

BLOG | NOVEMBER 2020 | HALLIE GOODE | OUR VISIT TO IVY CREEK AND RIVERVIEW FARM



Hello! My name is Hallie! I am a food justice intern at Cultivate Charlottesville. Food justice interns are teenagers that care about the environment, food, farming, and the community. The main point of food justice is to learn more information about food insecurities and economic issues that stop people from having a good meal. We then try to share that information so more people know about the issue. To me, food justice is making sure that a meal is being served to our community each and every day. Being a food justice intern can really change your perspective about food and its meaning to people.

As interns every Thursday afternoon we talked about food justice and dived deep into the concept. We have met with farmers and discussed what struggles there are. We have also talked about how we get our meals and the number of people that don't get meals. Not having food can affect our bodies and mood. Before we took this trip I had been to the farm and a couple of other interns had too. We all read a little about the Carr family and their experience before going. I personally, had never known the history of the land.





Hugh Carr worked on local farms and usually got a share of crops in payment. One place that Hugh worked is A.A. Sutherlands farm and working there he received a share of wheat, oats, corn, tobacco, hay, food for cattle or livestock, and potatoes. Hugh later got a new job with J.R. Wingfield in 1875. He received a house with a garden for himself and his mother, and he received 150 dollars as salary.

Ivy Creek is a beautiful place to go. It is also referred to as Riverview farm. Riverview Farm was the original name of the farm picked by the Carr family. The land is now a place to learn about the history and go on a trail walk to enjoy nature and the land the family owned. The lvy Creek Foundation has tried its best to keep the farm true to the original form by keeping the house, barn, and other objects on the land as authentic as possible. Hugh Carr was the owner of the farm. He was born into slavery between 1840 and 1843 in Virginia. Hugh Carr could neither read nor write in his life. In 1865 after the end of the war, Hugh gained freedom. Soon after he married his first wife, Florence Lee, on Christmas day. She was 18 years old when they wed.



While Hugh was working, he would often purchase small parts of land in the Ivy Creek area. He bought 58 acres in 1870 and would soon be living on that land with his second wife, Texie Mae Hawkins. They then had seven children on that land, and by 1890 he owned d a total of 125 acres. Though Hugh could not read nor write, his highest priority was the education of his children. When Hugh passed, Mary Louise Carr Greer took over the farm with her husband Conly Greer.

An - grandchildren received at least an undergraduate degree Administrator / Fisk University, Nashville, TN Feacher / New York City, NY Associate Dean / Wayne State Univ. School of Medicine, Detroit, MI Teacher / Washington, DC Superintendent of Vocational Education / Baltimore, MD Remodeling Contractor / Wilmington, DE

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Mary Louise Carr Greer was an educator. She attended Union Ridge Graded school, and the Carr children went to Piedmont Industrial Institute in Charlottesville. Mary Carr then taught children for several years. She went to Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute, after which she came back and became a faculty member at Albemarle Training School. In 1913 she married Conly Greer. They then had one child named Louise Evangeline. Conly became the first black agent of the Virginia Agricultural Extension Division in Albemarle. Mary also became the third principal at Albemarle Training School after teaching there for 15 years.

This winter, we, as food justice interns will be doing interviews with Black and brown farmers. This trip was the perfect way to start learning about what it means to be a farmer of color. To own over 125 acres having once been a slave that is a lot of land. Hugh Carr did very well as farmer and owner of the land. The information I learned I shared with my family so when we go to Ivy Creek we know the history of the property. I also want to learn more about the conflicts of being a farm owner at that time and to learn about how Hugh Carr chose what types of crops or livestock to farm with.



