

Fauquier Heritage and Preservation News

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Boyhood Home of John Marshall Purchased

Plans include preservation, restoration of "The Hollow"

The effort to preserve the boyhood home of the great Chief Justice John Marshall, "The Hollow", has taken a giant step forward. The 322-acre tract on which the Chief Justice's boyhood home was recently purchased for \$1,375,000, by Dr. David C. Collins, owner of Learning Tree Farms in nearby Delaplane. Dr. Collins became interested in the land because The Hollow sat exposed and unprotected. Initial plans call for restoration of the structure and preservation of the surrounding property. Collins intends to establish a park and educational facility for children as well as an archaeological effort to learn more about how Marshall and his family of 12 lived in their humble frontier home.

The Hollow is part of a large tract that was owned by a partnership that included Markham resident Warren K. Montouri. As a minority partner representing the sellers, Mr. Montouri assisted materially in the negotiations that led to the sale of the land to Dr. Collins. "I'm thrilled to see The Hollow move closer to historic preservation," said Warren Montouri from his cattle farm, "Gibraltar," near Markham.

"This is a milestone event for Marshall's boyhood home and for the Friends of the Hollow," said Thomas Marshall deButts, a 6th generation descendent of the Chief Justice and President of the Friends of the Hollow. "Our organization was established in 1981 to work toward preservation of The Hollow. For many years, we have tried to obtain the landowners' permission to designate Marshall's boyhood home an historic



landmark. Now, Dr. Collins has instructed us to move forward."

"The legacy of Chief Justice John Marshall's life's work continues to be of vital importance in our country's development," said Dr. David Collins. "Marshall is a true self-made American hero and a wonderful role model

for our children. Bringing John Marshall's boyhood home "back to life" is a way to connect children to the history of this great man, Virginia and the nation," Collins added.

The young John Marshall lived in the Hollow from age 9 to age 17 where he

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Boyhood Home of John Marshall

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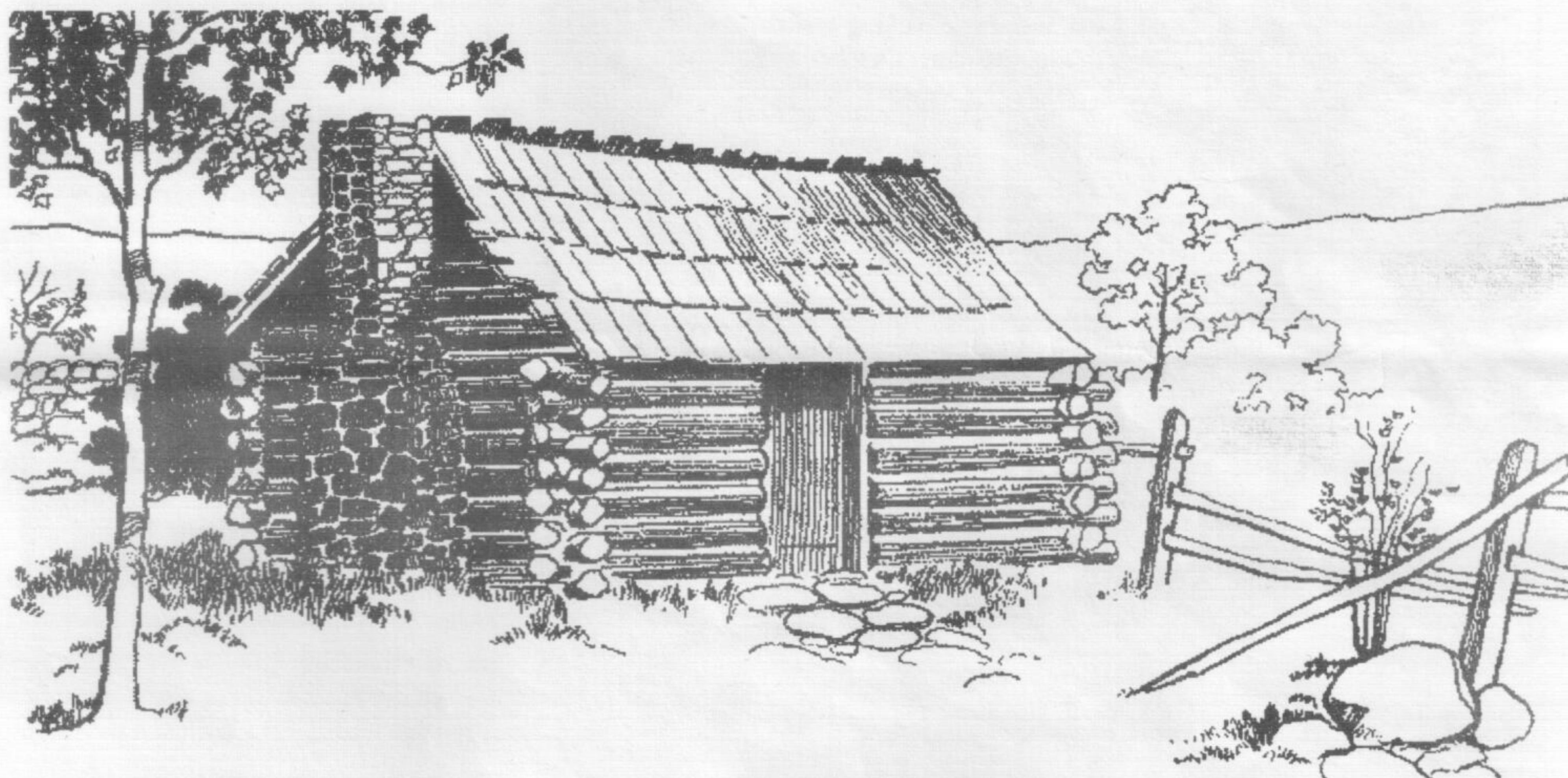
acquired an education in literature, languages, history, philosophy and logic from his parents and a "live-in" teacher. These early years had a profound impact on his character and intellect, preparing him for his later role as advocate and interpreter of the U.S. Constitution.

Since the Friends of the Hollow was founded in 1981 by the late Evelyn M. "Eva" Light, it has pursued a vision to preserve and protect The Hollow. "We hoped that, in time,

structure, dendrochronological (tree ring) dating of the structure to 1764, architectural drawings of the structure, and application for and funding of an historical highway marker on Route 688. Future efforts of the Friends of the Hollow will include assisting Dr. Collins in gaining Virginia and National Historic Landmark recognition for the site, and with restoration of the house.

Pictures, architectural drawings and other information about The Hollow can be accessed at www.furthr.com/hollow

Dr. Collins resides on property a few miles southeast of The Hollow that includes the original home site of Chief Justice Marshall's third son, John Marshall Jr., known as "Mont Blanc." Dr. Collins has been gradually



our dream of a fully restored and preserved Marshall boyhood home would become reality," said Friends of the Hollow founding director and Fauquier historian John K. Gott. "All these years later, we're thrilled to see the light at the end of the tunnel." Gott has also been instrumental in saving and restoring the Upper Carter's Run Baptist Meeting House in Marshall.

Efforts of the Friends of the Hollow have included installing a roof and stabilizing the

reassembling a large part of the original 2375 acres that comprised the Chief Justice's February 3, 1820 wedding gift to his third son, John, when he married Elizabeth Maria Alexander. Although the original house at Mont Blanc burned on October 1, 1894, the original farm office is still in good condition, and the family cemetery has been restored by Dr. Collins. Dr. Collins has also sponsored archaeological digs on the Mont Blanc site for Fauquier County schoolchildren, which



Queries

Tammy Shank Williams, 36 Lucy Run, Amelia, OH 45102, wishes any information on Jacob SHANK, born in Virginia in 1784 or his father, Henry SHANK.

are led by professional archaeologists.

Friends of the Hollow, Inc is a Virginia non-profit charitable corporation formed in 1981 with the express purpose of preservation and restoration of Chief Justice John Marshall's boyhood home—The Hollow. Contributions can be made to Friends of the Hollow, Inc., 4283 N. 38th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22207.