

**GREEN SPRING PLANTATION FOR RENT:
A FEBRUARY 12, 1813 ADVERTISEMENT IN
THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER:**

“For rent or lease, the estate of Greenspring in James City County, situate (sic) about a mile above Jamestown on James River and about seven miles from Williamsburg. On the premises are an excellent mansion, outhouses, and fine orchards. The land is cultivation good and an extensive range for hogs. J.M. McCandlish, who at present resides at Greenspring, will show the premises. It will be leased or rented on very reasonable terms to a respectable tenant, by applying to Gawin Corbin, esq., King’s Creek, York River. There are about 60 acres, put down in wheat last fall, and there is a cuficiency (sic) of ground in cultivation for an extensive crop of corn and oats the ensuing season. Possession will be given immediately.

Published ten years after the death of 27-year-old William Ludwell Lee in 1803, this rather shabby newspaper advertisement gives us some idea of Green Spring’s decline after ownership of the property passed to young Williams’s two sisters, Portia and Cornelia and their respective husbands. Various documents indicate that by 1810, the “new” Green Spring mansion was insured for \$10,000 (the modern equivalent of about US\$1 million), and that the plantation’s acreage had declined to about 3,200 acres. The property was managed by Portia Lee Hodgson and her husband, William. After several unsuccessful attempts to sell the property via newspaper advertisements in 1814 and 1816, the Hodgsons rented Green Spring for eight years before finding a buyer (George Mason) in 1824.