

The School of Rev. Archibald Campbell in the Wildwood

In colonial days a small school was conducted in the forest of Westmoreland County by a Scotch minister. His own sons were his pupils, and a few children who lived close enough to walk to school through the woodland lane which was cut for several straight miles through the woods and was known as the Parsons Road.

In 1755 the "Parson" petitioned the Court of Westmoreland County to have a road from the "new Glebe" opened to Round Hill Church."

The petition was granted, for the Reverend Archibald Campbell was an influential man in the region. Mr. Campbell came to Virginia from Scotland in October, 1741. The "new Glebe" was purchased, tradition says, from Thomas Marshall, "the surveyor," about 1753. The "Parson" moved to the "new Glebe" and lived there until his death in 1775. It was there that he conducted his school.

The "new Glebe" was situated on Mattox Creek, originally called Appamatox Creek after the Indians who had once lived there. This Glebe was located not far from the present village of Oak Grove. The Reverend Archibald Campbell came from a distinguished and learned Scottish family. His nephew, Thomas Campbell, was known as a great poet in Britain. The "Parson" himself was well equipped with "all the learning which the Scottish universities could give."

At the school in the forest it was all work and little play, for the "Parson" was a hard taskmaster. His pupils were said to have been "especially well grounded in mathematics and Latin.