



# FRIENDS OF THE HOLLOW

*News*



[www.furthr.com/hollow](http://www.furthr.com/hollow)

June 2002

---

## **Virginia Historic Landmark Application Stalled While Awaiting State Review Board Concurrence On Marshall Occupation**

The application for Virginia Historic Landmark designation of The Hollow is currently on hold because the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) State Review Board only approved the nomination of The Hollow for its independent architectural significance rather than for its clear association with Chief Justice John Marshall and his father, Col. Thomas Marshall.

Evidence of Marshall's occupation continues to mount but apparently has not yet reached the level that the State Review Board requires in this case. Great efforts are now directed toward further research and compilation of evidence proving that the 18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling was clearly that in which the Marshalls lived. These efforts include archaeological investigation, archival research in both Virginia and Kentucky, and a modern day survey of the 1765 Lee-Marshall lease for The Hollow to determine if there could be any other 18<sup>th</sup>

century building sites within the original leasehold.

## **Archaeological Survey and Excavation Completed**

From August of 2000 until August of 2001, Dr. David Collins commissioned the Center for Historic Preservation at Mary Washington College to conduct an extensive archaeological survey of The Hollow using excavation units under and around the house and additional shovel test pits in the surrounding yard. The results, which are detailed in a January 2002 report, are truly fascinating.

The survey confirmed the long occupation period of The Hollow, with many artifacts dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and some to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Definite 18<sup>th</sup> century artifacts included creamware and hand-made wrought nails. Of the test pits that proved positive for Marshall period artifacts, 4.5% of the total number of artifacts were from that period. This is consistent with the Marshall occupation's period as a percentage of the total Hollow occupation period (assuming 1950 as a cut off date),

which represents only 4.9% of the known habitation period for the site.

Some of the most interesting finds occurred directly under the old house. After digging through ten layers of earth in the crawlspace under The Hollow, the archaeologists found a *plaster* floor. Eighteenth century artifacts were found *above* this floor level in most cases. This would indicate that, yet again, The Hollow proves itself to be a very nice frontier dwelling. Similar subterranean plaster floors exist in the dairy/cold storage areas of Mount Vernon.

The complete detailed report, with pictures, drawings and artifact descriptions and counts (including an 1844 penny) is available on our web site under "Hollow News" or direct at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/7445/news.htm>.

## Phase II Archaeological Investigation

The Center for Historic Preservation at Mary Washington College has submitted a proposal for a second phase archaeological investigation of The Hollow site, which would include shovel test pits over a much wider area of the original Marshall leasehold in order to rule out the possibility of a different dwelling site. Coupled with this effort will be a historical survey of the original 1765 Marshall leasehold overlaid on present-day property boundaries. These efforts are intended to provide further hard evidence of The Hollow's authenticity.

## Kentucky Research

We recently engaged the Mason County Museum in Maysville, Kentucky to perform a search of its materials for anything that might describe The Hollow. Thomas Marshall moved his still-growing family to Maysville after the Revolution where he

built "Buckpond" and subsequently died in 1802.

## John Marshall Children's Book Published

An excellent new children's book, written and illustrated by Geraldine Lee Susi, has been published about the boyhood of Chief Justice John Marshall including his time at The Hollow. Incorporating the known historical facts about Marshall's boyhood, *My Father, My Companion* embellishes on these to create a nice story for 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Susi, who taught in Fairfax County schools for 19 years, also wrote a companion study guide for teachers.

The book and study guide can be purchased from EPM Publications Inc., 4138 Fox Hollow Road, Delaplane, VA 20144 (540) 364-6021 or (800) 289-2339.

\* \* \*

The Friends of the Hollow, Inc. is a Virginia non-stock, non-profit charitable corporation formed in 1981 with the express purpose of preservation and restoration of the boyhood home of Chief Justice John Marshall known as The Hollow. Basic membership dues are \$10.00 per year and sustaining membership is \$25.00 per year. Additional donations are welcome. Dues and contributions are fully tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Friends of the Hollow, Inc. and mail to Friends of the Hollow, 4283 N. 38th Street, Arlington, VA 22207.

*Friends of the Hollow News* is published by the Friends of the Hollow, Inc., 4283 N. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Arlington, VA 22207. Editor: T.M. deButts