

GREENVILLE FARM 1828 - 1978
150 Years of History

Thomas Latham took over the lease his father, Robert Latham, Sr., had with William B. Tyler in 1828. Robert Latham was an Old School Baptist minister and was renting Greenville Farm in order to make a living. Also, in 1828, he gave up his Church at Halfway, Virginia, because of bad health. He died in 1833.

Thomas Latham signed a lease for 15 years on the 19th day of November, 1827, which would take effect January 1829. He would pay \$100.00 rent, plus sow four bushels of clover and two tons of Plaister, which, I think, was a fertilizer, each year. If the fields didn't need the seed, then he had to sow an additional ton of Plaister. He could only graze seven head of cattle, plus only enough horses to do the farm work.

In this same agreement, Thomas Latham agreed to build a stone house, 21 x 19 feet, two stories with a basement six feet deep. This is the east end of the main dwelling. William B. Tyler agreed to pay the sum of \$40.00 when the house was raised and covered and \$30.00 twelve months later if the house was completed. (Nov 1828)

November 3, 1837, Thomas Latham bought Greenville Farm which contained 280 acres for \$2800.00.

In August 1841, Thomas Latham signed an agreement with John Hitaffer of Fauquier County to build the new part of Greenville which is the west end of the two story stone house that also has a basement, for the sum of \$286.00.

Thomas Latham married in 1834 and had one girl and her mother died when she was 13 year old. Thomas, age 54, remarried in 1852 and his first son, Robert Carroll, was born in 1854. He then had twins - a boy and a girl, John Wilbur and Lucy Martin, born in 1857.

The farm was divided and he gave his first daughter who married a Gaines the farm that is nearest the campground which is named Greenwood and now owned by T.T. Smith.

Greenville was given to his two sons, Robert Carroll and John Wilbur. John Wilbur married and lived at Greenville until 1902 at which time my Grandfather, Robert Carroll, bought him out.

Robert Carroll gave the farm to his two oldest children, Thomas Otis and M. Elma Latham in October 1908. Thomas Otis had been farming Greenville since 1902 when his father bought it.

In 1951, Thomas Otis asked me, his youngest son, to come back to the farm and take over Greenville and by April 1952, I was living at Greenville. Then in 1958, I added on to the rear a 16 - 32 ft. one-story part with a 10-inch stone veneer. The stones have all come from the fields of Greenville Farm.

I farmed Greenville with my father and brother who lived at Snow Hill Farm until my father's death in 1957. I still tried to farm both farms but with my brother being disabled and blind, I had to give up Snow Hill for various reasons. The cattle business was very bad in the 1960s so, after ~~camping~~^{Hamilton} with a square dance group, I decided that we had a nice place in the back 46 acres for trailers to park. At least it was wooded and all the places I had camped for square dances were out in the boiling hot sun and I had enough of that in the hayfields. The fall of 1966, I went to my County Supervisors for a permit to open a campground. Taking all the money I could borrow and doing most of the work myself, we had a bathhouse on June 24, 1967. Lake Fairfax had been cut back on campsites because of health reasons and they started sending me campers that day and by 10 p.m. that night, we had 42 units in the field as we had no sites cut out in the wood.

The interesting thing about Greenville Farm is that history has repeated itself here, as my first wife died leaving a daughter 18 years old and I then remarried in 1970 and have 2 sons and a daughter.

My daughter, Margaret Otfolene Latham, married Tim L. Everett and they now live in the stone house of Greenville. They have a son who is 4 months older than my oldest son and a daughter who is 4 months younger than my youngest son.

I build a new stone house in the far southwest corner of Greenville on what is known as Gypsum Hill in 1974 and moved in on April 7, 1975.

Written by

Carroll H. Latham