

PLACE: Camp Carter

LOCATION: Henrico County. Two miles west of Bottoms Bridge on the Route 60 on the lands of Charles G. Carter. A survey of the distance between Camp Carter and Camp Holly Springs is among the papers of John H. Cocke in the University of Virginia's Alderman Library, Mss 640. The survey shows that the straight line distance between the two posts is five and a half miles. This would place the camp roughly at the junction of Old Williamsburg Road and Route 60. According to Pvt. Pleasant Murphy's diary (portions published in the *W&M Historical Magazine*, No. 1 (Series 2) Vol 3, (1923), Camp Carter was two miles west of Bottoms Bridge. Charles G. Carter's lands, according to the Land tax for Henrico County were ten miles east of the Henrico County Court House, which would place it in the vicinity of the above description. Besides, the camp was named Carter, probably in honor of the landowner (speculation on my part, of course). The Executive Council authorized Charles Carter to receive \$250 compensation for the use of his land [Executive Journal, 4/24/15 in LVA]

SIGNIFICANCE: On 16 September 1814, nearly two thousand Virginia militia under the command of Brig. Gen. John H. Cocke established Camp Carter in this vicinity. The camp was intended to act as a defensive post to thwart possible British invaders coming up the main road from Williamsburg to Richmond. During the winter, wooden huts were constructed from the adjoining lands for temporary barracks, and streets were laid out in rectangular grids. The winter of 1814-15 was uncommonly cold and thirty-nine soldiers died primarily from pneumonia and diarrhea. The camp was abandoned on 14 February 1815. At no time did the British attempt an attack on the post. (Sources: Cocke Papers, UVA, #640; Order Book of the 4th Brigade, on microfilm at the LVA, Louisa County Records, Reel ____; Stuart Butler, "Gen. John H. Cocke the War of 1812," *Magazine of Albemarle County History*, Vol. 65, 2007, 19-43)

POSSIBLE LOCATION OF MARKER: At the junction of Old Williamsburg Road and Route 60.