

The Black Swan

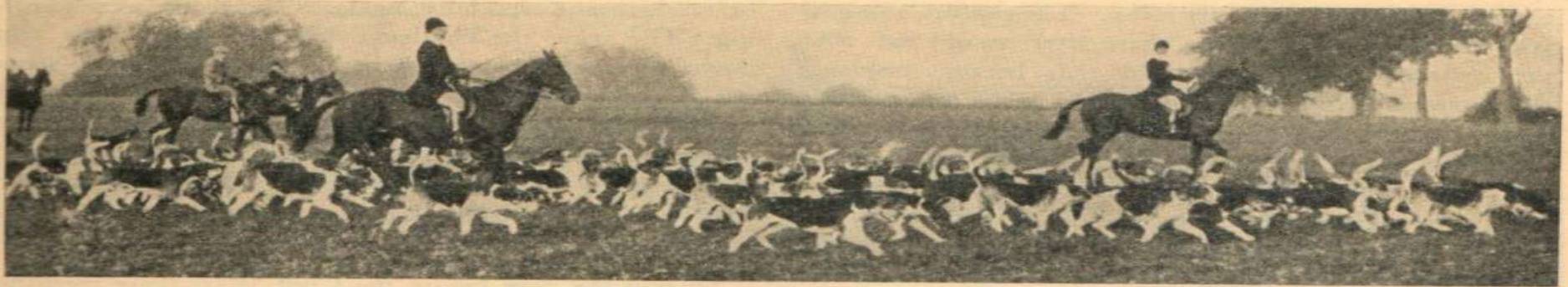
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Fox Hunting at Windsor Farms

BY T. BEVERLY CAMPBELL

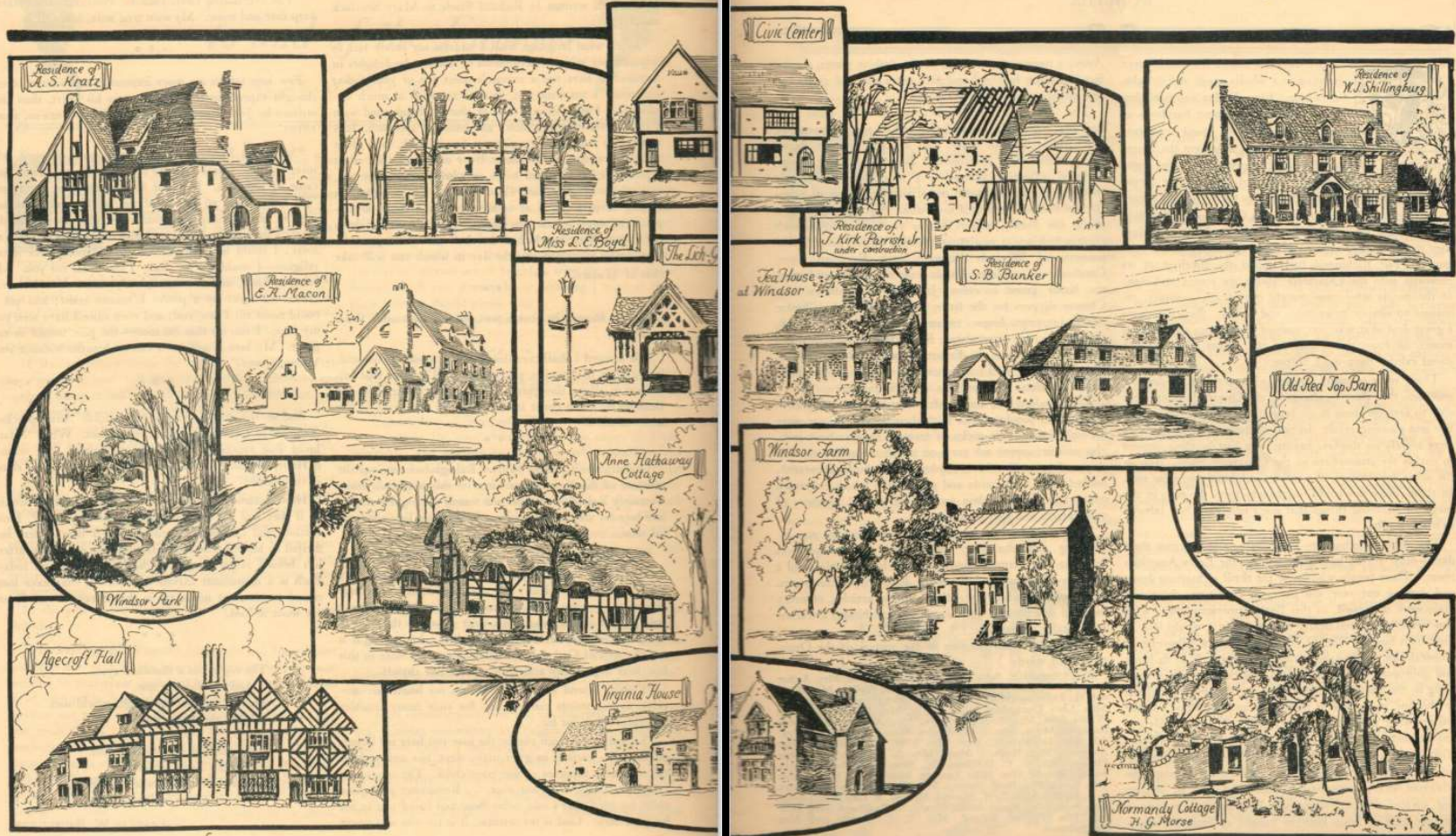


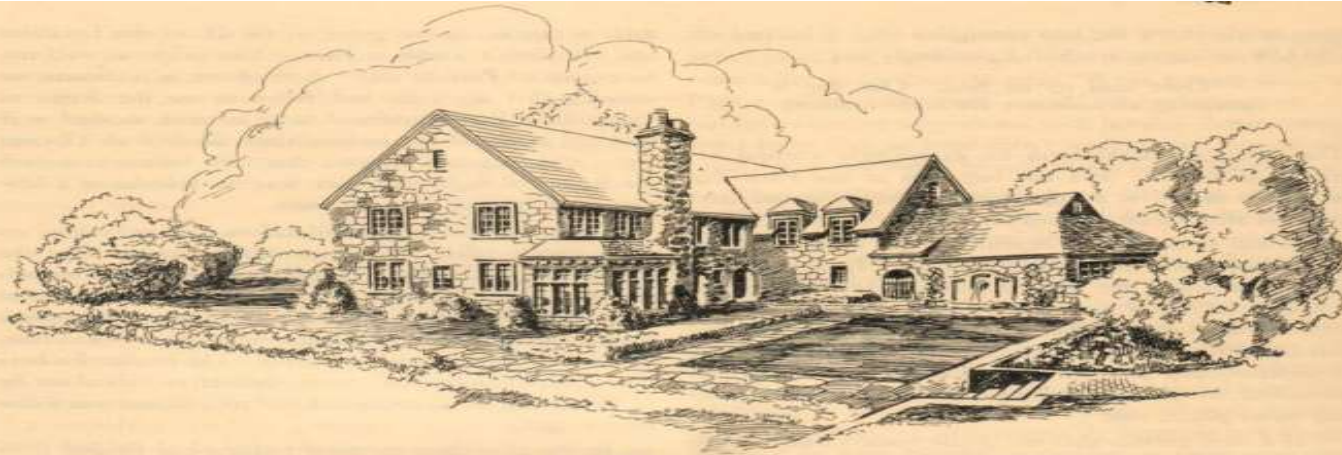
WINDSOR Farms is very old in the local history of fox-hunting for here, even before the days of American independence, gentlemen of the Virginia colony on imported thoroughbreds and with packs of pedigreed hounds, hunted the fox, and although the encroachments of civilization have since destroyed the coverts, yet the traditions of the sport still linger. Nor has it been so long since this country was hunted that the memory of glorious girth-stretching runs across its broad acres has entirely passed beyond recalls, and memories are today revived by an occasional passing equestrian on his way to some nearby fixture of the sporty Deep Run Hunt, whose club-house is but a little over a mile from Windsor Farms.

It is well-known that from its earliest settlement, the people of this section have been exceedingly fond of riding to hounds; the love of the chase being a heritage from their sporting British ancestors. All records of the social life of the Virginian of the seventeenth century show that his diversions differed little from that of his English kindred, and that the ancient sport of fox-hunting so cherished by the Anglo-Saxon race, being transplanted in a new land, took firm root in the Colony and was enjoyed with all the extreme heartiness which distinguishes the English people in their sports.

Private packs of fox-hounds, bred through generations, have always been plentiful in this district, and the people of Windsor Farms and neighboring plantations have hunted regularly and frequently over the wooded hills and

In Windsor Farms These Houses Grow





An Architect's Dream---Come True

By ANN BROOKFIELD



ONE of the lovely, new homes in Windsor Farms is a gray stone building of beautiful proportions and unexpected details which, when it is completed, will be literally a dream come true — and an architect's dream, at that, the architect being J. Ambler Johnston, of the firm of Carneal & Johnston.

Passers-by, noting the impressive mass of stone which is each day assuming more and more the look of a lovely home, are impressed with the style of architecture of Mr. Johnston's house and want to know just what type it is. If they happen to ask Mr. Johnston he will tell them that it is no particular type.

"It's just the house which Mrs. Johnston and I have always wanted," he will add. "We have always said that, when we built a house, it would be of stone. That was the foundation fact on which we planned, and our idea has followed somewhat the English cotswold type of home, which we feel is appropriate in Windsor Farms."

Mr. Johnston's home has interest, aside from its beauty, because it is built entirely of native materials. Its stone was quarried at the Sunnyside Granite Quarry, which is situated at the southwest corner of the Windsor Farms property, less than a mile from the location of the house. This granite has five distinct colors — brown,

purple, green, gray, and what are called "crystal" or "diamond" blocks. The latter were made by taking stones in which there were faults and breaking them on the faults, this giving a diamond-effect in the sunlight. There are many different shades of these five colors, which give the house a mellowed look. Mr. Johnston says that the prettiest granite which has been quarried anywhere in the United States is right in Richmond, and yet for years Richmond people have been sending to Vermont, Germantown, Pa., North Carolina and the Valley of Virginia for granite for their houses. Mr. Johnston's granite is backed up by hollow brick, manufactured in Richmond.

The slate roof, which many people think is prettier than any slate that ever came from New Hampshire, was quarried just a mile and a half from "Monticello." It has twelve distinct color tones which blend, in quite a remarkable way, with the colors in the granite.

The house is as nearly fireproof as a dwelling can be. A solid concrete floor is built under the whole first floor. The boiler room is absolutely cut off with fireproof doors. Every ounce of weight is carried on stone walls or steel columns. The house is in the shape of an "L," with the garage built in the main structure, but actually separated from it by a vaulted archway.

The interior will have a number of attractive features. Its windows will be casement windows, swinging in, with small-paneled, leaded glass. Its side walls will be finished



The Stone Dragon



BEFORE the coming of the white man to America the land was inhabited by a race whose origin has remained a baffling mystery, although many theories have been advanced. Little is known of these people excepting that they were tribal, and monotheistic in some form or other.

In the warmer climate of Southwestern United States, Mexico and Central America they left behind traces of permanent settlements and evidences of a high order of civilization. Elsewhere are to be found only records of transient abiding places and the white man found a nomadic people, separated into nations or tribes, each inhabiting a certain locality and speaking a different dialect, perhaps from a common root.

One theory concerning the native American, and probably as good a one as any, has it that several thousand years ago some of the tribes of Mongolia migrated to the North, crossed Behring Strait and came by the Aleutian Islands to the mainland of North America at what is now Alaska. Following the natural inclination of the nomad, and driven by cold and hunger, they drifted south along the land lying between the Sierras and the Pacific Ocean making only temporary settlements until they came to Mexico and Yucatan where the migration seems to have come to a pause and something like permanent cities were established.

The inherent irresistible impulse to wander ultimately drove some of them back to the northward through what is now Arizona and New Mexico where are found remains of clan dwellings. As they moved northward to overrun the North American continent the cold winter season became more evident and permanent settlements fewer until they disappeared altogether in those regions where frost and cold put a stop to agriculture for a season each year. Here the aborigine became more of a hunter and less an agriculturist.

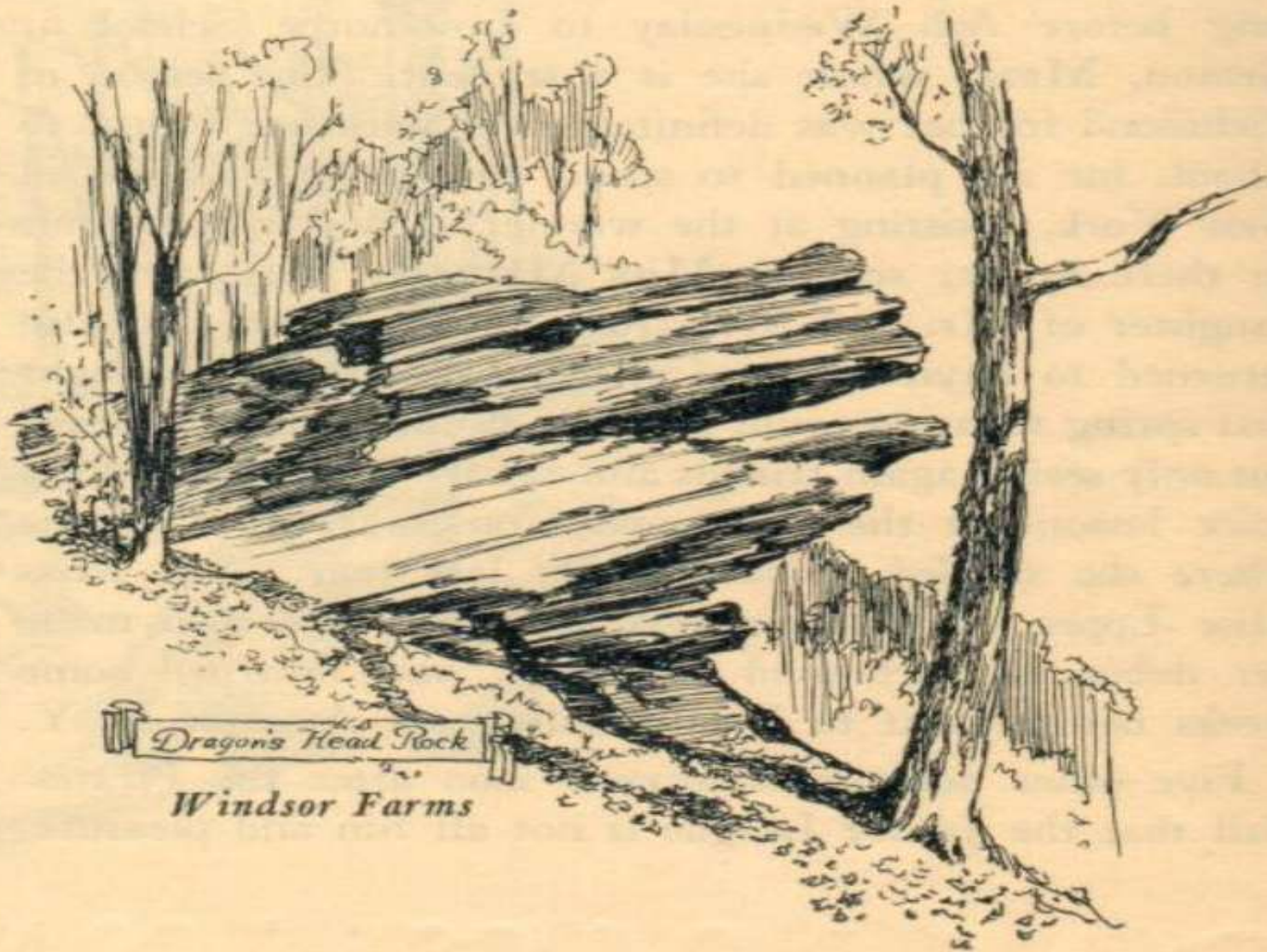
These aboriginal people seemed to excel as workers in stone and left behind noteworthy specimens of stone buildings, carvings and implements. Some of the arrow

and spear heads commonly found throughout the United States are remarkably true in shape and of splendid workmanship.

The god worshiped by the Mongols quite frequently took the form of a Dragon and many of the idols made by the aborigines in tropical America, to represent their god, were either in the form of a dragon or had a dragon's head. In certain of the islands off the American coast are found stone idols called Zemis, made in the form of a dragon carrying a mountain on its back or, emerging from a mountain, and quite frequently the temples or places where the tribesmen gathered for religious ceremony or worshiped, were beside a waterfall or rapids of a stream.

Might not the old stone dragon's head jutting out from the rocky bluff in Windsor Farms, overlooking the rapids and falls in James River, have been an object of worship in the time before the white man came to Virginia? This rock is of a most peculiar formation. Not over three to four feet in width, it projects ten or twelve feet from the face of the bluff, and the general outline, from either side is that of a head of a dragon, emerging from the hillside.

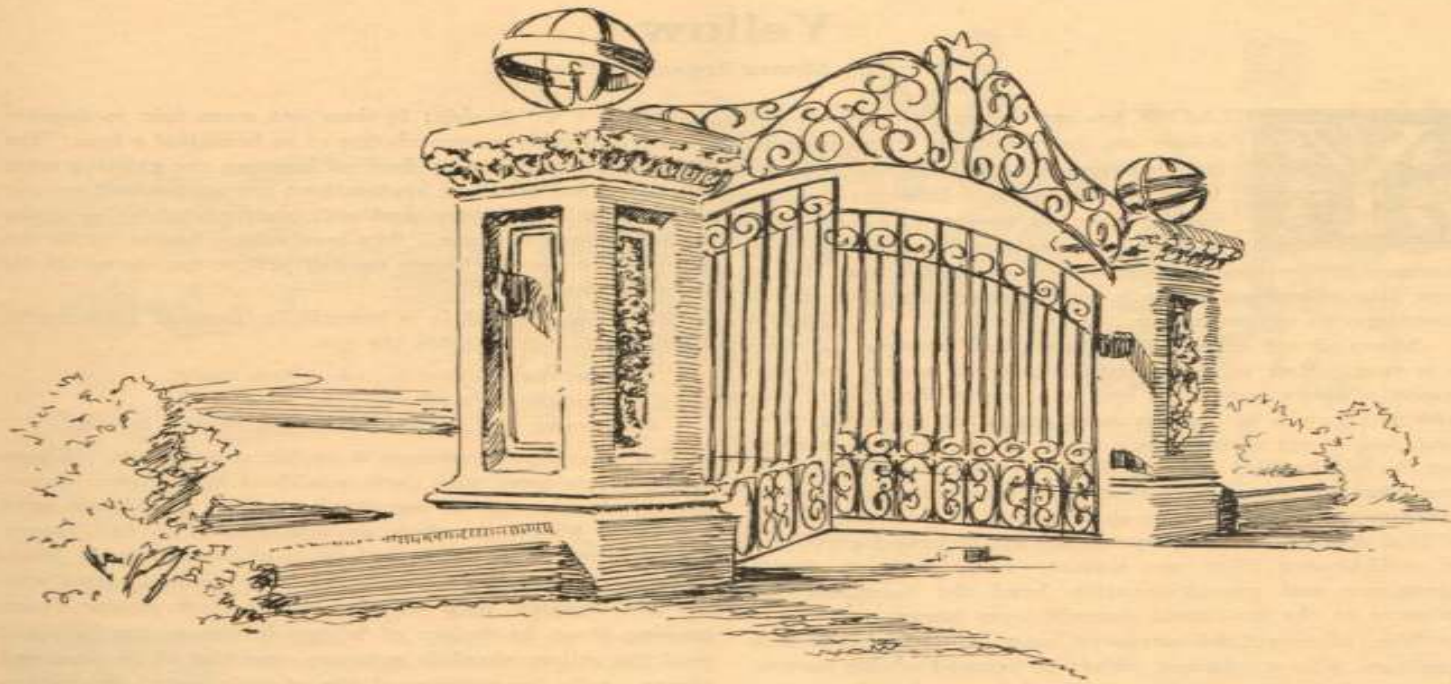




Dragon's Head Rock

Windsor Farms





The Pillars In Windsor Farms



HE six, ancient-looking, stone pillars, two of which stand at the entrance to Windsor Farms, while the other four guard the entrances to the Virginia House, are antiques imported from England. Those on the Cary Street Road are thought to be the work of Grinling Gibbons, famous English wood-carver and sculptor, who was employed by two English kings, Charles II and George I. While it cannot be positively said that they are his work they are so similar to many of his things that it is not far-fetched to assume them his. The ones at the Virginia House came from the neighborhood of Warwick Priory, which was

shipped to America to be rebuilt into the Virginia House.

Grinling Gibbons lived during the last half of the seventeenth century and the first half of the eighteenth. He executed commissions of both statuary and ornamental wood for Charles II, and was later employed by Sir Christopher Wren. In 1714 he was appointed master carver in wood to George I. He is chiefly noted for his wood carving which had great delicacy and elaboration of details and truthfulness of imitation. His subjects chiefly were birds, flowers, foliage, fruit and lace. He did the ornamental carving for the Chapel at Windsor, the foliage and festoons in the choir of St. Paul's, London, and many lovely things for some of the most aristocratic mansions in England.

