



Old Dogan House, from a 1907 photograph

By MERRIE SPOR
A Revolutionary War soldier, who at one time owned land from Pageland Lane to the Stone House at Manassas National Battlefield Park, was honored recently by the Daughters of the American Revolution in a ceremony at his family cemetery.

A grave marker was dedicated to Henry Dogan, who fought with the 11th Virginia Regiment of Foot, commanded by Col. Dan Morgan. Dogan died Dec. 20, 1823.

Dogan had served the

winter of 1777-78, under Capt. C. Gallahue, at Valley Forge, Pa. Records show that he also served under Capt. Porterfield and Col. John Cropper. In late 1778, Dogan fought with Capt. George Rice's company, 11th and 15th Regiments commanded by Morgan. The next year, he served with Capt. Phillip Slaughter.

Dogan's great-great granddaughter, Mrs. Thomas A. L. Lightner of Round Hill, said Dogan's pay records revealed that he was paid \$6.67 a month from 1777 until the end of the war.

Dogan is buried in a family plot behind the present-day Stonewall Memory Gardens. Five generations lived at Old Groveton Farm, said Mrs. Lightner, before the land was sold to the Memory Gardens in the 1940s.

Family records and archives revealed that Dogan was born in 1759, either in Ireland or in Virginia, said Mrs. Lightner.

"There was a Samuel Dogan who bought land in Culpeper in 1767," said Mrs. Lightner. "Henry Dogan was related to Samuel, but we're not sure exactly how."

After the war, Henry married Mary Wheeler and settled in Fairfax County, according to the 1790 Fairfax census. In 1787, Henry bought more than 200 acres from Mann Page II, land that was part of the Carter tract. Henry built a house on what became Old Groveton Farm, at the junction of U. S. 29-211 and Featherbed Lane.

Mary Wheeler Dogan's father, Drummond Wheeler, bought acreage near Wellington. The two farms were connected by Groveton Road.

Henry's house burned prior to the Civil War, said Mrs. Lightner. Henry's son, William Henry Dogan, married Lucinda Lewis of Brownsville. They moved to a log cabin near the site of the main house in 1860.

William's daughter by his first wife built a house on the site in 1867. Mary Jane Dogan lived there alone, operating a post office from the house, said Mrs. Lightner. Her stepmother Lucinda continued to live at the log house with her children.

Dennis Kelly, Park historian, said Lucinda had added a wood outbuilding to the log cabin built in 1817. She

cut a doorway between the two structures and covered the outside with siding. Other rooms were added in 1870 and 1880, he said.

When the 14th New York Regiment dedicated monuments on the Battlefield Oct. 20, 1906, Lucinda served a luncheon at the old house. A memorial booklet printed about the dedication mentions the house which "stands just above the Warrenton turnpike on a slight hill, near where the extreme right of Hunter's Division first became engaged and exactly where Rickett's battery first unlimbered at the First Bull Run battle."

The Dogan house was in "ruinous condition" when donated by the Prince William Chamber of Commerce to the Park Service in 1949. It was restored by the Park Service to its original condition, said Kelly.

Mrs. Lightner said her mother, Esther Dogan Terrill of Purcellville, was born at the old house and she, herself, lived there for a short time.

"I remember leaving Sudley Church on Sunday and riding down Sudley Road to visit Mrs. Lynn at Ben Lomond farm," said Mrs. Lightner. "There were farms all along Va. 234 owned by Dogans, Wheelers and Lewises. The big white house near Wards is a Lewis house."

Mrs. Lightner commented on the disappearance of the farms and land, replaced by shopping centers and housing developments.

"It's a shame when a lot of it has to be done," she said. "If you can't afford to farm, you have to sell. What can you do? You can't sit there and starve."

"You can't turn back the clock."

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