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**People, Places and Things**

# Buckland Hall Plantation Is Rich In History

By Gladys Bushong  
Sitting quietly, but not with a look of austerity, the famed mansion of Buckland Hall greets you when you enter the private driveway of this old mansion. Somehow, there is a feeling of warmth about the place. The boxwood bushes and other shrubbery which surround it is indicative of beneficial care. The huge front porch columns reveal the colonial architecture, symbolic of the past. Large trees overlapping the private driveway to the house, together with the distant view of the Bull Run mountains furnishes a pleasing and restful picture.

Buckland was owned by Captain Samuel Love, who had the mansion erected in 1743, being 56 years before the General Assembly incorporated the town of Buckland. It is generally conceded that the designer and builder of Buckland Hall was none other than William Buckland, who was the architect of Gunston Hall, the home of

George Mason, author of The Bill of Rights. Upon the death of Captain Love (whose headstone yet stands in the family graveyard) his two sons, Samuel and John, inherited the estate.

During the early days, and over a period of years, the plantation changed ownership several times, among some of the owners being Hites, Balls, Washingtons and Lees. In later years when the Harrison's became the owners, Buckland and its surrounding territory seemed to flourish again. Comprising some of the Harrison's holdings was the Ross Farm and Vint Hill Farm Station, all of considerable large acreage.

The Town of Buckland was laid out in 1796, incorporated in 1799, and became a thriving community, with taverns, mill and places of business. Beautiful homes and churches were erected, and it was a place of great social activity. St. Luke's Church in Buckland, erected 1775 (being later re-built in

1856) is in use today. It has been reported that this church was erected by the same architect who built Buckland Hall. The land donated for this religious structure was upon the condition "that when not in use by the Methodists, it should serve other Evangelical Societies."

As early as 1808 a road was authorized to be built from the Little River Turnpike in Fairfax to Buckland. This took time, but history relates that it was completed to Buckland in 1824. In Prince William this road follows practically the same route today as then. U. S. #29-211 is laid out in almost a straight line from Old Stone Bridge, across Bull Run, past the Stone House through Gainesville, crossing the old Carolina Road through to Buckland and on to the Fauquier line.

Buckland Hall is famous for much historical and legendary material for thought. There are marks of gun shot upon the door, on the second floor of this stately old dwelling. During the War Between the States, soldiers were billeted close by. Skirmishes were encountered and battles were fought near here. There was an encampment at Buckland Mill Sept. 29, 1862, as well as later quite a skirmish took place there Oct. 19, 1863. The town of Buckland seems to have been the target for the soldiers who were clad in blue uniforms, with the mill being seized, buildings ransacked, places burned as well as much pillaging done in an annoying manner. Like all wars, the War

Between the States left a path of destruction, waste and disorganization. The town of Buckland was no exception.

In 1940 the stone structure of Buckland Hall was completely reconstructed. The present owner, Thomas Mellon Evans, being fully aware of the value of handwork adorning the place, interior and exterior, preserved every item and every intricate part. In fact, almost all of the interior was salvaged for restoration of the mansion. There is elaborate hand carving over the doors--some of them being odd shaped--mantles, windows, and with the flooring of random width pine, all was kept and put in first class condition for use in the dwelling. Even some of the old lime and hair plaster on the walls was put in good appearance, as well as the hand-blown glass panes being retained. Nothing of the past was thrown on the trash heap which could be salvaged for use in this magnificent mansion.

The size of the nine rooms are approximately 24x24, with a fireplace in each. Also, there is a very wide hall which adds a note of charm and welcome to large and friendly gatherings.

Observing the exterior of this structure, one cannot help but appreciate the perfectly cut stones, likely, all hand chiseled. There is little doubt that even though there were excellent stone masons in that day, these craftsmen were under close observation and supervision during the renovation by the architect, Irving Fleming.

All of the former dependencies to the main house have been

removed in order to expand the lawn for greater beautification.

Where crops thrived years ago, perhaps a village comes to life today; or an army post is built; or an industrial plant is erected, or much acreage is purchased for mechanized farms, cattle raising or horse breeding. Such has happened at Buckland Farm, as this is now a famous thoroughbred breeding farm. For miles and miles one can see the snow-white farm fences separating the large pasture fields. Yearling horses begin their early training on this farm, and at various times the ones in training at the race track are rested on the farm. Many horses trained here turn out as top racers. "Get Around," stallion, was stakes winner of \$164,865 for the late Mrs. Elizabeth Graham, owner of "Elizabeth Arden" and Miz Carol." Others having as much notoriety have been bred and trained on this farm, for owners and buyers.

While changes at Buckland Hall Farm are vastly different today than during the era when Samuel Love built the beautiful home, there is reason to believe that in the next century life will consist of even greater changes.

Traffic mishaps claimed the lives of two men on highways in Eastern Prince William County over the weekend.

Kels Noble Maize Jr., 37, of the Bayvue Apartments in Woodbridge was killed when he was struck by a car on U. S. Rt. 1 near the Yellow Lantern Restaurant Saturday evening. Taken to Fairfax Hospital by the OWL Rescue Squad, Maize was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police say the driver of the car that struck Maize was Dr. Milton C. Richards of Richmond.

Another motorist from Richmond was killed Sunday, Jan. 22, when his station wagon went out of control on Interstate 95 a mile south of Rt. 619 near the Triangle exit and crashed into the guard rail.

According to state police, Raymond Wilson Mason, 45, of Stewart Station was rushed to Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg by the Dumfries-Triangle Rescue Squad but was pronounced dead on arrival.

F. Thomas Tuttle of Garrisonville was severely injured Friday evening in another one-car accident on Interstate 95 south of the Triangle exit.

Taken to Fairfax Hospital by the Dumfries-Triangle Rescue Squad, Tuttle suffered a triple compound fracture of the left leg and lacerations on the head and face.

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## March of Dimes Envelopes Mailed to County Residents

"Our March of Dimes message this year is a simple one: 'Please.'

"Please answer it early and please make your response generous," William R. Stephens appealed as he announced the traditional March of Dimes mailing to homes throughout Prince William County.

The need for funds is urgent, he said, if continued progress is to be made in reducing the figure of 250,000 babies born each year in the United States with birth defects.

"Already, March of Dimes-supported scientists have devised ways of detecting and controlling several conditions which can cause permanent mental disability, and they are now working in the field of German measles and other diseases known to be responsible for defective children."

"We know our March of Dimes message for support in the fight against birth defects will arrive promptly because we're cooperating with the Post Office Department by using zip codes on every envelope," declared Stephens, "and your contribution will zip back to us speedily for the same reason."

## Inspection Stickers Must Be On All Motorcycles

An estimated 6,000 motorcycles have not undergone... Colonel Woodson warned that anyone operating an uninspected

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