

THE GROVE

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 southwestward from the Fairfax County line on State 28; (Centreville) – Manassas – Milford Mills – Bristow – Nokesville – (Catlett); Fairfax County line to Fauquier County line. 14.4 miles.

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At 8.9 miles on State 28 is the junction with State 295. Right on State 295 is THE GROVE (L) 5.6 miles, once known as The HOMESTEAD, a large frame house with two large chimneys, one on each end. Originally there were two rooms on each floor and two in the attic; several rooms have been added. A large stone dairy and a few of the original outbuildings stand close by. A grove of locust and hemlocks and three large holly trees, surrounding the house, explain its name. The property on which the house stands was part of an 819 acre tract granted to Matthew Morse in 1726. The original part of the house must date back to 1759, for Bertrand Ewell's survey of the Fauquier-Prince William line – made that year – shows the home of Dr. Thornton in this vicinity and a grant of 307 acres to Timothy Thornton in 1741 stated that Dr. Thomas Thornton then owned the adjoining tract, which had been granted to Morse.

In 1779 Alvin Moxley bought 320 acres from Robert Warren, executor for Charles Thornton, deceased, and Alexander Keith and his wife, Mary, formerly the wife of Charles Thornton, Alvin Moxley married Anne Dent Ireland, whose first husband was Richard Hooe.

The Grove was subsequently owned by Gilbert Ireland Moxley (1778-1811), B. G. D. Moxley, and Lucy Douglas Moxley Washington. Miss Louisa Scott Moxley, now (1941) living with her half-sister, Mrs. Washington, was born February 1841.