

● By: John T. Toler

Remembering

'Red House,' the Skinker Family, and Early Haymarket

Haymarket's strategic location at the intersection of the north-south Old Carolina Road (U.S. 15), and the Gap Road (U.S. 55), going east-to-west has always offered great opportunities. The little crossroads was once known as "Red House" for one of the earliest commercial structures located there.

As early as 1622, the Carolina Road was an active Indian trail, used first by the Susquehanna Indians, until pushed out of the region by the more warlike Iroquois. A century later, after the Indians agreed to stay to the west of the Blue Ridge, commerce passing through Red House increased dramatically on the Carolina Road.

The road ran from New York to Georgia, and trade with nearby towns, as well as neighboring states, contributed to the economic activity benefiting Red House.

The actual "Red House" was an "ordinary," or rustic inn, located at the intersection of the Carolina Road and Gap Road. Built in the mid-1700s century, it is believed to have been a large brick structure with chimneys at either end, and a porch across the front.

One of the early property owners at Red House was Capt. Samuel Skinker (d. 1753), who purchased Green Hill Plantation from Dr. John Savage in 1734. It is unlikely that Capt. Skinker spent much time at Green Hill, as he had numerous land holdings in other areas, and never left his principal residence, "Millbank," near Port Conway in King George County, Va.

Upon his death, ownership of Green Hill passed to his youngest son William, born in 1738. Only 14 years old when his father died, it would be years before William came to claim his inheritance in the Piedmont. After first studying for the ministry in England, he returned to Virginia around 1760, settling in Norfolk, where he married and started a clock making business.

At the start of the American Revolution, residents of the coastal



The Skinker family tree had many branches in Prince William and Fauquier counties. Five generations - four generations of the mothers one young son - posed for this photo in 1857. From left, Mrs. Thomas Keith, Mrs. William Skinker Jr., Mrs. Nathaniel Clopton, Mrs. William N. Bispham (standing), and at right, her son Stacey Bispham.

cities were subjected to bombardment by British warships, and many moved inland. Among those who fled north on the Carolina Road was William Skinker, his wife and young daughter, Mary. Green Hill would become their permanent home.

During the Revolution, no battles were fought in the area of Red House, but there were numerous troop movements, particularly on the Carolina Road.

In January 1779, English prisoners captured during the Battle

In addition to many new, privately held, small service businesses, restaurants, etc. (www.townofhaymarket.org), in May of 2008, the Haymarket Heathcote Health Center opened its doors to serve the community and houses a 24/7 emergency room, a myriad of doctors offices, MRI, Mammogram & Blood labs as well. (Information Non-Emergency # 571-261-3250*Emergency # 571-261-3400) There is a new hospital that has been proposed to be sited near/next to the Health Center with public comments that were due by July 30th being reviewed for submission to the regulatory agencies.

The overflow of commuters and residents coming from Gainesville and points south, north and east into Haymarket will gain easier access from the Gainesville interchange that is in its' third phase of approvals. (The plan is to have Linton Hall road go "over" Route 29).

And although the "Rural Crescent" of Prince William County is not embraced by the entire community, its geographical configuration is what offers Haymarket country living at its fingertips (117,000

acres set aside for development zoned agricultural).

Want to partake of the small town charm? You can do that too. Haymarket offers summer concerts, a new "Restaurant Crawl", an Annual Bicycle Rodeo, a summertime Farmer's Market and on September 18, 2010, "Haymarket Day" will showcase service vendors, craftsmen and artists for your enjoyment. Spending an afternoon at the Haymarket Museum might not be a bad idea either.

From my professional perspective, this fortuitous location should not be understated. The most important factor to consider when evaluating a place to call home is something that hasn't changed over the years...its location, location, location! It affects every aspect of life. This "CROSSROADS" encased in Haymarket, VA has a track record of promoting and sustaining enterprise, real estate growth and demand and residential support services within reach of all things "shiny and new" and more simple pleasures.

Haymarket has it all...Haymarket ROCKS! Haymarket is the bomb! You

won't hear anyone asking "Where is Haymarket" going forward. Pat yourselves on the back, breathe out a sigh of pride and contentment and celebrate the diverse offerings that this area provides for you and your families.

Special thanks to the offices of Mr. John Stirrup, Supervisor, PWC; Gainesville District Demographics Office, PWC and my friend and fellow agent, Chris Ann Cleland.



Marilyn Shackelford is a Realtor, ABR, SRES (Seniors Real Estate Specialist), Team Realtor for Erickson Retirement Communities.

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of Saratoga, N.Y. were marched through Red House on the Carolina Road on their way to Charlottesville, and in October 1781, Gen. Anthony Wayne marched south from Pennsylvania with 1,500 troops. He commented on the poor condition of the road once he entered Virginia, but he did find shelter in the woods and food for his men at Red House.



The farmhouse at Green Hill Plantation, home of William Skinker, before it was demolished in 1995.

Gen. Wayne and his men were on their way to Orange, where they joined forces with Gen. Lafayette. From there, the armies moved to Yorktown, and final victory over Gen. Cornwallis on Oct. 19, 1781.

By 1787, the William Skinker family had grown to five children, four born at Green Hill. According to the late Sarah McD. Turner, in "Haymarket, a Town in Transition," Skinker determined that there was enough traffic coming through Red House to accommodate a second inn. On Oct. 4, 1787, opened the Haymarket Inn across the road from the Red House.

It can be presumed that the name "Haymarket" can be traced back to Skinker's past; while studying in England, he lived in an old market place in the City of Bristol called "The Haymarket," wrote Mrs. Turner.

In December 1798, Skinker submitted a petition signed by 45 residents of Red House requesting that the Virginia General Assembly that a town be established at the intersection of the Carolina and Gap roads. It was laid out with 140 lots and 13 streets.

Originally, he asked that the new town be called "Skinkerville," but the General Assembly approved the name "Hay-Market."

Passed on Jan. 11, 1799, the Act read in part:

"Be it enacted by the Virginia General Assembly, that the land of William Skinker, lying at the place known by the name of Red House, in the county of Prince William, as the same is already laid off in lots, with convenient streets, shall be established a town, by the



The oldest house in Haymarket is believed to have been built by a Mr. Barnett, a shoemaker, in 1800. It is a log cabin covered with clapboard.

name Hay-Market, and that Henry Washington, Bernard Hooe, Edward Carter, Edmund Carter, Richard Alexander, William Tyler, George Tyler, Washington J. Washington and Matthew Whiting are hereby constituted as trustees thereof."

William Skinker and the people of Haymarket were not through establishing their town. In 1788, the Commonwealth of Virginia established its Superior Court system, and creating a regional district that included Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Prince

William counties. Dumfries, which had been incorporated in 1749, was initially selected as the site for the District Superior Court proceedings to be held.

By 1799, it was apparent that Dumfries was too far from the growing center of the district. Commissioners Samuel Love, William Edmunds, Israel Lacy and Edmund Brooke met to discuss the issue, and a petition was sent to the Virginia General Assembly urging the lawmakers to consider a new location for the Superior Courthouse, specifically recommending Hay Market.

Plans were drawn up by architect James Wren for a new brick courthouse, clerk's office and jail, to be built on two-and-a-half acres in the town at the end of Fayette Street provided by William Skinker, his nephew and namesake, William Skinker Jr. (d. 1845) and his wife, Harriet Keith Skinker (1782-1864),

daughter of a prominent family in Fauquier County. Cost of the courthouse, which is believed to have been identical to the courthouse in Fairfax, was \$6,950, and William Skinker Jr., was selected as the contractor.

The courthouse was situated on the highest point of the lot, with the clerk's office to the southwest of the courthouse, and the jail directly to the south. Started in 1801, the new courthouse complex was finished in 1803, and the first session of the District Court held there in the spring of 1803.

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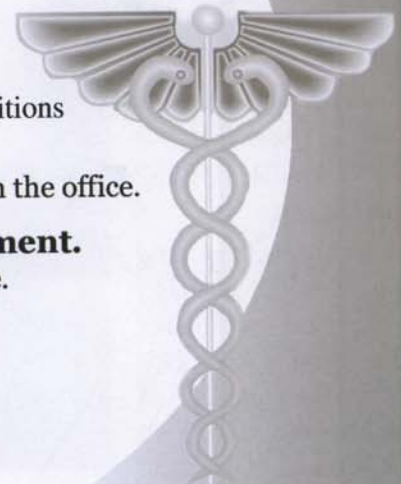
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Serving multiple counties, the Superior Court in Haymarket was a very busy place, with each of the four jurisdictions assigned a specific day for its cases to be heard. The presence of the courthouse was a boon to Haymarket, and about that time, John Wigginton, Master of the Masonic Lodge in Haymarket, opened a third ordinary in his home, according to Mrs. Turner. It seemed that there would be even greater opportunities for economic growth in Haymarket – but not for long.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, consecrated in 1833, was completed in 1803 as the Superior District Courthouse, serving Prince William, Fauquier, Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

In 1807, the Virginia General Assembly abolished the Superior Court system, adopting instead a system of Circuit Courts administered by different judicial districts. The court serving Haymarket was moved to Brentsville. The Haymarket court complex closed in 1808, and ordered sold by the Virginia General Assembly in 1812.

For a few years, the buildings were used by the Hygeia Academy, and later served as a community center and a second school. It is believed that Gen. Lafayette stopped there to address the citizens of Haymarket during his last visit to the United States in late August 1825. After visiting Warrenton and New Baltimore in Fauquier County, Gen. Lafayette stopped at Haymarket on the Carolina Road on his way to Oak Hill, Pres. James Monroe's home in Loudoun County.

After living at Green Hill for more than two decades, William Skinker was widowed and his children grown, although they remained in the area. Eldest daughter Mary wed Thomas Whiting, and Alice was married to Washington J. Washington. Apparently, Sarah and Carolina never married.

William turned over the management of Green Hill and the tavern to nephew William Skinker Jr., and moved to Fauquier County, where he remained until his death in 1810.

William Jr. acquired the former courthouse, and in 1830 deeded the property to the Episcopal Church, with the condition that if it ever should cease to be used for religious purposes, it would be returned to the Skinker family. The church, named St. Paul's, was consecrated in 1833. It soon became a center of community life in Haymarket, with marriages and baptisms performed in the former courthouse, and burials in the churchyard surrounding it.

Upon William Skinker Jr.'s death in 1845, his sons Thomas and James were appointed executors and instructed to sell their father's holdings in Haymarket, including Green Hill Plantation, two lots in the town, and the tavern.

In 1850, they sold 364 acres of Green Hill Plantation to Thomas B. Gaines, for whom the village of Gainesville was named. Two years later, they sold 382 acres in Haymarket, including the tavern, to Thomas A. Smith. Also that year, they sold 47 acres of the farm to Garrett Hulfish of Dumfries, and the jail next to the former courthouse to Rev. Parson Steele, a former rector of St. Paul's. Other parts of Green Hill was sold to the Tyler family, and later acquired by the Bleights.

William Skinker accomplished much for Haymarket during his lifetime - in addition to naming the town - and his descendants and extended family would play important roles in the region in the future, in both war and peace.

Note: More about the history of Haymarket can be found in "Haymarket, A Town in Transition," compiled by Sarah McD. Turner and published by the Haymarket Historical Commission in 1998. Copies are available at the Haymarket Town Hall.

John Toler, a resident of Broad Run, has written extensively on the history of Fauquier and Loudoun counties, which have always had strong ties to Haymarket and Western Prince William County.

Where Business Meets Community

By: Jerole Nelson

From the Bull Run Mountain to Lee Highway and beyond, the HGBA (Haymarket Gainesville Business Association) is a key gathering place for area association meeting goers. We are fortunate to be living and working in a region offering something of interest to everybody. Our mix of businesses range from successful at-home entrepreneurs to multi-million dollar enterprises, from cupcakes to fitness, from clowns to banks; we have all this along with a rich history dating back to the 1700s. Our members enjoy a myriad of free-time options and the workforce can brag about a gain of more than 270,000 jobs in the Washington area since 2000 — the 2nd greatest number of any metropolitan region in the country, according to the 2010 Greater Washington Initiatives Regional Report.

In 2007, the decades-old HGBA reorganized to meet the ever-changing needs of residents and business due to growth and the astonishing potential of the area. HGBA rebranded, got up to speed with current technology and tripled its' membership. We offer a forum for information sharing and contribute to community projects that positively impact businesses and residents.

HGBA is a 501 (c) (6) non-profit all volunteer organization. We make that work for the membership through our board leadership and members that generously donate their time. There are no monthly meeting costs, HGBA charges one very low annual fee based on the company size and type.

We get around - HGBA changes the monthly meeting venues and caterers every month. In a recent member survey, over 70% respondents found tours of new and innovative business valuable second only to networking. Members say that learning about new business ranked number one as the most rewarding benefit of HGBA. We are not an "Island Association." We also expand our reach by coordinating joint events with The Prince William Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

Our members also enjoy getting the news first. Through our newsletters, and monthly speaker series, members stay informed. Topics include how to grow your business, networking, workshops, non-profit community activities, the political landscape, local development and more. This past year we have been honored to have Congressman Connolly, Supervisor Stirrup, and Delegate Jackson in addition to local business and community leaders. Several of our board members are graduates of Leadership Prince William, most are company owners and all are involved with at least two business organizations or community groups.

When you become an HGBA member, you join business owners from a wide variety of disciplines in one strong, committed voice. We meet every third Tuesday of the month from 4-6 pm. Alterations to this schedule will be in our newsletter and posted to the calendar at HGBA.biz.

From the new meeting venues each month to expert speakers, with HGBA you will get noticed and stay informed. The HGBA is the fastest growing professional association in the area. Whether you are grooming the area poches or grooming tomorrow's leaders, we want to hear your story. Join us, and we'll help you go places. Find out more at HGBA.biz.



(Left to Right) Jen Robinson, past Board Vice President; Amelia Stansell, President HGBA; Tim Mauk, Treasurer HGBA; Prem Grewal, member. HGBA booth at Haymarket Day.