
BEN
COOLYN
FARM

IRISH
Woods
Mechums
Yellow Mt.
Moore
Ridge Mt.
Morrisons Br.
Taylors Cr.
ALBERMA
Rock
Hatt Cr.
Castle Cr.
Rich Cove Cr.
Epps Cr.
Mountain
Wilcox
NASSAW
COUN
Nassaw Cr.
Great Cr.
Hog Cr.
Rose
Rye

Lynches Cr.
Red bud
Lewis
Merriwithers
Courthouse
Shadwell
Edgehill
Camp Cr.
Foster's Cr.
Beech Cr.
Roundabout Cr.
Buck Isl Cr.
Abrons Cr.
The Rivanna
Burnleys Cr.
Hudsons Cr.
River
Cunningham Cr.
Carys Cr.
Crooks Cr.
Elk Island
7 Islands
Fluvanna R
James R
Nicholas

THESE MOUNTAINS ARE THE EDEN OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR SOIL, CLIMATE, NAVIGATION & HEALTH.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

APRIL 9, 1797

View of Ben Coolyn Farm from main residence looking northwest towards vineyard and Southwest Mountains.

THE FIRST EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN SETTLERS arrived at the Chestnut or Little Mountains in the 1730s, gradually establishing small farms and dwellings in what was then western Goochland County, Virginia. Known today as the Southwest Mountains, an approximately 45-mile chain of northeast to southwest oriented peaks extending from Orange County on the north to the Rivanna River on the south, this geographic landmark is the easternmost ridge of the Appalachian Mountains in central Virginia. The eastern slope of the Southwest Mountains attracted many early settlers due to its fertile and well-drained soils, as well as the abundance of natural resources. In 1797 Thomas Jefferson, whose Monticello residence is located in the Carter's Mountain ridge of the same chain, described the Southwest Mountains as "the Eden of the United States for soil, climate, navigation and health."

An area rich in heritage, this part of Albemarle County possesses numerous historic homes surrounded by agricultural landscapes. The Southwest Mountains district still retains a landscape characteristic of its agricultural past with forested mountains, rolling hills, numerous drainages and open fields, one which its original settlers would still recognize today. Many of the region's cultural and natural place names present in the mid-eighteenth century still survive today and provide a tangible link to the past.

Ben Coolyn is one of several prominent estates that occupy the foothills of the Southwest Mountains. Its siting on a low ridge with a 360-degree view make it one of the most beautiful situations in Albemarle County. Since 1992 it has been recognized as a contributing property to the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District, a National Register of Historic Places property.

BENEATH SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

THE LAND UPON WHICH MUCH OF BEN COOLYN NOW STANDS was originally patented by Robert Adams in the early 1730s. Adams received a patent for a 400-acre parcel located "on [the] branches of Carrels Creek on [the] north side of [the] Rivanna [River]" in April of 1732 in what was then Goochland County. Nearly a year and a half later he received a second patent for an adjoining 400-acre parcel north and west of the original in September of 1733.

At least initially, Robert Adams did not live on his patented land in western Goochland County. Instead, Adams likely sent a small gang of slaves to each 400-acre parcel to fulfill the requirements for patenting land in Colonial Virginia. To receive title to land, a patentee was required to settle it and pay an annual quitrent. Settling the property required the erection of a dwelling, or claim house, and clearing and planting a portion of the land. These early plantations, commonly called quarters or seats, consisted of only a few structures including a small residence, and one or more small agricultural outbuildings. Generally, the responsibility of settling new land fell to a small number of enslaved African Americans, who labored by themselves or were supervised by a white man.

During the mid-eighteenth century, the central Piedmont of Virginia was a sparsely settled rural area that possessed few roads. In eighteenth-century Albemarle County, agriculture drove the economy and tobacco was the principal crop. Tobacco cultivation resulted in the depletion of soil fertility as well as contributing to

Enslaved individuals processing tobacco leaves in drying barn.

> PHILANTHROPY, HUMANITY, MORALITY AND BENEVOLENCE WILL SEVERELY DEPLORE HIS LOSS, AND SHED A TEAR IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS DEPARTED SHADE. IT'S NEEDLESS TO RECOUNT THE MANY AMIABLE QUALITIES WHICH WERE UNITED IN THIS MAN; THEY ARE WELL KNOWN TO ALL WHO KNEW HIM.
>
> *SOURCE: RICHMOND ENQUIRER, JULY 26, 1808*

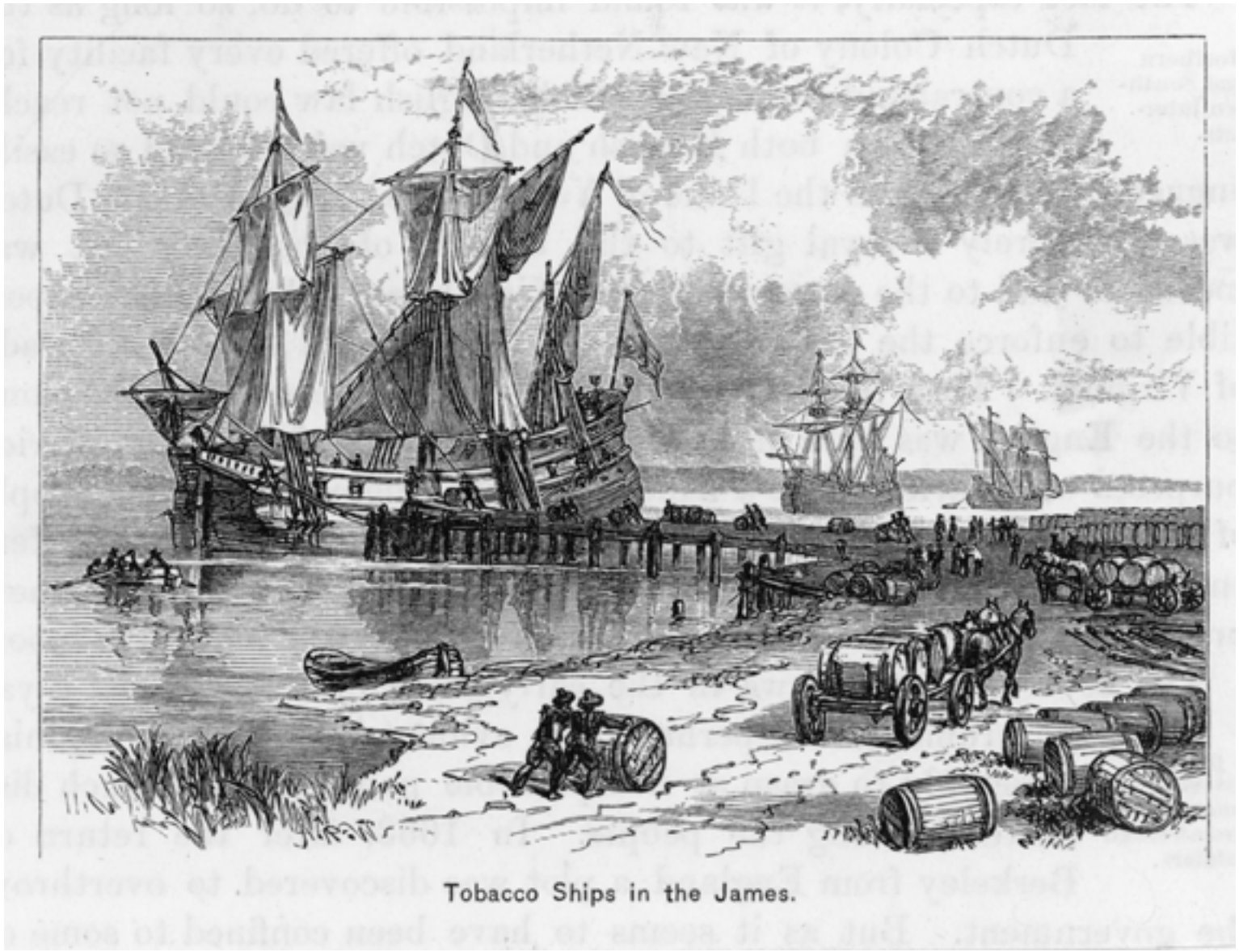
significant erosion. Typically, after several years, soil was worthless and additional lands were required to be cleared for its production. Tobacco was the dominant export in colonial Virginia and tobacco and tobacco notes served as legal tender throughout the colonial period and were used to settle debts and pay taxes. By the eighteenth century, tobacco could not be produced in Virginia without enslaved labor.

Through his 1738 will, Robert Adams devised his 800 acres of land "lying at the foot of the Sugarloaf mountain" in Goochland County to his two daughters, Judith and Mary. Both daughters were married at this time and lived with their husbands. Judith had married Micajah Clark Sr. and Mary had married Charles Moorman Jr. Robert Adams' will, stipulated that the land be "equally divided between them according to quantity and quality, and if they can't agree on this division that then the same be done by a surveyor at the cost of my daughter Mary." Adams died in 1740.

By the very early 1740s Micajah Clark Sr. was likely living on the tract left to his wife Judith. Shortly after the creation of Albemarle County in 1744, Micajah Clark Sr. first begins appearing in the Albemarle County, Fredericksville Parish vestry records. Micajah Clark Sr. and his father Captain Christopher Clark took part in processioning land in 1747, and again in 1760, as ordered by the Vestry.

Eighteenth-century engraving of Nicotiana tabacum, the tobacco plant.

Eighteenth-century advertisement for Virginia tobacco.



Tobacco Ships in the James.

Loading tobacco hogsheads on ships
in the James River.

The Adams and Clark families were Quakers. In their move westward, the Clark family participated in and helped establish several meetings. Upon their arrival at the Southwest Mountains in the early 1740s, Christopher Clark and several neighbors established the 'Sugarloaf Meeting,' and by 1748 had built a formal meeting house on the lands of Christopher Clark. The establishment of the Sugarloaf Meeting was, at the time, the westernmost location of Quakers in Virginia. By the mid-1750s, the Clark and Lynch families moved further south and west to what is now Bedford County, Virginia and, as a result, the Sugarloaf Meeting died.

Like many other white property holders, Micajah Clark Sr. was a planter who relied upon the cultivation of tobacco. While tobacco agriculture was destructive, it was also only possible on a large scale utilizing the labor of enslaved African Americans to clear needed land and to plant, harvest and process the crop. Despite his Quaker affiliation, Micajah Clark Sr. owned slaves. Albemarle County personal property tax records note that Micajah Clark Sr. was taxed on between 12 and 16 enslaved African Americans between 1782-1787.

A list of heads of households for Albemarle County in 1785 noted that Micajah Clark Sr. lived with seven other 'white souls' in a single dwelling. A total of seven additional buildings, most likely agricultural-related and enslaved residential structures, were noted to be on his property. In 1787 his sons Micajah Clark Jr. and William Clark, both over 21 years of age, were noted to be residing in his household. Micajah Clark Sr. fails to appear in the Personal Property tax records from 1788 onwards, but his sons Micajah Jr. and William appear together. Micajah Clark Sr.'s absence from the tax records are most likely due to the fact that one of his sons, possibly the youngest, William, assumed the operation of his plantation upon his retirement from active farming.

Born in 1718, Micajah Clark Sr. lived a long and productive life spanning nearly nine decades. Clark Sr. died ca. 1808, outliving his youngest son by eight years. An unnamed friend penned his 1808 obituary noting that "he was in every respect, perfectly uniform and temperate; his benign and human contenance, plainly indicated the purity and benevolence of his heart. … How melancholy are the sensations we feel, when meditating on the loss of this, our friend, and the friend of mankind -- Philanthropy, humanity, morality and benevolence will severely deplore his loss, and shed a tear in remembrance of his departed shade. …Suffice it to say, he was a kind and benevolent neighbor, a humane and tender master, and that the poor never passed unheeded by him."

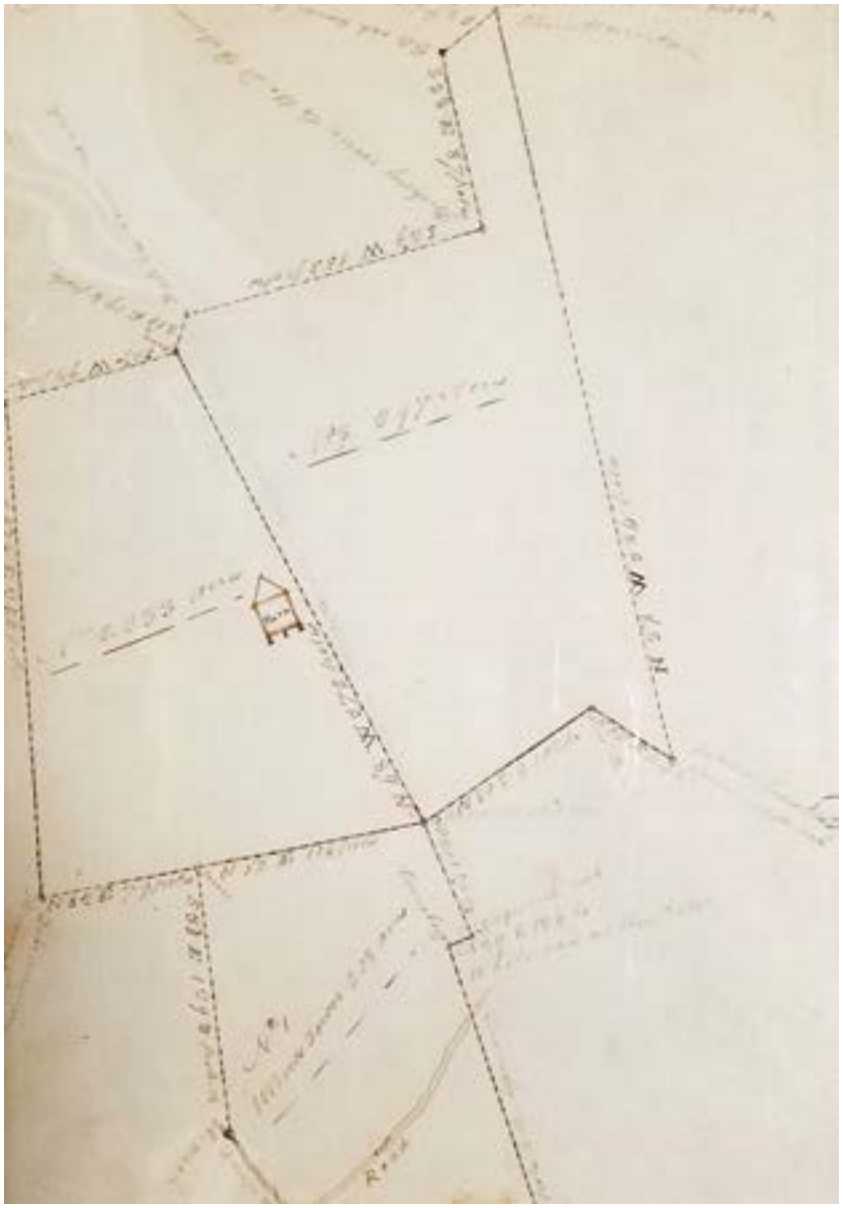
View of Ben Coolyn Farm from main residence looking southeast showing Fall landscape.

THE PINES

IN 1793 MICAJAH CLARK SR.'S YOUNGEST SON WILLIAM CLARK purchased his parents' then 458-acre home plantation for 300 pounds. In return, and on the same day, Micajah and his wife Judith agreed to lease back from William the same 458-acre parcel for a rent of 50 pounds per year. William's mother, Judith, also subsequently released her dower rights in the land in 1794. This unusual arrangement may have been a way for Micajah to pass on his remaining real estate while at the same time living there and continuing to be involved in its management.

William Clark became a prominent Albemarle County official. Clark was elected as a Representative to the House of Burgesses and Legislature in 1793, and also served as an Albemarle County magistrate and deputy Sheriff under John Marks in 1786. In addition, Clark wasted no time in expanding his business opportunities. In 1795 he petitioned the Albemarle County Court for permission to erect a water grist mill "at the place where James Marks formerly had a mill." The commissioners appointed by the Court met at the site of his mill and determined there would be no damages to other property owners. A year later Clark's mill, pond and mill race had been constructed bounding the plantation of his neighbor John Harvie.

William Clark continued to pursue agricultural production in the late eighteenth century, farming the 500-acre parcel he owned. Personal property tax records from the last decade of the eighteenth-century document that William Clark's taxable possessions expanded quickly during this period. In 1790 Clark owned 8 horses and 6 enslaved



Plat showing 1810 division of William Clark estate.

Grave of Caroline Virginia Clark, d. 1832,
in the Clark family burial ground.

TOP: Typical Virginia log cabin serving as quarters for enslaved African Americans.
BOTTOM: The stone wall enclosed Clark family burial ground at the 'Pines.'

persons, 6 horses and 10 enslaved persons in 1793, 13 horses and 24 enslaved persons in 1796, and 13 horses and 17 enslaved persons in 1799. The significant jump in enslaved persons in the mid-1790s likely reflects the purchase of his parents' 450-acre plantation in 1793 and the increased need for labor.

Oral history states that William Clark constructed a dwelling on his plantation called the 'Pines.' "The first dwelling was but a small house near the mountains, at a spot known as the 'Pines' it is said, this was built by Kid Clark, the father of Major Jimmy [James] Clark. The site was near the boundary line between Fruitland and Cismont Farm. This was standing in 1811 but upon taking possession of Cismont, Mr. Peter Meriwether moved a portion of it to his own place."

The site of the former Pines residence is now in a grove of pine trees planted during the first quarter of the twentieth century. In the vicinity of the Pines residence is also the Clark family graveyard. The Clark family graveyard is surrounded by a low stone wall and contains many unmarked graves. The only marked grave is that of Caroline Virginia Clark, "the infant daughter of Dr. Micajah and Caroline Virginia Clark," who was born in 1831, and died in 1832. Adjacent to, outside and south of the Clark Family burial ground are numerous other graves, some marked by fieldstones, others unmarked, most likely the graves of enslaved African Americans.

Table #1: Enslaved African Americans Owned by Micajah Clark Sr., 1782-1787

Year	Enslaved African Americans	Cattle	Horses
1782	15	24	13
1783	12	23	14
1784	15	25	11
1785	16	28	8
1786	14	27	9
1787	14	26	8

Table #2: Enslaved African Americans Owned by William Clark in 1801

Name	*Status*	*Value*
Judah and Rosanna	Woman and child	L80
Phillis	Woman	L50
Charles	Man	L65
Moses	Boy	L30
Hamron	Boy	L25
Mary	Girl	L35
Elijah	Boy	L80
Jimmy	Boy	L90
Pink	Woman	L75
Jim	Boy	L40
John	Boy	L30
Jack	Man	L70
Suckey	Girl	L40
Lucy	Girl	L40
Chloe	Girl	L27
Malinda and child	Woman and child	L90
Johnson	Boy	L35
Milley	Woman	L75
Emmery	Girl	L27
Henry	Child	L20
	Total Value	L1,024

"THE FIRST DWELLING WAS BUT A SMALL HOUSE NEAR THE MOUNTAINS, AT A SPOT KNOWN AS THE 'PINES' IT IS SAID. THIS WAS BUILT BY KID CLARK, THE FATHER OF MAJOR JIMMY [JAMES] CLARK. THE SITE WAS NEAR THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN FRUITLAND AND CISMONT FARM. THIS WAS STANDING IN 1811 BUT UPON TAKING POSSESSION OF CISMONT, MR. PETER MERIWETHER MOVED A PORTION OF IT TO HIS OWN PLACE."

SOURCE: EDWARD MEAD, HISTORIC HOMES OF THE SOUTHWEST MOUNTAINS, 1899

William Clark died intestate in 1800. After his death an 1801 inventory and appraisal of his estate noted a not insubstantial accounting of agricultural implements, livestock and produce including 15 horses, 4 steer, 1 bull, 40 cows, heifers, yearlings and calves, 129 pigs, 24 sheep, 1 wagon and gear, 1 ox cart, 8 plows, 8 grubbing hoes, 10 old hilling hoes, 1 wheat fan, 165 barrels of corn, one stack of hops, three stacks of rye, 7,000 lbs tobacco, four stills, a boiler, 21 mash tubs, and 7 casks. In addition, William Clark owned 22 enslaved men, women and children.

Upon the death of their father William, James Craven Clark, his younger brother Micajah Clark Jr., and sister-in-law Catherine Clark inherited all of the William Clark estate excepting their mother Elizabeth's dower rights in the same. On June 5, 1809 the Albemarle County Court ordered the division of the then 733-acre William Clark estate. Four months later the formal division of the William Clark estate occurred.

A plat of the estate and its division was made in 1809 showing three separate parcels, No. 1 - the 'widow's dower' containing "the mansion house and 203 acres adjoining;" No. 2 – 233 acres; and No. 3 – 297-acres. The westernmost parcel, No. 2, also shows the approximate location of a large agricultural barn. Registration of the historic 1809 plat shows the William Clark estate straddled both sides of the Gordonsville-to-Charlottesville road, or current Route 22. The agricultural barn depicted on the map would have been located approximately 2,500 feet north of the current Ben Coolyn residence. It is interesting to note that no primary residence is noted or shown on parcels No. 2 or 3, the current location of Ben Coolyn.

The enslaved individuals belonging to the William Clark estate, then numbering eighteen, were also divided. Their cumulative value, assessed at $3,870 by the appointed commissioners, were given to Elizabeth, Catherine, James and Micajah Jr. James received 7 individuals including Charles and Pink his wife, Elizah, Chloe, Phillis, Phil and Tiller valued at $1,350.01. By 1809 James Craven Clark, then the oldest surviving son of William Clark, had consolidated the family estate. After the death of his mother Elizabeth Clark and his sister-in-law Catherine by the second quarter of the nineteenth century, James C. Clark retained sole possession of the Southwest Mountains plantation.

Detail, Map of Virginia showing Albemarle County. Peter Jefferson and Joshua Fry, 1755.

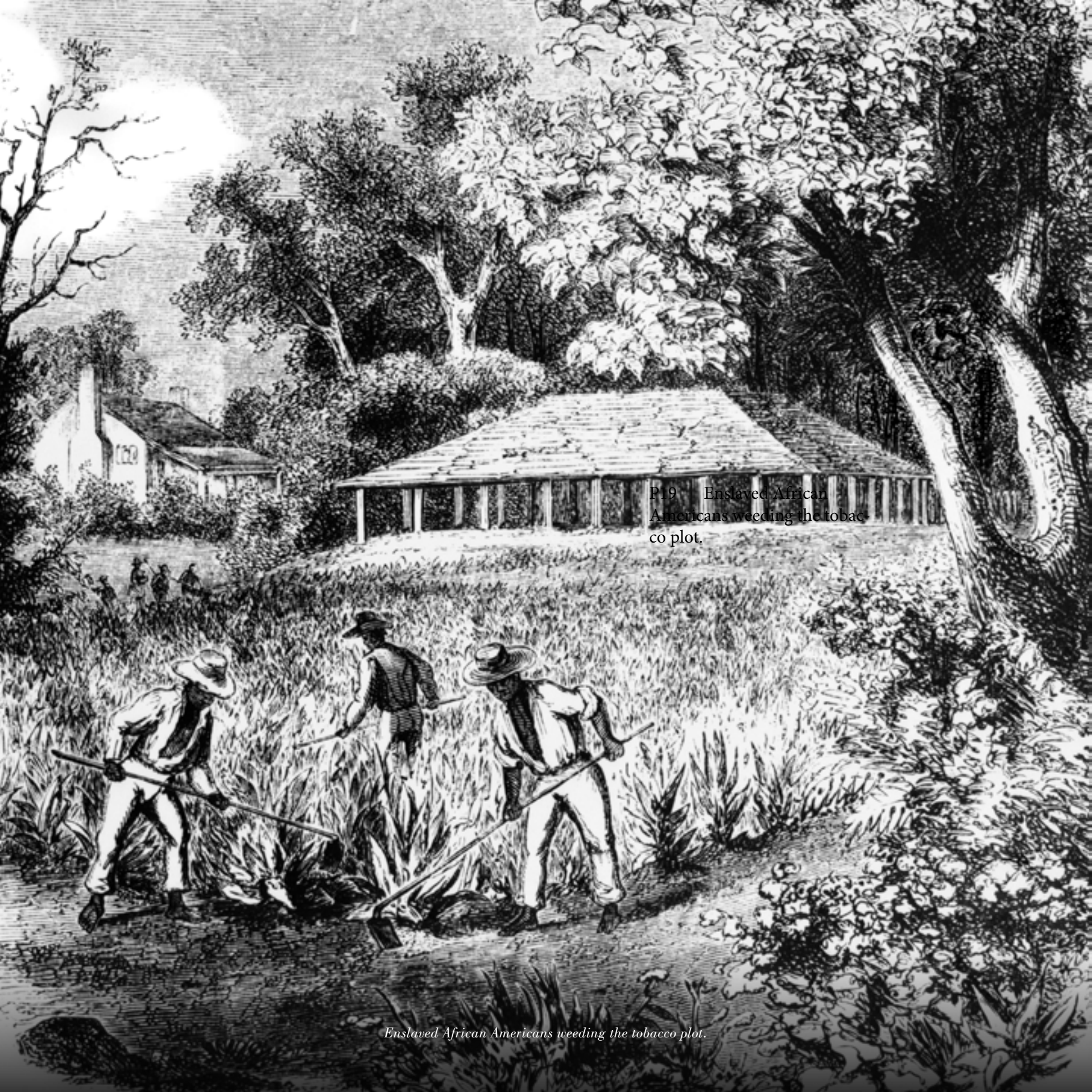
JAMES C. CLARK & THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BEN COOLYN

ORAL HISTORY STATES THAT IT WAS THE CLARK FAMILY, and specifically James C. Clark, who first named the property Ben Coolyn, Scottish for 'breezy mountain.' It also suggests that it was James C. Clark who built the first dwelling in the location of the current Ben Coolyn residence. Albemarle County land tax records first begin recording the value of buildings on properties in 1820. It is in this year that land tax records for James C. Clark document that he was taxed on a building or buildings valued at $1,350.00. Clark's Ben Coolyn residence was likely a modest frame dwelling and would have been surrounded by numerous support structures as well as agricultural-related buildings.

In the years following the acquisition of his father's estate, James C. Clark substantially increased his land holdings. In 1814 Clark purchased an additional 146 acres from the William D. Fitch estate "near the south side of the Sugar Loaf Mountain." In 1825 Clark acquired just over 7 acres from the neighboring Defour family. Six years later in 1831 Clark again purchased a portion of the James Robertson estate containing 127.5 acres. In addition to his agricultural pursuits, James C. Clark also served as magistrate of Albemarle County in 1816.

Personal Property tax records for Albemarle County document that following the consolidation of his father's estate, James C. Clark's wealth began to grow significantly. Between 1810 and 1836 Clark's wealth in human chattel nearly doubled from 10 to 19 enslaved persons.

Enslaved African Americans celebrating the Fall harvest with music and dance.



P19 Enslaved African Americans weeding the tobacco plot.

Enslaved African Americans weeding the tobacco plot.

“THE MAIN HOUSE AT ‘FRUITLAND’ WAS FIRST *BUILT BY JAMES CLARK.* THIS WAS A FRAMED AFFAIR, WITH A SHARP TOP ROOF, DORMER WINDOWS, ETC.

SOURCE: NANCY S. PATE, BEN COOLYN. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION HISTORICAL INVENTORY, NOVEMBER 4, 1937

Table #3: Taxable Personal Property owned by James Clark, 1810-1830.

Year	Enslaved Persons	Horses
1810	10	6
1812	14	7
1814	13	8
1816	13	8
1818	14	8
1820	11	12
1822	16	11
1824	15	13
1826	16	9
1828	15	8

The profoundly deleterious effects of tobacco cultivation upon the landscape and productivity of the central Virginia Piedmont were increasingly recognized and the early decades of the nineteenth century witnessed a widening movement to transform regional agricultural practices to reclaim much of the area’s ‘worn out’ lands. In 1817, Thomas Jefferson and a number of other prominent local planters formed the Albemarle Agricultural Society which was devoted to experimenting with and publicizing new techniques of cultivation and animal husbandry. By 1821, John H. Craven, widely regarded as one of the County’s best farmers, set about establishing model farming practices on his newly acquired Pen Park plantation. John Rogers, residing at East Belmont, was a leading proponent of the Albemarle Agricultural Society and likely influenced the farming and husbandry practices of his neighbor James C. Clark.

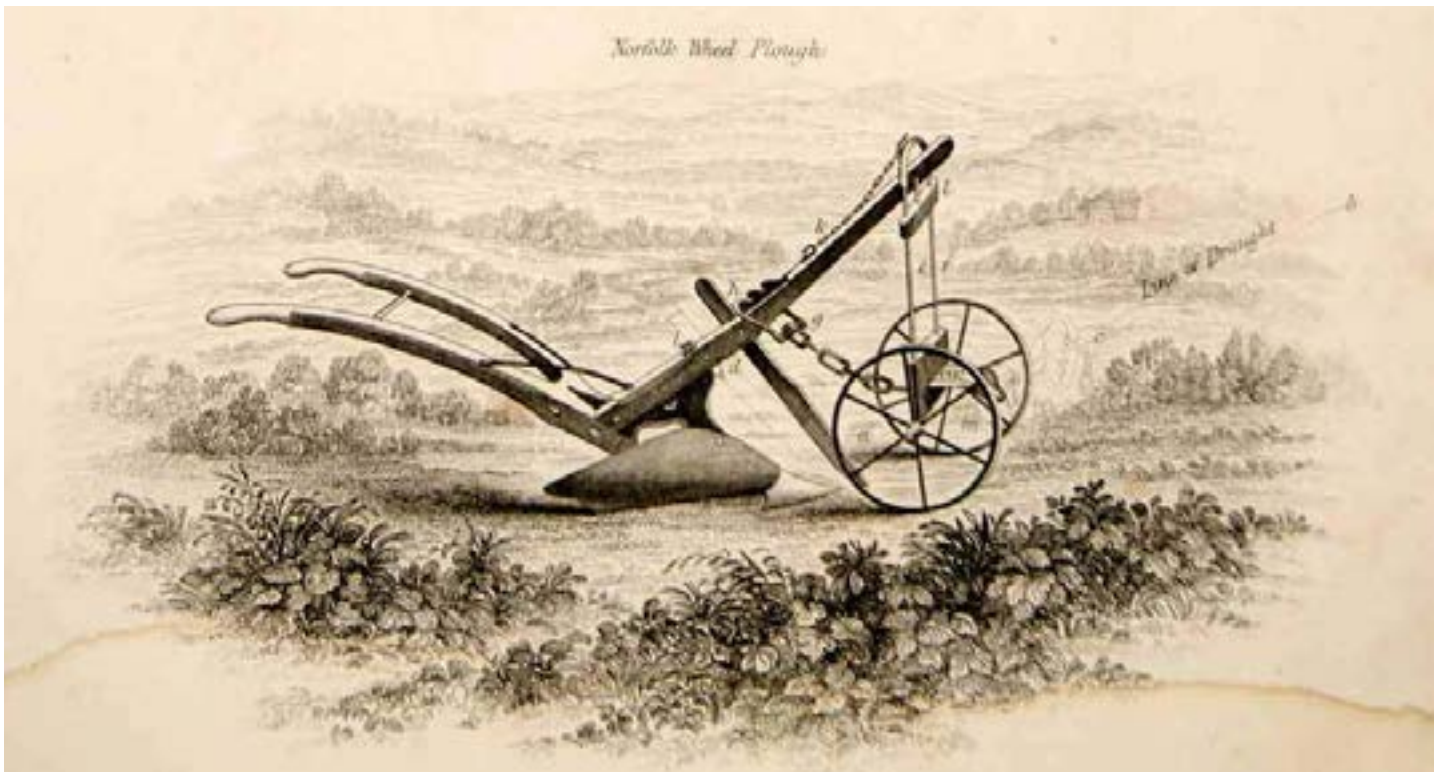
Following the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and like many other Virginians, James C. Clark and his family decided to move westward. In 1836 he sold the then 951-acre Ben Coolyn estate to John Addison Carr for $16,642.50. James C. Clark and his family then moved to Lincoln County in eastern Missouri approximately 40 miles northwest of St. Louis.

PROCTOR
JOHN. A CARR

THE CARR FAMILY WAS ONE OF THE MORE PROMINENT FAMILIES in late eighteenth-and nineteenth-century Albemarle County, Virginia. Members of the Carr family were active in local and state government and owned and operated significant commercial and agricultural interests in the area. John A. Carr was the oldest son of Samuel Carr. Samuel Carr was a son of Martha Jefferson Carr, Thomas Jefferson's sister. After the death of his father Dabney Carr, Samuel Carr was sent to Prince George's County, Maryland to be educated. Returning to Albemarle County, Virginia, Samuel Carr lived at his Dunlora plantation and served as a County magistrate as well as being elected to the House of Delegates and State Senate. John A. Carr was raised at Dunlora.

At the age of 16, John A. Carr and his father Samuel Carr traveled to Washington, D.C. in the hopes of enlisting him in the Navy. They carried with them a letter of recommendation from George Pitt Stevenson, the U. S. Commercial Agent in Havana, Cuba and friend of the family, and hoped to receive one as well from Thomas Jefferson. Writing in the fall of 1817, Dabney Carr conveyed his hopes for John A. Carr. "Uncle Sam and John, who on account of a letter which he received from you has determined to take John on to Washington with a view of sending him in the Franklin even if he should not be able to get him in the Navy. However I am in hopes he will be able to put him in the Navy, as I expect he will get a letter of recommendation from Mr. Jefferson." On November 1, 1817, Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Secretary of the Navy Benjamin W. Crowninshield recommending John A. Carr and noting that he was "a young man of excellent character." John A. Carr received a Navy midshipman's warrant, and by the 1820s had been promoted to Lieutenant.

A white overseer monitoring the clearing of new land by enslaved African American women near Fredericksburg, Virginia. Benjamin H. Latrobe, 1798.



TOP: Enslaved African Americans stacking wheat following harvest near Culpeper, Virginia. Edwin Forbes, 1863.

BOTTOM: Advertisement for the Norfolk wheel plough.

After nearly a decade of service in the Navy, Lt. John A. Carr retired and moved back to Albemarle County sometime in the late 1820s. It appears that like many other white men, Carr became a farmer as in September of 1830 his father Samuel Carr sold him a 500-acre estate near the University of Virginia called Meadow Creek. Carr occupied and farmed the Meadow Creek plantation for six years until its sale in 1836.

On August 1, 1831 the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia appointed Lt. John A. Carr Proctor of the institution, describing him as "a gentleman highly recommended to the Board as possessing the requisite qualifications for its discharge." Carr served as Proctor for a 14-month period between the summer of 1831 and fall of 1832. The University Proctor reported to the Faculty but had wide ranging responsibilities including overseeing the operations of the hotelkeepers, managing student accounts and behavior, supervising the enslaved laborers leased by the University, and policing and maintenance of all University facilities. During his brief tenure John A. Carr resided at Monroe Hill, the residence of the former University Proctor. Proctor Carr oversaw a period in the early 1830s when student ill-behavior was rampant. Students set fire to privies, knocked down garden walls, destroyed University property, and pulled up the Proctor's garden plants and turned loose his cow.

In 1831, University students made known to the Board of Visitors their desire to form a military company. The request was approved with conditions and was called the University Volunteers. Most likely due to his background in the Navy, in 1831 Proctor Carr was named the military instructor of the students.

Lt. John A. Carr's tenure as Proctor is perhaps best known for his leading role in purchasing for the institution, its first and only slave. Lewis Commodore, the bell ringer for the University, was leased by the institution between 1830 and 1831. In 1832, the estate to which he belonged was auctioned at a public sale. In order to prevent this loss to the University, Proctor Carr the Chairman of the Faculty and others purchased him for the continued use of the University. The Board of Visitors reimbursed the Proctor and faculty a total of $580 and Lewis Commodore officially became the "property of the University." Following Emancipation, Lewis Commodore found himself in the Albemarle County Poor House. Poor House records note the arrival of Lewis Commodore, a colored man of unidentified age on April 16, 1867. Commodore died in March of 1872 and was likely buried on Poor House grounds, then located in Keswick, Virginia.

In August of 1836, only two weeks after divesting himself of his Meadow Creek farm, John A. Carr purchased the James C. Clark Ben Coolyn estate totaling 951 acres on

the eastern flank of the Southwest Mountains. The deed of purchase noted that the Clark family graveyard, a space embracing approximately 50 by 80 feet, was reserved to James Clark and his heirs forever.

Immediately after purchasing Ben Coolyn, personal property tax records document that the number of enslaved African Americans owned by Carr increased. Whereas the 1830 U.S. Census documents that Carr owned only 8 slaves in that year, by 1837 he owned 15 slaves. The dramatic increase likely reflects the additional labor required to operate and maintain the Ben Coolyn plantation.

Table #4: Taxable Personal Property
Owned by John A. Carr, 1836-1838.

Year	Enslaved Persons	Horses
1836	6	4
1837	15	14
1838	12	12

John A. Carr died intestate in mid-1837 at the young age of 36, only a year after acquiring the Ben Coolyn plantation. An inventory and appraisal of his estate taken in November of 1837 documented that he was indeed a wealthy planter. Agricultural equipment listed in his estate included single and double McCormick ploughs, general ploughs, harrows, cultivators, grubbing and weeding hoes, grass blades, cradles, pole axes, manure forks, a wheat fan, a wagon, ox cart, oxen, horses and mules. Produce listed in his estate included corn, oats, timothy hay, clover hay, and fodder. In addition, at the time of his death, Carr owned 21 enslaved men, women and children.

Table #5: Names of enslaved individuals
owned by John A. Carr at Ben Coolyn in 1837.

Name	*Status*	*Value*
Polly and her eight children William, Mary, Andrew, Jacob, Elizabeth, Jimy, John and Salley	Women & children	$2,500
Judy and her three children Fanny, Charlotte and Caroline	Women & children	$1,150
Rachel and her child Septimia	Woman & child	$800
Cyrus	Man	$600
Caleb	Man	$500
Peter	Man	$500
Stephen	Man	$450
Mat	Boy	$300
Allen	Boy	$200
	Total Value	$7,000

In October of 1837 John A. Carr's wife, Ellen, was appointed commissioner of his estate. By June of 1838 the Albemarle County Court ordered the sale of the 951-acre

John A. Carr estate "in the interest of infant dependent," John Gay Carr, Ellen and John A Carr's infant son. The John A. Carr estate was advertised for sale in local and regional papers on June 15, 1838. The land was not sold in September and continued to be advertised for sale in newspapers into the Fall of 1838.

The John A. Carr estate encompassing 951 acres was finally sold for a fraction of its value in March of 1839 to James Hart, a local Albemarle County resident. On the same date Hart also purchased an additional adjacent 190.5 acres from the John A. Carr estate, a parcel that possessed a 61.5-acre reservation "subject to a life estate of Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke."

Later that year, in November of 1839, an account of the administration of the John A. Carr estate recorded that most of the enslaved African Americans recorded as held by the estate two years earlier were sold. The result of the sale was the breaking up of at least three families and the separation of children and young adults from their parents. The account did not record who purchased the enslaved men, women and children, whether they were sold locally or ended up outside of the Charlottesville region.

Conestoga wagon traveling towards the Old Southwest.

View of Ben Coolyn Farm looking northwest showing main residence and Southwest Mountains.

FRUITLAND & THE HART FAMILY

JAMES HART WAS BORN IN 1799 and grew up on the North Garden estate of Sunny Bank. Andrew Hart, James Hart's father, was a wealthy merchant and farmer who had emigrated from Scotland to Virginia in the late eighteenth century. Following his father's death in 1832, James Hart moved to and occupied the Locust Hill plantation near Red Hill depot. After his first wife's death, Hart remarried in 1837 and shortly thereafter purchased the well-developed Ben Coolyn plantation. His second wife died shortly after moving to Ben Coolyn and about 1843 Hart married Francis E. Meriwether, his third wife and the widow of Charles H. Meriwether, a resident of neighboring Cloverfields estate.

It is during the James Hart tenure that the Ben Coolyn property was renamed Fruitland. Hart was a successful farmer and cultivated a variety of seasonal fruit in his orchards. Oral history states that the name Fruitland was derived from the productive nature of James Hart's orchards.

Table #6: Taxable Personal Property
owned by James Hart, 1839-1860

Year	Enslaved Persons	Horses
1839	16	15
1840	17	16
1845	15	12
1850	15	13
1855	14	13
1860	15	13

U.S. Census records for 1840 – 1860 document that James Hart possessed a significant enslaved population. Records document that in 1840 Hart owned a total of 23 slaves,

I STILL HOLD ONTO YOUR GIRL MILLY – SHE IS VERY LITTLE ACCOUNT IN THE FIELD. *IF YOU HAD NOT PERMITTED HER TO GET MARIED,* I SHOULD LIKELY HAVE SOLD HER BY THIS.

SOURCE: JAMES HART, SEPTEMBER 12, 1849

14 men and boys and 9 women and girls, 13 of which were employed in agriculture. A decade later in 1850, Hart owned 19 slaves, 13 men and boys and 6 women and girls. By 1860 the total slave population living with James Hart was 20, 12 men and boys and 8 women and girls. Personal property tax records also document a similar-sized population of enslaved African Americans.

Hart's agricultural productions, and the prosperity of his Ben Coolyn plantation were directly dependent upon the labor of enslaved African Americans. In an 1849 letter to his daughter Fannie, Hart provided insight into the conditions under which enslaved men, women and children labored, their efforts to resist, and the precarious nature of relationships between enslaved and their white owners. "I still hold onto your girl Milly – she is very little account in the field. If you had not permitted her to get married, I should likely have sold her by this. She has commenced with the tooth ache and you probably may know what the sign is."

Some enslaved African Americans living with the extended Hart family seized every opportunity to flee slavery and run away. In an 1864 letter to his daughter Fannie, then living in Charlotte, North Carolina, James Hart learned that an escaped slave owned by his daughter might appear back in Albemarle County. "I am sorry to hear John has behaved so badly as to leave you – he is entirely spoilt and if he can be found again, I think he had better be sold. I learn through the servants that he was about Mr. N. Garland a few weeks ago, but he will take and not stay much about there, as he said when he run away before, he would not go there, as that was the place he would be suspected of going. I will make all the enquiry I can, and if he can be found, I will inform you."

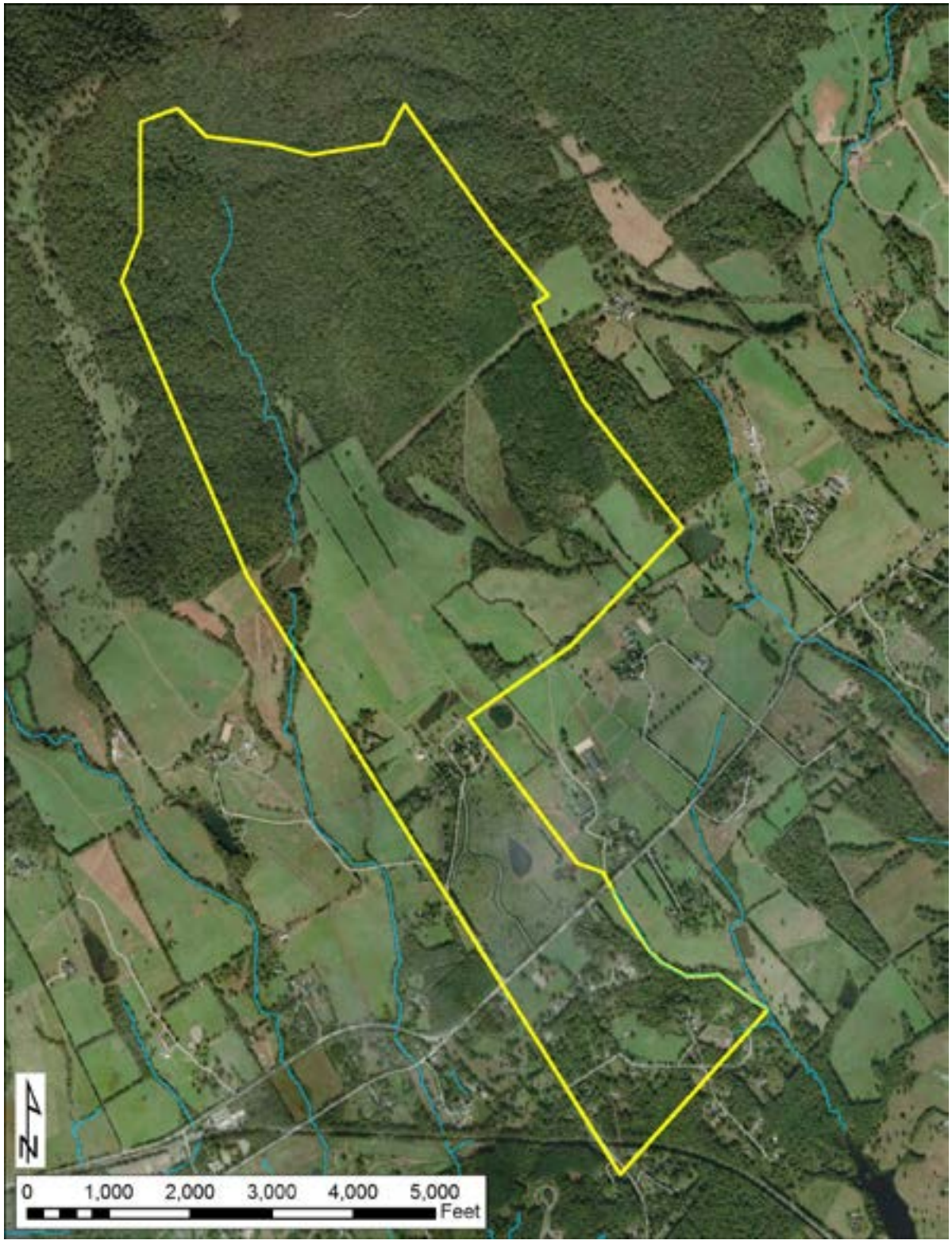
Like other Albemarle planters, Hart and his Fruitland plantation suffered under the constant vagaries of farming, particularly pests and drought. In an 1852 letter to his daughter Fannie, Hart describes the specific problems his crops encountered and the personal stress he was enduring.

Though our own crops of wheat are nearly destroyed we shall find enough to do if we replant all the corn. It really looks as if the worms were to eat up every thing we plant, or sow. The joint worm is more destructive than ever I saw it. I do not know a single crop in the neighborhood that is not seriously injured and the most of the farmers say they will not make much over the seed sown. The accounts are, no doubt, much exaggerated, but I can assure you I never saw any thing like it in the whole surrounding country. I have had it as bad on my own farm before but it now extends throughout the whole county, and there cannot be a third of a crop. I never feel as much at a loss as I do now. I am at a loss to know what plan to adopt. If I am to give up the wheat crop, I feel as though I should have to give up farming. I harvested the Multicole Rye hoping that would supply in some measure the deficiency, but the worm is almost as bad in that as in the wheat. The weather is very unfavorable for all, and every thing. It has been so dry all the spring that nothing can grow. Our tobacco plants are very backward and small and what we have cannot be planted on account of the dryness of the earth.

A year later, in 1853, Hart again wrote his daughter describing the poor conditions and agricultural prospects for Fruitland.

I find farming for the last few years a poor business. I feel sometimes like running away. The Fly and Joint Worm together have almost destroyed my crop of wheat. A great portion of the Guano Wheat is seriously injured. I fear I shall not do as well as I did last year. I sowed more but I think I shall make less than I did the last year from an increased quantity sowed. I have determined to put in a larger crop of tobacco on account of the failure of the wheat. I dislike making tobacco very much but I must try it another year at least. Our prospect for [tobacco?] plants is quite good. I have now planted 8 or 10 thousand; and if these should come a season in a few days, I could plant a great many. I understand plants are scarce in the neighborhood on account of the fly, which is great pest to every thing.

In 1849 Hart gifted his son, Schuyler A. Hart, two parcels, a 190.5-acre tract and a 33.5-acre tract both lying adjacent to and east of his Fruitland farm. Schuyler Hart would eventually build the Cedar Hill residence on this land. Six years later in 1855, Schuyler Hart conveyed the 190.5-acre parcel he received from his father to a Henry A. Burgoyne.



Map showing the boundary of Ben Coolyn farm conveyed to James Hart in 1836.


Charlottesville
RIVANNA R.
MONTAINS

CHAPTER SIX

THE CIVIL WAR

& POST-EMANCIPATION CHANGES

LEFT: Detail, Map of Albemarle County, Virginia. C. S. Dwight, 1864.

JAMES HART OWNED THE FRUITLAND plantation up through the Civil War. Near the end of the war, Hart and his neighbors were nervous about the possibility of Federal forces entering central Virginia. Shortly following the Battle of Rio Hill in northern Albemarle County in late February of 1864, Hart wrote to his daughter noting that "these are times when every thing is uncertain – more so than ever. We scarcely know what a day may bring forth. Our houses may be taken from us at any time by the vile Yankees. …Sister Julia and the girls were with us about a fortnight; but they became so much alarmed whilst here for fear the Yankees would get up this far, that they put off for Wm. H. Harisses, thinking it would be safer for them."

By the end of the conflict however, and like many other white Albemarle landowners, James Hart and his Fruitland property had suffered significant losses. Oral history accounts record that during General Sheridan's march through Albemarle County and Charlottesville, the Fruitland plantation was raided destroying "about $5,000 worth of property – furniture, silver, all of the books, horses and cattle were taken – utter destruction." James Hart and his son Schuyler were said to have been shot at as they fled up the Southwest Mountains in front of the advancing Federal troops.

Post-Emancipation conditions brought changes to the form of labor in Virginia and the larger south. Former enslaved men and women were able to begin their transition to building new lives as freedmen. The new wage-based economy wrought havoc on wealthy white landowners. Lacking an enslaved labor force, planters were forced to negotiate with African-American men, women and families to enable them to plant, tend and harvest crops and perform daily seasonal tasks. Between 1865 and 1872, the Charlottesville office of the Freedman's Bureau settled disputes and enforced agreements between black laborers and white landowners.

In his 1866 will, James Hart summed up the dire social and economic situation as he saw it. "Owing to the casualties of the late war, I am unable to give my beloved wife, F. E. Hart, as much as I desire, nor as much as I bequeathed to her in my former will – It is now my will that my executor shall pay to her at my death two hundred and fifty dollars, and three thousand two hundred and fifty dollars as soon after my decease as it can be collected out of my accounts, bonds or stock of any description I may have, and if that be not sufficient, out of the proceeds of my property when sold."

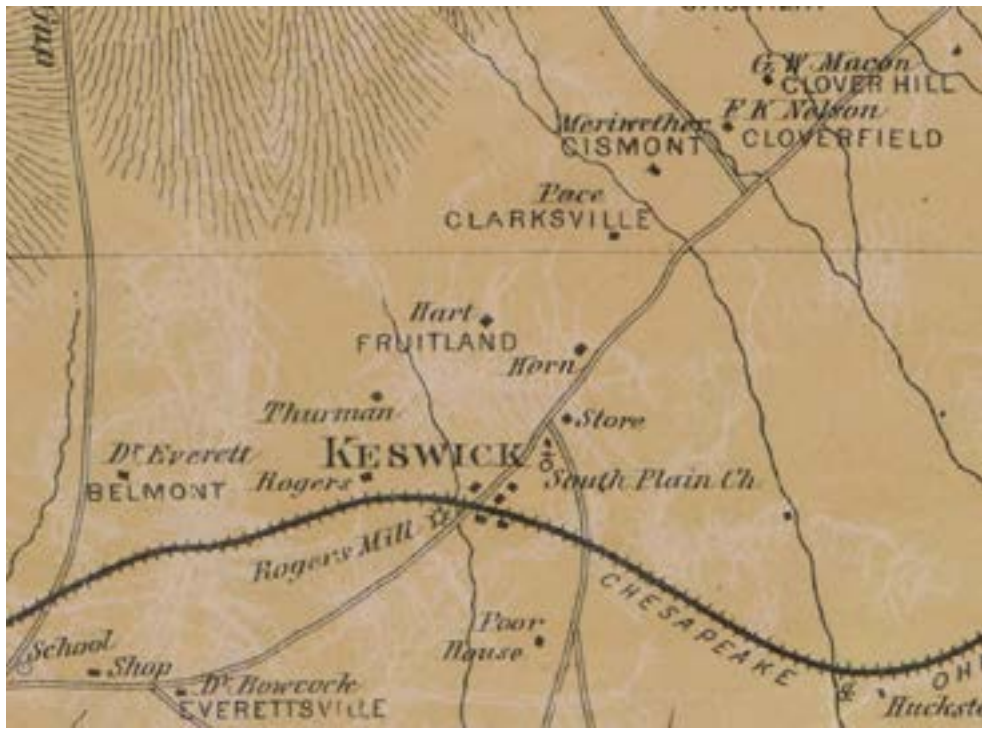
Apprenticeship records for Albemarle County from early 1866 show that James Hart was assigned three young male apprentices, Charles Thomas age 14, Miles Thomas age 10, and Charles H. Thomas age 8. It was not specified what their

apprenticeship assignment would be but it is presumed that they helped out as necessary on the struggling farm.

James Hart died in January of 1870 and his will was proved in February of 1870. An Inventory and Appraisal of Hart's estate shortly after his death valued his 966 2/3-acre Fruitland farm at $20,000. Additional livestock and agricultural related equipment and produce were valued at $1,660. The following year, an Account of Sales of his estate noted the presence of horses, 3 mules, 24 head of cattle, 26 hogs and corn, straw, and chaff.

In March of 1871, the executors of James Hart's estate sold the Fruitland property to a group of Englishmen. These men, Frederick C. Michel, James Vaughan, Edward Luck and John Michel, purchased Fruitland and its remaining livestock and agricultural produce for $30,000. A few months later the same property was deeded to two local trustees Egbert R. Watson and Benjamin H. Magruder.

In only two short years, the Englishmen's agricultural experiment had failed and they had defaulted on their bonds. The trustees put the Fruitland farm up for sale again in early 1873. This time the farm was sold for $21,000 to the partnership of S. A. Hart and A. P. Fox, the son and son-in-law to James Hart and the executors of his estate.



Detail, Map of Albemarle County, Virginia, showing James Hart's Fruitland and Keswick vicinity. Green Peyton, 1875.

THE DECLINE OF FRUITLAND FARM

BORN CA. 1820, ALEXANDER POPE FOX ENLISTED IN THE CONFEDERATE FORCES in 1864 at the age of 44, serving as a Private in Company C in the First Battalion Virginia Cavalry. After the Civil War, A. P. Fox returned to his residence in Richmond, and entered business as a partner in Breeden and Fox, a prominent Dry Goods merchant located at the intersection of 4th and Broad Streets. The 1880 census records show that even after purchasing Fruitland Farm in 1873, A. P. Fox and his family remained in Richmond and Fox continued to be a partner in his merchant business. Fox's continued residence in Richmond may reflect his early indirect and limited role in the management of James Hart's estate, as well as implying a more direct role for S. A. Hart in operating the Fruitland Farm.

The 1873 deed conveying Fruitland to Hart and Fox noted their deep family connection to and love of the land. "The hope being entertained that if they became the purchasers they would be able to save the [Hart] estate." Shortly after acquiring Fruitland, and during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, partners and co-executors Fox and Hart began to consolidate their investment as they purchased the remaining interests in Fruitland from the legatees of James Hart.

By 1882 Fox's partner and co-executor S. A. Hart had died. His will stated that "my brother in law A. P. Fox shall have the privilege of buying my half of the farm which he and I own jointly at the price of $3,200." A. P. Fox was appointed sole executor of S. A. Hart's estate.

Map of the Greater Part of Albemarle County showing localities identified with the Hart family. T. Robertson, 1900.

Hart died a month after his will was made. Sometime in the late 1880s, and possibly because of his partner's death, Fox retired from his Richmond mercantile business and moved to Albemarle County to devote his undivided attention to the operation of Fruitland Farm. The 1900 census records his residence as Keswick and his occupation as 'farmer.' A. P. Fox's wife Mary, a daughter of James Hart, possessed an interest in Fruitland Farm in her own right. After acquiring S. A. Hart's share in 1888, A. P. Fox and Mary Fox became the sole owners of the then 830-acre Fruitland farm.

By all accounts, the partnership of Fox and Hart made every attempt to restore the Fruitland farm to its pre-war agricultural productivity. During the S. A. Hart and A. P. Fox tenure at Fruitland, unnamed improvements were made to the buildings on the property. In 1885, the value of the buildings at Ben Coolyn rose from $1,500 to $2,000, possibly reflecting an improvement to the primary dwelling or supporting agricultural structures. Near the turn of the century however, the value of the buildings at Ben Coolyn declined to $1,500 in 1898, and to $770 in 1901. The valuation decline directly reflects the aging buildings and structures, and may also coincide with A. P. Fox's declining health during this period and his consequent inability to maintain Fruitland Farm.

Perhaps a sign of financial difficulties associated with Fruitland Farm, between 1886 and 1896 A. P. Fox began to sell off numerous small parcels of the former James Hart estate. The parcels were centered in the extreme southern portion of the Fruitland holdings, mostly in the vicinity of the Keswick Depot and south of current Route 22. The parcels were sold nearly exclusively to African Americans and ranged in size from 1 to 5 acres. Because the 1900 U.S. Census listed their occupation as farm laborer, or day laborer, it is possible that these individuals may also have worked at Fruitland Farm. Fox also sold a 2-acre parcel for $30 to Trustees of the African-American Union Grove Church in 1885. The Trustees constructed a Baptist Church on the parcel shortly thereafter.

Failing in health, in 1901 A. P. Fox sold a majority of the then 669-acre Fruitland Farm, encompassing 590 acres and the primary dwelling, to Llewellyn Pugh a resident of New Orleans. In late 1906, A. P. Fox died.

“THE HOPE BEING ENTERTAINED THAT IF [WE] BECAME THE PURCHASERS [WE] WOULD BE ABLE TO *SAVE THE HART ESTATE.*

SOURCE: ALBEMARLE COUNTY DEED BOOK 67:174, APRIL 5, 1873

TOP: Ben Coolyn with dogs Stan, Hank, Molly and Tootsie in front yard, 1904.
Courtesy of the Hallock family.

BOTTOM: Ben Coolyn Farm with Uncle West and Snap, 1904.
Courtesy of the Hallock family.

BEN COOLYN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

LLEWELLYN PUGH WAS BORN IN 1855 and lived on a large sugar cane plantation owned by his family and located in Attakassas Canal, New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1860 Llewellyn's father Walter is recorded as owning 62 enslaved African Americans. It is not clear why Llewellyn moved to Albemarle County and acquired the Fruitland farm. Being educated at the Virginia Military Institute, however, he would have been familiar with, and possibly had connections to central Virginia.

According to a 1937 Works Progress Administration historical inventory of the Ben Coolyn property, when Llewellyn Pugh purchased Fruitland Farm in 1901, the main residence was "in such a dilapidated condition'" that he demolished it, "and remodeled or rather built an entirely new house." A first-hand account written by Sallie Pugh Haden, daughter of Llewellyn Pugh, recalls growing up in New Orleans but also records her experiences after moving to Ben Coolyn. Haden recalled that in 1901, "Papa and Mama came up to Va in January and they bought Fruitland and Mama renamed it Ben Coolyn ('cool breeze' in Scottish). They built a house all that summer and I went to Eden Hall that fall and they moved into Ben Coolyn in time for Thanksgiving. We boarded at Dr. Thruman's till we got into our house."

Albemarle County land tax records document that in 1901, the year before Pugh acquired Fruitland Farm, the value of the buildings on the property was $770. The following year, in 1902, the same land tax records document that

$4,153.00 was "added for improvements" to buildings, with a total value of the buildings on the property worth $4,923.00. It is likely that this improvement reflects the significant new construction and remodeling of the primary dwelling as recalled by Sallie Pugh Haden. In 1904, land tax records again document a $1,000 increase in the value of the buildings at Fruitland totaling $5,923.00. By 1906, additional unnamed improvements were made in the amount of $1,409.00. In 1912, land tax records again reflect a $300 increase in the value of the property for added improvements. By 1917 the value of all of the buildings present at Ben Coolyn was worth $7,700.00. The amounts of the post-1902 improvements, ranging between $300 and $1400, suggest that Pugh also invested in the outbuildings directly supporting the residence, as well as the agricultural structures essential to the operation of Ben Coolyn.

Several historic images document the pre-1917 dwelling and landscape at Ben Coolyn. The Ben Coolyn dwelling is shown presumably shortly after Llewellyn Pugh rebuilt it in 1901. Historic photographs of the 1901 house show it as a south facing two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival-style dwelling with some Queen Anne-style detailing possessing four brick chimneys. Like the present house, the main two-story block was five bays wide with oddly spaced floor to ceiling height triple-sash windows, where the end windows are pushed close to the edge of the main block. This appears to have been done to accommodate the two interior front chimneys located between the two windows flanking the entrance and which rose through the front edge of the standing-seam-metal pyramidal roof with denticulated cornice. The 1901 house also had a large gabled front dormer with a Palladian window, decorative wooden railing, and gable-end returns. A two-story, projecting polygonal bay was found on the west end and is echoed in the second story polygonal bay window in the south façade. A three-bay, full-width Colonial Revival-style porch with triple Tuscan columns and a projecting pedimented central entrance bay with a short flight of wooden stairs further complemented the house. The frame house, clad in narrow beveled wood siding, sat on a slightly raised brick foundation with rectangular basement windows along the west side. What appears to be a kitchen addition, of unknown dimensions, is shown extending off the north or rear facade.

Historic photographs also record that the agricultural landscape surrounding the Ben Coolyn dwelling was a largely open area with significant acreage in cultivation. The view towards the Southwest Mountains documents a small field of corn and the presence of several unidentified outbuildings. The view toward the northeast also shows at least one outbuilding, a ca. 1900 variation on the American

East façade of Ben Coolyn. Rufus Holsinger, ca. 19-teens. Photo hanging in Ben Coolyn.

“IN 1917 PAPA SOLD BEN COOLYN AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SORRY I DIDN’T TELL HIM HOW MUCH I LOVED IT AND WANTED IT FOR MY GROWING CHILDREN IN THE SUMMERS.

SOURCE: MEMORIES OF SALLIE PUGH HAYDEN, 1958

Foursquare form with weatherboard siding, a hipped standing seam metal roof and central brick chimney, presumably a tenant house.

Very little is known about Pugh's occupation of Fruitland. It is assumed however that he continued to operate Ben Coolyn with the assistance of local labor. According to the 1910 census, Pugh is listed as a farmer and presumably he continued to operate and manage a general farm. Members of the Hart family note that it was Llewellyn Pugh who elected to rename the Fruitland Farm property choosing to revert to the historic name, Ben Coolyn. Additionally, Hart family members note that there was a small Hart burial ground at Fruitland "to the left as one enters the garden and in the western corner of it." Llewellyn Pugh, they state, desecrated the burial ground to the point that "no mark of the spot is left." Pugh is said to have removed the family markers and headstones of Schuyler A. Hart, as well as several of his nieces and nephews who were buried there.

In 1917 Pugh sold the 610-acre Ben Coolyn property to William B. Bogert, a resident of Chicago, netting a tidy $20,000 profit in the sixteen years he owned it. Sallie Pugh Haden noted her regret that her family sold Ben Coolyn. "In 1917 Papa sold Ben Coolyn and I have always been sorry I didn't tell him how much I loved it and wanted it for my growing children in the summers."

Plat showing boundary of 610-acre Ben Coolyn conveyed to Llewellyn Pugh in 1901.

A CHICAGO *CONNECTION*

WILLIAM B. BOGERT WAS A PROMINENT Chicago businessman. He moved to Chicago in 1884 at the age of 24 and became involved in the brokerage firm of Carrington, Patten & Co. for two decades. During his tenure with Carrington, Patten & Co., Bogert served as a member of the Chicago Board of trade between 1897 - 1899. In 1904, Bogert became the senior partner in his own brokerage firm, Bogert, Maltby & Co., trading in grain, provisions, stocks and cotton. Following his retirement and removal from Chicago in 1916, Bogert purchased the Ben Coolyn estate.

Shortly after his acquisition, Bogert hired the renowned Chicago architectural firm of Holabird and Roche to redesign his Ben Coolyn residence. Known predominantly for their urban skyscrapers, Holabird and Roche also designed private residences, generally for wealthy clients. Having previously employed the firm of Holabird and Roche to build an Evanston, Illinois residence for him in 1889, Bogert turned to them again to redesign his residence in Virginia. An examination of the extant structure, as well as analysis of historic photographs of Ben Coolyn prior Bogert's arrival in 1917, document that Holabird and Roche implemented a partial demolition and redesign of the ca. 1901 Llewellen Pugh two and a half story superstructure, significantly altering much of the front southern façade, but keeping much of the remaining rear northern wing. Albemarle County land tax records document that in 1918 Bogert was assessed for $4,000 worth of improvements at Ben Coolyn. It is assumed

Studio portrait of William B. Bogert,
ca. late nineteenth century.

ABOVE: Ben Coolyn from the south. Undated photo hanging in Ben Coolyn, ca. early twentieth century.

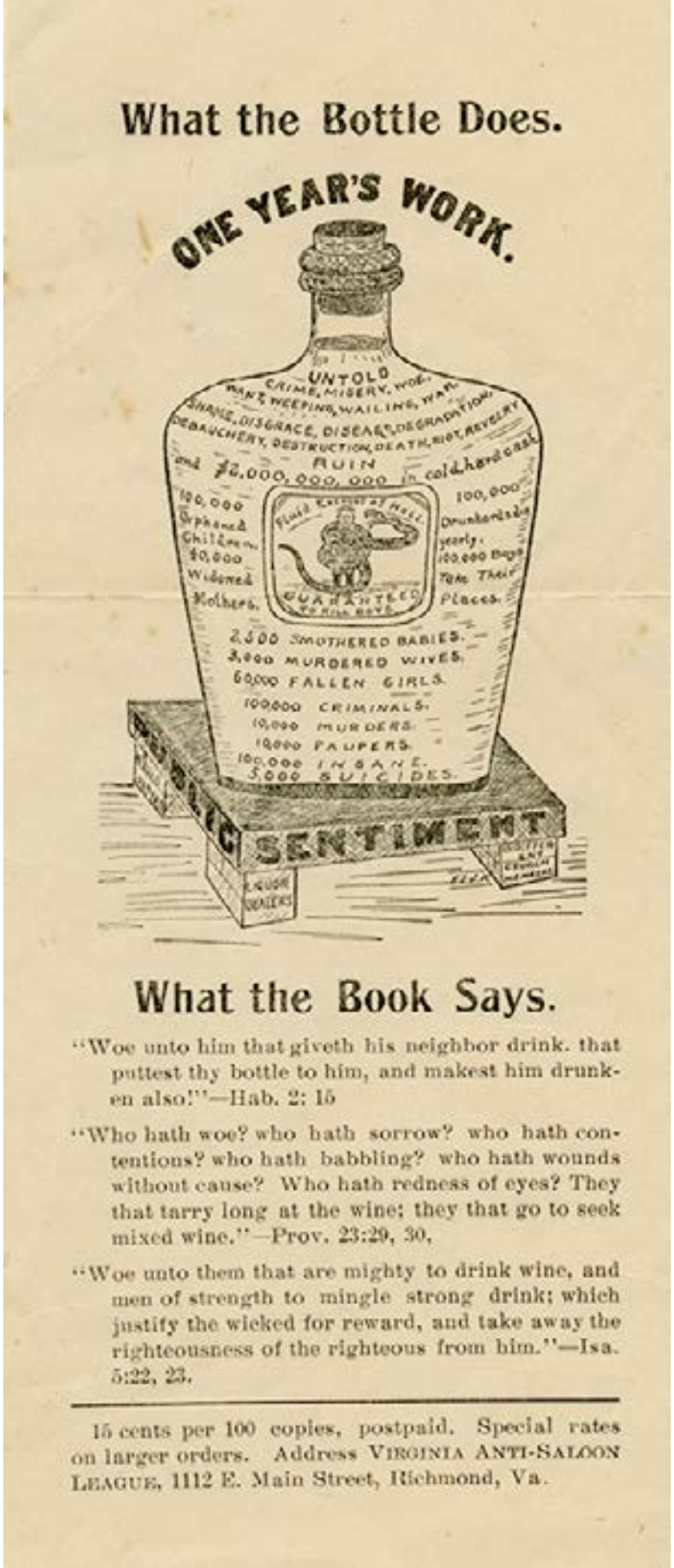
RIGHT: Prohibition-era advertisement, ca. 19-teens.

that this increase in value reflects the construction and redesign of the Ben Coolyn residence.

Historic images of the new Bogert residence built by Holabird and Roche between 1917-1918 document that the front or south façade of the 1901 Pugh residence was completely reworked. Holabird and Roche constructed a long, two-and-one-half-story, seven-bay, symmetrical, stuccoed structure. The location of the five central bay openings (doors and windows) on the south-facing façade appears to correlate exactly with those on the earlier 1901 house, strongly suggesting the framing on the front may have been retained. The projecting second story polygonal bay above the central front doorway of the 1901 residence was removed, but the full-height first-floor windows were retained. The polygonal bay on the west end of the 1901 residence was removed and replaced with a two-story wing that featured French doors, full-height casement windows with transoms, Doric columns and pilasters on the first floor and a sleeping porch with multiple double-hung windows on the second floor. A matching wing was also constructed at the east end to create the long, seven-bay house. A standing-seam-metal hipped roof contained three gabled dormers: two of them coincided with the location of the two front brick chimneys present on the 1901 house, while the third was placed over the central entrance bay. The fenestration pattern strongly suggests that the exterior walls, at least the front southern façade, was maintained from the earlier house and that the chimneys and polygonal front bay were removed and a new roof structure was built over the entire house to include the new Two-story side wings. The overhanging eaves

and plain frieze board featured a denticulated cornice. The original full-width front porch was replaced with the current, one-story, three-bay, projecting elliptical one that features fluted Doric columns on wooden plinths as supports and a wide curving entablature. The traditional Colonial Revival-style doorway that was installed features a six-paneled door, topped by an elliptical fanlight and sidelights with geometric patterned tracery. Doric pilasters with a segmental-topped panel make up the surround. The full-width front brick patio, laid in a herringbone pattern, is encircled on three sides by low plastered walls and a supporting earthen rise. Short steps lead down to the yard. According to historic photographs, the house also had a rear two-story, four-bay deep wing with two interior chimneys, a design that possibly retaining much of the northern wing to the 1901 residence.

Bogert also transformed the former Pugh residence into a dwelling with modern conveniences and amenities. A long, narrow stuccoed building located north of and adjacent to the residence was built to contain a boiler. Piping supplied steam heat to radiators in Ben Coolyn. The building also possessed cold storage rooms and lockers. During Bogert's tenure, Ben Coolyn also possessed running water, a rarity for rural estates in this period. A windmill provided electricity that pumped water to two large cast-iron cisterns, measuring approximately 5-feet tall and 6-feet square, located in the attic of Ben Coolyn. The cisterns fed bathroom sinks and tubs throughout the house, the first-floor kitchen, and a basement service area via gravity. The water cisterns were still in place when the Hallock family arrived in 1949. Three large soapstone tubs on



cast iron frames were also located in the basement where hired help did the laundry.

Bogert redesigned the former Pugh residence during a period when the Prohibition movement was sweeping the nation. With the ratification of the Volstead Act in January of 1919, Prohibition in the United States took effect a year later in January of 1920. Locally, however, the City of Charlottesville had banned liquor in 1907. In addition, while voters in Albemarle County narrowly defeated Prohibition, the state approved it by a considerable margin and in 1916 Virginia went dry. The Hallock family recalls that when they moved into Ben Coolyn in 1949, they found two cubby holes hidden in the floor on either side of the main entrance. The cubby holes contained wooden casks or barrels on their side which presumably once contained liquor. Below a trap door, the cubby holes possessed a brick surround presumed to be the bases of the brick chimneys that graced the south façade of the 1901 Pugh residence. Each cubby hole possessed slightly different dimensions. Because the firm of Holabird and Roche built Bogert's Ben Coolyn during a period when the production and consumption of alcohol in Virginia was illegal, it is likely that the cubby holes were intentionally designed to hide and to store Bogert's personal supply of liquor.

During his three-decade tenure at Ben Coolyn, Bogert initiated stock raising. He started a herd of Hereford beef cattle and became a member of, and was active in, the Virginia Hereford Breeder's Association. In 1921, only four years after purchasing Ben Coolyn, Bogert's Keswick farm was listed as having 4 male and 19 female Hereford cattle, and 5 female Duroc-Jersey red pigs. Other sources document that Bogert also raised half breed hunting dogs. Associated with the operation of his stock breeding, Bogert likely built several new agricultural structures on his property.

Aerial photographs from the late 1930s testify to the agricultural nature of the Ben Coolyn estate and the surrounding properties north and south of what is now Route 22. The Ben Coolyn residence was surrounded by a roughly square-shaped domicile defined by a hedge and containing mature trees and sod. The main entrance road swung around the west side of the residence passing a north-south oriented linear shaped formal boxwood garden. A large, remnant orchard lay west of the formal boxwood garden and main residence. To the east of the residence was a farm service road on either side of which were placed nineteenth and twentieth century support structures. The bulk of the 610-acre estate was agriculturally focused. Agricultural structures, including barns, garages, sheds, etc. were located surrounding the residence on the north and west.

“THE GENERAL BENEFIT OF PROHIBITION UPON THE BUSINESS INTERESTS, CRIMINAL RECORD, PEACE, AND PROSPERITY OF THE STATE *IS WITHOUT PARALLEL.*

SOURCE: VIRGINIA GOVERNOR W. DAVIS, 1919

Fenced pastures, animal pens and fields surrounded the residence on the north, east and west sides.

Toward the end of his life, William B. Bogert sold off a large portion of his Ben Coolyn estate. In 1947 he sold a 214-acre parcel along the western edge of his property to George H. and Dorothy Barkley, effectively dividing the Ben Coolyn estate into eastern and western halves.

Bogert died in 1948 and his will left his estate to his son Theodore and the Virginia Trust Company. Shortly following William B. Bogert’s death, his executors advertised the “Highly Fertile and Productive Virginia Stock Farm” for sale. The mid-century advertisement published by Roy Wheeler Realty Company noted that Ben Coolyn was “a beautiful country estate and high class stock and grain farm, situated along the southern slope of the Southwest Mountains, foothills of the Blue Ridge, containing 395 acres of which 255 are in pasture and cultivation, the balance being in woodland of oak, pine and other timber. …The mansion lies on an eminence one-half mile from the highway and is surrounded by giant shade trees of many varieties. It is of stucco on frame construction with 14 large rooms. …To the west of the house is the flower garden of ¾ acre and at the rear is the vegetable garden of 1 ½ acres.” By the end of the first half of the twentieth century, Theodore Bogert had sold Ben Coolyn to Harold H. and Katharine D. Hallock.

TOP: Ben Coolyn tenant house, formerly located northwest of main residence.

BOTTOM: Front hall of Ben Coolyn prior to restoration, 1949. Courtesy of the Hallock family.

POTATO FARMERS FROM LONG ISLAND

UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT BEN COOLYN in 1949 the Hallock family, Harold, Kay and four boys, moved into a residence that was run down and showing its age. Family members recalled hearing that William B. Bogert had likely spent a number of years in a nursing home before his death in 1948 and that the Woods family, possibly tenants, had been living at Ben Coolyn in the mid-to-late 1940s. The lack of maintenance and repair was evident. Many rooms in Ben Coolyn possessed cracked plaster walls, sagging floors, and significant time and labor had to be put into redoing worn floors and repairing and painting the residence (Figures #27 through #30). After spending many weeks and significant money fixing up Ben Coolyn, Harold Hallock wrote home to his wife and children that "next time I buy a farm …I don't want any building on it at all."

Prior to their arrival in Virginia, the Hallocks had owned and operated a large potato farm in Long Island and were familiar with the demands of agricultural labor. Ben Coolyn, therefore, was purchased to be a working farm. Much of the early twentieth-century agricultural landscape was still intact in 1949 when the Hallocks acquired Ben Coolyn. Numerous barns, sheds, stables, machine shops and garages as well as several tenant houses surrounded the residence on the north and east sides. Upon his arrival at Ben Coolyn in late 1949, Harold Hallock visited numerous area farmers shopping for a small herd of Angus and Hereford cattle. In addition to raising Aberdeen Angus cattle, sheep and pigs, the Hallocks actively cultivated the larger property. In the fall of 1949, just after the purchase of Ben Coolyn, Harold Hallock planted wheat and timothy. After a prolonged

“NEXT TIME I BUY A FARM… I DON’T WANT ANY BUILDING ON IT AT ALL.

SOURCE: HAROLD HALLOCK, NOVEMBER 18, 1949

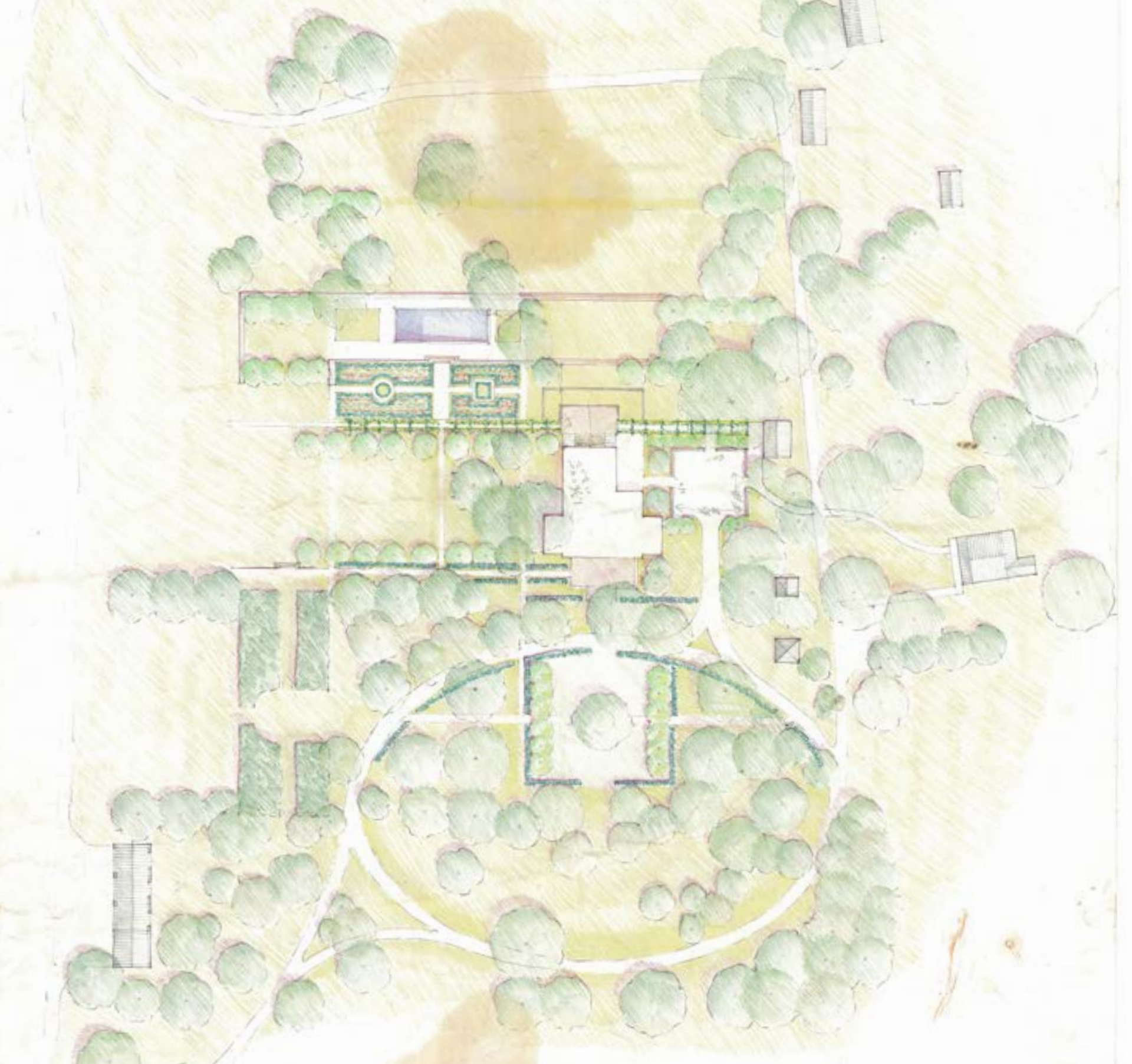
drought that prevented adequate discing of the soil, Hallock noted “don’t know whether I will ever get used to this dam clay.” The Hallocks also continued the cultivation of a large vegetable garden northwest of and adjacent to the residence, as well as a flower garden next to the Bogert boxwood garden southwest of the residence (Figure #31).

Through his love of horses, Harold Hallock became involved with the Keswick Hunt Club and served as president of the organization. Kay Hallock’s love of gardening also introduced her to the Keswick Garden Club, of which she also served as president.

Alterations to Ben Coolyn accomplished by the Hallocks during the early-to-mid 1960s included removal of the two second floor ‘sleeping porches,’ and the removal of a second story bedroom over the first-floor kitchen wing. Other aged sheds and barns were taken down after their usefulness had expired. A tenant house north of the main residence burned down during the second half of the twentieth century, and the extant large red barn was struck by lightning and was partially burned in the 1980s. The barn superstructure was rebuilt by the Hallocks shortly thereafter.

In the late 1970s, shortly after Harold Hallock’s death, Kay Hallock moved to a former tenant house and began renting the Ben Coolyn residence for a short period of time. After the tenants left, Kay Hallock moved back in. Kay Hallock died in 1999. The heirs of Harold and Kay Hallock sold 150-acres of the Ben Coolyn estate, including the residence, to Peter Taylor in 2000.

Running the hounds at Ben Coolyn, Fall of 1973.
Courtesy of the Hallock family.



Ben Coolyn master plan. Nelson, Byrd, Woltz, n.d.

A FOCUS ON LANDSCAPE & PRESERVATION

DURING THE LAST QUARTER of the twentieth century three surveys of Ben Coolyn documented its extant architecture. Photographs taken during 1984 and 1991 record some of the nineteenth and twentieth-century structures present at Ben Coolyn which have since been demolished, as well as the late twentieth-century condition of many extant structures.

In the early 1990s, Ben Coolyn was listed as a contributing property to the larger Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District, a 31,000 acre district extending from Orange County to the Rivanna River in the south and preserved for its unique rural and scenic nature and the exemplary domestic and agricultural architecture representing two and a half centuries of settlement.

Major improvements to the Ben Coolyn residence accomplished by Peter Taylor included the construction of a new second-story bedroom above the northern kitchen wing, as well as comprehensive updating of the first and second floors. In addition, the first-floor kitchen was substantially updated and improved and a new covered porch added to its eastern end.

In the first fifteen years of his ownership, Peter Taylor also significantly reworked and improved the grounds immediately surrounding Ben Coolyn. With the aid of a landscape master plan by internationally acclaimed landscape architect Thomas L. Woltz, to the north, Taylor created a flat turfed terrace to the rear of the Ben Coolyn residence. The remnant Bogert era boxwood garden,

located west of the residence, was re-designed and re-planted. A new parterre garden with glasshouse was also designed and built north of the residence. To the west of the residence, Taylor built a pool, and renovated a small two-room cottage located east of and adjacent to the residence, and moved it to the west end of the pool to serve as a pool house.

The approach to Ben Coolyn was also dramatically improved. Between 2006 and 2010 a new arboretum was created out of the old front hay field. A new winding entrance drive linking Route 22 with the front of the residence was created in 2006. Likewise, a new teardrop shaped pond was also created at the head of a former drainage. In 2010 a total of 176 willow oak trees were planted along either side of the new winding entrance drive and hundreds of low and high canopy trees were planted throughout the arboretum. Taylor also changed vehicular circulation, gravelling the entrance drive and creating two new gravel-surfaced parking areas south and east of Ben Coolyn.

Due to a failing roof that caused architectural members to rot, and shifting stone piers that caused the structure to lean, Taylor also restored the nineteenth-century log double pen outbuilding in the ca. mid-2000s. The log structure was dis-assembled and rebuilt replacing the entire floor, approximately one third of the logs and re-chinking the entire exterior. On the interior formerly open waist high walls were replaced with framed doorways.

In late 2017, Peter and Ann Taylor sold Ben Coolyn and moved to another historic property in the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District, Castle Hill, located nearly five miles further east on Route 231.

The corn crib at Ben Coolyn.

CHRISTOPHER & KATE HENRY

CHRISTOPHER AND KATIE HENRY fell in love with Ben Coolyn on their first visit. Upon purchasing the 144-acre property in November of 2017, they had committed to the preservation and maintenance of the immaculate grounds and gardens established by Peter and Ann Taylor. Today, the grounds and gardens keeps a full-time staff of two busy caring for the property on a seasonal basis.

The Henrys have also updated the interior of Ben Coolyn furnishing it in a contemporary fashion that pays homage to the Colonial Revival-style ca. 1918 renovation by the prominent architectural firm of Holabird & Roche. While living in their downtown Charlottesville residence, the Henrys have made Ben Coolyn available as a unique vacation rental estate, a property with unsurpassed gardens, landscape and scenery.

Following the agricultural heritage of Ben Coolyn, in the Spring of 2018 the Henrys established a 20-acre vineyard on a south facing slope at the base of Sugar Loaf mountain. Managed by Virginia Vineyards Association grower of the year Carl Tinder, the Ben Coolyn vineyard was planted with white varietals Viognier and Gruner Veltliner, and red varietals Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The Ben Coolyn vineyard will produce its first crop in the Spring of 2020. The Henrys have entered into a cooperative agreement to sell their Ben Coolyn grapes to Veritas Vineyards, a family-owned winery located in neighboring Nelson County, Virginia. The Veritas Vineyards partnership agreement will market the wines created from Ben Coolyn grapes, as well as grapes from other Keswick Estates, under the True Heritage label.

Chris and Katie Henry continue to open their property and its beautiful gardens and breathtaking landscape to the general public. The Ben Coolyn grounds and garden were one of several properties located in the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District that was featured in the April 2018 Virginia Garden Tour sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia. Likewise, the Ben Coolyn property has also been featured in the April 2018 issue of Virginia Living magazine, and in the May of 2018 online issue of Architectural Digest.

Christopher, Katie and Alice Mae Henry at Ben Coolyn

IRISH
Woods
Mechums
Yellow Mt.
Moore
Ridge Mt.
Morrisons Br.
Taylors Cr.
ALBERMA
Rock
Hatt Cr.
Castle Cr.
Rich Cove Cr.
Epps Cr.
Mountain
Wilcox
NASSAW
COUN
Nassaw Cr.
Great Cr.
Hog Cr.
Rose
Rye

Lynches Cr.
Red bud
Lewis
Merriwithers
Courthouse
Shadwell
Edgehill
Camp Cr.
Foster's Cr.
Beech Cr.
Roundabout Cr.
Buck Isl Cr.
Abrons Cr.
The Rivanna
Burnleys Cr.
Hudsons Cr.
River
Cunningham Cr.
Carys Cr.
Crooks Cr.
Elk Island
7 Islands
Fluvanna R
James R
Nicholas


BEN
COOLYN
FARM