

**Meadow Hill Open House**  
**October 25, 2026**  
**General public 2:00-3:00; Caroline Historical Society 3:00-5:00**  
[www.pitcherplant.org](http://www.pitcherplant.org); 804-633-4336  
[meadowview@pitcherplant.org](mailto:meadowview@pitcherplant.org)

Meadow Hill (Fig. 1) is part of the Meadowview Biological Research Station's Central Virginia Preserve (see [www.pitcherplant.org](http://www.pitcherplant.org)). Meadowview is a non-profit 501(c)(3) conservation organization headquartered in Caroline County, Virginia and started operations at a small farmhouse located on Meadow Creek where Meadowview got its name. Meadowview has a preserve plan (The Central VA Preserve) on Meadow Creek to acquire, protect, preserve, and restore the northern-most native purple pitcher plant bog in Virginia on a globally rare gravel bog. The Meadow Hill tract was a long-standing acquisition as part of that plan and that goal was realized when the 62-acre property was acquired in 2021. The Meadow Hill tract provides substantial watershed protection, flanks and protects the integrity of nursery and preserve operations, and gives vital garages for equipment storage.

The Meadow Hill acquisition in 2021 included a large renovated farmhouse from the 1800's and several outbuildings (smoke house and chicken coop). The house was constructed in two phases; 1834 and 1840. An ice house and hand well was found on the property but destroyed in renovations during the 1980's. Recent genealogical research has also validated a significant slave presence and contribution to the property.

Meadowview received a request from two local metal detectorists (Greg Lagasse and Scott Crabtree) in 2024 to sample the property for artifacts with the agreement that whatever was found was turned over to Meadowview for the on-site museum. During the course of these investigations Scott was heard saying "what French" as he examined some unusual buttons. That question was answered after our first open house at Meadow Hill in January 2026. Local detectorist David Duke saw our artifacts and then located General Rochambeau's maps at the Library of Congress (Fig. 2) from the French return march back from Yorktown. Map #10 was Meadow Hill with precise locations of roads, artillery positions, and camp. The French camped at Meadow Hill!! We now have the best and largest collection of French buttons, coin, and bullets from the American Revolution. Famous French regiments include the 40<sup>th</sup> Soissonnais and 85<sup>th</sup> Saintonge (the regiment of the line). Many other finds have been made as well including an extensive collection of Civil War artifacts.

We'll be providing tea, coffee, water and treats and tours of the artifacts and grounds. A donation jar will be out and we do ask you make whatever contribution you can... if not at the open house some other time. Meadowview is facing a very difficult time financially supporting all this conservation and historic work and needs support to keep the doors open.



**Figure 1. Meadow Hill house**

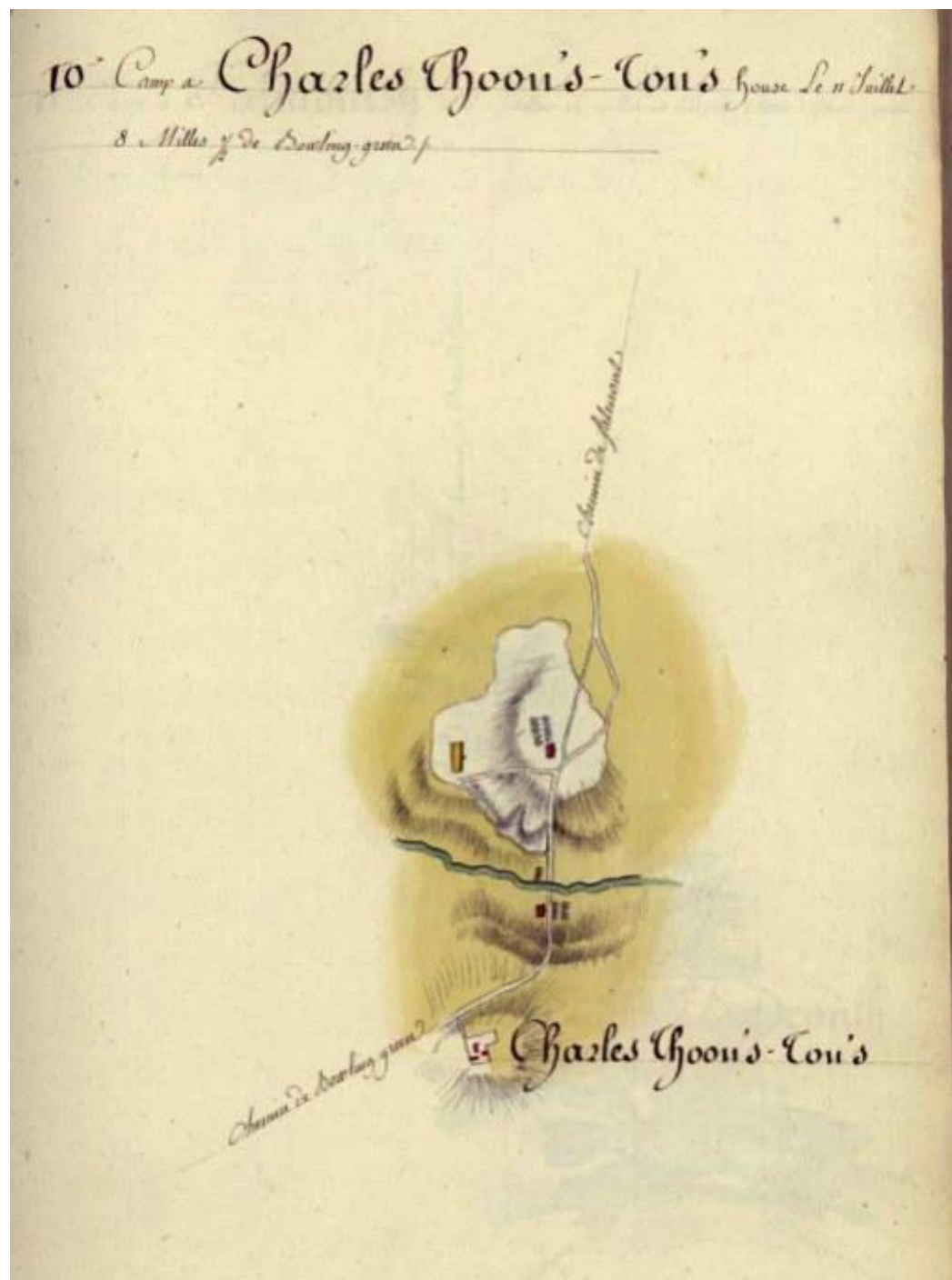


Figure 2. Rochambeau's map of Meadow Hill.



Figure 3. The case of French artifacts from the American Revolution.