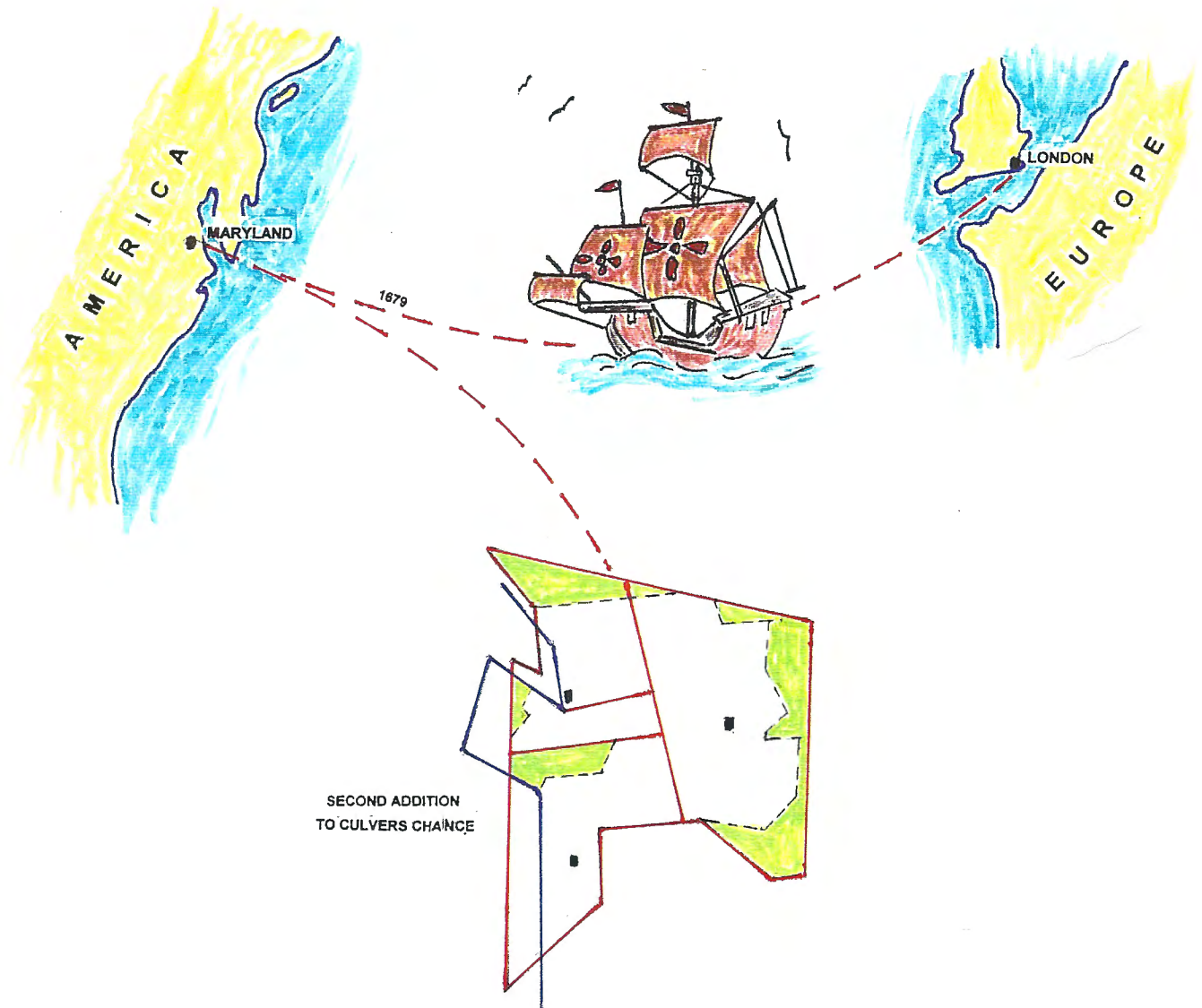


HISTORY OF SPRINGBROOK FOREST



SECOND EDITION
APRIL 2002

HISTORY OF
SPRINGBROOK FOREST

PREPARED BY THE HISTORY COMMITTEE OF THE SPRINGBROOK
FOREST CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Silver Spring MD
20902

April 2002

Springbrook Forest is a neighborhood with a rich and wonderful history. This second edition of the *History of Springbrook Forest (2002)* provides an update to the original history published in 1970. The second edition updates the written legend of our special community.

The release of this publication coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Springbrook Forest Citizens Association (SFCA). As was the hope of the first edition, we expect that this new publication will bring together the interests of former, current, and future residents. It will serve as a record of the spirit and uniqueness of Springbrook Forest that remains vibrant today.

On behalf of the residents of Springbrook Forest, I would like to thank the History Committee whose members have worked tirelessly and spent countless hours researching and preparing this second edition. David Schaefer skillfully led this committee. We thank Florence Howard, Don Gish, Mel Leonberger, Kathy Bassett, Pauline Summers, Beth Saidman and Phil Hill for their dedication and work.

David J. Baer
President, Springbrook Forest Citizens Association, 2001-2002
April, 2002

INTRODUCTION

The idea of writing a History of Springbrook Forest had its beginnings at a Citizens Association meeting in late 1967. At that meeting Ellis Clough, one of our foremost citizens, suggested a study of the factors contributing to the quality of life in the Forest. The first edition of the History published in 1970 was the outcome. Dr. Clough, who died in 1984, was the project's Commander-in-Chief and through his perseverance, dedication, and plain hard work, the 1970 document became a reality.

A new History is needed as:

- 1) The supply of the old History is exhausted.
- 2) Interesting events have taken place since 1970.
- 3) More information had been unearthed about events covered in the First edition.
- 4) We now have information about the prehistory of the Forest area..

Advances in computer technology has made the task of putting a History of this sort together much easier than in 1970. In particular the ability to enhance and manipulate images has resulted in many more illustrations than in the 1970 edition.

The production of this present History has been leisurely. In 1994 a committee consisting of Kathy Bassett, Don Gish, Florence Howard, Mel Leonberger, Maxine Schaefer, David Schaefer and Pauline Summers came together to produce a new history document. In 1996 Phil Hill was added to the group, and in 1999 Beth Saidman joined the crew.

Phil Hill figured that if Springbrook Forest's generations of youngsters enjoyed the shelter of Shell Rock, then Native Americans must have used it for shelter too. He dug, found that they did, even 4000 years ago. Chapter 1 is the result. Phil is a Forester and a professional archeologist.

Chapter 2 is the result of Florence Howard's intense interest in Montgomery County history. Her family forms part of this history. For Chapter 2 she built on the bare bones of the history of the Second Addition to Culver's Chance in the 1970 edition, and put real flesh on this skeleton.

Not many communities can claim that they are on land where mica was mined. Springbrook Forest can, and Chapter 3 talks about mica and the mining operations here.

Chapter 4, covering the early years of Springbrook Forest, is a trimmed and updated version of Ellis Clough's Chapter 2 of the 1970 edition.

Chapter 5 that covers the interval from 1955 to the production of the History in 1970 is pretty much Don Leslie's Chapter 3 of the 1970 edition with updating and illustrations added. Don died in 1995.

Chapter 6 covers the events from 1970 to the present time. It is the work of Don Gish who

supplemented his memory of events with reference to Association minutes.

Chapter 7, a glance at the future, was produced by Kathy Bassett with help from young members of her family and their friends.

Shortly before he died Wayne Travers was concerned about the fate of his contribution to the History. Wayne lived in the Forest from 1955 to 2000 where he and his wife Margaret raised two children, an unknown numbers of plants, and many wild animals. Birds always were on the Travers property, some dropping in at the same time each afternoon for a treat. His essay that described his observations of wildlife in the Forest is Appendix 1.

Barbara Rock aided in producing the list of SFCA officers. Nancy Bosworth and Sue Jonsberg assembled the list of residents.

Beth Saidman did original editing on early drafts in 1999. The undersigned built on Beth's work and cut and pasted and added graphics and edited the final copy.

Mel Leonberger produced the cover as well as other artwork in the booklet, and has overseen the final production of this document.

My late wife Maxine made large contributions to the original history project and these contributions are reflected in this new edition.

My wife Mary has given me great advice, encouragement and help, told me to "get to work", and has been patient with me when I got too involved with the project. I thank her for all this.

David Schaefer
Springbrook Forest Historian

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Chapter 1

The Prehistory of Springbrook Forest and Vicinity

by Phillip J. Hill, Ph.D.

Since at least 1970, the residents of Springbrook Forest have been compiling a history of their community which dates back to the first half of the 18th century. Springbrook Forest also has a prehistoric past, although it is much more obscure. In January of 1997, I decided to change this uncertainty by conducting an archeological investigation of a rockshelter, referred to locally as



Figure 1.1 Shell Rock (Northwest Branch Rockshelter)

“Shell Rock,” situated adjacent to the northeastern corner of the Springbrook Forest community limits (**Figure 1.1**). Presumably, if prehistoric people once occupied this rockshelter, then it would be a reliable source for describing Springbrook Forest’s pre-European past as well. Shell Rock is herein referred to as the “Northwest Branch Rockshelter.”

The Northwest Branch Rockshelter is located within Northwest Branch Park, adjacent to Springbrook Forest (**Figure 1.2**). The rockshelter sits about 100 feet from the levee of Northwest Branch, a perennial tributary of the Anacostia River which flows through the District of Columbia and eventually empties into the Potomac River. The shelter forms part of the base of a ridge that runs parallel to the stream. Presumably the shelter itself was exposed as early as 5,000 years ago by an earlier history of alluvial down-cutting and eventual movement eastward of

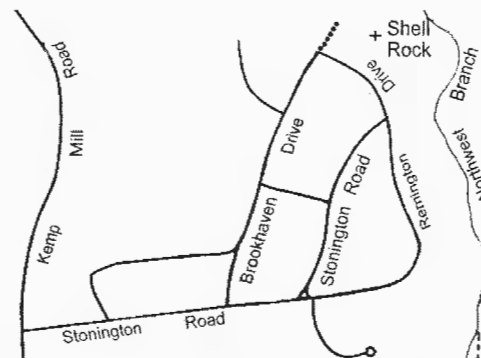


Figure 1.2 Shell Rock location

Northwest Branch.

The Northwest Branch Rockshelter is frequently visited by local residents, especially the young residents of Springbrook Forest. The beer cans, broken bottle glass, and fire remains under this massive rock structure are clues as to its current use (**Figure 1.3**). Archeological testing suggests that perhaps the rockshelter's use in the past and present were not altogether different.

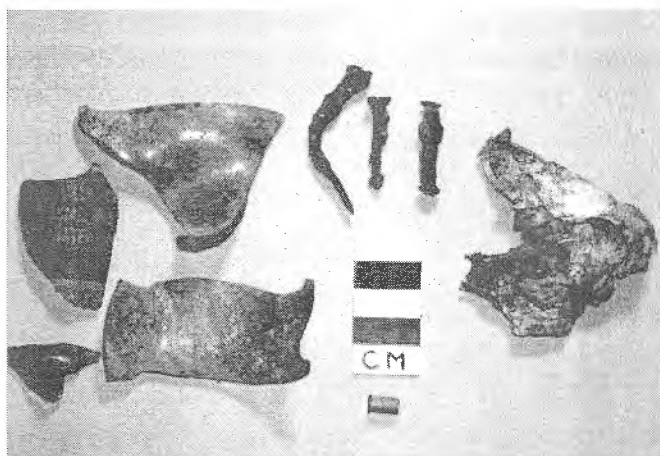


Figure 1.3 Historic materials - bottle glass, nails, beverage can and .22 caliber shell.

In January of 1997, the Northwest Branch Rockshelter was initially tested using a one-and-one-half foot excavation unit (**Figure 1.4**). This unit acted as a window into the past to determine whether the shelter was ever occupied by prehistoric folks. Presumably the nature of the shelter itself and the natural setting surrounding it would have been an attractive place to visit. After digging for two days through modern beer glass and charcoal and an additional three days

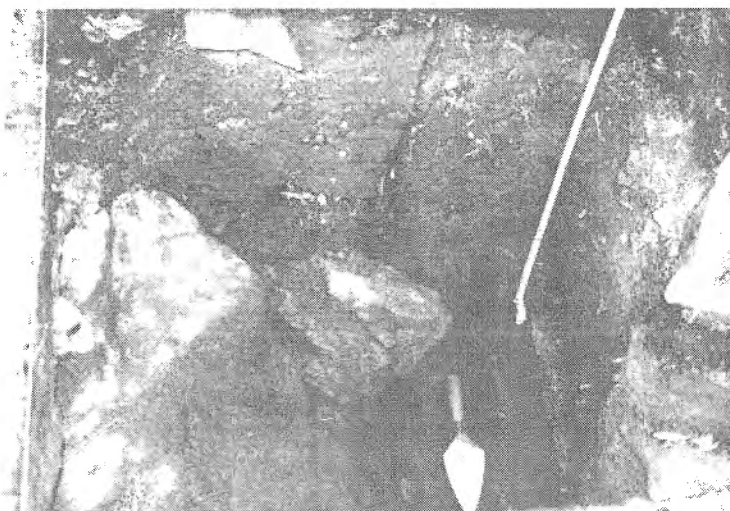


Figure 1.4 3-foot square excavation

through sandy soils no evidence was initially observed to suggest a prehistoric presence. It was not until these excavated soils were more thoroughly inspected back at my lab that I realized that the Northwest Branch Rockshelter contained prehistoric artifacts and was in fact a prehistoric site. Because the artifacts recovered were rather limited in what they could tell me about the area's prehistory, it was clear that further testing was required. Prior to a subsequent examination of the rockshelter, the site was registered with the Maryland Historical Trust in Crownsville, Maryland. The site inventory number assigned was "18MO458."

In March of 1997, the test unit excavated back in January was expanded into a 3-foot square. This larger unit allowed me to excavate twice as deep as before and examine a greater portion of the shelter's floor. At the completion of twelve days of testing, the unit was excavated to a depth of nearly four feet until resistant rock was reached and digging was halted. As expected, the expanded unit yielded many more artifacts than previously found with the potential of addressing many questions regarding the prehistory of Springbrook Forest and the nearby vicinity. The prehistoric material recovered at the rockshelter consisted of lithic artifacts (stone), pottery, bone,

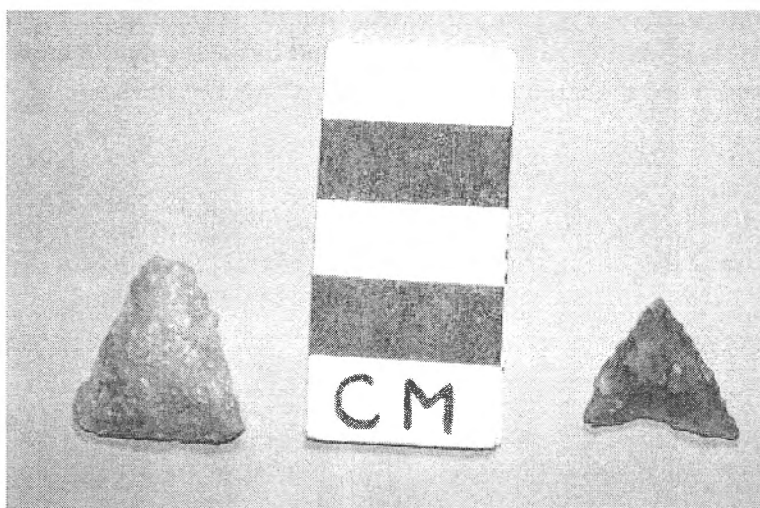


Figure 1.5 Late Woodland projectile points (quartzite and chalcedony arrowheads) 900 -1600 A. D.

and charcoal. A number of the artifacts found are what archeologists commonly refer to as "temporal diagnostics." In other words, they can answer questions about the rockshelter's period of occupation. These artifacts included two projectile points (arrow heads in this case) and a few pieces of pottery or "pottery sherds." The two points are small in size, isosceles in shape, and made from local quartz and quartzite (**Figure 1.5**). Both artifacts belong to the same cultural time period known as the "Late Woodland."

The Late Woodland period began about 1,100 years ago and lasted about 700 years up until the point of European contact in the early 17th century. In the Middle Atlantic region, this time period was distinguished from earlier times by the introduction of plant domestication; the diffusion of bow and arrow technology into the area; and the presence of permanent farming

communities along major river flood plains, such as with the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. The Late Woodland was also marked by population increase, territorialism, and open hostility between culturally and/or geographically distinct groups, particularly between those residing in the eastern Coastal Plain and western Piedmont physiographic provinces.

Nearly all of Montgomery County is situated in the Piedmont. Therefore, it is more likely that the Northwest Branch Rockshelter and vicinity were occupied by local Piedmont people during the Late Woodland. Territorialism and open hostility between groups would have all but eliminated long distance travel by eastern Coastal Plain and western Blue Ridge/Ridge and Valley folks. Because they generally occupied permanent farming settlements on major river flood plains, interior settings such as at the Northwest Branch Rockshelter would have been used as temporary base camps or short-term habitation locations during periodic hunting and lithic material procurement forays. The lithic waste and burned bone fragments recovered with these Late Woodland points support this interpretation. Particularly corroborative is the high frequency of small size waste flakes found. Such are commonly found at habitation sites where late-stage projectile point manufacture and projectile point resharpening or tool maintenance occurred. The lack of pottery dating to the Late Woodland indicates that occupation of the shelter at this time was perhaps more short-term and rather specific in focus, i.e. hunting-related.

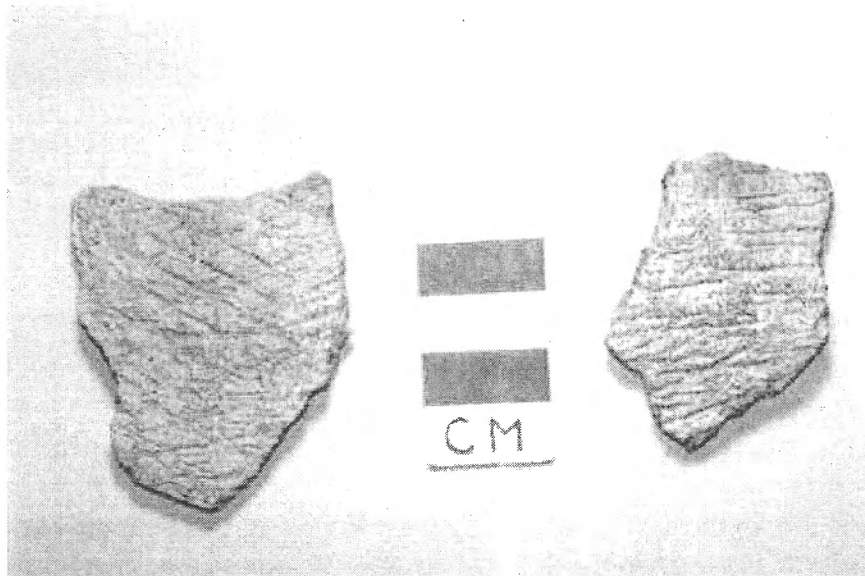


Figure 1.6 Early Woodland Pottery (Accokeek) 800 -300 B.C.

This may be related to the shelter's close proximity to the Fall Zone acting as a buffer between Piedmont groups and those residing further east.

The archeological evidence indicates that the Northwest Branch Rockshelter was occupied earlier than 1,100 years ago as well. This is based on the presence of Accokeek-type pottery that dates from the late Early Woodland to the early Middle Woodland periods (**Figure 1.6**). This means that the rockshelter was occupied sometime between 2,800 and 2,300 years ago. In the

Middle Atlantic region, this cultural time period was quite distinct from the Late Woodland. A sedentary pattern of living and the use of pottery were at their infancy. Bow and arrow technology was unknown and the spear was the major hunting implement. Although major floodplain settings were still an important settlement area, they were not planted in corn and other cultigens, for plant domestication had not yet been introduced. Local populations were expanding at lower rates, restricted territories and open hostility were altogether nonexistent, and groups freely moved between the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont regions. Major floodplain settlements were semi-permanent. Groups were generally less sedentary than the later Late Woodland folks because they had to respond to the geographical incongruity of seasonal foods, such as seeds, nuts, fish, and shell fish that they were dependent on.

Occupation of the Northwest Branch Rockshelter roughly 2,500 years ago was perhaps connected with the seasonal movement of folks exploiting known resources between the Potomac and Anacostia rivers and the interior tributaries of these rivers. The Fall Zone where the Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions overlap was particularly rich in edible resources. Perhaps the lower order streams such as Northwest Branch served as important hunting areas during lolls in seasonal fishing and shellfish collection at and below the Fall Zone.

The presence of pottery, lithic waste, and burnt animal bone at the rockshelter is indicative of a temporary base camp location during this time period as well. The recovery of pottery, however, suggests that this Early to Middle Woodland occupation had a more generalized activity focus and perhaps was of a longer duration than that of the later Late Woodland occupation. Both Woodland occupations contain similar evidence of stone tool manufacture and maintenance related to hunting activity.

Archeological evidence also indicates that the Northwest Branch Rockshelter may have been occupied as early as the Late Archaic period. This period began about 4,500 years ago and ended 1,500 years later with the advent of pottery. The evidence to support this earliest occupation period, however, is rather limited. It is based on the recovery of a long, narrow stone drill made from quartzite found ten inches below the earliest excavation level containing pottery (**Figure 1.7**). During the Late Archaic, the environment was relatively hot and dry in comparison to today. Prehistoric groups were thus attracted to aquatic settings such as Northwest Branch. Although not temporally diagnostic, they commonly used quartzite material to manufacture their spear points. Such points, referred to as "broad spears," were characteristically large and often recycled into other tool types such as the drill. Because this drill was found nearly a foot below the earliest pottery level, perhaps it marks the presence of a Late Archaic occupation. These folks were quite similar in their settlement and subsistence patterns to that of the Early/Middle Woodland people, although they must have been less sedentary as evidenced by their pre-ceramic level of technology. It is, therefore, reasonable that the one occupation would be found below the other.

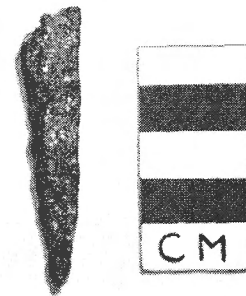


Figure 1.7
Quartzite drill
fragment.

No evidence was recovered from the Northwest Branch Rockshelter to suggest that the Springbrook Forest area was occupied any earlier than 4,500 years ago. It is likely that this lack of evidence is connected with the fact that the rockshelter was unexposed before this point in time. Archeology in Maryland has clearly shown, however, that prehistoric groups were present as early as 12,000 years ago. It is certainly plausible to assume that various groups moved in and out of this portion of Montgomery County during the 7,500 year period that remains unaccounted for archeologically in the area surrounding Springbrook Forest.

Chapter 2

SETTLERS ARRIVE AND PATENT LAND ALONG NORTHWEST BRANCH

THE SECOND ADDITION TO CULVERS CHANCE

The Patentees, The Settlers, The Farm Era: the Culver, Semmes, and Lee Families and Their Households--1679 to 1882, and property exchanges to 1913

by Florence Howard

Today Springbrook Forest occupies much of the land once known as *The Second Addition to Culvers Chance*. The Northwest Branch, the tributary of the Anacostia which borders our community, was an early attraction to this part of Maryland. On it were eventually located mills at several locations, one of which gave its name to Kemp Mill Road. This area has existed successively under the jurisdiction of four Maryland counties: Charles, Prince George's, Frederick and, since September 1776, Montgomery County. It was not until the late 1680's that land was granted by Lord Baltimore's land office in this part of Maryland. This was a wilderness place at that time beyond the frontier of European settlement. The lower Patuxent River, in what is present-day Prince George's County, but in 1679 still called Charles County, was a good location for beginning a new life in Maryland.

Maryland was unique in several ways. Its proprietor avoided conflict with the indigenous American Indians by purchasing land for the St. Mary's settlement at the colony's beginning. William Walsh and William Lloyd Fox, in their book, *Maryland, A History* (Hall of Records Commission, Annapolis, Md., 1983, page 5) explain: "...friendly relations with the Indians of the neighborhood spared Maryland colonists the horrors of such massacres as Virginia experienced in 1622 and again in 1644.... The single powerful tribe, the Susquehannahs on the upper Bay, was remote from the early settlements, and partly neutralized by awesome enemies, the Iroquois, to the north. Maryland tribes gradually dwindled or moved away, leaving only place names as their memorials: Nanticoke, Wicomico, Port Tobacco, Patuxent, Piscataway." Almost feudal privileges had been granted to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, a convert to Catholicism, who had earlier attempted to establish a colony in Newfoundland, but abandoned the idea because of the harsh climate. His subsequent visit to Virginia had encouraged him to seek rights to begin again in the more southern Chesapeake area. But he died in 1632 without ever visiting Maryland and only weeks before the charter he had sought was granted.

The charter of Maryland went to Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore on 20 June 1632, who saw the enterprise as a business venture with profit to be made. After a four-month voyage, the colonizer's ships, the Ark and the Dove landed on St. Clements Island, in the Potomac River on 25 March 1634. Lord Baltimore's brother, Leonard, was made governor with two commissioners and a council of men to advise him. The unique, almost feudal

land system and government, which was established at the outset, remained in force until the American Revolution. At first, land was granted by the land office as "head rights" depending on the number of immigrants. Later, a fee, "caution" money, was charged for land grants. Grantees had to pay a "quit rent" yearly to Lord Baltimore's agents.

In 1679, a young man named Henry Culver sailed from London to Maryland on a ship, the *Globe*, with shipmaster, Samuel Groome, claiming a headright of 50 acres for each of the 40 passengers he imported that year¹. Within ten years of arriving in America Culver had married a widow with property and children for which he had to file court papers. During the fifty years from his arrival until he died he acquired property, married twice and raised a large family². [We shall see that this Henry Culver had a son named Henry who, in turn, named his son Henry. For clarity these will be designated as Henry (1), Henry (2), and Henry (3).]

Henry (1) died in 1729. He stated he was "very sick" when he wrote his will on 7 February 1729. The will named his two sons, Henry (2) and William, and six daughters. Son William and the daughters were left ten Negroes, who were listed by name, and who were to go to the daughters when the daughters reached 16, or day of marriage, and to William at age 21 years³.

We need to acknowledge the important contribution of those early residents of provincial Maryland who were from areas of the world other than Europe, especially those from Africa. Although pressed into involuntary servitude, their skills and labors contributed greatly to the success of the colony then largely an agricultural system whether working with the owner of a small farm working side-by-side, or under an overseer, who might also be in involuntary servitude, on one of the few larger landed estates. We have only the given names of the Negroes in the Culver household at that time. They were a boy named Ned who was to go to William Culver; a girl named Doll, to Mary Culver; to Sarah Culver, a girl named Jenny and a boy named Andrew; to Margaret Culver a girl named Bess and one boy, name not given; to Monica Culver, a girl named Sue and a child called Beck; to Ann and Elinor Culver, one girl named Lucy and one woman named Esther.

Prince George's County was established in 1696, and comprised all of Maryland west of the Patuxent River, a huge area. This new county included lands formerly patented as being in Calvert or Charles County. The population east of Northwest Branch had grown and settlers were pushing westward. Land speculators had sought new surveys and patents in the more western part of Prince George's County in the late 1600s.

The first patent in the area near present-day Springbrook Forest was "Saint Wynox Bergh" (**Figure 2.1**) surveyed in 1689 for Mr. John Woodcock. This was one of the earliest tracts patented in what is now Montgomery County. The tract began at a bounded white oak,

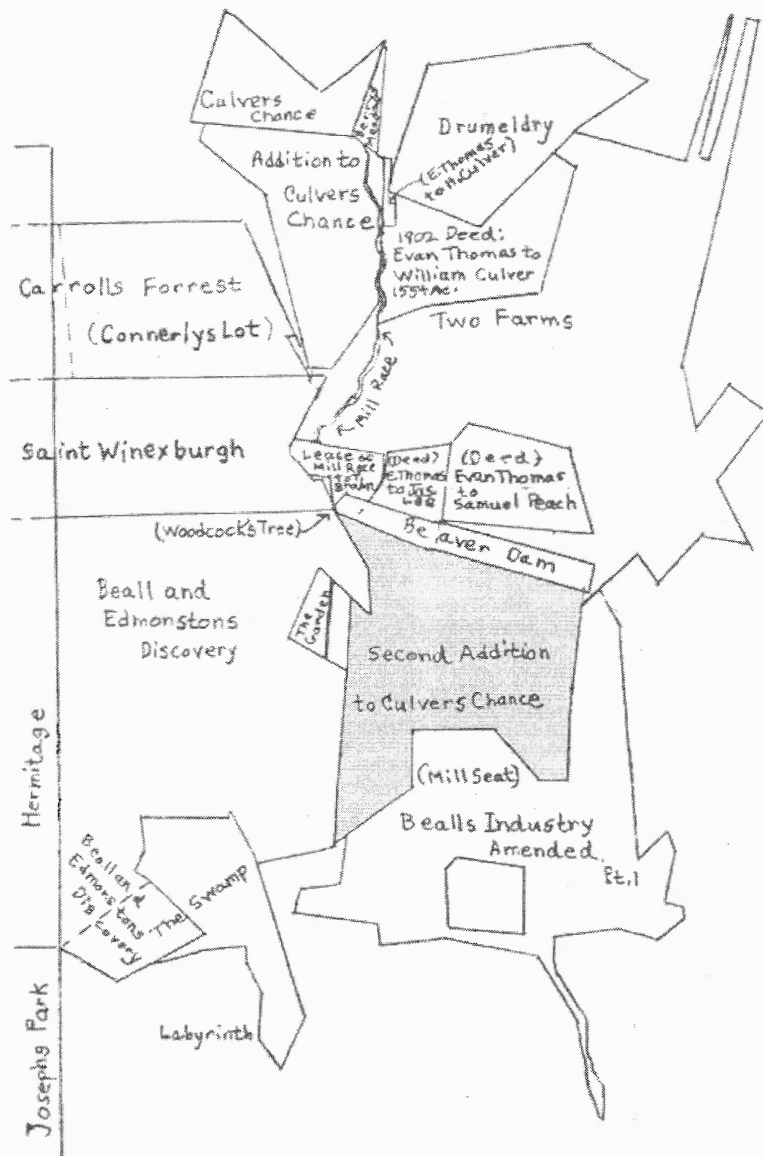


Figure 2.1
The *Second Addition to Culvers Chance* patent and surrounding patents

referred to in later surveys as "Woodcocks Tree," standing on the west side of the "North Branch of the Eastern Branch of Potomack by the side of a small Run that falleth into the said Branch above the head of a great Savanah running thence up the Branch⁴." This important landmark was located about where the small stream that flows today under Kemp Mill Road

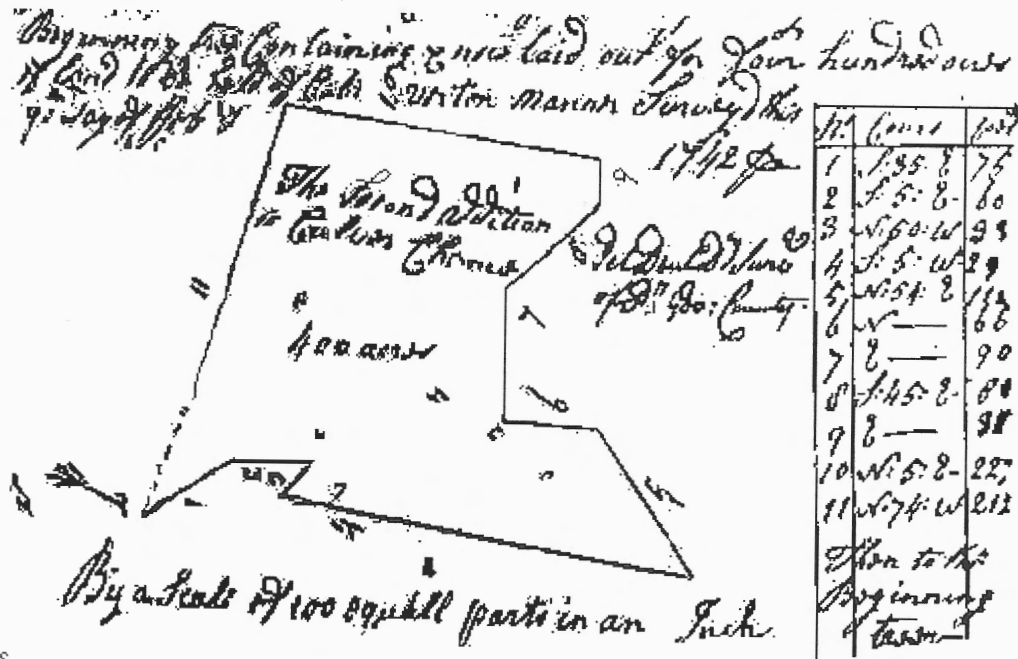


Figure 2.2 Plat from 1742 Survey of Second Addition to Culvers Chance

south of Glenallan Avenue joins the Northwest Branch.

In 1742 (when George Washington was only a lad of ten) the *Second Addition to Culvers Chance*, a tract of 400 acres, was surveyed for Henry (3) Culver (Figure 2.2). He obtained a patent for the land in 1743. The Second Addition to Culvers Chance included all of what is now Springbrook Forest (see Figure 2.3). The Northwest point of the tract was the previously mentioned "Woodcocks Tree". It seems that the Culvers did not live on the tract, although some of them lived in the general area. Henry Culver paid 16 shillings (around \$4.00) rent a year to Lord Baltimore.

The population of Prince George's County had increased so much by 1745 that a new county was formed out of the

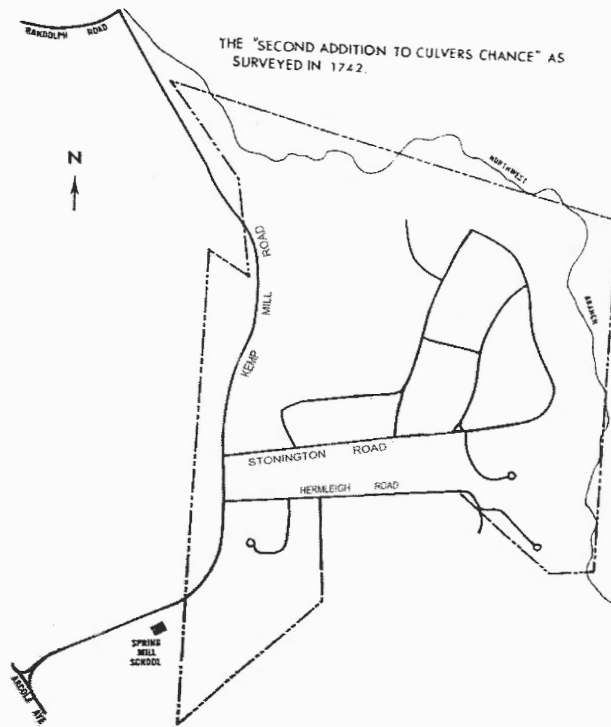


Figure 2.3 Second addition to Culvers Chance with present roads

western part and named Frederick County. The dividing line was about where the line divides Prince George's County from Montgomery County today. So it is the Frederick County Debt Books for 1753 to 1759 which show that the Widow Culver was listed with the properties "Chance," "Addition to Chance" and "Second Addition to Chance", meaning Culvers Chance. *Chance* and *Addition to Culvers Chance* lay about where Indian Spring Country Club is now located.

Twenty years after the land was surveyed, Henry Culver sold the Second Edition to Culvers Chance to Joseph Simmes, a "planter of Charles County" on 12 February 1762 for 52 pounds and 10 shillings sterling (around \$250 or about 50 cents an acre). A standard memo with the deed noted that Mary, wife of Henry Culver, "being privately conveyed..." agreed to wave her dower right to the property, "and declared that she did the same voluntarily and Freely without being compelled thereto by any threats of her said Husband or fear of his displeasure."⁵ .

Exactly when the Simmes [Semmes or Simms] family was first living on Second Addition to Culvers Chance is not known. They are not found in the 1776 census, as the list for Rock Creek Hundred is missing. It was in 1776 that Montgomery County, previously identified as "Lower Frederick County," was established. And in 1777, Joseph "Simms" was listed in Rock Creek Hundred with four "taxables", apparently himself, his wife and two children⁶.

The 1783 Assessment enacted by the Maryland General Assembly to raise money to help pay for the Revolutionary War showed Joseph Simms had 371-3/4 acres valued at 417 pounds, 18 shillings and 9 pence. His land was improved with one "Log Dwelling house, 2 framed Tobo. houses and other Log'd buildings; 100 acres cleared, 5 acres meadow in grass, 3 acres Marsh Timber'd Land." The list of personal property for which Semmes was assessed included 2 adult slaves, a man and a woman, and six children. The Semmes family were also assessed for five horses and 10 cattle. Their own family consisted of nine "white inhabitants."

Following the American Revolution, landholders no longer had to pay "rent" to Lord Baltimore or his agents. The first mention of the Second Addition to Culver's Chance after the Revolution is a 1786 resurvey for Joseph Simmes. The surveyor appears to have been trying to make corrections to what he thought were earlier errors. In this resurvey, the surveyor stated that he found that part of The Second Addition to Culvers Chance lay foul to an elder tract called "Discovery", (Beall and Edmonstons Discovery) and so lost some acreage. In order to make up for the lost acres, he tried to add a long projection at the northwest corner of the tract, believing vacant land lay there (**Figure 2.4**).

The 1786 resurvey shows the altered lines. However, the Land Office, which continued to process surveys and patents after the Revolution, to the present time, found the resurvey unacceptable and no patent was issued. The resurvey is interesting in that it identifies some surrounding patents. The tract referred to as "Discovery" was "Beall and Edmonstons Discovery" which fit perfectly to the west of Second Addition to Culvers Chance, except for

the small area patented as "The Garden", about where Alpert Lane goes into Wheaton Regional Park today.

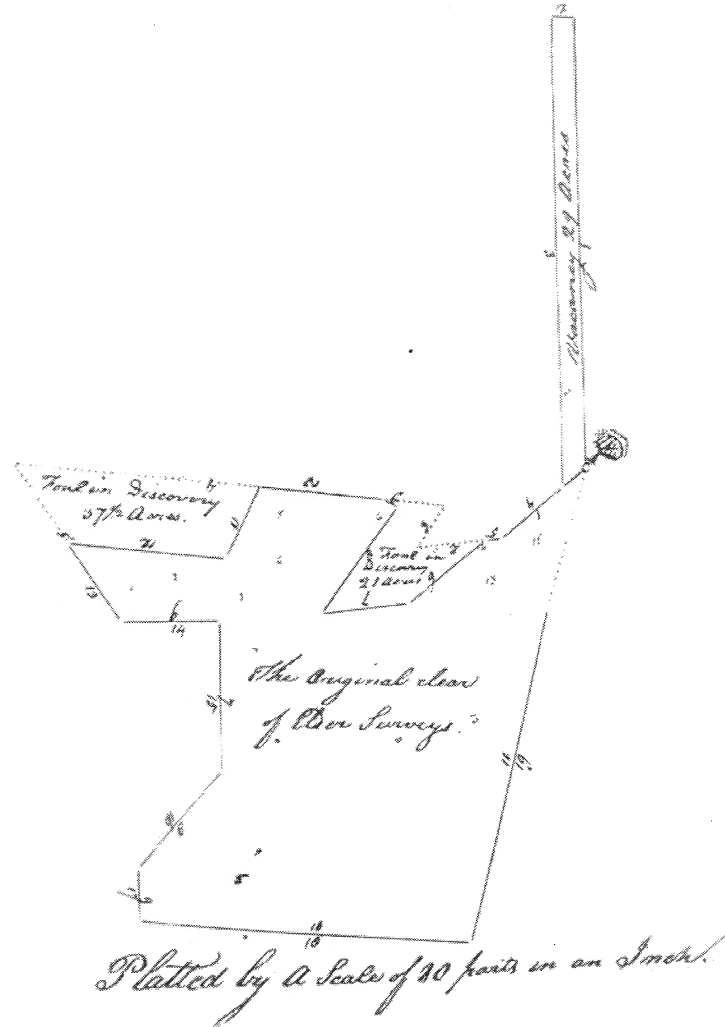


Figure 2.4 Plat of 1786 Resurvey (Note "Woodcocks Tree")

To the west of Beall and Edmonstons Discovery was The Hermitage, patented in 1689 for 3,866 acres. The line between these two tracts can be seen on today's maps as the western edge of Wheaton Regional Park. A person crosses that line when using the Shorefield Road entrance to the Park. The name Shorefield is a corruption of Shawfield, the name of the part of Beall and Edmonstons Discovery where the Moses Orme family lived and which was later sold to the Stubbs family, whose early 1800's home is still there. To the north of Beall and

Edmonstons Discovery was Saint Winexburg.⁷

Before his death in 1792 Semmes had given his son, Joseph Milburn Semmes, 100 acres in the northwest corner of the Second Addition to Culvers Chance. Most of this land is now Kemp Mill Forest.

Joseph Semmes, Sr. died intestate on 12 December 1792. It was ten years before his estate was settled. In the meantime Joseph Milburn Semmes had died leaving 2 sons and a daughter. In an Equity Case filed in order to settle the estate of Joseph Semmes, Sr., the Court named commissioners who determined that dividing the land equitably for all heirs was not feasible. The case, covering many pages, is recorded in a volume in the courthouse in Rockville entitled Court Records 1801 - 1806 Insolvent Records 1807 - 1823. The land had to be sold and the proceeds divided among the heirs, some of whom were minor children. The Commissioners were to give four weeks notice in The Washington Federalist and National Intelligencer of the time, terms and place of the sale. An advertisement appeared in the Washington City newspaper, The National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser, on Wednesday, 15 October 1802 announcing that the Simmes property would be sold on "Monday the 25th of October, next, if fair, otherwise the next fair day, on the Premises to the highest bidder on a credit of one, two, three and four years, with interest to be paid annually from the date -- All the right, title and Effects of JOSEPH SIMMES, deceased, to a certain tract of land, called the Second Addition to Culvers Chance, containing 300 acres, lying on a stream of water called the North West, and in Montgomery County, now in possession of his widow, Catherine Simmes." The name is variously given as Semmes, Simmes, and Simms⁸.

At the auction the land was finally "knocked down" to Mr. Nathaniel Wilson at \$12 per acre. This was not all of the land that Simmes had purchased from Henry Culver in 1762.

There was a question of the exact acreage since 100 acres had been given to the eldest son, and also there was the widow's dower. To determine the exact metes and bounds Wilson asked that a new survey be made. That survey was recorded in detail and shows three houses on the whole tract, with four divisions. A copy of the colorful survey plat was shown on the cover of the *History of Springbrook Forest and Second Addition to Culvers Chance* of April 1970. Two copies of this plat appear in the volume at the courthouse in Rockville. Permission to copy the plat was granted by Officers of the Court of Montgomery County for the present edition of the History and is included as the color insert on the next page⁸.

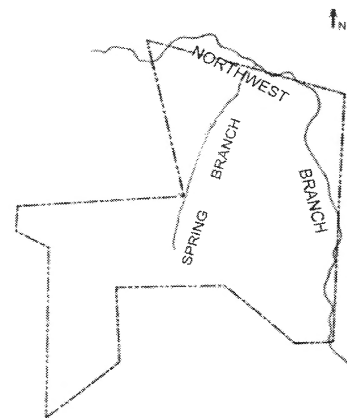


Figure 2.5 Nathaniel Wilson's purchase of 1803. The missing northwest corner had been given to Joseph Semmes son sometime before 1792

Mr. Wilson's resurvey of Second Addition to Culvers Chance was made by George Fenwick,

Jr., "of the County of Washington," a surveyor hired by the Court, who found Wilson's part to contain 286-2/3 acres. The claimed 1786 "vacant land" is nowhere to be seen. Red outlines the original tract (The Second Addition to Culvers Chance). Blue indicates the boundary lines of Beall and Edmonstons Discovery as shown on the 1786 resurvey, however in a slightly different position. Green indicates the "woodland". The commissioners reported on 14 May 1803 that all parties were extremely pleased with the division.

Three houses are shown. The most northern house is where the Naham's house was located, now the site of Kemp Mill Overlook. The eastern most house is in Springbrook Forest on the lower part of Stonington Road. This general location for a house is also noted on later maps. The third house is close to where the old Curran house was located, on what is now Kemp Mill Farms.

Nathaniel Wilson's purchase of about 280 acres is shown in **Figure 2.5**. Here, land claimed by "Discovery" has been removed, as well as the previously mentioned northwest corner of the tract.

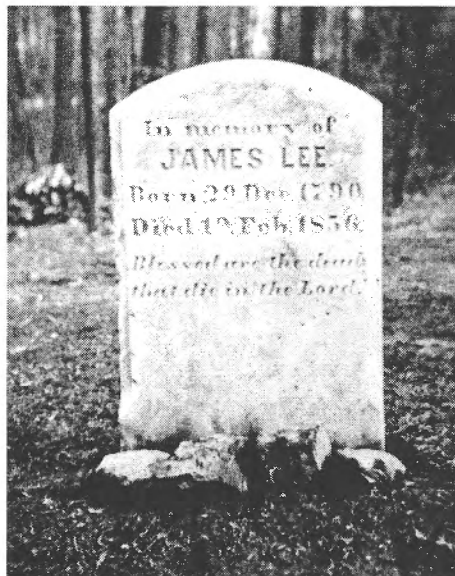


Figure 2.6
James Lee's Tombstone on
which is written, "Born
December 26, 1790; Died
February 19, 1856

Mr. Wilson's ownership of the land only lasted a short time, for by 1810 Mr. James Lee had gained ownership. The property became known as the "Lee Farm." The land was described

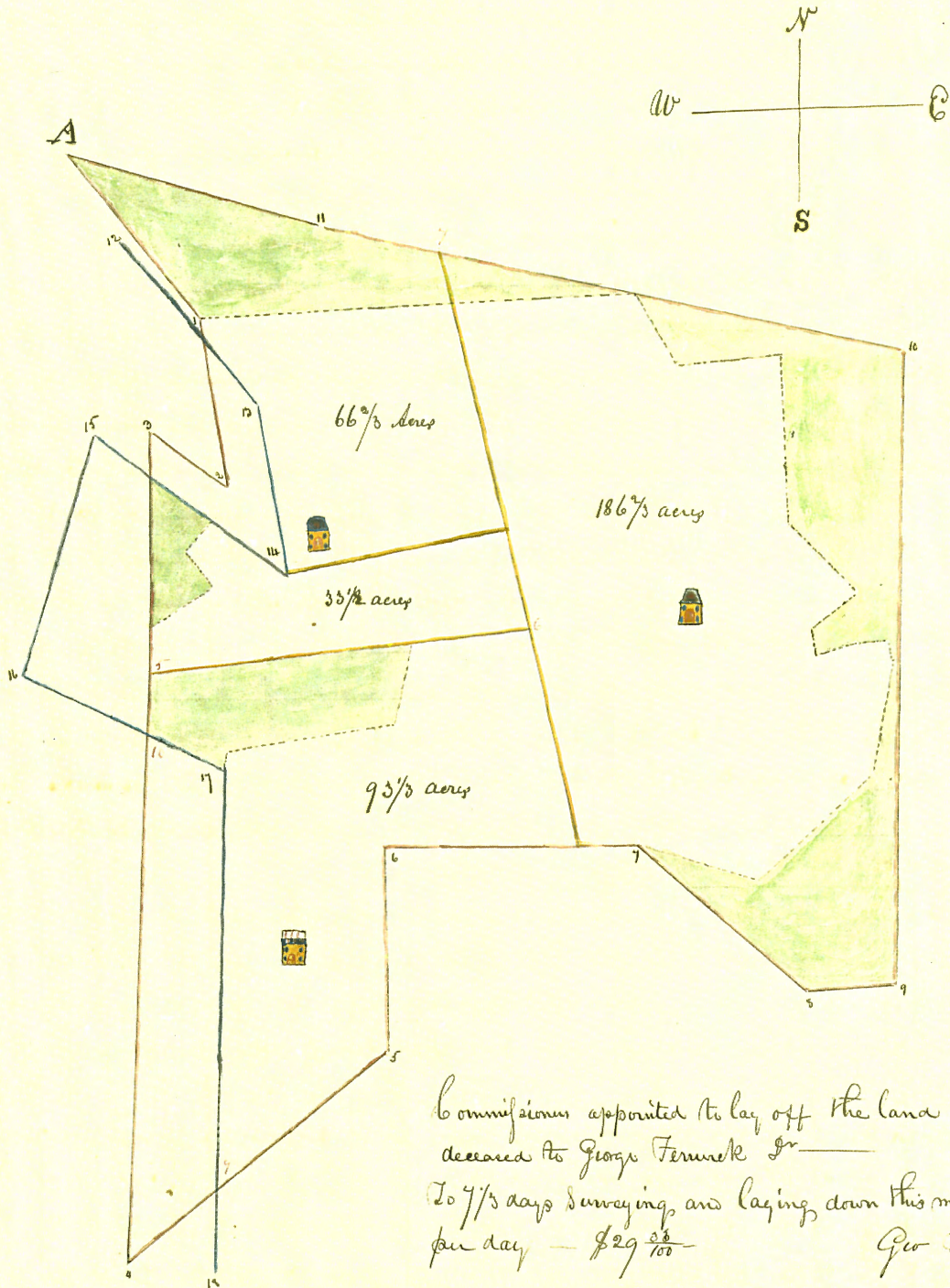
March Term 1803.

Sub. Agreeable to the order of court to lay off and sell the land the property of Joseph Simms dec^d
we have so done. (The plot will explain the part laid off for Mr Wilson the purchaser the hundred
acres claimed by Millburn Simms heirs & the Meadows thuds together with the costs of Surveying
we are happy to add that all the parties have said they are extremely pleased with the
division, with respect we remain Yours. Dear Sirs. Serv^t

Daniel Reintzel, Adam King, John Wheelkeld. Commissioners

To the Honble. Judges of Montgomery County

March 14th 1803



Commissioners appointed to lay off the land of Joseph Simms
deceased to George Ferrick Jr
To 7 1/3 days surveying and laying down this map at \$4
per day — \$29 ²/₁₀₀ — Geo Ferrick

as starting "at a bounded post standing on the side of a hill and on the west side of the Spring Branch." The position described is near Brookhaven Drive at the point where the Jackson-Sacks (Lot 7, Block C, 501 Rockford) and Nelson (Lot 1, Block N, 12200 Brookhaven) property lines would meet if continued into the right of way of Brookhaven Drive. The "Spring Branch" evidently flowed along what is now Brookhaven Drive and on into the Northwest Branch as it does today. James Lee paid \$3360 for the 280 acres - the \$12.00 an acre price⁹. In 1837 the farm came into possession of James Lee, Jr.

The population of Montgomery County in 1810 was 17,980. By 1840 it had decreased to 15,496. "Continual planting of tobacco had worn out the soil. Farm lands held no promise and younger people moved elsewhere. By 1840 the traveler from one farm to the next found the same broken fences, homes in need of repair, everywhere a general atmosphere of disillusion and abandonment. Montgomery County had come to be called the 'Sahara of Maryland'."¹⁰ The Quakers of Sandy Spring introduced Peruvian guano into the county in 1844. This fertilizer rejuvenated the land and, with the abandonment of tobacco culture, fertility of farmland was gradually restored.

The United States 1850 Agricultural Census showed the Lee Farm with 100 acres improved and 180 acres unimproved, with a cash value of \$1500. The value of farming implements and machinery was listed as \$80. There were 3 horses, 7 "Milch Cows," 1 other cattle, 16 sheep, and 18 swine with the livestock valued at \$280. For crops, there were 75 bushels of wheat, 400 bushels of Indian corn, and 330 bushels of oats. Also, 5 bushels of Irish potatoes, 260 pounds of butter, and 6 tons of hay were produced on the farm. The value of animals slaughtered was \$70. There was no listing for tobacco.

The 1855 Montgomery County Assessment Record listed James Lee Jr. with 289 acres for part of Second Addition to Culvers Chance valued at \$6 per acre with a total value of \$1734 for land and improvements. Livestock was valued at \$345, household furniture at \$110, and Plate at \$16, for a total value of \$471 for Personal Property.

Just as better times were coming in 1856, James Lee, Jr. died. He was buried in a family graveyard located (according to Mr. William T. Gray) half on property now owned by the Paglins (210 Stonington) and half on the Misko property (12210 Remington). James Lee's tombstone is shown in **Figure 2.6**. This stone was found by Mr. Hembree in back of his home on Grays Lane. He generously donated it to Springbrook Forest.

The will of the younger James Lee, who was not yet 20 years old in 1810, listed his wife, "Leathy," executor¹¹. The 1860 census showed "Leathy" Lee had 200 acres of improved land, and 73 acres of unimproved land. The Montgomery County Assessment book for the Fifth District for 1866 listed Mrs. "Lethe" Lee with 289 acres of Second Addition to Culver's Chance valued at \$5.78 per acre, for a total value of \$5,780 for which she was assessed \$20. Martinets Map of Montgomery County published in 1865 is shown in **Figure 2.7**. Note the "Grist and Saw Mill" on the map next to Mrs. S. Kemp" at the present Randolph Road and

the Northwest Branch. Like the 1803 map, three houses (indicated by arrows) are shown within the bounds of the Second Addition to Culvers Chance. One appears to be occupied by a Captain Stewart, a second, within Springbrook Forest, by someone named Carrington,



Figure 2.7
Portion of Martinet's Map of Montgomery
County (1865). Arrows point to three houses on
Second Addition to Culvers Chance.

and a third house is shown just above the "A" of "A. Moran." Mr. William Gray's grandmother was a Moran and he has told of two Moran homestead locations, both of which are shown on the map. The one to the right of "A. Moran" is located where the Kemp Mill Recreation Center now exists. The one above the "A" is between the houses known as the "Yeatman and Auth houses", beyond the former Spring Mill School, now an Area Office of Montgomery County Schools. A photograph of the Moran homestead, taken about 1930, is shown in **Figure 2.8**. Mr. Gray's parents are standing in front.

Mr. Moran's "Homestead" near the Spring Mill office complex is shown on an 1879 map (**Figure 2.9**). Kemp Mill road, unnamed, appears for the first time on a map. It has all its present curves and turns. The Northwest Grist and Saw Mill is shown as two buildings, both east of the Northwest Branch, one north and the other south of what is shown as Old Annapolis Road, now Old Randolph Road. Mitchell's Cross Roads is at the present intersection of University Boulevard, formerly Old Bladensburg Road, and Georgia Avenue, formerly the Brookeville Pike¹².

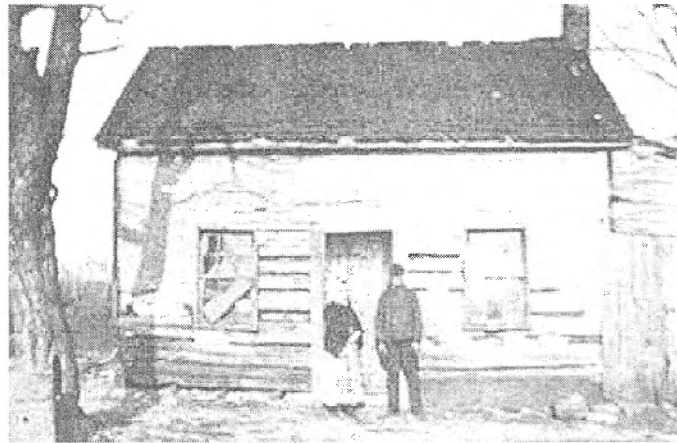


Figure 2.8 The Homestead

By 1880, the green cornfields were promising crowning plenty to Montgomery County. On the Lee's farm, however, there was a different promise. Mica had been found. The "Lee Farm" became the "Mica Mine Farm" in 1882 when the land was sold to Charles D. Gilmore and John H. Rice¹³. This ended the farm era for what was to become in future years Springbrook Forest.

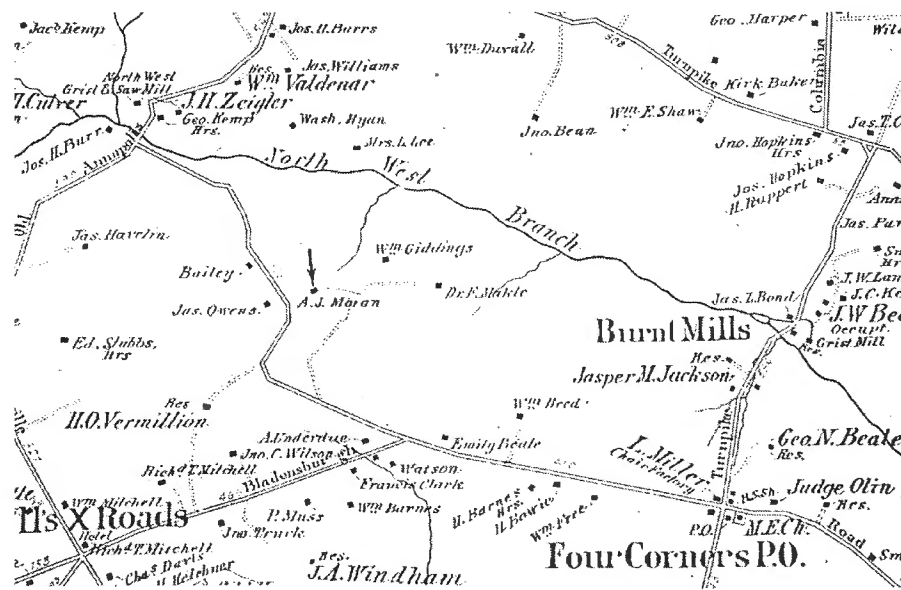


Figure 2.9 1879 Map by G. M. Hopkins. This was the first map to show Kemp Mill Road leading to George Kemp's grist and saw mill. Arrow points to Moran Homestead.

In 1887 the "Mica Mine Farm" was sold to Henry M. Baker; Gilmore, Rice and their Maryland Mica Mining Company having "failed to comply with the terms of sale" of 1884.



Figure 2.11 1937 aerial photograph. See Figure 2.12 for landmarks

In 1913 the 209 acres of Henry Baker were sold to Charles D. Smith and Joseph H. Bradley. Smith and Bradley were partners who owned the Columbia Sand and Gravel Company.¹⁴

Figure 2.11 is the oldest known aerial photograph of the Springbrook environs. This view of what was to become Springbrook Forest was taken April 30, 1937 at 4:00 in the afternoon. Springbrook Forest land is located below and to the right of the white area (a field) located at what is now Kemp Mill Forest. Kemp Mill Road can be seen at the left and Randolph

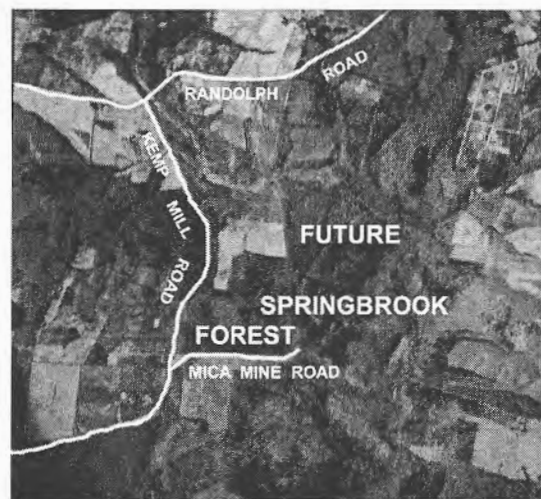


Figure 2.12 Landmarks in Figure 2.11

Road at the top of the photograph. Grays lane is the straight line going west from Kemp Mill Rd.

The Mica Mine Road led to the mica mining operations that will be discussed in the next chapter. The Mica Mine Road's beginning can clearly be seen to the east of Grays Lane, and its wandering into the Forest can just be made out. The mica ditches (to be discussed in the following chapter) and elsewhere show as bright areas among the darker trees.

The forested hillsides today make it difficult to realize that for over 100 years this area was farmed and had supported several large families. But changes were to take place that vastly altered the terrain.

NOTES

1. Hall of Records, Patent Book WC # 2, fols. 166-169.
2. Benson, Barbara, "Henry Culver and John Dorsett Families of Prince George's County," Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin, Vol. 28, # 4 (Fall 1987). pp. 416-434.
3. Wills, Prince George's Co., Vol. 20, fol. 14-17.
4. Patent Book C # 3, fols. 557-558.
5. Deeds, Frederick Co., Book G, fol. 391.
6. Newman, Harry Wright, The Maryland Semmes and Kindred Families, Balt., Md., The Maryland Historical Society, 1956, pp. 1-27 passim., found in the Montgomery County Historical Society Library which also has "Taxables in Montgomery County in 1777" which lists the taxables for each of the hundreds in Montgomery County in 1777. There is a copy in the Hall of Records (MdHR G 2083).
7. Hall of Records, Montgomery County Unpatented Survey # 246 [Resurvey of Second Addition to Culvers Chance]; Howard, Florence Bayly DeWitt, "Beall and Edmonstons Discovery to Wheaton Regional Park: 1734-1994," The Montgomery County Story, Vol. 37, No. 4, (Nov. 1994) available from the Montgomery County Historical Society's Library or public library.
8. Montgomery County Equity Record "Court Records, 1801-1806, 1807-1823", pp. 91ff. and includes the 1803 resurvey of Second Addition to Culvers Chance for Nathaniel Wilson located in Montgomery County Courthouse.

9. Montgomery County Deeds, Book O, fol. 509.

10. "Suburban Spectator" published by Woodward and Lothrop, November - December 1959 issue included an article, "A Brief History of Montgomery County in the Early Years."

11. Montgomery County Wills, Book WT of R-2, fol 270.

12. G. M. Hopkins, C.E., Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including The County of Montgomery, 1879, pp. 16-17.

13. Montgomery County Deeds: Liber JA#4, folio 143.

14. Montgomery County Deeds: Liber 238, folios 404 and 406.

Chapter 3

THE GILMORE MICA MINE

By David H. Schaefer



Mica is defined in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary as:

Any member of a group of minerals, hydrous silicates of aluminum with other bases, chiefly potassium, magnesium, iron, and lithium, that separate readily into thin, tough, often transparent, and usually elastic laminae.

It is a mineral of many remarkable attributes:

Transparent - Pick up a piece and look through it. The image above was formed by a direct computer scan of a piece of Springbrook Forest mica placed on top of paper with "mica" repeatedly printed. This piece of mica is about a sixty-fourth of an inch thick at its thinnest.

Flexible - A thin piece can be bent back on itself.

Heat resistant - It is stable in a flame.

An electrical insulator.

Endlessly separable into thin flat sheets (Perhaps not quite endlessly, but it can be split until a thickness of seventeen angstroms is reached).

The type of mica found in Springbrook Forest is *Muscovite*, so named because of its use for windows in Russia.

Mysticism surrounds mica. Hindu legend says that mica is frozen lightning from thunderbolts thrown by Indra, King of the Gods, when he was fighting the demons.¹ In the U.S. mica decorations are found in Indian burial and temple mounds of Ohio and Tennessee. Some of these items are over two thousand years old.²

In 1840 Francis Preston Blair and his daughter, Elizabeth, found a bubbling spring while riding on horseback in the woods beyond Washington. Rays of sunlight glittering on mica particles in the water caused Mr. Blair to name it "The Silver Spring". From this encounter Silver Spring acquired its name³.

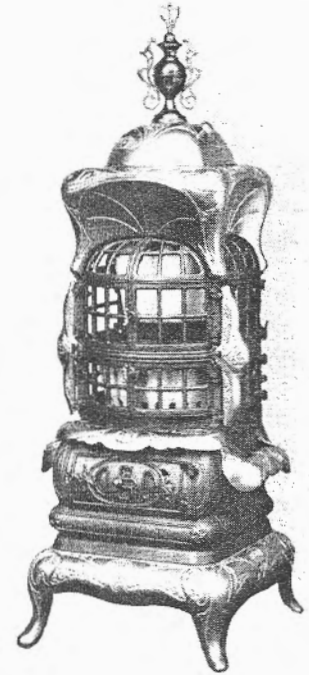


Figure 3.1 An "Illuminating Stove"

In 1867 prospectors looking for old Spanish silver mines discovered mica in North Carolina. The "silver mines" turned out to be ancient Indian mica mines. After these discoveries, a large mica industry developed in North Carolina⁴.

By 1880 green corn fields were promising crowning plenty to Montgomery county. On the land that became Springbrook Forest there was a different promise, deposits of mica had been discovered.



Figure 3.2 Lamp with mica shade

Because of its transparency and its resistance to heat, mica came into particular demand for "illuminating" heating stoves (**Figure 3.1**). This demand continued into the 1890's. *Popular Science Monthly* of this period said "The chief use of cut mica is in stoves, and its comparative cheapness has made possible the luminous - not to say - artistic wonders which constitute the latest and most cheerful creations of the stove men"⁵. Some expensive stoves had two-thirds of their radiating area ornately covered with mica windows. Mica was also used on portable

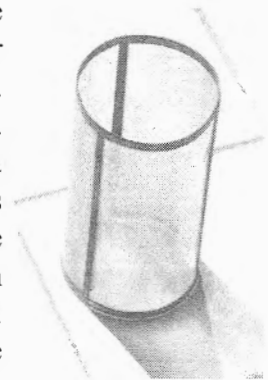


Figure 3.3 The Mica shade

lamps as a shade to protect their open flame (**Figures 3.2 and 3.3**).

With the large demand for mica in the mid 1800's, prospectors began to look for sources of mica outside of New Hampshire and North Carolina. In Maryland large quantities of mica were found in Howard County along the Patuxent river. In Montgomery County the only mica mine was in the future Springbrook Forest.

The Lee Farm was renamed the *Mica Mine Farm* in 1882 when the land was sold to Charles D. Gilmore and John H. Rice ⁶. In 1884 the Maryland Mica Mining Company was "substituted as

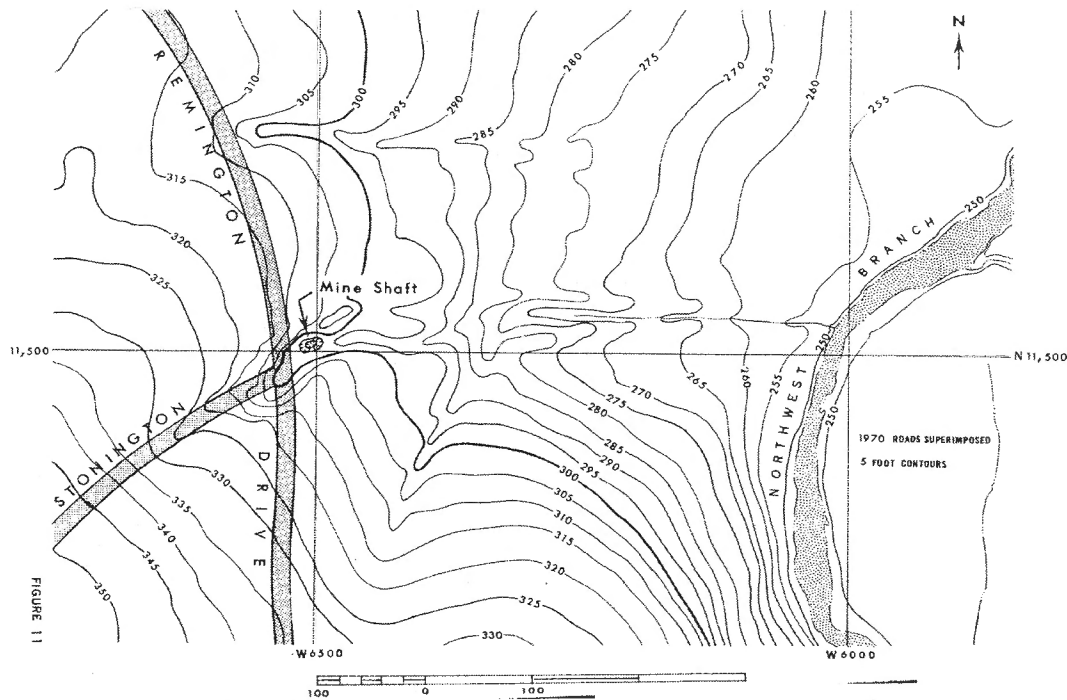


Figure 3.4 Shaft location

purchaser" ⁷. The 1883-1884 U.S. Geological Survey Annual Report states, "there has quite recently been a great deal of activity among mica miners in Maryland, especially in Howard and Montgomery County. One group of mines is located a few miles west of Laurel; and another mine, the Gilmore, is near Colesville, and only twelve miles north of Washington, District of Columbia. At the Gilmore mine there is a vertical shaft about 50 feet deep, and two horizontal tunnels; and a considerable quantity of good mica has been taken out. At present however, but little work is being done in this field" ⁸. (Springbrook Forest is eleven and three-quarter miles north of the Capitol Building.)

A 1923 Geological Survey Bulletin states "A mine was worked from 1882 to 1884 on the southwest side of the Northwest Branch, 4 miles N 550 E of Kensington. It was then known as the Gilmore Mine. The mine was worked by an open cut 60 feet long, 15 to 25 feet wide, and 10 to 15 feet deep, driven S 350 W into a hillside, with a shaft and some underground work in the northeast end of the cut" ⁹. The location referred to is Springbrook Forest.

In 1968 as the first edition of the History was being researched and written, high school boys (including Eugene Beach, Jr. and George Misko, Jr.) scouted the area locating early property lines, remains of rutted wagon roads, and the mica ditches. In particular, the search for the shaft location was a special assignment. This should have been easy as the 1923 reports clearly gave the direction and size of the mica ditch in which the shaft was located (a trench sixty feet long, twenty five feet wide, fifteen feet deep) How could it be missed?. The date for publication of the history document grew near and still no one could locate the shaft position with certainty. Finally, one. month before publication an old weather-beaten "plane table" map was found at a surveying office in Silver Spring. It clearly showed a ditch meeting all the specifications of the 1923 description. From this it became evident that the ditch and shaft had been filled with dirt in 1945 during the development of the subdivision. The location of the shaft was shown to be about twenty feet east of the intersection of Stonington and Remington, just about on the property line of lot K1. The portion of the plane table map that shows the shaft is reproduced in **Figure 3.4**.

Mr. Gray who formerly lived on Grays Lane remembers from his childhood a tunnel (rather than a shaft) from which mica was removed. This tunnel was big enough to accommodate a four horse team. It was located in back of of lots G8 and G9. This may be one of the horizontal tunnels mentioned in the 1884 report. Mr Gray remembers that the mouth of the tunnel was filled in by Mr Mõss' men in 1945.

Traces of old wagon ruts, deserted roads and "mica ditches" can be found throughout Springbrook Forest. Combining this information with our other sources **Figure 3.5** shows the wide extent of the mining operations, including the ditches, tunnel and shaft - all sources of mica "books" (i.e. large chunks consisting of many layers of mica). The "Mica Mine House" provided living quarters for the miners. The stable was needed for the large number of horses used in the mining operations. At the trimming house (located "one-fourth mile NE of the mine on a ridge") the mica books were separated into thin sheets and then hand trimmed into a wide variety of standard sizes - the bigger the resultant sheet the greater the price per pound. For instance, at the time the Gilmore Mine was in operation a pound of two inch by two inch sheets would bring only about fifty cents, while a pound of six inch by six inch mica sheets would bring ten dollars ⁵.

The principal road, known as the "Mica Mine Road" ran through the present back yards of houses along the south side of Stonington Road then, at the present Triangle, moved northward along Stonington Road.

Hard times hit the mine after 1884 - imported mica from India sold for less than the domestic product. The Gilmore Mica Mine changed ownership in 1887 when the "Mica Mine Farm" was sold to Henry M. Baker - Gilmore, Rice and their Maryland Mica Mining Company having "failed to comply with the terms of sale" of 1884. The Maryland Geological Survey in 1897 said that the mica mines of Montgomery and Howard counties "are not at present worked".¹⁰

The mica mine was evidently operated in a small way at the time of World War I, when mica was

badly needed for radios and other electrical equipment. Mr. Gray can remember the mica mine, the mica house and the stables from before 1920. He tells of seeing teams hauling mica from the tunnel. A caretaker family named Alwalt who lived in the mica mine house is especially remembered. Sometime before 1920 the mica mine house burned down.

The previously mentioned 1923 Geological Survey Bulletin states "The Gilmore Mine is now owned by B. H. Warner, Jr. of Washington, D.C.". Mr. Warner was the son of the founder of the town of Kensington. During this post 1900 period the mine was called the "B. H. Warner Mine", the "Kensington Mica Mine" and the "Gremoses Mica Mine."¹¹ The reference to Mr. Warner is puzzling as land records give no indication of B. H. Warner, Jr. ever owning land that became Springbrook Forest. A 1940 Plat (found in 1968 in the offices of surveyors *Ben Dyer Associates*) does, however, show the name "B. H. Warner" on Springbrook Forest land. Evidently Mr. Warner either had an option or a lease on the land from sometime after 1900. The 1923 Bulletin further states that "the shaft has caved badly".

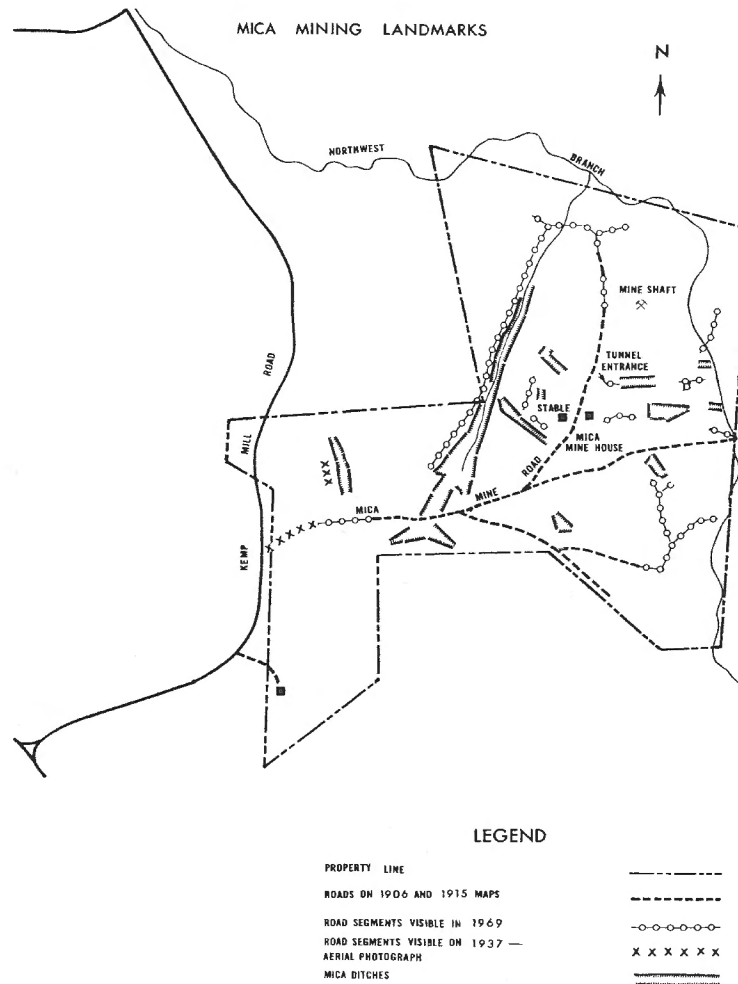


Figure 3.5 Mica mining landmarks

On May 11, 1934 the *Washington Post* told about an upcoming trip of the of the *Wanderbirds Hiking Club* to the "old mica mines":

"The old mica mines near the Northwest Branch will be the goal of Sunday's trip.

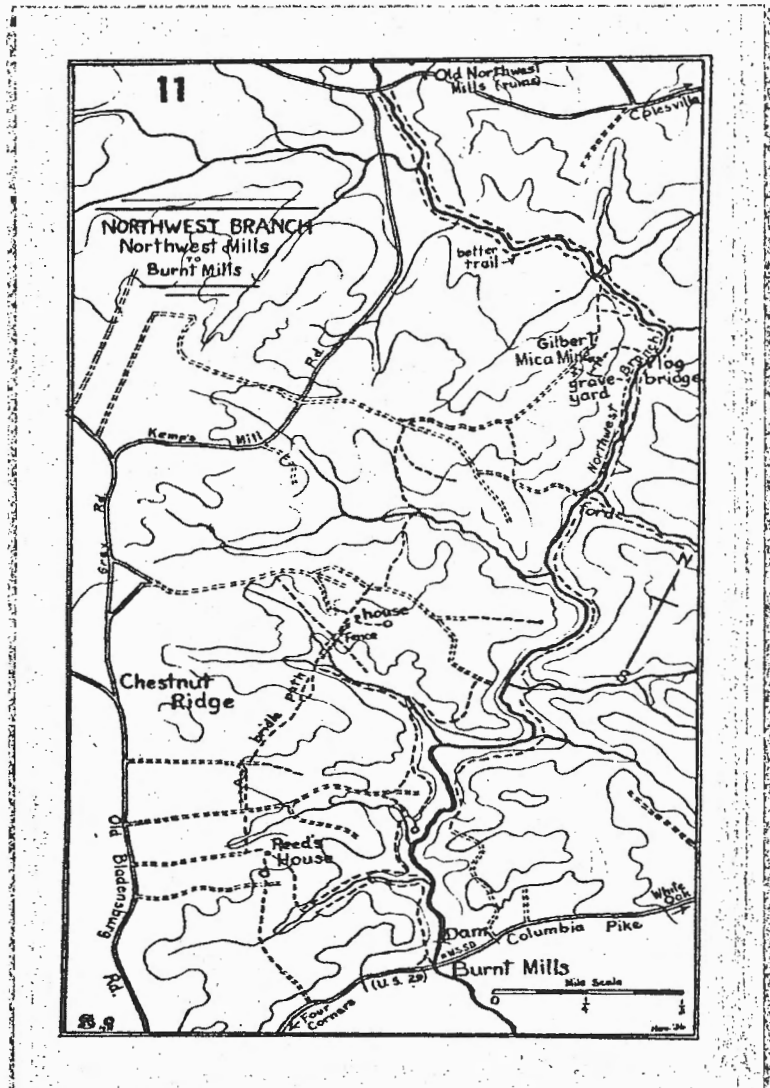


Figure 3.6 Wanderbirds 1934 hiking map

Leaving the highway a short distance below Four Corners, the club will follow a dirt road through the woods for a quarter of a mile and enter a trail just beyond the old Reed house. After crossing a field, the hikers will reach an excellent spring where canteens can be filled. About this spring may be found some interesting salamanders. The trail now leads through a rich forest of oaks and tulip poplar, in which several species of orchids and members of the lily of the valley family are liable to be found. Descending to the Branch, the group will reach the old mica mines. These old

diggings furnished mica to local industries years ago. In searching through the debris, one can usually find a sizable slab of mica for his mineral collection”.

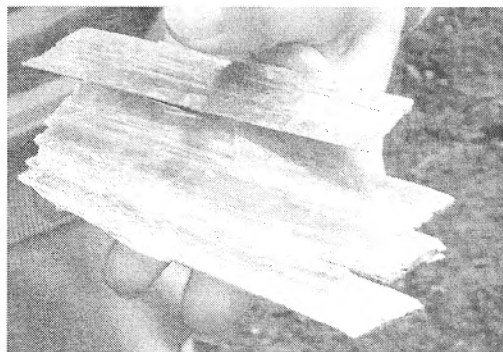


Figure 3.7 Razor like pieces of mica found at shaft location in January 2002. These appear to be pieces of mica that have been partially trimmed.

The Wanderbirds map (**Figure 3.6**) shows both the mica mine and the graveyard, the only map explicitly mentioning a graveyard. The name “Gilbert” is used instead of the correct “Gilmore”.

It is still true that at the mine site “one can usually find a sizable slab of mica”. My grand daughter found the razor like pieces of mica (**Figure 3.7**) in the ditch near the shaft location on January 13, 2002.

A real estate map published in 1937 (**Figure 3.8**) explicitly identifies Joseph H. Bradley holdings of 209 acres of land that later became Springbrook Forest as “Mica Mine”.

There is no present production of sheet mica in the United States. The last North Carolina mine closed in the 1960's. Sheet mica, imported from India, is still in wide use as an electrical insulator, in particular as “spacers” in commutators for electric generators and motors, and as the dielectric for high quality capacitors.

Today some of the smaller mica ditches have been landscaped and are now attractive flower gardens. The children of Springbrook Forest find mica glittering on the ground after rain has washed the mud and dirt off its shining surface. Idly they peel off one layer after another. A trench is dug for a new sewer pipe and shovels full of mica appear. Although mature trees grow undisturbed in the old ditches, the memory of the Gilmore mine that operated over a century ago remains

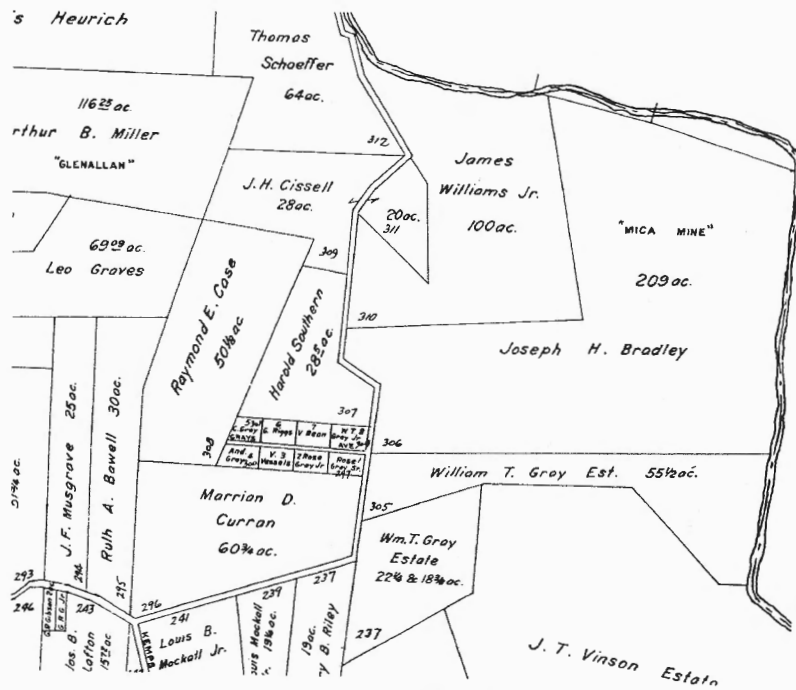


Figure 3.8 Portion of 1937 real estate map

REFERENCES

- 1) Mining, Processing, and Uses of Indian Mica, Rajgarhia Chad Mull, McGraw Hill, 1951
- 2) Archeology of the Eastern United States, Griffin, 1952.
(See Figure 33 of a mica arrow)
- 3) Plaque of "The Silver Spring"
- 4) Ancient Mica Mines in North Carolina., C. D. Smith, Smithsonian Institution Annual Report - 1876
- 5) Mica and Mica Mines, C. Hanford Henderson, The Popular Science Monthly, September 1892, Page 662.
- 6) Liber 238, Folio 406, Montgomery County Land Records
- 7) Liber J, A No, 4, Folio 143 and Judgment Record No. 81 (CKW) Page 363 of Montgomery County Records. Both of these items show that Gilmore and Rice

sold the land to the Maryland Mica Mining Company around 1884.

- 8) Mica, F. W. Clarke, Mineral Resources of the United States: 1883-1884, U. S. Geological Survey 1885.
- 9) Mica Deposits of the United States, Douglas 8, Sterrett, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 740, 1923, Pages 104-105.
- 10) Maryland Geological Survey, Vol 1, 1897, Page 295.
- 11) Minerals of Maryland., Ostranger and Price, Natural History Society of Maryland, 1940,

Figures 3.4 and 3.5 were prepared by Melvin Leonberger.

CHAPTER 4

"back to the land" . . . in

SPRINGBROOK FOREST



1945 SALES BROCHURE

The Early Years of Springbrook Forest Community

by Ellis Clough

In 1913 Charles Smith and Joseph Bradley bought the 209 acre tract that would become Springbrook Forest. In 1945 the land was being held by the widow of Mr. Bradley and heirs of Mr. Smith. An offer to buy came from George Moss, a builder who was developing "Springbrook" just across the Northwest Branch. On August 6, 1945, Mr. Moss's company bought the "Mica Mine Farm". He remembers paying \$35,000 for the whole tract, around \$175 an acre. Almost immediately land for the Northwest Branch Park was sold to the Park and Planning Commission at \$600 an Acre.

George Moss passed away in 1994 at the age of 94. He was born in Lafayette, Louisiana and was the founder of the Moss Realty firm in Bethesda. In addition to Springbrook Forest other developments of his include Battery Park in Bethesda, Woodmore, Springbrook, and North Springbrook

The early years of our neighborhood make an exciting story of "Trees and People" - of resolute

families carving homes and a community out of a friendly wilderness. Clearly SPRINGBROOK FOREST offered physical features, challenges and adventures not provided by most sections in our Suburbia during the 1945-54 period. The rolling terrain was almost completely covered with a tangled forest. Mr. Moss described the land as "impenetrable". There were no dwellings within the tract. It was accessible only on the west by rough, winding 2-lane Kemp Mill Road black-topped from Arcola Avenue to just past the entrance, but only an unimproved country lane from there on to Glenmont-Colesville Road, now Randolph Road. Although 41 building plots were purchased during the first year of sales, June 1945-May 1946, there were no roads or streets within the Forest until late 1946, except that Stonington had been bulldozed out and roughly graded a few hundred feet toward Auth Lane. Remnants of the old mica mining and logging roads could still be seen but were not usable. Prospective buyers and actual purchasers parked their cars near the entrance and proceeded on foot through the timber to search out and inspect the plots or begin clearing operations.

Unpolluted Northwest Branch made the northeastern-eastern boundary with the developing SPRINGBROOK estates on its other side. To the south, west across Kemp Mill, and north were horse farms, a saw mill, some Angus cattle, a few homes and acreages on Gray's Lane and Hermleigh Road, and more deep woods. Deer, fox, wild turkeys, raccoon and smaller wildlife ranged freely. There were no water, gas or sewer mains anywhere near; new residents would rely on individual drilled wells and septic tanks. The first power line entered the tract in 1947 but telephone service was not generally available until late 1949. Phone bills would include a special "mileage charge" for many years. Mail was delivered to family boxes "all in a row" at the entrance until home service was initiated during 1949. The nearest post office was miles away in Silver Spring. Wheaton, Glenmont, Colesville and Four Corners were crossroad hamlets. For several years the closest schools would be Glenmont Elementary, Montgomery Hills Junior High; and Blair Senior High.

Developer George Moss' aim in the SPRINGBROOK FOREST enterprise was to sell one to two acre building tracts to families who would sometime build their own homes as contrasted with the speculative offering of many completed houses on smaller lots. He and his associates had developed and sold most of WOODMOOR near Four Corners - a group of modest homes on approximately 1/4 acre plots and were currently promoting the 3 to 8 acre "estates" in SPRINGBROOK. Moss planned SPRINGBROOK FOREST as an intermediate between these two, blending some features of each. Excerpts from the brochure stated: "Ever had a longing for the country life - - yearned for the tranquility of a peaceful home apart - - your own piece of this earth? The beautiful wooded acres offer the perfect setting - a spot where (you and) the neighbor with kindred interests might build modest estates in the rustic background. Quotes from a classified advertisement: "Beautiful one-acre building knoll only 25 minutes drive from downtown - - an appealing rustic 200 acre development - -. Wooded - - knolls - - average less than 4 cents per sq. ft.; acquire an acre or more for less than the cost of an ordinary lot."

There were written restrictions as to the type, exterior design and minimum cost of the house and its placement on the lot. Owners must refrain from dividing the tract into building plots of less than one-half acre or using the house and tract for purposes other than a residence. Written approval of building and site development plans had to be secured from the developer's "Committee" before major construction could begin. Potential and a few actual deviations from the covenants gave early

Forest residents and absentee tract owners much concern.

The Moss Plan was approved by MNCPPC and WSSC Section by Section during September 1945-January 1947. WSSC's approval read "Suitable for Water and Sewer Design without Commitment as to Installation." The location and direction of streets enabled plots of fairly uniform size and fitted well into the terrain. Part of Stonington follows the old mica mine road, Brookhaven parallels the large mica ditch and Auth Lane resulted from the filling in of another mine trench. Although the original plan shows a feasible continuation of either Stonington or Brookhaven across Remington toward Northwest Branch, the proposal was not carried through because of early strong opposition by most property owners on both sides of the Branch.

The total Forest area of approximately 200 acres was divided into 113 lots. The tracts ranged in size from slightly less than one acre - 24 of these with none under 7/8 acre - to more than 2 acres - three of these, the largest being about 2 3/8 acres.

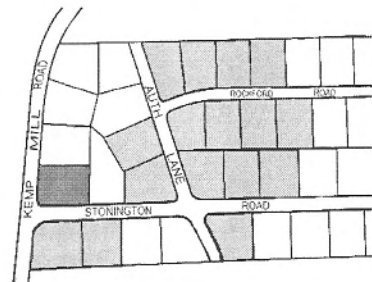


Figure 4.1 identifies the first lots sold. The first purchased was B-1 (the most darkly shaded in Figure 4.1), bought by a person named Brown in June 1945 for \$930. A Mr. Chrisman bought the second lot (lot A-1,) directly across Stonington. Prices for the 82 lots sold during the 1945-47 period averaged \$1684 and ranged from the initial \$930 purchase mentioned to \$4200 for a plot bought in July 1947.

Figure 4.1 First 17 lots purchased (June - December, 1945)

Average Lot Prices by Time Period*

Period	Period	Lots Sold	Average Sale Price
June-Dec.	1945	17	\$1130
Jan.-June	1946	33	1577
July-Dec.	1946	23	1976
Jan.-June	1947	5	2085
July-Nov.	1947	4	2737

*Source: Calculated from informal record contributed by Moss.

The great majority of buyers were individuals rather than speculative realtor or builders. Sixty-six people bought single plots, six purchased two each and one bought four. Most of these multiple purchases were of contiguous plots, suggesting that the buyers simply wanted larger home tracts. Some early buyers bought tracts as an investment and others had to abandon hopes to build. We are aware of only 9 original buyers during the 20 year period who later moved here. Some transferred from the area to business or career opportunities elsewhere and others lost their resolve to build because of such factors as the strenuous competition for materials in short supply following World War II.

CUSTOM-BUILT RAMBLER ON ACRE PLOT



Face Brick
 Copper Gutters
 Copper Downspouts
 Copper Flashing
 Copper Water Tubing
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Homesites of 1, 2, 3 or More Acres

Select your plot now for present or future building. Complete planning, architectural, financing, and building services can be arranged through our office. Not only are permanence and enhancement of values in Springbrook Forest assured by careful planning and the covenants and restrictions recorded against all parcels, but enhancement is further increased by the comparatively low prices. Several parcels averaging more than a full acre in size are priced between \$1,775 and \$2,000—including paved roadways without charge or assessment of any kind against the purchasers. Larger parcels are proportionately higher. Payments may be spread over a period of three years if desired.

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Plot and Literature Will Be Mailed on Request

NEAREST ROUTE: From Washington, D.C., take the Capital Beltway (I-495) to the Silver Spring exit. Turn left onto the Capital Beltway (I-495) and drive about 10 miles to the Springbrook Forest exit. Turn right onto the Springbrook Forest Road. The road to Springbrook Forest is on the right.

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BUILDERS' OPPORTUNITY

Thousands of homebuyers want homes with acreage plots. We will subordinate loan purchase price to construction loans for responsible builders. Investigate this opportunity.

Figure 4.2 Advertisement in Washington Evening Star, April 17, 1948

Inevitably the deep quiet of the forest was broken by the strange new sounds of lot clearing, street construction, well drilling and house building. Families came during weekends, holidays and vacations, summer and winter, eager to accomplish the work and savor the adventure they had planned for so long. Some began before the first crude roads were cut through - packing gear, lunches and perhaps infant children through the woods and stumps to their tracts. Thudding sounds of axes, whine and sputter of chain saws, the swish-swish of the hand crosscut, crash of falling trees, shouts of excited children, the eager talk between new-made friends who would be future neighbors, the roar and chatter of the inevitable bulldozer; smells of freshly disturbed earth, hot asphalt, burning brush and cooking fires. Niches were cut out of the forest where the houses would go. BUT THEY LEFT MOST OF THE TREES! Deer and other wild life retreated deeper into the woods.

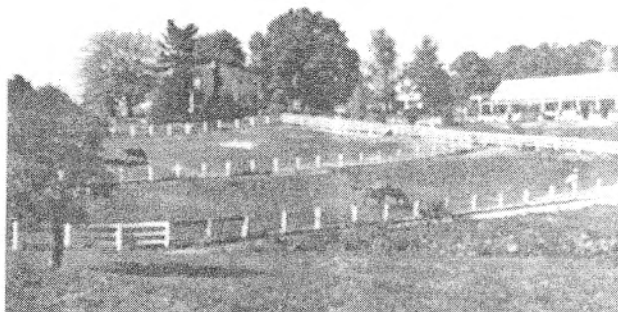


Figure 4.3 1956 View of old Curran farm prior to development into Kemp Mill Farms subdivision. The photo was taken near the lowest point of present Spring Mill Department of Education office location looking toward E. Brooke Lee Junior High.

Logs were cut up and piled for fireplaces-to-be; some were sold for lumber or pulp wood. Families brought city dweller friends out to share in combined work-picnic activities. Children used the wild setting for old and new games; excited by the glint of mica particles, youngsters played at "gold mining." Household dogs were driven to frenzy by scent of wild game. Families marked each other's progress and exchanged labor and ideas on building and landscaping. Most early families postponed major construction several years after purchasing tracts. For example, of 13 families who bought open lots during 1945-48 and became residents, one built and occupied the home within 2 years, seven waited 4 to 6 years and five waited 7 or more- the longest being 15 years. Figure 4.5 reveals some of the clearing and building operations completed or underway in 1948.

The forest was dark and lonesome during the early days. Later citizens cannot visualize the appearance in those days - the approach over old Kemp Mill Road past the horse farms to the simple sign at the entrance. It was truly a wilderness of great and smaller trees with the undergrowth of holly, dogwood, mountain laurel, vines, and crowsfoot.

After World War II, a friend of Mel Leonberger (resident on Remington Drive) had read the ad relative to the wooded lots being sold in Springbrook Forest. The friend had great visions of building a home and with that large parcel of land he could raise chickens. After negotiating for the property, located in the vicinity of Auth and Stonington, he found much to his disappointment that the raising of chickens was not allowed, so he gave up his vision. Years later he was sorry that he did not build. This was the last time that Leonberger ever thought of Springbrook Forest until 1957-'58 when he was looking for land to build a house. John Ohlmacher (a resident of the Forest) talked him into looking in the Forest for land. On a Sunday afternoon the deal for land on Remington Drive was closed with a handshake. After all the hard work and help of Ohlmacher during construction, Leonberger concluded it was the best thing he had ever done - building and moving into the Forest.



Figure 4.4 Original Entrance Sign.

The new Forest streets were better than the roads outside. It was easy to get stuck in mudholes and snowdrifts along Kemp Mill, especially at the lowest point just below present Spring Mill School. Children usually walked to and from the school bus stop at the entrance. Some property taxes were as low as \$149 the first year.

The sights and sounds of hounds chasing game were common. Hunting was good, engaged in mostly by trespassers from outside who had hunted the area for years. Raccoon hunters and their dogs gathered for the hunt usually at the lower end of Rockford Road. An early favorite sledding place was east down Stonington and around the turn onto Auth Lane. A later popular slide was around the big bend on Remington - and for the "daredevils", off the road and on down through the timber. Bonfires and wiener roasts were common - with parents joining in.

Seventeen families moved in during the first 3 years; about half the homes had been completed and occupied within 7 years and nearly three-fourths within 9 years. The period of most rapid settlement was 1954-56 when 40% of the original families came. At least 21 families are credited with constructing their homes with their own skills and labor.

All of the properties here, from earliest years to the present, have been built as single family homes intended for owner occupancy; most of the few tenant residents have rented from absent owner families expecting to return. This owner occupant pattern of predominantly middle- and upper-middle income families and such other factors as natural physical features, lot size and the strategic location of the neighborhood have combined to contribute very great influences on the favorable beginning, development and stability of the Forest as an attractive and wholesome place-to live and rear children. The significance of these factors is demonstrated repeatedly as our story unfolds.

While pursuing similar goals, families experienced common problems. Many of their difficulties stemmed from the Forest's physical location - in the population void between Georgia and New Hampshire Avenues, thus lacking in public services. By end of 1951 there were still only 20 households here, some widely scattered over the 200 acre area and as far as a mile from the entrance.

Examples of problems: Getting children to schools several miles distant; assuring safe recreation for them here far from established play fields; completing the clearing and landscaping of tracts and concern for the over-all appearance within the Forest and of the approaches to it; establishing feasible safeguards to replace the Moss covenants when these would expire; fire protection without water mains; inadequate trash collection; trespassing; which local government units or other bodies would be willing to listen and able to help. Such problems inevitably dominated talk between neighbors and at social gatherings. Eventually people realized their need for some neighborhood organization to facilitate effective communication and discussion and to formalize group decisions and actions.

On March 17, 1952 the Springbrook Forest Citizens Association was born at a meeting for Springbrook Forest home owners'. Representatives of 16 families attended, also Mr. Moss who was present to advise and assist in 1) setting up a belated local Home Building Plans Approval Committee to replace the expired Moss "Committee" and 2) organizing a citizens association.

The group met next in August with 18 families represented. Mr. Smith presented his committee's draft constitution and by-laws for a Springbrook Forest Citizens Association which was adopted the

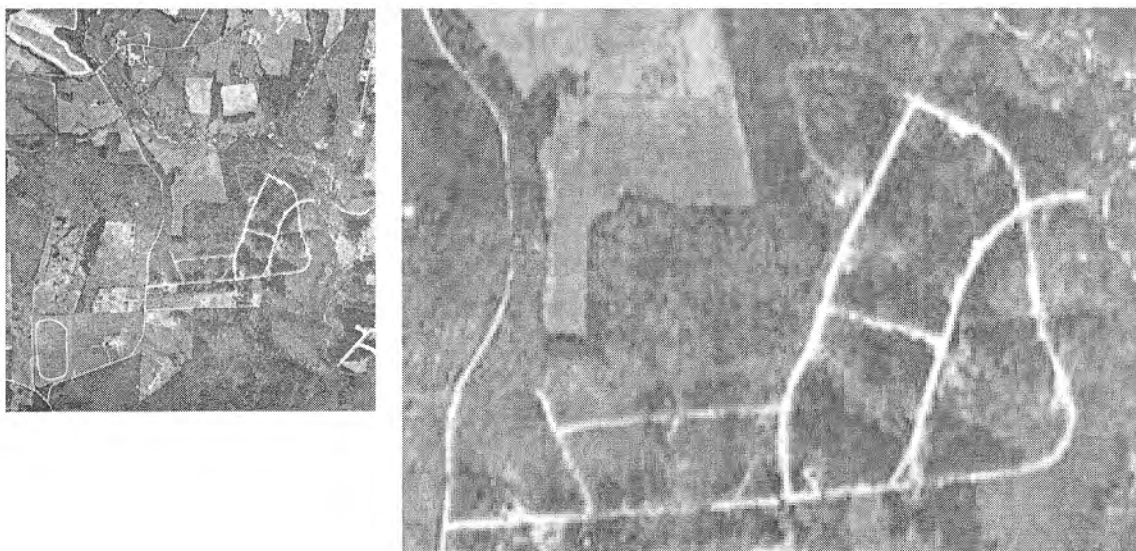


Figure 4.5 A 1948 airview of embryo Springbrook Forest and vicinity. Note the houses on west Stonington, mid-Brookhaven and lower Remington, also evidences of clearing on other lots. What appears as an extension of Stonington across Remington is the landfill of the main shaft and work area of the mica mine. The principal approach to the Forest was from curving Arcola Avenue in extreme lower left onto Kemp Mill and past the Curran horse farm and training track on the left, on past the Auth and Yeatman tracts and the Carabelli farm on the right and finally the Hermleigh Road and Gray's Lane intersections. Compare features in this view with those in the 1937 photo (Figure 2.11).

same evening after being clarified and strengthened at basic points. Meetings would be held monthly on the 3rd Wednesday except during July, August and September. Membership would be limited

to Forest owners and annual dues were set at \$5.00 per family. Voting rights of absentee members were spelled out. Nominations for offices were made for election the next month - the group agreeing they should meet in September because of urgent problems confronting them. (NOTE: It is of special interest that our Association has held firmly to the original pattern of monthly meetings during its entire history except that the December meeting has been eliminated. It seems especially significant that very few monthly meetings have been canceled during the entire 50 years of the association.)

A few of the association's major activities in the October 1952 - September 1954 time frame illustrates the type of problems dealt with.

A Building Committee to replace the Moss Building Committee whose authority had expired was established. Authorizing documents were given to Attorney Ralph Shure to determine their legality. He gave the opinion that the new committee could replace the Moss Committee by securing an amendment to the original Declaration of Restrictions. However this would require that "all present land owners - - join in such an instrument" because "a covenant must run with the land to be enforceable and is not effective unless all owners in the particular subdivision effected so declare it to be." This seemed to present insurmountable difficulties - those of gaining the acceptance of all tract owners.

In May 1953 the Committee was authorized to request the County's Office of Building Inspector to supply the Association with copies of applications for building permits. These arrangements worked fairly well. However, the Forest was about to experience its most rapid growth - forty-two new homes would be built and occupied during 1954-56. The committee worked valiantly; some applicants were unwilling to accept the Association's disapproval as binding. Preston Stang reminisced in 1969 that "This became a very unpopular committee!" Eventually the Committee stopped functioning.



Figure 4.6 Intersection of Stonington and Remington in 1952, looking north.

Police assistance was requested when dumping by outsiders began within the Forest and continued along Kemp Mill and Arcola even after the county had cleaned up the rubbish at the latter point and erected NO DUMPING signs.

The Triangle was a tangle of trees, brush, vines and stones. A few volunteers began clearing it.

The unsightly appearance and often hazardous conditions at the Kemp Mill - Arcola Intersection and along Kemp Hill Road annoyed Forest residents - it was the principal approach to the community. In October 1952 and again in January the Association renewed contacts with county authorities about the situation, especially the indiscriminate dumping of rubbish. Erection of NO DUMPING signs and police cooperation partially relieved the situation. The modest direction sign to the Forest was

repaired.

In May 1953 the Citizens Association voted to join Allied Civic Group, an association of citizens associations. The Forest's first request for specific ACG guidance and support was made in March 1956 in connection with the "Day Nursery Problem", a potential violation of a Forest covenant and a county ordinance. The "problem" was that a family moving to the Forest planned to operate a day nursery.

Forest covenants stated that " parcels shall be used exclusively for private dwelling house purposes - for the exclusive use of the owner or occupant ." Forest delegates to ACG consulted that group's Zoning Committee, were advised on prohibitive county ordinances and Board of Appeal procedures and were assured that ACG would support Forest representatives at any hearing on the day nursery. In February the Association passed a landmark resolution - that it " - - is opposed in accordance with the existing covenants to the establishment of a nursery school operation or any other deviation from strictly residential use - - " within Springbrook Forest. This formal 1954 action by the Association established a precedent and has provided a deterrent to other actual and potential violations of the specific covenant involved.

Serious fire was a continuing threat because of the need for burning brush after clearing and the long accumulation of forest litter on unoccupied tracts. Widely scattered household wells provided the only source of water, and the nearest fire station was at Four Corners 3 miles away. The Association endorsed the proposed county "Fire Bill" which when enacted gave citizen groups a stronger voice in the planning and administration of Department facilities and services.

The first community picnic was called a "barbecue" and held on Sunday November 1, 1953 at the Zindels - the forerunner of the gatherings we have enjoyed every Autumn since then. The Association approved an expenditure of \$20 from treasury funds. The 1954 and 1955 affairs were in October, also at Zindels. For many years the picnic was held at some public recreation facility to accommodate increased attendance. In recent years the picnics have again been held at homes in the Forest.

There was continuing uncertainty as to where and when children might be transferred to what school, especially those in elementary grades. They had attended Glenmont School until they were reassigned in 1953 to Glen Haven for 3 years. Junior high youngsters went to Montgomery Hills until transferred to Wheaton in 1951. Senior high students attended Blair High until Northwood opened in 1956. Parochial school children went to St. Bernadette's until St. Andrew's was built.

In this chapter we have followed how the relatively isolated forest "wilderness" became a lively neighborhood of 46 houses by 1954. Today the Forest contains about three times as many homes and has a diverse makeup of residents all of whom love trees and have come "back to the land in Springbrook Forest".

Chapter 5
COMING-OF-AGE
(1955 through 1969)

by Don Leslie

In the mid-fifties the rate at which lots were developed and new houses built reached a peak. Forty of the original families in the Forest moved in during the period 1954 - 1956. By 1957 seventy-seven of the one hundred twelve original lots were either occupied or being built upon. But by 1960 the rate had declined significantly to the point where only two to four houses a year were being built; by 1966, the year when the community of Springbrook Forest reached the ripe age of 21, almost all of the buildable lots had been developed. In the same chronological manner as a growing youth, the community had almost stopped growing (in the physical sense of house construction) and had "come of age "

While no statistics are available on the ages of householders - who would have the nerve? - it seems likely that most were in their 30's or 40's upon moving to Springbrook Forest. It seems likely, also, that most families had picked their new homesites in the light of some past experience and with a developed feel for their ideal home. Thus, by the mid-fifties, there were children of all ages in the Forest, from babes to married sons and daughters.

In June 1955 it was discovered that one of the houses being built speculatively was being constructed in violation of one of the restrictive covenants which run with all lots in the Forest. There was concern on the part of many residents that the builder's ultimate purpose might be to **subdivide** the lot into two half-acre parcels and build another house later on the other parcel. The covenants specify, among other things, that homes must not be built closer than 40 feet to front or side street lines or than 20 feet to side parcel lines. The original building permit for this particular house had been issued to conform with the 20-foot side restriction, but later amended (in error) to 10 feet.

The Springbrook Forest Citizens Association (SFCA), working through a special committee, retained an attorney to oppose the violation. Some months after this action was started, the house and total lot were sold through an independent realtor. The new purchasers were totally unaware of the delicate situation until the date of settlement. Over the next few months, considerable skirmishing took place between our attorney and the builder's attorney. In light of the new ownership of the property, the matter eventually was settled, in effect, by permitting the existing structure to stand but serving notice that the community would take legal action where necessary to oppose future violations of the covenants or subdivision of established lots. To finance the legal action needed in this case, virtually all homeowners showed the seriousness of their intentions by contributing to a special fund for attorney's fees.

In other actions during 1955 just about every able-bodied man in the community joined in to clear and smooth the **Triangle** - our nearest equivalent to a town square or "common". Until this time, the Triangle had been an uneven thicket of trees, brush, and boulders, although some preliminary

clearing had been done in 1954. Trash collection, which had been handled heretofore on a sometime basis by a commercial collector or by individual homeowners, was finally assumed by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Also the Association persuaded the Telephone Company to rescind its mileage rates charged to Forest residents who, it appears, were considered as living way out in the country. This led to a reduction in 1956 to metropolitan area telephone service fees comparable to those in neighboring communities.

The Springbrook Forest **Homemakers Club** was organized in 1956 by 27 residents of the Forest. It was one of fifty some clubs in the county under the direction of the Montgomery County Extension Service. The purpose of the Club was to acquire the latest information on nutrition, home furnishings, health education, consumer protection, safety, and other aspects of home management. Members attended lectures and demonstrations on such disparate subjects as international relations, making of wills, clothing construction, floor coverings, and landscape design. They held morning craft workshops in their own homes to promote creative leisure activities and participated as individuals in related community services such as 4-H (having organized the Forest groups), American Field Service (sponsored bus stop family entertainment of many foreign students). They baked cookies for Forest soldiers in Vietnam, and cooperated annually in County-sponsored cookie projects for the veterans' hospitals. The Club terminated its association with the Extension Service in 1994. The Homemakers are still in existence in 2002, on a reduced scale. The well attended Christmas meeting, at which gifts and cookies are exchanged, is one of their remaining activities.

The community **Christmas Party** originated in 1956 at the Rantas'. In 1958 the "adult Christmas party" was in the Zindels' rec room. A fee of 1(one) dollar per person was assessed for drinks and refreshments! By 1960 the party had moved to a room at the Wheaton Rescue Squad, 85 people attended and the fee was up to \$3/couple, bring your own liquor (BYOL)." In 1961 the party moved to American Legion Post 268 and 51 attended. The story of *The Party*, which survived (under various names) until 1989, is continued in the next chapter. Also in 1956, our first Community Christmas Tree, donated by the Seeks, was planted in the Triangle, and the first Santa Claus/Carol Sing affair was held around it. Decorations were made for some years by our 4-H girls.

Having Santa and caroling at the Triangle also started in 1956. In 1960 Santa arrived "on a white reindeer-type Chevy". Santa still arrives at the triangle in December, conveyed by a fire engine.

Perhaps the most important issue that faced the community in 1957 was the question of **street lights**: Should we or shouldn't we have them? The matter was thoroughly discussed by the SFCA and an investigation of the "mechanics" was made by the Streets and Lights Committee. The advantages of lighted streets lie obviously in the ease and safety with which residents can walk in the community at night; the chief disadvantages appear to be some loss in the rural nature of the community, as well as added taxes. After a full discussion of the matter, members voted overwhelmingly against street lights.

By this time the community had grown to the point where prompt snow plow service was being provided by the County. At the same time, more children were sledding on our hilly streets after

each snow. An inquiry to the County was made concerning the possibility of blocking off "Dykers Hill" on Remington Drive and leaving this stretch unplowed for the benefit of sledders. We were informed that formal arrangements were unnecessary but that, no doubt, our friendly snowplow driver would be glad to bypass the hill on request.

During 1957 the initial tree donated to our community by the Seeks to beautify the Triangle gave up the ghost and died. (The present tree is a replacement donated by the 4-H girls.)

In another action, the system of **Block Captains** was started in order to speed and personalize



Figure 5.1 Kemp Mill Road at entrance to Forest looking south on February 18, 1958.

communications within the Forest.

In February, 1958, the worst **blizzard** in the history of the community occurred.. Kemp Mill Road was covered by drifts more than six feet deep. The only way in or out was by foot. For three days we were snowbound. For some residents, this presented a real hardship. Travel commitments had to be honored; milk, food, medicines had to be obtained on foot from Wheaton. Some newly-arrived residents were ready to depart "this wilderness" to return to "civilization." But the situation had its happier side. Our latent pioneer spirits were aroused and most of us found ways of postponing commitments, rationing or sharing food, etc., to make do for a few days. Many people joyfully kicked over the traces in their daily routine for a few days and joined the kids in sledding on the streets. Neighbors visited neighbors to a degree never before tried, and the storm turned out to be quite a social success.

Then, just a month later, the big **ice storm** of 1958 hit us. In late evening with temperatures hovering around the freezing mark, the rain fell gently and, almost silently, ice began to form on trees, power lines, and telephone lines. By midnight the effects were no longer silent. Ice had

accumulated to a thickness of about two inches on everything exposed, and the overloaded trees began to give way. In the eerie quietness, the reports of cracking trees sounded like gun shots throughout the Forest. By early morning, the situation had become chaotic with fallen trees lying helter-skelter across roads, power lines and telephone lines everywhere. Some lines suffered as many as a dozen separate breaks. Power service was interrupted in most homes for about four days. This meant not just that we were without lights but that furnaces would not operate. Even more acute, water was not available from our wells. But the roads became passable rather quickly, and many families deserted the Forest for heat and water at the homes of friends or relatives. A hardy few stayed on, using fireplaces for heat, cooking, and melting ice for water (that was when we discovered that toilets are voracious users of water). For a second time that winter, we felt truly like pioneers - a little too much like pioneers for some.

Two other matters regarding the original Moss **covenants** and internal zoning restrictions arose in 1958. The first of these involved a part-time boat-repair business conducted at one of the homes in the community. An enquiry by the Citizens Association to the County regarding the legality of this sort of enterprise resulted in independent action by the County (not at the request of the Citizens Association) to have the business terminated. The second concerned the stabling of horses in the community for riding purposes. The County normally prohibits the stabling of livestock on lots smaller than 5 acres. A special exception to this rule may be granted, however, provided most immediate neighbors offer no objection. One of our residents applied for such special exception. The matter was debated at length at a special meeting of the Association, with the applicant present to present his views. The final action was a vote to oppose the application. Notwithstanding this opposition, the County later granted the special exception in January, 1959.

Action by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1948 and of the US Congress in 1968 effectively removed the Springbrook Forest racial covenant.

The first **4-H Club** (The Foresters) was started in 1958 by Doree West, using as a nucleus the old Bluebird Club organized two years earlier by Dorothy Winslow. In 1966, a second 4-H Club of younger girls called the Cloverleaves was started by Mary Carter, and in 1967 a still-younger group, called the Acorns, by Strib Dahl. The 4-H girls were very active over the years, winning a number of County Fair ribbons, County and State citations, and contributing to various community projects such as the planting, care and decoration of our current Triangle evergreen tree.

The *Forester*, an occasionally published community newsletter of the SFCA, made its first appearance in 1958, construction of Springbrook High School was started and Wheaton Plaza was nearing completion. Land purchases for Wheaton Regional Park, which began in 1958, peaked in 1959. Our Association heard and endorsed detailed plans from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and gave strong support to the overall effort.

In 1960 St. Andrew's Catholic Church was under construction.

The big news of the year was the opening barrage by the County to put a road through Springbrook Forest across Northwest Branch. This started in the form of a proposed road identified as **P-15**,

extending Stonington Road across the Branch to Colesville. After a full airing, our Citizens Association went on record as opposing the new road for various reasons. The road came back with a vengeance as the "P-5 Road" project and is fully discussed later as the big event of 1966.

Things were rather quiet in the Forest during 1961. Witness this excerpt from a letter by our President at the time (Dale West) to the Montgomery County Board of Education, concerning school bus service in the Forest:

"In particular, we would like the present bus service to Springbrook Forest to be a little less hairbrained. At present, we have two buses taking children to Arcola. One arrives with dash and verve, gathering all in sight with great magnanimity, including some for other schools, and carting them off to school by whatever variations in itinerary our poor road system affords. The other arrives timidly, if the weather isn't a bit bad, and picks up the stragglers.... The list of complaints includes a scheduled early departure from Sligo that severely tests the agility of the children. If they fumble with the lock, they get left. If the driver's watch is a trifle fast, the trip is hardly worth the effort."

This elicited a long letter from the Board explaining their problems and promising to do what they could to improve the situation.

Construction of **sewer** extensions from the Northwest Branch trunk line to some homes and building sites in the Forest was started in 1961 and completed in 1962.

Kemp Mill Elementary School was under construction during 1962 and was scheduled for completion in September, 1963. At about the same time, funds were appropriated by the County to widen Kemp Mill Road from the Arcola intersection to the entrance of Springbrook Forest.

During the Fall of 1962, there was considerable interest around the Forest in Springbrook High School, which had just opened, and in the possibility that our children might go there. Although the school area boundary is Northwest Branch, our community lies almost adjacent to Springbrook High property, making this High School much closer than either Northwood or the later John F. Kennedy High School. The question was raised as to whether our children could go to Springbrook High if a path and **footbridge** across the Branch were available. After considerable discussion at the November, 1962, meeting, a vote was taken with the majority favoring a footbridge. But the vote was by no means unanimous, and the pragmatic aspects of the matter led eventually to the proposal being dropped.

In May, 1962 **camping** as a group project for Foresters got started. Soon Kimball Point at Kerr Dam on the Virginia - North Carolina border became the spot where it seemed that half of the Forest encamped for the Memorial Day holiday each year, while the other half of the Forest stayed home and guarded the vacated houses. Most of the campers brought their boats and either sailed or fished. In 1968 there were 21 families or, one should say, "groups", because everyone seemed to have extra children with them from the neighborhood. The 21 groups yielded a total of 123 humans, 4 dogs and

1 bird. Not everyone can manage to upset a sailboat in four feet of water and get the mast stuck in the mud on the bottom while the hull is waving in the breeze, but Nick Carter managed it. The number of campers was well down in 1974 because of the gasoline shortage of that year. After that group camping at Kerr Dam never returned to its former popularity, but remained an organized affair until 1978.

It was announced in February, 1964, that **water service** would be extended to Springbrook Forest. Also in 1964 under "Project 1842", construction got underway for widening Kemp Mill Road from Arcola to a point 200 ft. north of Stonington (the Fritz's driveway). The new road embodied an 80-ft. right-of-way with the road surface itself being 40 feet wide. This section was completed in 1965. Shortly afterward, work was started on the remaining section to Randolph Road, this portion



Figure 5.2 Present entrance sign

reaching completion in 1967.

Somewhat to our distress and chagrin, the old cement **entrance marker** was ignominiously bulldozed under by the road builders. The present entrance signs, installed in 1965, were based on a design prepared under the guidance of Ray Tuttle, Roland Fritz, and others.

As other suburbs mushroomed all around our forest oasis, our community became a rather unique wooded haven or cul-de-sac almost on the edge of town. No longer were we "out in the country" as in earlier days. Nearby Wheaton, almost overnight it seems, no longer was a sleepy country crossroads, but emerged as a major suburban center. High-rise apartments were appearing in the suburbs with increasing frequency. Springbrook Forest had "grown up" to the mature age of 21. But, as we "came of age" a new and vital threat was presented to the community: the road project identified as "P-5" on planning maps.

We have noted earlier efforts by the County to open a second road into Springbrook Forest from the east: the P-15 Road proposal to extend Stonington across the Northwest Branch in 1960, and an early hearing on the **P-5** Road proposal (extending Brookhaven across the Branch) in 1961. Now, suddenly in 1966, residents living on Brookhaven Drive and a part of Stonington Road received notices of new plans to build the P-5 road which would have resulted in assessments of front foot

benefit taxes against their property ranging up to \$14,000 per home. Thus was touched off the most massive group action in the history of the Forest.

P-5 as approved by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission as part of the Northwest Branch Watershed Master Plan, was to be a 36 ft. wide macadam thoroughfare with concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks, lights, and sod. It was to include the widening of Brookhaven Drive and Stonington Road to the entrance of the Forest. By February, 1966, detailed planning and survey work had been essentially completed on the bridge across the Branch and connecting roadways. Ultimately, it would have directly affected the homes and property values of 39 residents of the Forest, with front-foot benefit charges of \$26 to \$40 per front foot. Indirectly, it would have altered drastically the entire character of Springbrook Forest. No longer would we live in a quiet cul-de-sac. Many trees would be lost and substantial traffic would flow through the community.

In perhaps our "finest hour", residents rallied around the SFCA and organized an opposition both



Figure 5.3 "Don't make this into a four lane highway!" One of the exhibits in the P5 case. Stonington at Brookhaven looking west.

rapidly and effectively. A Special Roads Committee was formed under the leadership of Lloyd Nelson. Special notice "Alerts" were distributed. Contacts were quickly established with other affected Associations to the east of Northwest Branch as well as with official bodies such as the Park and Planning Commission, the County Department of Public Works, the Board of Education, and with traffic officials. Many meetings were held. Acting jointly with the other Associations, we retained an attorney, and subsequently a realty appraiser and a traffic engineer. The committee prepared a special informative booklet for all residents. Donations for financial support were collected through the block captain system with near-100% cooperation.

The crisis reached its peak at a Council hearing in the County Office Building, Rockville, on March 22, 1966. Over two hundred united, determined citizens were there to support our position, as presented by our attorney, Mr. Howard Thomas, and by Mr. James Pammel (consultant on city planning and traffic) and Mr. Lowell Hendrick (consultant on real estate values).

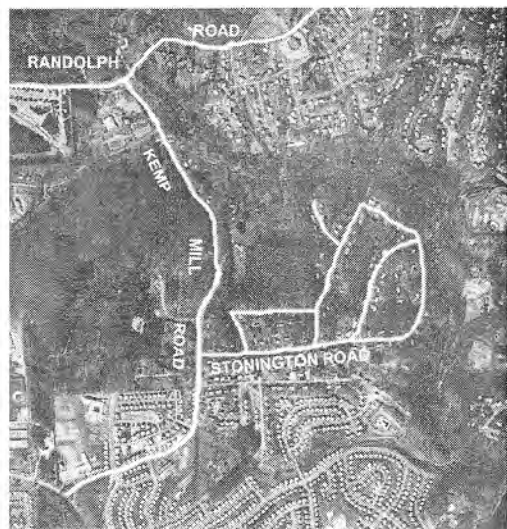
Under Mr. Thomas' instructions, the tense audience maintained its decorum. The case against the road was excellently presented by Mr. Thomas. Then the County Road Commissioner rose to present the case for the road. To everyone's surprise, he turned to the audience instead of to the Council to defend his position. Finally, he addressed the Council, and to the astonishment of one and all, he said that he agreed that the road should not be built! Although the Council was not expected to vote on the issue that day, a motion was made and by a six to zero vote, the project was deleted from the year's budget. The Council's action was met by shouts and applause. Subsequently, the road was removed from the master plan.

In 1967, construction work on **Viewcrest Terrace** was started. Hermligh Road was hard surfaced and widened to 26 feet. It was announced that gas service would be extended to parts of the Forest.

We now faced the 70's as a young adult community, 24 years of age.



Figure 5.4 Springbrook Forest from the air. Photo taken December 1968



CHAPTER 6
ADULTHOOD
(1970-2002)

By Don Gish

During its second quarter century Springbrook Forest saw many changes, some external and some internal. Some had direct and predictable effects on the community and others produced indirect and unexpected results.

The widening of Randolph Road in 1976 funneled a heavier flow of traffic onto a widened Kemp Mill Road. The development of former woods and fields north of Randolph Road and east of Kemp Mill Road into quarter-acre lots and town-house clusters provided additional traffic to gush down the new channel that only recently was a winding two-lane country road. The Springbrook Forest commuter waiting on Stonington Road trying to make a left-hand turn onto Kemp Mill Road at rush hour might temper his frustration with the thought that development and traffic problems are an inescapable by-product of progress.

But who would have predicted that along with the endless stream of speeding autos on our nearest thoroughfare we would be blessed with an almost daily procession of five, ten, or fifteen deer through our woods and backyards? In the earliest days of Springbrook Forest, our History recounts, "The Marlin Smiths tell of a beautiful deer coming into their yard soon after they moved in...". What was then a thrilling event had by 2002 become commonplace. So has all the surrounding dense development brought us closer to nature? If so, is that good or just a clear and present danger to our azaleas? We shall not try to make these judgments. Let us just look at what has happened to our community in its second quarter century.

Viewcrest Terrace, originally subdivided for development by the Fisher Saginor Construction Company, later passed to Colt Development Co. In May 1970 the SFCA president wrote a strong letter to William Fisher, president of Fisher Saginor, protesting the company's needless destruction of trees while clearing for construction. The letter asked Fisher to "join us in saving the beauty and ecology of the Viewcrest area."

After Colt Development took over the project Don Gish, vice-president of SFCA, recognized the firm's president, Raymond Greenberg, as one of his childhood playmates and in October 1970 arranged a personal meeting to again plead for maximum preservation of trees. It was a very cordial meeting with a complete meeting of minds. Greenberg invited Springbrook Forest residents to help themselves to the wood from trees already cut! Whatever the effect of the SFCA efforts, thirteen attractive and spacious new houses soon joined the two existing custom-built homes of the Arkins and Horowitzes at the end of the street.

In 1971 Springbrook Forest, acting through the SFCA, officially and personally welcomed their Viewcrest neighbors, inviting their participation in all community activities. Viewcrest residents

soon became active in community affairs and were elected to leadership positions in the SFCA (Jo Ann Hand, secretary-treasurer, 1972-73 and vice-president, 1973-74; Joe Mudd, vice-president, 1976-77.) One of the distinguished Springbrook Forest citizens from Viewcrest and our first resident congressman, The Honorable Louis Stokes (D-OH), was the featured speaker at the May 1975 SFCA meeting.

Suggestions for changes to the two parks next to the Forest have repeatedly evoked the interest of Foresters and have frequently revealed different perspectives on the role of the parks in the life of the community. *Wheaton Regional Park*, across Kemp Mill Road from Springbrook Forest, and *Northwest Branch Park*, which borders the Forest in back of Clement Lane, part of Brookhaven and Remington Drives, and at the end of Viewcrest Terrace, are both major resources for the residents of the Forest.

Among the proposals successfully resisted for **Wheaton Regional Park** were: adding a 150 car blacktop parking lot and a large horticultural building to Brookside Gardens at the expense of 2 ½ acres of trees; replacing the camping area with a group picnic area complete with 300 picnic tables, a shelter, restrooms, and play area; an interior tram system to transport those unable to walk around the park; a miniature golf course; and an enlargement of the maintenance facility off Kemp Mill Road adding extensive underground fuel storage tanks.

Proposals concerning the usage of **Northwest Branch Park** have aroused greater controversy among residents than those affecting Wheaton Park. In October 1970 there was apprehension that "the bridle path has been widened and motorcyclists and cars are using the path" despite the fact that MNCPPC's objective was to create a horse trail that could be maintained with gravel and used for hiking and biking as well.

Carl V. Toland, Senior Landscape Architect for the MNCPPC, joined 21 Springbrook Forest residents for a discussion of the trail followed by a hike of "several miles" to view the condition of the trail. By April 1975 the SFCA found that the MNCPPC had, indeed, made plans affecting, but not improving, the trail. The plans called for a bridge across Northwest Branch (again) to accommodate a (non-motorized) bicycle trail connecting the ends of Springbrook Drive and Stonington Road, which in turn would be designated as bike routes thus providing a connector for a cross-county biking trail system.

The sentiment expressed at SFCA meetings was overwhelmingly opposed, citing safety problems and expressing alarm at the prospect of outsiders biking through Springbrook Forest. At a special meeting on May 7, 1975 the SFCA passed a compromise resolution opposing the bridge but supporting an alternative: development of a bike trail on the east bank of the Branch from Springbrook Drive upstream and crossing the existing bridge to connect with the bridle trail leading to Wheaton Park.

In July 1977 the SFCA found that the plan for the bridge was still in the Master Plan and testified in protest. A preliminary draft of a revised White Oak Master Plan still called for eventual

improvement of the trail and a bridge across Northwest Branch at the foot of Valley Brook Drive rather than Springbrook Drive.

The planning and development of **Kemp Mill Forest**, our neighbors to the north and east, was carefully monitored by officers and committees of the SFCA from 1980 to 1983. The land on which the development is located is 41.64 acres lying between Kemp Mill Road and Northwest Branch Park

and bordering on Springbrook Forest properties on Auth Lane, Rockford Road, and Brookhaven Drive. The tract sold by the Percontee Co. was commonly referred to as “the Contee property” or “the Naham property.”

The SFCA realistically resisted the very human urge to fight the whole project and set out instead to insure compliance with requirements that such developments protect the character of existing neighborhoods. The SFCA did not like the developer’s proposal for access to Springbrook Forest via an extended Auth Lane. The Forest also wanted any lot that adjoined Springbrook Forest property to be one half acre or larger. The planning board granted both of these requests.

Most importantly the Forest requested and obtained a **scenic easement** adjacent to all Springbrook Forest lots (**Figure 6.1**). In the easement area the land must be kept in its forested condition. The Planning Board granted an easement of 50 feet (actually larger than we expected) in back of the single family homes, and 100 feet adjacent to the town house complex. The size of the easement at the Northeast corner of the development was made especially wide to ensure that high land overlooking the intersection of Brookhaven Drive and Rockford Road stayed wooded.

There were supposed to be 100 single family homes and 15 town houses, and that is the way it turned out. The developer, however, tried to make it 101 houses by slipping in an additional lot by using the same lot number twice on site plans (**Figure 6.1 top image**). The Association caught this violation of Planning Board requirements before any construction started.

SFCA involvement continued after the development was completed as some Kemp Mill Forest residents proved to be unaware of the requirements for maintenance of the scenic easement and the Planning Board seemed to change its interpretation of these requirements. On September 16, 1986 a crew with chain saws removed “13 fair-sized trees from the easement-protected area on Lot A2...”, the owner contending “It’s my land; I can do what I want with it.” Since this episode the easement has been generally respected.

Another point of contention was run-off problems: that is, of the storm water variety, not of a neighbor with another’s wife. Storm water from the new development drained onto adjacent lots in Springbrook Forest. The SFCA continued its dialog with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) attempting, with varying degrees of success, to resolve these problems.

The “Be Kind to Forest Day.” first held on March 20th 1971, with a program at the Brookside Gardens Nature Center followed by a community cleanup, marked the start of what has become

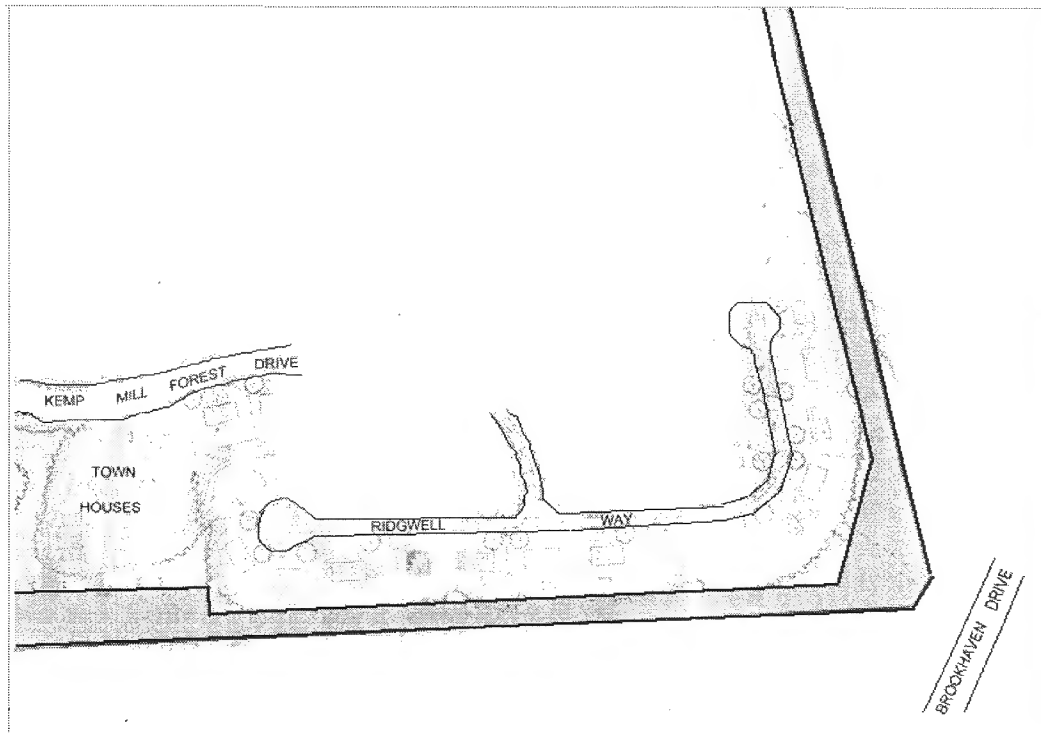
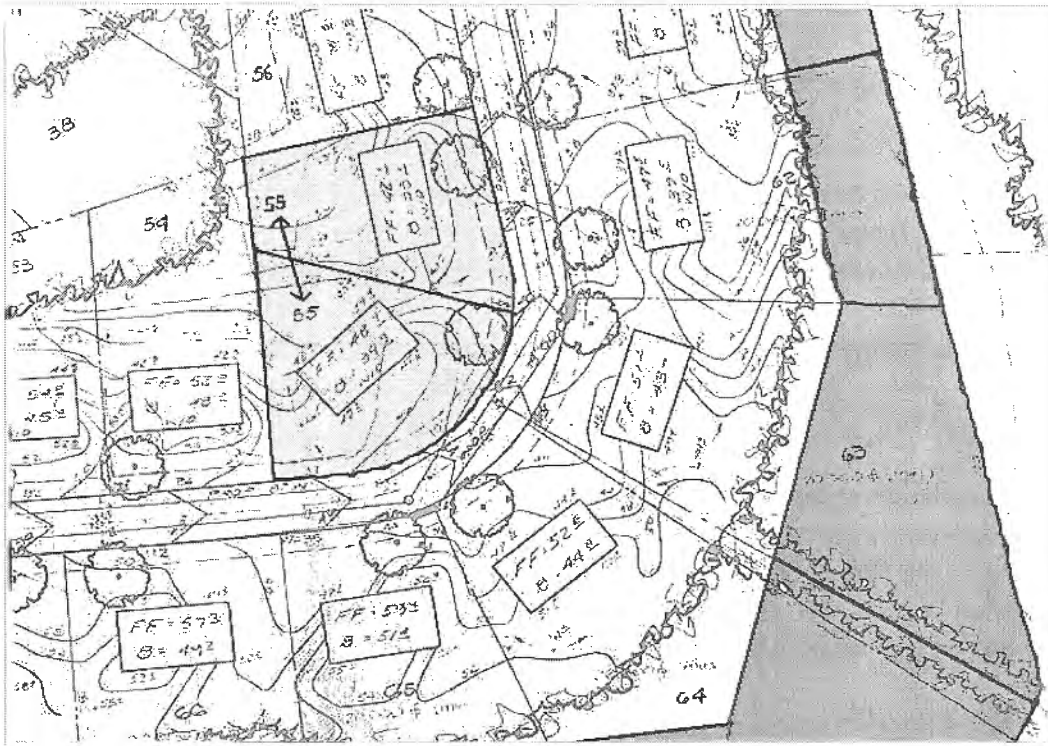


Figure 6.1 Top image shows portion of preliminary plat for Kemp Mill Forest where two lots both have the number 55 (lightly shaded lots). Areas of darker shading in both images denotes area of the scenic easement.

almost an annual event in the Forest: the **spring cleanup** with resident-volunteers assembling at the triangle, fanning out over the neighborhood collecting plastic trash, beer cans, etc. and then returning to the triangle for refreshments.

Ellis Clough warned the SFCA in 1974 that we might have a **gypsy moth epidemic** in about six to eight years. Thirteen years later the gypsy moth threat to our oaks was clear. John and Mary Jean Gilbert headed up our response, arranging for aerial spraying of the Forest in the Spring of 1988 and 1989. By 1990 the infestation was so slight that further spraying was unnecessary.

In the spring of 1985 a Forest resident wrote to his neighbors expressing his desire to subdivide his corner lot. The subject was discussed at the March 20, 1985 SFCA meeting resulting in a resolution stating that "Springbrook Forest Citizens' Association is against **subdivision** of any lot in Springbrook Forest." President John Gilbert, in a letter of April 16, 1985 informed the resident of the resolution and thanked him for having courteously informed his neighbors before taking action on subdivision.

As a follow-up the SFCA appointed a committee on subdivision consisting of Florence Howard, George DeBuchananne, Lloyd Nelson, Dan Schultz, Willard Vick, and Don Dahl. This committee established that at some time about 1980 zoning of Springbrook Forest was changed from RR to R-200. Residents were not consulted about this change and for the most part were not aware of it. While the lots in the Forest range from approximately 40,000 square feet to 2 ½ acres, the new zoning required a minimum lot size of only 20,000 square feet. On June 7, 1985 President John Gilbert sent a letter to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission with an attached resolution passed by the SFCA on May 15, 1985, requesting that the zoning of Springbrook Forest be changed from R-200 to RE-1. (RE-1 requires a minimum lot size of 40,000 square feet. The resolution requested that lot E-5, the one lot in the forest of less than 40,000 square feet, be included as an existing exception to the R-1 zoning.) President Diane Anderson personally took a petition requesting one acre zoning to every home in the Forest. Over 98 percent of the Forest residents signed this petition.

In March of 1990 legal advice was sought. The lawyer reported that rezoning could be accomplished best by an amendment to the Master Plan and an adoption of an implementing Sectional Map Amendment which could only be initiated by the County Council or Planning Board.. The Master Plan was to be reviewed and revised circa 2002 and insiders advised that no amendments would be considered before then. On November 20, 2001 a new master plan was adopted by the Montgomery Council. This changes Springbrook Forest zoning from R200 to RE1, therefore Springbrook Forest is now zoned for one acre (or, technically, a little less) lots!

We can consider that the SF year begins like the school year in September with the **annual picnic**. By 1960 the picnic had moved from private homes to the Colesville Recreation Center and the date was firmly established in September. That year there were 130 in attendance. By 1961 Hines Hatchery was providing barbecued chicken while the remainder of the spread came from Forest families. Ballfields were available for softball and volleyball. This was the pattern through 1971 with attendance varying from 147 to 246 people and 37 to 56 families. In 1972 the location was

changed to the Kemp Mill Recreation Center. As late as 1984 Hines Hatchery was still providing the barbecued chicken, but by 1986 that venerable institution had gone out of business and Elliot Flick filled the breach as Chicken Chef-in-Charge, and collaborated with Jim Mayer, Salmon Savant. Only 42 people of age five or above attended the picnic in 1986 and in 1987 it was moved inside at the Kemp Mill Recreation Center because of rain. In 1988 the picnic was moved to Barbara and Joe Rock's. Subsequent picnics have been held at the Rocks', the Lipsteins', and the Ballous'. In recent years a kosher grill has been provided along with the other offerings.

The other annual events that became a tradition in Springbrook Forest were Santa and Caroling at the Triangle and the Christmas Party. Santa arrives each year on schedule at the triangle thanks in large part to the initiative of the Schultz family whose superb eggnog complements the sweet sound of caroling.

In 1962 the **Christmas party** arrived at St. Andrew Apostle Church for a stay of twenty years. The annual party featured a live band and a generous spread of food, soft drinks, and snacks (BYOL). After the band left Walter McArdle, a fine Irish tenor, often led those so inclined in caroling and singing of old favorites. From 1962 to 1981 admission to the party gradually increased from \$3.50/couple to \$20/couple. From a high attendance of 52 couples at \$6.50/couple in 1967, participation had dropped to 29 couples at \$20/couple in 1981 when the party lost \$400.

Available records contain no reference to a Christmas (or holiday or winter) party (or dance) in 1982 except for a proposal at the SFCA meeting in May of that year "... to discuss whether to hold a Holiday Seasons Dance next December" since "...financial aspects of the dance must be considered now." The party/dance did take place in 1983 in a smaller hall at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church on University Boulevard with the admission fee raised to \$30/couple. Apparently the yearly event continued at this location through 1989 when "on-site sitter and cd music" was introduced. Notes indicating attendance of only 39 people at the 1985 party and a cost of \$500 for the band at the 1986 party give some indication of the reason for the change of format, yet only 35 people showed up for the party in 1989.

In 1991 the Christmas/Holiday/Winter Party/Dance was replaced by the Springbrook Forest **Progressive Dinner**. Arranged by SFCA Secretary-Treasurer Dot Gish, the first Progressive Dinner took place on January 19, 1992 on the Sunday of the Martin Luther King, Jr. long weekend, thus falling well after the crowded holiday season and in the midst of the winter social doldrums. Each couple or individual has appetizers at one house with six to eight neighbors, dinner at another house with six to eight other neighbors, and dessert at a table with a third set of neighbors at a third house where all the participants gather. Participants may provide either their home and appetizers, their home for a dinner cooked by a neighbor, dinner served at a neighbor's home, their home where all deserts are served, or dessert served at a designated dessert table. Over the years participation has varied from 35 to 50 people, all of whom have become better acquainted with some of their neighbors and discovered some outstanding gourmet cooks among them.

During the fifties, sixties, and into the seventies there was also an effective telephone tree based upon the community block leaders. In the case of the death of a neighbor, for instance, one

would notify the block leader who would in turn, directly or with the help of others, notify each home in the block.

The **Kemp Mill Synagogue** on Kemp Mill Road, directly across Kemp Mill Road from the Forest, held its first services in November of 1998. Orthodox Judaism requires strict Sabbath observance, which

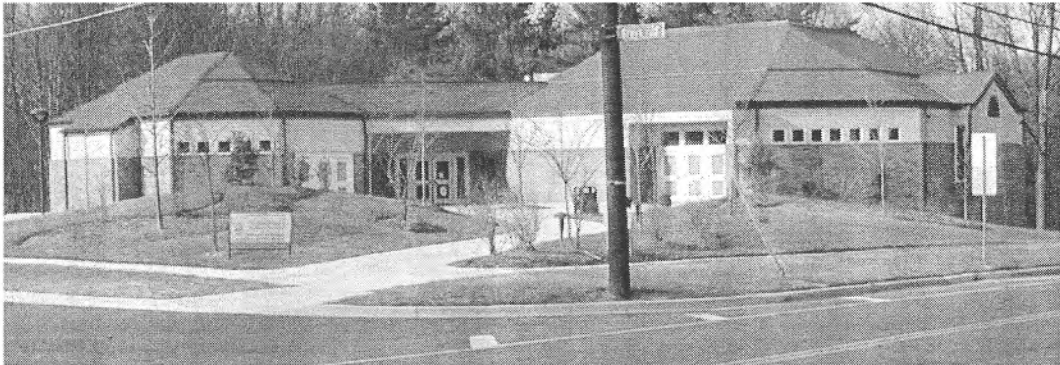


Figure 6.2 The Kemp Mill Synagogue

requires its adherents to be within walking distance of a synagogue. Because of the Kemp Mill Synagogue's location next to Springbrook Forest and the requirement to be able to walk to services, many members of the congregation reside within the Forest. Forester Buddy Stern is presently the president of the congregation.

County zoning regulations and the Forest covenant that states that " parcels shall be used exclusively for private dwelling house purposes" were violated in 1999 when a newly built house on Auth Lane was openly used to conduct a business. Fed-Ex and UPS trucks clogged little Auth Lane. After complaints were lodged, the business was moved to an office building in Wheaton, but the residents posted a notice that they were requesting a special **zoning exception**. SPCA President Dot Gish called a special meeting which unanimously supported hiring an attorney to fight the special exception. Attorney Norman Knopf was engaged who, armed with research of Foresters Sue Jonsberg and Elliott Flick, presented the case in preliminary hearings at the Park and Planning Commission. Before the final hearing on the case was to be held, the request for a special exception was withdrawn.

During the nineties many new large houses were built in the Forest, in some instances an existing house being torn down before the new one was constructed. Additionally many Foresters made major additions to their homes. Even though the number of houses has pretty much remained constant since 1970 (Two houses burned down and have not been replaced), the square footage available for living in the Forest has greatly increased. A most interesting case of house renovation is the Bosworth house on Brookhaven Drive (**Figure 6.3**).



Figure 6.3 top - 12105 Brookhaven, June 1996. bottom - January 2002

Springbrook Forest has survived its second quarter century, and in the new millennium retains its character as a land of trees. After the shock and horror of September 11, 2001 the Forest blossomed forth in red, white and blue as residents expressed their devotion to the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness with freedom and justice for all.

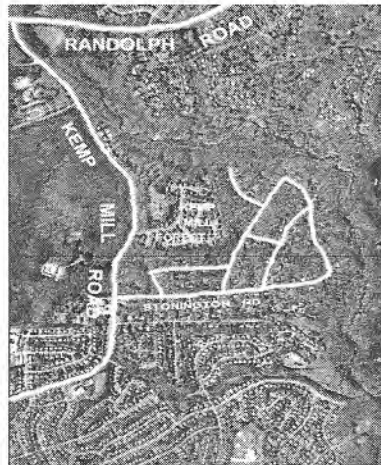


Figure 6.4(a) 1998 Springbrook Forest image from Internet with annotations. See next page.



Figure 6.4(b) 1998 Springbrook Forest image downloaded from the Internet. The new Randolph Road, Kemp Mill Forest and the synagogue (white area at the end of Stonington Road) are the prime changes from the 1968 image (Figure 5.4).

CHAPTER 7

THE FUTURE

By Kathy Bassett

What will the Forest be like 10, 20, or even 40 years from now? Who better to ask than the future generation, the children who currently live here? When asked what they thought the Forest would be like in the future, their answers pointed in the same direction, more development and fewer trees. Interestingly, the disappearance of trees was the change that concerned them the most.

They foresaw:

- Larger homes displacing the original smaller homes
- Wider streets
- Possibly sidewalks
- Definitely streetlights
- More families with young children replacing the elderly who move or pass away
- Underground power lines throughout the neighborhood
- A communal gas turbine generator for use during our predictable power outages
- A wireless network connecting each house with a shared T3 internet connection
- The *Forester* online
- A number of residents working from home or telecommuting at least part of the week
- Obsolescence of paper mail (replaced by electronic mail) except for packages.

The above represents what the future generation, the children, views of what The Forest will be like in the coming years.

Another aspect of the future to be considered is the potential return of former residents to Springbrook Forest. Some of the children who grew up in or near Springbrook Forest have returned as adults to raise families here. The uniqueness of the neighborhood has drawn them back. They have experienced and turned down living in an urban, rural, or the typical, repetitive suburban neighborhood. As a 1945 advertisement for Springbrook Forest described so well “back to the land in Springbrook Forest”.

Some of the changes that will take place in the Forest will be positive, while others may be negative. The demographic of the Forest will certainly change, bringing younger and more diverse families to the neighborhood. Technology will likely change life and make it more comfortable for Forest residents. More and larger homes will definitely be built, but at the cost of trees. These changes will modernize and improve the Forest while still allowing Springbrook Forest to retain its unique rustic soul.

Wildlife in Springbrook Forest

by Wayne Travers

This Essay was written in November 1996 by W. Wayne Travers for this History. The use of the word "pitched" is used where one might expect to see the word "perched". Wayne meant "pitched", as in "pitching" a tent. It is the usage of the Eastern shore where Wayne was born, spent a great portion of his life, and where he died.

In the nineteen fifties, the area to the South of Springbrook Forest was more heavily wooded than today. From the area of Auth at Hermleigh South to Arcola was mostly covered with wood lands with some very large old growth oak along the borders of drainage areas. We know this area now as Kemp Mill Estates.

Crossing Arcola avenue at Kemp Mill road, the area between Arcola and University Blvd. was very well covered with a good stand of timber except for a few residences between Kemp Mill Road East to the junction of Arcola and University Blvd.

Our greatest loss of wild life habitat was to our North. The forty-two acres used for Kemp Mill Forest plus the 500 acres of Wheaton Regional Park. The flood planes on both sides of the Northwest Branch had been a great refuge for deer, fox, raccoon and other smaller mammals. With Kemp Mill Forest now converted to residences there was not enough forest cover left to support the deer population. Consequently, we should not blame the deer for now dining on our flowers and gardens or the raccoons for raiding our trash cans. They get hungry too.

There has been a progressive loss of environment destructive to both plants and animals for over forty years. We were at one time rich in Blood Root. Most has now been lost to the bull dozer. Before the land was cleared for Kemp Mill Forest, I dug up about thirty-five Blood Root plants in the Fall to be transplanted. Soon I had over one hundred plants on our lot. Soon after that, we had no Blood Root. The deer had moved in and eaten every one. Many small wild flowers such as Rattlesnake Plantain and Pyrolas have disappeared. There seems to be less Solomons Seal, False Solomons Seal and each Spring, less and smaller patches of Spring Beauty and Partridgeberry. I don't know if we will have any of the very beautiful Showery Orchids this Spring. They were located by the deer this Summer. Before Viewcrest Terrace was constructed on the forward slope overlooking the Kemp Mill and Hermleigh areas, there was, each Spring, the largest display of Pink Ladys Slipper I have ever seen. I am sure the bull dozer took care of this very unusual natural planting.

In all of Springbrook Forest and the adjacent areas, I found only one patch of the rare and lovely Trailing Arbutus. I don't think it could have survived the development of Kemp Mill Forest. Many, many species of violets have been lost and others restricted in area. Despite the direct destruction brought about by building, most of our wild flower loss is due, I think, to the deer looking for food.

Over the years we have had a reduction of some animals and an increase in others. We have always had plenty of deer *and* we would occasionally see them near the boundaries of our lots. They usually stayed under cover and caused little or no harm. I had a great time hunting them with a camera. With the destruction of the forty-two acres North of Springbrook Forest the entire picture changed. Early on, we had a family of wood chucks with their den in an old mica mine ditch. We had two or more fox families. One fox used to raid our cat's plate, which we kept on the back patio, every morning. One woodchuck lived under our back patio for several years. The building of Kemp Mill Forest marked the end of the fox and woodchuck era.

In the 1950's hunters with their coon dogs were active on North West Branch. Judging from the music of their coon hounds they were often successful. We had so many raccoons in the past we would have several regulars rap on the back door for their handouts. They would even leave their small kittens on the back patio under a flood light to play, eat and play in the cat's water pan while the parents went off for a few hours alone.

Opossums some years were plentiful, some years seldom seen. Some years almost weekly we would have to fish them out of the window wells. I don't think I have seen one in ten years or more.

For a number of years we had a family of Great Horned Owls. They could usually be found in a cluster of very large oaks on a ridge running from the crest of Rockford Road back to the ridge bordering Kemp Mill Forest. We enjoyed the Great Horned Owl's calls and observed them many times flying to and from their nesting areas. Friends not resident of Springbrook Forest when told of our owl residents would come out to see. The owls never let them down. The owls would fly around and should our guests stay awhile after dark, the owls would give them a concert.

Hawks were common. I think they were the Red Shoulder Hawk. They would soar over head and put on a great flying display, especially in the Fall when the leaves were off the trees. They could be seen all over the forest. At times they would pitch on low branches and set motionless watching the ground. When motion under the leaves was noticed, they would hit the ground with their talons grasping the leaves and frequently come up with a vole or field mouse. One Sunday after work, I watched two Red Shoulder Hawks team up and catch a squirrel. One hawk kept above the squirrel

on the tree trunk. The other hawk was on the ground. Both hawks followed the squirrel as he circled the tree trunk. Both hawks were closing in. When the squirrel changed trees, the hawks followed. They got their squirrel.

Some of our birds are probably gone for ever from the Forest. In Spring Branch along Brookhaven Drive, near the Nelson's drive way, a woodcock used that low wet area of the Branch as a feeding area. I would watch him in the evenings feeding and on moonlight still nights in the Spring, watch him go into his traditional mating dance on the wing with occasional vocal effects. There was another pair in the lower end of the mica mine excavations back of Clement Lane in a low flat wet place. This area was apparently rich in earth worms judging from the holes caused by their bills poking the dirt. I have not seen a woodcock since the late 1960's.

Some of our most interesting birds have not been seen in years. Some were common and observed daily in season. The Scarlet Tanager, the Black and White Warbler and the American Red Start, one of the most striking of the warbler clan usually found in heavy cover was last seen by me about 1982 or 1983 when the clearing for Ridgewell Way was going on. This was the area used by the American Red Start for nesting. A pair flew back and forth as though they did not understand what was going on. This went on for about a week. I have not seen this bird since. The Yellow Throat and the Yellow Breasted Chat are two warblers also missing since this period.

I saw one Wood Thrush this Spring. I do not know if it stayed in the area. I have not seen one since. We used to be entertained evenings until early Fall by the very distinctive song of this bird and its close relatives the Veery and Hermit Thrush.

Each year at least one family of Brown Thrashers nested very near our house. This species, usually an insect eater, was especially partial to a rotting large oak stump next to our patio. When the new brood could fly, they would come up near our patio picking the termites and other insect out of the stump. They usually left early in the Fall or late Summer. The last time they were here, one stayed all Winter. We usually had our feeding stations filled with sunflower seed. We would also put peanuts or smaller grain out on a window sill. The window sill was a favorite spot for the Cardinals and Tufted Titmouse. These birds would tap the glass when the food was exhausted. On 22 Dec 1976, in 15 degree weather with heavy snow cover, I noticed a commotion on the window sill. A Brown Thrasher captured a peanut and went into a tunnel of snow from the sill leading into a snow covered boxwood plant. This Thrasher was definitely out of place. For several months we fed him with strips of raw meat, cheese and peanut butter. While the snow lasted in this shaded place, he kept his food stashed in the snow den and would block the entrance from any intruder be it a Jay, Cardinal or whatever. We have not had a Brown Thrasher since that fellow wintered over in 1976-77.

For several years we had a few Common Grackles. Once, at least one stayed around several years. He usually stayed near the feeding areas and whenever he saw my wife, he would fly up to the window and if not recognized would peck at the window. When he got her attention he went into his act, spreading one wing then the other while sticking out a leg and making a raspy call but only with one wing or leg extended. He seemed to enjoy his act more than eating.

Some of our birds were transients. On only two occasions have we been favored by Cedar Waxwings. One small flock spent about a week. I first noticed them on 3 December 1976 in the forest to the rear of Clement Lane. On 3 December 1981, a flock of Cedar Waxwings spent several days at our bird bath eating holly berries. There were probably twenty to twenty-five in this flock. They ignored the other birds and apparently pulled out when they had all the berries they wanted.

Another visitor, I think rare for this area was the Evening Grosbeak. Usually a resident of the north woods, he visited us in 1972, 1975 and 1979. This very striking black and gold feathered bird, with a heavy yellow beak, heavy chunky body, is a glutton. He can eat sunflower seed all day on the ground with the ground feeders, in the feeding station, or on the window sills. No matter where, as long as there is plenty of sunflower seed.

On one occasion, we had seen a Rose-breasted Grosbeak for a day, apparently on his way in late Spring to the north woods.

In the late Spring, the Warblers would be passing through to their Summer range. In May of 1970, a flock of about fifteen or twenty Black-throated Blueback Warblers took a little rest stop of a day or two. These very attractive Summer warblers were on their way from higher elevations for nesting. In the Fall, we would have many warblers stopping in for rest or feeding, mostly feeding as they moved in the tree branches and brush so rapidly I could never identify them.

In November of 1979, we had a very uncommon visitor. It seemed so tame I thought it was someone's pet Falcon. I finally decided it was a Goshawk. This area is usually too far South for the Goshawk. I watched it catch voles and field mice. This hawk had a flight pattern different than our local hawks. This one could fly rapidly through the thickest woods while hunting. The hawk was fearless and would let me approach within eight to ten feet. He stayed around almost one week and then returned the next year for several days.

Each Winter we would have visitors besides the warblers that would stay a few days before continuing South. Among this group were the Pine Shiskins, Golden-crowned Kinglets and the Ruby crowned Kinglet. I have not seen any of these birds since the late 1970's.

The biggest surprise is the decline of the Blue Jay. This aggressive bird was around all year. They nested all over our lot. As many as five nests. In our drive we have had at least three nests. In the Winter, they tried to take over the feeding stations and hassled the other Winter residents. I think the Crows had something to do with the Blue Jays decline. Crows usually nest or roost in wooded areas at night. Over the years, from World War II to now, wooded areas in the metropolitan area have been destroyed by the building of developments. I do not recall many Crows in the Springbrook Forest area in the 1950's and 1960's. Then, in the 1970's we got a lot of Crows not only roosting at night but all day long. One day in the mid 1970's, the place was full of nesting Blue Jays hatching out. About 10:30 about forty Crows swept into the forest. All over the forest, the Crows raided the Jay's nests, threw out the nestlings, ate some of them, killed the rest and tore up the nests. There was a great clamor put on by the Jays, much flying about making desperate maneuvers to drive off the Crows without success. There has not been near as many Jays around since. The last Blue jay nest I have seen in Springbrook Forest was about seven or eight years ago. One Blue Jay tried for over a week to ten days to build it's nest on a brick ledge almost three feet off the ground by my front door. Each day I would destroy the nest under construction and the Jay each time would protest. Usually I will see maybe one Jay in the Forest all Spring for a day or two. I don't know where they go now. There does not appear to be many around here.

One Spring morning in 1972, at just about daylight, I was stepping out on the patio to go to work and I saw two ducks flying toward me. They pitched in an oak tree about twenty-five to thirty feet away. The duck then flew off and inspected several trees having cavities. The drake stayed in the tree where they pitched. The duck did all the inspecting. When finished with her inspection, she flew back to the drake and they flew off together toward North West Branch. I had time to run back into the house, pick up a camera and photograph the drake. There was not enough light to get color but enough light to identify a drake Wood Duck. In 1979, in mid morning, a pair of Wood Ducks pitched in a large tree in the Northeast corner of my lot. The drake stayed in the tree while the duck flew off and inspected all of the trees on my lot. She then flew in and around what is now Kemp Mill Forest. After inspecting that area, she returned to the drake. They both then flew up Rockford Road inspecting trees on both sides of the road then flew down Stonington and then to North West Branch.

We still have our usual year around residences except those above mentioned. We have lost maybe half or more our White Breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren and Cardinals. I have not noticed any loss of our woodpeckers except for the Yellow Bellied Sapsucker, this one I haven't seen in ten years. In the Fall, we still get the Brown Creeper, the White crowned and White throated Sparrows. We have not seen the Fox Sparrow in years. We still have the Morning Doves but have lost for the last ten years our resident Quail flock covey.

When our children were home, we spent a lot of time feeding the birds. They taught the Red-bellied Woodpeckers to catch thrown peanut hulls. They got very good at this and seldom missed. Of course the Jays got involved in this activity and they were also good center fielders. We used to get bags of peanuts from the Suffolk, Virginia factories. We would feed the birds over 250 pounds of peanuts a year.

I think the favorite bird of our family is the Tufted Titmouse followed by the Carolina Chickadee or possibly the Red-bellied Woodpecker. The Red-bellied Woodpecker can catch thrown peanuts, thrown at any speed or any angle or altitude. The Tufted Titmouse is the only bird who can count, or at least the kids said he could. Placing our hand outside the window, or at the feeding station with it heaped with peanuts, unshelled, "Tuffy" would demonstrate his technique. By placing one peanut on the bottom of the pile with three seeds rather than the usual two seeds, Tuffy would sit on your hand, or wrist, until he would turn peanuts over or spill them out of your hand until he found the peanut with the three seeds. He would then take off with the larger one. The Carolina Wren was too small to take a whole peanut in his mouth but he was very successful with shelled nuts. He was best at this hand feeding if I would stand behind a large tree. The birds learned to expect this peanut treatment. They would meet us on the road or when ever they saw us walking in the neighborhood they expected us to have a peanut in our pocket for them.

When my son Jess returned home from the unpleasant mess in Southeast Asia in the early 1970's, the first few days home he got reacquainted with Tuffy Titmouse. He noticed carpenter bees working on the overhangs and fascia board of our house. Getting a step ladder, he was trying to drive off the carpenter bees and close up their holes in the overhang area. Tuffy Titmouse saw Jess, came over and pitched on his head. This drove off the carpenter bees. Tuffy got his peanut and stayed on Jess' head who was then able to finish his repairs. Jess said Tuffy Titmouse was the only living thing besides his family that welcomed him home from the war.

OFFICERS OF THE SPRINGBROOK FOREST CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Recording Secretary and Treasurer</u>	<u>Corresponding Secretary</u>
1952-53	Marlin Smith	Dave Griffin	Toni Zindel	Janie Barkley
1953-54	Marlin Smith	Wes Meginn	Toni Zindel	Ann Stewart
1954-55	Paul Amundsen	Catherine Langford	Toni Zindel	Iris Jenkins
1955-56	Terry Zindel	Preston Bauman	Augusta Griffin	Iris Jenkins
1956-57	Hugo Ranta	B.VonBernewitz	Julia Miller	Elma Hoskinson
1957-58	Leslie Miller	Walter McArdle	Ruth Preston	Naomi Clough
1958-59	Hank Clay	Don Leslie	Mary Ann Moskowitz	Thelma Wilson
1959-60	Don Leslie	George Mathieson	Mary Ann Moskowitz	Iris Jenkins
1960-61	Dale West	Ray Tuttle	Iris Jenkins	Rose Mary Mayer
1961-62	Ray Tuttle	Roald Evensen	Thelma Wilson	Jeanne Clay

	<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary-Treasurer</u>
1962-63	Roald Evensen	Albert Boggess	Jeanne Clay
1963-64	Albert Boggess	Eugene Beach	Jeanne Clay
1964-65	George deBucnananne	Willard Vick	Marion Tuttle
1965- 66	Willard Vick	Roland Fntz	Marion Tuttle
1966-67	Roland Fritz	John Finn	Ruth Dahl
1967-68	John Finn	Leslie Miller	Ruth Dahl
1968-69	Leslie Miller	David Schaefer	Dorothy Leonbeger

1969-70	David Schaefer	Ellis Clough	Dorothy Leonbeger
1970-71	David Spokely	Don Gish	Kay Ohlmacher
1971-72	Don Gish	Chris Bassich	Kay Ohlmacher
1972-73	Gloria Dennis	Dale Jackson	Jo Ann Hand
1973-74	Brad Reardon	Jo Ann Hand	Dorthea Misko
1974-75	Dale Jackson	Don Dahl	Brad Reardon
1975-76	Don Dahl	John Ohlmacher	Paulette Fitzsimmons
1976- 77	John Ohlmacher	Joe Mudd	Paulette Fitzsimmons
1977-78	Joe Mudd	Tom Jones	Mitzi Yates
1978-79	Nancy Boggess	Joel Garrett	Sally Annable
1979-80	Joe Garrett	David Mendelsohn	Brad Reardon
1980-81	John Ohlmacher Dale Jackson	Richard Simon	Barbara Rock
1981-82	Richard Simon	Dan Schultz	Barbara Rock
1982-83	Dan Schultz	Harry Wallace	Barbara Rock
1983-84	Harry Wallace	John Gilbert	Barbara Rock
1984-85	John Gilbert	Mike Jonsberg	Barbara Rock
1985-86	John Gilbert	Sam Chambliss	Barbara Rock
1986-87	Sam Chambliss	Elliott Flick	Barbara Rock
1987-88	Sam Chambliss Elliott Flick (acting)	Elliott Flick	Barbara Rock
1988-89	Jim Mayer	Diane Anderson	Barbara Rock
1989-90	Diane Anderson	Cathy Rockman	Barbara Rock

1990-91	Diane Anderson	Cheryl Lipstein	Barbara Rock
1991-92	Cheryl Lipstein	Ruth Ballou	Dorothy Gish
1992-93	Bob Lesnick	Tom Korth	Dorothy Gish
1993-94	Florence Howard	Stewart Zelman	Dorothy Gish
1994-95	Stewart Zelman	Ben Stonestreet	Loren Simpson (Sec) Adam Jamin (Treas)
1995-96	Ben Stonestreet	Tom Korth	Simpson/Jamin
1996-97	Rip Ballou	Kathy Bassett	Simpson/Jamin
1997-98	Kathy Bassett	Loren Simpson	Nancy Bosworth
1998-99	Laura Miller	Walter Goozh	Nancy Bosworth
1999- 2000	Walter Goozh	Jenifer Samet	Nancy Bosworth
2000-01	Dorothy Gish	David Baer	Nancy Bosworth
2001-02	David Baer	Sue Lubeck	Nancy Bosworth

SPRINGBROOK FOREST RESIDENTS April 2002

ANDERSON, Diane
ANNABLE, Sally (Sarah)
ARKIN, Michael & Paula HOROWITZ
BADDERS, Bev & Don
BAER, Charlotte & David
BALLOU, Ruth & Rip
Elizabeth, Katie, Celia
BASSETT, Kathy & David
Ben, Julie, Noel
BASSLER, John & Laura MILLER
BEACH, Ruby Lee & Eugene
BERMAN, David & Toni WILSON
BOGAN, Dorothy
David
BORISSOW, Liz & Kyrill
Peter, Paul, Michael
BORKOVEC, Vera & Sasha (Alexej)
BORROTO, Mary & Henri
BOSWORTH, Nancy & Barry
BOWEN, Flo Ann & Gilbert
BRADSHAW, Nancy & Ray MD
BRINKMAN, David & Beth SAIDMAN
CAMPBELL, Tom & Linda SWEETING
CARL, Hannah & Mitchel
CARTER, Mary & Nick
CHAPLICK, Robert G.
CHRISTENSEN, Carolyn & Curt
CONNELL, Frances & Thomas
Shawn, Brendon, Gaelan
CRANE, Ruth & Julius
Gavirel
DABNEY, Charles
DAVIS, Peggy & SCHULTZ, Dan
Timothy, Matthew, Daniel
Katherine, Maggie, Sara,
Natalie
DEBUCHANANNE, Mary
DONAHOE, Stephanie & Dan
Alexandra
DUXBURY, Ralph E.
EIDELBERG, Avia
EISENMAN, Mindy & David
Judah, Rami, Eli

FERREYIA, Jorge
FINN, Alice S.
FLICK, Pat & Elliott
FRANCPO, Shirlee & Steven
Luna, Nathan,
Paulette, Darielle
FRITZ, Corrine & Roland
GILBERT, Jeanna & John
GILMORE, Ruth
GISH, Dorothy & Donald
GOLDBERG, Selma & Joseph
GOLDSCHLAG, Barbara & David
Debi, Yael, Aliza
GOOZH, Merri & Walter
Stephanie Rae
GRAUMAN, Shulmaith & David LESNOY
GREENE, Richard
GREIG, Pat & Len
Carl, Andy
GROVER, Charles
HEINAMAN, Pat & Keith SCHISZIK
Lauren
HILL, Linda & Phillip
Mike, Natalie, Rene
HONIG, Peggi & Gary
HORN, Marianna & Michael
Daniel, Gabriella,
Jonathon, Eliana
HOROWITZ, Judy & Terry
HOROWITZ, Paula & Michael ARKIN
HOSKINSON, Julian
HOWARD, Florence & Chet
HUGHES-PAGLIN, Julie &
David PAGLIN
JACKSON, Suzanne & Jeffrey SACKS
JACOBS, Golda & Martin
JAFFIN, Ann & Stan
JAMIN, Francine
JENKINS, Henry
JONSBURG, Sue & Mike
Karen
KATZ, Arlene & Irving
Shlomo, Daniel

KATZ-KORTH, Vera & Thomas KORTH
 KAYASTHA, Sunita &
 Rajendra SHRESTHA
 KLEIN, Claire & Fred
 KOBREN, Carmi & Marty
 Shira , Ari
 KORTH, Thomas & Vera KATZ-KORTH
 LAGAKOS, Stella & Nick
 LEIBOVITZ, Marilyn & Sam
 LEONBERGER, Dorothy & Melvin
 LESNOY, David & Shulmaith GRAUMAN
 LEWIS, Mark & Janet NESSE
 Naomi , Gabriella
 LIPSTEIN, Cheryl & Rob
 Rebecca , Matthew
 LOCKLEAR, Joyce & Vernon
 LONG, Barbara & Jeffrey
 LUBECK, Sue & Peter
 Matt , Allyson
 MATHIESON, Audrey
 MAYER, Debbie & Jim
 Nathan SPITTAL
 MAZEL, Sharon & Jay
 Daniella , Areanne , Kira
 MCGILL, Thu & John
 MILLER, Shirley & Daniel
 MILLER, Laura & John BASSLER
 MISKO, Dorthea & George
 MOSKOWITZ, Mary Ann
 MOSKOWITZ, Helen & Nathan
 Mosheh , Ahmon ,
 Yahron , Zehava
 MUDD, Jeanette & Joseph
 NELSON, Rachel & Lloyd
 NESSE, Janet & Mark LEWIS
 Naomi , Gabriella
 O'BRIEN, LaWana & Ben
 OHLMACHER, Kay
 PAGLIN, David &
 Julia HUGHES-PAGLIN
 PAVLO, Marlene & Anthony
 PENDLETON, Gloria B.
 PETERS, George
 PLOTINSKY, Anita & Melvin
 RANDEL, Violet & George
 RASKAS, Daphna & Daniel
 Etan , Leora , Hadassah
 Eliana
 REARDON, Jeanne & Bradley

REESE, Sarah & Albert
 RISCH, Susan & Norman
 ROCK, Barbara & Joseph
 ROCKMAN, Cathy & Neal
 EBEY, Timothy, EBEY, Matthew
 ROMIG, Lori & Randy
 Rebecca , Abby
 ROZMARYN, Sharona & Leo
 Adina , Yair , Yakov
 SACKS, Jeffrey & Suzanne JACKSON
 SAIDMAN, Beth & David BRINKMAN
 SAMET, Jennifer
 SANCHEZ, Paul
 SCHAEFER, Mary & David
 SCHISZIK, Keith & Pat HEINAMAN
 Lauren
 SCHOPF, Lisa & Simeon
 SCHULTZ, Dan & Peggy DAVIS
 Timothy, Matthew, Daniel
 Katherine, Maggie, Sara,
 Natalie
 SCHUMAN, Paula
 SCHUM, Betty
 SHRESTHA, Rajendra &
 Sunita Kayastha
 SPANGLER, Gina & Glen
 SPENCER, Virginia & Nelson
 SPIELMAN, Roger
 STERN, Sarah & William (Buddy)
 Bezalel (Ben) , Noam , Rachel
 STERNBERG, Tema & Yaron
 STOKES, Jay & Louis
 STONESTREET, Teresa & Ben
 Brittney , Megan , Katherine
 SUMMERS, Pauline
 SWEETING, Linda & Tom CAMPBELL
 TENENBAUM, Adelaid & Jose
 THOMPSON, Nancy & Glenn
 TUTTLE, Marion & Raymond
 VICK, Alberta & Willard
 WILSON, Toni & Dave BERMAN
 ZIEGLER, Terri & George
 Nathaniel, Bryony