

Clover Hill

HENRICH J. A.⁴ VIRTS (ADAM³, CONRAD² WIRTZ, WILHELM¹ WURTZ) was born Aug 12, 1815 in Lovettsville, VA, and died Feb 5, 1887 in Loudoun County, VA. He married ESTHER RACHEL BROWN Sep 12, 1842 in Loudoun County, VA. She was born Mar 18, 1817 in Virginia, and died Jun 11, 1897 in Loudoun County, VA.

In the late 18th century this was the home of John A. Binns who perfected soil-renewing techniques of deep plowing, application of "land plaster" or gypsum, and the use of clover that he popularized in his 1803 "Treatise of Practical Farming". President Thomas Jefferson was extravagant in his praise of this method and observed that Binns has become "tolerably rich" through it's use. In 1857 Henry Virts, great grandfather of the present owner, Mrs Hazel, purchased the farm and its Federal Style house from the Binns family. Like most of his Waterford neighbors Virts voted against secession from the Union in 1861. It



may not have been entirely accidental then that a burning straw rick torched by looting Confederates set fire to the house. After the war Virts rebuilt and enlarged the damaged building. It then remained essentially unchanged until about ten years ago when his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Hazel, who was born in the house that is on tour and raised on the farm, carefully restored the house and grounds.

This Federal Style house built of field stone, has been beautifully restored and the addition of two dormer windows in the old kitchen wing roof made the attic space very usable for a bath for the master bedroom. In keeping with the popular decorating trends of the late 1800's, faux graining of the wood trim and doors have created a most interesting feature to the house. Don't miss the fox chasing the rabbit on the parlor room pocket doors.

The immaculately groomed lawn, which encircles the house, is shaded by three giant Honey Locust, and is surrounded by lush green hayfields.

Open to the public for the first time. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. William A. Hazel