

Wilson, Donald L

From: Spears, Katarina
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2006 8:33 PM
To: Wilson, Donald L
Subject: RE: Greenwood

Very interesting! I have had an intern transcribe most of the historic letters we have copied at Mt. Vernon. I will send you an electronic copy when next I am in the office and have access to the network drive.

Thank you so much for supporting our research efforts. I'm afraid I rather take advantage of your superior skills with the archival resources.

More soon.

Best,
kat

-----Original Message-----

From: Wilson, Donald L
Sent: Sat 6/24/2006 3:57 PM
To: Spears, Katarina
Subject: RE: Greenwood

Kat - Our index to Historic Sites has several references to Greenwood for the period 1853-1939. (See the index online at www.pwcgov.org/library, click on Digital Library, then select under works by Margaret Binning, Prince William County Historic Sites, A-H. Use Control-F to find "Greenwood." Those notes indicate that the property was located 4 miles southwest of the courthouse (in Brentsville), on Slaty Run. William K. Stewart/Stuart owned it 1853-65. The site was identified by Frances Jones about 1980 but was never surveyed (File 76-99 was given it). But I think that is the wrong site.

A Mutual Assurance Company fire insurance policy refers to Bernard Hooe Jr. living at "Greenwood" in 1805; it was described as lying between the lands of Dade Hooe and Bull Run in Prince William County. In October 1810, Bernard Hooe Jr. was killed by a neighbor James Kemp in a duel. In 1816, Bernard's son John Hooe Jr. had the policy renewed but the farm is now called "Locust Grove." [Which I once misread as "Locust Green."] That property would have been on the east side of Manassas, near Yorkshire, so it is not the same place as the later Greenwood. "Yorkshire" was Thomas Blackburn's estate near Manassas.

In 1842, John Hooe Jr. advertised "Locust Grove" for sale, describing it as adjoining "Yorkshire" and containing about 1700 acres, devised to said John Hooe Jr. by his father, the late Bernard Hooe. [Alexandria Gazette, 19 Aug. 1842, from abstract by Ron Turner]

Bernard Hooe Jr. owned 6 parcels of land in 1807 and 1804:

- (1) 252 (or 262) acres from Benjamin Talbut, 1792 - Talbut bought it in 1773.
- (2) 300 acres from Moses Wickliffe, 1801 - near Bull Run and Thomas Bird.
- (3) 1164 (or 1064) acres from (W. J.?) Alexander, 1800.
- (4) 542 acres [source not given].
- (5) 577 (or 597, 579) acres from P. Hansborough, 1796, located on Winter's Branch south of Manassas.
- (6) 143 acres from T. Blackburn, 1800. (Probably part of Yorkshire.)

All but (2) are listed in 1802.

Only (1), (4) and (5) are listed in 1800 and 1798.

Only (4) and (1) are listed in 1794.

Only (4) is listed in 1791. He is not found on the 1790 tax list.

7 Apr. 1788. John Hooe and Ann his wife to our loving son Bernard Hooe Junr., parcel on

Rusha Branch, Prince William County, which empties into Bull Run, which was given me by a deed of gift by my father and mother, Howson Hooe and Ann Frances Hooe, containing 320 acres, also 72 acres adjoining above which I purchaed of John Oldham, also 150 acres adjoining the first which I purchased of Maximilian Haynie, also 150 acres which I purchased of John Reeve adjoining the above. [Deed Book X, p. 87, from abstract by Ruth and Sam Sparacio] It appears that this parcel is the same listed in 1791 as 542 acres. (320+72+150+150 = 692 acres, which is a difference of 150 acres. Perhaps the two listings of 150 acres are for the same parcel.) It seems likely that this was the site of Bernard's homestead. It is located in the right area. The 1802 tax list shows that parcel and the Alexander parcel were each worth \$2.27 per acre, while the other tracts were worth only \$1.37 or \$1.81 per acre. That suggests that the best improvements were on Hooe's initial tract (from his father) and the Alexander tract. Logically he would have built his home on the tract he got from his father. The 1700 acres advertised as "Greenwood" by John Hooe Jr. in 1842 probably includes both (3) and (4), which together total 1706 (or 1606) acres.

If the house he lived in in 1805 was on the property he acquired in 1788, then Bernard Hooe Jr. was probably the owner of "Greenwood" in 1793. If he moved to "Greenwood" after 1793, then it might be on the (neighboring) parcel he bought from Alexander in 1800. I have been so far unable to find a record of the deed from Alexander to Hooe other than the reference in the tax list. It is possible that it was recorded at the District Court of Dumfries instead of the County Court, and is therefor lost. (District Court Deed Book B, 1795-99, is the only volume surviving.)

It sounds like Mary Blackburn was visiting a family in the neighborhood of "Yorkshire," owned by Thomas Blackburn (should I presume he was Mary's father?). If we had some details about the letter it might give us an idea if we are on the right track.

Don

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703-792-4540.
www.pwcgov.org/library/relic

From: Spears, Katarina
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2006 4:29 PM
To: Wilson, Donald L
Subject: Greenwood

Hello Mr. Wilson, I have a question for you that has come up in my Rippon Lodge research. Have you ever heard of an estate known by the name of Greenwood in PW or surrounding counties? There is a letter from Mary Polly Blackburn (dated 1793) to Ann Blackburn Washington which is written from Greenwood. Any help you can give would be appreciated. We do not get out to Relic very often these days as the restoration is underway and things at the house change daily. Once the quiet winter months return we will have more time for scholarly pursuits.

Thanks and have a great weekend,

kat

Katarina M. Spears

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