

## **BACON HALL**

**840 Acres between Gainesville & Haymarket**

**Owned by Richard B. Tyler and later by J. B. Grayson and others. For more information on Bacon Hall see Deed Book #16, page 128, Land Cause Book 1805-1849, page 89, and Map Book 2 page 26**

**20 May 1840**

**Tyler vs Taliaferro Etc.**

At a Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery, of the County of Prince William, held on the 20th day of May, 1840.

George G. Tyler, guardian of Helen Taliaferro and Gustavus B. Tyler, plaintiffs against Helen Taliaferro and Gustavus B. Tyler, infants over the age of fourteen, Mary Ann Horner, William B. Tyler, sen., James M. Tyler, Henry B. Tyler and Elizabeth his wife, Sarah Tyler, Charles R. Tyler, Wm. B. Tyler, Robert W. Murray and Ann H. his wife, Edmond B. Taliaferro, Sarah F. Taliaferro, Martha L. Taliaferro, and Richard C. Taliaferro defendants.

This cause coming on this day to be heard on the bill, answer, and depositions of witnesses, in consideration whereof, the court doth adjudge, order and decree that James Nelson, Frederick Foote, Charles B. Stewart, John Graham and Cyrus C. Marsteller, be and are, hereby appointed Commissioners to lay off and allot to Mary Ann Horner, adjoining to her tract of land, one eighth part of the tract of land called BACON HALL, according to quantity and quality, of which Richard B. Tyler died seized, lying near Haymarket, in the County of Prince William and if necessary, then employ a surveyor to aid them in such allotments; and the court doth further order and decree that John W. Tyler be and is hereby appointed commissioner who is authorized and empowered to make sale of the residue of the said tract of land after said allotment is made to the said Mary Ann, on the following terms, Viz: One third of the purchase money to be paid on the 1st day of January 1841; one third on the 1st day of January 1842, and the remaining third on the 1st day of January 1843, taking bonds from the purchaser, payable to the parties entitled, with good personal security, and that he execute a deed to the purchaser, and take from him a deed of trust to secure the purchase money.

And that for the portion of the purchase money coming to the infant defendants, Helen Taliaferro, and Gustavus B. Tyler, he is hereby directed to take bonds, conditioned to pay the accruing interest annually to their guardians, and the principal sum on their arriving at the age of twenty-one years.

J. H. Reid, clerk

Alexandria Gazette 20 Jun 1840

**PUBLIC SALE OF LAND** – At a Circuit Court of Law and Chancery of the County of Prince William, held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 1840.

George G. Tyler, guardian of Helen Taliaferro and Gustavus B. Tyler, plaintiffs against Helen Taliaferro and Gustavus B. Tyler, infants over the age of fourteen. Mary Ann Horner, William B. Tyler Sr., James M. Tyler, Henry B. Tyler and Elizabeth his wife, Sarah Tyler, Charles R. Tyler, William B. Tyler, Robert W. Murray and Ann H. his wife, Edmund B. Taliaferro, Sarah F. Taliaferro, Martha L. Taliaferro, Mary A. Taliaferro, and Richard C. Taliaferro, defendants.

**IN CHANCERY**

This cause coming on this day to be heard on the bill, answer, and depositions of witnesses, in consideration whereof, the Court doth adjudge, order and decree, that James Nelson, Frederick Foote, Charles B. Stewart, John Graham and Cyrus C. Marsteller, (any three or more of whom may act,) be, and are, hereby appointed commissioners to lay off and allot to Mary Ann Horner, adjoining to her tract of land, one eighth part of the tract of land called "BACON HALL," according to quantity and quality, of which Richard B. Tyler died seized, lying near Haymarket, in the County of Prince William, and if necessary, they employ a surveyor to aid them in such allotments; and the Court doth further order and decree, that John W. Tyler be, and is, hereby appointed commissioner, who is authorized and empowered to make sale of the residue of the said tract of land after said allotment is made to the said Mary Ann, on the following terms, viz; one third of the purchase money to be paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1841; one third on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1842, and the remaining third on the first day of January 1843, taking bonds from the purchaser, payable to the parties entitled, with good personal security, and that he execute a deed to the purchaser, and take from him a deed of trust to secure the purchase money.

And that for the portion of the purchase money coming to the infant defendants, Helen Taliaferro, and Gustavus B. Tyler, he is hereby directed to take bonds, conditioned to pay the accruing interest annually, to their guardians, and the principal sum on their arriving at the age of twenty-one years. The expenses incident to the sale of the said land to be paid out of the purchase money, and the Court doth further order and decree that said commissioner advertise the tract of land hereby authorized to be sold at least sixty days previous to this sale in newspapers printed in the towns of Warrenton & Leesburg, to be sold on the premises, and the court doth further order that the commissioner authorized to allot the one-eighth of said tract of land to Mary Ann Horner, and the commissioner authorized to make sale of the residue of the tract report their proceedings under this order with a view to a final decree.

J. H. Reid, clerk

**BACON HALL near Gainesville, Va. February 13<sup>th</sup> 1857**

**Box #7, Folder 3, Accession # 36710, Reel #4200, pages 0561- 0565**

## Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

His Excellency, Henry Wise

Governor of Virginia

Dear Sir, I feel it a duty incumbent on me as a citizen of Prince William County, and of the neighborhood in which the murder of George E. Green was perpetrated by his negroes, to address you at this time in relation to the two, Ellen and Elias, which you have thought proper to respite until 22 May. I do not know upon what ground you considered it your duty as Governor of Virginia to respite those negroes, nor is it necessary for the purpose of this communication that I should know but I am perfectly certain that no petition has been for respite or pardon circulated for signatures or signed by a single respectable man in this county. I am in a position to know what I write. A number of the court before which they were tried residing in the neighborhood in which this most brutal murder was committed and in the everyday intercourses with men of all classes and from every part of this county.

The question for recommending these two (Ellen and Elias) for consideration to transportation beyond the limits of the U. S. was brought before the court after they had been convicted and sentence of death had been pronounced but the court refused to recommend them – petitions have been spoken of in my presence and I have heard others say they heard them spoken of, but I have not seen one nor have I seen a man in the county who has seen one and I will here add that every man I have heard speak upon this subject and I have heard many expressed his determination not to sign a petition should one be handed for signature. You will therefore readily conclude that your proclamation to our sheriff ordering suspension of sentence of death in the cases of death of Ellen and Elias caused to say a great surprise in this community they had been convicted upon their own confession, each one made separately, after a trial as fair and impartial as prisoner, ever had or one of the most cold blooded and brutal murders that had ever been perpetrated.

If you will examine the evidence you will find they (all five) went most deliberately to work, tied Mr. Green to his chair and the old woman Nelly began by striking him on his head with an axe; that he succeeded in wresting the axe from her after she had given him several blows, and defended himself retreating – that they all pursued near two hundred yards, Ellen and Elias, doing their utmost to stay his progress and they now (since your respite) say that Ellen held one leg and Elias the other, whilst the older one completed the murder – the question as to how they became enlisted in the plot was put to – two both before & since respite was announced to them, Ellen & Elias say now, as they all said before, that the old woman proposed it first and everyone agreed to it. Neither persuasion nor threat having been used towards either one of them by any one at anytime.

Upon examination of the evidence of L. L. Lynn one of the witnesses (a man living in view of Green's house. You will find that these two (twins) were fifteen years old last spring – They were now, therefore, near sixteen years old, the woman Ellen is of large size for a woman, and very well developed physically – probably as well developed as she ever would be. The boy Elias is smaller in stature but admitted by all to be the most intelligent of the set. You can form some idea of the confidence his master placed in his power of mind and body given the fact that Elias drove his 4 horse wagon when delivering his crop of peanuts at our R.R. Depot at distance of 8 miles from his farm.

I have now given your Excellency some of the facts in regard to the matter and as a citizen in the immediate neighborhood and of this most fiendish murder, who saw way more madenoustic day after the murder being on the spot – a member of the court who heard the whole trial – and a man in that every day intercourse with men from all parts of our country. I certainly have had every opportunity to form an idea of the justice of the sentence upon these Negroes – and I can but say that it is a perfectly just sentence and that any further interference on the part of your Excellency, with its execution would be an improper control of our own county business. An interference never contemplated in the forming of our constitution to be given to the Governor.

With just respect

Most obedient

J. B. Grayson

P.S. – I have understood since this letter was written that a petition had been sent your Excellency – signed by W. E. Gaskins and others – gotten up by W. E. Gaskins and also that you have been addressed by John P. Phillips in a petition in behalf of Ellen and Elias.

William E. Gaskins in a resident of the County of Fauquier and has no interest of any sort in Prince William, has no more right to petition your Excellency in regard to this our own County business, than I have to advise that you do not allow your overseer in Accomac to whip one of your negroes there, who disobeyed him.

John P. Phillips a lawyer of Warrenton was (with four other lawyers) assigned by the court as counsel to defend these five Negroes. They were as ably defended as prisoners everywhere – of which you can form some idea from the fact that two entire days were occupied in the trial although tried jointly and each Negro confessed the murder – so that I am equally at a loss to know what Mr. John P. Phillips interest in the matter now consists in.

Should your Excellency desire to communicate for information or otherwise, with our County men the clerk of the County Court P. D. Lipscomb or the Commonwealth Attorney Eppa Hunton will give reliable information.

Should you wish to know anything further from me upon the subject – address Gainesville, Prince William County, Virginia

With respect

Your obedient servant

J. B. Grayson

BACON HALL FOR SALE – By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Prince William County, pronounced on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1870, in the suit of Carter vs Grayson’s administrator, the undersigned, appointed commissioners for that purpose, will, on the FIFTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1870, that being court day, at the front door of the court house, in Brentsville, offer for sale, that VALUABLE TRACT OF LAND called BACON HALL of which Dr. John B. Grayson died seized, containing about 412 ACRES. The land lies within 1 ½ miles of Gainesville, a station on the Manassas Gap Railroad, and is considered first rate land. The improvements consist of good DWELLING and out houses, &c. also a LOT OF GROUND at Gainesville. We are authorized to sell at private sale.

TERMS – One tenth of the purchase money in cash on the day of sale; the residue in three installments, bearing interest from the day of sale, and payable as follows: enough on confirmation of sale to make with cash payment one-fourth of the whole purchase money; three eights in one year, and the residue in two years from the day of sale. Purchasers to give bond and the title to be retained as security for the deferred payments. Eppa Hunton and Powell Harrison, commissioners – Warrenton Index and Manassas Gazette copy.

Alexandria Gazette 12 Jul 1871

BACON HALL FOR SALE – By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Prince William County, pronounced on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1870, in the suit of Carter vs Grayson’s administrator, the undersigned, appointed commissioners for that purpose, will, on the SEVENTH DAY OF AUGUST, 1871, that being court day, at the front door of the court house, in Brentsville, offer for sale, that VALUABLE TRACT OF LAND called BACON HALL of which Dr. John B. Grayson died seized, containing about 412 ACRES. The land lies within 1 ½ miles of Gainesville, a station on the Manassas Gap Railroad, and is considered first rate land. The improvements consist of good DWELLING and out houses, &c. also a LOT OF GROUND at Gainesville. We are authorized to sell at private sale.

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Alexandria Gazette 07 Jul 1875

Letters from Prince William County from correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette – Brentsville, Va. July 6 – Our County Court closed yesterday, having done little business. Indeed county courts, as they now exist, are humbugs. Col. Edmund Berkeley was appointed assessor of land in district No. 1, (above Cedar Run,) and A. J. Davis for district No. 2 (below the run) Charles Armistead, a colored man, was convicted of felony and sent to the penitentiary for one year.

The RACES at BACON HALL, yesterday, were very fine, and passed off agreeably to winners and losers, especially to winners. The farmers are complaining of the dry weather. The oat crop is short and in most instances the seed will not be recovered.

The people of our country are looking forward with considerable interest to the action of the Senatorial Convention for this district. Judge Charles E. Sinclair is the unanimous choice of our people. The representative mantle could not at this time fall upon the shoulders of a better man. It is needless for me to name the many qualities that he will bring to the discharge of the duties incident to such an important trust. Devoted to the interest of Virginia he will ever be on the alert that her honor be not tarnished nor her luster dimmed. With such a candidate, peculiarly fitted for the position, and more especially sustained by the fact that Prince William has never, since the war, had a representative in the Senate of Virginia, it is to be hoped that the other counties which form this district will yield to us our man, not for these reasons alone, but in consideration of his especial aptitude to meet the coming crisis in our State concerns, as well as his zeal for and devotion to the interest of the State in the past. By the way I see that the committees for other districts have already named the time for their conventions. Why is it that our men are laggards? Sometime early in August would suit our farmers. Then the harvest season will be over and wheat seeding will not have commenced.