

## **HISTORY OF THE GOODSTONE INN:**

### **The Early Days—The Leith Family and The Revolutionary And Civil Wars**

Goodstone's story began in 1768 when Jamie "the Scott" Leith bought land on the frontier of the Virginia Colony and developed a plantation. Leith bought 640 acres bordering Goose Creek for 240 pounds sterling. The land prospered in its early years and even played a small part in America's independence. Leith reportedly sold provisions to the Continental Army.

During the Civil War, three of Leith's grandsons fought for the South. Two served for Col. John Singleton's Mosby Rangers and one fought for the confederate General J. E. B. Stuart. Civil War skirmishes occurred on the property, along Goose Creek and at the corner of Millville and Snake Hill Roads.

After the Civil War, one son, Benjamin Franklin Leith, settled on the property. For years, his family worked the farm. Several existing structures date back to the Leith family days, most notably the Dutch Cottage and French Farm Cottage. In addition, at its highest elevation, the farm contains the Leith Family Cemetery, with nearly twenty family members buried there, with some tombstones dating back to the late 1700's.

### **Good Times—The Goodwins and The Warburgs**

In 1915, one year before his death, Benjamin Franklin Leith sold the farm to the Goodwin family. In 1917, the Goodwins built a large stone house (currently the site of the pool) and thus, the property was named Goodstone. Later, the Goodwins built the prominent Goodstone Dairy, which operated until the 1960s.

In 1934, Frederick Warburg purchased the property neighboring the Goodwin farm and built upon it the Manor House that exists there today. In 1939, the Goodwin house (Goodstone) was destroyed by fire. In 1943, Frederick Warburg bought the Goodwin property in order to enlarge his estate. Frederick and his wife, Wilma, maintained the facade of the Goodstone mansion as a backdrop for a poured concrete, heated pool, built around 1948. The Warburgs also added the bath houses and arbors and landscaped the property. This created an elegant venue that the Warburgs used frequently for entertaining.

The Warburgs were part of the famed German and later New York banking family. They maintained a primary residence in New York City as well. They used the farm during fox hunting season and intermittently as a fall and winter residence. The Warburgs renamed the estate Snake Hill Farm because of the winding road bordering the property near the Manor House. During their ownership, the property was operated continuously as a horse farm and as a dairy until the 1960s.

## **Now – Present Day**

The current owner purchased the property from the Warburg Estate in 1996. He visited the property for the first time on a beautiful mid-June morning and was so overwhelmed by its beauty that he made a purchase offer the following day. However, he soon determined that the best way to steward such a large property was to convert it into a Country Inn. Thus, since 1998, with the help of many dedicated people, he has endeavored to restore and maintain this gorgeous property.