

**Wilson, Donald L**

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**From:** Wilson, Donald L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 29, 2000 8:24 PM  
**To:** 'Purschwitz, Dave'  
**Subject:** Hartford

Dave - Finally getting back to you about the place called "Hartford" which you told me was owned by the Weir family.

Found an ad in the Alexandria Gazette, as transcribed in Ron Turner's latest book *Prince William County, Virginia, 1840-1860, Newspaper Transcripts*, p. 13:

*Alexandria Gazette*, 10 Aug 1843

PUBLIC SALE OF REAL PROPERTY - HARTFORD, the residence of the late Robert Weir, will be sold on the premises, to the highest bidder, on Thursday, the 10th day of August next. This very desirable and beautiful estate, lies in Prince William County, Va., and adjoins the lands of Col. John Gibson; and others, within three miles of Brentsville, the county seat of Prince William, and immediately on the main road leading from Warrenton to Occoquan Mills, about fourteen miles below the former, and 22 above the latter place. At these Mills, the crops of this farm are usually disposed of. It contains about 675 Acres, 20 acres of rich upland meadow, now well set in timothy and other grasses. The arable land is all in good heart, and in a high state of improvement. The fields not in cultivation, are set in clover, and under good fencing. -- The improvements are a comfortable and convenient dwelling house, (with a basement sotry,) kitchen, laundry, dairy, smokehouse, ice house, &c., and a large barn and granary, under one roof; together with ample stallage, all are in good repair. In the yard is a well of good water, adjoining which, is a vineyard, of more than one acre, and a beautiful lawn of several acres, shaded with majestic oaks, and other trees. The garden, which is ample, and very productive, is beautifully laid out, and filled with choice fruit, and a great variety of shrubbery. In a word any person feeling disposed to purchase a beautiful and productive estate, in a remarkably healthy region, a wealthy and intelligent neighborhood, in eastern Virginia, would do well to attend the sale of this land. Those that feel disposed to purchase are respectfully invited to view the property before the day of sale. One fourth of the purchase money will be required on the execution of the deed. On the balance, a very liberal credit will be given. The purchaser giving bond with good personal security, and a deed of trust on the land, to secure the deferred payment.

By the executors of Robert Weir, dec'd  
Prince William County, Va.

Bev Veness prepared our index to Prince William plantation which includes this reference as well as a citation from the 1853 land tax list: At that time Hartford was owned by Ann Rube, residing in PW, location "Bodines, joins the ...", 6 miles southwest (of the courthouse at Brentsville).

Our Confederate map of Prince William Co. (ca. 1861) shows a "Miss Ruby" southwest of Brentsville. *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War*, plate VIII (the McDowell map), shows "Mrs. Rube" in the same approximate location. Both show her home near Slaty (Slate) Run and the junction of a couple of east-west roads. The best I can do is place her home close to the intersection of Aden Road and Hershey Drive, perhaps where "Countryside" is shown on Eugene Scheel's county map. That intersection is called Bodine's Corner on Scheel's map. F. Bodine is shown just below her, T. Bodine is just above her on the McDowell map. On the Confederate map, Miss Brodine [sic] is shown just above and Mr. Brodine [sic] is shown just below. Hershey Drive extended west becomes the Warrenton Road, described in the 1843 ad.

That location is 3 or 4 miles SW of Brentsville as the crow flies, or maybe 6 miles by means of roundabout roads.

The 1860 census (David Turner's abstract) shows following at Bristoe Station (closest post office).

[Dwelling/Family #]

#240/229 BODINE, Francis, 42, born NJ, farmer, and family.

#237/226 BODINE, Theodore, 43, born NJ, farmer, and family. (They appear to have moved from NJ to VA between 1847 and 1854.)

#238/227 RUBE, Ann, 57, born NJ, [widow of John RUBE], with Elizabeth, 28, NJ; Sarah 25, NJ [later m. John B. SLAUGHT]; John, 23, NJ, farmer; and William BIRD, 30, NJ, farm laborer.

I note that Mrs. M. W. BODINE (estate of Theodore BODINE) of Prince William County, sought compensation from the Southern Claims Commission in 1871. [Gary B. Mills, *Southern Loyalists in the Civil War: the Southern Claims Commission*, p. 57, commission #46, report #1, status: allowed claim] There is no claim there for Mrs. Rube(e), though the Bodine claim is likely to have supporting evidence from her. Would not be surprised to learn she is related to the Bodines.

Theodore Bodine (1816-1861) and Francis Bodine (d. 1866 age 48) are both buried at Bradley (the Hornbaker Cemetery).  
Would speculate they were part of the Bradley Presbyterian community.

Have not looked for deeds to firm up this identification and exact boundaries of the property. Hope it helps.

**Don**