

John Carter: A Good Marriage Brings Prosperity

Shirley Plantation



When John Carter married Elizabeth Hill, the daughter of William Hill I who established Shirley plantation in 1613, he inherited thousands of acres of land in Charles City County and build the manor house ca 1723, a tradition of many generations followed.

Today, the manor is on exhibit to the public and features many of its original furnishings, which is unusual for an estate that old. John Carter accumulated other plantations in Richmond, Westmoreland, Lancaster, King William, Hanover, Fauquier and Caroline Counties which were passed down to Charles Carter.

When Charles Carter died, he mentioned "Nanty Parson" plantation in Lancaster County and "Pampatike" plantation in King William County. His last will and testament gave precise bequests, assuring that Shirley Plantation would remain in the family.