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Greenway Court, the seat of Lord Fairfax.

Thirteen miles southeast from Winchester, near the village of White Post in this county, is Greenway Court, the seat of the late Lord Fairfax, the proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia; and at present the residence of the Rev. Mr. Kennerly.

Part of the immense tract among the rich valleys of the Alleghany mountains, were surveyed by Washington, and divided into lots, to enable the proprietor to claim his quit-rents and give legal titles. Washington set off on his first surveying expedition in March, 1748, just a month from the day he was sixteen years old, in company with George Fairfax, the eldest son of William Fairfax, whose daughter, Washington's eldest brother, Lawrence, had married. Sparks, in his *Life of Washington*, gives the annexed account of the proprietor of the Northern Neck :

Lord Fairfax, a distant relative of William Fairfax, was a man of an eccentric turn of mind, of great private worth, generous, and hospitable. He had been accustomed to the best society, to which his rank entitled him, in England. While he was at the

* So named from a *white post* which Lord Fairfax planted as a guide to his dwelling—one mile distant.

University of Oxford he had a fondness for literature, and his taste and skill in that line may be inferred from his having written some of the papers in the *Spectator*. Possessing by inheritance a vast tract of country,* situate between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, and stretching across the Alleghany mountains, he made a voyage to Virginia to examine this domain. So well pleased was he with the climate and mode of life, that he resolved, after going back to England and arranging his affairs, to return and spend his days amidst this wild territory. At the time (1748) of which we are now speaking, he had just arrived to execute his purpose, and was residing with his relatives at Belvoir. This was his home for several years; but he at length removed over the Blue Ridge, built a house in the Shenandoah Valley, called *Greenway Court*, and cultivated a large farm. Here he lived in comparative seclusion, often amusing himself with hunting, but chiefly devoted to the care of his estate, to acts of benevolence among his tenants, and to such public duties as devolved upon him in the narrow sphere he had chosen; a friend of liberty, honored for his uprightness, esteemed for the amenity of his manners, and his practical virtues.

The prominent building shown in the view at Greenway Court, was appropriated to the use of the steward of Fairfax. It was the commencement of a series of buildings which Lord Fairfax had intended to erect, but did not live to complete.

His lordship lived and died in a single clap-board story and a half house, which stood just in front of the modern brick dwelling of Mr. Kennerly, and was destroyed in 1834. There are now several of the original buildings standing at the place: among them is a small limestone structure, where quit-rents were given and titles drawn, of his lordship's domains. Fairfax had, probably, 150 negro servants, who lived in log huts scattered about in the woods.

A few years since, in excavating the ground near the house, the servants of Mr. Kennerly discovered a large quantity of joes and half-joes, amounting to about \$250; they were what is termed *cob-coin*, of a square form, and dated about 1730. They were supposed to have been secreted there by Lord Fairfax. Under a shelving rock, 9 feet from the surface, there was also found a human skeleton of gigantic stature; supposed to be that of an Indian.

When Lord Dunmore went on his expedition against the Indians in 1774, he came on as far as this place with a portion of his troops, and waited here about a fortnight for reinforcements. His soldiers encamped in what was then a grove—now a meadow—about 300 yards n. of Mr. Kennerly's present residence. The spot is indicated by a deep well, supposed to have been dug by them; an old magazine, destroyed in 1843, stood near the well. Washington, when recruiting at Winchester, often visited this place.

Lord Fairfax had but little cultivated ground around his premises, and that was in small patches without taste or design. The land was left for a park, and he lived almost wholly from his rents. The following, as well as much of the foregoing, respecting him, is traditional: His lordship was a dark, swarthy man, several inches over 6 feet in height, and of a gigantic frame and personal strength. He lived the life of a bachelor, and fared coarse, adopting in that respect the rough customs of the people among whom he was. When in the humor, he was generous—giving away whole farms to his tenants, and simply demanding for rent some trifle, for instance, a present of a turkey for his Christmas dinner. He was passionately fond of hunting, and often passed weeks together in the pleasures of the chase. When on these expeditions, he made it a rule, that he who got the fox, cut off his tail, and held it up, should share in the jollification which was to follow, free of expense. Soon as a fox was started, the young men of the company usually dashed after him with great impetuosity, while Fairfax leisurely

* The domain of Lord Fairfax, called the Northern Neck of Virginia, included the immense territory now comprising the counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, Stafford, King George, Prince William, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, Culpeper, Clarke, Madison, Page, Shenandoah, Hardy, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkeley, Jefferson, and Frederick. Charles II. granted to the ancestors of Lord Fairfax, all lands lying between the head-waters of the Rappahannock and Potomac to the Chesapeake Bay; a territory comprising about one quarter of the present limits of Virginia. For a full history of the Northern Neck, the reader is referred to Kercheval's *History of the Valley of Virginia*.

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waited behind, with a favorite servant who was familiar with the water-courses, and of a quick ear, to discover the course of the fox. Following his directions, his lordship would start after the game, and, in most instances, secure the prize, and stick the tail of the fox in his hat in triumph.

Lord Fairfax died at the advanced age of ninety-two, in the autumn of 1782, soon after the surrender of Cornwallis, an event he is said to have much lamented. He was buried at Winchester, under the communion-table of the old Episcopal church. [See Winchester.]
