

**Snow Hill Farm**, located at 7901 Melton Lane near Snell in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, is a historic estate established in 1769 by William Alsop. His son, Benjamin Alsop, served as a lieutenant in the Continental Army under General George Washington and fought alongside the Marquis de Lafayette. During his later years, Benjamin helped the farm grow into a major plantation. He died at age 74 and is buried in the Snow Hill Cemetery with other family members.

The property, also known historically as **Snow Hill Plantation**, was later owned by Stapleton Crutchfield, who married Sarah Ann Alsop, Benjamin's daughter. Their son, Stapleton Crutchfield IV, served as chief of artillery under General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson during the Civil War. Jackson, after being mortally wounded at Chancellorsville in May 1863, passed by the estate on his way to Guinea Station, where he died.

Snow Hill played a notable role during the Civil War, with Confederate troops retreating through the grounds and trenches and breastworks carved throughout the land. Though many structures survived the conflict, the main house was destroyed in 1865 when a fire broke out after a servant threw pinecones into a fireplace. It was later rebuilt on the original foundation and cellar, with additions made beginning in 1908.

One of the earliest references to the name "Snow Hill" in the area is found in the **Snow Hill Plantation Cemetery**, surveyed in 1939 by the WPA. It includes graves of prominent families like the Alsops and Leavells, with burials dating back to the late 1700s.

Local legend ties the land to **William Kirk**, a retired Scottish pirate who purchased 400 acres around 1760. According to folklore, he buried six casks of treasure on the property. One was allegedly discovered in 1870 by a tenant farmer who used it to buy his own farm; the others were never found, and tales of Kirk's ghost continue to be part of local lore.

By the early 20th century, Snow Hill had become a prominent estate. The current main house, a two-story, 5,000-square-foot structure, was completed around 1901. A secondary dwelling, built circa 1769, has served various functions, including as a doctor's office and hospital. During this time, the property hosted community events such as historical reenactments, weddings, and family gatherings.

Ownership passed through several notable figures, including Dr. William Vorhees of New York and the C.E. Gordon family, descendants of Governor Alexander Spotswood. Until the main house was rebuilt in 1908, the guest house served as the primary residence.

Through the late 20th century, the farm remained active in agriculture—producing dairy, beef, goats, honey, eggs, rabbits, and organic produce. Today, it operates as a working horse farm under the ownership of **Sheila and Vince Melton**.