

CHOPAWAMSIC

Source: "Prince William the Story of Its People and Its Places" by The Virginia Writers Project – page 98

"East of County 620 (no road) is the SITE OF CHOPAWAMSIC, early seat of the Harrison Family, near an old house known as Locust Shade. The first of this family to settle in Virginia was Burr Harrison (1637-1706), who became a Justice of Stafford County, figured in Waugh's Tumult, and was appointed by Governor Nicholson in 1699 as ambassador to the Piscataway Indians. He reported that the Emperor was a wary fellow and hardly polite, that he was "very Bussy and could not possibly come or go down, but if his Excellency would be pleased to come to him, some of his great men should be glad to see him... for he desired nothing but peace." In 1680 Harrison had purchased from John Matthews part of the 5,211 acre tract, which had been patented by Samuel Matthews.

"His estate also included a tract that had been patented in 1654 by Peter Ashton of Northumberland. The Ashton tract was acquired by Anne Gerard, daughter of Thomas Gerard of Maryland and Westmoreland and widow of Walter Brodhurst, who gave it to her son Gerard Brodhurst, from whom it was purchased by Burr Harrison. Thomas Harrison (1665-1746), son of Burr, also lived at Chopawamsic. Another Burr Harrison, grandson of the immigrant, inherited the estate. Though he was the father of ten children and reared eight grandchildren, he later increased his house-hold by adopting 5 orphans, all of whom he treated and reared as his own." One of his grandchildren was the Reverend Thomas Harrison (1750-1814), who lived at LOCUST SHADE.

Among the old tombstones at Locust Shade graveyard nearby, only those to Thomas Harrison and John Nelson Tolson have legible inscriptions.