

# Potomac People



Horses still roam on plantation's fields

**Just musing**

with Marilyn Mize

## Moor Green Mansion— an emerald from past

It was winter and the leaves were off the trees when we set out to find Moor Green, a little known mansion in Prince William County.

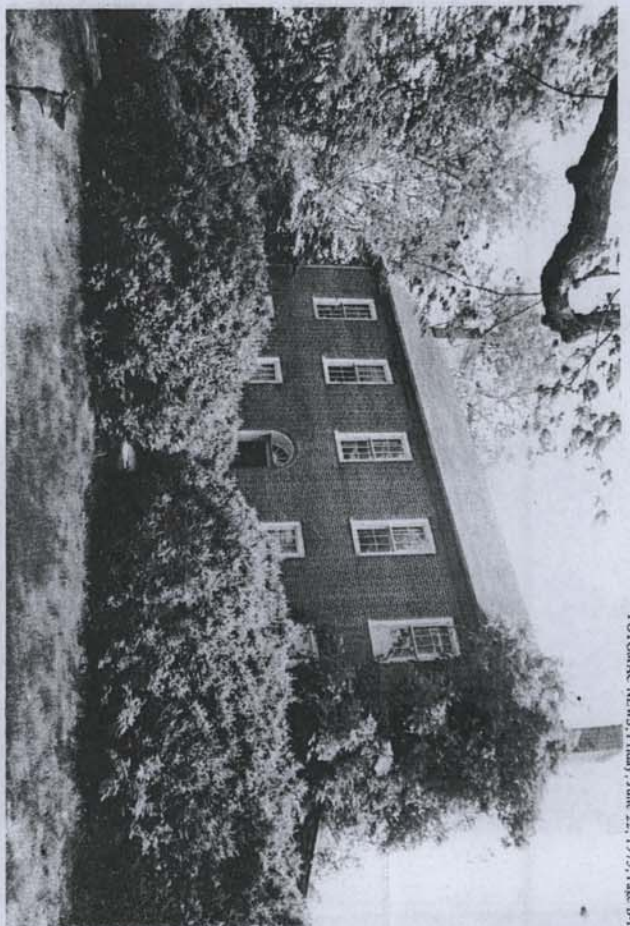
Story of Its Places and Its People. It is one of the county's oldest homes, built in the late 1700s, but unfortunately little of its history

Going on the lead that the house was near Brentsville and that it was on Route 640, we were confident that we would find it. Unfortunately since the

The more well-known home, Liberia in Manassas, is believed to have been copied after Moor Green.

Speech construction tells of what must have been an impressive past. Most of the trim, locks and wide heart-pine

bedrooms. The master bedroom, with its large brick fireplace, is flanked by built-in cupboards, added because the

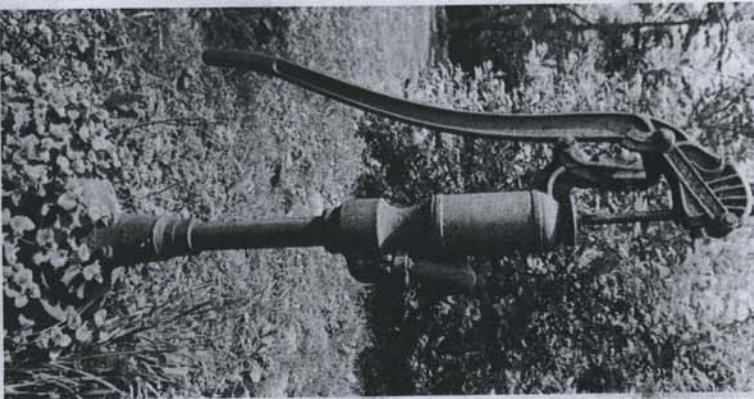


Moor Green stands much like it did in late 1700's



out to find Moor Green, a little known mansion in Prince William County. We had first read about Moor Green in "Prince William, The

county's oldest homes, built in the late 1700s, but unfortunately little of its history passed down through the years.



Hand pump has been replaced by indoor plumbing

that it was on Route 640, we were confident that we would find it. Unfortunately, since the history book was written, the road's route numbers had been changed.

It was dusk and we were ready to return home when we spotted Moor Green's huge chimneys looming beyond a woods into a distant sky as we drove down Luceville Road. The narrow, deep-turled road, off to the right, was unmarked, giving passers-by not a hint of what would lie at the end of a long, dark path. A few hoards of misting we came to the end of the road and to Moor Green. Six or seven dogs ran to meet the car, wildly barking, and the home's caretaker walked out of the dark house to ask us what our business was.

This was Moor Green, beautiful in the setting sun, with its view of the fields and Nokesville's farms in the distance.

Surprisingly Moor Green has changed little over the years. Time hasn't leaned too heavily on the mansion.

In recent years, we learned, much of the restoration had been done by the late Mr. and Mrs. John Watson Cox. The couple's only heir was Richard Wendeck of Vienna, the grandson of the man who owned the property close to 825 acres. Fairfax county records in 1838 reveal that the mansion was willed by James Hoop, son of Howson Hoop III, to his sister, Jane, who passed it on to her husband, Redmon Foster.

One of Brentsville's first trustees, James L. Foster, owned the plantation in 1860. At that time it contained 568 acres. Moor Green stands on part of a tract of almost 1,000 acres granted in 1711 to Clement Chevalle and Lewis Remon.

believed to have been copied after Moor Green, too, has been said to be a miniature of the famous Kenmore Mansion in Fredericksburg, once the home of Fielding Lewis and Betty George Washington.

Moor Green isn't a large mansion by Colonial Day standards. It was built only one room deep.

But Moor Green, usually with the hearts of anyone who sees it. Moor Green is still in the world of a good hand, of high, highwains and people are not far from her door. Horseysuckle sweetens the air and the rolling fields roll toward Bull Run, along which two famous Civil War battles raged. Cattle and horses still graze, and hay is still cut in the fields, although Moor Green is no longer a working plantation.

A necklace of boxwood encircles the front lawn of the rectangular Georgian-style house. The house has tall, shutterless windows and a lovely light-catching fan-shaped recessed front door and brick terrace. A wide brick walk leads up to the front door amid old ivy-covered trees. The bricks for the mansion were said to have come from England by hand cart. Ball mounds and other amusements of Moor Green are not separate but integral parts of the brick wall.

Bricks for Moor Green were laid in both the English and Flemish bond.

Fireplaces are in each room of the two and a half story house, but now the house has central heat. A hand pump still stands in the side yard in the over-grown garden. The mansion must have had many dependences but only one is left, the smoke house.

presently past, and we use them locks and wide heart-pine floors and thick brick walls are all original. The original pine sills in the windows are showing signs of wear.

In the drawing room is an unusual hand carved mantel believed to have been of Indian origin.

The central hall has a baluster from one piece of carved at the great post. After the unusual feature is at the flowering end of the house where the stairs and up to another small room. The stairs are two huge

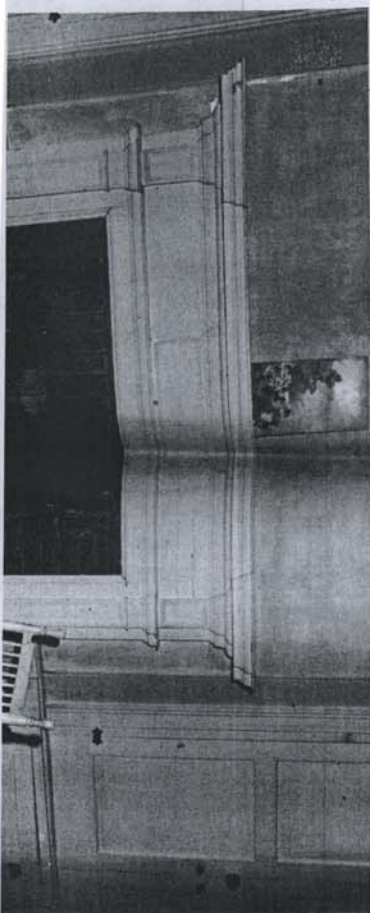
cupboards, added because the colonial home, like others in its day, didn't have closets. The house is said to have been used as a hospital during the Civil War and upstairs in the attic bedroom there are still bloodstains visible in the floor.

Outside are two graveyards. Its tombstones long since gone. Moor Green's slaves are said to have been buried in one and past owners in the other one.

Here, too, are believed to be buried soldiers who lost their lives in the Bull Run battles. But, unmarked graves no longer can say it's so.



Smoke house reminder of days gone by



# Wife to Roxie

By Roxie Arnold

Dear Friends,  
Hi, hope you had a marvelous week. We discovered a neat painting tool this week. We were painting a white ceiling and had to edge all around black walls. We bought one of the flat square edgers that are sold in paint shops. It works just beautifully and saved many hours of painting time. It is roller fabric on a

need for company once or twice a year. If you would replace the bed in that room with a Murphy bed you could decorate it completely like the office, den or sewing room that you have always wanted and you would still have the sleeping space for company. Don't forget to come to Day in the Park from 7 till 7 this Saturday, bring a picnic, bring

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View from upstairs window takes in Nokesville farms



Hand pump has been replaced by indoor plumbing

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Hi, hope you had a marvelous week. We discovered a neat painting tool this week. We were painting a white ceiling and had to edge all around black walls. We bought one of the flat square edgers that are sold in paint shops. It works just beautifully and saved many hours of painting time. It is better than the complete variety to be used over and over. Refills are also available for the edger.

If you are moving or just redecorating a very small bedroom, have you ever considered a Murphy bed (one that folds up against the wall during the day to give the room's occupant more living space during the daytime. There is a company called Murphy Bed and Kitchen Co. in New York, that specializes in them. They can be bought in any style cabinet to fit with almost any kind of decor. Wouldn't one be ideal for that spare bedroom that you really don't want to have a bed in but

need for company once or twice a year. If you would replace the bed in that room with a Murphy bed you could decorate it completely like the office, den or sewing room that you have always wanted and you would still have the sleeping space for company. Don't forget to come to Day in the Park from 7 til 7 this Saturday. Bring a picnic, bring the family and swimming suits and plan to spend the day at Featherstone Park. There will be a show, a raffle, refreshments and fun for all. There is no charge for student entries so if your youngster did something in the art field that you think is particularly showable—bring it along and watch the child's eyes light up if he should happen to win a prize.

If home sewing is your thing and you are making play clothes for a little girl remember terry towels. You can often make darling things from towels, cloths or dish cloth for less money than if you bought yard goods.

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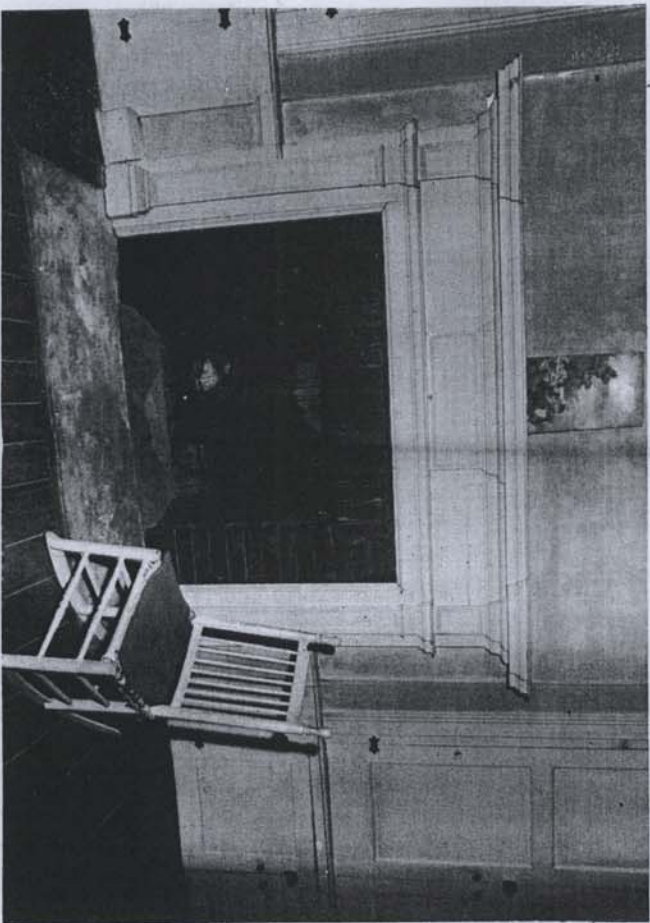
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Smoke house reminder of days gone by



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