

Fauquier Historical Society "News and Notes"

# The Hollow Needs Help

Fall 1984 Vol. 6, No. 4

The Friends of the Hollow, Inc., a corporation formed in the fall of 1981 for the purpose of researching, renovating and preserving the 18th century dwelling, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 11, at 2:00 p.m. at Goose Creek Church, Markham, to formulate their plans for the future.

Situated in a field about a half-mile from Markham, the small structure is in a state of extreme deterioration.

This significant landmark in the history of Fauquier, which has withstood the ravages of wind and rain for more than 200 years, may well fade out of existence unless immediate and sympathetic help is forthcoming.

It has long been the tradition, firmly established in the minds of the descendants of the American frontiersman and Revolutionary soldier Colonel Thomas Marshall, that The Hollow is the frontier home which he built in 1765 after moving his family from Midland in southern Fauquier. He and his family lived here on 300 acres leased from Ludwell Lee until 1773, when he purchased 1700 acres, near Marshall, and built his house, which he called Oak Hill.

The Hollow is sited "at the south base of Naked Mountain, on a beautiful rise of land, washed by Wildcat Branch on the west and a spring-fed stream on the east. . . With its back to the mountain and the front to the south, overlooking a high valley of Goose Creek, sheltered on the south by Iden's Mountain and, still farther to the south, surmounted by the blue horizon of Rattlesnake Mountain. The crest of the Blue Ridge sweeps across the near western horizon, completing the rim that forms the boundary of the hollow."

## Classic Design

The well-built but fragile frame house is of the classic Virginia one and one-half story design. This original part is obscured from direct view from the road by an addition probably built around 1860.

The original house consists of two rooms on the first floor and an upper half story. The upper story is reached by an enclosed staircase in the smaller room, which does not have a fireplace. The walls are sheathed by horizontal, beaded paneling. The partition wall is

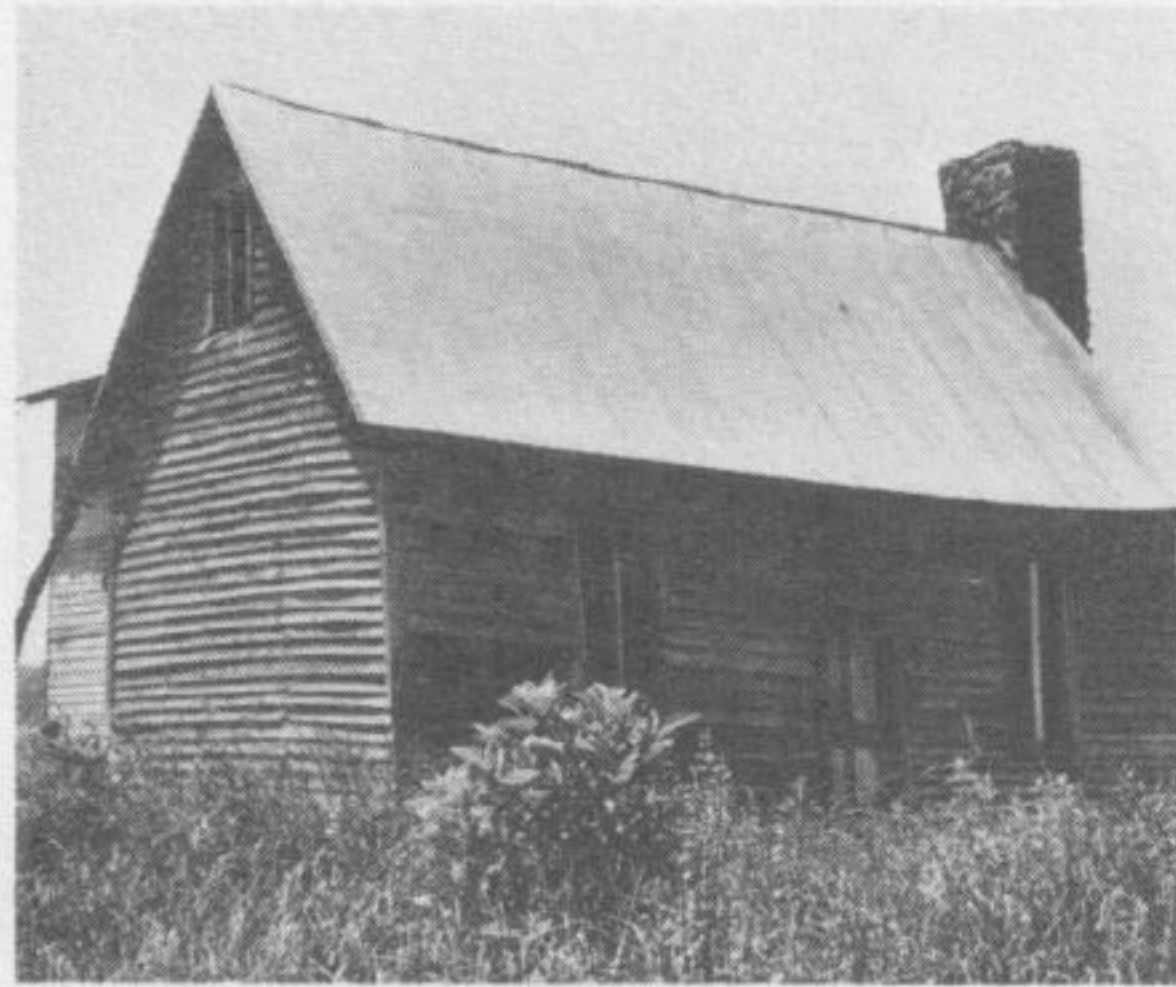


Photo by Isabelle Palmer

The Hollow, 1982

one thickness of these boards placed vertically and tongue-and-grooved. There is no plaster in the old part.

The old doors are board-and-batten and have no locks but have hand-made H & L hinges with handmade nails and leather washers. The visible rafters in the upper story are mortised-and-tenoned and pegged at the peak. The original beaded weatherboarding and hand-made nails have been preserved under the pantry addition.

The 1860 addition consists of a stairhall and living room with a full second story. The front door was changed to the addition's west side, with a porch.

The Friends of the Hollow have already taken measures to protect the building from further deterioration by the weather. A new roof has been placed on the old house, but the boards which were placed over the windows were later stolen by vandals.

The Friends have also taken steps to have the house declared an historical landmark. On March 17, 1981, the Virginia Landmarks Commission elected that this property should be included in a proposed Historic District of Markham. However, at the present writing there has been no action on the part of the Landmarks Commission on either the building or the town of Markham.

## Friends Seek Help

The Friends are also seeking professional help to mount a careful archaeological investigation, after which the dwelling will be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition and used as a museum.

The Hollow has survived torture

by the elements, and in more modern times, annihilation by Interstate 66 which condemned, moved or destroyed everything in its pathway. Unless work is done on the structure in the very near future, The Hollow will become only a chapter in the annals of Fauquier history.

Support for the restoration of The Hollow can be made through membership in The Friends of the Hollow. Memberships are \$5.00; sustaining memberships are \$25.00. Make checks payable to Treasurer, Friends of the Hollow, and send to: Mr. Alexander Green, Markham, VA 22643. Contributions are tax deductible.

1. Norman L. Baker. *Piedmont Virginian* 2 July 1975.

## The Hessians

The editor and newsletter staff are researching the history of the Hessians in Fauquier.

We would appreciate any information regarding the presence of the Hessian soldiers in our county. The legends of some Fauquier families credit these soldiers with many of the beautifully carved mantelpieces found in our old homes; it is well known that they were skilled carpenters.

We are also interested in family ties with Hessian descendents in New York, Winchester and Charlottesville, Virginia.

Please reply to The Editor, News and Notes, P.O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA 22186.

## Why Dogwood?

WARM SPRINGS, Ga. (AP) — Why is the pretty dogwood tree called a dogwood?

According to Georgia-Pacific, a forest products firm, the dogwood was named by American colonists who found it similar to a British tree which produces a chemical used as a medicinal cure for mange on dogs.