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Inventory Form A (Revised)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA
11 SOUTH TWELFTH STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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

WPA Historical Inventory

FIELD WORKER'S DAILY REPORT

District No. 111 County PRINCE WM

Supervisor R. C. WIGHT

Worker's Name SUSAN ROGERS MORTON

Address HAYMARKET Identification No. 545-174

Date SEPTEMBER 25th No. hours worked this day SEVEN

Number of sites visited this day ONE

Number of miles Traveled this day 28

Remarks: actually visited other sites, but not complete as yet.

Name of site 1. Fostern

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Exact location of site 1. off road 614 going from Manassas to Brentsville

2. about three miles from Brentsville

3. _____

Name of Informant 1. Mrs Semore, Miss Flanna Lions, Mrs J.D. Proffit,

2. _____

3. _____

Address of Informant 1. Brentsville, last two, Manassas

2. _____

3. _____

Connection of Informant 1. near neighbor, family connections

2. _____

3. _____

(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 Wight

Signature Susan Rogers Morton

From: WPA... Misc.
RELIC 975.527 WPA

1.
Fostern itself has nothing of great interest, it is a pleasing and commodious farmhouse, but the events that have taken place there make it worthy of attention.

The house square with a porch in front, the later an addition of late years center hall and large rooms with fireplaces in keeping, was built in the early part of the 19th century by a son of Redman Foster of More Green, which adjoins it, This Redman Foster, Jr. was an old bachelor at the time he married Miss Margaret Williams, a sister of John Williams the second, clerk of the Court and living in Brentsville.

The story is told of the wedding day, which was in November and cold and rainy, and the fire felt good, so much so that Mr Foster decided that the next fair day would do as well, after a while the young men of the neighborhood who had gathered at the White House in Brentsville for the ceremony came to see what was keeping the groom, and found him in carpet slippers, before a blazing fire.

He said, "Ahem, ahem, tell Miss Margaret, I will be over the first fair day" They replied that Miss Margaret would not be ready 'the next fair day', so the ceremony took place.

Mr Foster also owned Compton, a much finer farm than Fostern, and when he was making his will, he asked his wife which farm she would rather have, In telling a friend he said "Ahem, Miss Margaret is an odd woman, she preferred Fostern to Compton because she came to Fostern as a bride".

Mr Foster had a large number of slaves, notable among them being "Uncle Char German, eldest son of "Aunt Kitty and "Uncle Henry" who taught a little school for the negroes at Nokesville, about seven miles a day, and he walked both ways "He always appeared early and late each day" says one who remembers him "He always reminded me of a swallow he seemed not to touch the ground as he walked, we set our clocks by his appearance, he was always so punctual"

During the war the doors of Fostern were opened to the women and children of the families whose men had gone to war, and the house was filled to overflowing, Mr Foster was no longer living and Mrs Foster was known as "Aunt Peggie" to black and white alike, who received her kindly ministrations.

Here the neighborhood children would come in the evening for games and frolic while often the men, who were stationed near would here visit wives and children, while they had a hand snatched a few hours sleep, their horses tethered in the pine thickets near by. Uncle Henry feeding and grooming them and at their departure, removing all trace of where they had been in the pines.

When the Mother-in-law would break camp, the women of the community would go

"Buzzingeting". Uncle Henry taking the oxen and wagon and driving as near the camp as possible then they would walk, when there would be a stream of water to cross. "Uncle Henry", who was a powerful man, would plant his foot in the water take them by the hand, putting thier foot on his and in this way pilot them all across, on these parties they wouls sometimes find sugar and salt, tea and even coffee, which was a treat after parched rye, and variouit things that they could not take with them after hurried evacuation orders.

Uncle Henry alone with horse and oxen tended the crops with the assistance of the young people, one of the young girls a Williams from the White House, usually led them, putting on mask so that she would not burn her face, she would drop corn thin it and do any of the tasks that were to be done.

Though Uncle Henry served with such fidelity, he said he never had a doubt how the war would end.

Mrs Foster one day was visited by officials from Washington who said they had come to arrest her.

"Arrest me" she said "for what?"

"High treason Madam"

"High treason" she echoed "what have I done?"

"You threatened the life of the President" you said if you had old Abe here you would choke him, so it is reported at Headquarters by some negro Gentlemen. I would not harm a hair of any man's head, much less President Lincoln, I may have said it, and I may say it again, but it is only teeth outwards".

They saw that she was only a harmless old woman and they rode away leaving her to administer to her housh ld, she was at this time well over seventy.

Another instance among the many that happened at Fostern during war days' There was one old horse left, "Toab" sway-back, long haired and ugly. Miss Williams in an old fashioned habit was getting on the horse to ride to Brentsville, when she was accousted by a young man who requested a glass of water. This young man was Wade Hampton and he told at dinner that night that he met a young lady and thinking that she was pretty he had asked for a glass of water, but that when he got a look at her she ugly as a mud pence" She told this on herself in later years.

Later this same young lady refuged at Berry Hill near Orange Court House, Wade Hampton and his staff were stationed near and was a partner at "whisk" with Preston Hampton, and told the joke on hæs Fäthe He was killed the next day and Mrs Foster on hearing it said that if Preston had gone to bed as Father did, and not stayed up to play cards he would not have been killed.

The old lady was violently o posed to cards.

One day Mrs Foster went to her meat house and found a Federal soldier steal ing her meat, and she promptly preached him a sermon, and asked him why he should take her meat that she so needed, a year or more affer that this man

sent her word by one of the soldiers from Prince William that he had never taken anything since her sermon, and sent his kind regards to her.

The Federal came there at one time to arrest Mr Wm E. Lipscomb he went to the meat house and climbed on several planks at the top, and they were just leag when he breathed heaviky, a habit he had when excited, and was at once placed under arrest and taken away.

All during the war years one of the young ladies who was staying at Fostern, taught school for the neighborhood children.

There are many more tales told of this old place that today is so peaceful looking, after being in the Foster family for many years it is now the property of Mr Woodard, but now occupied by Mr Viers.

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FIELD WORKER'S DAILY REPORT

District No. _____ County _____

Supervisor _____

Worker's Name _____

Address _____ Identification No. _____

Date Sept 25th No. hours worked this day _____

Number of sites visited this day _____

Number of miles Traveled this day _____

Remarks:

Name of site 1. Palms

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Exact location of site 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Name of Informant 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Address of Informant 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Connection of Informant 1. _____

2. _____

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