



A Closer look at Winton with the Winton Manor House Preservation Society

MISSION STATEMENT: The Winton Manor House Preservation Society seeks to interpret, maintain and preserve the historical buildings and cemetery on the Winton property and disseminate knowledge so future generations may remember and understand the past.

Winton is located at 599 Patrick Henry Hwy, Amherst, VA 24521

Presented in this issue are short histories of the 20th century owners and residents of the property. We encourage you to learn more about these amazing personalities as we can barely touch on them here.

Charles Henry Beasley, Sr. (1862-1916)

He owned the land from 1907-1916. He was the grandson of John W. Jennings, Jr, son of Mary Susan Jennings Beasley Henson and step-son of Powhatan Henson. He purchased the land from the Henson's heirs. He was a prominent merchant at New Glasgow, then in Amherst and had his own company in Lynchburg. His son Charles Henry Beasley, Jr (1887-1946) owned the land from 1916-1929.

Colonel James Brownrigg Dillard April 22, 1882 - September 28, 1941

Colonel Dillard purchased Winton in 1929. A native Virginian, the Colonel was born in Norfolk to Dr. James and Mary Dillard. Dr. Dillard and his wife went on to have eight more children after young James, however Mary passed away while Colonel Dillard was still a child. At 15 James registered at the College of Arts and Sciences of Tulane University in Louisiana. James remained

in college until his appointment to the Military Academy and entered West Point in 1900. He married Elinor Lusk in 1905 in New York and together they had a daughter Mary. Sadly Elinor died in 1931. He went on to marry Doris Portmann in 1932. Colonel Dillard and Doris had two children both of whom were living at Winton when the Colonel passed away in 1941. Colonel Dillard became ill at Winton and died later the same day in Lynchburg from a blockage in a coronary artery. He had purchased Winton in order to go back to the land. At the time, the Winton estate was comprised of 400 acres. The Aberdeen Angus cattle he raised at Winton won prizes both locally and nationally. His funeral was held at Winton and he was laid to rest at West Point. The Colonel was known for his humility and integrity. His widow Doris Portmann Dillard (1895-1986) owned the land from 1941-1947.

Victor Vivian Kelsey (1887-1975)

He owned the land from 1947-1959. He worked at the American Cyanamid plant in Piney River.

Leonard Alexander Snead November 3, 1886 – May 10, 1975

He owned the land from 1959-1967. "Uncle L.A." or "Pops" was born in Nelson County and sadly lost his mother before he reached the age of 2. He had a lifelong interest in the preservation of landmarks and historical sites starting with a tract of land next to the location where he was baptized in Nelson County. Mr. Snead proved himself as a successful business man in the coal industry and then in the political machine of Washington D.C. In Washington he first worked under Woodrow Wilson on energy resources during WWI. Mr. Snead then worked with the then former President Theodore Roosevelt and Sir Baden Powell when Mr. Snead was the President of the Boy Scouts. Following the war L.A. Snead was asked to run as Vice President on the Warren G. Harding ticket. He soon discovered however that he didn't make the age requirement as he was less than 30 and needed to be at least 35. He was replaced on the ticket with Calvin Coolidge. "Pops" returned to Virginia where he purchased Winton as he wanted to live in a historic and classy home. Locally Mr. Snead is remembered for his efforts to preserve Crabtree Falls during the time that he owned Winton. He also had the honor of having a bridge over the Tye River on route 56 named after him. In 1963 L.A. Snead gave a Welcome Address at Winton at the DAR's Winton Memorial Service. Copies of this Address can be obtained from Winton Manor House Preservation Society members.

Keene Claggett Brown (1928-1990)

Keene Brown gave an anonymous gift to the county for purchase of the farm in 1967 for use as a country club and golf course for the citizens of Amherst County.

Amherst County

Amherst County owned the Winton Property from 1967 to the present. The Property is managed by the Winton Country Club and Golf Course, Inc.

Credits: David Wright Lynchburg Daily Advance 1963, Virginia Department of Transportation http://www.virginiadot.org/newsroom/lynchburg/2011/route_56_bridge_to54577.asp, The Lynchburg News January 23, 1963, New Era-Progress, May 30, 1963, <https://externalapps.westpointaog.org/Memorials/Article/4248/>, Amherst County Deed Books, National Register of Historic Places.

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There are two available Director slots. If you are interested in being on the Board please contact gloriastiltner@gmail.com

Tour of the Manor House in October 2017 – The WMHPS President had the privilege to give a tour to quite a few cousins who came to visit in October 2017. These were Strode descendants from the David Shepherd Garland family. David Shepherd Garland married Jane Henry Meredith (daughter of Mary Jane Henry, Patrick Henry's sister). Their daughter Mildred Garland Ellis married Henry Aubrey Strode.

Upcoming WMHPS Events Calendar at Winton Manor

Colonial Tea Party March 10, 2018 – Ladies will be asked to sponsor or bring a young girl to the tea. Sarah Henry and Jane Meredith interpreters will also attend.

Cemetery Workshop has been rescheduled to April, 2018 more details to follow.

Patrick Henry Day at Winton June 2, 2018 - Celebration of Patrick Henry's Birthday on May 29, 1736. Fencing demonstration, Drum and Fife Corps, Dinner on the Lawn.

Restoration Projects: This year WMHPS purchased and had installed beautiful quality linen shades for the Manor House windows. This will protect the furniture and the loaned area

carpets. Dale Carlson and Don McCarthy have generously worked very hard and repaired the French Doors in the dining room so they now close.

Winton Historic Cemetery - The Trust Fund for cemetery maintenance and education has been moved to the oversight of Preservation Virginia in Richmond. The Winton Manor House Preservation Society is one of the organizations who are responsible for the care of the cemetery. WMHPS plans that a brochure will be written and published about the cemetery in 2018.

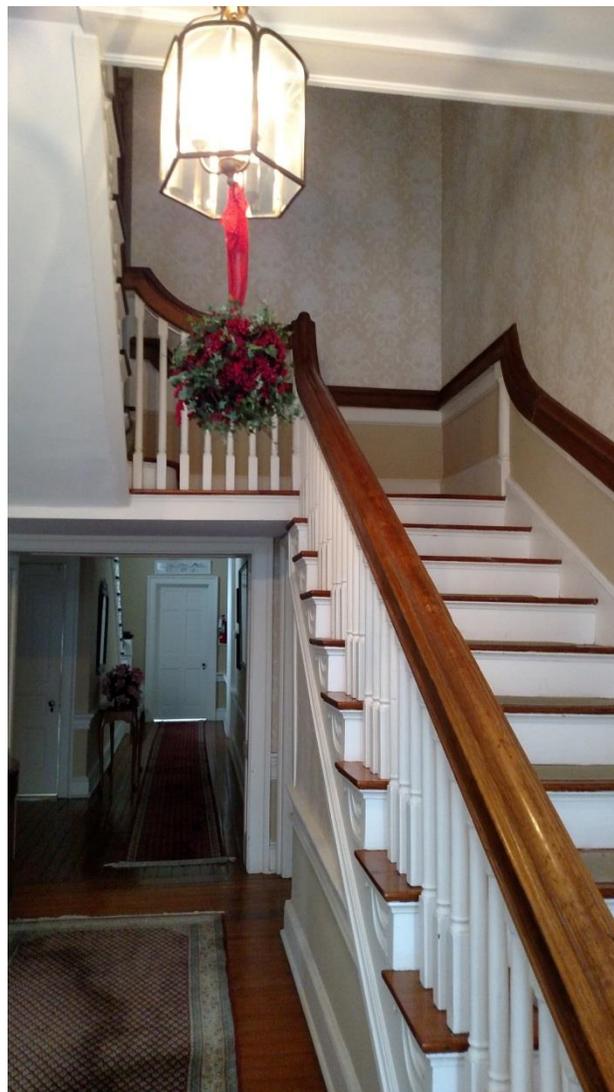
Winton Manor House Ornament – This is in the drawing and proof stage to be produced by the Charleston Mint, Brevard, NC. This should be available for purchase in time for the Colonial Tea Event.

Donations: Please consider the WMHPS when planning your Estate giving.

DECEMBER 2017



CHRISTMAS AT THE WINTON MANOR HOUSE 2016



NEW MEMBERS - WINTON MANOR HOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join us in preserving Winton Manor House and its historical grounds and outbuildings!

Your yearly renewable \$25 single person membership will be honored until December 30th 2018. Winton Manor House Preservation Society historic lectures are free to members.

Simply fill out the form below, include your payment and mail it to Winton Manor House Preservation Society, 599 Patrick Henry Hwy, Amherst, VA 24521

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Would you be willing to volunteer at events or work projects? _____

Make checks payable to the Winton Manor House Preservation Society

Amount enclosed _____

What events would you like to see us host? _____

Note: All proceeds of memberships and events go to preserving Winton.

Your membership fee and any other donations are tax deductible. Winton Manor House Preservation Society is a 501(c) 3 organization.

Additional Contribution/Donation \$ _____

Winton - Where we embrace the future by learning from the past