

January 12, 1976

Mrs. Jill Decker, Editor  
The Globe Newspapers  
3847 Pickett Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Mrs. Decker:

I would like to compliment The Globe and Daniel Shea on your final account of the history of the Harper Barn on East Cameron Road in Falls Church, for which I furnished some of the information.

I would also like to correct one or two bits of misinformation. The interior had a set of stairs that could be raised and lowered in the manner of a bridge over a medieval moat. There never was a moat around the house.

There may have been some of the original pinewood in the barn, but probably very little that would have contributed directly to such a fire as destroyed the structure. The fire apparently started in one of the upper rooms which was fabricated, most likely of new materials, in the early 1930s.

The Commandant of the Navy Yard in Washington was Commodore Thomas Tingey, who had married one of the Dulany daughters.

Your paragraph regarding George Washington quartering his horse in the Dulany barn while visiting with friends at a local tavern in Falls Church is pure fabrication.

In the early 1920s, the Tripp farm was sold to Ruby Lee Minor<sup>U</sup> and William Hoge, real estate brokers. Mr. LeRoy Eakin, Sr., bought some of the lots from Minor and Hoge, among which was the Tripp barn and lot. Mr. Eakin sold the barn and lot to Mr. C.B. Harper about 1930. Mr. Harper died in 1967. Mr. and Mrs. Hodge purchased the property from Mrs. Harper early in the 1970s.

For the purpose of keeping the facts as straight as possible, I hope you will print this letter.

Sincerely,

H. H. Douglas  
Chairman, Falls Church Historical Society  
Director, Pioneer America Society