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Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center
Bull Run Regional Library
8051 Ashton Avenue
Manassas, Virginia 22110
18 October 1994

Jacqueline Wagman
9012 Paddock Lane
Potomac, MD 20854

Dear Ms. Wagman:

Enclosed is the information we have from the Mutual Assurance Company's fire insurance policies covering "Locust Grove" aka "Greenwood." Using the information provided you can request a copy of the original policies from the Library of Virginia (formerly called the Virginia State Library), in Richmond. The original policies will not only give you the dimensions of the buildings but will probably show a diagram of their relationships to each other.

You had asked how to contact Jerry Foster. The information from the Prince William County Genealogical Society is no more recent than 1993. I have learned he did not renew his membership this year. The only address they have is the one on his report dated Dec. 1993: 2801 Quebec St. NW, Apt. 330, Washington, DC 20008. Phone (202) 363-0687. If he has moved, we have no forwarding address. The report calls him "A. J. Foster, Jr." In the Genealogical Society's roll he is listed as "Jerry A. Foster Jr." Sorry we can't be of more help.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Wilson
Virginiana Librarian

Encl: *Newsletter of PWC Gen Soc*, 1986, Feb. and Oct. (insurance abstracts).

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIRE INSURANCE POLICIES, 1796-1846

Abstracted by Donald L. Wilson

Fire insurance policy applications are a little-used source for genealogical research. In addition to their value in identifying historic landmarks, they provide details about the families that lived there, and can supplement defective land records.

The Mutual Assurance Company of Virginia was established 26 December 1795 by act of the General Assembly. Its agents blanketed the state, writing fire insurance policies on buildings in every county and city. Policy-holders thus shared the risk of loss from fire. The company's early records are now on file at the Virginia State Library, Archives Division. Applications concerning Prince William County properties are abstracted below. The documents contain autograph signatures of property owners, witnesses and examiners. Each policy has a drawing showing the dimensions and locations of structures being insured. Following each entry in brackets is a Reel and Volume number, for reference to the microfilm copy and original volume.

No. 156 [155 marked through]. Jesse EWELL Senr., resides at Bell Air, PW Co, 1 building on my plantation called "Bell Air", situated between plantation of Mr. POPE and that of Mr. HOWSON. Dwelling worth \$4500. 51'x34' One partition wall brick, one story, covered with wood. 4 March 1797. Signed: Jesse EWELL. Examiners: James JAMES (res. Dumfries), F. HARRAL(?) (res. at Orangefield near Dumfries), Tho: LEE Sr. Would cost \$4500 to build, is worth \$3600 in ready money. [Reel 1, Volume 4]

No. 267. Thomas HARRISON, plantation in PW Co, dwelling worth \$1800. [Note: *Ink of original not readable in photocopy.*] [R1 V4]

No. 2098. Edward CARTER, res. at Clover Land in PW Co, 3 bldgs on my plantation (occupied by myself) between John CHAPMAN's land and that of Geo. G. TYLER. Dwelling \$6000, barn \$750, barn \$700. 19 July 1803. Wit: John ADAMS. Examiners: William BROOKS, John DEVLON (SUTTON?), both res. PWC. Would cost \$7500 to build, deduct \$50 for decay or bad repair. [R3 V28]

No. 2099. John BROWN, res. at Waterfall Mill in PWC, 1 bldg on my plantation, now occ. by myself, situated between Charles CARTER Senr. and that of Ferdinando FAIRFAX in PWC. Mill \$6000. 21 July 1803(?) Wit: John ADAMS. Examiners: Matthew ADAM[S], John BARNETT, both res. PWC. [R3 V28]

No. 2116. John HEDGES Senr., res. at Fair View in PWC, 3 bldgs on my plantation, now occ. by myself, between plantation of Mr. HARRISON and Choppawamsick Creek in PWC. Dwelling house \$700, kitchen \$100. 20 June [year blank = 1803?]. Wit: Philip P. JONES. Examiners: Isham Eppes HEDGES (res. in PWC), Philip P. JONES (res. in Richmond). Would cost \$900 to build, deduct \$100 for decay or bad repair. [R3 V28]

No. 2117. Mathew WHITING, res. at Snow Hill in PWC, 1 bldg on my plantation, now occ. by myself, between plantation of E. BROOK and the Main Road in PWC. Dwelling \$2500. 24 June 1803. Signed: Matthew WHITING, Thomas WHITING. Wit: Philip P. JONES. Ex: Thomas WHITING, John SANDERS (both res. PWC). [R3 V28]

No. 185. George GRAHAM, res. at Graham Park, PWC, 2 bldgs on my farm betw. land of Robert MITCHELL and Barnard HOOE Jun., in PWC. Dwelling house \$2500, barn \$250. Signed: Geo. GRAHAM. 10 June 1805. Wit: P.T.MARBLE. Ex: James KEMPE, Robt. H. HOOE. [R4 V35]

→ No. 186. Barnard HOOE Jun., res. at Greenwood in PWC, 6 bldgs on my farm now occ. by myself, sit. betw. land of Dade HOOE and Bull Run in PWC. Dwelling house \$1500, kitchen \$150, stable \$150, barn \$350, school house \$150, consurs(?) h[ou]se \$150. Would cost \$2650 to build, deduct \$200 for decay. [Gives amounts of premiums (unusual)] \$33, 3.30, 3, 7, 3, 3 = \$57.30. Signed: Bern'd HOOE jr. 10 June 1805. Wit: P.T.MARBLE. Ex: Robt. H. HOOE, Basil BRAUNER, PWC. [R4 V35]

No. 187. James KEMPE, res. at Birmingham Green in PWC, 3 bldgs on my farm now occ. by myself, sit. between lands of Robert H. HOOE and Robert MITCHELL in PWC. Dwelling h's \$1250, dwelling h's \$1420, kitchen \$230. Wit: P.T. MARBLE. 10 June 1805. Wit: Geo. GRAHAM, Robt. H. HOOE (both res. PWC). [This property was later called just "Birmingham". Buildings on it were removed in 1981 to build Manassas Junction Shopping Center, along Centreville Road in Manassas. Martha E. King, genealogist, wrote an article on the life of James KEMPE (d. 1819, grand-father of Varina (HOWELL) DAVIS, Mrs. Jefferson DAVIS), published in *The Virginia Genealogist*, v. 21, no. 1 (1977), p. 3-10.] [R4 V35]

No. 188. Francis MONTGOMERY, res. at Rose Mount in PWC, 1 bldg on my farm occ. by myself, sit. betw. the lands of John FERGUSON and David LEE in PWC. Dwelling \$800. 11 June 1805. Wit: P.T.MARBLE. Ex: Thos. P(?) HOOE, William WHEELER (all res. PWC). [Rosemont was across Route 234 from Manaport Shopping Center in Manassas.] [R4 V35]

No. 189. Thos. HARRISON, res. at Fair View in PWC, 2 bldgs on my farm, occ. by myself, sit. between lands of John CHISLEY(?) and Franky SHORT(?). Dwelling house \$1000, kitchen \$150. 13 June 1805. Signed: Thos. HARRISON. Wit: P.T. MARBLE. Ex: Jno. GHOSLEY(?) and Thos. HARRISON [son] of Thos. (both res. PWC). Note: Barn is not insurable, blown down. Mentioned in former determination. Bldgs would cost \$1900 to build, deduct \$750 for decay. [R4 V35]

No. 190. Barnard HOOE Senr., res. at Hazel Plains in PWC, 1 bldg on my farm, sit betw. lands of David LEE and Francis TENNEL in PWC. Dwelling house \$1500. 11 June 1805. Signed: Bernard HOOE Senr. Wit: P.T. MARBLE. Ex: Francis MONTGOMERY, William WHEELER. Would cost \$2000 to build, deduct \$500 for decay. ["Hazel Plain", also known as the Chinn House, formerly stood on the grounds of the Manassas Battlefield Park.] [R4 V35]

No. 558. Stephen FRENCH, res. at French Hill(?) in PWC, 3 bldgs on my farm, occ. by myself, sit. betw. lands of T. LEE east and John JOHNSON [JONES?] west, in PWC. Dwelling house \$1200, kitchen \$100, barn \$100. 30 Sept. 1805. Wit: P.T. MARBLE. Ex: Townshend DADE, Willm. ASHMORE (both res. PWC). Would cost \$1500 to build, deduct \$100 for decay or bad repair. [R4 V37]

No. 559. Basil BRAUNER, res. at Russitan Hill(?) [very faint copy] in PWC, my 2 bldgs on my farm, occ. by myself, sit. betwe. lands of Dade HOOE east and that of Robert H. HOOE west in PWC. Dwelling house \$250, spring house \$100. 1 Oct.(?) 1805. Wit: P.T.MARBLE. Ex: John KINCHELOE, Robt. H. HOOE (both res. PWC). Would cost \$390, deduct \$40 for decay or bad repair. [R4 V37] [Property located between "Mayfield" and Buckhall, east of Manassas.]

(To be continued.)

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIRE INSURANCE POLICIES, 1796-1846

Abstracted by Donald L. Wilson

(Continued from v. 4, no. 8 (February 1986), p. 5)

No. 560. Isham E. HEDGES, res. at Fair View in PWC, my 2 bldgs on my farm, occupied by myself, situated between land of Mathew HARRISON west and that of Seth MARTIN(?) east in PWC. Dwelling house \$600, kitchen \$100. Agent: P.T. MARBLE. 1 Oct. 1805. Ex[amined by]: Philip DWE(?), Thomas CHAPMAN (res. PWC). Buildings would cost \$800 to build; deduct \$100 for decay or bad repair. [R4 V37]

No. 561. Robert H. HOOE, res. at Mayfield in PWC, two bldgs on my farm, now occ. by myself, sit. betw. land of Dade HOOE east and that of James KEMPE west, PWE. Dwelling \$2000, barn \$470. 1 Oct. 1805. Signed: Robt. H. HOOE. Special Agent: P.T.MARBLE. Ex: Bern'd HOOE Jr, Basil BRAUNER (they res. PWC). Buildings would cost \$2000 to build, deduct \$130 (for decay or bad repair [sic, of barn?]). [The Mayfield archaeological site, southeast of Manassas, is now owned by the City and is being prepared as an historical park.] [R4 V37]

No. 1229. Country. Revaluation of the building insured per Declaration no. 155. Charlotte EWELL as per endorsement hereon, res. at Bell Air in PWC, my one building on my plantation, now occ. by Charlotte EWELL, sit. betw. land of Stephen HOWISON west and that of William BARNES east in PWC. Dwelling house \$3500. 5 June 1806. Signed: Charlotte EWELL, tenant for life. Special Agent: P.T.MARBLE. Ex: Peter TRONE, James HOWISON (res. PWC). Buildg worth \$4000, deduct \$500. [R4 V41]

No. 1541. Revaluation of bldg formerly declared for assurance by John BALDWIN per declaration no. 504 and 29, res. at -- in Prince Edward Co, my two bldgs on Appamattox River now occ. by myself betw. lands of Wm. A. ALLEN west and Robert WELBORN in P.Edward. Dwelling house \$300, barn \$100. 11 Aug. 1815. Special Agent: [John?] KELSO. Ex: Wm A. ALLEN, Thos. TUGGLE (res. P.Edward). Buildings would cost \$450, deduct \$50. [R4 V42; included by mistake with copies of PWC]

No. 2163. Revaluation of bldg formerly declared for assurance by Robt. H. HOOE, per declaration 561 [see above]. Robert H. HOOE, res. at Mayfield in PWC, 2 bldgs on my farm in PWC, now occ. by myself, sit. betw. lands of Dade HOOE east and Basil [BRAUNER?] west. Dwelling house \$2000(?), barn \$470. [?] Feb. 1816. Signed: R.H. HOOE. Special Agt. W. WIGGENTON. Ex: Wm. BRAUNER, Basil BRAUNER. [Many of the photocopies we are abstracting from are very faint.] [R5 V44]

→ No. 2104. Revaluation of 6 bldgs formerly decl. for assurance by Bernard HOOE Junior per decl. no. 186. John HOOE res. at Locust Green in PWC, six bldgs on my farm in PWC, now occ. by myself, sit. betw. land of Dade HOOE south and Bull Run north and east in PWC. Dwelling \$1500, kitchen \$150, stable \$150, barn \$350, school house \$150, overseer's house \$150. 11 Feb. 1816. Spl. Agt: W. WIGGENTON. Ex: Wm. BRAUNER, Dade HOOE (res. PWC). [R5 V44]

No. 2105. Revaluation of a bldg decl. for assurance by Bernard HOOE Senior, as per decl. no. 190. Undersigned Wm. G. WIGGINTON, special agent, and John LEE and Russell K. WIGGINTON appraisers, certify we have revalued bldg, at present owned by sd Bernard HOOE Senior, and occ. by himself, sit. on land of sd. Bernard HOOE Senr. betw. lands of John LEE east and William WHALEN west in PWC. Dwelling house \$1500. 20 July [Feb?] 1816. Spl Agt: W.G. WIGGINTON. Appraisers: John LEE and R.K. WIGGINTON (res. PWC). [R5 V44]