



Civil War Years at Tudor Place

Britannia Leaves Tudor Place

In the summer of 1858, financial difficulties prompted Britannia Peter Kennon (1815-1911) to rent her home, Tudor Place. Only once before had she lived away from the house built by her parents, Thomas (1769-1834) and Martha Custis Peter (1777-1854). After her 1842 marriage to Commodore Beverley Kennon (1793-1844) she joined him at the Washington Navy Yard. After his death two years later, she returned to the shelter of her family and the familiar walls and grounds of her youth.

In 1858 Britannia Kennon rented her home and property to a family named Pendleton.¹ The United States Census of 1860 notes that W.A. Pendleton resided at Tudor Place with his wife Mary Berry Pendleton, three young children aged 2, 3, and 4, and J.J. Pendleton, Sr. A Georgetown directory of 1860 confirms this fact, and lists William A. Pendleton, lawyer, residing north of Congress [31st] Street and Stoddard [Q] Streets. Britannia Kennon later described the Pendletons as she remembered them: “She was very wealthy, having first married a Mr. Cox –an old man- by whom she got her fortune. Mr. Pendleton, her second husband, was a Virginian and was poor when he married her.”²

A good friend of Britannia Kennon was Elizabeth Lindsay Lomax (1796/7-1867), the widow of Major Mann Page Lomax (1787-1842) of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Her diary proves an excellent source on the life of pre-war Washington and Georgetown. The diary begins in 1854 and ends in 1863, including entries about social engagements with Britannia Kennon.³ When Lomax wished to build a house in Washington, she received unsolicited advice from her friends on where to locate: “Mrs. Davidge, Mrs. Prendergast and Mrs. Peter [Kennon] came in for tea and talked at length about the beauty and charm of Georgetown –endeavored to persuade me to build in Georgetown.”⁴ Lomax noted in 1857, “Mrs. Kennon and Mrs. Prendergast called this afternoon and remained for tea. We are dining with Mrs. Kennon at Tudor Place on Saturday evening.”⁵ A few days later she recorded, “Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Wickam and Mrs.

Kennon called this afternoon. Mrs. Kennon wishes us to dine with her again at Tudor Place next Tuesday evening. I love to go there. Tudor Place is delightfully situated on the Heights of Georgetown with a beautiful view of the Potomac and the hills of Virginia.”⁶ Britannia Kennon visited Lomax on January 20, 1859: “We had many visitors; Mrs. John Mason, Mrs. Kennon, Eliza Scott, the others were all young people,” and came to tea again on February 1 of that year.⁷ After that point, Britannia Kennon’s visits fall off.

Elizabeth Lindsay Lomax was also a friend of the Pendleton renters of Tudor Place, who, despite the coming threat of war, led an active social life and fit easily into Georgetown and Washington society. They placed an ad in *The National Intelligencer* in 1859 for “a Coachman [white] of experience, & who understands well the care & management of horses. Apply at *Tudor Place*, Gtown Heights.”⁸ By October of 1860, however, the climate began to change. Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton spent the evening with Lomax: “We had some music, but were not very merry . . . the *appalling* war cloud growing darker and darker each day.”⁹

While the Pendletons lived at Tudor Place Britannia Kennon boarded at Mrs. Abbott’s house at 3014 West [P] Street, at the southeast corner of West [P] and Washington [30th] Streets.¹⁰ Mrs. Abbott was the widow of schoolmaster William R. Abbott, and began to take boarders circa 1853. Martha Custis Peter, Britannia Peter Kennon’s mother, wrote to a granddaughter: “I do not know if anyone has told you of Mr. Abbots [sic] death, he died in the Fall. A clergyman by the name of Mansfield, has taken his school --& Mrs. A. boards him, & some of the Boys –for her support.”¹¹

Britannia Kennon may not have boarded only at Mrs. Abbott’s; she may have also stayed with her cousin Robert Dick (1800-1870). Her daughter, Martha [Markie] Custis Kennon (1843-1886) was at The Misses Casey’s French School in Philadelphia. Markie Kennon wrote several letters from school to her mother in 1858 and 1859 addressed to the care of her uncle Robert Dick who lived on Gay [N] Street.¹²

When war finally broke out in 1861, Britannia Kennon thought briefly about going north to safety, but reconsidered. In April she and her daughter packed their trunks and went to Staunton, Virginia, where they remained until mid-July. They boarded at a private house later identified by her grandson, Armistead Peter, Jr., as a family house of his grandmother’s friend Elizabeth Lindsay Lomax.¹³ Thus began a nomadic existence for Britannia Kennon and her daughter Markie, similar to that of other genteel southern women. Due to reduced circumstances, and often lacking the protection of a husband or a son, many women traveled between southern towns seeking cheap lodging and safety.¹⁴

In July 1861 the first Confederate general to be killed in the war, General Robert S. Garnett CSA, fell in battle at Cheat Mountain in western Virginia. Fearful that the “Yankeys” would come to Staunton, Britannia and Markie Kennon hurried to Richmond. They remained there until mid-November at Mrs. Dabney’s boarding house, but soon moved to Petersburg, where they boarded at Mrs. Page’s. To their dismay they felt like refugees “and very poor.” They were unprepared for the onset of winter; a cousin gave Britannia Kennon one flannel skirt.¹⁵

Before she left Tudor Place, Britannia Kennon stored her furniture in the Seminary Building on Gay [N] Street. While in Virginia, she learned the federal government had confiscated that building for use as a hospital, and ordered it emptied.¹⁶ Dr. Joshua Riley, an old Georgetown neighbor and friend, had Britannia Kennon’s furnishings “hauled pell-mell to Bridge [M] Street,” where they were stored in Mrs. John Abbott’s house between Jefferson and Washington [30th] Streets; Mrs. John R. Abbott was the mother-in-law of Mrs. William Abbott, with whom Britannia Kennon had boarded.

Fearing that the government might try to take Tudor Place for a hospital and its grounds a cemetery, Britannia returned to Georgetown to reclaim her home. She had good reason to worry about the loss of Tudor Place, as this was the fate of Arlington, the Virginia home of her cousin Mary Anna Randolph Custis Lee (1808-1873) and Robert E. Lee (1807-1870). Britannia’s niece, Martha Custis Williams Carter (1827-1899), wrote on March 22, 1862: “I read in the paper that my beloved home Arlington was to be taken as an [sic] hospital for the Soldiers. My heart has been aching all day.”¹⁷ A wartime law required property owners in areas occupied by Federal troops to appear in person to pay their taxes. Mary Lee was not able to do this, and her estate was legally confiscated in 1864. Lomax recorded, “The Government has notified Tom Greene that they will confiscate his beautiful home, the *Van Ness Place*, as a hospital for the wounded. Also Mr. Corcoran’s fine residence as well as the handsome home of Mr. Hill, and they call this a free country.”¹⁸

But Britannia’s journey to Tudor Place was not easily accomplished. She and Markie went to Norfolk and received permission to go up in the first flag of truce. Within two days they boarded a Confederate boat and were met mid-way by the Union flag. They transferred to the federal ship and arrived at Fortress Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, but as known Confederates both were kept aboard. There a federal officer inspected their baggage; he opened their trunk but politely only looked at one tray.¹⁹ The difficulties and inconveniences of such a journey from the south to the north were not unusual. Lomax described a similar endeavor in 1861 from Norfolk to Baltimore.²⁰

The next morning Britannia and Markie Kennon arrived in Baltimore. They went at once to Britannia's brother, George Washington Peter (1801-1877), at Linwood in Ellicott's Mills [Ellicott City], Maryland. Britannia Kennon remained there one week, but determined to save her home, she left her daughter with her brother, and arrived at Tudor Place January 1, 1862.

Meanwhile the Pendleton family had left Tudor Place in the hands of a caretaker, Josiah Dent:

Mr. Dent was Mr. Pendelton's agent and, knowing that the latter was a Southerner, he thought that he could best save [Pendleton's] furniture from confiscation by selling it, which he did. –Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton arrived in Washington [from Virginia] the very evening of the day that the furniture was sold and were horrified!²¹

Thus, Britannia Kennon came home to an empty house. She found the garden in ruins: “the flower knot was grown up in weeds, the box untrimmed and grown to such a size –In fact the whole place was neglected and unkempt!”; but Britannia took possession, this time forever, of her “dear old place.”²² What her feelings were about renting her house to strangers we can only guess, but Elizabeth Lindsay Lomax confirms our suspicions: “Mrs. Kennon of Tudor Place had tea with me this afternoon. She advised me strongly to hold on to my own house and not be induced to rent it. . . .”²³ But financial woes continued to plague Britannia Kennon, perhaps more now than ever. In the spring of 1862, she firmly decided to take in boarders. To save her house, grounds, and family history, she knew that, despite her feelings to the contrary, she should take Yankee officers. When asked by a cousin, Barbara Laird Dunlop (1818-1872), what her mother, Martha Custis Peter, would have said about this decision, she answered: “She would have given me credit for doing what necessity required. . . . You can always maintain your position if you will!”²⁴ And here our story begins.

Britannia's Rule: Britannia Rules

I took possession of the dear old place again and that Spring concluded to take in boarders. –I had people from nearly every state in the Union -and nearly all of them were “Yankees” . . . I was always very fortunate for I never had any trouble with any of them. I always told them that I was aware of their sentiments and that they were aware of mine and that I should not intrude my

feelings on them and should expect the same of them. Before me they never discussed the war and showed me every consideration.²⁵

Progress of the Civil War in 1863

While Britannia Kennon's boarders respected her request not to talk about the war in her presence, as Yankees they could not have been happy about the way the war was going. By the end of 1862 the Union army was in disarray. General William S. Rosecrans advanced against Confederate General Braxton Bragg and fighting was fierce from December 30, 1862 - January 2, 1863 around Stones River, near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Eventually the battle was won by Union forces, but Rosecrans' men were shaken to the core and would take a long time to recover.

General Ulysses S. Grant was at Vicksburg, planning to attack from the east, while General William Tecumseh Sherman went down the Mississippi River to hit Confederate defenses south of the Yazoo River just north of Vicksburg. Grant and Sherman planned to catch Confederate General John C. Pemberton in their crossfire. But Confederate General Earl Van Dorn unexpectedly captured Grant's supplies at Holly Springs, and Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest disrupted Grant's line of communications. Grant was immobilized. Sherman reached the mouth of the Yazoo River and attacked, but Pemberton pushed him back. The campaign against Vicksburg was stymied. Thus, the new year of 1863 began with weariness and discontent. The casualty lists were long and overwhelming. The future of the country depended on the recovery of the Federal forces in the field.

Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia had routed Union forces under General Ambrose Burnside at Fredericksburg late in 1862. The Confederates then won a spectacular victory at Chancellorsville on May 1, but it cost the life of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, a talisman of the Confederacy. Southern confidence in Jackson had been unshakeable. The tide began to turn in the summer, when the July 1-3 battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the biggest battle of the war, shattered the Army of Northern Virginia. This struck Southern morale to the core, and gave new hope to the Union cause.

Grant's grip on Vicksburg strengthened, and he captured the city at last on July 4. Grant was named supreme commander in the West. On November 24 and 25, 1863, in the twin battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, Grant drove Confederate Braxton Bragg's army back into Georgia and the Federal force controlled Tennessee. By the end of the year a more confident Union Army gathered strength and greeted the New Year with open arms.

That winter the nation's capital was quiet; military affairs were at a standstill. Washington society was now redefined. Those who had represented wealth and culture before the war receded quietly into the background. Some went south; others remained under the cloak of neutrality, with nobody doubting that they observed more than they pretended to, and found the means to relay information south. Washington society was now composed of strangers from the loyal states: republicans and their followers, military officers and their supportive families, new government officials, and ambitious contractors.

With time the old and the new societies each crystalized, but the opposing levels did not mesh. The newly wrought society, "was wanting in homogeneity, and the old-fashioned indolence and polish"; it centered on the White House, cabinet officers, and diplomats; the older generation was "hospitable to well-introduced strangers, but silent on the events of the day . . . strong in their admiration of General Lee, and 'President Davis.'"²⁶ These were the issues Britannia Kennon's boarders could not and would not discuss before her, but they were in the air.

Will Britannia Kennon's Boarders Please Stand Up?

Evidence that Britannia Kennon had boarders at Tudor Place is found in her account book for 1863, which notes the name of the boarder, the date of payment, and the amount paid.²⁷ These include only surnames: Dr. Brinton; Capt. Chapin; Mr. Dent; Mrs. Downing; Mr. Grant; Dr. Lee; Mrs. Letterman; Dr. Myers; Dr. [also noted as Mr.] McNairy; Gov. Randall; Mrs. Rice; Mr. Risley; Capt. Shull [sic]; Mr. Steel [sic]; Judge Stickney; Mr. Thompson [sic].

A few names were readily identifiable; several were possibly identifiable; and some were too common to identify at all. Examination indicates that Britannia Kennon clung to her original idea to board Yankees and a pattern emerges in her choices. Many of the boarders were surgeons, and many enlisted from Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Letterman was **Mary Digges Lee Letterman**, the newlywed wife of **Dr. Jonathan Letterman**. They were married at her home, Old Needwood, in Knoxville, Frederick County, Maryland, on October 15, 1863.²⁸ Mrs. Letterman's payments to Britannia Kennon in November and December 1863 appear to corroborate this. The fact that Dr. Letterman left the area for new duty in January 1864 also coincides with these payments. If Mrs. Letterman boarded at Tudor Place, it is hard to believe that her husband did not ever visit her here.

Dr. Letterman enlisted from Pennsylvania as an Assistant Surgeon in 1849 and is known today as “the Father of Modern Battlefield Medicine.” He served as Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac from December 1862 to December 1863. He has been described as, “a small, slight taciturn man with the earnest face of a student . . . [but] with General McClellan’s backing, this quiet little man rehabilitated the service of the wounded in the Army of the Potomac.”²⁹ Letterman instituted triage on the battlefield, established an ambulance corps, reorganized the hospitals and dressing stations, and developed a system to speed medical and surgical supplies to the front. His programs were so effective that they were adopted by all the Union armies. Dr. Letterman later wrote an account of his service in the war.³⁰

Referred to by Britannia Kennon only as Dr. Lee, there is a good chance that this was **Dr. Charles Carroll Lee**, Assistant Surgeon in the Regular Army, of Maryland. He was commissioned into the 1st Maryland Cavalry on October 1, 1861. He resigned from the regiment and was commissioned into the U.S. Medical Staff on November 22, 1862.³¹ He served at the Douglas Hospital in Washington. Lee was a brother of Mrs. Jonathan Letterman, Mary Digges Lee Letterman.³²

Britannia Kennon recorded the payments of **Dr. John Hill Brinton** and Captain Gideon Shull [sic] together. John Hill Brinton enlisted in the Army from Pennsylvania as Brigade Surgeon and Surgeon of Volunteers 1861-1865. A first cousin to General George Brinton McClellan, he received orders to report to Washington, where he became immersed in the preparation of a medical and surgical history of the war and established the Army Medical Museum, where he is remembered today as its first curator.³³ Dr. Brinton wrote a valuable memoir of the war in 1891 which was not published until 1914. Due to Britannia Kennon’s misspelling of the surname of **Captain Gideon Scull** as “Shull” or “Skull”, he was harder to trace. Scull enlisted from Pennsylvania as Captain of the Subsistence Department in August 1861.³⁴ He and Dr. Brinton were close friends; Brinton speaks highly of him in his memoirs.

Britannia Kennon noted the presence of a “Mr. Thompson” [sic], who paid rent in July and August. While the name as spelled in this manner is too common to identify, Dr. John Hill Brinton in his memoirs constantly refers to “my old friend,” **Dr. William Thomson**. Assistant Surgeon William Thomson enlisted from Pennsylvania in August 1861 as did his friend Brinton. Thomson was in charge of the Douglas Hospital in Washington in 1863, and under his management it became a model for hospitals nationwide, “conspicuous for the excellence of its administration.”³⁵ It is noteworthy that he was at Tudor Place in July 1863, the same month Dr. Brinton was present; his payment of \$32 suggests that he may have only taken meals there. It is possible that Britannia Kennon mistakenly omitted “Dr.” from his name.

The names of three women appear in the account book; we can only guess why they were at Tudor Place. These include Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Rice, and Mrs. Chapin, possibly wives of soldiers, who traveled to Washington to be near their husbands. **Mrs. Downing** paid for the months of November and December 1863. She could have been the wife of **Dr. John C. Clark Downing**, a member of the Volunteer Medical Staff.³⁶ **Mrs. Rice** could have been the wife of **Dr. Lewis C. Rice**, who enlisted as an Assistant Surgeon of the Volunteer Medical Staff from Pennsylvania in January 1863, this date corresponding to Mrs. Rice's payments of March and April.³⁷

The third woman to pay rent to Britannia Kennon was **Mrs. Chapin**, although her husband, Captain Chapin, also made payments. This could have been **Dr. Andrew Bliss Chapin**, who enlisted as an Assistant Surgeon from Michigan in September 1862; Chapin had charge of the hospital at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1863.³⁸ Chapin's home state of Michigan is an anomaly, but it is also possible that a fellow surgeon suggested Tudor Place as a good place for Chapin's wife, Josephine H. Rose Chapin, to board. The proximity to Annapolis is favorable.

Several of the boarders are noted as "Mr." It is likely these men were civilians, or Britannia would probably have addressed them by rank, although occasionally as in the case of Dr./Mr. McNairy, Britannia Kennon was in error. It is also possible that this was a way of avoiding the forbidden subject of war. These include Mr. Grant, Mr. Steel [sic] and Miss Steel, Mr. Thompson [sic], and Mr. Risley.

Although not listed in the 1863 account book, Britannia Kennon mentioned in her *Reminiscences* a family of Grants from Maine, "and while here **Mrs. Grant** had a baby born in the (office) wing." Britannia Kennon recorded this in 1897, and may be forgiven for misidentifying a Yankee state. She omits the year that the Grants boarded at Tudor Place, but this was probably **General Lewis Addison Grant** (1828-1918) of Vermont.³⁹ Grant led his command at the Battle of Salem Heights, Virginia, in May 1863, where he captured three battle flags and was wounded in the attack. Grant fought bravely at the Battle of Gettysburg, where he commanded the First Vermont Brigade on Little Round Top on July 2 and 3, 1863. In 1864 the Old Vermont Brigade defended the nation's capital. Grant later served as Assistant Secretary of War from 1890-1893 under President Benjamin Harrison.⁴⁰

Mr. Franklin Steele lived on the southeast corner of Frederick (34th) and Prospect Streets during the Civil War. The question arises, however, as to why he boarded at Tudor Place if he had a house and family nearby in Georgetown. Franklin Steele had three daughters; there was a payment by a Miss Steele. Britannia Kennon's niece,

however, who lived at Tudor Place in 1862, noted the frequent presence of the Reverend Floridas Steel [sic] in March of that year, but it is not known if this is the same **Mr. Steel** [sic] of the 1863 account book.⁴¹ There is no information to identify **Mr. Risley**. One doctor, Dr. [also identified as Mr.] **McNairy**, could not be located; there was a surgeon named Robert B. McNairy of the 3rd Kentucky Cavalry, but this seems an unlikely choice for board at Tudor Place.⁴²

One of Britannia Kennon's civilian boarders was easily identified: **Governor Alexander W. Randall** (1819-1872) who was elected governor of Wisconsin on the Republican ticket in 1857 and 1859. He was appointed Assistant Postmaster General in 1863 by President Lincoln. His career as Assistant Postmaster General corresponds in 1863 with his four payments for board. He later served as Postmaster General under President Andrew Johnson from 1866-1869; his political career ended with Johnson's impeachment.⁴³

One civilian, known only as Mr. Dent, was the local agent who the Pendletons left in charge of Tudor Place. Mr. Dent made but one payment in March of \$26; this small amount of money suggests he may have taken meals briefly at Tudor Place. **Josiah Dent** (1817-1899) was an attorney born in Charles County, Maryland, but eventually resided and practiced law in St. Louis, Missouri. When war broke out in 1861, Dent removed to Washington where he had a career as custodian of property. Most of his clientele were Confederates. Dent married the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Linthicum; their son, Edward Linthicum Dent, inherited the estate "The Oaks," which we know today as Dumbarton Oaks. Dent Place in Georgetown is named for this family.⁴⁴

Judge Stickney was **Judge John Buffington Stickney** (1832-1882), born in Lynn, Massachusetts. He graduated from Yale University in 1856, read law and in 1857 was admitted to the Massachusetts bar. During the Civil War he raised a company of volunteers, and joined the army in 1862 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 35th Massachusetts Regiment. He saw active service at Antietam, South Mountain, and Fredericksburg, and was promoted to captain. He acted as Judge Advocate and Adjutant of his Regiment. His presence at Tudor Place remains a mystery.⁴⁵

One boarding family's name does not appear in this account book, but deserves mention. Mrs. Horner [sic] and her son boarded at Tudor Place. **Dr. Caleb Wright Hornor** (1828-1903), an Assistant Surgeon of Volunteers, enlisted from Pennsylvania in November 1862.⁴⁶ He and his wife, **Julia Maria Washington Hornor**, had a son named **William Macpherson Hornor** (ND). Britannia Kennon recalled:

During the war the feelings on both sides was [sic] intensely bitter. Even the little children entertained, indeed were taught to cherish, these feelings of hatred. When I returned from the South as you know I had to fill the house with boarders, all of whom were of course Northern sympathizers, –Fourteen were seated at my table every day but I will say that they paid me that respect never to discuss the war in my presence. Among them was Mrs. Horner [sic] and her son “Little Mackie Horner” as he was called...the little fellow was here with his mother and the child seemed to be fond of me. . . . [He said,] “Mamma, don’t you think if Mrs. Kennon died don’t you think she would go to heaven!”⁴⁷

A note written by Armistead Peter, Jr., tells of a brief incident that sheds light on Britannia Kennon and the times in which she defied the Union government and kept her house and property and family intact. Years later the boy, now a man, returned with his mother to visit Mrs. Kennon. As they were leaving, she told him what he had said that day long ago. He replied, “Oh Mrs. Kennon, did I say that. I hope you will never think of it again.” Britannia Kennon answered, “Why, Mackie, I will never forget it as long as I live for I appreciated it.”⁴⁸

Epilogue: Summer of 1863

This is all we know at present of the people who boarded at Tudor Place in 1863. Dr. John Hill Brinton described the life there, his home-away-from-home one summer during those hard years:

I spent the entire summer of 1863 at Peter Place on Georgetown Heights. . . . The place, beautiful as it was, with the remains of former grandeur, was essentially southern in its tone. The family to which it had belonged, were all in southern service, and its associations and surroundings were especially “Secesh.” My friend Scull, of the Subsistence Department, and I had rooms in an outlying building, which I rather think was intended for the domestics in bygone times. I will not say that we boarded at Peter Place. “Boarder” is almost a vulgar word, not in consonance with the stateliness of the Mansion; we simply slept there in the aforesaid wing, and “took our meals” in the dining-room with the big folding windows down to the ground, looking out on the high portico; we ate quietly and demurely, not talking much, never alluding to the war or army, or battles or marches. Uniform was not worn; we were simply citizens, enjoying the cool air of Georgetown Heights. The compensation was managed by Scull, who prided himself on his delicacy, the exact amount of our indebtedness (in clean notes) being placed in a note envelope, with the

compliments of Majors Scull and Brinton, and handed to the waiter. An equally refined acknowledgement of its receipt would reach us the next day by the black Mercury. With all its formality and absurdities, Peter Place was a delightful spot on these summer evenings, and I thoroughly enjoyed sitting under the trees, and smoking a pipe or cigar after dinner. The rides around Georgetown, too, were very pretty.⁴⁹

Our legendary heroes of the Civil War have with good reason withdrawn from us; the confident, welcome light of their youth grew cold and shrouded by the events they witnessed. And yet their light is still bright enough to illuminate people such as these, names unfamiliar, who performed feats no longer recognized, lives tangential but not inconsequential, lives that burned brightly if briefly, now momentarily rescued from our common past.

--Wendy Kail, Tudor Place Archivist

¹ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 24, *Reminiscences of Britannia Peter Kennon* [unpaginated]. Britannia Kennon dictated her memories to her grandson Armistead Peter, Jr., who recorded them. These memories, including Civil War events, were therefore recorded many years after the events occurred, and the passage of time inevitably altered details and dates. Armistead Peter 3rd, Britannia Kennon's great-grandson noted: "She had leased the house, the only time it was ever leased in its history, to a Mr. Pendleton. I used to think, and my father thought, that he was a representative from Virginia at that time, but subsequent information indicates that that was not true": Armistead Peter 3rd, *Tudor Place* (Georgetown: Privately printed, 1969), 9. Peter does not reveal subsequent information on this subject and the matter remains unresolved. William Armistead Pendleton and Mary Coxe applied for a marriage license in the District of Columbia on February 7, 1853: Wesley E. Pippenger, *District of Columbia Marriage Licenses* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2000), 133, 361.

² Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 24, *Reminiscences of Britannia Peter Kennon* [unpaginated].

³ Lindsay Lomax Wood, Editor, *Leaves from an Old Washington Diary 1854-1863 Written by Elizabeth Lindsay Lomax* (New York: E.P. Dutton and Company, Inc., 1943). The Virginia Historical Society holds the Lomax Family Papers 1776-1960 and the manuscript of this diary.

⁴ Lomax, 59, diary entry November 21, 1856. Lomax mistakenly recorded "Mrs. Peter," but Martha Peter died in 1854. No doubt Britannia Peter Kennon recalled her mother's name to Lomax.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 70, diary entry April 1, 1857.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 71, diary entry May 7, 1857.

⁷ Ibid., 94, diary entry January 20, 1859; 95, diary entry February 1, 1859.

⁸ Joan M. Dixon, *National Intelligencer Newspaper Abstracts 1859* (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 2009), 127, entry April 5, 1859.

⁹ Lomax., diary entry October 31, 1860, 132-133.

¹⁰ Grace Dunlop Ecker, *A Portrait of Old George Town* (Richmond, Virginia: The Dietz Press, Inc., reprint 1951), 215-216. According to Ecker, William R. Abbott conducted a one-story school for boys. The Abbotts lived in the house next to the school on the west side. Britannia Kennon probably boarded there. The spelling of this name varies from Abbott to Abbot, see Wesley E. Pippenger, *Georgetown, District of Columbia 1850 Federal Population Census (Schedule) and 1853 Directory of Residents of Georgetown* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 1999), 185.

¹¹ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 24, *Reminiscences of Britannia Peter Kennon* [unpaginated]; see also Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 23, which contains a note by Armistead Peter, Jr., in which he states, “Mother [Martha Custis Peter Kennon] spent about two years at the Miss[es] Casey’s school 1859-1861 – When the Civil War broke out, she and Grandmother went South.” Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Martha Custis Williams Carter, Manuscript 6, Box 1, Folder 5, Martha Peter to Martha Custis Williams Carter, January 17, 1853. Jane Donovan and Carlton Fletcher, Transcribers, *William King’s Mortality Books Volume 2: 1833-1863* (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2004), 65: William R. Abbott died September 29, 1852. Armistead Peter 3rd notes his grandmother, Martha Custis Kennon Peter, attended school in Philadelphia: Peter, 9. See Archibald McElroy, *McElroy’s Philadelphia Directory for 1856* 19th Edition (Philadelphia: Edward C. & John Biddle, 1856), 815: Misses Casey & Mrs. Beebe’s school was located at 531 Walnut Street.

¹² Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Britannia Peter Kennon, Manuscript 7, Box 1, Folder 11, Martha Custis Kennon to Britannia Peter Kennon, letters of October 16, 1858, April 2, 1859, May 4, 1859, May 14, 1859, May 17, 1859. See supra, footnote 10: according to the dates of these letters, Armistead Peter, Jr.’s note that cites “1859-1861” as the years his mother attended Misses Casey’s French School are inaccurate. For a description of Robert Dick see Mary A. Mitchell, “An Intimate Journey through Georgetown in April 1863.” *Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D.C. 1960-1962*. Volume 60-62 (Washington, D.C.: Published by The Society, 1963), 90: “Stretching through from N Street to Dumbarton Street between 30th and 31st Streets was the estate of Robert Dick, a fussy old bachelor of the Peter clan who owned valuable business property and lived on his rentals . . . he ran his place as a ‘farm.’ His three slaves raised geese and sheep and milked his cow. In a greenhouse, he grew rare camellias and hybrid lemon trees.”

¹³ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 23. Peter notes that his grandmother “went to

Staunton, Va., and boarded with the Lomax family.” It is not known if this was the home of Elizabeth Lindsay Lomax, or the home of her kinsman Judge John Tayloe Lomax in Fredericksburg at Menokin; possibly Britannia Kennon and Markie Kennon stayed at Menokin, or Armistead Peter, Jr., had confused the cities.

¹⁴ See Lomax’s *Leaves from an Old Washington Diary* and Mary Chestnut’s *A Diary from Dixie* as further evidence of this peripatetic existence.

¹⁵ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 24, *Reminiscences of Britannia Peter Kennon* [unpaginated].

¹⁶ Mitchell, 95: “. . . at 1301 30th Street was Miss Lydia English’s forty-year old seminary, confiscated by the Union for an Officer’s Hospital. A burr under the saddle for the neighbors, it flew the Stars and Stripes all day and was constantly patrolled . . . “. Ecker, 155: A Georgetown resident recalled: “I have often heard my mother tell of how the Southern girls would not walk under the Stars and Stripes hanging out from the hospital in the Seminary. They would cross to the other side of the street, and when Union officers passed, they held aside their skirts.”

¹⁷ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Martha Custis Williams Carter, Manuscript 6, Box 4, Folder 5, diary entry March 22, 1862.

¹⁸ Lomax, 211, diary entry September 1, 1862.

¹⁹ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 24, *Reminiscences of Britannia Peter Kennon* [unpaginated].

²⁰ Lomax, 179-180, diary entry December 20, 1861.

²¹ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 24, *Reminiscences of Britannia Peter Kennon* [unpaginated]. *The National Intelligencer*, “Sales at Auction by J.C. McGuire & Co., Auctioneers,” Volume XLIX, Issue 15405, December 27, 1861, 1: “That spacious and elegant Villa on the Heights of Georgetown known as Tudor Place, with extensive grounds, and commanding a beautiful view of the Potomac, is for rent for one or more years, with or without furniture. It is situated on Congress street . . . Apply at the office of J. Dent, No. 456 Fifteenth Street, opposite the Treasury . . . The furniture now in the above house, of the most elegant description, will be offered for sale, at public auction, on TUESDAY, the 31st instant, at 10 o, clock A.M. on the premises. Also, two superior Milch cows.” Page 1 of *The Intelligencer* also included a detailed description of the Pendleton’s “Furniture and Effects,” noting that the house would be open to visitors for inspection on Monday, the 30th Instant.

²² Ibid.

²³ Lomax, 219, diary entry November 4, 1862.

²⁴ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 24, *Reminiscences of Britannia Peter Kennon* [unpaginated].

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ John H. Brinton, *Personal Memoirs of John H. Brinton, Civil War Surgeon, 1861-1865* (Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois Press, 1914, reprint 1996), 263. For a description of Washington in the winter of 1863-1864, see Brinton 262-263.

²⁷ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Britannia Peter Kennon, Manuscript 7, Box 3, Folder 2.

²⁸ This information was provided by Terry Reimer, Director of Research, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, Maryland. Ms. Reimer added that the witnesses to the marriage were Outerbridge Horsey, a nearby relative, and Dr. Charles Carroll Lee, a relation to Mary Digges Lee.

²⁹ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1903), 629; Margaret Leech, *Reveille in Washington 1860-1865* (New York and London: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1941), 217. The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, Maryland, today is home to the Letterman Institute, an interpretative center dedicated to advancing the history of medicine.

³⁰ Jonathan Letterman, M.D., *Medical Recollections of the Army of the Potomac* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1866, reprint 2008).

³¹ Heitman, 623: Heitman is correct in that Lee was born in Pennsylvania, but mistakenly states that Lee enlisted from Pennsylvania; William B. Atkinson, *The Physicians and Surgeons of the United States* (Philadelphia: Charles Robson, 1878), 361: Atkinson correctly notes that Lee was born in Philadelphia on March 24, 1838.

³² This information was provided by Terry Reimer, Director of Research, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, Maryland: Scott McGaugh, *Surgeon in Blue: Jonathan Letterman, the Civil War Doctor Who Pioneered Battlefield Care*. (New York: Arcadia, 2013), 204-206: according to record, Jonathan Letterman and Mary Digges Lee met at Needwood; the Mansion still exists today in Knoxville, Maryland.

³³ Heitman, 245; Atkinson, 276. This museum is known today as the National Museum of Health & Medicine.

³⁴ Heitman, 871.

³⁵ Brinton, 232; Heitman, 958; Atkinson, 344-345.

³⁶ Heitman, 382.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 827. Director of Research Terry Reimer of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine noted that there were at least twelve surgeons named Rice in the Union Army.

³⁸ Heitman, 295; Atkinson, 516.

³⁹ Heitman, 470; James Grant Wilson and John Fiske, Editors, *Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography* Volume II (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1888), 708.

⁴⁰ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 69, Folder 24, *Reminiscences of Britannia Peter Kennon* [unpaginated]. The boarder named Grant could not have been General Ulysses S. Grant of Ohio.

Britannia Kennon noted quite clearly, “Mr. Dent was very interested on having Mrs. Julia Grant, wife of General Ulysses S. Grant, take “the wing, as they had a daughter they wanted to put at the Convent in Georgetown. –I told him I could not take them.”

⁴¹ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Martha Custis Williams Carter, Manuscript 6, Box 4, Folder 5, diary entries August 20, 24, 29, 1862; Carter’s spelling of this name varies from entry to entry. Lomax mentions a Mr. Steele at least five times in her diary as a visitor to her house, but does not identify him further.

⁴² This information was provided by Terry Reimer, Director of Research, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, Maryland.

⁴³ Wilson and Fiske, Volume V, 170.

⁴⁴ Ecker, 303-304.

⁴⁵ Yale University, Manuscripts and Archives, New Haven, Connecticut: *History of The Academic Class of 1856, Yale University, To 1896*. (Boston: Printed for The Class, 1897), 172.

⁴⁶ Heitman, 542-543.

⁴⁷ Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Papers of Armistead Peter, Jr., Manuscript 14, Box 77, Folder 2. While Britannia Kennon spelled this name “Horner,” Heitman and other sources cite the spelling as “Honor, Caleb Wright”: see Heitman, 542-543.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Brinton, 247-248. Brinton’s observation that “The family to which it [Tudor Place] belonged, were all in southern service, and its associations and surroundings were especially ‘Secesh,’” was quite correct: see James H. Whyte, “Divided Loyalties in Washington during the Civil War.” *Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D.C. 1960-1962*. Volume 60-62 (Washington, D.C.: Published by The Society, 1963), 112. Whyte observed that Lieutenant Beverley Kennon II (1830-1890), Britannia Kennon’s stepson, who resigned his naval commission in the United States Navy to enlist in the Confederate forces, “boasted that he had one brother and more than two hundred cousins serving with the Confederacy.”

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National Museum of Health and Medicine, Silver Spring, Maryland

Tudor Place Historic House & Garden Archive, Washington, District of Columbia

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