

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA
11 South Twelfth Street
Richmond, Virginia

3275

W. P. A. State-wide Project, Historical Inventory

FIELD WORKER'S DAILY REPORT

District No. _____ County _____

Supervisor 111 PRINCE WM

Worker's Name R. O. WIGHT

Address SUSAN ROGERS MORTON Identification No. _____

Date HAYMARKET No. hours worked this day 5493-164

Number of sites visited this day MAY 26 SEVEN

Number of miles traveled this day TWO

Remarks: 10

As by writing to talk to someone who knows more of the history of Greenville
Name of site 1. ~~I will be able to give a more complete report, will wait for that until later.~~

- 2. ~~Greenville-old Wheeler and Compton home.~~
- 3. _____

Exact location of site 1. Brownville or Folly Castle

- 2. _____
- 3. On Groveton--Wellington road, about one mile from Groveton, on the right hand side. road no. 622.

Name of Informant 1. _____

- 2. Mrs May Dogan, Mrs Ritnell, old records.
- 3. _____

Address of Informant 1. _____

- 2. both Manassas,
- 3. _____

Connection of Informant 1. _____

- 2. Mrs Dogan descendent of early owner, thirty
- 3. years a resident there, tenant for 11 years.

(Note: Please use reverse side for comments on sites visited. Refer to each by its number on the left-hand side of these columns.)

I hereby certify the above statements are accurate.

Supervisor _____ Signature _____

The first of Brownville, is found in in one of the deed books, from which I took the following extract, it is the usual long document, with details of the terms --- so many acres which are not to be planted in Indian corn after so many years, the number of fruit trees that are to be planted etc. (1781)

* Mann Page, and George N. Brown, 2 2 acres, at west end of old patent line--- during the life time of the longest liver of his three sons, Henry, John, Wm. --- yearly rent of two thousand, seventy pounds of crop tobacco, etc.

The first thing that strikes one as they see the place, from even a distance is the chimney, or chimneys, rather, which are remarkable, it is said that Mr Brown had the brick brought from England, and while one usually takes such stories with some question of doubt, these bricks are undoubtedly made in the English mould, and they are very different in color and composition, there are twin chimneys at the north end of the house, but at the other end is a single chimney with a base of at least sixteen feet and in which is set two windows, one on the first one on the second floor, the masonry surrounding these windows is very beautiful, and the whole chimney is quite remarkable.

The old house was destroyed by fire in 1899, and the chimneys were so well built that it was possible to place the present house on the same foundation using the chimneys without any change.

The Browns went to another part of the state about 1830 and the place was bought by Mr Wm H. Lewis, at that time it was a story and a half house with dormer windows, the ceiling all ten ft high on the first floor, a large hall going through the middle and long drawing room taking up one side of the house, there was hand carved moulding along the hall and drawing room, a Grecian border six inches deep, there was a double door in front and porches both back and front. Mr Lewis added more rooms and at the time that the house was burned it is said to have contained fifteen rooms, including the basement.

In 1884 it was bought by John T. Leachman, a son-in-law of Mr Lewis, and remained in the family until his death in 1913, when it was bought by J. E. Coverstone of Manassas, who owns it at the present time, but who has rented it for a number of years.

As Mr Lewis had a large family of daughters and there was much entertaining and merriment there in the days before the war, it was called Folly Castle by their batchelor Uncle who lived at Paradise farm about four miles distant and it has been known by this name ever since.

There is a very old pear tree on the place that is said to have been brought there from England by Mr Brown, who had very fine orchards and beautiful grounds, one can still trace the flagged walks and led through the garden, and to the gate, and until the past year, when it was cut down there was a very large locust tree that had several bullets embedded in it and other battle scars.

There is an old cemetery on the place with a number of graves, said to be those of the Brown family, but none of them have any inscription, it is merely a collection of stones setting out in the open field. But Mrs Dogan says that shortly after the war it was surrounded by lovely trees and shrubs

There was a French artist (no one seems to be sure of his name) who spent 6 months at Folly Castle some years ago, painting scenes of the battle for a cyclorama, and also painted one of the house and gave it to his host but it was destroyed in fire.

This, like the most of the houses in the neighborhood was used to house the wounded after the first and second battles of Manassas, and a shell tore one of the large gate posts into splinters, during the first battle.