

Thop. Early Childhood

to be answered

Pocahontas High School
Powhatan, Virginia
February 27, 1956

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.
41, East Forty-Seventh Street
Chicago 15, Ill.

Dear Dr. Berry:

I, Marion Taylor, Librarian of Pocahontas High School, Powhatan, Va., am writing you in reference to the letter you sent to our school concerning Fort Powhatan and Wilson Wharf. I searched the books here, but I could not find either place.

Yesterday, Miss Geneva Barham, the Home Economics Teacher in our school and I were enrouted to Surry County, her home, and on traveling on Route 10 between Hopewell and Burrowsville, Virginia we saw a sign saying "Fort Powhatan". We followed the road to the fort and inquired along the way and finally met a Negro, by the name of Mr. Charles Hunt, who lived in that area for quite a while and he informed us that it was the historical spot we were looking for. He carried us to the Fort grounds and the trenches are still there. Only the posts are left from the Fort Powhatan Wharf. There is also a brick wall and gun shells that were used during the Civil War. This old Fort was once owned by the government, but it is privately owned today. Its grounds are used for hunting clubs, and wild hogs and deer are hunted on them. This man referred us to another person who was born at Fort Powhatan and he told us that Chief Powhatan built the Fort and it was later used by the Rebels in the Civil War, and Pocahontas was born on its ground. Fort Powhatan is located on the James River on the oldest highway in Virginia. The highway is now Route 614 a secondary unpaved road. Mr. Hunt does commercial fishing from Fort Powhatan and the main fish he sells is shad.

No one knew the exact position of Wilson Wharf, but it is believed it is on the James River across from Fort Powhatan.

Fort Powhatan is in Prince George County and this county is located in the black belt of Virginia. This means it is densely populated with Negroes. The Negroes in this area are mostly share croppers and quite a few are

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home owners too. Hopewell the nearest city has two large industries and they employ Negroes from the county. The main crops raised in Prince George County are peanuts, corn, and grain. This is a poor section of the State.

It was indeed a pleasant experience for me to walk on the historical grounds and if it had not been for your letter I probably would have never seen them.

If you want more information concerning the history of this place I will be glad to send you names and addresses of people who could supply you with this information.

Very truly yours,

Marion V. Taylor
(Miss) Marion V. Taylor
Librarian of the Pocahontas
High School, Powhatan, Va.