

Adkins Arboretum History Project

Introduction and Methods

In the richly historical and biological setting of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Adkins Arboretum holds many clues to this area's unique heritage. Like most Eastern Shore farms on good soils near navigable waterways and public thoroughfares, it was settled early and converted only recently to other, more modern uses. Sited on the east bank of Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County, just two miles north of Hillsboro and embraced by what became Tuckahoe State Park within the past 30 years, Adkins also has its own rich history. Patriots, adventurers, farmers, debtors, sheriffs and legislators have walked here. A family disintegrated in a dispute and the land was subdivided during hard economic times. Valuable hardwood timber was cut for wheel spokes, staves and spindles. Strawberries, corn, and wheat were grown here. A man-made lake was heralded as an economic and recreational boon for inland Caroline County in the late 20th century. The arboretum was born in the dispute that ensued after a giant tree was found that stopped the damming of the lake.

This project was an exploration of the history of land use and ownership at Adkins Arboretum, extending from the present back to early European settlement. This perspective of looking back arises from the methods used for most of this survey. These methods included tracking recorded deeds, land commission records, wills, chancery records and other historical documents in the Caroline County, Queen Anne's County and Talbot County Circuit Courts, Register of Wills and the Maryland State Archives. Because Caroline County was created in 1774 from portions of Queen Anne's County, created earlier from Talbot County, and Dorchester County, researching land records from before that date required checking at either Queen Anne's or Talbot Counties. Land east of the Tuckahoe River but west of the Choptank River, extending north to the Chester had formerly been part of Talbot County, until Queen Anne's County was established in 1706. Local historical maps, facts, and genealogical data were reviewed at the Talbot County Free Library, the Caroline County Public Library and Maryland State Archives. The Caroline County Historical Society's JOK Walsh and numerous friends and neighbors of the Arboretum provided firsthand insights. Pat Guida, a professional land historian of Caroline County, helped with tracking down primary and secondary sources and introduced me to the Maryland Hall of Records.

Because of the constraints of time and budget, Native American history and archeological evidence were not considered. These are already documented for the Eastern Shore¹ in general, and the Tuckahoe State Park² area in particular.

Where possible, sources have been cited in the text and a companion Annotated Sources list. Many sources in their copied, original or restored forms would be excellent visual references for educational or promotional use by the Arboretum. These have been noted in the Annotated Sources. Other sources were oral. Original tapes of conversations with local neighbors and Caroline County residents long ago are also important research and educational tools and can be incorporated into Arboretum uses.

This exploration is not exhaustive. Much remains to be done to research and document the area's history and, specifically, the impacts over time on the condition of the land today.

Master Plan and Location

Adkins Arboretum is entering a new phase in its development. This year marks the introduction and implementation of a Master Plan, two years in the making. This will cement the Arboretum's administration, design and resources together in a future planned for exciting research, public education and new activities focused on this important repository of our native heritage. The Master Plan also provides important background about the recent history of the arboretum and its creation from Tuckahoe State Park in 1972. Originally planned for 5 acres, the Arboretum grew to 400 acres leased as a nonprofit entity from the State³.

The 1994 lease stipulates 369 acres more or less as a portion of tracts described in four deeds. These parcels were acquired in 1966 during the amalgamation of Tuckahoe State Park. All of these parcels are principally located in Caroline County. The deed research in this survey

¹ An excellent discussion of native American villages, culture and history to post-European settlement on Maryland's Eastern Shore may be found in Helen C. Rountree and Thomas E. Davidson, 1997, *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland*, University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. Other sources on area archeological resources may be in Wilke, Steve and Gail Thompson, 1977. *Prehistoric Archeological Resources in the Maryland Coastal Zone: A Management Overview*. Seattle, WA. This includes resource evaluations by county and includes discussion of environmental influences, such as sea-rise. Another source may be Joe Reinhardt, Mid-Shore Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland.

² At the time of park acquisition, at least one archeological survey was completed: Handsman, K. G. and Christopher L. Borstel, 1974, *Archeological Survey of Tuckahoe State Park*, (Delmarva Clearinghouse for Archeology, Inc.) American University.

³ Andropogon Associates, 1999. (April draft) *Adkins Arboretum Master Plan*. This Plan contains a summary of the institution's history on pp. 12 ff. and explains the lease arrangements by a non-profit entity, initially, Friends of Adkins Arboretum.

examined Caroline County portions of these tracts only, since the Adkins lease is bounded on the west by Tuckahoe Creek. Exhibit A to the lease is a survey map showing parcel boundaries, the river and topography. From north to south, the parcels are: the Downes tract, the Eaton tract, the Towers tract and the Crook tract.

Bett's Range

We can trace most of the Arboretum--land south of Piney Branch--through land records to an original survey dated April 4, 1685 and patented in 1686 by Robert Betts. This rectangular area, called Bett's Range (also Betts his Range, Betts Range, Bettses Range) was 400 acres more or less, extending from the Tuckahoe River east to a division line east of present day Eveland Road. It was part of a warrant for a survey of 1000 acres by William Gaylord of St. Mary's County.⁴ Robert Betts patented and owned other properties in what was then Talbot County. The recorded patent⁵ includes a metes and bounds description:

All that tract or parcell of land called Betts his Range lying in Talbot County on the north side of Choptank River and on the East side of the Maine branch of Tuckahoe Creek and beginning on a marked oake of the land of James Eustis and running up the branch for breadth – norte two hundred perches⁶ to a marked grate white oake by a great branch and from the said oake by a line drawn East for length four hundred and twenty perches and from the end of the East line by a line drawn southe two hundred perches then by a streightline drawn to the first bounded now containing and now laid out for four hundred acres more or less according to the certificate of survey thereof taken and returned into the Land Office at the City of Ste. Marie's.

The annual rent of 16 shillings sterling in silver or gold was to be paid twice a year on the feast days of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michaels.

A boundary description dated 1773⁷ references the survey by Robert Betts in 1685 and

⁴ A warrant for a survey was the first step of three in obtaining rights to land from the Provincial Land Office. A warrant simply approved that a survey could be done, while the survey laid out the metes and bounds description. The patent referenced the survey and established the rental payment and other duties of the patentee.

⁵ Referenced as Robert Betts his Range in Provincial Land Office Records, Index 54, 55, Lieber NS B (MSA S11-35), Folio 340 (Patent) Lieber 33, Folio 230 (Certificate of Survey).

⁶ One perch = 16.5 feet = 1/4 of a Chain of 100 links

⁷ Queen Anne's County Circuit Court Deed Records Lieber RTK, Folio 241 to Daniel Cox, planter, Queen Anne's County from Powell Cox of Kent County Delaware, farmer for 700 pounds current money, 400 acres.

describes the land as on the main branch of Tuckahoe Creek "in the woods". Its beginning was marked by a white oak, original beginning tree, north up the Branch 200 perches to a marked great white oak "by a great Branch and running thence east 320 perches" and then south 200 perches, then straight to beginning, totaling 400 acres.

I suspect the "great Branch" is the confluence of Blockston Branch and Piney Branch at Tuckahoe Creek. Piney Branch shows on area maps from the 19th century as draining from northeast of Ridgely. It is a permanent stream on a USGS 7 ½ minute quadrangle dated 1902. It is the only such stream indicated in the stretch north of Hillsboro to Crouse's Mill Pond.

The 1680s were the beginning of settlement on the Delmarva Peninsula for areas such as the upper Tuckahoe River watershed. Peace of sorts had been made with Native Americans. The Wicomiss who had probably inhabited the area north of the Choptank to the Sassafras had moved south. Tuckahoe Bridge, later Hillsboro, and Choptank Bridge, later Greensboro, were on the Indian trade route to St. John's River, now Dover, and the Delaware Bay. This path became the principal route across the Delmarva from the Talbot County seat at Skipton⁸. James Eustis also patented Vaughn's Kindness, the tract south of Bett's Range, in 1686; south of that, Large Range was patented in 1684⁹. The first Tuckahoe Bridge on the St. Jones Path was located here by 1706 and later moved south to its present location.

From about 1670 to about 1730 on the Eastern Shore tobacco was king. The weed grown here was the Orinoco variety, grown principally for the French who preferred the stronger taste. This market dried up during the French and Indian Wars in the late 1750's. Tobacco may never have been grown in the light, sandier soils as at Bett's Range. The upper Choptank watershed was settled after tobacco had exhausted other lands. In the late 18th century, Caroline was considered the most fertile county on the mid-Shore.

Important crops about 1715 were also English wheat, corn yielding well at 4 to 6 ears on a stalk, beans, "pease", carrots, turnips and potatoes¹⁰. Wheat and bread flour had to be imported from Pennsylvania, especially during the years of heavy tobacco cultivation. Under the same pressure, a Maryland provincial law was passed requiring each farmer to plant at least two acres in corn to maintain local food sources. The main source of meat was hogs, which were allowed free range in the woods. It wasn't until the early 18th century that farmers housed and fed their stock in the winter. Fruits were grown—apples, peaches, pears and cherries, but for brandy and for feeding hogs.

From local forests, farmers harvested sassafras for medicinal use and naval stores. Ship timbers were widely sought after; pitch, tall masts and yards were provided by native loblolly

⁸ JOK Walsh, personal communication, June 1999; Preston, Dickson, 1983 *History of Talbot County*

⁹ Eleanor Horsey, 1981. *Origins of Caroline County, Maryland from Land Plats*, Vol. II, esp. Fig. 3.2. E. A. Christian and D. Price, Denton, MD

¹⁰ Clark, Charles, B., ed. 1950. *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia* 1950.

pinus. Most of this was from forests in the lower Shore. Hemp and flax were encouraged, but the market never gained much of a foothold in Maryland.

Bett's Range was among many land holdings owned by a wealthy Talbot County merchant named Richard Carter of St. Michaels (Miles) River who died in 1708. The 1709 inventory and account of his estate¹¹ reveal little about his landholdings, which were summarized in later deeds. He may have acquired Bett's Range through foreclosure, as his inventory lists numerous debts owed him. Almost certainly Carter never lived at Bett's Range.

Bett's Range and the other holdings passed thence to Carter's three daughters. Subsequent deeds¹² listed Bett's Range with other named lands as "one full undivided third...lately part of the real estate of Richard Carter, late of St. Michaels River in Talbot County, merchant deceased." A deed lists James Hargrave as grandson of Richard Carter, son of Sarah Hargrave who is one of three daughters and co-heirs of Richard Carter. Further, it states that the land to be sold to Robert Goldsborough in 1759 for a sum of 700 pounds lawful money is the whole in three equal parts to be divided. In 1760, Bett's Range was sold with other lands by Robert Goldsborough, gentleman of Talbot, to James Tilghman, another Talbot County notable and attorney at law, for 400 pounds sterling and 20 pounds current money as "one full undivided third". James Tilghman also acquired another undivided third of land from Thomas Cockayne, another heir, in 1762. James Tilghman, formerly of Talbot County, now of Philadelphia, then sold Bett's Range by itself to Powell Cox, planter of Talbot County. In the Indenture dated August 11, 1763¹³, Bett's Range is in Queen Anne's County and is on or near Tuckahoe Creek, "containing by estimation 400 acres to the same more or less together with all improvement thereon". It was sold for 400 pounds current money.

The land record is relatively clear from 1763 to the present. In 1773, Powell Cox, then of Kent County, Delaware sold Bett's Range to Daniel Cox. (Deeds recorded in Queen Anne's County in 1771 and 1772 listed an adjacent tract to Bett's Range called Jump's Practice.) In this 1773 deed, the land included "houses, outhouses, orchards, gardens, fences, woods, underwoods (sic) and waters". It was probably improved at this time even though this appears to be a standardized deed reference.

Daniel Cox's daughter Ann was the second wife of William Hopper, a third generation Queen Anne's County native about whom much has been recorded. Bett's Range of 400 acres is listed among the lands brought by Ann in her marriage to William in 1776¹⁴. Bett's Range was

¹¹ Prerogative Court of Maryland Probate Records, Inventories and Accounts Lieber 30, Folio 257 (MSA S536-38)

¹² Queen Anne's County Circuit Court Deed Records Lieber RTF, Folio 28; Lieber RTF, Folio 78

¹³ Queen Anne's County Circuit Court Deed Records; Lieber RTF, Folio 357

¹⁴ Special Collections, Maryland State Archives; William Hopper (MSA SC1138-682). This special file on William Hopper lists background for the biographical entry in *A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789*, Vol. 1: A-H. Edward C. Papenfuse, Alan F.

also among the lands mortgaged by William Hopper and re-purchased by him in 1803. A 1787 mortgage by William Hopper indicates that Daniel Cox Hopper sold off lands to pay William's debts and, in doing so, Ann releases her right of Dower. While William Hopper increased his land holdings during his lifetime through inheritance from his father (1,028 acres), his first marriage (1,877 acres) and his second marriage (1,713 acres), he claimed insolvency under the Debtor's Act by 1788.

William Hopper of Queen Anne's is at present imprisoned and in actual custody for debts greater than 300 pounds and desires to give up all his real and personal property for ther (sic) payment¹⁵

The trustees of the 4,753 acres, 6 lbs, 14 oz. plate and 59 Negro slaves turned over were Henry Downes, Jr. and Phillip Fiddeman of Caroline County.

William Hopper was a farmer and merchant who represented Caroline County in the Caroline Resolutions of 1774 and the Maryland Convention in 1775. The Caroline Resolutions represented the Maryland sentiment, particularly in an area of the country removed from the hotbeds of patriotic activity, for resolving differences with Great Britain. Local farmers and merchants preferred instead to avoid an embargo, but would support one should it become necessary. He was also a Queen Anne's County justice and trustee for the poor and a Caroline County sheriff. Later a Colonel in the Caroline County Militia, he was criticized to have "qualms of sickness" in battle in a letter written to Governor Johnson after the Battle of Germantown in 1777¹⁶. Hopper was later elected to the Maryland Lower House in 1780 through 1783

Two documents at this time reveal important data about the condition of Bett's Range and its neighbors: a 1798 federal tax record and a 1790 Caroline County Land Commission record. A federal tax assessed in 1798¹⁷ confirms that a house and five outbuildings existed at Bett's Range in Tuckahoe Hundred. The farm was 398 acres, assessed as agricultural land at \$1,061.30, while the 2-acre dwelling lot was assessed separately at \$110. These divisions of house lots from agricultural land were made when the dwellings were valued greater than \$100. The owner was listed as William Hopper who did not live at that time on the farm; the tenant was Hynson Glanding. Interestingly, even at this time, agricultural assessments were used for farmland.

The frame dwelling was 34' x 14' with one window 36" x 20".¹⁸The outbuildings were:

Day, David W. Jordan and Gregory A. Stiverson, eds.

¹⁵ Dated February 4, 1788 in Insolvent Debtor Books, 1788, cited in Special Collections (MSA SC1138-682)

¹⁶ *A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789*, Vol. 1: A-H, pp.461-462. Edward C. Papenfuse, Alan F. Day, David W. Jordan and Gregory A. Stiverson, eds

¹⁷ 1798 Federal Tax rolls, Caroline County, Tuckahoe Hundred

¹⁸ Pat Guida agreed with me that it is unusual to have one window in a house of this size. Since taxes were assessed on the basis of windows, I think that William Hopper got a tax break from

a 12 square smokehouse, a 12 square kitchen, a 16' x 8' corn house, a 20' x 16' barn and an "old logg house, 16' x 14'".

At the same time, Henry Downes, Jr., the Hillsborough patriarch and heir of the Baynard family holdings, was residing in the brick house in Hillsborough and owned Baynard's Large Range Addition¹⁹ located south of Bett's Range. At Large Range, there was a 26' x 16' dwelling with 3 windows, 48" x 28" D' 36 by 16, kitchen 20 by 16, () house 16 by 11, corn house 16 by 10, stable 20 by 15, carriage house 16 by 9 and smokehouse 11 by 11.

Bett's Range was re-surveyed by a Caroline County Land Commission in 1790²⁰. Land Commissions were ad hoc appointees of the County Circuit Court, usually to settle disputes. Vaughn's Kindness now had at least four owners who with Henry Downes, Jr., and William Hopper, owner of Bett's Range, applied for a commission to mark and bound their respective parts of land. Hynson Glanding was a chain carrier during the survey. Metes and bounds for Bett's Range were listed twice: the initial survey was 525 acres for a tract 420 perches west to east. It was shortened to 320 perches and contained 400 acres.

William and Ann Hopper sold Bett's Range to Henry Downes, Jr., in 1805 shortly before William's death in November 1806. They are described as farmers in the 1805 deed. Downes paid 945 pounds current money, to be paid in full before transfer, for the tract called Bett's Range on the east side of Tuckahoe Creek, marked by a white oak at corner also of the tract called Vaughn's Kindness²¹, the NE corner at stone placed by the land commission in 1790, totaling 360 acres "together with all houses, improvements, wood, ways, waters, privileges, advantages and appurtenances, etc."

William Hopper and Henry Downes Jr. both signed the pledge by all free male inhabitants called the Oath of Fidelity in 1778²². They were also the first trustees of Ebenezer Chapel, the first Methodist Episcopal Church in Hillsborough 1797²³. Downes was the Clerk to the Caroline County citizens who passed the Caroline Resolutions favoring discontinuance of commercial trade with Great Britain in 1774. Like Hopper, Downes was also a third generation farmer who served with the Maryland Lower House, and was a Caroline County justice, sheriff and tax assessor among other positions. His life and his family are well documented.²⁴

his trustee, Henry Downes, Jr. who was tax assessor.

¹⁹ See Horsey, especially Fig. 3.5.

²⁰ Caroline County Court Land Commission Record, 1774-1793 Lieber GFA, Folio 317 (MSA C521-1)

²¹ Horsey in Fig. 3.4 and 3.5 shows the relative locations of land holdings by William Hopper and Henry Downes, which later formed Hillsborough.

²² Caroline County Circuit Court Land Records Lieber A, Folio 1267

²³ Caroline County Circuit Court Land Records Lieber D, Folio 65

²⁴ See Horsey's chapter on Hillsborough and Papenfuse et al., *A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789*, Vol. 1: A-H, pp.280-281.

Henry Downes, Jr.'s 1816 will and codicil transferred Bett's Range to his great granddaughter, Caroline Sellers who, with her husband Wade Hampton, sold the land to John Green of Caroline County in 1837. From Powell Cox in 1763 to John Green in 1837, Bett's Range had probably been cleared, farmed and improved with one residence, first a log cabin and then a frame house by 1798. In 1798, the log cabin was considered an accessory structure without glass windows, possibly used for housing farm workers.

In 1798, during a visit to the Eastern Shore, a British farmer observed that corn and wheat were the area's main crops. Rye was grown where soils were too poor for wheat. Crops would be rotated in a four-year cycle of corn, wheat, then 2 years fallow. Wheat might yield 5-10 bushels an acre. This could be improved with manuring, but there was insufficient straw grown to produce manure. Both corn and wheat were prone to decimation by Hessian fly.²⁵

On the Eastern Shore, this period, peaking about 1800, was the Atlantic wheat boom, during which the European market, upset by the Napoleonic wars, demanded Eastern wheat. After about 1830, when canals to the American mid-West opened and production practices changed, Eastern wheat was no longer in such great demand. Prices tumbled from about \$2.50 to \$.75 per bushel²⁶.

Especially in Dorchester and Talbot, the 1830's had been the time of the Mulberry (*Morus multicaulis*) craze²⁷ during which white mulberry shoots were imported from South Seas islands. Hundreds of thousands of seedlings were speculated on, sold and planted. Many silk companies were chartered, including one in Easton at Mulberry Hill. The silkworm mania seized everyone; farmers planted their fields, townspeople put in gardens. The Easton newspaper estimated in 1839 that 100,000 trees were planted within 1 mile of town. The County fair had a domestic silk section. It was all over by the summer of 1841; farmers planted their fields back in wheat and corn.

Also during the Colonial Period and early Industrial Revolution, trees and forests on the Eastern Shore were burned for charcoal to supply fuel for iron furnaces. These processed pig iron; there was a furnace at Pig Point, which later became Denton.²⁸

The Green land

John Green, farmer of Caroline County and his wife Rebecca had several young children before husband and wife died within two months of each other in 1844. The eldest, Foster

²⁵ See Clark, 1950 pp. 486ff.

²⁶ JOK Walsh, personal communication. See also numerous references on local agricultural history, including Dickson Preston, *History of Talbot County*.

²⁷ See Dickson Preston, *History of Talbot County*, JOK Walsh, personal communication

²⁸ JOK Walsh, personal communication

Green, was 19. His sisters and brothers ranged from 16 to younger than 8, including the baby James. Foster Green continued to farm the land with his siblings, providing necessary care, clothing and schooling. In the meantime, Rebecca Green's father, William Price of Queen Anne's County may have purchased the land from John Green and subsequently willed it to his daughter. Mary (Green) Fountain also sold 22.75 acres, a part of "Hay Marsh Farm" near the river. In any case, in 1866 the surviving husband of Foster's sister Henrietta sued Foster Green and some of the other siblings in the name of her two sons. This case provides detailed information about the land and its residents for the period 1844 to 1872²⁹.

The estate was valued at \$4,267.66, after the land was sold at auction in 1874. In 1873, for a cost of \$41.00, J. F. Bateman prepared a survey plat that exists in the docket and was copied into the docket record. It shows adjacent owners, the parcel sold to James Fountain, the locations of the property boundaries, the proposed new county road, Tuckahoe Creek swamp and bank, a woods-line and a house.

At settlement of the case, Foster Green claimed rents of \$150/year for the periods 1845-1865 and 1865-1874 plus simple interest at about 9% per year. This was deducted from the total account. Deducted also were \$80 in costs for erecting a stable and \$50 for re-shingling the roof of the house. In 1866, the crops grown were corn and rye.

The property was initially offered in September 1873 as two separate parcels and advertised in the *Denton Record* and *Easton Star-Democrat*. The display ad of Sept. 20, 1873 refers to a

farm or plantation lying and being on the east side of Tuckahoe Creek in the Third Election District of Caroline county, whereon Foster Green now resides, being part of a tract of land called "Bett's Range" and containing the quantity of 378 1/4 acres of land, more or less.

This property lies within two and half miles of the village of Hillsborough and adjoins the lands of William Connolly, Jr. the late Philip Mulikin, and others. It is convenient to schools, churches, mills and Railroad Depot. The improvements are a frame dwelling house, and the requisite farm buildings, in fair condition. The soil is a first class light loam, responding kindly and promptly to cultivation and is excellent for corn, trucking and fruits.³⁰

The two parcels were to be divided so that all the improvements were with one parcel. No offers of sufficient value were made, so another sale was to be held April 7, 1874, also to be

²⁹ Caroline County Circuit Court Chancery Docket Lieber JWT 3, Folio 51, Case #5 and Chancery Record, Lieber 6, Folio 124. The case was opened April 3, 1866, and complaints entered Mary 5, 1866.

³⁰ *Denton Record*, September 20, 1873

advertised. At that sale, the land sold for the high bid to Richard C. Carter.

During the dispute, Foster Green mortgaged³¹ the land and his belongings to his young brother James who later agreed to turn his portion of the estate's proceeds over to Foster. This 1870 record lists information about Foster Green's farming activities. The bill to James Green for \$1100, James Thomas Brown, \$800 and Albert J. Brown, \$300 lists:

land adjoining William Connelly, Sr., Rev. G. W. Ridgely, known as "Hay Marsh", "Bett's Range" 300 acres more or less, and

1 bay mare
1 grey mare
1 bay horse
1 sorrel colt, 3 years old
2 bay colts, 2 years old
1 bay colt, 1 year old
1 white cow
1 red heifer
1 speckled bull
1 red yearling
4 brood sows
15 pigs
1 barrow
4 shoats
3 double plows
1 patuxent plow
3 listing plows
1 horse cart
1 york carriage and new set of harness
1 wheat (faro)
all crop of wheat, rye (?) and corn now growing on tract
1 lot old blades
1 lot bacon (supposed to be 400 lbs)

The complainants also alleged that

Foster Green is selling a large quantity of timber and trees, white oak and hickory and that he is cutting and has cut or is permitting and have permitted to be cut, is hauling or intends to permit or allow to be hauled off said lands and premises a large lot of spokes, white and hickory that he has destroyed and is destroying or is suffering the same to be done by his agents or employees all the valuable trees and timber on about 30 acres.

³¹ Caroline County Circuit Court Land Records, Lieber 33, Folio 553.

Furthermore, the destruction of timber would greatly reduce the value of the real estate. There was now cut and remaining "a large lot of spokes, timber and wood which is quite valuable". An injunction was brought in 1869 which states Mr. Green was still cutting a large amount of wood, timber and spokes "which is destroying and depreciating, has already destroyed and depreciated the real value of said real estate to the great and irreparable injury of your petitioners". He had cut 30 acres since the beginning of proceedings: "did fell, cut down and destroy said timber and said timberland and did convert said timber so cut to his own use, and did turn said timber land into waste land and pasture land."

With the sale of the land at auction in 1874 to Richard C. Carter, a local prosperous landowner, the Green family left Bett's Range.

Fruits and Vegetables

The deed³² to Richard C. Carter dated April 24, 1876 states that by decree of circuit court dated March 3, 1872 in the case of George E. Ford and others, complainants against Foster Green and others the trustees sold all of tract known as Bell's (sic) Range. It was described as: beginning by a sycamore tree standing on the east side of Tuckahoe Creek, running with the division fence separating Bells Range from the property of John Nichols...to land binding with Ridgeley...to fence binding on Connolly...to an oak standing at foot of fence thence to Tuckahoe Creek, thence with meanderings of creek to sycamore tree at beginning. It totaled 398.75 acres, less 22 more or less acres sold by William Price to James L. Fountain.

The 1860 Census reported that orchard and dairy products were increasing on the Eastern Shore. In Caroline County, rye and sweet potatoes were large crops. Over 61,100 acres were now cleared. In 1863 bargains in land at \$10 to \$25 an acre were available³³.

With the new public county road built in 1878 from Hillsborough to Bradleysburg³⁴, surveyed through lands of Foster Green, John W. Nichols and John E. Starkey, the land was subdivided into parcels on either side and during the next 30 years further subdivided. Maps of Caroline County published in 1897³⁵ and 1875³⁶ help to confirm landowners and the probable

³²Caroline County Circuit Court Land Records, Lieber 38, Folio 172

³³ See Clark, 1950.

³⁴ Bradleysburg was north of what became Jumptown on what is now Crouse Mill Road. The road, which was referred to as the Hillsboro-Jumptown Road in later deeds, is now Eveland Road.

³⁵M. L. Saulsbury, Engineer, Map of Caroline County, 1897 (color) from traced, certified copy of original by George Herbert Fooks, 1969.

locations of houses and roads. A USGS 7 ½ minute topographic quadrangle (Denton quadrangle), surveyed 1902-1904³⁷ shows that south of Piney Branch, there were 3 houses fronting on Eveland Road on land which is now part of the Arboretum. A fourth is about ¼ mile west of the road and north of the intermittent creek that originates on the original Bett's Range parcel. Piney Branch is a permanent stream.

In one deed³⁸ dated December 27, 1897 from John Lynch to Cora Callahan for 26.5 acres valued at \$600, John Lynch reserved his strawberry crop of 1898 and his right to harvest it. He also agreed to "leave the strawberry patch in as good condition as is customary when the fruit has been gathered". Cora Callahan agreed to "protect said strawberry crop from any damage to be committed by her domestic fowl's (sic) or poultry".

As before, many deeds contain boundary descriptions that use marked trees. One example is land described to the north of Foster Green's farm, which later transferred to the Eaton parcel, north of Piney Branch. The 140 acres were transferred to Polly Covert by John W. Nichols³⁹ in May 1878 for \$1600 and is adjacent to John E. Starkey and Foster Green. It begins with a "marked Beach (sic) tree on East side of Tuckahoe Creek", (with) original lines of farm conveyed by Harry Le McKnell to John W. Nichols and with lines of Foster Green in easterly direction to new county road from Hillsborough to Bradleysburg. Another corner is on "red oak stump on east side of Tuckahoe Creek". This red oak stump likewise appears in the earlier deed. Another example is the relatively recent transfer of the Towers parcel to the State of Maryland in 1966, which references a 36" white oak at a corner near the field edge on the north side. Corner marker trees in the Tuckahoe Creek area include Berch (birch or beech), willow, red and white oaks, and sycamore.

The 1870's saw the rise of Eastern Shore farmers' fortunes based on truck crops shipped to the Philadelphia and Baltimore markets. Shortly afterwards, many local canneries were established which processed fruits and tomatoes. The first canning boom was about 1895-1905. The era peaked in 1919 after World War I⁴⁰ but continued until the Second World War.

³⁶John B. Isler, 1875, County Map of Caroline County, Library of Congress MdHR G1213-459 from copy in Caroline County Library.

³⁷From a privately compiled "Atlas" of USGS maps in collection at the Talbot County Library

³⁸Caroline County Circuit Court Land Records, Lieber 63, Folio 473.

³⁹Caroline County Circuit Court Land Records, Lieber 36, Folio 314.

⁴⁰JOK Walsh, personal communication; The Easton *Star-Democrat* in covering the closing June 1999 of the John N. Wright cannery in Federalsburg wrote: "Living in pre-1950 Caroline County, you would have known several dozen people who might have had a hand in producing that can of tomatoes-and you might have been one of them!" According to the article, Saulsbury Brothers of Ridgely, started in 1894, got out of the canning business in 1957 and now specializes in frozen foods. It also cites R. Lee Burton, Jr., *Canneries on the Eastern Shore*, Cambridge which lists 223 canneries which opened between 1875 and 1960.

Charles Jarrell, who operated the Queen Anne cannery, owned much of the land in the area, including the parcel north of Piney Branch that later was the Eaton parcel. He acquired this land through foreclosure⁴¹ from Calvin and Sadie M. Haltman for \$11,000 in 1919. The Haltmans had purchased at least 7 parcels of varying acreage from various owners. William F. Jackson and Sallie F. Jackson also mortgaged 90 acres of land south of Piney Branch for \$2,270 to Jarrell⁴² who collected after default. Jarrell owned over 1,000 acres of peach and apple orchards in the Hillsboro-Queen Anne area.⁴³

A glance through the newspapers of the 1870s and 1890s shows a wide market for local fruits and vegetables. For the spring of 1873, Choptank Nurseries advertised 1-3 year old apple trees, 30 varieties, also 30 varieties of peaches free of the Jersey yellows, a virus which spread through peach orchards by limb clipping⁴⁴. Orange quinces, pears, Hewes Virginia Cider Crab apples, cherries, plums, apricots, evergreens and ornamentals were also offered. Raspberries, blueberries, whortleberries, gooseberries and many other small fruits were prevalent.

Bradley's Mill may have been an earlier name for what is now called Crouse's Mill or another close by. A mill is supposed to have been in the area since before 1800. The Bradleys were considered to be prominent residents; their burial ground is in the old Starkey farm, part of which later belonged to the Downes family and was acquired for Tuckahoe State Park and Adkins Arboretum. Following the Bradleys were the Jumps. Abraham Jump supported the Methodist Episcopal church in what was later called Jumptown. A school was also established; the County School Board appointed trustees in 1865 and the name changed to Furman's Grove in 1888⁴⁵.

Several German families from Pennsylvania settled not far from the church in Jumptown. Most of their houses were logs thatched with mud. They grew, cut and stripped basket willow from wet meadows on what was probably Piney Branch, operated a cigar factory with tobacco shipped from the South, and, made cider and syrup. Many of the family names show on the 1875 and 1897 maps of the area.

Joyce Zeigler and her family who grew up at Crouse's Mill remember the farming community in the area from the early 20th century⁴⁶. Her grandfather's family moved from

⁴¹ Caroline County Circuit Court Mortgage Records Lieber LBT 19, Folio 554.

⁴² Caroline County Circuit Court Mortgage Records Lieber 21, Folio 199. 1921

⁴³ The Saathoff farm purchased in 1971 from the Jarrells and adjacent land south of Hillsboro on the Tuckahoe River still contains relict peach and apple orchards according to Alfred Saathoff, personal communication June 22, 1999; also, M/M Barton, personal communication July 9, 1999.

⁴⁴ JOK Walsh, personal communication

⁴⁵ compiled information from the teachers and pupils of the Ridgely School, 1920 in *History of Caroline County, Maryland From its Beginning*

⁴⁶ Joyce Ziegler, personal communication July 1, 1999. According to Cindy Berkey, an interview tape of Clifton Crouse is filed with the State Historian in Annapolis.

Bucks County, PA with the Church of the Brethren to "establish a church and farm without rocks". Daniel Crouse owned and operated the mill on Tuckahoe Creek from 1903 to 1924. Neighbors brought corn and wheat to the mill, which also specialized in buckwheat grown on the Crouse farm. The milldam was destroyed by a flood in 1924 and never replaced. Daniel's son Clifton Crouse also owned a thresher machine during the 1930s and would rent out to local farms. Mrs. Zeigler remembers that Austin Eaton would come to work for her father, Mr. Crouse. Tuckahoe State Park's Ranger Ray Bivens is currently working on an agricultural history exhibit, and has information about the Crouse family.

*Want his
info
about
included?*
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Mr. and Mrs. Barton of Springbrook Farm on Starr Road recall that their farm was purchased in 1851 for about \$10/acre. Strawberries had been grown on the farm as for many in the area. Soils in the Tuckahoe Neck had always been light, too light for tobacco when that was the cash crop. The front field was a peach orchard until the 1920s. According to Mr. Barton, Mr. Bill Cooper grew up on a farm now located in Tuckahoe State Park. His father operated a sawmill and hauled timber with horses to Queen Anne.

Tuckahoe State Park

In the 1960s, radical change was proposed for Tuckahoe Creek north of Hillsboro and Queen Anne. Senators Bob Dean from Queen Anne's County and Harry Hughes from Caroline⁴⁷ spurred appropriations approval from the Maryland General Assembly for creating Tuckahoe State Park. If a dam were built at a narrow part of the river at Hillsboro, it would flood about 1,200 acres, proposed a park proponent. This would create a huge recreational area for inland Caroline County. The State began to acquire farms in the area. The farms that later became Adkins Arboretum were acquired in fee in 1966-1967. Other farms were leased. The park area grew to about 4,000 acres.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR, 1978) itemized buildings that existed on the parklands during the late 1970s. Each structure was listed with a potential preservation score that was based on building date, style, design origin, history, rarity, structural integrity and importance to the local context. A DNR score included condition, integrity, accessibility and interpretability. Most structures present on the Adkins site were not scored however.

The Towers parcel contained nine structures including a dwelling, silo and three barns, all razed in February 1975. On the Downes parcel, there were more than twenty structures, although some of these may have been located north of the current Adkins Arboretum lease boundary line. Among those structures were a house, pump house, toilet, an outside wash and shower, chicken coop, and numerous barns and storage sheds. These structures were destroyed in March 1977.

⁴⁷ Governor Harry Hughes, personal communication, September 30, 1999

The Eaton house, built in the early 20th century, had a minimal preservation value score and was in average condition as rated by DNR. It was later torn down. There was also an outhouse and a sawmill. None of these was considered to have architectural or historical significance.

The park's Plan summarized its findings:

Tuckahoe State Park, located in both Queen Anne and Caroline Counties along Tuckahoe Creek, contains 3500 acres of wooded marshlands and rich farmlands. Recreational facilities such as camping, fishing and boating are the primary emphasis of the park. Attempts should be made, however, to insure that these facilities are developed in harmony with, not at the expense of, the few remaining farmsteads in the area. The Morris and Crouse Farms represent the typical past and present day dwellings of rural Queen Anne and Caroline Counties. For that reason, they are architecturally of local significance.

If these structures cannot be properly maintained under the current Department of Natural Resources rental program, then it is recommended that these two properties be returned to private ownership with restrictive easements placed on each parcel of land to prevent the possibility of land development inconsistent with Tuckahoe State Park's Master Plan.

An early park master plan showed a large lake that was to be formed north of Crouse Mill Road (Scheme C, dated October 1972). Three smaller ponds/lakes were also to be created.

On the Queen Anne side of Tuckahoe Creek there was a pond proposed opposite the present day arboretum. Between, an environmental interpretation area and an elevated walkway to a bald cypress destination area in the river floodplain were designated. An area with presumably high ground was dubbed a "desert island. In the arboretum area, Blockston Branch was to be flooded. Also on the Caroline side, south of the Visitors' Center, a lake flooding the stream from the Tuckahoe to Eveland Road was to include a day-use beach and picnicking areas.

The large lake was subsequently downsized in a later plan dated February 6, 1975. The other ponds were to remain as designed. This plan shows proposed trail loops at the arboretum and retains a walkway across the river and its floodplain⁴⁸.

The Tuckahoe Oak

The controversy over the original park design with three lakes, the largest of which was to flood

⁴⁸ The drawings in the form of drafts and sketches, the building inventory and plan recommendations were found at the Tuckahoe State Park Office.

the "Tuckahoe Oak", was summarized in Dickson Preston's article for American Forestry Association's magazine, *American Forests* (September 1973). This article states that members of the Maryland Conservation Council were instrumental in publicizing the controversy. Articles were written for the *Caroline County Record*, *Easton Star-Democrat* and *Queen Anne's Record Observer*. *The Baltimore Sun* carried an article written by Mary Corrdry on May 1, 1973. King Burnett, attorney in Salisbury, acted for the tree's defense. According to Preston, once the oak was designated a National Champion, "supporters of the lake plan started beating a hasty retreat".

The *Baltimore Sun* reported that the giant champion, presumed to be a swamp white oak, stood in the way of the 3 mile long, 360-acre recreational lake to be created at Tuckahoe Park. Conservationists had rallied opposition to the flooding and hoped that national champion status would be enough to deter the state from completing its plans. The Maryland Forest Service's Earl Yingling measured the oak to be 21 feet, 5 inches in girth at breast height, 118 feet high and 116 feet of crown spread. "There is no doubt that it is not only a state champion, but the national champion swamp white oak". However, the tree could not survive the five feet or more of lake water expected to collect behind the proposed dam at Crouse Mill Road.

Summary and Conclusion

This project offered an intimate glimpse of Caroline County history as lived on the land at Adkins Arboretum. Most of the land there was originally patented in 1686, when demand for farmland on the Shore was high. Even if the land were not cleared at that time to plant corn and tobacco, it was probably cleared by 1773 and a log house built⁴⁹—the same house that was itemized in a 1798 tax assessment. In that year, a sizeable wood frame house and outbuildings were already present, indicating a working farm of moderate means. At that time, again, demand for farmland was high as Eastern Shore-grown wheat was shipped to feed Napoleon's armies. During the following economic downturn, while sons were migrating west and Eastern Shore counties were losing population, the farm at Adkins supported a young family with its crops of corn, rye and wheat.

In the woods during the early years, hogs and later cows probably ranged free; later they may have been penned while horses were stabled. The woods were cut for income. By the time barrel staves and wheel spokes were cut, probably as young hickory sprouts, many of the larger white and red oaks had also been cut. Trees that marked early boundaries were supplanted by sycamore and beech as the more desirable species were cut.

The soils were considered by local farmers to be light, highly suited for vegetables and

⁴⁹ Log houses are thought to have been introduced to the Caroline County area through easy trade over the Chesapeake /Delaware Bays river portage system by Swedish settlers in Delaware JOK Walsh, personal communication and Clark, 1950.

fruits, especially during the peak years following the Civil War when canneries escalated demand. Many new families moved into the area, creating new cottage industries and continuing old traditions. A public road running from Hillsboro north to the mill and church opened the farm during this time to subdivision and land speculation, although speculation had already occurred more than a century before.

The fate of this farm on Tuckahoe Creek changed dramatically when it became part of the 4,000 acres targeted for recreation and land preservation at the newly created Tuckahoe State Park. Its proponents saw what had already drawn generations to the Tuckahoe's banks and they hoped to attract a new breed of visitor.

At the Arboretum, in its mission of education, research and action, there is an opportunity to illustrate this area's special heritage. As visitors walk the trails and view the exhibits, I hope they will also see how the land has changed and is constantly renewed. Adkins Arboretum shows us that our biological community always has people in its midst.

