

VIRGINIANA FILE



*Historic Sites
(Milford Mill)*

MANASSAS MUSEUM
9406 MAIN ST.
MANASSAS, VA. 22110

9025 Center Street
P. O. Box 1794

Telephone 703-368-1873
Manassas, Virginia 22110

MILFORD Mill
Alpha. File

March 24, 1976

Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

*Weems-Botts Museum
Collection*

Mrs. W. E. S. Flory
Bel Air
14313 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Va.

Dear Mrs. Flory:

Thank you again for your kind invitation to participate in the meeting of Historic Occoquan and for your introduction of my talk. I hope it engendered some interest in the subject among the other members. I probably did not answer your own question about Milford Mill adequately, however, so the following is a thumbnail sketch of this operation.

Milford Mills was a post office from May 25, 1839 to March 18, 1852, when the post office was moved to Bristoe Station. William I. Weir was postmaster. The mill indicated at or near this place on the Wood map of 1820 was Ewell's Mill, and the branches of the Ewell, Carter, and Weir families living in this area were inter-married. There is no county record that has yet come to my attention that would indicate how long before 1820 there was a mill on this site.

A John W. Hornbaker, of a family that emigrated from New Jersey, later took up residence here and rebuilt the original mill in the mid-19th Century, and it was afterwards operated by Walter C. Aylor and then by Chris J. Meetze, delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, who was married to one of the Hornbaker daughters. This mill seems to have been a victim of the Depression, although it stood until shortly after 1960, when Mr. Hurst, present owner of the property, dismantled it in order to use the lumber in the mill to build a barn.

There are several pictures of the mill in our museum, as well as a flour sack marked "Milford Mills White Loaf Flour - W. C. Aylor, Bristow, Va."

Milford was on one of the original projections for the O. & A. Railroad, but after much local squabbling the railroad was built through Bristoe, about a mile away, the post office was moved there, and ever since it slumbered away in comparative obscurity.

Hope to see you again soon.

Yours sincerely,

ERL