

VIRGINIANA FILE AUG 17 1983
P.W.C. (Court Houses)

Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

C. Scott Winfield, Chairman
Andrew J. Donnelly
Ralph Mauller
Charles J. Colgan
Donald W. Turner
Vernon D. Dawson
Samuel L. Cole

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mr. James Cooke, Chairman
Mr. Jesse Curtis, Co-Chairman
Mrs. John Hoy, Secretary
Mrs. Mildred McBride, Member at Large
Mr. R. Jackson Ratcliffe, Member at Large
Mrs. Charles J. Wright
Mrs. Myrtle Moore
Mr. David Lynch
Mrs. Charles H. Coe
Mrs. George Stringer, Jr.
Mrs. Agnes G. Webster
Mrs. Jessie May
Mrs. Kathleene Cotter
Mrs. Jana Leepson
Mrs. Tommye S. Burton
Mr. Lee Lansing
Mrs. Margaret Lynn

REFERENCE



REDEDICATION
SECOND COURTHOUSE SITE

1742 - 1760

BRENT TOWN
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
VIRGINIA

September 14, 1975

2:00 P.M.

HISTORY

PROGRAM

THE SECOND PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY COURT-HOUSE. In 1742 when the formation of Fairfax County necessitated the removal of the seat of Prince William from Occoquan Creek to a more accessible point, the rivalry of five sections of the county caused the selection to be placed in the hands of a board of arbitrators - Colonel Henry Fitzhugh, Colonel William Fairfax and Colonel John Colvil. After a meeting held at the Neabsco iron mines, these gentlemen made a recommendation resulting in the Council's order on December 15, 1742 that "the court house be erected at the plantation of Philemon Waters." This site was part of a tract that had been patented in 1712 by Lewis Reno and Philemon Waters. The building was completed the following year and continued in use until 1762. Nothing remains today of the court-house, clerk's office, jail, taverns, stores, and residences. Here on March 25, 1754 John Wright - the presiding justice who had succeeded his father, another John Wright - administered the oath that enabled young Henry Lee to become a practicing attorney. This Lee was the father of "Light Horse Harry" Lee and grandfather of Robert E. Lee.

Once at least Thomas Lord Fairfax, proprietor of the Northern Neck, visited this courthouse. On August 25, 1755 John Wright, "Gent." with much ceremony met his Lordship at the door, escorted him to the bench and invited him to preside over the daily session. Though a party took place that evening at the home of one of the justices, both John Wright and Lord Fairfax were in condition to appear at court the following morning.

Here in the eighteenth century this area was settled by Huguenots, who "upon some disagreement, . . . dispersed themselves up and down the Country," leaving Manakin Town, their first Virginia home. Their French names, variously and strangely spelled, appear in land grants and county records - Lewis Reno, Lewis Tacquett, Mary and John Tacquett, Rynhart de la Foyolle, and Philemon Waters. Their land lay on the lower side of Cedar Run just south of Brent Town Tract of 30,000 acres.

Music	Quantico Marine Band C.W.O. E. W. Elfes, Director
Color Guard	U.S. Marine Corps Third Virginia Regiment Scout Units Prince William County
Invocation	Dr. William H. Barnes Minister-Educator (Retired)
Welcome	Mr. James Cooke, Chairman Prince William County Historical Commission
Introduction of Guest	Mrs. Sue Coe, Chairman Prince William County Bicentennial Commission
Introduction of Speaker	Mr. Jesse Curtis, Co-Chairman Prince William County Historical Commission
Remarks	Col. Donald Cliff Commanding Officer U.S. Marine Corps Officers Candidate School
Retire Colors	
Benediction	Rev. Albert Jones Pohick Episcopal Church
Refreshments	

SOURCE: *Prince William, The Story of Its Places and People*