,

frequently at night. That portion of the stalk left standing in the field was chopped up and fallowed or hauled off to some eroded area. The second method was to cut and shock the entire stalk. The ear was shucked at some later date and stored in the corn house and the stalks and shucks fed to the penned livestock. The fact that Galt built two new corn houses, one in 1840 and a second in 1850,⁸⁴ giving him a total of three, also suggests an increase in corn production at Glenarvon in the decade 1840-1850, as was the case for the entire state of Virginia, including Fluvanna County.⁸⁵

One other small grain was grown at Glenarvon — oats. It was grown for hay principally for the workstock, and the entire crop was consumed on the plantation. Occasionally Galt sowed a mixture of oats and clover. In 1839 he sowed about forty-five acres; by 1849 he had increased the amount to sixty acres. This was to compensate for the increase in the workstock on the plantation.

In 1839 Galt had 45 draft animals — 23 oxen, 15 horses and 7 mules.⁸⁶ Oxen had long been a favorite draft animal for working in the woods breaking up tough new sod and in fields filled with rocks and stumps. They were said to give longer service, were inexpensive to keep, and less susceptible to disease and injury; and when they became old they were valuable as beef. Oxen continued to be popular in Virginia for yet another reason — they were the only draft animal not taxed. A conspicuous change on the Galt plantation and in the South in general was the growing preference for mules as workstock over horses.⁸⁷ In 1851 Galt was working 35 mules, 6 oxen, and only 8 horses.⁸⁸ Mules came to be preferred to horses because they were cheaper to raise and maintain, they lived longer and they trampled down less corn, tobacco, etc., during cultivation.⁸⁹

Livestock were also an important part of Galt's general farm operations. Not only did he increase production of tobacco, wheat, corn, oats, and hay in the decade 1840-1850; he also increased the number of livestock on the plantation. These animals furnished an adequate supply of milk and butter, meat, and wool for winter clothing for the slaves. It was not unusual for Galt to sell as many as 100 cured hams and several firkins of lard. The number of hogs butchered annually ranged from 90 to 135.⁹⁰ It should be noted again that the increase in the number of workstock and livestock meant an increase in another extremely important item — animal manure.

Careful attention was given the garden and orchard, and the cellar filled with semi-perishable vegetables and fruit was an important part of the total economy of the plantation. The slaves were also encouraged to have their own gardens and given Saturday afternoons off to tend them. The ice pond and ice house provided the Galts with the luxury of ice during the summer.⁹¹

The water-powered grist mill added to the economy of the Galt plantation. The slaves received a weekly allowance of flour and corn meal; water from the millpond provided power for the saw mill and hammers to pul-

verize guano, plaster and lime. The grist and saw mills provided an additional source of income as neighbors patronized both.⁹²

The woodlands were of great economic value. Wood was the source of fuel for all living quarters, the tobacco houses and the brick kiln, and provided lumber and timbers for new slave quarters, tobacco houses, and other outbuildings. Shingles to cover the buildings were made on the plantation, as were the brick for foundations, chimneys, and the new wheat barn. All fences were of rail construction. Tobacco hogsheads were made from staves rived on the plantation. On a few occasions Galt sold some boat and bridge timber.

* * * * *

To manage such a large and diversified plantation successfully was a mammoth task which demanded knowledge in many fields, business acumen, and patience with endless details. The journals and records of William Galt of Glenarvon illustrate the problems of keeping numerous agricultural hands gainfully employed and the logistics of maintaining a self-supporting unit which would meet the needs of so large a home-community.

The second part of this manuscript will appear in the next *Bulletin*, Number 32, and will include an Appendix of documents which will complement this narrative.

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Readers who enjoy this work by Dr. Herndon may also wish to read *Bulletin* Number 13-14, "The Diary of James Galt of Point of Fork." From this diary we learned that Mrs. John Allan resided at The Byrd during the Civil War. The Byrd Plantation stretched from Columbia to Byrd Creek on the James River. Some of today's owners are James C. Bowles, the Boggs Family, Phil N. Stoneman, Jr., Albert Pyle and John Rollins.

Also for local readers, we include two bits of folklore: According to tradition, the elder William Galt first came to Fluvanna as a pedlar with a pack on his back. Once, walking through the woodland of this sparsely settled county, night fell before he reached a home to seek shelter. He proceeded with great trepidation, his eyes searching the darkness ahead. Suddenly a loud, vibrant voice asked, "Who? Who? Who?" Not recognizing the call of the bird in the treetops, Galt answered, "Nobody. Just Galt the pedlar!" The only source found which lends validity to this story is an obituary of Mr. Galt published in a newspaper in Baltimore which stated he began his career in America as an itinerant pedlar.

Dr. Herndon found no corroboration of the story that James Galt returned to Scotland with John Allan when the elder William sent Allan there to attend to his shipping interests, and that James attended school in Scotland while there with Allan. According to the inherited memories of Fluvanna, "Old Galt" sent James along to keep an eye on Allan's business transactions!

—Editor's Notes

FOOTNOTES

- ¹William Galt, Sr., was born and baptized in the Parish of Dundonald, Ayrshire, Scotland, April 13, 1755. Account of the death of William Galt, Sr., by John Allan, Richmond, March 26, 1825; Copy of a letter from Mary Galt of Maryland to Stewart Galt of Toronto, n.d., Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr., 1812-1850. Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina. Harvey Hamilton, *The Industrial Revolution in Scotland* (London, 1966), 169.
- ²Will of William Galt, Sr., Deed Book 117B, p. 99-103. Chancery Court, City of Richmond. Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia; see also the *National Intelligencer* (D.C.), April 1, 1825.
- ³Agnes M. Bondurant, *Poe's Richmond* (Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1942), 197; Hervey Allen, *Israfel: The Life and Times of Edgar Allan Poe*. 2 vols. (New York, 1927), I, 116.
- ⁴Thomas, b. 1798; William, b. 1801; Mary, b. 1803; Robert and James, twins, b. 1805; John, b. 1805. John and Mary died as infants. Galt of Maryland to Galt of Toronto, n.d., Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr. William Galt, Sr., and Captain William Galt were probably cousins.
- ⁵Allan Fowlds to John Allan, Kilmarnock, Scotland, January 4, 1812, copy in Allen, *Israfel*, I, 41. Mrs. Fowlds was a sister of John Allan and a niece of William Galt, Sr.
- ⁶William Galt, Sr., to William Galt, Jr., Richmond, June 10, 1812, Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr. From this point on the elder Galt referred to him as "my son," or William Galt, Jr.
- ⁷*Ibid.*
- ⁸*Ibid.*
- ⁹William Galt, Sr., to William Galt, Jr., Richmond, March 20, 1814; June 14, 1815, Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr.; William Galt, Sr., to William Galt, Jr., Richmond, April 7, 1816, *ibid.*
- ¹⁰William Galt, Sr., to William Galt, Jr., Richmond, June 25, 1816, *ibid.*
- ¹¹William Galt, Sr., to William Galt, Jr., Richmond, November 30, 1816, *ibid.*
- ¹²William Galt, Sr., to William Galt, Jr., Richmond, May 17, 1817, *ibid.*
- ¹³*Ibid.*; William Galt, Sr., to William Galt, Jr., Richmond, June 24, 1817. The amount of clothing listed was impressive.
- ¹⁴Mary Allan to William Galt, Jr., Flower Branch, Scotland, March 14, 1818; Allan Fowlds to William Galt, Jr., Kilmarnock, October, 1818, *ibid.*
- ¹⁵John Forbes, Attorney, Opinion of the Articles of Partnership between William Galt & William Galt, Jr., April 2, 1825, *ibid.*
- ¹⁶William Galt, Jr., to Mary Fowlds, Richmond, February 25, 1825, *ibid.*
- ¹⁷James Galt to William Galt, Jr., Kilmarnock Academy, July 24, 1818; April 2, 1819; September 22, 1819, *ibid.*
- ¹⁸Allan Fowlds to William Galt, Jr., Kilmarnock, September 10, 1821, *ibid.* I found no evidence to suggest that James Galt had come to Virginia earlier and was sent back to Scotland with the John Allans and Edgar Allan Poe for additional education in 1815. None of the letters to and from William Galt, Sr., and Jr., beginning in 1812 even insinuate this. I found it difficult to believe that William, Sr., had James come to Virginia at the tender age of ten or less. James was four years younger than William, Jr. William, Sr., did not send for the younger William until he had completed his education at Kilmarnock and turned sixteen years of age. Hervey, *Israfel*, I, 90, says James came back to Virginia with the Allans and Poe in the summer of 1820. Arthur H. Quinn, *Edgar Allan Poe, A Critical Biography* (New York, 1969), 67, says that the story of Poe going to Scotland rests on very slim evidence — namely, J. H. Whitty's *The Complete Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* (Boston, 1911). Whitty arrived at this conclusion from Major John Allan Galt's reminiscences of his father — James Galt.
- ¹⁹Galt, Jr. to Fowlds, Richmond, February 25, 1825, Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr.
- ²⁰Fowlds to Galt, Jr., Kilmarnock, October, 1817; Allan to Galt, Jr., Flower Branch, March 14, 1818, *ibid.* Robert died a few weeks after William sailed for Virginia, following a long illness.
- ²¹Galt, Sr., to Galt, Jr., Richmond, April 7, 1816; June 25, 1816; November 30, 1816; May 18, 1817; June 30, 1817; Mary Allan to William Galt, Jr., Flower Branch, December 11, 1820; Robert Rankin to William Galt, Esqr., Irvine, Scotland, September 8, 1822, *ibid.*
- ²²Allan to Galt, Jr., Flower Branch, December 11, 1820; August 18, 1821, *ibid.*
- ²³Galt, Jr., to Fowlds, Richmond, February 25, 1825, *ibid.*
- ²⁴Galt of Maryland to Galt of Toronto, n.d., *ibid.* Anne Waller Reddy and Andrew Lewis Riffe IV, *Virginia Marriage Bonds, Richmond City* (Staunton, 1939), p. 36.
- ²⁵Will of William Galt, Sr., Deed Book 117B, 1825, 100.
- ²⁶Galt of Maryland to Galt of Toronto, n.d., Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr., Richmond *Whig*, April 26, 1828.

- ²⁷Richmond Times, November 27, 1892. A similar biographical sketch is in an unidentified newspaper clipping in Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr. Both articles were probably written about the same time and both give the marriage date as February 2, 1831. This is in error, the date should be 1830. In 1829 William Galt, Jr., wrote Jane Walsh, a cousin in Baltimore, and invited her to the wedding. On January 19, 1830 she replied and sent her regrets and then invited William and Mary to a "fancy ball" in Baltimore to be held on February 4, 1830. She then added, "that Miss Taylor should agree to get married a day or so sooner so they could come." Jane Walsh to William Galt, Esqr., Baltimore, January 19, 1830, Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr. See also Reddy and Riffe, *Virginia Marriage bonds*, 43.
- ²⁸Account of the death of William Galt, Sr., by John Allan, March 26, 1825, Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr.
- ²⁹Will of William Galt, Sr., Deed Book 117B, 1825, 100. The property in Monroe County [now in West Virginia] consisted of 3,070 acres of land on the Greenbrier River. Deed, November 23, 1838 of Louisa G. (Patterson) Allan, William Galt and Charles Warwick to Charles Ellis, Charles Ellis Papers, Virginia Historical Society.
- ³⁰Ibid.
- ³¹Allen, *Israfel*, I, 116.
- ³²Will of William Galt, Sr., Deed Book 117B, 1825, 99. John Allan, William and James Galt were named executors of the Galt estate. However, since James was not a citizen of the United States, he was not able to serve until later. He became a citizen in 1828. "Diary of James Galt of Point of Fork, March, 1864 to October, 1865," *Bulletin of the Fluvanna County Historical Society*, Nos. 13 & 14 (October, 1971), 30.
- ³³Forbes, Attorney, Opinion of the Articles of Partnership between William Galt and William Galt, Jr., April 2, 1825, Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr.
- ³⁴Will of William Galt, Sr., Deed Book, 117B, 1825, 99.
- ³⁵Forbes, Attorney, Opinion of the Articles of Partnership between William Galt and William Galt, Jr., April 2, 1825, Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr.
- ³⁶See Will of William Galt, Sr., Deed Book 117B, 1825, 100.
- ³⁷John Walsh to William Galt, Jr., Baltimore, August 17, 1826; William Galt, Jr., to John Walsh, Richmond, August 28, Nicholas Walsh to William Galt, Jr., Greenock, June 9, 1826; Robert Rankin to William Galt, Esqr., Irvine, August 15, 1831; Robert Rankin, Jno. Smith Writers, to Messrs. William and James Galt, Irvine, January 29, 1833; Nancy Fowlds to Messrs. John Allan and William Galt, Executors of the late William Galt, Kilmarnock, July 23, 1833; Nancy Fowlds to William Galt, Kilmarnock, September 22, 1834; February 26, 1835, *ibid.* Numerous other letters on the complicated and legal problems in settling the Galt estate are in the Ellis & Allan Papers, Library of Congress.
- ³⁸Allen, *Israfel*, I, 356.
- ³⁹Agreement between William and James Galt, March 26, 1839, deed Book 12(OS), pp. 352-363, Fluvanna County Court Records, Palmyra, Virginia. The agreement was first made on July 22, 1834; the same agreement was made again in 1838 and recorded March 26, 1839.
- ⁴⁰Richmond Times, November 27, 1892; "Diary of James Galt," *Bulletin of the Fluvanna Historical Society*, Nos. 13 & 14, 32.
- ⁴¹Richard Irvin wrote on May 9, 1835: "I observe you and your Brother are about finally to depart for your plantations in the Country, where I wish you all great happiness." Robert Irvin to William Galt, Esqr., New York, May 9, 1835, Letters and Papers of William Galt, Jr. In the agreement to divide the Fork estate, made initially in July, 1834, the Galts stated they planned "to move in the Fall." Agreement between William and James Galt, March 26, 1839, Deed Book 12(OS), 352.
- ⁴²Agreement between William and James Galt, March 26, 1839, Deed Book 12(OS), 352-363. See also William Galt Diary, Stud Book & C., Point of Forks, Fluvanna County, 1827-1838. Photocopy in Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.
- ⁴³"Diary of James Galt," *Bulletin of the Fluvanna County Historical Society*, Nos. 13 & 14, 32.
- ⁴⁴See Galt Farm Diary, Stud Book & C.; John Stewart to William Galt, Liverpool, September 24, 1836 and William Oxley to William Galt, Forks Plantation, Columbia, Liverpool, July 29, 1837 in *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, XXXV (October, 1927), 438-439.
- ⁴⁵Galt Farm Diary, Stud Book & C., 65, 68.
- ⁴⁶See William Galt Plantation Books, 1839-1851. 4 volumes. Microfilm copy from the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, California. Although there are four volumes, various parts of the books are not in chronological order and the pages in neither of the so-called volumes are numbered. All citations will be referred to by date.
- ⁴⁷Avery Odelle Craven, *Soil Exhaustion As A Factor in the Agricultural History of Virginia and Maryland, 1606-1860* (Gloucester, 1965 reprint), 122, 123, 125, 89-90.
- ⁴⁸Inventory and Appraisal of the personal Estate of William Galt, June 28, 1851, Will Book 6(OS) 296-303. Fluvanna County Court Records, Palmyra, Virginia.

- ⁴⁹Craven, *Soil Exhaustion*, 97, 135.
- ⁵⁰Ibid., 86, 127; Wayland F. Dunaway, *History of the James River and Kanawha Company* (Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, vol. CIV, No. 27, New York, 1922), 126.
- ⁵¹Will of William Galt, Sr., Deed Book 117B, 1825, 100.
- ⁵²Dunaway, *James River and Kanawha Co.*, 169.
- ⁵³Inventory and Appraisal of the personal Estate of William Galt, July 28, 1851; Galt Farm Diary and Stud Book, 7.
- ⁵⁴Agreement between William and James Galt, March 26, 1839.
- ⁵⁵Galt Plantation Books, February 7, 1839; February, March 4, 1840; December 1, 1845; February 11, 1847; July 2, 1849; February 22, March 5, 1839; February 27, March 4, 1840; February 2, 1841; February 28, 1842; February 13-15, 1843; February 13, 1845; March 23, 1848; February 7, 1849; February 7, March 19, October 3, 1839; February 16, 1841; February 28, 1842; February 17, 1848; February 16, 1849; April 7, 1840; October 3, 1845; October 2, 5, 1847; July 3, 1848, May 14, 15, 1849; April 24, 1850.
- ⁵⁶Agreement between William and James Galt, March 26, 1839; Inventory and Appraisal of the personal Estate of William Galt, July 28, 1851; *ibid.*, December 5, 1842; December 3, 1846; January 26, 1847; February 26, September 11, 1850; January 11, 1851.
- ⁵⁷*American Farmer*, I (February 26, 1840), 26.
- ⁵⁸Galt Plantation Books, August 15, 1839; April 1, 1840; March 22, 1841; March 18, 1842; April 6, 30, 1844; April 21, May 13, 1845; March 17, 1846; January 26, 1847; April 7, 1848; March 4, 1850.
- ⁵⁹Ibid., May 5, 1842; April 3, 1843; April 23, 1844; March 21, 1845; April 11, 1846; February 13, 1848; *American Farmer*, I (February 26, 1840), 35.
- ⁶⁰Galt Plantation Books, May 6, 1841.
- ⁶¹Ibid., April 16-20, 1839; May 4, 1841; March 19, 1842; April 21, 1843; May 1, 1844; March 25, 1847; March 25, 1848; March 26, 1849; March 13, 1850.
- ⁶²Craven, *Soil Exhaustion*, 149.
- ⁶³Galt Plantation Books, April 18, 19, May 7, 1845; April 12, 1846 numerous entries in April and May and October and November, 1850; Craven, *Soil Exhaustion*, 149.
- ⁶⁴Ibid., October 15, 1839; April 1, 1841; January 27, 1842; September 24, 1845; April 14, 1846; August 27, 1850.
- ⁶⁵Ibid., November 12, 1844.
- ⁶⁶Lewis C. Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860*. 2 vols. (Gloucester, 1958 reprint), II, 774, 915-916.
- ⁶⁷Galt Plantation books, May 22, 1840; March 4, 1850; May 22, 1840; May 1847; May 26, 1848; May 5, 1849; May 11, 1840; June 2, 1841; May 15, 1843; May 18, 1844; August 28, 1845; November 1, 1847; September 8, 1849.
- ⁶⁸Galt Plantation Books, January 5, 1842; January 4, 1845; May 6, 1841; May 20, 1842; April 18, 1845; January 11, 1848; January 11, 1849; January 13, June 1, 1850.
- ⁶⁹Ibid., May 20, 1842.
- ⁷⁰Ibid., April 28, 1847; June 1, 1850. The ratio was 1-1-6.
- ⁷¹William Tatham, *An Historical and Practical Essay on the Culture and Commerce of Tobacco* (London, 1800), 4; George Waterson, *A Memoir of the History, Culture, Manufactures, Uses & C. of the Tobacco Plant* (Washington, 1817), 7.
- ⁷²Galt Plantation Books, January 11, 1844; January 31, May 16, 1845; February 4, 1846; February 9, 1847.
- ⁷³Ibid., June 22, 1843. This seems to have been a unique experiment. Dr. Joseph C. Robert, the foremost expert on tobacco culture in America informs me he has never heard of this practice. Joseph C. Robert to the author, Richmond, Va., June 29, 1977.
- ⁷⁴Joseph C. Robert, *The Tobacco Kingdom: Plantation, Market, and Factory in Virginia and North Carolina, 1800-1860* (Durham, 1938), 151.
- ⁷⁵Galt Plantation Books, December 31, 1840; April 1843; September 2, 1844; November 22, 1845; November 1847; July 13, 1848; July 27, 1849; October 25, 1850; December 30, 1840; October 25, 1850; December 31, 1840; November 27, 1841; November 25, 1843; November 21, 1844; October 31, 1845; November 21, 1846; November 8, 1847; November 17, 1849; July 16, 1842; November 1849. Galt sowed from 1.75 to 2.75 bushels per acre, depending on the fertility of the soil.
- ⁷⁶Gray, *History of Agriculture*, II, 818. Galt Plantation Books, June 11, 1844.
- ⁷⁷Leo Rogin, *The Introduction of Farm Machinery in its Relation to the Productivity of Labor in the Agriculture of the United States during the Nineteenth Century* (Berkeley, 1931), 74; Cyrus McCormick, *The Century of Reapers* (New York and Boston, 1931), 23.
- ⁷⁸Galt Plantation Books, June 11, 1844; June 12, 1845.

⁷⁹Rogin, *Farm Machinery*, 74.

⁸⁰Galt Plantation Books, July 5, 1843; August 2, 1850; July 22, 1848; July 3, 1849; May 9, 1850.

⁸¹Inventory and Appraisalment of the personal Estate of William Galt, July 28, 1851; Galt Plantation Books, December 31, 1840; November 18, 1841; November 18, 1848; July 27, 1849.

⁸²Gray, *History of Agriculture*, II, 816.

⁸³Galt Plantation Books, April 2, 1839; April, 1842; April 1, 1844; May 2, 1849; April 17, 1841; June 3, 1845; April 21, 1846; July 3, 1848; April 23, 1850; May 14, 1840; Gray, *History of Agriculture*, II, 814.

⁸⁴Ibid., September 3, 1839; October 30, 1840; October 18, 1841; December 11, 1843; September 18, 1844; October 6, 1845; September 10, 1846; November 5, 1847; September 12, 1849; October 5, 1850; December 1, 1840; November 30, 1850.

⁸⁵Gray, *History of Agriculture*, II, 812. *Seventh Census of the United States: 1850* (Washington, 1853), 670.

⁸⁶Galt Plantation Books, March 8, 1839; March 7, 1840; March 4, 1842; March 19, 1846; April 2, 1849; July 2, 1849.

⁸⁷*American Farmer*, I (April 15, 1840), 60; Percy W. Bidwell and John I. Falconer, *History of Agriculture in the Northern United States, 1620-1860* (New York, 1941), 404.

⁸⁸Inventory and Appraisalment of the personal Estate of William Galt, July 28, 1851.

⁸⁹Gray, *History of Agriculture*, II, 852.

⁹⁰Agreement between William and James Galt, March 26, 1839; Inventory and Appraisalment of the personal Estate of William Galt, July 28, 1851; Galt Plantation book, November 27, 1843; November 21, 1844; December 2, 1845; December 10, 1846; December 22, 1848; May 21, July 4, December 5, 1849; May 11, December 10, 1850. A firkin is nine gallons.

⁹¹Ibid., March 1, 1840; July 16, 1841; October 14, 1843; October 13, 1844; August 11, 1846; July 30, 1849; November 26, 1841; December 1, 1842; February 3, 1845; December 23, 1847; January 12, 1849.

⁹²Ibid., August 27, 1839; October 31, 1846; March 6, 1847, February 2, 1848.

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The Fluvanna County Historical Society was founded in 1964 to collect and preserve manuscripts and other documents relating to the history of Fluvanna County in Virginia; to maintain the Old Stone Jail at the county seat, Palmyra, as a museum where antiquities of the county may be exhibited; and to encourage historical research.

Members will be notified of all meetings of the Society. Annual dues are: Single Membership, \$5.00; Family Membership, \$7.00; and Contributing Membership, \$10.00. A Life Membership is \$100. A bulletin is published twice a year, distributed to members free of charge. Copies can be purchased for \$2.00 single copy; \$3.00 double copy. Readers are requested to contribute any information of historical interest they may have or may be able to obtain. The Society will endeavor to publish as much of this information as may be possible.

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