



Building a Future on a Solid Foundation of the Past

The History of Royville & Brambleton

Written by Lauri Velotta-Rankin, excerpt from *Brambleton, 20 Years in the Making* (2020)

In the late 19th century, a small village in eastern Loudoun began to take shape. It consisted of a school, a few expansive farms, several modest homes, and a general store. The town was known as Royville and resided on the current site of Brambleton.

The general store, called Ella A. Hough & Co, Store, was owned by John C.C. "Chaney" and his wife, Ella Hough. The couple suffered the tragic loss of their 14-year-old son, Roy, to typhoid fever. When a post office opened within the village store, they selected the name Royville to honor their deceased child.

Included in this small community was the Hutchison family who decided to erect a school upon their land to educate local children. Bestowed with an old family name, it was called The Brambleton School. In **Eastern Loudoun: Goin' Down the Country**, Loudoun historian, Eugene Scheel, notes, "The Brambleton School that served Royville was located about a half-mile north of the store, about where the landmark Brambleton rock formation and tumbling-water fountain is found." Despite the school's spelling, it was pronounced "Bramble-down."

Royville eventually faded with the closing of the general store and passing of Ella Hough. Years later, the store and post office were lost to a fire. The land changed hands among dairy farmers multiple times through the 1900s before being purchased in 1999 by Soave Enterprises' The Brambleton Group.



From Relic to Reality

The dairy barn located near the intersection of Creighton and Belmont Ridge Roads will soon become a site for outdoor concerts, events, weddings, and home to the Brambleton Presbyterian Church.

Renovation of the dairy barn and its grounds has begun. Architectural modifications will modernize and improve the integrity of the building while maintaining a nod to its rural past. From the 1900's to early 1960's, Loudoun County soared to be the state's leading producer of dairy-related products, no doubt made possible by the contributions of this land's predecessors: from the **Hough to Hutchison, Thompson, Creighton, Nickens and Cornelius families.**

Once a village with a primitive past of humble dwellings including a school, post office and general store (*as well as survivors of their own pandemic - typhoid fever!*) the award-winning "village" of Brambleton arose in what has become one of the nation's fastest-growing and wealthiest counties!

Just as it did over a century ago, today's village continues to look out for one another offering compassion and support for those in need and welcomes neighbors from all corners of the world.

