

# Berryville

A History of the House at 296 Beach Road in White Stone, Virginia



June 2018

## **Foreword**

This booklet was researched and written by Scott Swett, who purchased the house at 296 Beach Road in 2013, and by Robert N. McKenney, who was born there in 1930.

Permission is granted to copy and distribute this work in its complete form.

**NOTE: Feb 27, 2026: The current owner purchased the home from Scott Swett.**

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# McKenney Family Tree

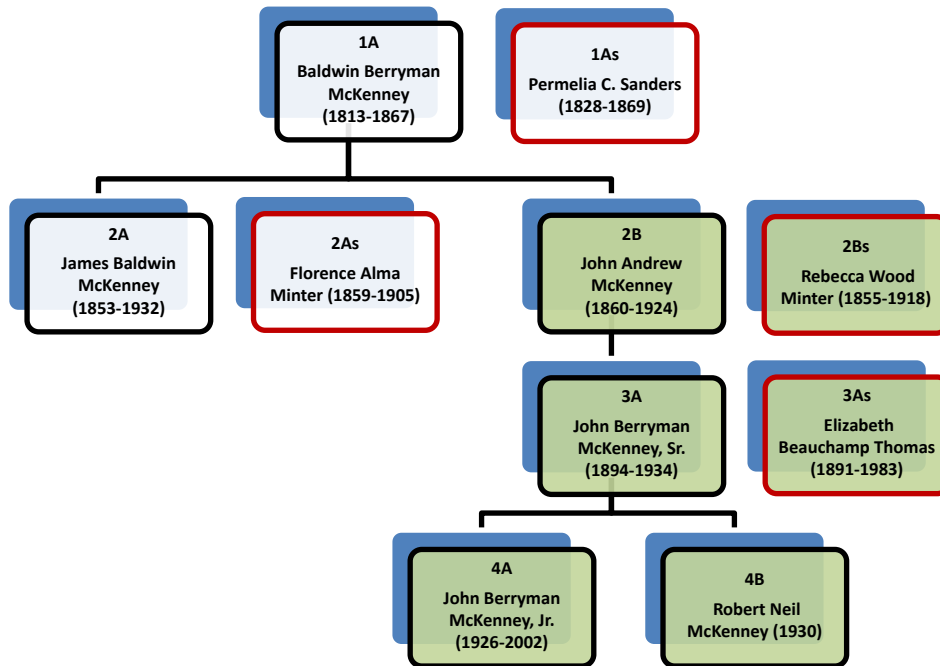


Figure 1: Partial McKenney family tree (Berryville residents highlighted in green)

## Introduction

In the small town of White Stone, Virginia, on a quiet road a few hundred yards south of Route 3 and the town center, stands an unusual house. Distinct from the smaller suburban homes around it, the two-story Victorian recalls a time when steamboats ruled the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers.

A showplace for its time, the house was built in 1902 and 1903 for town constable John Andrew McKenney and his wife Rebecca Minter McKenney, as part of a construction boom that accompanied the building and opening of the White Stone steamboat wharf at the end of Beach Road. This event marked the town's entry into the region's primary network of commerce and travel.

## Background

The White Stone area, including the McKenney farm, was originally part of a royal grant to the Lawson family; a 600-acre tract long known as Pleasant Banks. The old home of the same name still exists, and many descendants of this early colonial Virginia family reside in the community.<sup>1</sup>

## The McKenney family

The McKenney line came from Richmond County, Virginia, where Baldwin Berryman McKenney ("1A" in the McKenney family tree above) had managed the grist mill at Mt. Airy Plantation. He moved to Lancaster County to work as a manager at the Carter plantation Corotoman in 1844, arriving on Christmas Day. His first wife died in the early 1850s, and he married Permelia C. Sanders (1As). Baldwin McKenney had three surviving children by his second marriage, including John Andrew McKenney (2B) and his older brother, James Baldwin McKenney (2A). When their father died, seven-year-old John Andrew moved in with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony M. Sanders (1812-1877, 1813-1882).<sup>2</sup>

John Andrew and James Baldwin married two sisters from a well-to-do family in Richmond; Rebecca Wood Minter (2Bs) and Florence Alma Minter (2As). Both couples settled in White Stone.

John and Rebecca McKenney had a single son who survived to adulthood, John Berryman McKenney, Sr. (3A). In his early teens, he whimsically named the farm "Berryville," a play on "Berryman," the middle name he shared with his late grandfather. John B. married Elizabeth Beauchamp Thomas (3Bs) in 1922 and they had two sons, John Berryman McKenney, Jr. (4A), and Robert Neil McKenney (4B).

James B. McKenney had a large house built in 1896 on the main road on a 1-acre plot purchased from R.M. Sanders.<sup>3</sup> Robert McKenney believes that the James B. and John A. McKenney houses were both built with Minter money, either inherited from the Minter estate in Richmond or provided by George W. Minter, a brother of Rebecca and Florence Minter who was a highly successful newspaper man. Robert recalls that the personal effects at Berryville included a lovely set of Augsburg china given to Rebecca Minter McKenney by her brother, who had given a similar set to Florence Minter McKenney. Robert

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<sup>1</sup> *History of the Town of White Stone, Lancaster County, Virginia*, Elizabeth B. McKenney, 1970, Page 2

<sup>2</sup> *History of the Town of White Stone*, Page 7

<sup>3</sup> Lancaster County Chancery Records Index No. 1898-016, Roscoe B. Fox vs. James B. McKenney

noted that while John Andrew held title to his earlier White Stone home, the 1902 deeds for the land that would become the Berryville farm were in Rebecca McKenney's name.

## The Origins of Berryville

Robert McKenney recalls that John A. McKenney's house was built by H.R. Humphreys, a contractor of excellent reputation who also constructed a number of other houses and churches in the area. Archives of the *Virginia Citizen* from the early 1900s provide additional details. The *Virginia Citizen* was Lancaster County's first newspaper, published in Irvington every Friday from 1891 - 1913 by Editor W. McDonald Lee. Editions from 1900 through 1910 survive, providing a unique window into life in the Northern Neck at the dawn of the steamboat era, with occasional glimpses of members of the McKenney family.

On October 10, 1902 a brief advertisement appeared in the *Virginia Citizen*: "H.R. Humphreys, Contractor and Builder, White Stone, Virginia. I am prepared to submit plans and give estimates on all kinds of House work. Material furnished or otherwise. Work completed with neatness and dispatch."

Mr. Humphreys didn't have to wait long for a response. On October 24<sup>th</sup> the *Citizen* reported, "H.R. Humphreys, carpenter and builder, whose ad was in the *Citizen*, is being overrun with work." The paper noted that "Enos Mercer is getting material in place for building a hotel at new White Stone wharf on the Rappahannock." In January 1903, the *Citizen* provided an update. "The fine buildings of J.A. McKenney and E.N. Mercer are nearing completion. Both are lovely structures and situated on the new road to White Stone." In July, the paper reported approvingly on another Humphreys construction project: "The new Methodist church at Palmers is completed. It is a thing of beauty.... Mr. Humphreys was the contractor, and he turned out a nice job." In September 1903 the paper reported that "J.A. McKenney and family have moved into their new home on the White Stone wharf road...."<sup>4</sup>

Property records at the Lancaster County Courthouse give the date of the McKenney house as 1907, but the *Virginia Citizen* reports show conclusively that it was completed and occupied in 1903.

John Berryman McKenney, the son of John Andrew and Rebecca McKenney, was nearly nine when his family moved into the new house, which was much larger than their previous residence a short distance to the south. In January 1906, when he was 11, the McKenney's former house burned down. The *Virginia Citizen* reported the loss as "\$500 or \$600" and noted there was "no insurance." Robert McKenney was told later that his father retrieved bricks from the earlier site in his pony cart and used them to construct brick walkways around the family's new farmhouse. John Berryman McKenney attended the first White Stone High School as part of its second class but did not graduate.<sup>5</sup>

John A. McKenney was elected as White Stone's constable several times in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and served as the sheriff of the Lancaster County Circuit Court from 1915 through 1918.<sup>6</sup>

Rebecca McKenney died in 1918, and the ownership of Berryville passed to her son. In 1922, John Berryman McKenney married Elizabeth Beauchamp Thomas, a schoolteacher from Richmond County

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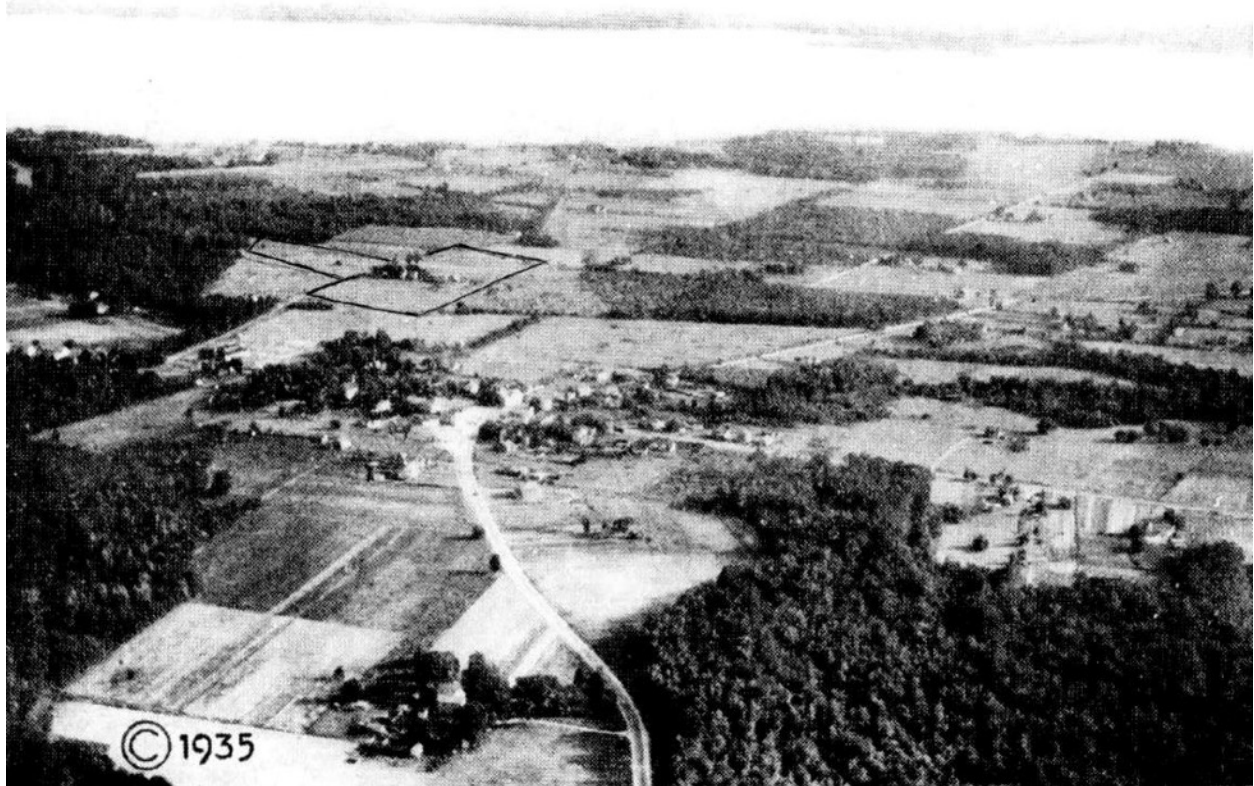
<sup>4</sup> *Virginia Citizen*, various articles in 1902-3 (see Appendix B: *Virginia Citizen* extracts)

<sup>5</sup> *History of the Town of White Stone*, Page 12

<sup>6</sup> Report of the secretary of the Commonwealth to the Governor and General Assembly of Virginia, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918

who had relocated to White Stone after the death of her first husband. John Andrew McKenney died two years later, in 1924. John B. and Elizabeth's sons, John "Jack" Berryman McKenney, Jr. and Robert Neil McKenney were born in the McKenney home in 1926 and 1930.

After John B., Sr. died in 1934, Elizabeth inherited the farm, which by then totaled about 23 acres.



**Figure 2: Aerial view of White Stone looking south circa 1935**

[The photo above is from "Once Upon a Tree: A Brief Study of the Community of White Stone" by Robert N. McKenney). The McKenney farm is outlined above and to the left of center.]

Elizabeth B. McKenney taught and worked as a librarian at the White Stone School (grades 1-12) at the present intersection of Beach Road and Chesapeake Road until 1957. Both her sons, Robert and John, Jr., attended school there. She is remembered for founding the Woman's Club of White Stone in 1928, and as an active member of the White Stone Baptist Church, where she taught classes and served as historian. In 1970, she wrote the history of White Stone for the town's Bicentennial celebration.<sup>7</sup>

John Andrew and Rebecca McKenney, their son John Berryman, Sr. and his wife Elizabeth are buried at the McKenney family plot at the White Stone United Methodist Church Cemetery just north of town.

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<sup>7</sup> Obituary of Mrs. J.B. McKenney, Sr., *Rappahannock Record*, Kilmarnock, Virginia, December 1, 1983

## White Stone Wharf

In January and March of 1902, Rebecca W. McKenney purchased land totaling about 15 acres from G.W. Sanders.<sup>8</sup> In April, *Virginia Citizen* editor W. McDonald Lee laid out a new road [Beach Road] to connect White Stone to the planned steamboat wharf. He also surveyed new lots on the former Pleasant Banks farm, noting that several lots in the area had already been purchased and that a saw-mill was ready for new construction. The White Stone Wharf opened in June, and Baltimore and Fredericksburg steamers began making regular stops. By August, the wharf's canning factory was fully operational as well.<sup>9</sup>

In November 1902, the *Virginia Citizen* commented on the ongoing construction boom:

**A New White Stone:** Lancaster is full of hustle and bustle, and business places are springing up on all sides. Among the latest is that of White Stone Wharf. This place – less than a mile and a half from the village of that name, and its nearest shipping point – is rapidly forging ahead and being watched with a good bit of interest. About a year ago it was surveyed and laid off in lots, and since that time a steamboat wharf, canning factories, stores, a mill and a number of dwellings have been erected and the sound of saw and hammer is continually heard there. The foundation of a large hotel, to cost several thousand dollars, is now being laid.

Both through his newspaper and later as Fish Commissioner of Virginia, W. McDonald Lee played a key role in developing Virginia's Northern Neck into one of the world's leading fishing and oyster centers.<sup>10</sup>

In 1911, J.B. Cralle, Dr. B.H.B. Hubbard, Jr., and Wilbur James formed the Taft Fish Company. The factory was constructed at White Stone Beach by H.R. Humphries.<sup>11</sup> Dr. Hubbard also started a Beach Road shirt factory. Raw materials were shipped from Baltimore by steamboat and complete shirts were shipped back to be sold. Many trees along Beach Road were also planted under Dr. Hubbard's direction.<sup>12</sup>

In 1916, the beach property, which included the menhaden factory, the steamboat wharf, a hotel and a post office, was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Culver. They restored the hotel, converted the factory into a dance pavilion and built a restaurant and cottages for guests. White Stone Beach soon became "the focal point of seasonal recreational activity in the lower Northern Neck."<sup>13</sup>

By the 1930s, cars were becoming more affordable and the highway system was rapidly expanding. Passenger traffic began to dwindle, and in 1933 a hurricane destroyed many of the wharfs. By 1938, the steamboat era had come to an end. In 1957, the Robert O. Norris Bridge was built across the Rappahannock River, connecting Middlesex County in Virginia's Middle Peninsula to Lancaster County just a few hundred yards to the west of the empty beach where White Stone Wharf once stood.

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<sup>8</sup> Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Lancaster County, Virginia, Deed Book 51, Page 511, January 1, 1902; Deed Book 55, Page 414, March 1, 1902

<sup>9</sup> *Virginia Citizen*, various articles in 1902 (see Appendix B: *Virginia Citizen* extracts)

<sup>10</sup> "Report of the Fisheries Convention Held at New Bern, North Carolina, Dec. 13, 1911," Address by Hon. W. McDonald Lee

<sup>11</sup> *Richmond Times Dispatch*, March 4, 1911

<sup>12</sup> *History of the Town of White Stone*, Page 17

<sup>13</sup> "On the Beach at White Stone," Bank of Lancaster Annual Report, 1992, 2-5, Henry Lane Hull

## **The McKenney house and farm: Recollections of Robert N. McKenney**

*Built in the late Queen Anne style, the main house has ceilings on the lower level of about eleven feet and on the upper floor of about ten feet. There were originally three wood-burning chimneys, one fireplace in the living room, and five internal doors on the lower floor with the same on the upper floor. A standing seam tin roof capped the structure, immediately under which was a full un-floored attic. All walls and ceilings were plastered – the entire interior, where not covered by wainscoting and paneling, was plaster that was reinforced with horsehair and applied to wooden laths. The flooring was pine and in some instances oak. There were 32 windows: twelve two-over-two, twelve individual one-over-one and eight one-over-one in four sets of two. There were originally six exit doors. A large front porch crossed the front façade, and there was a second porch at the end of the front entrance hall on the rear façade and off the dining room on the north façade. The trim motif around the doors is known as “tiger’s eye.”*

*The cement porch on the south side was added in 1922, at a cost of about \$3,500 – more than the original price for the house of about \$2,500. The concrete support posts were set by the same builder who constructed a similar porch for the home of Dr. B.H.B. Hubbard at the town’s main intersection.*

*A wraparound porch in the front originally extended from just past the first parlor window to the south side of the house. It was removed after being damaged by Hurricane Hazel in 1954.*

*The shed just to the southwest of the main house contained a smokehouse and a dairy (also known as a “spring house”). Water was pumped into the trays of the dairy to keep cream and milk cool. The building was designed and built by John Andrew, my grandfather, who used the front door from his previous house that burned for the smokehouse door. A large dinner bell hung on the north side of the shed. There were two pumps in the back yard; one behind the main house and another behind the shed.*

*John Andrew also built the woodshed, which stood on the north side of the current yard, about halfway back. On the southern side was “Jim’s house,” the home of Jim Beverly, the caretaker. John Andrew and Rebecca also employed a cook and a maid. Next to Jim’s house was a three-room corn house enclosed with wire to keep mice and rats out. Beyond Jim’s house was a deep well that served the household and farm animals. Next to the well at about the current west property line was a large barn which housed horses and cows, and later an automobile. Beyond the barn on the west were the orchard and hog pens. Near the barn but further back was a two-room henhouse. In the front yard were several sugar maples and a large dogwood. Side lawns were set off from the adjoining fields by hedges. The old crepe myrtles on either side of the front of the house were planted by my mother Elizabeth.*

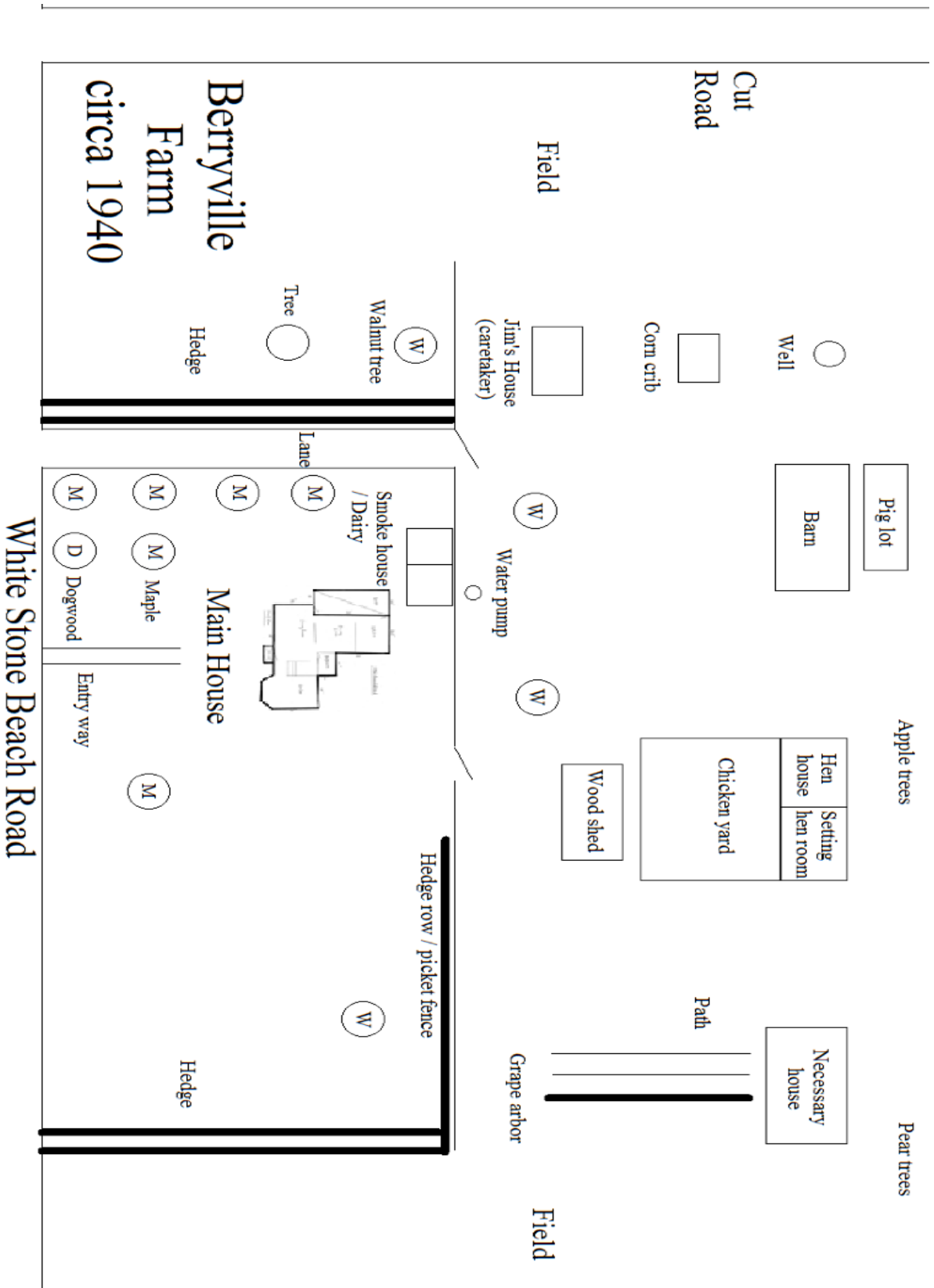


Figure 3: Berryville farm circa 1940

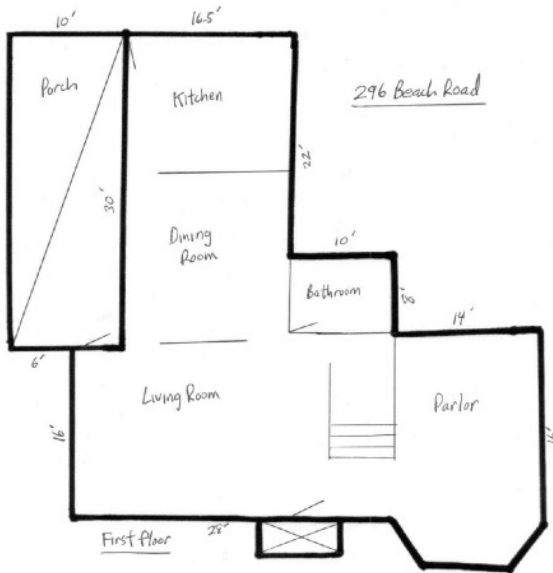


Figure 4: House layout (first floor)

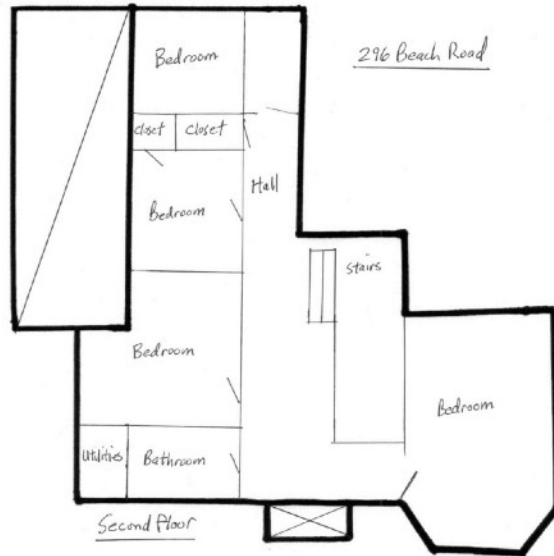


Figure 5: House layout (second floor)

The interior of the first floor consisted of a living room, a large parlor, dining room and kitchen, a front entrance hall with an open stairway to the floor above, and an enclosed back stairway with an exterior entryway. The original front door had glass panels. Just inside was an ornate ceiling hook that held an oil lamp. The parlor was kept as a formal room: my brother and I didn't play there. The dining room, entrance hall and kitchen were wainscoted in tongue-and-groove boards, as a more formal alternative to the tongue-and-groove construction in the living room and kitchen (this can be seen clearly under the staircase). The dining room had a drop ceiling with crown molding and featured a chair rail and a cabinet mantle. This mantle was moved there from the living room fireplace after it was slightly damaged by a fire – a small scorch mark can still be seen. A stove on the east side of the dining room connected to the chimney, and a door on the north side led to a porch where the downstairs bathroom is now. The china cabinet in the dining room originally had a twin on the east side of the kitchen. Three doors connected the dining room and kitchen to the south porch. The west half of that porch was screened. There was a wood stove in the kitchen, the iron chimney from which still remains.

The upper floor included four large bedrooms and an upper hall. Above the parlor was a guest room. My father's and mother's room was next to the upstairs bathroom, which has been modified but remains in the same place. There was no hallway as there is today – the three bedrooms on that side were connected by internal doors. The second room belonged to my brother John Berryman, Jr. and the back room was mine. The current closet in John B's former room was originally the entrance to the attic.

The house was constructed with no internal plumbing or electricity. There were only two small closets in the entire structure and one pantry-type closet in the kitchen. In my early years, the beach road was a dirt road as was the "cut road" – probably the original road to the steamboat wharf. The original estate consisted of fifteen acres – eight more acres were added later. It was a very progressive farm for its time.

## Selling the farm

The McKenney farm was sold on December 24, 1947 to T. Coulbourne Treackle for \$2,500 cash, with the sole exception of the parcel "on which is located the dwelling and outbuildings" which was retained by Elizabeth B. McKenney, John Berryman McKenney's widow. Deed Book 83, pages 199-201 of the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Lancaster County, Virginia, records that the land was sold in two tracts.

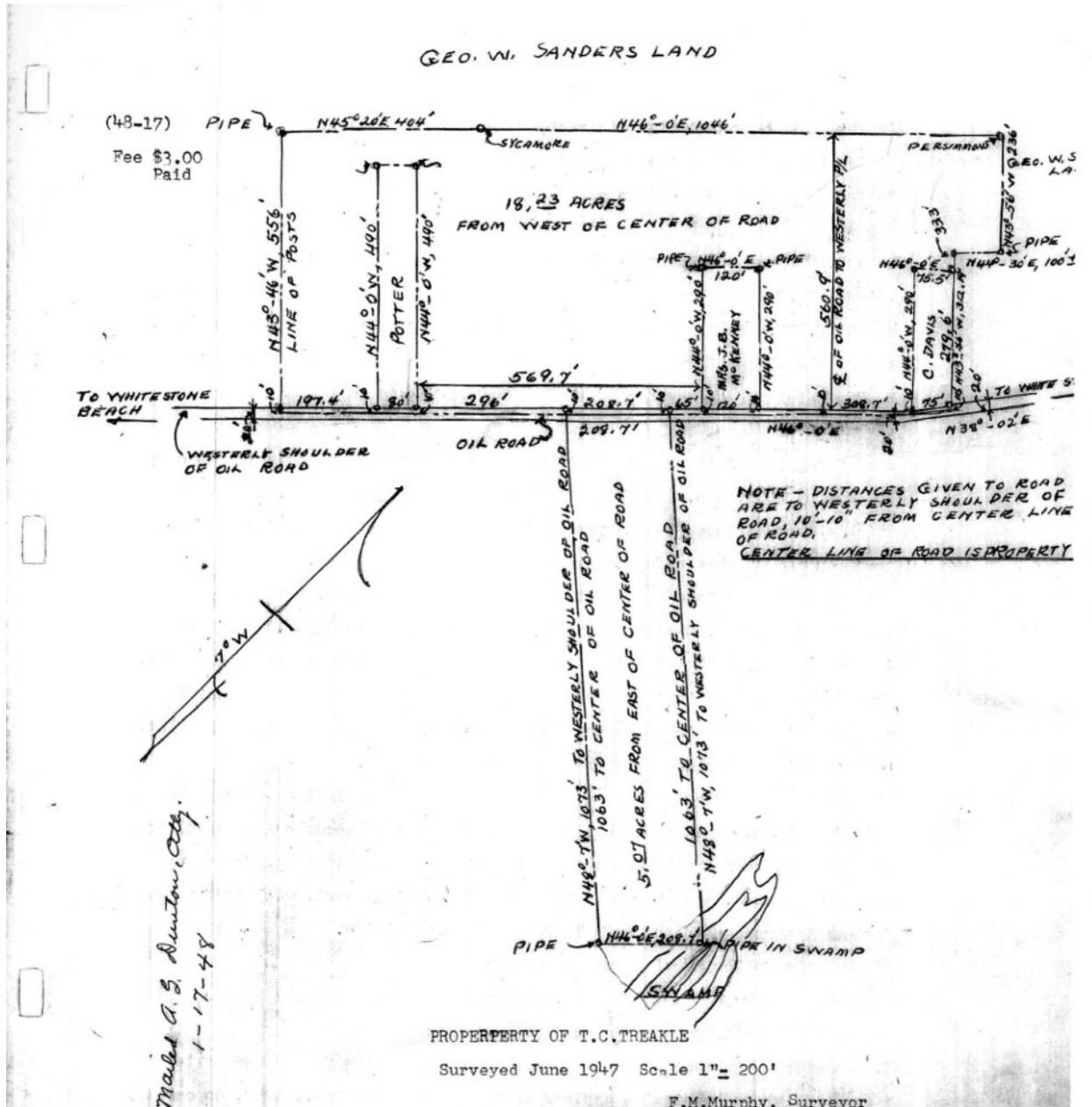


Figure 6: McKenney farm survey from the December 24, 1947 deed (DB 83, Page 201)

Tract A consisted of 18.23 acres, described as “the same property of which John Berryman McKenney died seized and possessed and which he inherited from his mother, Rebecca W. McKenney, in 1902.”<sup>14</sup> Several adjoining lots had previously been owned by Rebecca McKenney, but these were not included in the property sold in 1947.<sup>15</sup> Tract B consisted of 5.7 acres on the opposite side of Beach Road, “the same property conveyed to John Berryman McKenney by deed of Taft Fish Company, Incorporated, bearing date the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1917 and recorded in the Clerk’s Office aforesaid in Deed Book 61 at Page 186.”

Robert McKenney recalls that there was a dispute over his mother’s ownership of the property after his father’s death. This is borne out by the fact that the deed for the transaction shows that the sale of the farm required a court order by a special commissioner.<sup>16</sup> A portion of the proceeds were used to send Robert to college. The former farm was cleared of all its fixtures and the well was capped.

The land retained by Elizabeth McKenney included the original house and the spring house. In January 1967, Deed Book 149, Page 5 records the conveyance of a “small portion of land” to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a right-of-way for Rt. 639. This trimmed a .08-acre strip from the front of the property, which had previously extended to the center of Beach Road, leaving the present .76-acre lot.

Elizabeth McKenney continued to live in the house until shortly before her death in November 1983.

Over the next 30 years, after the house left the McKenney family, it passed through several owners and gradually fell into disrepair. In April 2012 the house was repossessed by the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and put up at auction. It was purchased by the current owner in February 2013.

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<sup>14</sup> “...said property having been conveyed to the said Rebecca W. McKenney by deed dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1902 and recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Lancaster County, Virginia in Deed Book 51, Page 511, and by deed dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 1902 and recorded in the Clerk’s Office aforesaid in Deed Book 55 at Page 414, and by deed dated the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1912, and recorded in the Clerk’s Office aforesaid in Deed Book 59 at Page 198....”

<sup>15</sup> These were: a lot conveyed by John Berryman McKenney “to P.G. Lawson by deed dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 1926 and recorded in the Clerk’s Office aforesaid in Deed Book 65 at Page 192, and a second lot to the said P.G. Lawson by deed dated the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 1928 and recorded in the Clerk’s Office aforesaid in Deed Book 66 at Page 209, and a lot to Delia M. Lawson by deed dated the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1928 and recorded in the Clerk’s Office aforesaid in Deed Book 66 at Page 191.”

<sup>16</sup> Deed Book 83, Page 201 of the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Lancaster County, Virginia, June 1947

## Appendix A: Restoration photos



Figure 7: Living room prior to restoration



Figure 10: Living room side view after restoration



Figure 8: Living room floor prepared for sanding



Figure 11: Dining room prior to restoration



Figure 9: Living room after restoration



Figure 12: Dining room after restoration

## Appendix B: *Virginia Citizen* extracts, 1900-1910

Unless otherwise noted, the extracts below are from the paper's regular "White Stone" column.

Entries are color-coded by topic as follows:

Green text: John A. McKenney and family

Blue text: James B. McKenney and family

Brown text: Construction and building reports

Orange text: Elizabeth B. McKenney

November 30, 1900: Mrs. Jno. A. McKenney and little son returned Sunday via Norfolk from a five weeks' visit to friends and relatives in Richmond.

December 21, 1900: Jno. A. McKenney and Geo. R. Packett were appointed special police for Weems.

January 18, 1901: J.B. McKenney has returned from Baltimore where his wife underwent an operation a few weeks ago at the hospital. Mrs. McKenney's condition, which at one time was considered critical, is improving and is now thought to be out of danger.

February 15, 1901: Mr. and Mrs. J.B. McKenney returned to their home here Wednesday morning. Mrs. McKenney, who has been in the hospital some time, we are glad to report is very much improved.

March 1, 1901: Constable J.A. McKenney is on the sick list this week.

May 24, 1901 (Summarized): J.A. McKenney, Independent was elected Lancaster County Constable by a vote of 376 to 331.

August 23, 1901: Masters Arthur and John Wesley Minter, of Richmond, arrived Tuesday to visit their aunts, Mesdames J.A. and J.B. McKenney. George Minter, of Richmond, is here visiting his sisters, Mesdames J.A. and J.B. McKenney.

October 4, 1901: J.B. and Mrs. J.A. McKenney leave Friday night to attend the Carnival in Richmond.

January 17, 1902: Lumber is being hauled in place to begin the new wharf at Pleasant Banks.

January 24, 1902 [Deeds]: Deed from W.H Wood to B.H.B Hubbard and Jno. A. McKenney for tract of land in White Stone.

January 31, 1902: [Burglars Caught]: On Saturday Constable McKenney arrested Roland Smith (colored) at his home near Kilmarnock upon warrant of H.I. Dyke, of Irvington, whose store was broken late last week. Justice A. James, Sr., arraigned Smith, and remanded him to jail to await action of the Grand Jury.

March 21, 1902: J.B. McKenney was in Baltimore last week where he secured the position of lighthouse keeper for the lights to be put in Carter's Creek.

April 11, 1902: W. McDonald Lee was here last Saturday surveying lots for the new town which is springing up on Pleasant Banks farm and laying out new road to connect with White Stone road [Beach

Road]. A number of lots have been purchased, a saw-mill is in operation and a new steamboat wharf will soon be begun. Cralle, Hubbard & Co. are pushing the enterprise with much vigor.

**May 30, 1902 [Deeds]: Deed from G.W. Sanders and wife to Rebecca W. McKenney for tract of land in White Stone.**

June 6, 1902: The new wharf of Cralle & Hubbard, which is to be known as White Stone wharf, has been completed and Baltimore and Fredericksburg steamers have been stopping regularly there for the past ten days. Large shipments of peas have been made from it.

July 18, 1902: Andrew Minter, of Barton Heights, is visiting his aunts, Mesdames J.A. and J.B. McKenney.

August 1, 1902: The canning factory at White Stone wharf started up Thursday in full force.

August 8, 1902: Allen Minter of Richmond is spending this week with his aunts, Mesdames J.A. and J.B. McKenney.

September 5, 1902: Andrew Minter, who has been visiting his aunts, the Mesdames McKenney, leaves to-day for his home in Richmond.

October 10, 1902 [Advertisement]: H.R. Humphreys, Contractor and Builder, White Stone, Virginia. I am prepared to submit plans and give estimates on all kinds of House work. Material furnished or otherwise. Work completed with neatness and dispatch.

October 24, 1902: H.R. Humphreys, carpenter and builder, whose ad was in the Citizen, is being overrun with work. ... Enos Mercer is getting material in place for building a hotel at new White Stone wharf on the Rappahannock.

November 14, 1902: Builders arrived Wednesday to construct the hotel at White Stone wharf for E.N. Mercer.

November 21, 1902 [A New White Stone]: Lancaster is full of hustle and bustle, and business places are springing up on all sides. Among the latest is that of White Stone Wharf. This place – less than a mile and a half from the village of that name, and its nearest shipping point – is rapidly forging ahead and being watched with a good bit of interest. About a year ago it was surveyed and laid off in lots, and since that time a steamboat wharf, canning factories, stores, a mill and a number of dwellings have been erected and the sound of saw and hammer is continually heard there. The foundation of a large hotel, to cost several thousand dollars, is now being laid. This is unquestionably, one of the prettiest sites for a town on the lower Rappahannock. A crescent-shaped bay, around the shores of which, from point to point, is about two miles, forms a part of the Rappahannock five miles from the mouth, from which one can view with the naked eye on a clear day the boats sailing up and down the Chesapeake bay. At that point the river is about four miles wide and the hundreds of boats of all sizes and description that pass there engaged in the fish and oyster industries would make a picture that an artist could well afford to spend time and talent on. Located on a high table land, this place is exceptionally healthy and has all the advantages of the most favored salt water regions.

January 9, 1903: Pleasant Banks farm, or rather "White Stone extended," is *the* place now. Building lots are being sold, houses being built, and, in fact, everything is now run under the name of Cralle, Edwards & Co., who are doing a very good business.

**January 30, 1903: The fine buildings of J.A. McKenney and E.N. Mercer are nearing completion. Both are lovely structures and situated on the new road to White Stone.**

February 13, 1903: H.R. Humphreys, building contractor, was in Norfolk Wednesday purchasing material.

June 5, 1903: Miss Effie Hathaway, Jno. T. Payne, H.R. Humphreys and Jno. A. McKenney returned Sunday from Norfolk.

June 19, 1903 [Deeds]: Trust deed from Rebecca W. and Jno. A. McKenney to W. E. Hathaway on tract of land in White Stone.

**June 26, 1903: Messrs. J.A. McKenney and Enos Mercer contemplate moving into their new homes shortly.**

July 10, 1903: The new Methodist church at Palmers is completed. It is a thing of beauty.... Mr. Humphreys was the contractor, and he turned out a nice job.

**September 4, 1903: J.A. McKenney and family have moved into their new home on the White Stone wharf road, and their old place is to be occupied by Mr. Honnaker, formerly of Point Francis.**

September 25, 1903 [Candidates Cards]: To the voters of White Stone District: As you have honored me with your confidence by three times electing me constable, if I have satisfied you I ask you to again vote for me for CONSTABLE of this District. John A. McKenney.

October 30, 1903 [Fatal Chicken Roost: Stolen Fowls Know the Owner's Voice and Incriminate the Black Man]: Missing his fowls on Monday morning, Constable John McKenney, of White Stone, sauntered over to a colored neighbor's and requested him to open his fowl-house and let out his brood. When they came out Mr. McKenney observed several which he thought belonged to him, and forthwith he gave a peculiar call, when, to the astonishment of the African, eleven hens followed Mr. McKenney to his home. Notwithstanding the supplications and offer of a bribe the chicken thief will be arraigned before a magistrate.

August 12, 1904: George Minter, of Richmond, is visiting his sisters, the Mesdames McKenney.

October 14, 1904: Capt. James B. McKenney was called home this week by the critical illness of his wife.

January 13, 1905: Our community is sorrowing over the death of Mrs. J.B. McKenney, who died Tuesday last, 11 a.m., of Brights disease and other complications. The deceased was a Miss Minter, of Richmond, before marriage, and sister to Mrs. Jno. A. McKenney, of this place. She was in her early forties, and had been in a low state of health for years. Messrs. Charles and John Minter, of Richmond, were here attending the obsequies, which took place Wednesday last, 3 p.m., at White Stone Methodist church, Rev. G.Y. Bradley conducting the service. She leaves a husband but no children.

September 15, 1905: Mrs. John A. McKenney is very sick at this writing.

January 12, 1906 [Some Fires]: The old dwelling, recently occupied by and belonging to Constable John A. McKenney, at White Stone, was destroyed by fire Monday. Loss \$500 or \$600; no insurance.

May 17, 1907: Jno. A. McKenney is suffering from fractured ribs.

August 16, 1907: Jas. McKenney, officer on steamer Potomac, is at his home here this week on a vacation.

October 25, 1907: Mrs. John McKenney is visiting relatives in Richmond.

November 8, 1907 [White Stone District]: John McKenney was elected constable over N.B. Treakle by a majority of 129.

December 11, 1908: The marriage of Mr. James B. McKenney, of White Stone, and Mrs. Hyttie Smith, of Norfolk, as announced week before last, took place Wednesday of this week in the latter city.... Mr. McKenney is the popular second officer on steamer Potomac of the Md., Del. & Va. R'y Co., plying between Baltimore, Norfolk and the Rappahannock.

June 11, 1909: H.R. Humphreys has accepted a position with a prominent contractor of Baltimore.

April 22, 1910: Miss Elizabeth Beauchamp, public school teacher at Lara, was in this town Monday.



Figure 13: Berryville main house circa 1940