

JAN 25 1984

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(COURT-HOUSES)

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Manassas, Va.

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**REDEDICATION  
SECOND COURTHOUSE SITE**

1742 - 1760

**BRENT TOWN  
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY  
VIRGINIA**

September 14, 1975

2:00 P.M.

## HISTORY

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.

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

## PROGRAM

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 Bicenntenial 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	