

# A History of Brookdale

Amy Rispin

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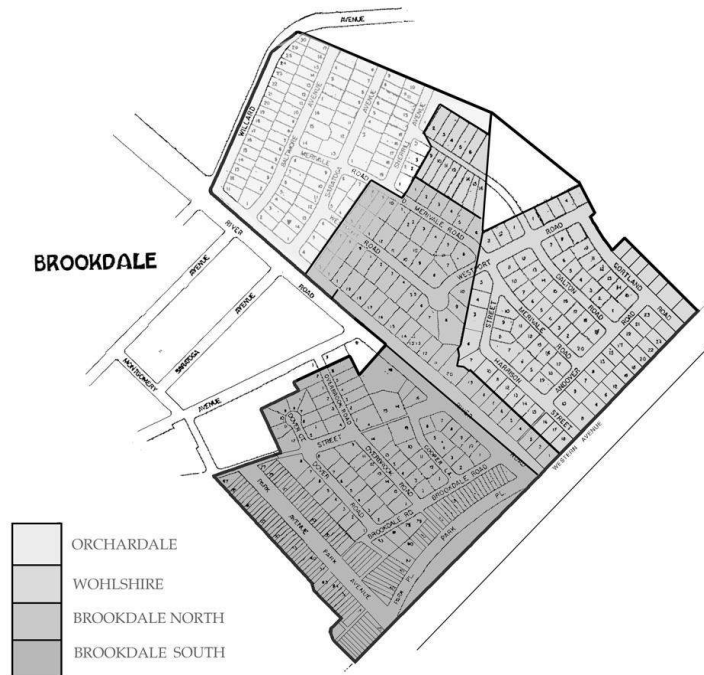
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## INTRODUCTION

The community now known as Brookdale started with several developers' dreams, but the land on which these homes were built had many uses prior to that. Brookdale is part of a large 1713 land grant called "Friendship." Echoes of the name of the land grant are to be found in the Friendship Post Office Station on Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Friendship Boulevard to the east of Brookdale, and the Village of Friendship Heights just north of Willard Avenue. In the 1800s through the 1920s, this area was primarily farm land with a scattering of homes. Remnants of prior Indian usage are rumored to be located nearby. Fort Bayard, Fort Simmons, and Battery Bailey were the outposts of Union soldiers used to protect the city of Washington during the Civil War.

In 1938, Cooper Lightbown, the famous builder of Marjorie Merriweather Post's 117-room Florida estate Mar-a-Lago, began to divide what had been farmland on both sides of River Road into plots. He designed and built the first homes as Brookdale North and South. Today, Brookdale also includes 36 substantial Wohlshire homes, the brick Orcharddale section and homes along and near Willard Avenue, plus several farmhouses that preceded these developments. The area remains shaded by a great variety of trees, large and small, and is brightened by azaleas, dogwood, and cherry trees in the spring.

Brookdale is a neighborhood of about 1000 residents in 360 or so homes. It straddles historic River Road and extends from Western Avenue (the District of Columbia line) north and west into Montgomery County, Maryland. In 1958 the Brookdale Citizens' Association was incorporated. In November 1971, the Orcharddale Association was merged with the Brookdale Association, then referred to as the Tri-Community (with Wohlshire). This created the borders of the Brookdale Community as they are today.



## PREFACE

Brookdale lies in the Northern, or Stoddert, half of a 3,124 acre tract called Friendship, patented in 1713 to Thomas Addison and James Stoddert (grandfather of Benjamin Stoddert, first secretary of the U.S. Navy, who inherited the property). The original tract ran from near Sibley Hospital to the Washington Cathedral and on up to Old Georgetown Road. By 1790, its Northern half had been divided among five different families, with Brookdale lying in the 400-acre part belonging to John Threlkheld (sometime mayor of Georgetown). The Southeast corner of the Threlkheld property was marked by a stone (inscription still visible) that can be seen in an alley near 41<sup>st</sup> and Fessenden Streets, NW. Almost as long in place as that stone, but in Brookdale, is the Northeast No. 6 milestone marker erected in 1792 as part of the survey of the boundaries of the territory of Columbia directed by Major Andrew Ellicott. In 1916, the DAR put up the iron fence that still surrounds this stone, which lies between Western Avenue and Park Place.

Park Place is part of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century road that gave access from the Shoemaker farms to River Road. The Shoemaker family cemetery can be visited via an alley behind Earlston Drive. In the Civil War defenses of Washington, Park Place was part of a connecting link between Fort Bayard and Fort Simmons. Fort Bayard, which extended from the present park into Brookdale, was where the left side of the line rested during the battle of Fort Stevens in July 1864. Brookdale's other old thoroughfare, River Road, was, along with lower Wisconsin Avenue, part of an ancient path to the Indian village of Canavest near Harpers Ferry. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was a "rolling" road used to transport tobacco barrels to the port of Georgetown. In 1755, it was widened to accommodate part of the army of General Braddock on its ill-fated expedition in the French and Indian wars.

Apart from Benjamin Stoddert and John Threlkheld, early landowners in Brookdale who held important public offices included Thomas Sim Lee (Governor of Maryland) and Nathan Loughborough (Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury). The latter bought the farm called "Milton" in 1808 [Montgomery County deeds show that the farm was purchased in 1820, 1822, and 1838] and built a house there on the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Indian trading post. This house, which has been designated a Maryland historic landmark, is located at the end of Allandale Road in Green Acres and can be seen from Little Falls Parkway.

*By Bill McElroy*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

History is a record of past events, a form of remembering. Living here, in this house, I found that I could not get away from the memories of people who were here before our family. Shortly after we moved in, Mr. Corrigan, who lived next door, explained that this had been *his* house, and that he had admired it when he lived down the street and subsequently bought it from his brother. Later, the Corrigans used the large side yard to build themselves a new house during the 1970's. Mrs Gordon, who lived across the street, told me that her house had been the original Shoemaker family farm house, and that when she was in her forties, the farmer's daughter, Mrs. Mary Shoemaker Bopp, had subdivided the property to build the house we now own.. It also seemed that Mrs. Bopp had kept the large side yard for her "farm", on which she had a well and cultivated vegetables and flowers.

I often thought of Mrs. Bopp each spring as I discovered the naturalized crocuses that bloom each February on our lawn, the Virginia bluebells, a native species of bulb with intense blue flowers, and the magnificent white azalea at the corner of the house. She had also planted a stand of luxuriant heirloom lilacs and a large mock orange bush to shield the back yard from the neighbors' view.

One June afternoon in 2009, as my husband and I were packing to rush for a plane to Ireland, Mrs. Bopp's daughter, Margaret Remler, and grandson, David Remler, knocked on our door, carrying a scrapbook recording their family's history here. They had moved away long ago to Round Hill Virginia and wanted to refresh their memories of this neighborhood. We also referred the Remlers to our neighbors, Astrid and Boyd McHugh, who live in an earlier Bopp house.

When it was time to write this history, Astrid referred me to the Tenleytown cemetery because she had seen Shoemaker gravestones there. When I visited the Chevy Chase Historical Society, Gail Sainsbury, Director of Archives and Research, provided period maps and a transcript of an oral history taped by Lillian Shoemaker Brown several years ago. The Friendship Heights Village center provided a copy of their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pamphlet, which contained excerpts from an anecdotal history written many years ago by Mark Shoemaker. The Montgomery County Historical Society gave me a copy of a fifteen page genealogy of the Shoemaker family, dating to 1819, when Samuel Shoemaker, a Quaker farmer, came to Montgomery County from Pennsylvania. They also put me in touch with Ms. Diane Tamayo, a Shoemaker family descendant, who maintains and documents the Shoemaker genealogy. Diane referred me to Nancy Werner, a cousin, who is a direct descendant of Isaac Shoemaker, Samuel's son, who established the farm which was in our immediate area east of River Road.

David Remler and his sister, Robin, have sent me copies of the vintage photos from their family well-annotated scrapbook, which provide images of close family life in a rural setting a century ago.

Brookdale neighbors referred me to Kathy McElroy as the go-to person for history of Brookdale, especially Brookdale South. It was then that I learned that Bill, Kathy's late husband, had performed a complete deed search in the 1980's to challenge a claim by builders who wanted to intensively develop Boundary Park, even though it had been deeded for park land almost a century before. Kathy loaned me Bill's meticulous records, which revealed a great deal of Brookdale history, dating from the early Friendship land grant to contemporary times.

Inspired by Bill McElroy's thorough and scholarly approach, my husband, Paul, and I searched Maryland land records systematically for deeds and plats to ensure that all maps and dates used in this history are accurate and well-documented. We were also able to obtain key wills to determine how land was transferred. Memoirs and anecdotal histories were all confirmed by these documents, as well as by obituaries and other public records.

The Bugle archives on-line were a rich source of anecdotal history that brings life to the pages of this History. Campbell Graeub shared his files of the Brookdale Citizens Association, including documents detailing our relations with Montgomery County and GEICO. Richard Podolske provided a window to the Brookdale neighborhood with several well-composed photos. Many neighbors opened their doors to me as well. The Smiths showed us around their historic home, probably the first house built in American University Park, Montgomery County, now in Brookdale South. Ms. Mary Shivanandan invited her neighbors to share memories of Sullivan's estate and nearby green Acres. They described ancient fruit trees and brooks now in culverts so that roads could be cut through. Ms. Anne Mehringer opened the doors of her historic home, "Milton", with its generous and stately grounds, and told us stories of the long history of the Loughborough family.

I also wish to thank my husband Paul for helping to research into land records and deeds, for generating the many of the maps which illuminate the text, and for moral support during the time it has taken to write this history. Ms. Deborah Kalb generously stepped in to copy edit the text and I thank her for doing it so competently and quickly as we go to press. Finally, I wish to thank the Brookdale Citizens Association for supporting the concept of this History of our Brookdale neighborhood in its 75<sup>th</sup> year.

## **CHAPTER I. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF BROOKDALE**

### **Friendship Land Grant and Early Parcels**

In the seventeenth century, King Charles I of England granted a charter for the State of Maryland to Lord Calvert. The Quakers, or Friends, found refuge from persecution in Maryland, which did not place restrictions on religion. In 1713, Lord Calvert patented a land grant of 3,124 acres called “Friendship” to James Stoddert and Thomas Addison.<sup>1</sup> (The original land survey was dated 1711.)

Friendship. Patented to Thomas Addison and James Stoddart, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1711, for three thousand one hundred and twenty four acres. This land extends from near the Potomac and below Edmund Brooke’s farm, a south-easterly and easterly direction across the Georgetown Turnpike, north of Tennallytown, and up the pike, northwesterly, near to Bethesda post office, and contains many rich and valuable farms; Allison Nailor’s lands, and the farms of Richard Williams, Henry Loughboro, and others. The river road passes through from Rider’s farm to near Tennallytown.

The Friendship tract was part of Prince George’s County when it was patented to Stoddert and Addison. In 1748, Prince George’s County was split and the Western portion became Frederick County. Subsequently, in 1776, Montgomery County was split off as Frederick County’s southern portion. The new county was named for General Richard Montgomery, who had been killed in the attack on Quebec in 1775.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Addison’s portion lay south of Fessenden Street all the way to Van Ness Street, NW, and Sidwell Friends School. Tennally’s tavern, from which the name Tenleytown was later derived, was established within this southern portion. James Stoddert’s portion of land was to the north of Fessenden Street, NW, and extended into Bethesda to Edgemoor Lane on both sides of what are now River Road and Wisconsin Avenue.

In 1746, George Goodwin acquired 400 acres in the northern part of the Friendship tract from the Stoddert family and sold it to the Threlkeld family in 1752. The present-day Brookdale community lies in this parcel in Maryland.

### **District of Columbia**

In 1791, the Maryland Assembly ceded 69 square miles for the Federal city as capital of the new United States. When the District of Columbia was created by Congress, all of Addison’s portion of Friendship lay within its boundaries while most of Stoddert’s portion was still in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Boundary marker NW No.6 was placed along the right of way of Boundary Avenue (which became Western Avenue), near Fessenden Street in a small field, just to the south



of Park Place [now Boundary Park]. Woodward notes that stone No.6 is about one mile northwest of Tennallytown on the northwest side of a newly cut road [which was called Boundary Avenue and was later renamed Western Avenue] in the “American University Park” subdivision and within a stone’s throw of Fort Bayard.<sup>3</sup>



Photo c/o Podolske

Figure 1. Plaque on Boundary Stone No.6

In 1916, the DAR placed an iron fence around the boundary stone. A National Capitol Planning Commission report (1976) notes, “This stone [No. 6] is badly damaged and rests within an iron fence in the middle of a small field along Western Avenue near Fessenden Street.”<sup>4</sup> The damage is thought to be due to the fact that during the Civil War, Union soldiers stationed in the vicinity used the stone for target practice.<sup>5</sup>



Photo c/o Podolske

Figure 2. Boundary Stone No.6

## **Railroads and Trolley Lines**

The Capital Crescent Trail is an 11-mile hiker-biker trail that connects Georgetown to west Silver Spring. The trail was formerly used by the Georgetown Branch rail line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Construction of the Georgetown Branch rail line began in 1892; it was to run through James Loughborough's estate and a blueprint of the estate from 1895 shows the planned roadbed.<sup>6</sup> After delays of many years, it was finally completed in 1910. It was exclusively a freight line and carried coal and building materials to Chevy Chase, Bethesda, and Georgetown until 1985. The Coalition for the Capitol Crescent Trail was formed in 1986 to promote its development as a hiker-biker trail.

Willard Avenue was the original roadbed of the Glen Echo railroad. According to Mark Shoemaker, "When abandoned on Willard Avenue, the line was moved north to enter at Somerset and to follow the stream just south of the Somerset gate. It rejoined the original line just before it crossed River Road."<sup>7</sup> The ballast for this spur is still in place, along the creek."<sup>8</sup>



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 3. Trolley Car 145, Washington Railway and Electric Company<sup>9</sup>

In 1890, the Georgetown and Tennallytown Railway Company built a trolley line up Wisconsin Avenue from 32<sup>nd</sup> and M St, NW, to the District of Columbia boundary line. The carbarns were built nearby to allow the trolleys to turn around. This site is still in use for Metro buses.<sup>10</sup> By 1900, trolley service was extended to Rockville by the Washington and Rockville Electric Railway Company. This line and 12 others were consolidated in 1902 as the Washington Railway and Electric Company.<sup>11</sup> According to the archives of the Trolley Museum, car No.145 ran on this line as a passenger car until 1923.<sup>12</sup>

## **Suburban Development**

Land owners in Bethesda expected the new trolley lines to stimulate demand for suburban development and nearby farmland began to be subdivided into building lots around the turn of the twentieth century. In 1888, the Chevy Chase Land Company, launched by Francis Griffith Newlands, received a charter to run trolleys out Connecticut Avenue from the District of Columbia.<sup>13</sup> By 1890, he had amassed 1,713 acres along the future route of Connecticut Avenue and by 1892 he had extended electric railway service into Montgomery County from 18<sup>th</sup> and U Streets NW, to Chevy Chase Lake.<sup>14</sup> The part of American University Park in Montgomery County was subdivided in 1899, Somerset Heights in 1899, and Friendship Heights in 1901.<sup>15</sup> However, farming persisted of the areas of Brookdale that were north of River Road well into the twentieth century.

## **Friendship Heights**

The 32-acre village of Friendship Heights is a triangular jurisdiction bordered on the south by Willard Avenue, on the east by Wisconsin Avenue, and on the north by Somerset. It was built on the sites of Hilleary Balls' land and the Shoemaker and Eld farms known as the "Hills" and the "Heights." Until the beginning of the twentieth century, this area had only two houses. One was the farmhouse for Aquila Eld and his family, connected to River Road by a lane, which became North and South Park Street. The other was Hilleary Ball's house, overlooking Wisconsin Avenue. An adjoining blacksmith shop was where Ball shod the horses used on the stage coach route from Georgetown to Rockville (now Wisconsin Avenue).<sup>16</sup>

Albert Shoemaker, great-grandson of Samuel Shoemaker, a Quaker farmer who settled in this area in the early nineteenth century, subdivided the "Hills" and Henry Offutt subdivided the 16 acres of the "Heights" in 1901.<sup>7</sup> Owners of the new houses typically used adjacent lots for fruit trees and gardens. Chickens, mules, and cows were kept. At this time, residents could phone in their grocery lists to stores in Georgetown and groceries were sent by street car along Wisconsin Avenue to Friendship Heights.<sup>14</sup> The Village of Friendship Heights was incorporated in 1914 as a Special Tax District, which gives it partial autonomy within Montgomery County.



Figure 4. Map of Friendship Heights

In 1964, the area was rezoned to permit commercial development, which allowed a radical transformation to take place. Thelma Edwards, a real-estate agent, and several developers assembled large parcels of land to build high-rise apartment and commercial buildings.<sup>17</sup> Today, Friendship Heights Village is home to more than 5,000 residents, with an award-winning community center and park.

## **GEICO**

GEICO was founded in the 1930s and occupied office space in the District of Columbia. As the company grew, a more permanent and suitable location was needed for its headquarters. In the mid 1950s, the company purchased 28 acres of land from Donald Woodward and asked for a zoning change for their office building on residentially zoned property. The neighbors supported their petition after receiving written assurance that there would be no road access from Brookdale to GEICO parking lots.<sup>18</sup> Lillian Shoemaker Brown, born on the original farmland in 1905, also remembered that GEICO was deeded the land for the new headquarters with the understanding that a low structure would be built in order to preserve vistas of adjacent rolling countryside, and conserve green space.<sup>19</sup>



Figure 5. GEICO Headquarters in Bethesda

Subsequently ground was broken and the new building opened in 1959. In 1960, the Bethesda Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce presented the Oliver Owen Kuhn Memorial Cup to GEICO in recognition of the company's new operations building. The award cited the company "on the way it handled the 28 acres in such a way as to create a beautiful building and grounds, as well as being an attractive and good neighbor."<sup>20</sup>

### **Commercial Development in the Friendship Heights Area**

In thinking about the larger neighborhood, Brookdale residents, Rick and Lynn Jones, reported on the businesses along Wisconsin Avenue and Western at mid-century. Wisconsin Place (former site of Woodward & Lothrop) had been a driving range since the 1920s. A restaurant called the Silver Fox was the only business located on the Mazza Gallerie site. It faced Wisconsin Avenue. Howard Johnson's restaurant was in the triangle where Metro is now. It was not a drive-in. Paul Brothers' Oldsmobile was on Wisconsin Avenue across from Paul's Liquor Store. The Pauls lived at 4705 Dover Rd. McDowell Brothers' Garage was located where the Boeymonger's is at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Jenifer Street, NW. The rest was unimproved land.

By the 1950s, the Chevy Chase Land Company allowed limited commercial development along Connecticut Avenue in the District of Columbia. In 1950, Lord & Taylor and Woodward & Lothrop were built west of Wisconsin Avenue and in 1953, the Chevy Chase Shopping Center was opened to the east. Benson Animal Hospital was located at the southeast corner of the Wisconsin and Western Avenue intersection. In 1964, Saks Fifth Avenue was built on an undeveloped tract, initiating additional commercial development on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue.<sup>21</sup>



Figure 6. Wisconsin Place Center

The Friendship Heights Sector Plan was adopted in 1998, dominated by a policy that encouraged growth around Metro stations. Commercial development was approved on the Hecht's Department Store site [previously Woodward & Lothrop] by the New England Development Company, and "Chevy Chase Center," east of Wisconsin Avenue by the Chevy Chase Land Company.

### Early Terminology

The River Road	River Road
Tennallytown	Tenleytown
Georgetown-Rockville Turnpike, later Georgetown-Frederick Turnpike	Wisconsin Avenue, route 355
The Heights and the Hills	Friendship Heights Village
Washington County	Washington, D.C.
Powder Mill Branch	Little Falls Branch

## CHAPTER II. Shoemaker Family Farms in the Brookdale Community and Friendship Heights

From the colonial period to well past the Civil War, farms and plantations dominated the area that became Montgomery County. With no refrigeration, homeowners in settled parts of the District of Columbia relied on local farmers for their food, so truck farming was common in the southern part of the County. These farmers sold their fruit and vegetables at markets within the city limits and at farm stands on their own farmland. Western Market on Western Avenue in Bethesda was built in 1941 on the site of one such farm stand on Charles Shoemaker's farm.<sup>1</sup>

The areas in Friendship Heights and the Brookdale communities of Brookdale North, Orchardale, and Wohlshire were farmed by three families: the Shoemakers, the Perrys and the Elds. Over the years their descendants married each other. Appendix I contains a more detailed geneology.

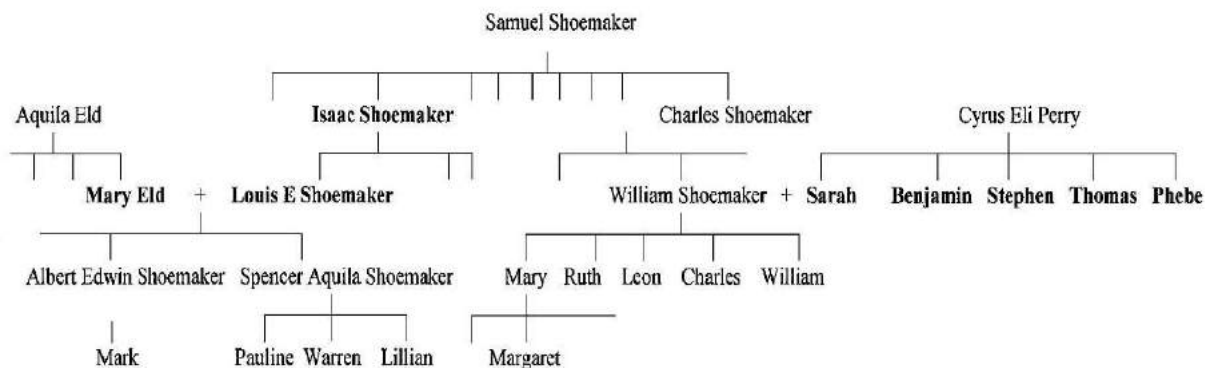


Figure 1: Genealogy of Shoemaker, Eld and Perry Families in Brookdale Area  
(Names in Bold are of the original owners of the land that became north Brookdale, Geico and Wisconsin Place)

### Shoemaker Farms

Shoemaker family origins in Maryland date to 1819, when Samuel Shoemaker, a Quaker farmer, came here from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and purchased 102 acres in the northern part of the "Friendship" land grant from Clement Smith, president of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank in Georgetown. This land was at the present sites of Yorktown Village and Westmoreland Hills in Bethesda and extended into the District of Columbia. The original family home was built in the Yorktown Village area.<sup>1</sup> Samuel Shoemaker had eight sons and two daughters, many of whom bought more land and continued to farm. Eventually Samuel Shoemaker's descendants owned farms along the border of Maryland and the District of Columbia from Wisconsin Avenue to Westmoreland Circle. Martenet's and Bond's map of 1865 shows five Shoemaker families living in Bethesda and one in Tenleytown.<sup>2</sup> Samuel's son, Isaac, and later, descendants of his son, Charles, had farms east of River Road.

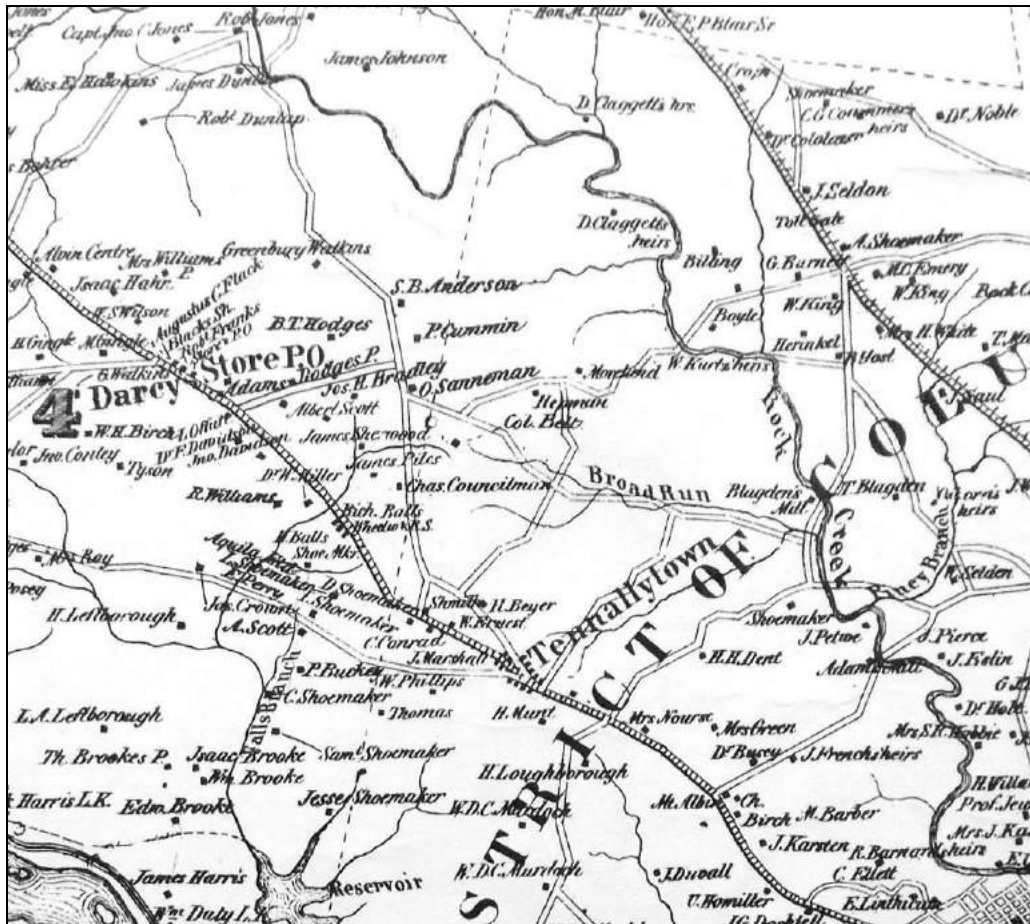


Figure 2: Local Homeowners during the mid-Nineteenth Century

In 1852, Charles Shoemaker bought 77 acres of land from the heirs of Clement Smith in what became the Woodland section of Westmoreland Hills. The farm house was close to the site on which Fort Simmons would be built during the Civil War.<sup>1</sup>

In 1839, Samuel Shoemaker's son, Isaac, had purchased 140 acres of farmland from the Clement Smith estate. It lay between River Road and Wisconsin Avenue from south of Somerset to the boundary of the District of Columbia.<sup>3</sup> The deed states:

“Beginning for the same at a point in the west edge of the Washington turnpike (leading from Georgetown to Rockville) where a boundary line of the District of Columbia crosses the same and running thence with the west edge of the said 103.5 perches or thereabouts to the intersection with the fifth outline of said tract called Friendship or the part thereof as conveyed heretofore to John Threlkeld, being at the end of 71.8 perches from the beginning of said fifth line: thence with said fifth line south 55 degrees west 22.19 perches to a stone marked I.T.5F.V. : thence with the sixth line of said Threlkeld's deed, south 74 degrees west 166 perches or thereabouts to the east edge



of the River Road, so called: thence, with the east edge of said last road, 181.5 perches or thereabouts to the aforesaid boundary line of the District of Columbia: and thence with said boundary line to the beginning, estimated to contain 135 to 140 acres of land.”



Figure 3: The Isaac Shoemaker Farm- 140 acres

This tract was cut by a stream, the bed of which later became the site of Willard Avenue. There were no roads at the time, but Figure 3 shows Isaac’s tract superimposed on a modern street map for clarity of orientation.

In 1846, Isaac Shoemaker sold 10 acres to Hilleary Ball, who had a blacksmith shop overlooking Wisconsin Avenue.<sup>4</sup> (Figure 4) Additional sales of land were made to Aquila Eld and Cyrus Eli Perry. Isaac Shoemaker continued to farm the rest of his land until he died, in 1883, when his oldest son, Louis E. Shoemaker, inherited it.<sup>5</sup>



Figure 4: 1854 – Purchases by Eld (northern subdivision), Perry (western subdivision), and Ball (northeast subdivision)

### Perry Purchase



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 5. Remains of Cyrus Eli Perry's barn near River Road, photographed in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

In 1854, Isaac Shoemaker sold 33.6 acres of farmland to Cyrus Eli Perry.<sup>6</sup> This tract lay along River Road and included part of the Little Falls Branch (Figure 4). Cyrus Eli and his wife, Sarah, built a house in the southeast corner of his land [now 4701 River Rd]. Cyrus Eli Perry's original barn was close to his house on River Road. (Figure 5) (This and most other vintage photos in this chapter are from an annotated photo album owned by Mary Shoemaker Bopp's daughter, Margaret Bopp Remler.<sup>7</sup>)

When Cyrus Eli Perry died in 1888, his wife received his farm.<sup>8</sup> (8)[Montgomery County Will Liber RWC folio 203, filed June 26, 1888] After her death, it was surveyed for subdivision and descended to their six children: James Summers, Benjamin, Phebe Rozelle (married Jacob Wilbert), Stephen Boyd, Thomas J.S., and Sarah Elizabeth (married William Shoemaker)<sup>9</sup>: (Figure 6)

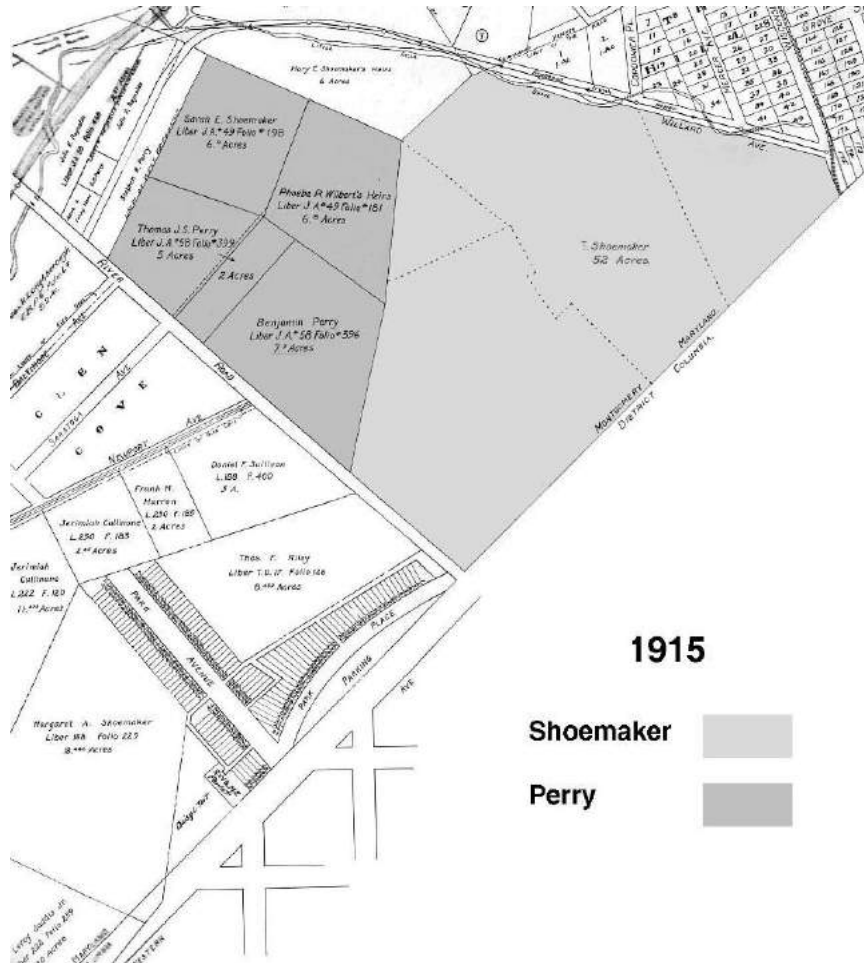


Figure 6: Louis E. Shoemaker Farm and Perry Subdivision in 1915<sup>10</sup>

Phebe Rozelle Wilbert's land was subdivided for development after 1915. Part of her estate became part of Brookdale North during the 1930s. By the late 1950s, Benjamin Perry's share of Cyrus Eli Perry's estate, together with a smaller area acquired from Wilbert's estate, was developed as Wohlshire. The balance of the Perry farm is the area that later became Orchardale.<sup>11</sup> (Figure 7)

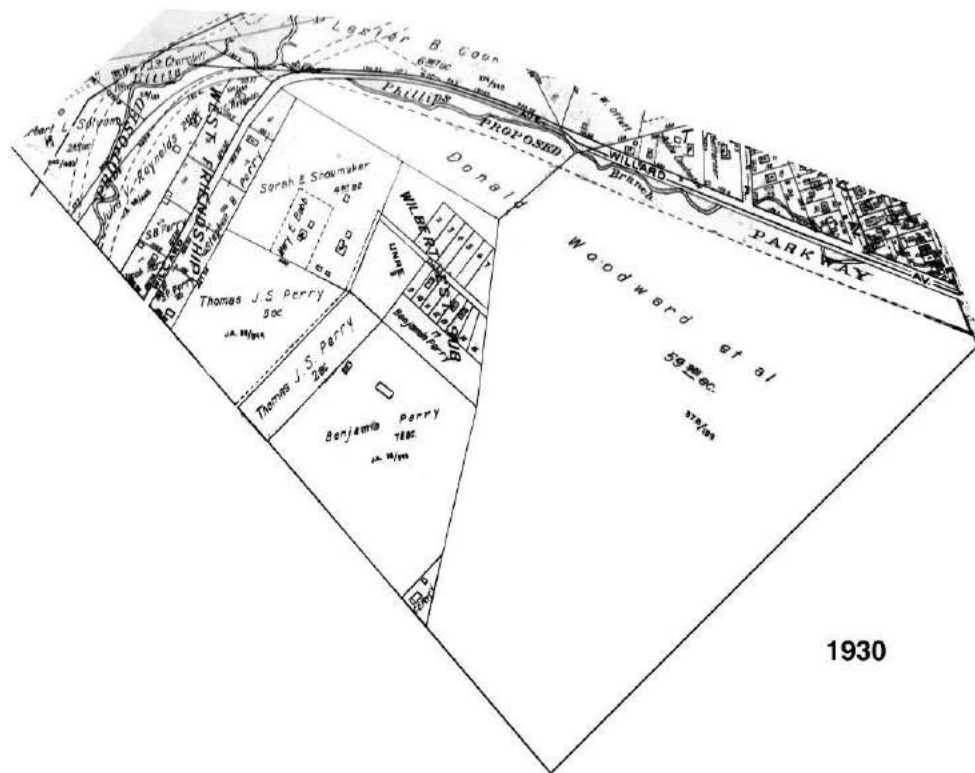


Figure 7. Sarah Shoemaker - Perry -Woodward Property 1930

### Eld Purchase

In 1854, Aquila Eld, a farmer from Coventry, England, purchased 22 acres of land in the northernmost part of Isaac Shoemaker's tract. Eld's purchase included a one-acre sliver of land leading to Wisconsin Avenue, just south of Hilleary Ball's land, to allow for a farm lane [which became High Street, now North Park].<sup>12</sup> (Figure 4) Aquila Eld and his wife, Louisa Payne, had an orchard on his land, which was known as "the Heights". They had four children, according to the 1860 census for Montgomery County. In 1862, Mary Elizabeth Eld, Aquila Eld's eldest daughter, married Isaac Shoemaker's son, Louis E. Shoemaker.

Aquila Eld was prominent in the Mount Zion Methodist Church in Tenleytown. When the church was remodeled in 1899, it was renamed "Eldbrooke", to honor Aquila Eld and Philip L. Brooke, another man prominent in church affairs.<sup>13</sup>

Land became more valuable when the trolley from Georgetown reached Wisconsin and Western avenues in the 1890s, and early in the twentieth century, "the Heights" was subdivided for development by Henry Offutt.<sup>14</sup> As noted in Chapter I, Albert Shoemaker subdivided "the Hills", the adjacent farm he had inherited from his father, Louis E. Shoemaker. This area was incorporated as the Friendship Heights Village Special Tax District in 1914.

## Lillian Shoemaker Brown's Memoirs

From 1883, when Isaac Shoemaker died, until 1915, Isaac's son, Louis E. Shoemaker, and his grandson, Spencer Aquila Shoemaker (who was named after his maternal grandfather, Aquila Eld) farmed the remainder of Isaac's land, which was south of Willard Avenue and bounded by River Road, Western Avenue, and Wisconsin Avenue. The 58-acre tract, which later became the site of Brookdale North, GEICO, and the Woodward & Lothrop store, continued to be farmed until it was sold to Donald Woodward in 1925. (Figure 7) The farm house may have been where Woodward & Lothrop was built, now occupied by Wisconsin Place. Lillian Shoemaker, the daughter of Spencer Aquila Shoemaker, was born in 1905 and spent her earliest years on the family farm. Her memoirs, recorded in 1990 for the Chevy Chase Historical Society, describe life in our area a century ago.<sup>15</sup>

"The first Shoemaker to settle here in 1819 was Samuel Shoemaker, Sr., who came here from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where his Quaker ancestors had lived since 1683. He bought 102 acres extending from Wisconsin Avenue to part of Westmoreland Hills. The way I heard it was that he came to Washington because he had read in the newspaper that the city of Washington was growing so fast, and there wasn't enough food for the people. And he had farmed up in Pennsylvania, "Well, that's for me. I'm going down and I'll have those people fed." [However], I know they grew some tobacco.

This Samuel Shoemaker had ten sons [actually eight sons and two daughters]. So when he died, he couldn't divide his acreage into small bits, so some sons received land, others money. And some of those sons bought other land; so you see, this kept spreading. After many divisions of land among his many heirs, in 1883 my grandfather [Louis E. Shoemaker] inherited, from his father, Isaac [Shoemaker], the original farmhouse and land between Willard Avenue and River Road.



Photo c/o Ms. Martha McCain Shoemaker

Figure 8. Pauline, Warren, and Lillian Shoemaker (center)

My sister, brother, and I (Pauline, Warren, and Lillian) [Figure 8] were born there and enjoyed the freedom of country life, always interested in the many activities on the farm. We had cows....horses, and I know that we had an old bull. There was a large stream that ran ... on our farm side. We had to cross about a twelve-by-twelve plank. We loved wading in the streams, but most of all, my brother and I tried to outdo one another climbing to the highest branches in the trees. What exhilaration to be so high and see so much – corn fields, pastures, and nearby windmills. In those times, people had [wells and] windmills to bring water into the house, almost every house. In spring, the excitement of finding frog eggs and tadpoles was more exciting to us than a fisherman reeling in a ten pounder.

It must have been very difficult for my father and grandfather, without wives, to manage a farm and three children, aged five, seven, and nine, when my mother died. On every school morning, our father, Spencer Aquila Shoemaker would walk with us down to the road to the trolley to go into Tenleytown to the little Tenley School, which is now St. Ann's. In those days, it was a plain red brick schoolhouse. En route [to the trolley], we would pass the place where my brother's goat was tethered, and bleating.

Willard Avenue was a lane in those days...it was just very narrow. Wisconsin Avenue was much narrower then than it is today. There were hardly any automobiles. You could never get run over by the trolley because they made so much noise and they loved to blow the whistle.

When my grandfather died, my new mother took me out to Tenleytown to the service, held at Eldbrooke Methodist Church, established by his wife's family, the Elds, and the Brooke family.

Our old farm was the last of the original acreage (that had not been willed in other generations) to be sold. There was disagreement among some of the heirs after my grandfather's death in 1916. They sold the entire farm to Mr. Woodward, of Woodward and Lothrop. After holding the land for many years, in 1950, they built their first suburban store on Wisconsin Avenue, and in time sold the remaining land to GEICO, with the agreement that they would build a low structure, and reserve a large percentage of the land for green space. For that, I am very thankful.”



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 9. Horse and Cow on Shoemaker Farm

### **Perry-Shoemaker Farmland**

In 1889, Cyrus Eli Perry's daughter Sarah (Sallie) Elizabeth Perry married William Shoemaker, who was the son of Charles Shoemaker (Isaac's brother). Sarah Perry Shoemaker had inherited six acres from her family and Sarah and William built a farmhouse on Shoemaker Lane on her six-acre portion of the Perry farmland. Traces of the lane which leads from the house to River Road can be found as an alley just southeast of Saratoga Avenue. (Figure 7) (The entrance of the house was reversed when Saratoga Avenue was added during the 1940s subdivision of the farm.)

William and Sarah Shoemaker eventually acquired additional acreage from two of Sarah's siblings, Thomas J.S. Perry and Phebe R. Perry Wilbert, so the William Shoemaker farm in the area that became Orchardale totaled 15 acres.<sup>16</sup> (16) [Plat No. 1698, Montgomery County]

William Shoemaker had also inherited 15 acres of farmland in the Westmoreland Hills area of Bethesda from his father, Charles, and he managed both farms. The farm to the east of River Road was a fruit orchard; during the Hoover administration, the farm supplied the White House with red raspberries.<sup>17,18</sup>

William and Sarah Shoemaker had five children: Leon Perry, Ruth Elizabeth, Mary Ellen (married Rudolph Bopp), Charles, and William Summers. A picture from a family scrapbook shows the Shoemaker siblings and their Perry cousins sledding along River Road.(Figure 10)



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 10. Perry and Shoemaker Cousins in the Snow on River Road

Charlie Hughes, whose family lived in the area in 1935, <sup>19</sup> provided the following description:

“We lived on a street that was just cinders, and people kept the street going by taking out the ashes from their furnace and putting them in the street. It was called Shoemaker Lane and there was Perry Place, those were the two prominent names; it was all farmland with the exception of four or five houses. It was near River Road and Western. Ruth Shoemaker, who was a delegate to the State legislature, lived in a little farmhouse surrounded by peach trees, and we were about a hundred yards away. We had a well and septic tank and a coal furnace.”

Leon Perry Shoemaker lived and worked for awhile in the Virgin Islands, Charles Shoemaker moved to West Virginia, and William Summers Shoemaker had a military career. The two daughters stayed close to home.

Ruth E. Shoemaker never married and became a representative for Montgomery County in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1934 – 1942. She continued to live in the family home and helped her father farm.<sup>17</sup>





Photos c/o Remler

Figure 11. Ruth and William Shoemaker on the farm

Mary Ellen Shoemaker Bopp and her husband, Rudolph Bopp, moved into a house they built in 1920 near the family home. Ms. Bopp was remembered as a dynamic woman by her neighbors and descendants. She was a life member and the first recording secretary of the Montgomery County Historical Society.



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 12. Bopp Wedding at family home on Shoemaker Lane [now 5305 Saratoga Ave.]

The Bopps had four children: Margaret Ann, Merion, Ruth M., and Sarah Frances (adopted). William Shoemaker continued farming his land until he died in 1942. In 1943, some acreage was made available for World War II Victory Gardens.<sup>20</sup> In 1946, the heirs of William and Sarah Shoemaker subdivided most of their farm as Orchardale.

In 1947, the Bopps subdivided the land around their house into five building lots. With the proceeds from sale of these lots and the 1920 house, they built a new house for themselves at 5300 Saratoga Ave. in 1948. About 1950, Leon Perry Shoemaker moved into this house. After he died in 1956, Mary Bopp held the funeral in the house, calling on the neighbors to assist in the ceremony.

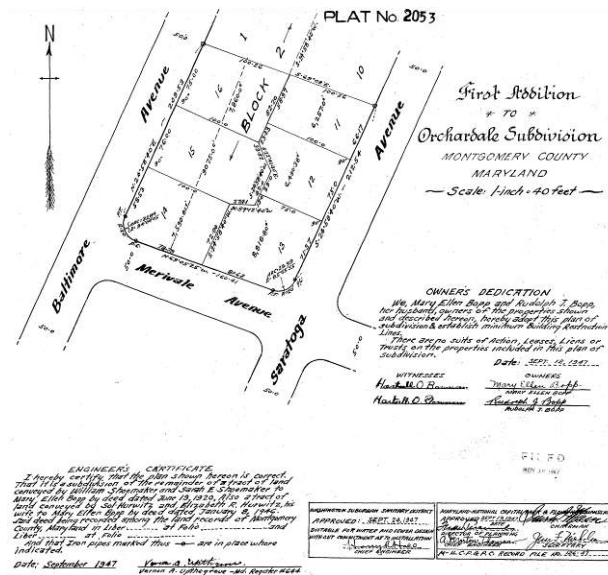


Figure 13. Bopp Subdivision in 1947

## Chronology

1819-Samuel Shoemaker came to Montgomery County, Maryland from Pennsylvania and purchased 102 acres of farmland in Maryland in the area of Yorktown Village and Westmoreland Hills.

1839-Isaac Shoemaker purchased 140 acres of farmland between Wisconsin Avenue and River Road, and between Somerset and Western Avenue.

1846-Hilleary Ball bought 10 acres of land from Isaac Shoemaker.

1852-Charles Shoemaker purchased 77 acres from the heirs of Clement Smith in the area that became Westmoreland Hills. Charles' son, William Shoemaker, would inherit part of the farm.

1854-Aquila Eld bought 22 acres of farmland called “the Heights” in the northeast corner Isaac Shoemaker’s tract.

1854-Cyrus Eli Perry bought 32 acres of land south of Willard Avenue from Isaac Shoemaker.

1883-Isaac Shoemaker died and his eldest son, Louis E., inherited his farm.

1890’s-Trolley reached Wisconsin Avenue at the boundary with the District of Columbia.

1925-Louis E. Shoemaker’s heirs sold their 58-acre farm tract that included Brookdale-North, and future sites of GEICO and Woodward & Lothrop to Donald Woodward.

1915 - 1920-Phebe R. Wilbert farmland was subdivided for development.

1930’s-Donald Woodward subdivided the area of Brookdale North for development.

1946-47-William Shoemaker’s heirs subdivided their farm as Orchardale.

1950-Woodward & Lothrop department store built, now site of Bloomingdale’s and Wisconsin Place.

### CHAPTER III. HISTORY OF LOUGHBOROUGH AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK

#### American University Park and Riley Tract

As noted in Chapter I, developers began to subdivide land in Bethesda and upper northwest Washington with the arrival in the 1890s of trolley service from the District of Columbia to Maryland. (Figure 1) In 1897, American University Park, First Addition, which is in Montgomery County, was deeded by Frank Murray to Galen Tait, J.D. Croissant, and G.W. Rickett.<sup>1</sup> Although Boundary Avenue [now Western Avenue] was not cut through to mark the northwest boundary until 1910, this area was platted for development in 1899.<sup>2</sup> Galen Tait was active in Republican politics, and built his home in the new subdivision in 1904.

American University Park has two internal roads, Park Avenue and Park Place. (See Figure 5 in Chapter II). Sales and building were slow at the turn of the last century and the subdivision didn't become fully developed until the remaining lots were purchased by Cooper Lightbown in the 1930s.

An eight-acre tract to the northeast of American University Park had been purchased in 1901 by Thomas F. Riley.<sup>3</sup> Thomas F. Riley was a long-time resident of Tenleytown, where he had a butchering business, including a small slaughterhouse.<sup>4</sup> In light of these facts, one can assume that Riley purchased the land for investment and may have rented it for farming. In the late 1930s, Cooper Lightbown purchased this land from Riley's heirs for development.

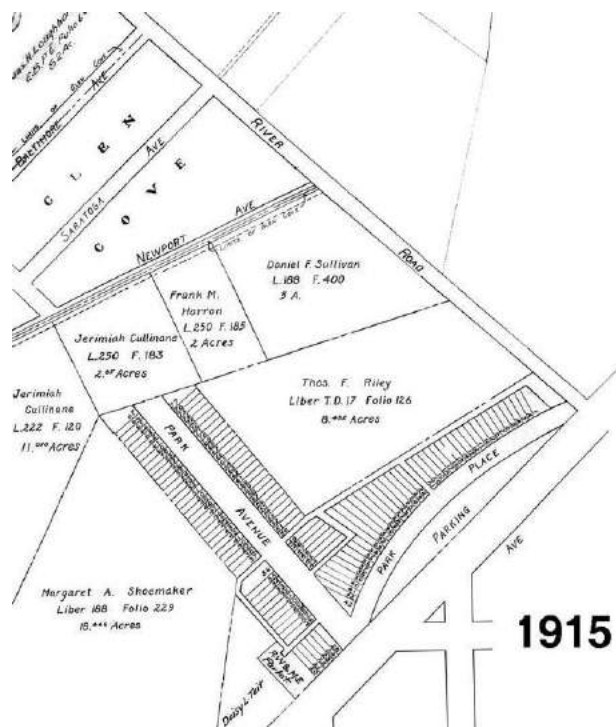


Figure1. Map of Brookdale South in 1915 (Deets)

## Loughborough Family and Plantation

Nathan Loughborough, who was descended from English Quakers, came to Washington with the U. S. government when it moved from Pennsylvania to the new federal city on the Potomac River. At first he bought a house on M Street in Georgetown, and later built a mansion near the present site of American University on an estate of about 250 acres called Grassland, where he settled and raised a family. He purchased additional land in Bethesda and Colesville, Maryland, and invested in the Rockville Turnpike and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.<sup>5</sup>

In 1820 and 1822, he purchased land for a tobacco plantation which he called “Milton” in the northwest of the Threlkeld parcel of the Friendship land grant, and added acreage in 1838, for a total in this location of 251 acres.<sup>6,7,8</sup> (Margaret Loughborough’s memoir erroneously gives the date of purchase as 1808.) The plantation extended west into the countryside from River Road, which was a major commercial route used to transport tobacco from Montgomery County farms to the port of Georgetown. Milton was bounded to the south by a stream [now Keokuk Street] and the northern boundary of the Shoemaker family farms which lay west of River Road. (Figure 2) The plantation included a small stone house dating to about 1700 built in the German style and set on high ground near longstanding Indian camping grounds (near present-day Westbrook School).<sup>9</sup>

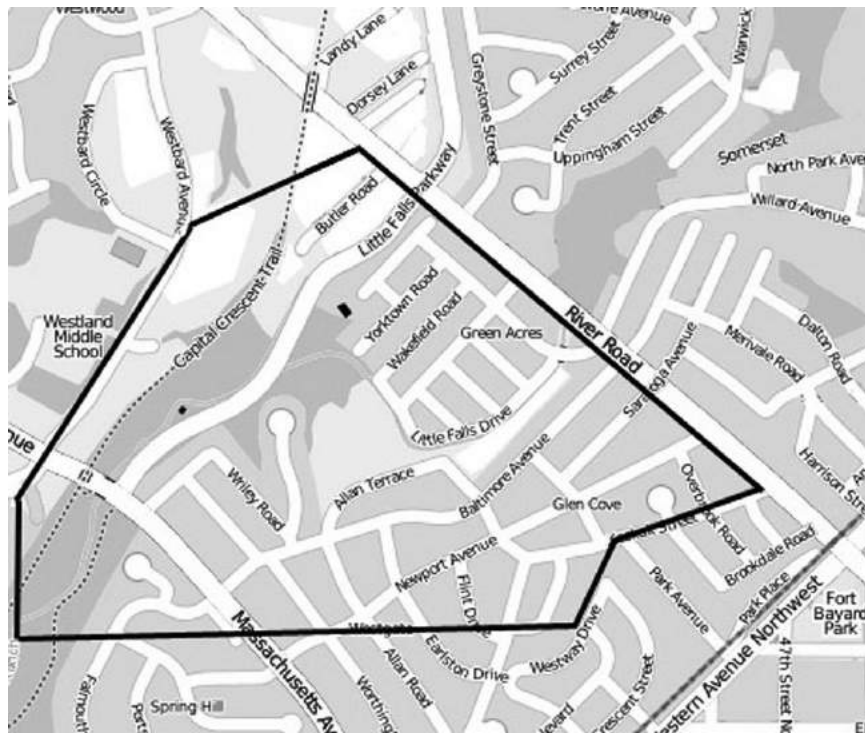


Figure 2. Boundaries of Loughborough estate called “Milton” in 1847

After the death of his wife, Nathan Loughborough remarried and in 1847 moved to the plantation in Bethesda, where he built a mansion which incorporated the original stone building. He also named the mansion "Milton". The house faced west and was reached by a winding road from the vicinity of (present-day) Westmoreland Circle. The property included a mill on the Powder Mill Branch, now Little Falls Branch, which ran through the property.

In 1920, a memoir of Nathan Loughborough and his descendants was presented to the Columbia Historical Society by Margaret Loughborough, who was born in Nelson City, Virginia, in 1839 and met Nathan Loughborough's grandson, James Henry Loughborough, in Richmond just before the Civil War. They married during the war in 1862. In her memoir, written when she was 80 years old, she described some of the family history.<sup>10</sup>

"In 1800 the Government moved to Washington, D.C; Nathan bought a house which is still standing on Bridge Street in Georgetown...he also bought two hundred and fifty acres of land from Mr. Murdock who lived where American University now stands. Nathan Loughborough built the house and stone barn that still stand on Loughborough Road in the District, and called the place "Grassland" and moved there with his family. [The house, later demolished, was on the portion of road that was renamed Nebraska Avenue.]

Nathan Loughborough was for several years acting Comptroller for the Treasury. [He] believed in patronizing home industries. He was a large stockholder in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and in Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank; was one of the chief promoters of the Rockville Pike; was president of that company from its foundation until his death.

Nathan Loughborough's wife died in 1844, and was buried at Grassland. After her death... . Nathan moved to his upper farm, "Milton" which was bought by him as an investment in 1808. It was a Dutch trading post built in 1700... . The Indians came to "Milton" to trade and make arrow-heads, of which many are still found, as well as old coins. About 1847 Nathan Loughborough married a second time, a widow, Mrs. John Magill Thomas... . He died in 1852.

His second son, Hamilton, practiced law until his health failed and then retired to "Grassland"; he afterwards bought "Milton" from the heirs. Both places were much injured by troops during the Civil War, especially his upper place, "Milton". The mill and miller's house were burned down by drunken soldiers and the wood was taken from the place to build Fort Bayard and other forts. [Hamilton's] second son, James Henry, enlisted in the Confederate Army. He was in all of the important battles of Northern Virginia, was at Gettysburg, and surrendered at Appomattox. In 1865 he took the oath of allegiance, was given "Milton", where, at 84 years of age [in 1920], he still resides with his family."

Slaves were freed in Maryland in November 1864. The former slaves from James Henry Loughborough's plantation settled just east of River Road. James Henry's and Margaret's daughter, Caroline, later recalled that an old African-American minister held outdoor services in the settlement on Sundays.<sup>11</sup> The Macedonia Baptist Church is a remnant of that settlement. (Figure 3)



Figure 3. Macedonia Baptist Church, River Road

After the war, James became a justice of the peace and farmed his land, although he no longer had slaves to run it. In 1869, the plantation was surveyed for partial subdivision (Figure 4). The plat map shows a private road that ran northeast to River Road (now Newport Avenue). This road was the northern boundary of lot one which was deeded to Thomas Ward in January 1873, and subsequently changed hands several times.<sup>12</sup> Daniel Sullivan purchased a five-acre tract in this section in 1906<sup>13</sup> and Frank Harron purchased two acres, which later became Dover Court.<sup>14</sup> The areas of Dover Court and Sullivan's subdivision are now part of Brookdale South. Later, lot two, just to the north, became Glen Cove.

James and Margaret Loughborough also gave their daughter, Sarah Loughborough Brown, one acre of land on River Road, on which she and her husband built a house in 1908, of the same local granite as Milton. Sarah Loughborough Brown's house and the "Milton" mansion are marked in figure 4.

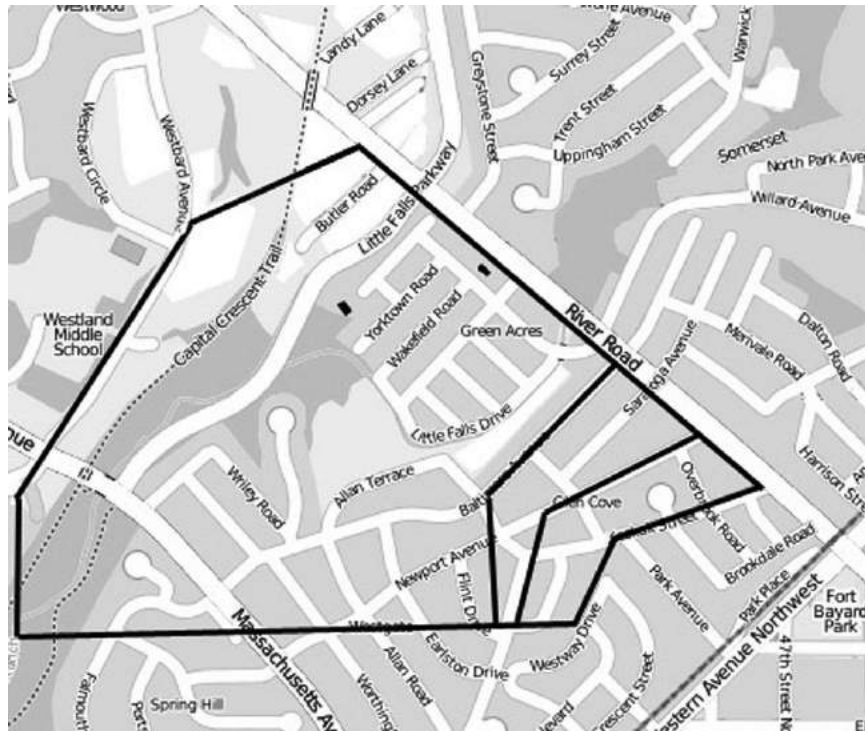


Figure 4. Subdivision of Milton estate in 1869

A surveyor's blueprint of Loughborough's property from 1895<sup>15</sup> indicates the path for the Georgetown branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad which would eventually cross the Loughborough property. Although construction of this line had been initiated in 1892, it was not completed and operational until 1910. Additional tracts were sold over the years of James' and Margaret's occupancy of Milton. By 1915, 101 acres remained in the family's possession, as well as 12 acres belonging to James Henry's sister, Sarah Loughborough Keyes.<sup>16</sup> (Figure 5) By this time, the 36 acre tract, which included a section of the Georgetown line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, had been sold to A. E. Walker.

When James Henry Loughborough died in 1921 at the age of 87, the estate consisted of 92 acres. In 1923 the family sold the remaining property to the Walker family, which had a granite quarry to its west, now a cement plant.<sup>17</sup>



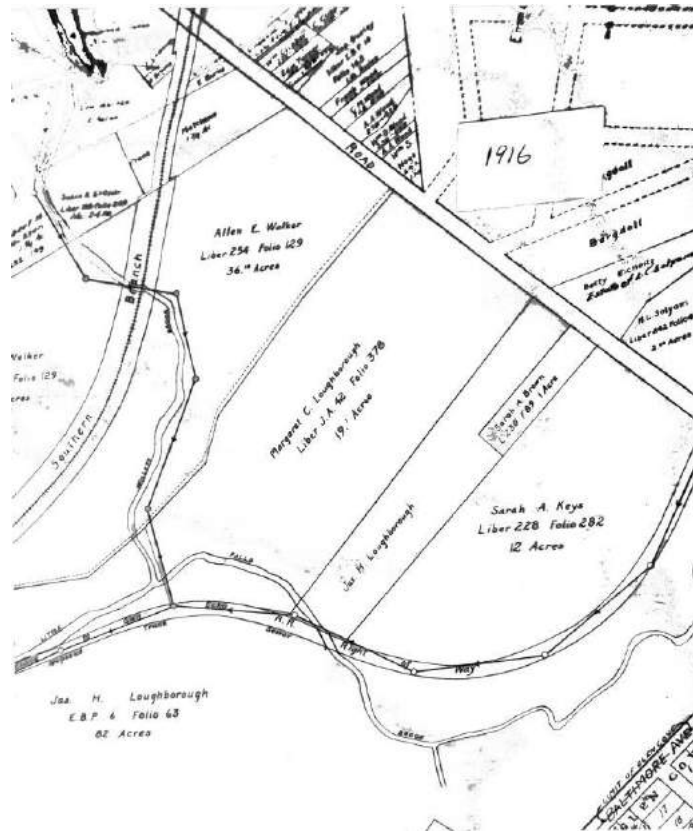


Figure 5. Map of Loughborough's land in 1916 (Deets)

Margaret moved to Washington, where she lived with two daughters until her death in 1939 at the age of 100. In 1932, Walker sold the mansion to Mordecai Ezekiel with three and a half acres of land. (See Historic Houses for additional details of the Loughborough mansion, the Sarah L. Brown House, and Sullivan House.) When Ezekiel and his wife took possession of the house, it was in disrepair and they embarked on extensive restoration. Some time later two elderly ladies, the daughters of Margaret and James Henry Loughborough, knocked on their door and gave them three boxes of original hardware which they had salvaged from the house before they moved out so many years before.<sup>9</sup>

## Chronology

1800-Nathan Loughborough moved to Washington, D.C., with the federal government.

1820-1838-Nathan Loughborough purchased 251 acres in Maryland as an investment and plantation.

1847-Nathan Loughborough and his second wife moved to the plantation after incorporating the original stone house into a three-wing mansion. Plantation and mansion called "Milton".

1852-Nathan Loughborough died, leaving Milton to his son, Hamilton.

1861-Civil War. Hamilton's son, James Henry Loughborough, fought for the Confederacy with General Lee and General McCausland.

1864-Slaves freed in Maryland.

1865-James Henry Loughborough settled at Milton with his wife, Margaret.

1869-James Henry Loughborough sold a section of his estate (lot one) which later became Sullivan's estate and Dover Court in Brookdale South.

1908-Sarah Brown House built on one acre of Loughborough land.

1910-Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Georgetown branch, completed.

1921-James Henry Loughborough died, leaving an estate of 92 acres.

1923- A.Walker purchased the Loughborough estate, including the mansion.

1934- Mordecai Ezekiel, economist with the Roosevelt administration, bought the mansion on 3 1/2 acres of land.

1930s-'40s-Cooper Lightbown developed Brookdale South.

## Forts in the Vicinity of Brookdale<sup>2</sup>

*Fort Bayard.*<sup>4</sup> The Great Falls turnpike [River Road] was one of only two major roads providing access to the federal city from the north. To guard that route of approach, Fort Bayard was erected at the junction of River Road and the boundary of the District of Columbia (Western Avenue) on the site of an early Indian soapstone mine. (Figure 1) The perimeter of Fort Bayard extended north as far as Park Place. Boundary stone No.6, which was set along the northwest edge of the District of Columbia, was just within the fort borders and was reportedly used by the soldiers for target practice.

35

built, continued to live in their house adjacent to it throughout the war. Fifty acres of land belonging to Samuel and Harriet Burrows were used for camp grounds.

*Fort Simmons, Fort Mansfield, and Battery Bailey* were erected to protect the receiving reservoir for the Washington aqueduct. They were built on Shoemaker farm land to the west of Fort Bayard and connected to it by a segment of a pioneer road. Battery Bailey contained six earthen platforms for field guns and overlooked the Powder Mill Valley (Little Falls branch). Fort Simmons was close to the early Shoemaker family burying ground. According to Mrs. Rudolph Bopp, whose Shoemaker grandparents lived near Fort Simmons, the Shoemakers kept a store during the Civil War since they could not farm their land, which was used as a camping ground for Union soldiers.<sup>5</sup>

*Fort Reno* was said to be the largest and strongest fort defending the capital and could accommodate 3,000 troops when fully manned. It was built on high land near the Georgetown–Rockville Pike (Wisconsin Avenue) to defend Tennallytown, and was named for Major General Jesse Lee Reno, who died in 1862 at the battle of South Mountain, Maryland. The fort had one 100-lb and four 30-lb Parrott cannons, which had very long firing ranges.

*Fort Sumner*, named for General Edwin Vose Sumner, was a very large fortress farther west in Bethesda, built to defend the Chain Bridge and Dalacarla Reservoir.

*Eldbrooke Methodist Church.* The hilly site in Tennallytown of Eldbrooke Methodist Church (formerly Mount Zion Methodist Church), and its adjacent cemetery on a hill at the junction of River Road and Wisconsin Avenue, was used as a camping ground for Union soldiers and named Camp Frieze. Lines of rifle pits, from which soldiers could fire their muskets, extended from the camp. The frame church building itself was used as a quartermaster's store, residence, hospital, and mess hall, but was destroyed by the end of the war.<sup>6</sup>

The remains of Fort Bayard were purchased by the federal government in 1926 and became part of the National Parks system. Part of Fort Reno is now a National Park, but much of the land was regarded a hundred years ago to build a reservoir. The sites of Fort Mansfield, Fort Simmons, and Fort Sumner are no longer visible. Battery Bailey is the last surviving Civil War earthwork fort in Montgomery County and is located in Westmoreland Hills Local Park, 5315 Elliot Rd., Bethesda. Eldbrooke Church was rebuilt after the war.

### **Jubal Early's Raid on Washington<sup>7</sup>**

In the spring of 1864, General Ulysses Grant moved many of the infantry companies from the forts defending Washington to the vicinity of Petersburg and Richmond to fight Robert E. Lee's army of Northern Virginia. This left only 9,000 troops to defend the Federal city. By that summer, Union forces were rapidly capturing Confederate territory and Gen. Robert E. Lee sent General Jubal Early's forces to threaten [Washington, D.C.](#),

and compel Grant to dilute his forces against Lee around [Richmond](#) and Petersburg. (Figure 2) Estimates of Early's strength vary from 15,000 to 20,000 troops.

After crossing the Potomac, Early delayed his march for several days in a futile attempt to capture a small Union force at Maryland Heights, near Harpers Ferry. He rested his men from July 4 through July 6. During Early's Maryland Heights campaign, Grant sent two divisions from the Army of the Potomac to reinforce Union Maj. Gen. [Lew Wallace](#) near Frederick, Maryland. With 5,800 men, Wallace slowed Early for an entire day at the [Battle of Monocacy](#), allowing additional Union troops to be diverted to Washington to strengthen its defenses. On July 10, 1864, General Early prepared to invade the District of Columbia via Hagerstown and Rockville. As his army advanced toward the outskirts of Washington, desperate Maryland farmers and their families were fleeing toward the city in order to get within the line of Union forts.<sup>9</sup>



Figure 2. Plan of General Jubal Early's attack on the Federal City <sup>8</sup>

General John McCausland's cavalry was sent south along the Georgetown–Rockville Pike to protect General Early's western flank from attack and to test the defenses of the District of Columbia from Fort Reno to the Potomac River. (Figure 2) With the Union forts thinly manned, local inexperienced militia and reserves were called up. Meanwhile, General Grant's hastily ordered Union reinforcements from Richmond began arriving in Washington.

According to Offutt,<sup>10</sup> on July 11, "The big guns at Forts Bayard and Reno opened up at long range and soon the cannon of Simmons and Mansfield and the rifled Parrotts from Sumner joined the fray." Union troops fought McCausland's cavalry away from the vicinity of these forts and he pulled back that night to Bethesda at the Presbyterian meeting house, having sent word to General Early that Washington's defenses to the West were too strong for frontal attack. A Maryland property owner later testified that "General Early's troops detoured to Silver Spring and Fort Stevens [to the east] only after they were repulsed by the [Union] troops between Fort Reno and Fort Simmons".



Figure 3. General John McCausland

By late in the afternoon of July 11, seasoned Union troops were arriving at Fort Stevens from Richmond and Petersburg. Skirmishes continued all day July 12 ahead of the line of forts from Fort Reno and westward to Fort Sumner near the Potomac River, with cannon firing at strongholds of McCausland's Confederate sharpshooters. On July 11 and 12, General Early led skirmishes at [Fort Stevens](#) and [Fort DeRussy](#). The opposing forces also had artillery duels. [Abraham Lincoln](#) watched the fighting on both days from Fort Stevens, his lanky frame and "stovepipe hat" a target for hostile military fire. General Early realized he couldn't take Washington without heavy losses and planned his retreat the night of July 12. After Early withdrew, he said to one of his officers, "Major, we haven't taken Washington, but we scared Abe Lincoln like hell."<sup>11</sup> On July 14, the Confederates retreated, with McCausland taking River Road and crossing the Potomac River at Edward's, White's, and Noland's ferries.

## **Postscript.**

According to Margaret Loughborough's wartime diary, James Henry Loughborough, who was with General McCausland campaign at forts from Fort Reno to the river, slipped past Union defenses to visit his family at "Grasslands", the Loughborough property within the city limits. Because he was familiar with the land and people in this area, this would have been feasible for him. After the war, General McCausland also claimed to have penetrated Union lines the night of July 11, 1864 "and entered an unoccupied Union fort from which he looked down on the city." Jim Johnston believes it likely that this was Fort Gaines at the border of "Grasslands", now the Katzen Arts Center at American University, and that James Henry was McCausland's guide that night.<sup>12</sup>

## CHAPTER V. CEMETERIES

Contributions by *Bill McCloskey, Nancy Werner, and Diane Tamayo*

### Two Shoemaker Burying Grounds

A small cemetery is located at the end of an alley that runs behind the even side of the 4800 block of Earlston Drive, in our neighboring Crestview community. It is on the left at the end of an alley; you can enter from Bayard Boulevard. Crestview residents now make an effort to maintain the grounds which officially belong to no one and were rundown for years. In 1989 the Montgomery County decided to take the property off a list of potential historic preservation sites since it was not associated with any historic church or other noteworthy building.

In 1941, Mary Shoemaker Bopp said that this family burying ground remains intact because of a clause in Samuel Shoemaker's will<sup>1</sup>:

“And I do hereby dedicate for a grave yard for my family the following piece of ground containing 61/4 perches and it shall never be appropriated to any other purpose and there shall be at all times a convenient right of way to and from the same.”

Ms. Bopp further noted,

“Two large boxwoods near the gate of the fence enclosing the plot mark the graves of Samuel Shoemaker and his wife Elizabeth Ellis.”

As Quakers, Samuel and his wife did not have gravestones. Other graves did have markers. Samuel and Elizabeth's son Jesse, his wife, and two of their sons are buried there, as well as family servants.<sup>2</sup>

Closer to home, there is another Shoemaker family burying ground near the intersection of Murray Road and Harrison Street, established on his farm by Isaac Shoemaker for his family and hired help. When Isaac's grandson, Albert Shoemaker, as trustee, sold the family farm in 1925, the deed of sale excluded “a small burial plot located on the Perry boundary line near the River Road”. The original subdivision plat from the 1930s shows a “Reservation” of 1/6 acre on this site.<sup>3</sup> Nineteenth-century records of the local Joseph F. Birch Funeral Home list the burial of Isaac Shoemaker August 12, 1883, at a farm in Maryland.<sup>4</sup> Isaac's grave is not listed for the other family burying ground near Earlston Drive; therefore, even without a list of burials for the family plot on Murray Road, we can presume that it is the location of his grave.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, few tombstones could be found. The graves of Isaac and his wife might not have been marked with tombstones because of his Quaker heritage. Isaac's descendants understand that this cemetery was vandalized in the 1950s and 1960s and now no tombstones remain, other than parts of one in a patio wall.



Descendants of Isaac Shoemaker and his wife, Ann Williams Shoemaker, visit this cemetery regularly. They believe that some workers on his farm and perhaps some minor children may be buried here as well.



Photo c/o Werner

Figure 2: Isaac Shoemaker

### **The Methodist Cemetery**

The Methodist Cemetery in Tenleytown is next to the historic Eldbrooke Methodist Church, which had been renamed in 1899 for Aquila Eld and Philip Brooke. It is behind the old Sears building, now Best Buy, at the intersection of River Road and Wisconsin Avenue. The cemetery is set well above the surrounding terrain, its entrance marked by stone pillars and a substantial gate.



Photo c/o Tamayo

Figure 3: Cemetery Gate

Burial listings for the Methodist Cemetery in Tenleytown are available on-line.<sup>5</sup> Cemetery and tombstone photos are available on Facebook.<sup>6</sup> Graves at this cemetery include those for early farmers from the Brookdale and Friendship Heights area. These include Cyrus Eli Perry (and wife Sarah Ann Summers); Aquila Eld (and wife Louisa Payne); as well as Aquila Eld's father of the same name, who came here with him from Coventry, England. Isaac Shoemaker's son, Louis E. Shoemaker, had married into the Eld family and was buried here (with his wife Mary Eld). Louis E.'s son, Spencer Aquila Shoemaker, and his first and second wives (Carrie May West and Ruth E. Bond), and another son, Albert Edwin Shoemaker (and wife, Fannie Brown), are buried in this cemetery. In addition, Thomas F. Riley, a lifelong resident of Tenleytown and investor in land in current-day Brookdale South, is buried in the Tenleytown Methodist Cemetery (with his wife, Blanche M. Hawken).

## CHAPTER VI. DEVELOPMENT OF BROOKDALE, ORCHARDALE, AND WOHLSHIRE

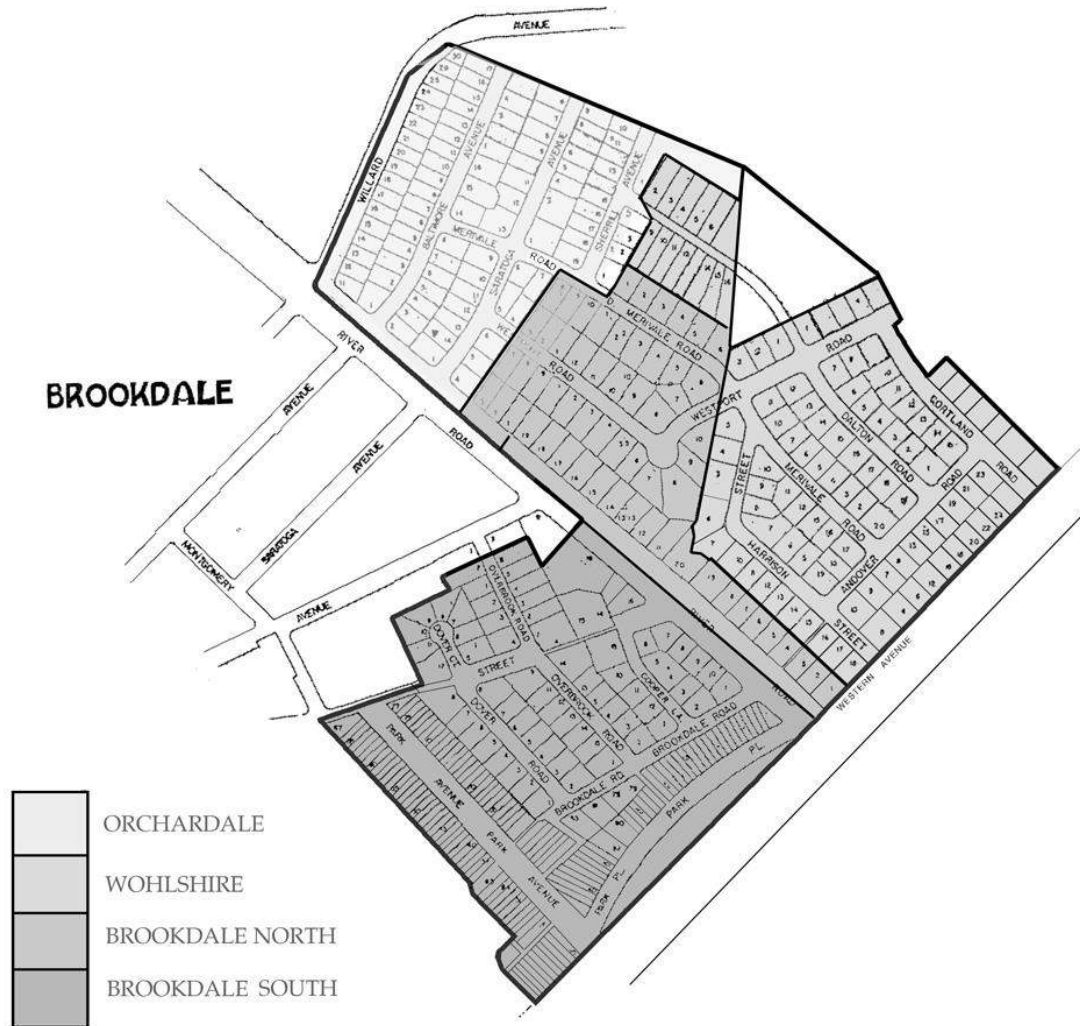


Figure 1. Brookdale Community Boundaries

In 1958, the Brookdale Citizens' Association was incorporated to cover the "subdivision" of Brookdale. In November 1971, the Orchardale Association was merged with the Brookdale Association, then referred to as the Tri-Community (with Wohlshire). This created the borders of Brookdale as they are known today.

In 1962, River Road was widened to four lanes and the county decided to prevent some streets from exiting the neighborhood onto River Road. Thus, Newport and Keokuk did not cross River Road, and Westport became L-shaped. The streets were connected between Orchardale, Wohlshire, and Brookdale at this time.

As late as 1959, the narrow lane running northeast from River Road near Saratoga Avenue was called Shoemaker Lane. The lane was marked on Montgomery County subdivision plats since the late nineteenth century when the Perry farm was subdivided. It also appeared on the Deets real estate map of 1915 and two Klinge maps in 1931 and 1941. Sanborn maps of the late 1950s shows the lane with its label of “Shoemaker Lane”. The sign is no longer there and might have been removed and never replaced when River Road was widened from two to four lanes.

## American University Park

In 1897, a tract of land just over the Montgomery County boundary was deeded by Frank E. Murray to John D. Croissant, George W. Rickett, and Galen L. Tait, as joint tenants. In 1897, the parcel was divided into very narrow lots as American University Park, First Addition, and Boundary Park was dedicated for the enjoyment of the inhabitants.

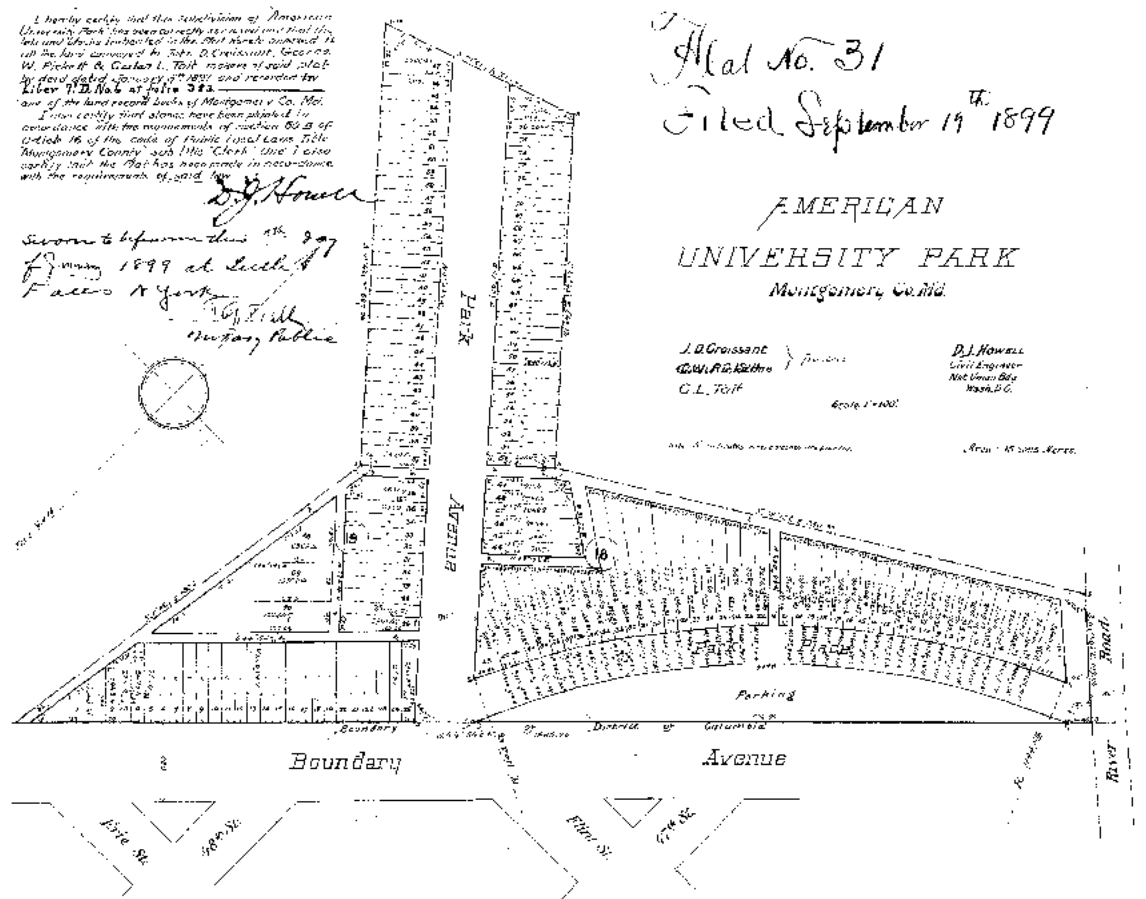


Figure 1. American University Park Plat, 1899

One of the first major developments in the Friendship Heights area was the 1938-43 Brookdale community by Cooper Lightbown & Sons as developers and his nephew Stanley Lightbown as architect. Lightbown bought eight subdivisions of land for development of Brookdale North from the Woodward holdings of Donald and Margaret Woodward and Irene and Brainard Parker. Building along Western Avenue proceeded east toward what is now the GEICO property. In developing Brookdale South, Lightbown subdivided three sections from Riley's estate and one from Sullivan's estate, and modified some of the American University Park subdivision for Brookdale Road. About 125 homes were built in the approximate area from Dover Road between Brookdale and Keokuk to Cortland Road between Western Avenue and Westport Road. After World War II, a nephew continued to build on the empty lots left on Cortland and Westport through 1947.

**PLAT No 1629**

**LOTS 1 TO 14 INCL., BLOCK F**

**BROOKDALE**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**SCALE: 1" = 50'      JUNE, 1945**

**S. R. MADDOX, ENGINEER**  
SILVER SPRING • MARYLAND

**ENGINEER'S CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the plan shown herein is correct.

That it is a subdivision of a part of the land conveyed by **RAE A. Gilchrist** et al to **C. Stanley Lightbown** and **Sarah C. Lightbown**, his wife, by deed dated December 4, 1944, and recorded among the Liber 245 of Folio 253, and also a part of the land conveyed by **C. Stanley** and **Sarah C. Lightbown** to **Thomas J. and Clara G. Sheridan** by deed dated May 25, 1945, and recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, in Liber 245 of Folio 253.

And that the lots marked thus: • are in place where indicated.

Dated June 15, 1945.

*S. R. Maddox*  
S. R. Maddox, Engineer

**OWNERS' DEDICATION**

We, **C. Stanley Lightbown**, **Sarah C. Lightbown**, his wife, **Thomas J. Sheridan** and **Clara G. Sheridan**, his wife, owners of the property shown and described herein, hereby adopt this plan of subdivision establish the minimum building restriction lines as shown, and dedicate the streets to public use.

Witnessed:

Dated June 15, 1945

*Charles C. Adams*      *Arthur C. Adams*  
Charles C. Adams      Arthur C. Adams  
*Thomas J. Sheridan*      *Sarah C. Lightbown*  
Thomas J. Sheridan      Sarah C. Lightbown  
*Edith Balch*      *Thomas J. Sheridan*  
Edith Balch      Thomas J. Sheridan  
*Clara G. Sheridan*

**FILED**

JUN 15 1945

CURVE DATA				
ST	ANGLE	CHORD	BEARING	LENGTH
1	11.00	39.99	S 71° 17' 30" E	19.36
2	20.00	49.73	S 69° 20' 10" W	34.24
3	16.18	53.73	S 70° 21' 30" E	28.88
4	40.00	134.62	S 72° 21' 30" W	114.07
5	40.00	134.62	S 69° 46' 30" W	114.07
6	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
7	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
8	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
9	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
10	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
11	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
12	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
13	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
14	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
15	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
16	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
17	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
18	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
19	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
20	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
21	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
22	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
23	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
24	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
25	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
26	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
27	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
28	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
29	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
30	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
31	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
32	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
33	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
34	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
35	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
36	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
37	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
38	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
39	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
40	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
41	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
42	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
43	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
44	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
45	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
46	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07
47	40.00	134.62	S 69° 20' 10" W	114.07

The land that became Dover Court was originally part of the Loughborough plantation. In 1865, Nathan Loughborough's grandson, James Henry Loughborough returned from fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War and obtained the Loughborough

“Milton” plantation from the family. In 1869, he had the plantation surveyed for initial subdivision and sold lot one to Thomas Ward. After many changes of ownership, the section of lot one that became Dover Court was purchased for development by the Cooper Lightbown company in 1945.

## Wohlshire

Wohlshire was built in the late 1950s -1960s by Jay Wohlfarth, and extends along parts of Westport, Merivale, and River. Wohlfarth established this development in three subdivisions, mainly from the former Perry farm with an extension south along River Road. These homes, in keeping with the times, were somewhat larger and ranged from ranch-style to colonial.

## Phebe Rozelle Wilbert Subdivision

An early platting on Dalton Road was the P.R. Wilbert Subdivision with very small lot boundaries. A map of the area in 1931 shows several houses built on these lots.



Figure 3. GEICO Park with part of Wilbert Estate and Brookdale North 1979

## Sullivan's Estate

A parcel of land (also part of the original lot one subdivision of the Loughborough plantation) known as Sullivan's Property was platted in 1924. By 1928, at least one house (on Overbrook) was built on land that was originally part of the Daniel F. Sullivan property. By 1938, five acres of the property were subdivided into lots that eventually would have 15 more houses built on them along River Road, Newport Avenue, Overbrook Road, and Keokuk Street.

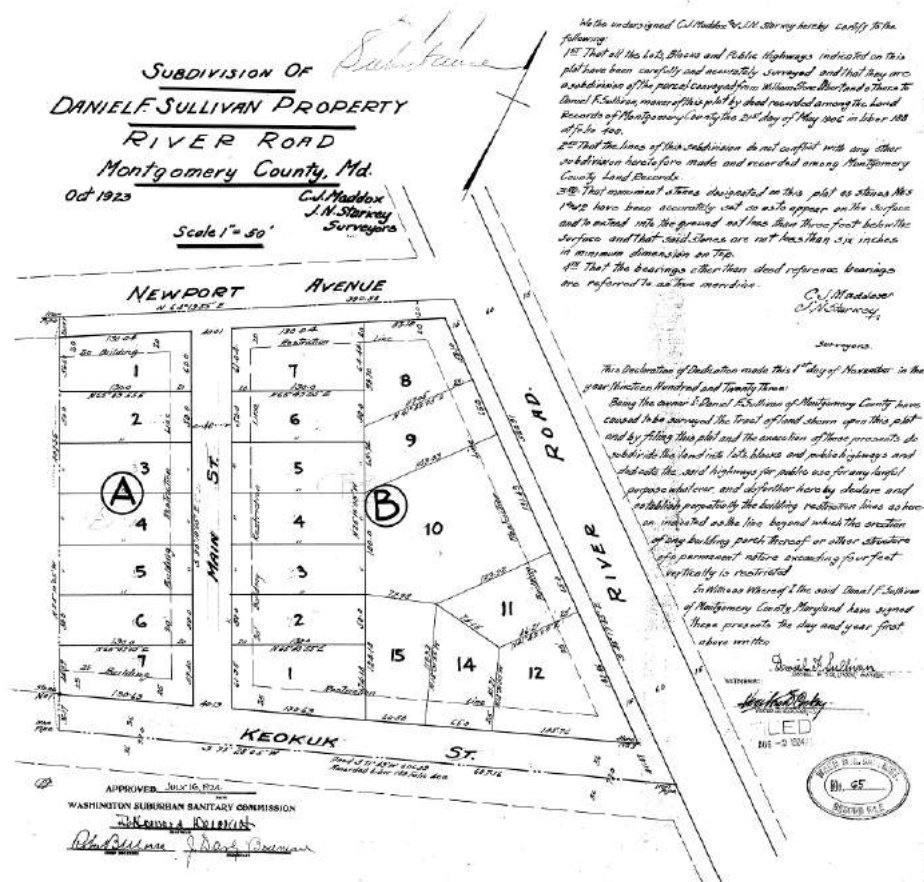


Fig 4. Sullivan Property Plat 1924

## Orchardale

Orchardale was developed by several developer-architects and individuals in the vicinity of Willard Avenue, Baltimore, Saratoga, and Sherill, starting about 1939 and continuing after World War II.

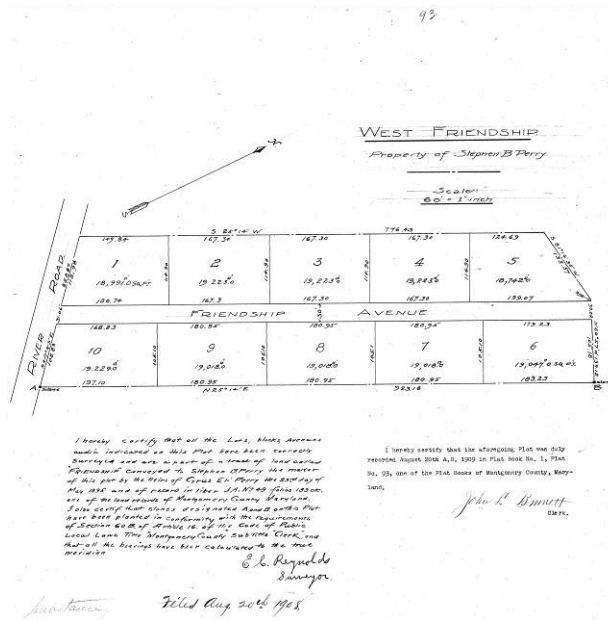


Fig 5. 1905 Plat on both sides of Friendship (Willard) Avenue

In 1946, the heirs of William and Sallie Shoemaker subdivided most of their farm as Orchardale. The Bopps also subdivided the plot which included their 1920 house in 1947.





Figure 6 Orchardale Subdivision 1946

## CHAPTER VII. LIVING IN BROOKDALE

### Cooper Crawford Lightbown

*Contributions by Roberta B. Holt and Campbell Graeub and Paul Drummer*

The creator and builder of Brookdale South and North was Cooper Crawford Lightbown, who was born in the Bladensburg area on November 30, 1886, and died in 1941 at the age of 55 in Washington. He became a carpenter after graduating from public high school locally. Having heard of the land under settlement in Florida, in 1912 at the age of 26, he moved to Palm Beach, Florida. At the time Palm Beach was not much more than a swamp, but it was under development and was a thriving frontier for a young builder. His timing couldn't have been better. Tremendous building activity was just beginning and spiraled into an acute shortage of skilled labor by October 1919. Lightbown was on the scene and by the time the labor shortage emerged, he had an established track record for building quality homes.

In Florida, Lightbown had the good fortune to meet Addison Mizner, a rising architect, who introduced Spanish-inspired architecture to the area. Lightbown was to become the primary builder of many of the architecturally significant buildings described as Mizner's "palatial fantasies" constructed in Palm Beach during the building boom of the 1920s. Lightbown's contracting company built a string of legendary Mizner edifices, including the Stotesbury mansion, El Mirasol, and the Dodge mansion. In 1923 he received eight of the town's 12 building permits, including the home of Josh Cosden, who named the estate Playa Riente (Laughing Sands). Moving from home construction to larger buildings, he constructed the Palm Beach Bath and Tennis Club in 1926.

The last construction Lightbown completed before permanently returning to Washington, and the capstone to his career in Florida, was the Mizner creation Mar-A-Lago, the 17-acre, 117-room mansion built for E. F. Hutton and his wife, who later became the cereal heiress, Marjorie Merriweather Post. This house may be known contemporaneously as part of the estate bought by Donald Trump in 1985 for \$10,000,000.

Not only was Lightbown a popular builder, but he was active in Florida politics. First, he was elected to the town council. Then in 1922, at the age of 35, he was elected the fourth mayor of Palm Beach, a position he held for six years until 1928. Of this period it was written:

"It seems altogether fitting that one of the nation's foremost building contractors should have held the town's reins during the supercharged, heart stopping real-estate boom and bust of the mid-1920s. . . Certainly his mayoral efforts to 'put Palm Beach on the map architecturally' coincided nicely with his own business requirements." Construction peaked in 1925, nearly \$14,000,000 worth [a figure unsurpassed again until 1965]. During his tenure as mayor, Lightbown's contributions were many, but the most lasting was the formulation of a zoning committee that ultimately divided the town into business and residential

districts. This action was evaluated by a subsequent Palm Beach mayor as "saving the town from becoming another Miami Beach."

Lightbown returned to Washington to retire shortly before the crash of 1929. He was the 10th president of the Congressional Country Club. For some time he played golf and enjoyed himself, until financial losses required him to return to work. He took up the work he enjoyed and knew -- the creation of quality-built homes. This time they were to be affordable homes for the middle class.



Figure 1. Cooper and Stanley Lightbown in Brookdale

His company in Washington was organized as Cooper Lightbown and Sons. One of his sons was active in the business and he also hired a nephew, Stanley Lightbown, to be part of the team. Cooper Lightbown was both designer and builder and his daughter recalls the hours he spent with the architectural drawings making sure they were "right." In 1933, the firm of Cooper Lightbown and Sons began work as one of three developer/builder teams constructing Foxhall Village in Washington, D.C. He designed and constructed a group of rowhouses on P Street, N.W. in Tudor-Revival style. Foxhall Village is now listed with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office.

In 1938, Lightbown's firm began construction in Brookdale North and South. The homes were designed to provide privacy and vistas. Each home had a porch, but no porch could be seen from a neighbor's yard. There were no fences, to create larger vistas of green space. They were designed to have slate roofs, brick exteriors, copper plumbing, plaster walls, hardwood flooring, and some of the first widely used electric kitchens.



Photo c/o Erdman

Figure 2. Back Porch and View from Murray Road in Early Brookdale

Cooper Lightbown built more than homes. Decades before home builders employed urban designers, Cooper Lightbown placed much emphasis on creating a cohesive community. There was no clear cutting; instead, trees were kept wherever possible. As late as the early 1970s many Brookdale yards still had the apple trees left over from the orchards that were part of the farm land (hence the name Orchardale). Homes were arranged to provide maximum privacy, staggered where possible so that front doors would not be exactly opposite each other. Each home had a screened porch, where most families spent their summer evenings before the arrival of air-conditioning. Porches were located on the back, front and sides, in ways to avoid being next to a neighbor's porch. Amazingly, of the approximately 150 homes that were built, no two are alike. Even those with inverse floor plans have many details that cannot be found in others.

### **Development of Brookdale North and South**

In February 1938, the front page of the real estate section of the *Evening Star* contained a large picture of 5202 Western Avenue with the headline, "Beautiful Home Recently Sold in Brookdale." The caption called it a charming residence that had been purchased by a Dr. and Mrs. Louis Kolipinski from Cooper Lightbown and Son, builders. On December 19 of the same year, Brookdale was advertised in the *Washington Star* as "A Community of Distinctive Small Homes." 5206 Western Ave. was featured in the advertisement with a frontage of 80 feet and a price tag of \$13,750. Other homes were available at prices beginning at \$9,750. From the beginning, the features Brookdale offered were described as: "Environment, sound construction, distinctive architecture and convenience to transportation." Modern electric kitchens were being introduced and Lightbown included in the advertisement, "This is an Electric Kitchen Health Home. We have 40 Electric Kitchens in Brookdale." An ad read:

**Brookdale**

**"A COMMUNITY OF DISTINCTIVE SMALL HOUSES"**

Forty discriminating home buyers have found this a delightful place to live.

A visit will convince you of the charm and merits of this community.

We sincerely invite you to "Ask the man who owns one."

Upon visiting Brookdale you will find a pleasing group of houses noted for their artistic design and good construction.

Although most of our houses have been sold before completion, at this time we have available two houses attractively priced.

For added comfort they have air-conditioning and screened porches.

These Are Electric Kitchen Health Homes

Brookdale is one block beyond Western Ave. and River Rd. on River Rd., 2 blocks beyond 46th and Fessenden Sts.

**COOPER LIGHTBOWN & SONS**

Subsequent building along Western Avenue proceeded east toward what is now the GEICO property. In September 1939, Lightbown bought for development land subdivided from the Woodward holdings of Donald and Margaret Woodward and Irene and Brainard Parker.



Figure 3. Cooper Lightbown Houses in Brookdale

Cooper Lightbown died in 1941. But World War II and the building activity that followed it turned the younger Lightbown again to developing homes on Dover Court in 1946, and Brookdale was expanded. At a time when there was enormous pent-up demand to get anything constructed that could be occupied quickly, with little regard to old standards of quality, the Lightbown firm continued to create a subdivision of brick homes, with amenities like slate roofs, plastered walls, copper piping, and hardwood floors. Each house was to be distinctive, in some way, from its neighboring house. No cookie-cutter development here.

### Orchardale Development

In 1946, the heirs of William and Sarah Shoemaker subdivided most of their farm as Orchardale. Brick houses were rapidly built in the newly-subdivided area. The Bopps had retained a small plot which included their 1920 house and subdivided it further in 1947. Buckey Davisson received three lots from the Bopps on which he built three houses, and in return he built a new house for the Bopps at 5300 Saratoga Ave. in 1948. Mrs. Bopp retained one lot adjacent to her house on which she grew vegetables and kept a cow and chickens. This adjacent lot was also the site of a well, the site of which can still be seen.



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 4. Bopp house and adjacent lot at 5300 Saratoga Ave. in 1948

*By Sophie and Marvin Lasky*

In 1958 we bought our house at 5208 Saratoga Ave. in Orchardale from Thomas Rixie, the architect and builder with whom we became lifetime friends. We met Tom after we both moved to this area after the war; many Orchardale residents were veterans. We both were in fact: Sophie was a SPAR in the Coast Guard and Marvin was in the Navy.

Tom Rixie had lost a thumb in action during World War II, and thus abandoned his plans of becoming a surgeon. He trained to become an architect and with a superb group of expert workmen, Tom designed houses and supervised their building. Our house was one of the first Tom designed and built in Orchardale. He subsequently designed or modified houses on Baltimore and Saratoga Avenue and two houses on Dalton Road. As Tom prospered and his business expanded, he built quite expensive homes in large housing developments (he would build in Hawaii in later years). Along the way, he was employed to redesign and remodel the Vice President's home on the grounds of the National Observatory. He was an extraordinarily talented architect, designer, and home builder and a fine friend and human being.



Figure 5. Rixie House at 5208 Saratoga Avenue in Orchardale

## **Wohlshire Development**

*By Frank Rothwell*

In December 1962, when we moved to 5019 Westport, there were some homes just built on Merivale and a few being built on Westport. There were vacant lots on both sides of the house we bought and River Road had just been widened from two to four lanes. Because at least three of the original owners in the 5000 block of Westport were doctors, some called it "pill hill". The lots on River Road were the last to be built on. That land looked like an abandoned farm and included an old well that had to be filled in.

Wohlfarth Development Corporation was run by Jay Wohlfarth who decided to name his subdivision using the first syllable of his surname and the upscale English "shire." Jay was a handsome, meticulous young man with strong likes and dislikes. Because he disliked real estate agents, Jay attempted to sell all of the houses himself.

Wohlfarth Development Corporation had a Quonset hut building on River Road behind our house where they advertised to commuters "if you lived here you would be home now." Houses in Wohlshire were built with the finest building materials available: slate roofs, plaster walls, papered bathrooms, etc. Some of the homes were custom-built, but

most, including ours, were not. Originally, there were no backyard fences as there was a covenant against them. However, by 1964 people started to put up fences, and no one wanted to enforce the covenant.

When houses were near completion, Jay called on the new house owners to go over the punch list around 10 a.m. after the man of the house had gone to work. He has a reputation for only selling homes to couples that included attractive women. I was the only one of our set who was able to get him to reduce his asking price. He often walked away from those who tried to bargain with his prices even if it meant that some new homes remained unsold for longer than would be expected.

The original owners in Wohlshire socialized with each other. The one thing we had in common was experience in dealing with Jay, which was enough to keep the conversation going all evening.



Figure 6. Wohlshire Houses

## NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE BROOKDALE COMMUNITY

### Brookdale

By Gwen Lewis

Rick Jones recalls the winters of his childhood were snowy. He and the other children sledded on Dover Road all winter when he was about 6-8 years old. River Road was a two-lane ride through the deep woods. He remembers sitting on his father's lap driving down River Road with high banks on right and left. The area now called Boundary Park, which was donated as a park-conservation area, was mowed with a horse-drawn blade. As he got older and was allowed to cross Western Avenue, he and other kids played various types of ball in Bayard Park. The kids went to Westbrook Elementary School, to Western Jr. High School, and to Bethesda Chevy Chase High School. The area where Little Falls Parkway is now was a wilderness that the kids played in, riding their bikes through the woods down to a baseball field on the southeast corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Little Falls, south of the creek. Trains were still using the tracks (where the



Capitol Crescent Trail is now) to go into Georgetown. There was a quarry on the other side of the railroad tracks. Kids played in an old smokehouse associated with the old Loughborough mansion near Little Falls Parkway

Looking back to 1947 when she and her husband first moved to Cortland Road, Mrs. Regina Conlon reflects on a time of great change. Just across Cortland in front of her house was a sometimes turbulent stream which gave its name to our community: "Brooks Dale", lined with majestic old trees. Beyond the "Dale", stretching to Wisconsin Avenue, was the handsome estate of the Woodward (or Lothrop) family. Some of the pastoral quiet of that time and place has been preserved in present-day Brookdale, Mrs. Conlon says.

*By Campbell Graeub*

Shortly after we moved into our home in 1962, neighbors who knew that we had been looking for a house to buy in Brookdale, greeted us with "we are glad you got in." We felt as if we had been admitted to an exclusive country club. Little did we know that in some ways Brookdale was a little club with its own unwritten subculture rules. We soon found out that the homes were to be kept painted white, the boulders lining the front lawns were to be not just the ordinary type, quartz was preferred, and clotheslines in the back yard were frowned upon.

In 1962 we were among the "new generation" that had arrived in Brookdale. A 1966 Brookdale newsletter reported that mail would be collected at 8:30 a.m., 1:45 and 5:45 p.m., with a late 8:30 p.m. pick up at the Western and River Road mail box.

Most of our neighbors were original owners of the homes that were built from 1938 into the early 1940s by the Cooper Lightbown firm. They were praised as outstanding builders; not a single complaint was heard (how times have changed). Cooper Lightbown built 150 Brookdale homes.

In the 1940s, Brookdale was on the fringes of Washington's urbanized area. Where GEICO now stands there was a big hill that had to be leveled. It took away the kids' favorite sledding site. GEICO's parking lot (on the east side of Cortland Road) had been a large victory garden during WWII.

As president of the Brookdale Citizens' Association in the mid 1960s, I had occasion to obtain the old association files. I learned that there truly was a club-like community spirit among the early "settlers" of Brookdale, evidenced by notices of black-tie association Christmas parties at the Kenwood Country Club.

## **Wohlshire**

By Cathy Solberg



Figure 7

Community combines charming appearance and convenient location with warm friendliness; its impressive diversity has revealed itself more gradually as we came to know our neighbors. Admittedly, our initial glimpse of Brookdale's character came early, as our real estate agent first showed us our current home in the Wohlshire section. A shelf in the family room displayed a cluster of Emmys awarded to the owner, Phil Jones, as a correspondent for CBS News. Over time, we've found that our neighborhood is full of journalists, diplomats, authors, and people from the world over who choose to live here. Many of you have already discovered that your neighbors are not just friendly folks out walking their dogs or raking their leaves, but people of diverse backgrounds with fascinating experiences to share.

At a recent neighborhood dinner party, I heard an interesting tale of a visit years ago by Vladimir Putin to the United States. Apparently, he was staying at a home on our street rented by the Russian Embassy, and was seen cutting the grass for a photo op, since he had heard it is a typical American thing to do.

### **Brookdale South, Sullivan's Estate**

Most of the homes in the Sullivan subdivision of Brookdale South were built in the 1930s or late 1920s, some as summer homes for people living in Washington, since the area is heavily wooded and has a semi-rural feel. Homes there blend well with the Cooper Lightbown homes in the neighborhood. Generally, homeowners modernize by building onto the backs of their houses, so the neighborhood still looks as it once may have.



Figure 8. Two of the Earlier Houses in Sullivan's Estate

Mary Shivanandan and her husband met in Canada and moved to the Washington area when her Sri Lankan husband went to work at NASA. Later when he was hired by the Naval Research Laboratory in 1963, they moved to Brookdale because it was more open than Virginia to a mixed race couple and had an international flavor. Mary also says that it reminded her of an English village, with its tidy white-brick homes and narrow winding streets. She recalls that Dover Court had a grassy parterre in its center, before the larger cars made it impractical. The neighbors have always been friendly and close and children could walk or cycle everywhere. During recent heavy snowfalls, neighbors have cleared her steep front steps, unasked, and in electrical blackouts hooked her house up to a generator.

The Shivanandans' house was built in 1938 by a builder for his own use and is unusually well-constructed, with 14-inch-thick walls and a large level back yard. Her house backs onto the Sullivan house which faces River Road. When the Shivanandans moved in, there was a very old, large apple tree and two tall black walnut trees. The walnut trees still produce an abundance of nuts every other year. A neighbor in the Sullivan subdivision also had fruit trees in her yard. Mary wonders if the area was once an orchard.

### **Brookdale South, American University Park**

In the course of subdividing the area known as American University Park, which extends into Montgomery County along Park Place and Park Avenue, the property owners (Croissant, Rickett, and Tait) deeded the crescent shaped area between Park Place and Western Avenue as a park for the benefits of the lots facing it. As the earliest subdivision in Brookdale South, American University Park is characterized by the homes built during the first 30 years of the twentieth century, as well as a sprinkling of Cooper Lightbown homes. Like the rest of Brookdale South, it is rolling land, cut by lanes, which give it a somewhat rural feeling.



Figure 9. American University Park Houses

## Orchardale

By Gwen Lewis and Larry Broadwell

Sarah Best reported that when she moved into Orchardale in 1951, the Shoemakers, who owned the farm that makes up most of Brookdale, no longer lived in the original farmhouse at 5305 Saratoga Ave. Their daughter Mary Shoemaker Bopp resided at 5300 Saratoga Ave. with her husband Rudolph, two daughters, and granddaughter. In the next lot, Mary kept a cow, chickens, and a rooster that would wake the neighborhood. She used to plow the field in the spring. Rudolph was informally called the Mayor of Orchardale because he greeted all newcomers. Mary Bopp's brother, Leon Shoemaker, lived on the third floor of their house. When her brother died, Mary held the funeral in her home, gathering some neighbors to help with the service. Neighbor, Frank Bartlett, played the trumpet and sang at the funeral and Sarah Best played the piano.



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 10. Rudolph and Mary Bopp at their new home - Springtime

Mrs. Best also recalled how the whole neighborhood of women and children would meet in the mornings at Merivale and Saratoga with their strollers and end up having coffee at someone else's house. There were five sets of twins in the neighborhood at that time. Her identical twin daughters (4th and 5th of her five children) were one such set. She recalled the neighborhood as populated with young families, much as it is becoming today.



Photo c/o Gordon

Figure 11. Samuel and Arlene Gordon

In January 1950, Judge Samuel Gordon and his wife, Arlene, bought the original Shoemaker family farmhouse, at 5305 Saratoga Ave., thought to have been built in the 1890s. In 1950, there were very few houses in most of Brookdale, and River Road was a two-lane country road. The old trolley line was still running; the trolley bell at the nearby stop was one of the few sounds one heard. When Frances Gaist and her husband built their place next door, the Gordons helped them by running an extension cord from their house to power construction tools on the Gaist homesite. Sam was active in the early days of the neighborhood association, but cut back as his judging responsibilities grew. Later Sam knew the GEICO leadership and took part in discussions about GEICO's move to the area. Before Sam's illness, the Gordons hosted neighbors for an evening around Christmastime. A highlight of the gathering was viewing the manger scene -- a real work of art -- that they set out on a tabletop.

## CHAPTER VIII. DOWN MEMORY LANE

### Remembrance of Gwen Lewis

I first met Gwen Lewis in 2005, thanks to an introduction by Suzanne Oliwa, and when I offered to help with the Bugle, Gwen graciously agreed. Over the years, we would meet at her house, or my house, or we would walk around the neighborhood, discussing what should go into the next issue. She always had a long list of potential topics, and I mostly just listened and tried to soak in as much as possible. In our walks, Gwen seemed to know the history of each house we passed by - who lived there now, who used to live there, whether the person who lived there might be willing to write something for the Bugle about a particular topic. She also told me all about the county's free tree-planting program, and as we walked along, she noted various front lawns, including mine, that she felt would be improved by the addition of a county tree. Whenever I look out at the county-planted dogwood tree that now resides on our front lawn, I think of Gwen.

Every once in a while, a neighborhood is fortunate enough to have someone like Gwen among its residents. It wasn't just that she served as president of the Brookdale Citizens' Association, or that she revived the Bugle and edited it for many years, or that she, with her camera, was an unmistakable presence at all our community gatherings. In all the discussions we had over the years, Gwen never mentioned her groundbreaking work on women in Turkey or her career as a sociologist. She spoke mostly of her photography; her travels; and the Brookdale neighborhood. She had an encyclopedic knowledge of Brookdale and of its various inhabitants, and she cared deeply about what happened to us and to our neighborhood.

*By Deborah Kalb*



Photo c/o Podolske

## **Original Residents of Brookdale**

Contributions by Elsa Skaggs and Gwen Lewis

Because the Brookdale neighborhood was built by developers and individuals in spurts (late '30s, post-World War II, and mid-to-late '60s, not including the original farm houses), the first residents of each home moved in over a very long time span. Information on some of the original owners and families follows.

Margaret (Peg) Fisher moved into the recently constructed house at 4601 Merivale Rd., along with her husband and his four children, in 1938. Thus, she was the resident with the very longest tenure in Brookdale. Stanley Lightbown, the seller, suggested the Fishers rent the house (at a very low fee) until they could sell their house in Wesley Heights, which they did. Their house cost \$13,200. At that time, more Cooper Lightbown houses were being constructed around them.

Hedy Foellmer, a resident of 5305 Willard Ave. since March 1939, comes in for a close second in her tenure in Brookdale. The 11 houses on Willard Avenue from the corner of River Road northeastward were built in 1938-39. When the Foellmers moved in, the Shoemaker farm was behind them, River Road had two lanes, and Willard Avenue was a country lane climbing a fairly large hill. The hill was later removed when the road was widened. Mr. Foellmer walked up Willard Avenue for 30 years to take the Wisconsin Avenue streetcar to his work at the Government Printing Office. Mrs. Foellmer earned community gratitude for her 29 years of service (~1955-84) as the Westbrook School crossing guard at Baltimore Avenue and River Road.

The Husics moved to 5333 Saratoga Ave. about 1947. Madelaine Husic reported that it was an especially attractive location because of the apple orchard on the adjacent land. About 10 or 12 years later, GEICO made this land into a parking lot, loudly protested by the neighbors.

Charles B. Davison, Jr. (Bucky) and his wife, Gayle, moved to 5305 Baltimore Ave. in 1947. This house, along with three others nearby (including the second Bopp house at 5300 Saratoga Ave.), was built by Mrs. Davison's father, with Bucky's help.

Kathleen Lear and her family began residing at 5300 Baltimore Ave. in 1947, when her husband, John, finished building their home. John, an electrician who had also worked on the houses constructed in Brookdale in the 1930s, designed and built their home with the assistance of family and friends in the building industry.

Robert Silverthorn was an original resident of 4711 Dover Rd., where he moved as a child in 1949. After his parents passed away, he chose to bring his family to live in the house.

Frances Gaist lived in a home at 5323 Saratoga Ave. built in 1950 by her husband and two other men from a design taken from a magazine. Before building they had to tear

down a barn in which another builder on the street stored kitchen appliances. They borrowed electricity and water from the Gordons who had just moved into the old Shoemaker farm house at 5305 Saratoga Ave.

Jack Hirose, 5008 Westport Rd., resident since 1950, relates a most interesting history. His house, along with several others, was built by Tom Rixey, who lived across River Road from his constructions. Later Mr. Rixey moved his family and business to Potomac, where he reportedly built mansions. Mr. Hirose, originally a native of Santa Monica, California, as a Japanese-American, was interned during World War II at Manzanar in California, along with his mother and sister. He was released early to come to Washington to seek work as a graphic artist, which he obtained at the Washington Post Company. Some of this history later was in a book called "When the World Was Young" by Barbara Holland. Jack reports that the then short street on which he lived was called Merivale Place (prior to the construction of the rest of Westport Road and homes by Wohlfarth), which caused great confusion in mail delivery. As a result, he became closely acquainted with his counterpart on Merivale Road, a United States Senator from Utah.

Virginia Woodfield, along with her family, moved into their home at 4803 Park Ave. in 1954. While her husband, a contractor, was building the home, the family lived in a little house on the same lot. Later they trucked away the little house. Many houses on Park Avenue were already built, although a lot have been remodeled since then.

The Abdow family were the first residents of 4715 River Rd. in 1966. Victor Abdow moved into the house with his parents when he was five years old. When he succeeded his mother as owner, his own son was exactly five. Several other Brookdale houses have been owned by at least two generations of a family, a tribute to love of the neighborhood.

Milly Imirie, 4709 River Rd., reported that in 1966, her family requested that Jay Wohlfarth, the builder of Wohlshire, construct for them a home similar to one he had already built on Westport Road. They moved into it in January 1967.

Sissy and Frank Rothwell, 5019 Westport, resided in their home since 1967. Prior to this they lived on River Road, across from Brookdale in Green Acres.

In 1967 Nancy Hervey and her husband became the first owners of 4705 River Rd. The house had been used as the office of Jay Wohlfarth. In 1976 the family moved to her current home of 5103 Westport Rd. They bought it from the original owners, the Donohoes, who designed it themselves and had Mr. Wohlfarth build in 1967. Nancy had yet other connections to the neighborhood. She lived on Overbrook Road from 1965 to 1967, and her parents were the original owners of 5105 Westport Rd.

Anne Sloan resided at 4707 River Rd. since 1969, when her family moved into the last home built in Wohlshire.

Gayle Bartlett, of 5210 Saratoga Ave., was an original owner of her house. Mrs. Bartlett's husband, Frank, and his brother Bud built the house, and the Bartletts moved in on May



31, 1951. Mrs. Bartlett came from Wisconsin to marry Frank, who worked for the Navy, where she also worked. The Bartletts had two children, Debbie, who lives in Baltimore, and Roy, who was killed in a car accident.

In 1950, Judge Samuel Gordon moved into a historic house on Saratoga Avenue, where he lived with his wife Arlene and family for almost 60 years. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he was an attorney in the Anti-Trust Division of the Justice Department and later served as an administrative law judge with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Federal Power Commission. He also served as President of the Orchardale Citizens Association from 1965 – 1967.

One of the longest-standing residents of the Orchardale section of our Brookdale neighborhood recently moved to live with her son Jeff in Pennsylvania. Sarah Best and her late husband, Guy, who worked for the General Accounting Office, moved into their home at 5211 Saratoga Ave. in 1952, with two young children. There were three more to come during their impressively long stay in a neighborhood they loved. Sarah was a beloved and inspiring teacher of speech and drama in addition to raising five children. In retirement she spent many years as an advocate for seniors, founding a grassroots organization. Intelligent and possessed with a wry, delightful sense of humor, Sarah is an example of the talented and contributing people who live around us in this uniquely desirable neighborhood.

#### **BROOKDALE'S WWII VETERANS -- Gwen Lewis**

On the occasion of the opening of the World War II monument on the mall and the sixtieth anniversary of D-Day, the Bugle showed our appreciation of those among us who served in World War II. Gwen Lewis provided their stories and we have added to her list.

Mike Becnel served from 1944 to 1946 in the Navy. He was stationed at the Norfolk Naval Air Station where he trained others to use radar countermeasures (that is, jamming radar). Later, Mike and his wife, Pearl, moved to Merivale Road.

Paul Drummer enlisted in the U.S. Army reserves in 1942 and began active duty with the Combat Engineers in May 1943. In the Signal Corp, he became team chief of a radio relay team. He was sent to England in December 1944 where he worked in France and Germany. After the war ended in Europe, he served in the Philippines and later in Japan, where he was part of the Army of Occupation until February 1946. Paul and his wife, Constance, moved to Dover Court in 1972.

Gerald Geiger was drafted out of college ROTC in 1943. He served in the 106th U.S. Cavalry, General Patton's Elite, from Normandy to the Alps, with combat intelligence, reconnaissance, and liaison duties. On patrol, Gerald was captured but escaped after 24 hours; he also single-handedly captured 12 Germans. He was a USAF psywar intelligence officer during the Korean War and did "Cold War Work" from 1954-89. Geiger lived on Westport Road for more than 30 years and has his office there now.

Don Junior served in the Army Air Corp. in 1944 and 1945. He was a gunner in Europe with the 15th Air Force based in Italy. Don and his wife, Jean, moved to Harrison Street.

Marshall Miller was a Navy radio gunner on a two-seat catapult airplane launched from the U.S.S. New Orleans, a heavy cruiser. He served from 1943 to 1946 in the Pacific, flying 39 combat missions to cover eight invasions. Marshall and his wife June moved to Western Avenue in 1998.

Clare Hall Smith, born in Quincy, Illinois, entered the Women's Army Corps in 1942 upon completing college. Commissioned as a second lieutenant, she was assigned to the American Intelligence Service in Miami Beach for 1942 and 1943. In 1944 she went to London as liaison between the advisory specialist group and General Spaatz, Commander of the 8th and 9th Air Force. In December 1944 she moved to Paris to work with civilian scientists from MIT's Radiation Laboratory. In 1945, she went to Manila as liaison to scientists setting up radar defenses for the invasion of Japan. Upon retiring as a captain in 1946, she worked with a group setting up the Central Intelligence Agency. Mrs. Smith lived on Keokuk Street from 1954 to 1980 and since then on Dover Road.

Arnold Einhorn, born in Belgium and educated in France, served as a teenager in the French underground, beginning in November 1942. Captured in Spain while leading a group across the border, he was in Franco's jail for two months. He was released in an exchange as a "Canadian" and hopped a Portuguese ship to Haifa. There in December 1943, he enlisted in the 8th British Army, serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Egypt and continuing in the Royal Army Service Corps in Italy, Belgium, and France. After the war, he studied medicine in France and in the United States after his immigration in 1954. Dr. Einhorn, his wife, Yvonne, and daughter, Monique, moved to Westport Road in April 1979.

Charles B. Davison, Jr. (Bucky), born in Willows, CA, in 1921, enlisted in the U.S. Army in the spring of 1942 in Washington, D.C. He was a member of the 77th Division and was later sent to the 78th Division, Company C, 309th Infantry Regiment. He had risen to the rank of sergeant by January 1945 when he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. During the battle he was wounded, for which he received the Purple Heart, as well as the Bronze Star. He was discharged in December 1945. He and his wife, Gayle, lived on Baltimore Avenue for more than 55 years.

Madeleine Husic, born in Pana, Illinois, served in England in the Women's Army Corps during World War II. She was later assigned to the Nuremberg war crimes trials in Germany. After her WAC career, she resumed her employment at the Federal Bureau of Prisons. When she married William Husic in 1959, she moved to Saratoga Avenue, where she lived for more than 50 years.

John Bartolomeo served as a machinist during World War II on the aircraft carrier Enterprise. As a veteran in the Washington area, he settled with his new family on Baltimore Avenue in a house that was built by Bucky Davison and his father-in-law in

1948. His garage, when the neighbors got a peek into it, was a treasure trove of every kind of tool imaginable. One could say that he had the best collection of machine tools in Brookdale. He also had a flourishing vegetable garden every summer in the backyard. John Bartolomeo served as president of Orchardale from 1970 – 1972.

Sophie and Marvin Lasky met during World War II while they served in the military. He was in the Navy and she was a SPAR in the Coast Guard. After the war, Marvin was employed by the Navy as a civilian; he did important underwater acoustics design work at the David Taylor Model Basin in Carderock, Maryland. In 1958, they moved to Saratoga Avenue where they lived for almost 50 years.

### **Brookdale's Own Snowmageddon**

– *Eric Sanne with the cooperation of Ken and Lilly Guenther and Campbell Graeub.*

I remember that it just kept snowing, and snowing and snowing. The snow was so quiet as it blanketed the landscape inch by inch and foot by foot. Covering the houses, the walkways, the streets, snow just built up, enfolding us in its quiet, isolating us from each other. Judy and I and the kids were cut off from the world, from our neighborhood, from our neighbors. And then the power went out. No heat. No Google. No email. No cable. Our house just became colder and colder. Snow kept falling. Bummer. For Ken Guenther and his wife Lilly the situation was not just an inconvenience but quite dire. He, too, was surrounded by snow. Eighteen inches of snow and climbing. He, too, had lost power including heat and hot water. His house, located on Dalton Road, was getting colder and colder. However, Ken had just gone through major open heart surgery.



Photo c/o Podolske

Lucky thing for Ken that he lives in Brookdale. Now you may think that Brookdale is all about great block parties. It is. You may think of Brookdale as a neighborhood civic force fighting off unwarranted development. It is. You may think that neighbors are just for chatting with when you walk your dog or dig in for some summer planting. They are. But Brookdale is so much more than that, and Ken's tale just proves the point. The streets were so high with snow that they were impassable and would remain so for days yet. For Ken, this was a major problem.

Ken had just arrived back from a second visit to the hospital, one of those dreaded "procedures." Longtime friend and neighbor Campbell Graeub (Campbell hails from Switzerland as does Ken's wife Lilly) had driven him home on Feb. 2 fearing to get caught in the snow storm just brewing. Ken's longest walk had been down a hospital corridor. He was, he now concedes, in a "hell of a shape." Campbell dropped him off, picked up some needed medicine, and offered to assist in any way he could. Campbell just had time to quick-step it back to his and Joy's house on Westport Road before the snow started.

Only four days later, as Feb. 6th dawned, Ken and Lilly concluded that staying in their increasingly cold house was not a safe option. Lilly called the hospital but was unable to get through. Campbell called 911 only to be told that Ken's only option was to wait for a snowplow and then be brought back to the hospital. Another long-time friend, neighbor and doctor, Tom Cardella, provided medical counseling to Ken and Lilly but could do little about their situation. Ken recalls the situation as "absolute desperation."

Living across from Ken and Lilly on Dalton, a short walk in spring but far far away after snowmageddon, Mary Plache heard of Ken's plight and rose to the challenge. She knew that her uncle, Mike Becnel, and his wife, Pearl, lived three blocks away on Merivale Road. and had power. Mary quickly contacted Mike, on Ken's behalf, and learned that Mike and Pearl could take Ken and Lilly in. The challenge remained of how to get Ken down three blocks, in 18 inches of snow, when he could barely walk after his surgery. No snowmobile. No reindeer to pull a sleigh. A sled was not going to cut it. What was needed, Mary realized, was a pathway. Someone would have to dig a 12" inch wide, 18" deep path from Ken's house to the Becnells. And it was still snowing.

Mary and Campbell got to work and started to dig. It was the only option and it was trench warfare. On this day and out of this adversity arose four more heroes and heroines and from the most unlikely of Brookdale neighbors - the kids of Brookdale. With a gung-ho attitude, four kids rose to the challenge, took over the job, and with carefree abandon dug that pathway. From Westport came Rinnie and Alexander Hewlett. From Murray came Helen and Evie Geary. Our own Four Musketeers. The trench had to go down Dalton, turn left on Westport and then right on Merivale and down to the Becnells' front steps. It did. The path Ken had to walk on needed to be flat and straight and true. It was.

Upon completion, Ken bundled up for the long journey, donning a red hat borrowed from Campbell. Surrounded by Lilly, Joy Graeub, and Charles Hewlett and with Campbell backing him up in case he tottered, Ken embarked along the path to the Becnells' house.

The four engineers cheered Ken on and scampered back and forth. Ken recounts how the cheers and jumping of the kids inspired him to carry on. With Campbell guiding from behind, Ken made it down Westport. Finally he made landfall and was greeted on the doorstep by Mike Becnel who swept Ken into the warm interior of Becnel's house. The Guenthers would stay four days at the Becnel's. Ken and Lilly remain very grateful noting how warm and wonderful their stay was and how excellent the cooking was.

The kids celebrated on their way back, posing for a brief picture and a moment of joy before returning home. The snow continued its quiet descent. Residents lit their fires to keep warm. Brookdale had come together to take care of its own. For those of us who see the hope of the future as resting with our children, those hopes look good indeed. Pepco would only rescue Brookdale after a 48-hour outage.

## CHAPTER IX. Historic Houses

Contributions by Gwen Lewis and Paul Drummer

### Homes in the Brookdale Community

The first house built in what was to become the Brookdale Community dates to the 1890s. It is the Shoemaker farm house (whose address is now 5305 Saratoga). When she became Mrs. Rudolph Bopp in 1920, the eldest daughter, Mary Ellen Shoemaker, moved into a frame and stone house built nearby. In 1903 the Sullivan house was built on seven acres at 4704 River Rd. A house at 5325 Willard Ave. was built in 1903. The Ball house was constructed at 5062 Park Pl. in 1913, as was another at 5014. The Menefee house was built on River Road in 1918 and was originally a farm house on Benjamin Perry's property.



Figure1. Early House on Willard Avenue

### Shoemaker Family Farmhouse

The original Shoemaker family farmhouse is located at 5305 Saratoga Ave. It is thought to have been built in the 1890s. The original three-bedroom, two-bath house faced Shoemaker Lane (which leads up from River Road parallel to Saratoga Avenue). From the top floor you could see Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the 1950s.

Many of the children of the Shoemakers were born in this house. Mary and Ruth remained in the neighborhood all their lives. Ruth Shoemaker, who never married, represented the district in the state legislature for many years and lived on River Road. Mary married Rudolf Bopp in 1920, and moved into the first Bopp house (see below).



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 2. Photo of Shoemaker Family Farmhouse House before renovation

When Arlene and Samuel Gordon bought the property in January 1950, the house was owned and lived in by Mr. Vigeland, who had purchased it from the Shoemakers, they believe. The house was advertised as having thirty two kitchen cabinets; it was set up on a hill and looked beautiful when they found it. Mr. Vigeland was a construction overseer for a number of houses built in Orchardale in the 1940s and 50s. There was a well on the property and the house had a barn that was torn down to build the Gaist house next door. During 1954 or '55, the Gordons experienced a fire in their home. As a result, they moved into another Orchardale house for six months while their house was repaired. Years later, during the 1960s, they expanded it to include three more bedrooms and a new sitting room. These renovations entailed removing a large porch and creating a front entrance facing Saratoga Avenue. While raising their four children in the house, Mr. Gordon was active in community affairs and Ms. Gordon was active at the children's school. The house holds many memories. Ms. Gordon recalls one snowy Christmas when carolers came by the house. The snow was sparkling and the carolers wore capes and bright red scarves and sang like angels. Ms. Gordon had enough cocoa and marshmallows to invite the carolers in for hot chocolate.

### The First Bopp House

Mary Shoemaker and Rudolf Bopp built a house nearby on the family farm in 1921. The house was basically a farm house. Its exterior was stone and frame. The first floor had a living room, dining room, and kitchen. A tiny side room was over a root cellar or ice room. The second floor had four bedrooms and a bath. The property stretched from Baltimore to Saratoga originally. Most of the surrounding land was in orchards around

that time. After roads were planned in the late 1940s its address became 5317 Baltimore Ave.



Photo c/o Remler

Figure 3. First Bopp House, Rearview

In the 1950s, Mary Bopp built another house at 5300 Saratoga Ave. and moved her family there, selling the house on Baltimore Avenue to the Schumanns. In 1960, Reginald G. Pocock, a cabinetmaker with Lank Woodwork, and his wife, Millicent L. N. Pocock, were the residents. "That explains all the cabinetry," said current resident Astrid McHugh.

In 1986, Boyd and Astrid McHugh bought the property. Astrid McHugh reports that then there were two cherry trees and an apple tree from the original orchard. Also visible were the remains of a well. The house exterior by then had asbestos siding instead of wood and was densely covered with vines. Over the years a screened side porch had been added between the dining room and side room, and a basement bathroom. This house has a friendly, male ghost who appears only when there are babies in the house. From the nursery, he could be heard coming up the stairs. The ghost is said to date to the time when Mrs. Bopp miscarried after taking a severe fall on the stairs.





Figure 4. First Bopp House after Renovation.

The McHughs, in 1994-95, remodeled to enclose the porch and add a powder room and master bath. In 2002, they removed the separate garage, added a family room and mudroom to the house, and built a covered front porch.

The McHughs raised two children in their historic house, Carrena and Brad. Astrid is a kindergarten teacher at the Maret School; Boyd is a manager of the Ski Center in D.C.

### The Sullivan House

In 1908, Daniel F. Sullivan built the house at 4704 River Rd. on seven acres of land. It was surrounded by fruit trees. Originally, the house was a classic four-square building with three stories, probably of Queen Anne style, with front and back porches. In 1924 most of the property was subdivided into roads and building lots, leaving a generous lot on which the house stands.

The house is known to have changed hands around the time of the FDR administration to someone associated with the Netherlands Embassy. The story goes that Eleanor Roosevelt visited the home at that time, probably more than once, to experience the cooler air away from the city.

In the 1940s or '50s, John F. Davis, an attorney for the Justice Department, bought the house. He added a swimming pool in the mid-'50s. Davis became chief clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court during his career. In 1982, his son Marcus acquired the property. During the Davises' ownership, the house was modified to convert the kitchen into a dining room; to remove the wall dividing the front and back parlors; and to add a new kitchen.

When Richard and Diane Monash bought the house in 1993 they did extensive restoration work on the house and expanded the kitchen. Since moving in, the Monashes have also added a small family room at the back. The house is filled with period antiques. The Monashes take pride in keeping the house and one-acre property close to their original state. The original chicken coop had to be removed for safety's sake, but they retain the pad of its original location as well as other outbuildings.



Photo c/o Monash

Figure 5. Sullivan House

The house is the same style as, but larger than the house at 4520 River Rd. in the District that was built in 1897 and is owned by the Monashes' son. A native of New Jersey, Rich spent 30 years in the Navy as a Surface Warfare officer. He is currently a program manager in the information technology field.

### The Ball House

#### *Timeline:*

1899 Tract deeded by Frank E. Murray to John D. Croissant, George W. Rickett, and Galen L. Tait, as joint tenants. Eight months later the parcel is divided into lots as American University Park, Montgomery County, and boundary park is dedicated.

1905 Bertha Ball is born to George Ball and his wife.

1911 The existing lots are sold to George Ball.

1913 George Ball builds house.

19\_\_ Bertie Ball marries William E. Wise.

1950s George Ball dies. Bertie Ball Wise and Bill Wise buy the house and move back into Bertie's childhood home.

1960 William E. Wise listed in Chevy Chase Directory as foreman at Shell Elec.

1987 Bertie Wise dies. House passes to her daughter Billie Minnamen, whose children live in the house until 2007.

2007 House purchased by Bob and Judy Cope from Wise grandchildren.

According to Bob Cope, Bertha Ball Wise said that her grandparents built the house at 5062 Park Pl. about 1915 (Maryland State records say 1913) on land that consisted of two lots. She lived in the house until she married William Wise. The family never owned a farm in conjunction with the house, although there is a small barn at the back of the site, adjacent to Brookdale Road. When she and her husband bought the house, they also bought and added an extra lot which was farmed as a vegetable garden. When the Copes moved to Brookdale Road in 1975, Bob started helping Bertie with the yard and her vegetable garden. She told him that the original road was Park Place, not Western Avenue, and he thinks she meant that Park Place went through to River Road at one

point. (This is shown to be the case on early maps.) Bertha lived there until she died in 1987. Because the Copes were close to Bertha, her family asked Bob to be a pallbearer at her funeral. The house was in her family until last year, when Bob and Judy Cope bought it. Brookdale Road curves because when the subdivision of Brookdale was platted, Wise wouldn't give any of his land for the road. Hence, there is no right of way on Brookdale Road alongside this particular property.

Bob and Judy have already been renovating the house and yard. Bob is an attorney in private practice involved in transportation law, and Judy Cope, M.D., works in the Commissioner's office at FDA. Their three children were born and raised in Brookdale: Christopher, Suzanne, and Stephanie.



Figure 5. Ball House

### The Menefee House

The house at 4701 River Rd. was built as a farm house on Cyrus Eli Perry's farm. It started life as a wood-frame American Salt Box-style house with living room, dining room, kitchen, and porch on the first floor and three bedrooms and bath on the second. The porch, was screened later, then glass-enclosed, and now is a room. A "den," a wood paneled room with a fireplace, was added in the 1940s, according to a neighbor. River Road was widened after the house was built and you will notice the house is closer to River Road than other houses. The property is quite large, almost 1/4 acre. When the county abandoned the right of way intended to continue Keokuk Street through to Wisconsin Ave, the prior owners of this home and the neighboring property bought the abandoned land from the county and split it between them.

During the '40s the Kupper family lived in this house. Their son Henry attended Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (with resident Millie Imirie) through 1947, after

which the family moved away before Henry could complete high school. According to the 1960 Chevy Chase Directory, the residents were Thormod A. and Agnete F. Andersen; he was an economist for the World Bank. By the late '60s, the house was empty, run down, and lived in by hippies. So Jay Wohlfarth, who was building new houses around it, took it over and fixed it up. Robert H. and Faye Brooks Purl purchased the home in 1979. Faye worked as a teller at Riggs Bank and later bought and sold antiques. Robert was an attorney for the federal government. Mrs. Purl had a laundry room built in the back of the house in her later years.



Figure 6. Photo of Menefee Home – Originally Benjamin Perry House

Bernadette and Patrick Menefee purchased the house in 2001. Since then they have been renovating their home. They added a two-story addition to the back of the house to increase the master suite to include a bath and to add a bedroom to the ground floor. They have moved the functions on the first floor around considerably. They replaced siding with new wood siding and have continued to install hardwood floors to match the original flooring. In painting the exterior, 11 coats of paint had to be stripped, and shutters uncharacteristic of the type of house were removed. The outside has been painted a subdued yellow.

Bernadette, who is Irish, is a manager for Intelsat. Patrick, who is from Rockville originally, is a construction superintendent for Lend Lease. In 2007, their daughter, Amelia, was born.

## Smith House

Wendy and Jay Smith live at 4700 Park Ave. in the first house built in American University Park in current Brookdale South. Also described in Maryland land records as American University Park, First Addition, the area was subdivided for development in 1899 by Galen Tait, J.D. Croissant, and G.W. Rickett.<sup>1</sup> Galen Tait was prominent in Republican political circles and was the son of James L. Tait, a local developer. At the time the Smiths' house was built, it occupied three long narrow lots (Nos. 22 – 24) and fronted at the boundary line to the District of Columbia, its front porch extending beyond the Maryland line into the District of Columbia. To its southwest on Western Avenue is Galen Tait's house at 4900 Western Ave., which was built in 1904. The Smiths date their house to that period as well. Both are frame houses, of similar style to nearby vintage houses in the Tenleytown portion of American University Park<sup>2</sup>



Figure 7. Smiths' House

The Smiths bought their house in 1993. It had previously been extensively renovated, probably in 1990, to include the addition of a modern kitchen, and above it a master bedroom and very large modern bathroom. They were attracted by its high ceilings, the generous size of the bedrooms, and its three fireplaces. It still has the original Victorian staircase and the wavy glass windowpanes. Adjacent to the original master bedroom was a small sewing room or baby's room. At the time of the renovation, the three long lots were re-platted to face Park Avenue so that another house could be built, also facing Park Avenue, where the garage had been in the original back yard. At that time, the entrance of the Smiths' house was turned to face Park Avenue as well.

### Dover Court Cottage

In the midst of Brookdale South, at 4807 Dover Ct., is a charming smaller home, which looks like a house right out of a fairy tale. And standing up on a hill behind it is a separate cottage, whose origin is not at all certain. The main house is occupied by Abner Oakes and Laura Jewett, and their son, Charlie.

But a murky speculative history has attached itself to the cottage, and it was my intention to discover the truth of it! Rumor had it that the original purpose of the cottage was possibly a slave quarters, connected with the original farmhouse at 4704 River Rd., south of Newport. So I questioned previous owners and others to see what could be found out about it.

The farm land which had, during World War II, produced crops to meet wartime food demand, was transformed into this subdivision. Some of the original farm houses and outbuildings became a part of the subdivision. The cottage behind 4807 Dover Ct. was one of those structures retained for the development.

Allen Wolf, who with his wife Barbara, occupied the house for about nine years, beginning in 1984, was told that it had been a cooler house for the farm house previously mentioned. Julie (Dougherty) Whiston, who occupied the house subsequent to the Wolfs, was born in Brookdale, grew up here, and raised her family in Dover Court, recalls being told that the structure was converted into a children's playhouse by the two women who lived there previous to the Wolfs. Apparently they enjoyed having neighborhood children around them, used to give them cookies, and hold birthday parties for them. They had the cottage, which is about 10 feet x 12 feet, refinished inside with the pine paneling that was so popular when Brookdale was built. This created another attraction for the neighborhood children. The structure stands on a foundation which appears to be of very old rough concrete, now plastered over with generous coats of mortar and cement, added in the years since it was constructed.

So the question remains unanswered. Was this old structure once a slave quarters?

### **Nearby Homes of Interest**

#### Milton

In 1820, 1822, and 1838, the Loughborough family, who were descended from English Quakers, purchased property for a tobacco plantation in the west of the Threlkeld parcel. At the time, it included a small stone house dating to about 1700 and built into the hillside in the German style, with the kitchen on the ground floor.<sup>3</sup> In 1847, this small building was incorporated into a larger house, built of the same local stone by Nathan Loughborough, who was Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury during the John Adams administration. The present house consists of a central two-story part flanked by two 1 ½- story wings, one of which is the original stone building. The house is at 5312 Allandale Rd. in neighboring Green Acres and stands just below Little Falls Parkway.

The completed house was called “Milton” and served as Nathan Loughborough’s home with his second wife, after he moved there from an estate on the present site of American University.



Figure 8. Spring House and Pump next to “Milton”

James Henry Loughborough, Nathan’s grandson, who owned Milton during the Civil War, joined the Confederate signal corps and participated in General Jubal Early’s raid on Washington in 1864. The house, however, was occupied by Union troops, and the soldiers’ autographs, including their names and home towns, remain on the walls of the house.

In 1934, after the Loughborough family had moved away from the plantation, Milton was purchased by an agricultural economist named Mordecai Ezekiel, who served as Assistant Director of the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization. The Ezekiels did extensive restoration work on Milton and had it placed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>4</sup>



Figure 9. Photo of “Milton” as it is today

#### Sarah Loughborough Brown House

The Sarah Loughborough Brown house was built in 1908 for the daughter of James Loughborough, owner of Milton. At the time, the one-acre site was part of the original Loughborough plantation. The house is in colonial revival style, its stone locally quarried granite. Francis Brown, son of Sarah L. and W.H. Brown, lived in the house and became general counsel for the FDIC.



Figure10. Photo of Sarah Loughborough Brown House



In 2003, a developer planned to raze the house at 5004 River Rd. and use the site to build four new houses. However, the communities of Green Acres and Glen Cove rallied to save the house and were successful in having it placed on the Atlas of Historic Sites in Montgomery County. Later, many in the neighborhood watched as the house was moved several feet toward River Road, which made some of the land available for two additional houses behind it.

## CHAPTER X. BROOKDALE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

**Brookdale Citizens Association: Who We Are and What We Do** *by Barbara Ingersoll and Diane Tanman*



The Brookdale Citizens' Association is an association of residents organized to promote the general interests of its members. Founded in 1958, the Association now encompasses the communities of Brookdale North & South, Orcharddale, and Wohlshire. Elected officers include the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and four Vice Presidents, one each from Brookdale North, Brookdale South, Orcharddale, and Wohlshire. Residents pay annual dues. An annual meeting is held in the spring and more often as needed. The Association distributes the Directory, a compilation of resident names, addresses, and phone numbers; maintains a listserve and website; publishes a newsletter, the *Bugle*, three times a year; monitors and responds to development issues; and sponsors a number of social events each year, including Halloween parties,

July 4 parades, and block parties.

Vice Presidents: Vice Presidents are charged with conveying information and materials to block captains for dissemination and with communicating neighborhood concerns to the Executive Committee. They also carry out a variety of specific tasks, as needed, such as contributing articles to the *Bugle*, organizing welcome baskets for new residents, and helping to organize neighborhood events.

Block Captains: Vice Presidents also find and appoint Block Captains as area liaison representatives to assist in their areas. In addition to such duties as delivering the *Bugle* and posting signs to inform residents of upcoming events, block captains serve as "meeters and greeters," welcoming new residents to the neighborhood, acquainting them with the Association, and forwarding information for inclusion in the directory. Block captains also convey the concerns of the residents to the area Vice President, who then brings these issues to the attention of the Executive Committee.

What does the Association do? According to its constitution, the object of the Association is to "stimulate interest in and devise and implement ways and means for promotion of civic and general welfare" in these communities and to promote the best interests of the communities through cooperation with county and state officials and with other civic associations "of like purposes." The Association goes about fulfilling these responsibilities in a variety of ways.

- 1) The Association holds an annual meeting to provide a forum in which residents can raise and discuss issues of general concern with each other and with representatives of local government. At a time when development in the

Friendship Heights area is booming, the ability to work with other local civic groups is of particular importance, so that our neighborhood needs are not disregarded in the planning process. The President of the Association appoints delegates to such groups, including the Citizens' Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights.

2) The Association monitors and responds to commercial and residential development issues in Brookdale as deemed appropriate by the executive committee and Association membership. This is a very important function of the Association due to our proximity to the Friendship Heights commercial district and Metro, which makes Brookdale very attractive to commercial development interests.

3) Safety issues addressed by the Association have included block meetings to discuss local crime problems. A liaison officer from the Montgomery County Police Department is available to attend these meetings and talk with residents about crime-prevention measures. The Association has worked with its corporate neighbors to improve safety conditions in the Friendship Heights area and promotes crime awareness through updated local crime reports on its website ([www.brookdalenews.org](http://www.brookdalenews.org)) and was recently instrumental in obtaining better lighting along Western Avenue and within the Brookdale community to help deter crimes against pedestrians in the area. Finally, the Association is attuned to issues of traffic safety and has worked on issues such as obstruction of view, parking restrictions, street signs, and street crossing signals.

4) To stimulate interest in civic welfare and foster a sense of community, the Association supports community activities initiated by the residents. Examples include an annual Halloween party and Fourth of July parade, both of which are held at Brookdale Park and are great fun for the kids and families who participate. Other examples include block parties and block meetings, the latter of which can be called when residents need to discuss issues of concern to those in the immediate vicinity. The Association solicits volunteers to serve at the larger events, notifies residents via fliers and posted notices, and underwrites the cost of snacks and beverages at the events.

5) The Association works with the Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure that our parks are well-maintained and that amenities such as playground equipment are upgraded when possible. Enhancing the environmental integrity and esthetic appeal of our neighborhood is important, too, so the Association has encouraged residents to avail themselves of county programs which provide street trees, planted by the county on county-owned frontage along our streets.

6) To keep residents abreast of local happenings, the Association maintains a website, listserve, and facebook page; publishes a newsletter, the Bugle, posts signs, and distributes fliers to convey information about events of interest and importance.



### **Brookdale and Outside Forces**

Part of the experience of living in Brookdale is warding off unreasonable development. The Brookdale Citizens Association became very involved in 1966 and again the early 70's when massive developments were being proposed in the Friendship Heights area. Since then, Brookdale residents have continued to stand up to protect our neighborhood as we know it today; it didn't just happen. Untold time and effort went into this cause, and we must remember and be thankful to those who fought on our behalf. Our citizens show the scars of a long history of negotiations and protests to maintain the community.

Boundary Park. Bill McElroy was very active in the Brookdale Citizens' Association. In 1980, Bill was instrumental in fighting the developers who filed an application with the state of Maryland seeking a declaration that Boundary Park, located between Western Avenue and Park Place, had been abandoned and was therefore ripe for development. While on sabbatical from Georgetown, Bill traveled to Annapolis, Rockville, and the District of Columbia researching land records to determine whether Montgomery County held title to Boundary Park. His research showed that a record plat was filed by Tait, Croissant and Rickett in 1899 to divide a large tract of land (American University Park, Montgomery County) into residential lots. The plat also showed that some of the land was dedicated to create two roads (Park Avenue and Park Place) and to create a small park. Specifically, the plat showed that the area that now comprises Boundary Park was dedicated to "Parking." When I expressed concern to Bill that we did not want a huge parking lot, Bill pointed out that "Parking" is defined in Black's Law Dictionary (4th Ed.)

as a strip of land, intended to be kept as park-like space, that is not built upon, but beautified with turf, trees, flowers. With this information in hand, we then filed our memorandum. Within a few months the developers dismissed their application. *By Bob Cope*

Our neighbor GEICO. Few would argue that GEICO isn't a good neighbor. Largely without friction, our community of single-family homes gets along well with our commercial neighbor. There is no objection if we cross their parking area on our way to Metro or to shop, their employees generally do not park on our narrow streets, and they typically respond promptly to a neighbor's concern. Nobody questions the well-maintained property and landscaping.

The history with GEICO is however mixed. Not to be forgotten is that GEICO owns the Brookdale Park property which they have subleased to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. At one time GEICO was buying Brookdale property and was in possession of up to 15 homes. After years of negotiations, our concerns about GEICO's intentions has been put to rest as GEICO has gradually sold all the homes, except for five that directly abut their property.

There were times when our dealings with GEICO were not examples of how to get along with neighbors. GEICO sought to expand their parking facilities several times. Each time, alert neighborhood action brought this to an end. Our concerns include the fact that increased parking meant more vehicular traffic on already clogged arteries. GEICO once planned to build a parking structure on the property now the Brookdale Park. Arguments were that more parking spaces were needed for their employees. When GEICO wanted to expand the parking lot on Willard Avenue, they began to cut and bulldoze mature trees in the area abutting Brookdale. But alert neighbors took immediate action. In short order, the cutting of trees was suspended. Now that telecommuting and flexitime are accepted employment conditions, and Metro has matured as a regional conveyance, parking is no longer the issue it once was.

*By Campbell Graeub*

Montgomery County Sector Plan. In 1997, the Friendship Heights Sector plan was adopted, encouraging growth around Metro stations, with development approved at the GEICO site, the Hecht's site (now Wisconsin Place), and Chevy Chase Center across Wisconsin Avenue. It recommended mixed-use development of GEICO's property with office and residential uses under the TS-M and R-60 zones. GEICO's Preliminary Plan of the Subdivision (Friendship Commons) was approved in May 1999 and extended to 2011. The Brookdale Citizens Association and the Friendship Heights Village were the most active groups in the negotiations. The approved development plan includes 810,000 sq. feet of office space, 300 multi-family units, and 200 townhomes. Public benefits include a baseball field along Western Avenue, a 50-foot buffer zone between GEICO property and Brookdale, and that Brookdale Park ownership will be transferred to Montgomery County. Allison Fultz, Association president, was active in the negotiations and Norm Knopf was hired to represent Brookdale's legal interest in the planning process.

GEICO's request in 2011 for an extension to the Preliminary Plan was supported by the Brookdale Community Association and Friendship Heights Village. Several Brookdale neighbors testified before the planning board including Diane Tanman, Association president, as well as Campbell Graueb and Bob Cope (who was representing the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights). Both Bob Cope and Norm Knopf were instrumental in assisting Brookdale with the legal process and testimony. The Community Association supported GEICO's extension request because considerable Brookdale resources, time, and money went into negotiating the 1999 plan and if it was not extended, community members would have to start that costly negotiation process all over again. In 2013, GEICO's six-year extension of their Preliminary Subdivision Plan was officially approved. *By Diane Tanman*

## Timeline

1890s	Trolley from Georgetown reached Wisconsin Avenue at Western Avenue.
1899	AU Park, Montgomery County subdivided for development.
1910	Boundary Avenue was constructed [now Western Avenue].
1914	Friendship Heights Village incorporated as a special tax district.
1925	Louis Shoemaker's heirs sold their 52-acre farm to Donald Woodward.
1930s	Wilbert subdivision was developed.
1938-43	Cooper Lightbown Co. built 150 Brookdale homes in Brookdale North and South.
1942-45	During World War II the area next to Cortland Road, now the GEICO parking lot, was a Victory Garden.
1946	Two separate sections of Overbrook Road were joined. About four houses were built on the new piece between Newport and Keokuk.
1946-1947	Orchardale subdivided for development.
1947-48	Dover Court was built, with its homes.
1950	Lord & Taylor and Woodward & Lothrop department stores opened at intersection of Wisconsin and Western avenues.
1953	Chevy Chase shopping center built east of Wisconsin Avenue.
1957	In a letter from a GEICO senior VP to the President of the Brookdale Citizens Association, GEICO made a series of promises in return for Brookdale's support of GEICO's application for limited development. Letter promised no road access to Brookdale, an 85-foot "green" buffer for Brookdale and said, "The Company has no intention of disposing of any of this land." GEICO was granted commercial rezoning for the land under its building (only). Parking

	lots were allowed under special exception.
1958	Brookdale Citizens Association was incorporated by Paul Hawkins, Edward Nicholson, Jr., and Mary Murray.
1957-1962	Jay Wohlfarth developed Wohlshire.
1962	River Road widened from two to four lanes.
1964	Saks Fifth Avenue opened.
1964	West Chevy Chase Master Plan adopted: All of the GEICO site was allowed to be commercial except for an 85-foot strip along Cortland Road. GEICO did not apply for the rezoning.
1964-70s	Barlow, Polinger and Thelma Edwards developed Friendship Heights Village with high rises and commercial buildings.
1965-67	<i>Brookdale President, Campbell Graeub; Orchardale President, Sam Gordon</i>
1966	Highland House, the Irene, and the Willoughby constructed. GEICO petitioned for additional parking lots, leading to controversy in January 1967 when GEICO cut its trees although approval had not been given.
1969-70	<i>Brookdale President, George Hill</i>
1970-72	<i>Brookdale President, Sterling Ivison; Orchardale President, John Bartolomeo</i>
1971	GEICO requested an extension of the Central Business District (CBD) to include its site (with zoning implications).
1971 (Nov.)	The Orchardale Association was merged into the Brookdale Association, then referred to as the Tri-Community (with Wohlshire). (This created the borders of Brookdale known today.)
1972-73	<i>President, Norm Knopf</i>
1973-74	<i>President, Ed Aikman</i>
1974	Sector Plan adopted: Recommended a scale-back of development related to the ability of feeder roads to serve the businesses. It removed 24 acres from the CBD and recommended no further development on the GEICO site.
1974-76	<i>President, Lynn Sheridan</i>
1977	Neiman Marcus/Mazza Gallerie opened.
1980	Bill McElroy, Bob Cope, and Norm Knopf stopped development of a multi-story building in Boundary Park.
1984	Friendship Heights Metro station opened (originally scheduled for 1976).
1988	Somerset House developed.
1990	Chevy Chase Pavilion opened.

1992-94	<i>President, Bob Cope</i>
1994-95	<i>President, Marty Weigand</i>
1995-97	<i>President, Jim Norton</i>
1997-98	<i>President, Dave Montgomery</i>
1998	New Friendship Heights Sector Plan was adopted, dominated by a policy that growth is encouraged around Metro Stations. Development was approved on three major sites: GEICO, "Wisconsin Place" on Hecht's site (by New England Development), and "Chevy Chase Center," east of Wisconsin Avenue (by Chevy Chase Land Company).
1998-2000	<i>President, Allison Fultz</i>
2000-02	<i>President, Gwen Lewis</i>
2002-03	<i>President, William Geiger</i>
2003, 2004	Construction began on "Chevy Chase Center," then on "Wisconsin Place."
2004-06	<i>President, Dave Montgomery</i>
2007-09	<i>President Steve Heyman</i>
2010	<i>President Marie Moylan</i>
2012-13	<i>President Diane Tanman</i>
2013	GEICO's Preliminary Plan for development (approved in 1999) extended for six more years. Plan includes 810,000 feet of office space, 300 multi-family units, and 200 townhomes, along with a 50-foot buffer zone between GEICO and Brookdale, and transfer of Brookdale Park to Montgomery County.
2013	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and Brookdale entrance signs were installed.



## **APPENDIX i**

### **Sites of Interest Near Brookdale**

Civil War Forts – sites of Civil War action in 1864

Fort Bayard Park at Western Avenue and River Road.

Battery Bailey in Westmoreland Hills Park.

Fort Reno

Cemeteries – burial grounds of Shoemakers, Elds and Perry's, Rileys

Eldbrooke Methodist Church and Cemetery – junction of River Road and Wisconsin Avenue.

Shoemaker family cemetery at Earlston Drive and Bayard Avenue.

Historic Houses

“Milton” – home of Nathan Loughborough on Allandale Road in Green Acres- parts of the house date to 1700, when it was an Indian trading post. Also Sarah Loughborough Brown House on River Road – built for Nathan's granddaughter of local granite.

Galen Tait House at 4900 Western Avenue, just to the West of Brookdale South. Galen Tait developed American University Park in Montgomery County.

Other Locations of Interest

Galen Tait Memorial Park at 47<sup>th</sup> and Ellicott Streets, N.W.

N and S Park Streets in Friendship Heights Village – once the lane leading to the Eld farmhouse.

Friendship Heights Village Center – displays historic photos and documents for this area.

Threlkeld Boundary Stone – 41<sup>st</sup> and Fessenden St. N.W.

Willard Avenue – location of a former spur of the Glen Echo (electric) Railway line.

Macedonia Baptist Church on River Road – built by small community of former slaves freed by Loughborough and Counselman families after the Civil War – and still attended by descendants of original congregation.

Western Market – site of original Shoemaker family farm stand.

GEICO – award-winning headquarters building, (1959)

Capitol Crescent Trail – former site of B & O Railroad, Georgetown spur

Site of Loughborough Mill – marked on the Capitol Crescent trail.

## **APPENDIX ii. Abbreviated Genealogies for Shoemaker, Eld, and Perry Families**

### Shoemaker Family Line:

Samuel Shoemaker, Sr (1770 - 1848) m Elizabeth Ellis (1777 – 1839)

Isaac Shoemaker (1802 – 1883) m Ann Williams (1806 – 1853)

Louis E. Shoemaker (1837 – 1916) m Mary Elizabeth Eld (1844 – 1895)

Albert Edwin Shoemaker (1865 – 1937) m Fannie Fern Brown (1864 - 1942)

Mark Shoemaker (1898 – 1983) m Mildred Claudia Woodward (1902 – 1984)

Spencer Aquila Shoemaker (1878 – 1951) m Carrie May West (1883 – 1911)

Lillian Shoemaker (1905 – 1999) m Walter Angus Brown Jr. (1905 - 1972)

Charles Shoemaker (1813 – 1895) m Mary Elizabeth Collins (1825 – 1904)

William Shoemaker (1861 – 1942) m Sarah (Sally) Elizabeth Perry (1864 – 1935)

Leon Perry Shoemaker (1892 – 1956)

Ruth Elizabeth Shoemaker (1893 – 1958)

Mary Ellen Shoemaker Bopp (1896 – 1962) m Rudolph Bopp (1894 - 1963)

Margaret Ann Bopp (1921 – 2010) m Raymond Remler (1926 – 2007)

Charles Shoemaker (1898 – 1951)

William Summers Shoemaker (1906 – after 1962)

### Eld Family Line

Aquila Eld (1820 – 1878) m Louisa Payne (1823 – 1883)

Mary Elizabeth Eld (1844-1895) m Louis E. Shoemaker (1837 – 1916)

Perry Family Line

Cyrus Eli Perry (1819 - 1888) m Sarah Ann Summers (1819 – 1894)

James Summers (1852 - 1915)

Benjamin Perry (1853 - 1931)

Phebe Rozelle (1857 - ) m Jacob Wilbert

Stephen Boyd Perry (1859 - )

Thomas J.S. Perry (1861 - 1930)

Sarah (Sally) Elizabeth Perry ( 1864 - 1935) m Wm Shoemaker (1861 - 1942)

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