

Historic Name – Graham Park
Date or Period – Mid 1800th Century
Original Use – Residence
Vicinity - Triangle
Source – Prince William: A Past to Preserve

Although no apparent remains are in evidence, this site was the plantation of John Graham, a Scottish merchant who came to Virginia around 1740. A part of his estate is now included in the subdivision Graham Park, but the greater part is included in the Quantico Marine Corps Base. A massive oak tree on the site, one of the largest in the county, is thought to have been the site of Native American council meetings. It is claimed through two marriages to Virginia women from well-established families; Graham was able to rise in social standing. He gave up his mercantile activities after he succeeded the father of his second wife as clerk to the Prince William County court in 1746. Even while serving as a public officeholder, Graham still retained a foothold in the merchants' councils, and was able to exert influence over the major institutions in his community. One of his first acts as community leader was to donate 60 acres of land to establish the Town of Dumfries. Chartered in 1748, Dumfries was the first town established in Prince William County. Named after Graham's hometown in Scotland, the town was laid out beside the public tobacco exporting port of the then-navigable Quantico Creek. From 1752 to 1777, Graham was clerk of the Prince William County court and officiated over the courts at both Dumfries and Cedar Run. He gave up the office to his eldest son in 1777.

Alexandria Gazette 1 Jul 1816

FOR SALE on a credit of one, two and three years, that highly improved farm in Prince William County, known by the name of GRAHAM PARK, owned by the late Doctor George Graham.

The tract contains about 800 acres, of which about 200 acres are well timbered. The advantages of the farm are equal to any in that section of the country, its distance from Washington being only 35 miles, Alexandria 30, Dumfries 19, Occoquan Mills 16, and on the farm is a comfortable dwelling house 70 by 20 feet, also a stout kitchen and meat house with every other necessary out house, an excellent well of water, orchard, garden, etc. It is unnecessary to speak of the soil, presuming those desirous of purchasing will view it, which may be done on application to John Hooe, Esq. who at present has the farm in his occupancy. Possession may be had on the first of next January, the purchaser having the privilege of seeding.

AT GRAHAM PARK ON WEDNESDAY THE 4TH SEPTEMBER WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE several likely Negroes, Horses, and Farming Utensils, deliverable on the 1st January next. Also Sheep, a great proportion of which are half and three quarters blooded, Cattle and Hogs, with all the Household and Kitchen Furniture. Terms made known on day of the sale.

John G. Heslop, Ex'r
of George Graham, deceased
Petersburg, Va. June 18, 1816

4 March 1844

Alfred Taylor to George Taylor - Power of Attorney
Deed Book 18, page 137

Know all men by these presents that I Albert Taylor of United States Navy, at present located in the City of Washington and District of Columbia, but about to repair to the United States Ship Boston for a sea voyage have made, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute, and appoint and in my place and stead put and depute, George Taylor (my father) of the city and District aforesaid, my true and lawful attorney for me, and in my name, and for my use, to sell and

convey jointly with the other parties interested, to wit John W. Bronaugh and Frances P. T. Bronaugh wife of the said Jno. W. Bronaugh and my wife Nancy M. Taylor, my entire undivided interest in a certain tract of land called Graham Park situated on Quantico Creek in the County of Prince William and State of Virginia, giving and granted to my said attorney by these presents my whole strength and authority in and about the premises, to have, use, and take all lawful ways and means in my name, and for the purpose aforesaid. And generally all and every act, or acts device, or devices, in the law whatsoever needful and necessary to be done in and about the premises, for me, and in my name, to do, execute, and perform as fully, largely, and amply, as I myself might, or could do, if personally present, and attorneys one or more under him for the purpose aforesaid to make and constitute and again to revoke at pleasure. Hereby ratifying, allowing, and holding for firm and effectual all and whatsoever my said attorney shall lawfully do in and about the premises aforesaid, by virtue hereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal on this seventy fifth day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty three.

Alfred Taylor (seal)

District of Columbia, County of Washington to Wit:

We Thomas C. Down and Benj. K. Morsell justices of the peace in and for the District and County aforesaid, certify that Alfred Taylor party to power of attorney bearing date the twenty fifth day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty three, and hereunto annexed, the said Alfred Taylor being personally known to us as the individual who executed the said Power of Attorney, and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed. Given under our hands and seals this twenth fifth day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty three.

T. C. Down J. P. (seal)

B. K. Morsell (seal)

District of Columbia, Washington County to wit:

I William Brent clerk of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia for the County of Washington do hereby certify, that Benjamin K. Morsell and Thomas C. Down, Esquire, before whom the foregoing power of attorney was acknowledged and who have thereto subscribed their names were at the time of so doing, justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn.

In Testimony Whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of said Circuit Court this 22nd day of January 1844.

W. Brent , clerk

At a Court of Quarterly Sessions held for Prince William County, March 4, 1844, This Power of Attorney with certificate annexed, was presented to the Court and ordered to be recorded.

Teste, J. Williams.

Alexandria Gazette 2 Jan 1854

VIRGINIA LAND FOR SALE – We wish to dispose of a part of a tract of land, known as “GRAHAM PARK,” lying on Quantico Creek, one mile below Dumfries in Prince William County, Va., 2 ½ from Potomac River (where there is a regular Steamboat Landing,) and 25 miles below Alexandria. We will sell 250 ACRES though if preferred, we would sell a greater or less quantity, 100 acres is cleared, under cultivation, and has a good DWELLING HOUSE, barn, &c., upon it, with a well of

excellent water. There is no land in the country better situated for cultivation. The orchard is large, contains a variety of choice fruit, and in favorable seasons 100 barrels of superior cider can be made from the crab orchard – 150 acres is thickly wooded with white oak, chestnut, &c., &c., and the wood can be sent to market with great facility, as wood boats take in their cargoes from a landing on the place. Apply to

R. B. Merchant, Dumfries Va.

C. W. C. Dunnington, Washington DC