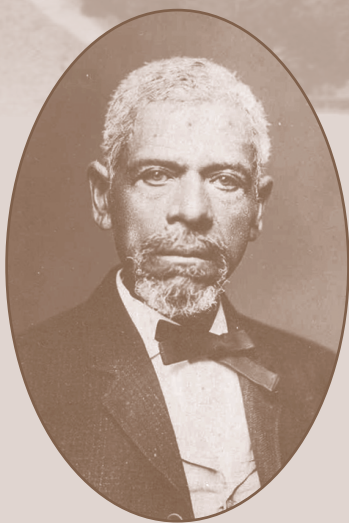


A sepia-toned aerial photograph of a rural landscape. At the top, a large white barn with a gambrel roof sits on a hill. Below it, a dirt road winds through fields. To the right, a small white house with a gabled roof is visible. The entire scene is framed by a thin brown border with decorative corner pieces.

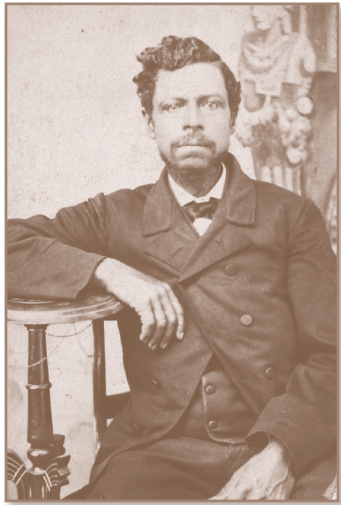
RIVER VIEW FARM



A LEGACY OF THE
CARR / GREER FAMILY



FROM SLAVERY TO LANDOWNERSHIP



HUGH CARR

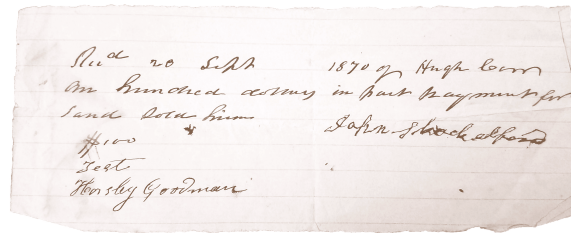
The Ivy Creek Natural Area was once the home of Hugh Carr, born into slavery circa 1840 in Albemarle County. The earliest reference to him is in the records of the First Baptist Church of Charlottesville where, on November 18, 1860, Hugh was presented for baptism by his owner, R.W. Wingfield of Woodlands plantation. Five months later, the Civil War began.

Emancipation and the breakup of the plantation system at the end of the war in 1865 was a watershed event in Albemarle County. For Hugh, a young man who could neither read nor write, it was the start of a new life founded in freedom.

Like many of the formerly enslaved African Americans, Carr hired himself out to local farmers, often receiving a share of crops in payment. One surviving contract reveals that in 1869 he agreed to labor on A.A. Sutherland's farm in return for

shares of tobacco, wheat, oats, corn, hay, fodder and potatoes. In 1875, Hugh Carr contracted with J.R. Wingfield to "give his whole time & attention & bend all his energies & exercise all the forethought he can" as farm manager on the Woodlands plantation. For one year's work, he was paid \$150 and provided with flour, bacon, corn and firewood, plus a house and garden for himself and his mother.

While working for others, Carr began to purchase land of his own. In 1870 he paid John Shackelford \$100 in "part payment" for a 58-acre tract that would form the core of River View Farm and that 100 years later would become the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Carr continued to add to his farm, acquiring over 125 acres by 1890.



"Rec'd 20 Sept 1870 of Hugh Carr. One hundred dollars in part payment for land sold him. John Shackelford \$100 Test [witness] Horsley Goodman"

Here, Hugh Carr and his wife, Texie Mae Hawkins, lived, farmed, and raised six daughters and a son: Mary Louise, Fannie, Emma, Peachie, Hazel, Virginia, and Marshall. For Hugh and Texie Mae Carr, education of their children was as important as feeding and sheltering them. From their earliest years, the children attended the Union Ridge Graded School, a segregated primary



TEXIE MAE HAWKINS

school established shortly after Emancipation. They continued their education at Piedmont Industrial Institute in Charlottesville, which offered post-elementary training for African American children. When Texie Mae died in 1900, Carr was left to raise his young children, ages 4 to 15 years. Working together, the family realized Carr's dream of education for all the children.



MARY LOUISE CARR

Hugh Carr's oldest daughter, Mary, and her husband Conly Greer acquired River View Farm following Carr's death in 1914. During their 42-year stewardship of the land, they expanded the farm to over 230 acres. After Conly died in 1956, Mary Carr Greer sustained the farm with help.

Although she sold portions of the land in her later years, the core of River View Farm remained intact at her death in 1973.

Two years later, the Nature Conservancy (TNC) bought the remaining 80 acres of River View Farm, recognizing its ecological significance in the face of encroaching urbanization. By 1981, in partnership with the newly formed Ivy Creek Foundation, the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County received a federal grant to purchase the property from TNC as well as adjacent parcels. Today, the Foundation and the two jurisdictions jointly manage the 215-acre preserve as the Ivy Creek Natural Area and historic River View Farm.



MARY CARR (ON RIGHT),
SISTERS, & COUSIN

MARY CARR GREER



MARY CARR GREER
AND GRANDDAUGHTER
THEODOSIA

Mary Louise Carr shared her parents' commitment to education. At the age of 16, she began a life-long career dedicated to the education of African American children by earning a certificate from Charlottesville's Piedmont Industrial Institute, which qualified her to teach. Several years later, she was able to continue her education at Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute in Petersburg, now Virginia State University. On returning from her studies, she joined the faculty at Albemarle Training School (ATS), located near her home at River View Farm. At that time, ATS students were offered a basic elementary education followed by two years of training in vocational agriculture, domestic science or industrial education.

Mary Carr Greer began her career at ATS teaching domestic science. After attending summer classes at Hampton Institute and Fisk and Cornell Universities, she qualified to teach English, history and government. Twenty years after leaving Virginia State, she took a leave of absence from ATS and returned there to get her BS degree. In 1931, Mary Carr Greer became the third principal of Albemarle Training School and oversaw a period of both physical and academic growth for the school. During her tenure, she initiated a formal high school curriculum and pushed for the creation of a single city-county high school for African American students.

A year after Greer's retirement in 1950, Albemarle Training School merged with the city's Jefferson School at the newly opened Jackson P. Burley comprehensive high school in Charlottesville. In 1979, Albemarle County memorialized Greer's dedication to education with the opening of the Mary Carr Greer Elementary School.

CONLY GREER

Conly Greer, born in Crumpler, NC, met Mary Carr while they were studying at Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute. After marrying Mary Carr in 1913, he applied the technical and academic knowledge of agriculture he had gained there to expand and improve River View Farm. In 1918, Greer was hired as the first African American extension agent by the then-segregated Virginia Agricultural Extension Division. His responsibilities included visiting other African American farmers throughout the county to teach productive agricultural techniques and modern farming practices, such as contour farming to prevent soil erosion. Greer served as the County extension agent for 35 years.

Through his tireless work with 4-H, Greer instilled pride in a generation of young African Americans, teaching them not only the practical skills of agriculture and conservation, but also the principles of leadership. He particularly enjoyed having his grandchildren, nieces, and nephews visit River View Farm each summer, where they drove the horses, churned butter, and explored the farm.



MARY CARR AND
CONLY GREER

REMNANTS OF RIVER VIEW FARM

CEMETERY

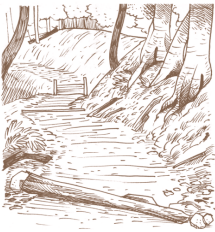
When Hugh Carr wrote his will in 1913, he designated a quarter-acre plot near the house as a graveyard for his descendants. Today, three headstones memorialize Hugh, Texie Mae, and Marshall Carr; Mary Carr Greer; and Conly Greer. Next to these is a low stone monument dedicated to the Carrs' grandson, Dr. Charles Whitten, a pediatrician with expertise in sickle cell anemia. Nearby are eight to ten unmarked graves and two obelisk-shaped fieldstones resembling African burial markers.

FIELD *north of Barn*

The fields of River View Farm provided Hugh Carr and his family with both food and income. Census records document that in 1880 Hugh Carr had a diversified 80-acre farm. Using both horses and oxen to clear and plow the land, Carr grew three primary crops – wheat, corn and oats – as well as potatoes and tobacco, and he established a half-acre orchard. Hugh Carr also kept swine, milk cows, and poultry, which that same year produced 25 pounds of butter and 500 eggs.

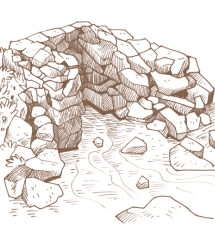
Under Conly Greer's care, River View Farm continued to produce corn, wheat, and hay to feed the livestock. Drawing on the knowledge gained as an extension agent, Greer applied the latest agricultural techniques, such as rotating his crops and paying strict attention to soil and water conservation in planting his fields. River View Farm became a model in the county, and farmers frequently visited to observe Greer's methods. Like his father-in-law, Greer turned his fields with a horse and plow. He did not acquire a tractor until shortly before his death.

HISTORIC ROADS



Throughout the natural area are the remnants of both public and farm roads, many of which led to the village of Hydraulic Mills. Sections of old roadway are quite prominent on the Orange Trail.

FARM SPRINGS



Springs provided a source of clean drinking water and storage for perishable food stuffs. To improve accessibility, springs were frequently cleaned out and built up. One example is off the Blue Trail.

GREER LANDFILL SITE



In addition to his farm and extension work, Conly Greer made trips into town in the early mornings to collect food and refuse from University and Hospital cafeterias, which he used to fatten his hogs. Later, he contracted with the Monticello Hotel to haul away its garbage. One landfill containing pottery shards and broken bottles is located along the White Trail. Old buckets can be seen on the School Trail. Please leave all artifacts in place.

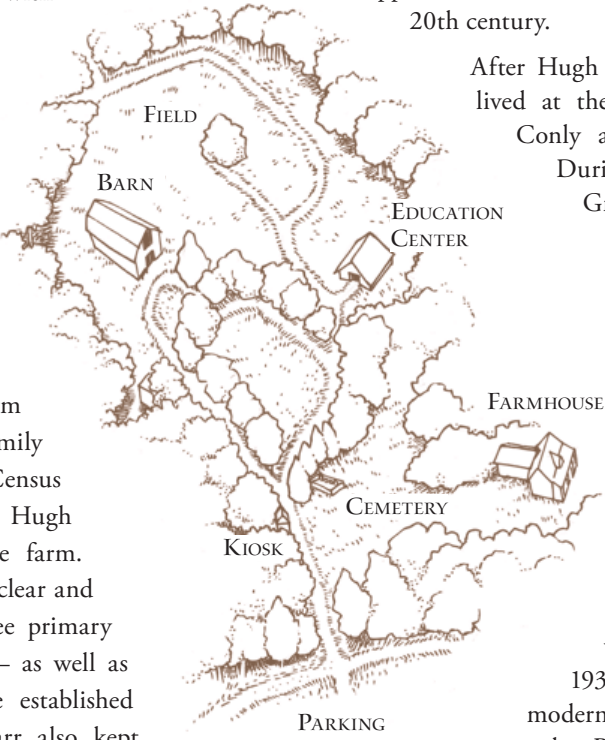
FARMHOUSE

It is likely that Hugh Carr constructed this two-story farmhouse himself around the time of his marriage to Texie Mae Hawkins in 1883. The original house was one room deep, with a center passage and two exterior end chimneys. This plan, popular in the Upper South, was known as an "I-House." Mary Carr and Conly Greer built an ell-wing addition in 1915. Stucco was applied to the exterior of the home in the middle of the 20th century.

After Hugh Carr's death, Mary Carr Greer lived at the farmhouse with her husband Conly and their daughter Evangeline. During the years that Mary Carr Greer taught at Albemarle Training School, the farmhouse served as a second weekday home for many students who lived too far away to travel to and from school each day.

BARN

Using wood harvested from his land and sawn into lumber using a portable sawmill, Conly Greer built this white clapboard barn in the late 1930s. It was the centerpiece of the modern, efficient farm complex that he created at River View Farm. The center aisle allowed horses to pull wagons the entire length of the barn. Flanking the aisle were stabling areas for horses and milking stanchions for cows. Sliding doors separated the barn according to sanitation protocols for dairy operations. After Greer's death, Mary Carr Greer rented the barn to a local farmer and family friend, Horace Miller, Jr., who modified the barn to house brood sows and their litters. Hay was brought from the fields by horse-drawn wagons to the barn and hoisted into the vaulted second-story loft by a system of ropes and pulleys still visible today. ATS alumni and family recalled the names of some of the large workhorses: Maude, Duke, Haile Selassie and Queen of Sheba. The tin gambrel roof of the barn remains a familiar landmark to passers-by on Earlysville Road.



WALLS AND FENCES



Stones cleared from the land were used to build fences or walls. These often marked boundaries between fields or properties. They also supported roads. A long stone wall on the Red Trail is cited on several 19th-century land plats. On almost all trails, barbed wire and other metal fencing are embedded in trees or lying on the ground.

HYDRAULIC MILLS OVERLOOK



Hydraulic Mills, once located on Ivy Creek at its confluence with the South Fork of the Rivanna River, played an important role not only in the life of Hugh Carr but also in local history. In the early 1800s farmers from northern and western Albemarle brought their wheat and tobacco to the mill to be processed and transported downriver in bateaux. Despite a devastating flood in 1870 that brought an end to river navigation in Albemarle, the mill continued to be a thriving commercial and social center for the African American neighborhood of Union Ridge.

In 1966, the newly constructed South Fork Rivanna Reservoir flooded the junction of Ivy Creek and the Rivanna River, erasing all vestiges of this once vital community center. An overlook of the old mill site is on a spur of the North Field Trail.

IVY CREEK FOUNDATION

Connecting people to our lands present and past.

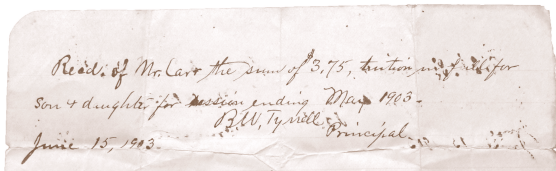
A LEGACY OF EDUCATION

"Dad wanted us to have a college education and he saw to it that we did. He would have sold his cows so we could go."

PEACHIE CARR JACKSON

Education played an integral role in the life and legacy of Hugh Carr. Having spent his youth in slavery, Carr's enduring dream was to see his children educated. Five of his daughters earned advanced degrees and chose as their life's work to "teach and lead their people." His oldest daughter, Mary Carr Greer, became a prominent educator in Albemarle County. Her husband Conly Greer taught adults and children modern farming practices as well as principles of leadership. Carr's grandchildren went on to have distinguished careers in medicine, education, and administration.

The Ivy Creek Natural Area, which now encompasses historic River View Farm, is devoted to ecological education, land preservation, and telling the stories of Hugh Carr, Mary Carr Greer, and Conly Greer.



"Rec'd of Mr. Carr the sum of \$3.75 tuition in full for son & daughter for session ending May 1903

B. W. Tyrrell

June 15, 1903

Principal"

[Piedmont Industrial Institute]

THANK YOU



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Ivy Creek Foundation

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P.O. Box 956

Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Telephone (434) 973-7772

For more about the history of River View Farm
please visit our website at
www.ivycreekfoundation.org