

# Community Focus: Smooth talking housekeeper saves house from torch

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Christine Barringer, owner of the Country Accents shop in Haymarket and a relative newcomer, loves her new community. To share her enthusiasm with others and as a way to help them discover the tiny town and its resources, she wrote this tour guide of Haymarket, compiled from a variety of sources. Christine offered to share it with readers of the Bull Run Observer for this special "Community Focus" issue. Other copies are available at the Country Accents shop located in the historic Winterham house in Haymarket.

*Start at the Pace Elementary School, across from the Greenhill Crossing community, on Route 55 (John Marshall Highway - also known as Washington Street). Proceed West on Washington Street to the corner of Bleight Drive, see these houses on your right.*

These houses represent real antiques in the building industry. They are original kit homes bought from Sears & Roebuck Department Store. Mr. Charles J. Gilliss assembled the homes in the 1910's with the help of his brother, Rob. Stories are told that the men disregarded the instructions and cut many boards to fit.

*Continue West on Washington Street two blocks, to the corner of Jefferson Street. This house is on the corner to your right. If you wish to park, you can make a right onto Jefferson Street and park in the lot next door.*

The Red House Inn was a popular stopover for early travelers of the Old Carolina & Dumfries (Gap) Road in the 1700's. In fact, Haymarket was referred to as Red House throughout the 1700's. The Red House Inn saw much military traffic during the Revolutionary War, and Thomas Jefferson included the Inn on his map of Virginia dated 1787. The structure on this foundation was burned and rebuilt twice; once in 1803 and again in 1862., along with the rest of the town. The property remained as an Inn until 1900 when Dr William Tulloss purchased the property and practiced medicine there. The Roland family purchased the property in the late 1930's and opened a large auto repair shop on the site of the old stable.

*Continue West on Washington Street for half a block, and park or stop, in the lot of the former Post Office that now houses the retail store of Red Rooster Antiques.*

This was one of the first buildings constructed, for the purposes of a schoolhouse. Town records show that on April 1, 1872, \$295 was paid to James Pattie to build a Township Hall. This building was long used as a drug store, operated by Dr. Granville Coleman of Culpeper. The Haymarket Post Office was located this building

during the 1920's. A frame shop, day care center, and real estate office have all briefly occupied the building, which has now been the site of Red Rooster Antiques, since 1995

*Next door to the Old Post Office, on the corner of Washington Street and Fayette Street, you can see the Rust-Pickett House, now used as a hair style salon called Hairmarket*

Albert & Wilhelmina Rust moved into this new house in the 1920's. Their first two children, Breckenridge & Nancy, were born there. This successful family built homes, invested in real estate, and opened the Haymarket Bank in 1923. The Pickett family acquired the house in later years and also made significant contributions to Haymarket. Manson Pickett served as Mayor of Haymarket from 1963 to 1975

*Across the street you will see the Town Hall*

Thomas A. Smith sold this property to the Town for \$1 in November of 1883. This Town Hall and school house building was built soon after with \$561 raised by the school committee. The building has been in continuous use since that time as the Hay Market (and later Haymarket) Town Hall. The structure is listed in the State Landmark Register.

*Make a left turn onto Fayette Street, and park behind the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall at the corner of Fayette & Payne Lane. From here you can walk to all of the following historic buildings. Winterham is the White Victorian house set on 6 acres directly across the street from the*

parish hall.

William Skinker sold the property known as Winterham to Thomas Smith. After two owners, the property was sold to Nannie F. Selden circa 1878, who remodeled the house in Victorian style typical of rebuilding after the Civil War. Ms. Selden sold the house to Dr. Wade C Payne in 1917. In 1960, Dr Payne sold Winterham and the property changed hands several times before Mr. & Mrs. Gilbertson acquired it in 1972. Winterham is now owned and being renovated by Mr. Don Costello. The building is being used for retail sales by Country Accents, selling gift and decor items.

*Continuing south on Fayette Street, you will come to the Meade House on your right*

Randolf Meade retained this parcel of land to build Meadecroft. The structure started as one room and grew gradually in the late 1800's. The front portion and the porch were added at the turn of the century. Richard & Mary Jane Baker, the last of the Meade family to reside at Meadecroft, sold the house in 1977.

*You will see the McCormick House across the street*

The McCormick House is truly a historic structure in Haymarket. The original lot was purchased by John Barnett. Mr. Barnett's signature was one of 45 on the original petition to establish the Town of Hay Market in 1798. The McCormick family acquired the house in the early 1800's. This house is one of four structures that survived the Civil War. Ms. Liz Cobb, present occupant of the house, recalls a story that the house

was saved because there were sick children inside and the housekeeper talked the soldiers out of burning it.

*Continue down Fayette until you reach the church. Here you will find many interesting grave markers in the cemetery in front of the church.*

August 20, 1800, was a happy day for early Hay Market Residents, when Hay Market was declared the site of the new District Court, serving Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier & Prince William counties. This building was erected in 1801 as the courthouse. It was designed by Fairfax Architect James Wren and constructed by William A. Skinker Jr. for \$6950.

In 1807, the District Court system was abolished and the court moved to Brentsville. The courthouse building is noted as the location of a grand reception for Marquis de la Fayette, French

Revolutionary War Hero. William Skinker, Jr., bought the property in 1830 and deeded the building to the Episcopal Church. On July 21, 1861, a sermon was interrupted by a report that the Confederate Army had been defeated at Bull Run. The congregation fled in panic, and church services were not held in that building for the next 6 years. The building provided shelter for both Union and Confederate wounded throughout the Civil War.

Although the church survived the devastating fires of 1862, Federal troops set fire to the church after using it for horse stables in 1863. The brick walls remained and the interior was rebuilt immediately after the war. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is registered in the National Trust and is said to be the oldest church of continuous use in Prince William County.

*Return North on Fayette*  
 Continued on page 7

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# Discover small town resources and history while visiting Haymarket

Continued from page 6

Street and turn Left onto Washington Street. Continue to the traffic light at the corner of U.S. 15. Continue straight ahead on John Marshall Highway for approximately 2.7 miles and make a right turn onto Turner Road. (This is the first possible right turn after you cross the railroad tracks.) Make an immediate left turn onto Beverley Mill Road. Please park your vehicle outside the first building on your left. This is the office of Friends of Bull Run where you can get a map of sites and hiking trails on Bull Run Mountain.

Beverley Mill was built in 1742 by brothers Johathan & Nathaniel Chapman. Enlarged in 1758, the mill became a prosperous gristmill that fostered the development of the Shenandoah Valley as a wheat and corn produc-

ing region for the next one hundred years. In 1858, the Chapmans enlarged the mill, raising it to a total of 7 stories and making it a model of agricultural technology. In July of 1861, The Confederates had turned the mill into a meat curing warehouse and distribution center. Herds of cattle and pigs were enclosed in large pens, and more than two million pounds of Confederate meat were stored on the site. Confederates, leaving after the First Battle of Bull Run, burned the meat and the mill to keep them from the advancing troops.

By 1876 the Beverley family had restored the ruins to a very successful milling operation and the mill was renamed after them. Beverley Mill has ground cornmeal and flour for American troops during seven wars: The French & Indian, the Revolutionary, The War

of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and both World Wars I and II.

On October 22, 1998 the mill was vandalized & gutted by fire. The stone walls are still standing and can be seen from the Bull Run Mountain preserve. Restoration of the mill is underway by the Turn the Mill Around Campaign. Plans call for pedestrian pathways around the mill, providing views of the millpond, flume, sluice, gate, fore-bay, and 29 foot wheel.

In addition, visitors will be able to enter the mill to gain a greater appreciation of the enormity of the mill, and the beauty of the stone work. Interpretive signs are planned to explain the milling process and the impact of the industrial site on the evolving economy of the area. The old stone mill store will be restored and used as a kiosk, interpreting the history of Thoroughfare Gap.

On August 28, 1862, Union General Ricketts was ordered to occupy Thoroughfare Gap to prevent Generals Lee and Longstreet from marching through the Gap and joining Confederate troops gathering for the Second Battle of Manassas. After skirmishing near Chapman's Mill in Thoroughfare Gap, Brig. Gen. James Ricketts's Union division was flanked by a Confederate column passing through Hopewell Gap several

miles to the north and by troops securing the high ground at Thoroughfare Gap. Ricketts retired, and Longstreet's wing of the army marched through the gap to join Jackson. This seemingly inconsequential action virtually ensured Pope's defeat during the battles of Aug. 29-30 because it allowed the two wings of Lee's army to unite on the Manassas battlefield. Ricketts withdrew via Gainesville to Manassas Junction.

Result: This battle was a Confederate victory. Estimated Casualties: 100 total. Historians say that if Ricketts had prevailed at the Battle of Thoroughfare Gap, which took place in and around the mill, the Second Battle of Manassas would never have taken place.

During much of the Civil War, Col. John S. Mosby and his Raiders traversed Thoroughfare Gap as they sought to disrupt the movement of Union provisions to their armies in the South. Thoroughfare Gap is a narrow gap between Bull Run and Pond Mountains, through which Bull Run flows as it descends 87 feet. The Gap was used by migrating buffalo and traveling Indians long before it became a transportation corridor for grain and other goods.

Mention of the Gap was first recorded in 1697 by a group of Marylanders passing through in search of a band of Piscataway In-

dians. Today you can hike the nature trails of Bull Run Mountain at Thoroughfare Gap, starting from the mill. The battle site at the old quarry is still accessible from the trail.

The Bull Run Mountains Natural Area at Thoroughfare Gap consists of more than 800 acres. It is owned by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, an agency of the Commonwealth, and is leased to the Friends of Bull Run (a non-profit organization) for the purpose of natural resource management as well as public environmental and historical programs to benefit the local and regional community. The objective is to preserve the integrity of the ecosystems, including the abundant wildlife and plant populations, along with the water and geological features.

The grounds have several hiking trails, some of which take visitors to historic sites. These include the ruins of the Chapman home "Meadowlands", its stone ice-house, a view of Chapman (Beverly) Mill, the Chapman cemetery, and the stone quarry trench where intense fighting occurred on August 28 1862 during the Second Manassas Campaign. Visitors can park and pick up a trail map at the Friends of Bull Run office on Beverley Mill Road.

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