

Mayfield

Source: "Prince William the Story of Its People and Its Places" by The Virginia Writers Project – Originally compiled in 1941 and later sponsored by The Bethlehem Good Housekeeping Club of Manassas, Virginia in 1961 –

This route is northwestward from Dumfries on State 234; Dumfries – Independent Hill – Lake Jackson – Manassas – Stone House – Catharpin – (Leesburg); Dumfries to the Loudoun County Line 29.9 miles.

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"At 2.4 miles from Manassas on County 615 is the site of MAYFIELD (L). Until a few years ago the walls of what was a square stone house, built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, were still standing. Nathaniel Harris received in 1717 the original patent to this land, then known as "BUCKHELE". His daughter, Ann Frances became the wife of Howson Hooe, who died in 1780. The first of the Hooe's to reach America was Rice, who was born in 1599. He settled in what became Charles City County; in 1632 he was a Burgess from Shirley Hundred and later a Burgess from Charles City County. His son, Rice Hooe II, settled in Westmoreland, and his grandson Rice Hooe III, father of Howson Hooe, established himself in the Chotank community in Stafford and built Barnsfield as his seat. There he began to operate in 1713 one of the first ferries to cross the Potomac – "from Colonel Rice Hooe's to Cedar point, in Maryland," where a new bridge is now being built across the river (1940), In 1751 Howson and Ann Frances Hooe gave the land upon which Mayfield stood to their sons Howson and John, the former then living on the estate. Other sons of Howson and Ann Frances were William, Harris, and Bernard Hooe of HAZEL PLAIN. The part of the Harris tract that was left to John Hooe passed to his son Bernard, whom William Kemp killed in a duel in 1809. Bernard had purchased from Thomas Blackburn in 1800 a small part of the Yorkshire Farm and had acquired other property in the vicinity. Among the bequests to his wife, Mary Simms Hooe, was his share of the original Harris patent; to John he left his home site of 150 acres between Rushy Branch and Bull Run. The tragic duel had its origin just before William Kemp started on a western trip. It seems that the young Hooe used abusive language, to which Kemp retorted. Hooe struck his neighbour with a whip. And Kemp got the better of Hooe in a physical struggle that followed. The duel forthwith took place on the Maryland Shore. Hooe is said to have died at Rippon Lodge. The second Howson Hooe was a vestryman of Dettingen Parish and sheriff and justice of Prince William.