

WINDSOR

Prior to the Revolutionary War, the lands of General William Woodford stretched from the banks of the Rappahannock River, between Snow Creek and Moss Neck, as far inland as the present Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad tracks at Woodford (named in his honor). It was an extremely large plantation, and the home there was known as Windsor. It was located on the hill south of Hill's Pender Campsite on Windsor Road. All traces of the home, however, have long since disappeared. When Caroline County was formed, William Woodford became the county's first sheriff, a very influential position.

KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE

Robert Beverley, planter, lawmaker, historian and champion of the plain people of this area, was born in Middlesex County, educated in England and gained the attention of the people of that country by his book - THE HISTORY AND PRESENT STATE OF VIRGINIA. It was this book that paved the way for the appointment of Beverley's friend, Alexander Spotswood, as governor of the colony.

Beverley owned considerable acreage, most of which was south of A. P. Hill. The name of his plantation home was The Park, which was built on the banks of Beverley Run.

In 1716, Governor Spotswood organized a party, comprised of some Williamsburg gentlemen, to explore the Shenandoah Valley. Late in the summer, the party left Williamsburg and spent their second night at the home of Robert Beverley. Joined by Beverley, the party left at sun-up for Windsor, the home of William Woodford. From The Park to Windsor, the distance was only 20 miles - but with a road "in name only."

The trail was obstructed on every side by fallen trees and dense undergrowth. The trip consumed nine hours before the party reached Windsor which overlooked the Rappahannock River Valley, (The reader must remember that the Rappahannock River was much larger and followed a slightly different course than it does today).

From all indications, the party, in order to reach Windsor, had to travel through what is now Ft. A. P. Hill. They must have entered the post near Christopher's Fork (on the southern boundary of the post) and followed the winding, general direction of Reservation Road 608 as far as what was once a county school (Mica) and is now known as the Heth area. They must then have turned east on Reservation Road 607 to Pullers Corner, and then veered north along 607 to the home of General Woodford (this area, later, was referred to as the Moss Neck area).

General Woodford joined the party; and when they reached the Valley of the Shenandoah, Governor Spotswood "knighted" each person there with the dubious title of Knights of the Golden Horseshoe. Upon their return, Beverley was granted 3,420 additional acres of land over which they had traveled on their way to Windsor. The grant of land is no doubt within the confines of Ft. A. P. Hill.