

James Cooke had stone dairy moved from The Grove to his yard



18th century colonial mansion of Flemish bond and handmade brick

Potomac People

A colonial mansion rises in the 20th century

By EILEEN MEAD

A historian listing the colonial mansions in the Fauquier area stopped at "Deep Spring," the home of the James L. Cookes in Greenwich Village, Prince William County, recently to ask when that fine example of colonial architecture was constructed.

He seemed taken aback when Cooke replied that he

significance.

A stone dairy on the left was purchased from the owners of a decaying neighboring plantation, "The Grove," and brought piece-by-piece by Cooke to Deep Spring and reconstructed almost exactly as it had stood on its former site. The dairy, built sometime between 1732

and 1750, was constructed of stone 20 inches thick. New wood shingles were used on

in Greenwich, "Thornton's Tavern," were purchased by Cooke when that historical building was torn down in June 1972 and used to build a spring house on the grounds of Deep Spring.

The tavern was built in 1741 by Timothy Thornton, at the crossing of the Old Carolina Road and Dumfries Road, to

early throughfares. Travelers slept in one big

place. His grandfather first moved there in 1890 after he built a seven room two-story home on his 27 acres.

The name, "Deep Spring" is derived from the spring from which Cooke's grandparents drew their water. "It was the biggest day in my grandmother's life in 1910 when she was able to use a

near in house. She now walks many yards to the spring to draw water before

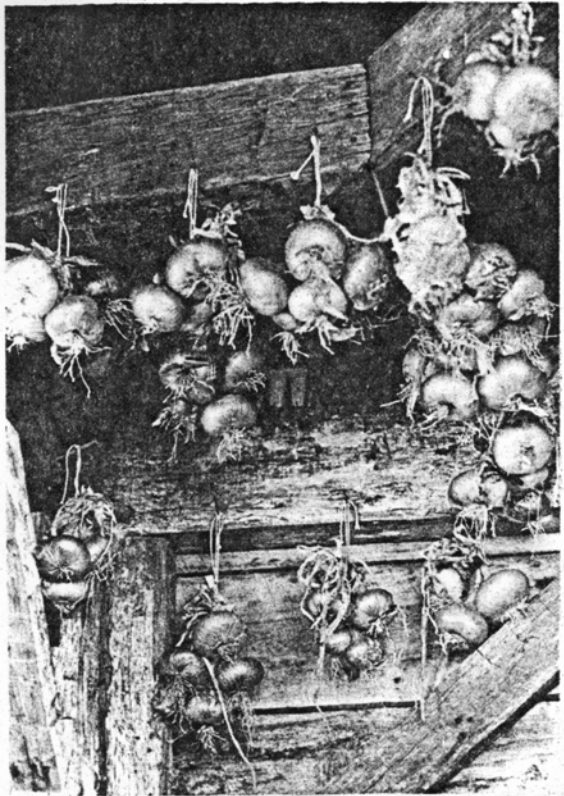
In the living room, the pink Italian marble fireplace is the center of interest. Mrs. Cooke helped a great deal with the actual building of the house and did most of the decorating and selected furnishings.

The rest of the work he did himself.

This year they raised a large garden and canned and



Two of the smaller buildings to the rear of the house are of historic generations. It was built in 1944. Hand-planed heavy timbers from the oldest building place in 1961 and built one of the small white houses on the site to be used as a summer

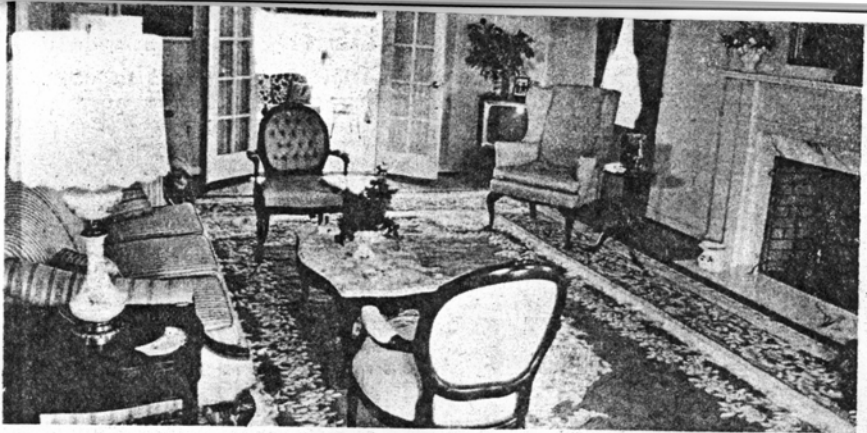


Onions hang from beams, once part of Thornton Tavern

"One day I told my wife that I was going over to Greenwich and build the house. I told her that I was through!" Cooke said. He said he found great satisfaction in building his own home using the features he found to be most attractive in homes he had previously built. "The floor plan of this house is almost exactly like one we lived in in Arlington, except that it is built on a larger scale," he said. "The feature I like best is that from the downstairs hallway any room on that floor can be reached without walking through another room," he said.

Of special interest in the house are the fine molding and woodwork. Denta molding is used in the living room, raised paneling in the stairwell and along the walls. "We were fortunate to find an elderly craftsman in Alexandria who still does the raised paneling," Cooke said. Cooke cut the dental moldings and the chair rails of equipment set up in the living room of the house during construction. The mantel for the sitting room fireplace was also cut by Cooke. He pointed out that the hearth was made for that fireplace of bricks gathered from historic buildings being torn down throughout the state. He was given two bricks from Ravensworth. One has a cat's paw print and another has a dog's paw print embedded in it.

The continuous handrail of birch stained mahogany, the plank flooring in the hallway and a grandfather's clock are special features in the spacious hallway. Cooke built the clock and placed the paneled engineered workings in it.



Living room, with pink marble fireplace, opens onto sun porch

DAR meets at Bel Air

Members of Elizabeth McIntosh Hammil Chapter, DAR, enjoyed a rare treat Oct. 24 when they met at Bel Air, the exquisite, restored plantation home of Parson Weems.

Built in 1740 by Major Charles Ewell, the mansion was later owned by Parson Weems who married the daughter of Col. Jesse Ewell. The present owners, Dr. and Mrs. William Flory, have restored the home with loving concern for the personality and history of the old country place. Mrs. Flory, hostess, and

Mrs. Ray Lewis, co-hostess, served refreshments in the dining room on the ground floor. Members relaxed in the glow and warmth from the twenty foot fireplace, surrounded by antiques and an authentic hand braided wool rug, while they enjoyed their refreshments served on fragile old Haviland Limoges china.

Mrs. Flory, who possesses an innate graciousness, conducted a leisurely tour through the home, while members examined the beautiful architecture, and recalled the famous people

who had visited or occupied rooms.

It seemed only fitting that the speaker, Mrs. Robert Waters, of Alexandria, chose the Marquis de Lafayette as the subject for her talk. Mrs. Waters has majored in the study of French language and history, and has visited France many times. She has devoted most of her life to young people and has held many state and national offices in senior leadership of the Children of the American Revolution. She also holds national offices in the French Huguenot Society

and the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century.

Mrs. Susie Palmer, Chairman of National Defense spoke on the pros and cons of future relations with Cuba, and noted many of Virginia Senator Byrd's remarks on the necessity of caution in our relationship with that country.

Mrs. Robert Thomason reported that Loch Lomond School has been chosen to receive the DAR Good Citizenship Award this year, and that notices have been mailed out to all schools on the essay contest.