

# **A Short History**

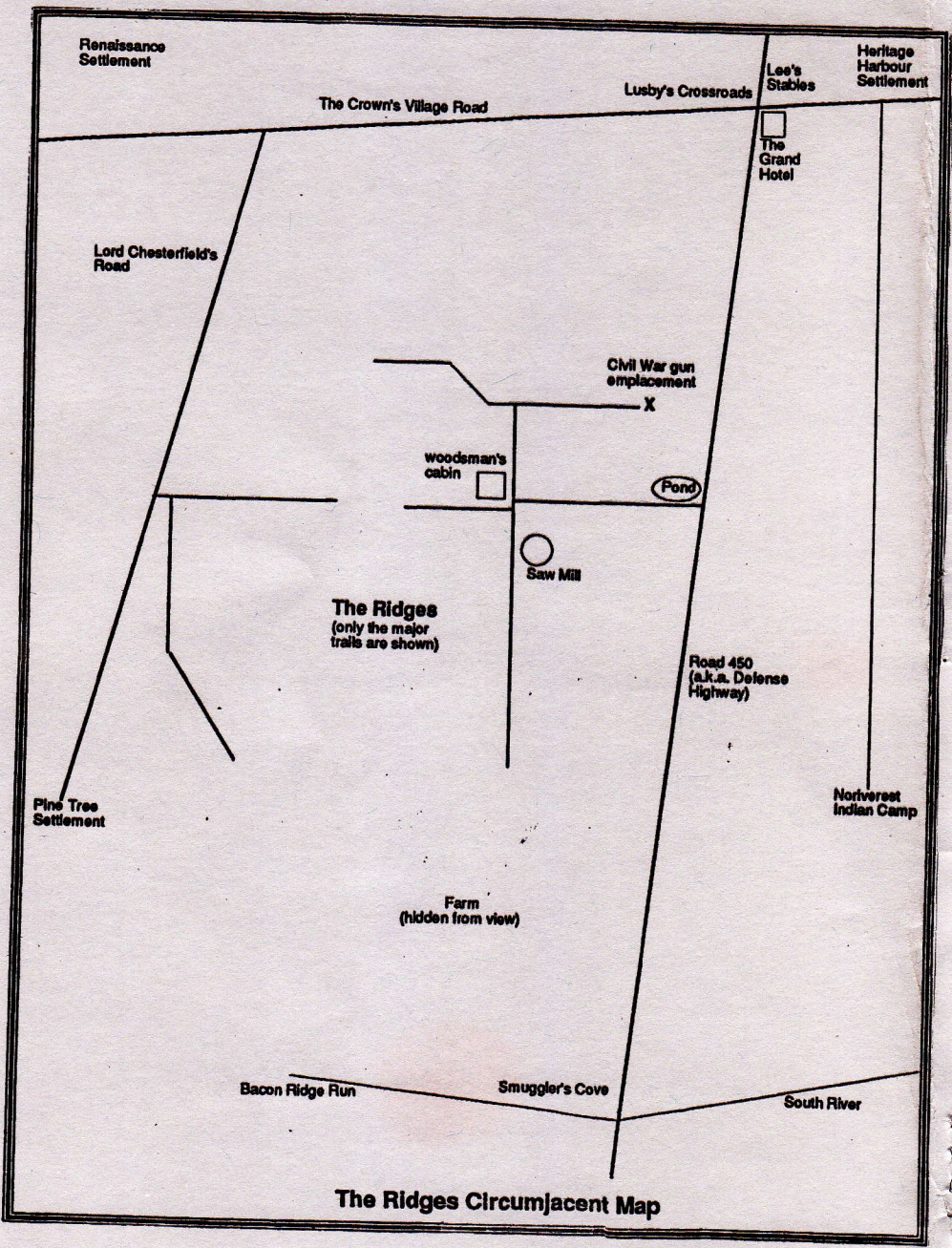
**By**

**The Ridges at Annapolis Community Association**

**Welcoming Committee**

**Olde Bay Rum Publishers**





Renaissance Settlement

The Crown's Village Road

Lusby's Crossroads

Lee's Stables

Heritage Harbour Settlement

Lord Chesterfield's Road

The Grand Hotel

Civil War gun emplacement  
X

woodeman's cabin

Pond

Saw Mill

The Ridges  
(only the major trails are shown)

Road 450  
(a.k.a. Defense Highway)

Pine Tree Settlement

Norivest Indian Camp

Farm  
(hidden from view)

Bacon Ridge Run

Smuggler's Cove

South River

The Ridges Circumjacent Map

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A Short History**

**By  
The Ridges at Annapolis Community Association  
Welcoming Committee**

**The Welcoming Committee wishes  
to thank all those residents who  
contributed so graciously to the  
preparation of this history.**

**December 1992  
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**Old Bay Rum Publishers**

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case of critical articles and reviews.**

## A "Hystery" of the Ridges

by a Resident of Renown

Many people may feel that history is boring,  
an attitude we think this booklet defies,  
We trust that you will be able to tell  
the truth from the little white lies.

The Authors stretched some facts,  
so it was left to a worry wart like me,  
to introduce this hysterical accounting  
to ensure that none of this offends thee.

Of course, we are not the very first  
to stretch The Ridges truth at all.  
Telling prospective buyers that The Ridges  
is in Annapolis, is in itself quite tall.

We finally got the tennis court  
that was used to peddle new lots.  
And, thanks to our first RACA Board,  
there is a playground for the tots.

The Board of nine must be in this book.  
They helped get us to where we are.  
They wrestle with the rules and covenants  
in ways some often thought bizarre.

We have battled Gypsy moths and builders,  
and held block parties and annual meetings.  
Now many owners decorate their homes  
to send everyone their seasons' greeting.

So now you can read the dates right here,  
for several of the houses "that Jack built."  
And, no, for butchering Mother Goose rhymes,  
I do not feel any pain or guilt.

The Ridges is a fantastic place  
Our residents have passed the test.  
We have matured as a community,  
and now we are the area's best.

So sit back and enjoy your history.  
Forget the covenants and think clear.  
If we hadn't come from where we were,  
we surely would not be here.

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## **The Ridges at Annapolis A Short History**

**This History has been Reviewed and Approved by  
the Maryland Hysterical Society**

**Residents of The Ridges at Annapolis may submit suitable  
scholarly additions for this History**

### **The Origins**

This history of The Ridges at Annapolis is inextricably tied to the very beginnings of the present city of Annapolis or Annapolis Towne as it has been called for over 340 years. In fact, the land on which The Ridges is located more than once played an important part in the development of Annapolis Towne. At one time, this land was the dividing line between warring factions that almost destroyed the thriving seaport of Annapolis Towne. The warring factions finally resolved their differences, and the land where The Ridges now sits became a no-man's land. This in part, accounts for the pristine condition of the land today. At another time, the land was ---, but that is getting ahead of the story.

The first settlement at what is now Annapolis Town was founded in 1649 by ten Puritan families migrated from Virginia. These first settlers started their village, a homely collection of mud huts, on land next to the Severn River in what was then the newly formed Anne Arundel County. The count was named after the wife of the second Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert, one of the founders of the Maryland colony. The original sites was called Providence on Greenbury Point, which is now the site of the Naval station. This settlement was later called the town at Proctor's after Robert Proctor who purchased it in 1657. In 1649, what is downtown Annapolis today was

known as Todd's Landing, having been purchased by Thomas Todd who established it as a tobacco-shipping port. The Ridges was still just a wild piece of property on the main road leading west out of Annapolis towards the small shipping port of Bladensburg on the Anacostia River.

In 1664, Hockley-In-The-Hole was established by a Patent dated August 25, 1664. The land grant was to Edward Joshua, and John Dorsey, sons of Edward Dorsey who settled in Maryland in 1650. The Patent was signed by Charles Calvert, then Lieutenant General, and later third Lord Baltimore. This Plantation has been the homestead of the Dorseys for over 328 years. Since it was a Patent property, the Hockley-In-The Hole Plantation was not affected by the Great Land Grab that occurred some 41 years later in 1704. However, vast tracts of land around and within Annapolis Towne were, and the lands of The Ridges were contested by many sides; but more about that later.

In 1691, the original Calvert Charter was annulled and Maryland was declared a royal colony. This had the predicable result of dividing the settlers into the Royalists and the Homerulers (who later moved to another enclave up the Potomac River and have been causing trouble there ever since).

In 1694, the Maryland Assembly voted to move the capital from St. Mary's to Anne Arundel Towne as Annapolis Towne was called then. Needless to say, this once again caused animosities between Anglicans, Puritans, and Catholics and also resulted in further divisions between the Royalists and the Homerulers; and a microcosm of "America" was beginning to form. The far-reaching impact of this action on The Ridges was not to be felt for many years.

In 1695 (some remember it as 1694) Anne Arundel Town was

renamed Annapolis after Princess Anne, the sister of Queen Mary, but many settlers, in a first show of defiance to the Crown, called it Annapolis Town, a name some still use today.

In 1697, there were some 40 homes in Annapolis Towne as well as a church, the state house and a school, but the development of The Ridges into a viable community was still some 280 years away -- due in part to the rigid set of covenants and restrictions which had been established on this property.

### **The Nearapolitans**

As Annapolis Towne became larger and more established, more and more settlers were drawn to it. The original settlers of Annapolis Towne called themselves Annapolitans. However, these early settlers were a clannish lot and did not accept newcomers with open arms. As new settler arrived, they were either accepted into the towne depending on their economic or political status or were forced to locate elsewhere according to their age or beliefs. Since these new settlers were allowed to settle near Annapolis, there were soon called Nearapolitans. Because of the rugged terrain of The Ridges, none of Nearapolitans chose to settle there. This was fortunate for us, as otherwise this might be the history of some other small Annapolis Towne subdivision.

On the road leading south out of Lusby's Crossroads to a haven past the Indian encampment of Norinvest, a large community of elderly Nearapolitans soon established their own harbour on adjacent riverfront lands. These elderly, empty-nester Nearapolitans brought with them the old ways as the Heritage Nearapolitans and their community was soon called the Heritage Harbour Settlement. Because The Ridges was nearly impassable, none of these elderly Nearapolitans gave it a second look.



Other Nearapolitans had unconventional views on lifestyles and were banned to the outlying pine forest where they could practice their *in puris naturalibus* lifestyle without disturbing the more genteel life of the Annapolitans. The members of this community were known as the Naturalibus Nearapolitans or nature lovers and their settlement became known as the Pine Tree Settlement. Their lifestyle caught the fancy of a growing number of settlers and new camps soon began appearing up and down the coast; these Nature Camps even had their own newsletter called the SunShine News Runner. Some say that the first editor of The Ridge Runner spent a lot of time in the Pine Tee Settlement, but these statements were made more out of envy than any regard for the naked truth.

### **The Great Land War**

To handle all the claims. Lawyers from the surrounding villages and hamlets converged on Annapolis Towne. In fact, the Great Land War had become so great a battle that lawyers from as far as Philadelphia were attracted to the fight. As more and more Philadelphia Lawyers entered the fray, the phrase "see you in court" changed from a polite greeting between friends to a sinister by-word which soon spread throughout the land. Every issue, no matter how small, would result in a "I'll see you in court!" charge from one settler against another. The Philadelphia Lawyers wasted no efforts in promoting these petty quarrels over technicalities and soon their very name became an approbrious term and remains so today.

Since some claims seemed to take forever to be resolved, some would-be land owners took to leaving some of their possessions and wagons on contested property and "adverse possession" became another hotly debated tactic. One of the most successful possession claims is still under dispute today, as descendants of the ribald Renaissance Settlers come back to the

area each year for eight weeks to re-establish their claim over the playing fields along Crown's Village Road.

In 1707, after most of land claims were settled, Annapolis Towne was designated as a port of entry and became a major shipping center for manufactured articles and luxury goods from abroad and from the flourishing farms in the area exports such as tobacco, wheat, and silver queen corn. The most well know farm in the area was Fairview Farms, located in the small village of Davidsonville, and owned by William (the Farmer) Fromenhertz. Fairview Farms not only provided produce for export and the local markets, but also for some of the less fortunate county residents. Bill was easily recognized in his L.L. Beam Bib Overalls, and even today, some say, Old Bill (or Willie as he was known by all the girls) can still be seen riding his International Harvester tractor around the fields.

In 1755, some 83,000 gallons of rum were imported into Annapolis Towne, and, contrary to popular belief, not all of it was destined for 613 Woodsman's Way, the home of the infamous highwayman and bootlegger, Robert Vanderfliet. According to available photographic records, Vanderfliet designed and built the first portable, biodegradable outhouse. On moonlit nights some residents of The Ridges report seeing the ghost of Vanderfliet wandering from house to house looking for liquid refreshment. Those who invite him in do so at their own peril.

In 1770, Annapolis Towne was called "the genteelest town in North America" by the rector of St. Anne's. What he had to say about The Ridges cannot be printed.

## **The Revolution**

The part Annapolis Town played in the Revolution is quite well

known and need not be repeated here. Also well known are the four Marylanders who signed the Declaration of Independence and who, at one time or another owned house in Annapolis Towne. What is not known by anyone is the critical role that was played by land now called The Ridges At Annapolis. Better known is that for nine months in 1783 the Continental Congress convened in Annapolis Towne and during this time period the Revolutionary War was brought to an end by the signing of the Treat in Paris. The Treaty of Paris was ratified in 1784 and there was such continuous merriment and celebration over this even at the small tavern in Annapolis Towne where the signing took place, that it has not shut down even to this day. Therefore, as every schoolperson knows, Annapolis Towne was the capital of the U. S. Of A. Between Nov. 1783 and Aug. 1784 and every important events calls for a drink. What every schoolperson does not know is the part played in the Revolution by The Ridges at Annapolis, which remains to this day, lost in history.

### **The Great Cover Up**

On December 19, 1783, General George Washington was met at the Three Mile Oak while on his way to Annapolis Towne to resign his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Armies. (Washington knew the area well, since he had been to the horse races at the Parole Track on West Street many times.) It is thought that General Smallwood, accompanied by General Gates and distinguished citizens of Annapolis Town met General Washington at the Three Mile Oak tree. (A large stone and bronze plaque now marks this location which is just across the intersection from the Exxon Station.) What is not mentioned in the recounting of this event is where General Washington spent the night before this historic meeting. If the records could be found, they would prove that the General dined and spent the night in the Little



Woodsman's Cabin at the top of the hill in the Ridges, about where the Golinski's (now Brunks) home now stands. However, there were certain high-level Annapolis Towne officials who did not want it known that the General had chosen this little cabin over the more prestigious taverns of Annapolis Towne, so they embarked on a great cover-up (know locally as Ridgesgate) to hide the truth from the local people. (It is believed that this was the first in what would be a long line of such official cover-ups perpetrated on the American public.) All efforts by The Ridges supporters over the ensuing years to have the Woodsman's Cabin declared a Historical Structure were ignored. Finally, a fire of mysterious origin destroyed the original cabin and all the records and petitions gathered up to that time, so all efforts were abandoned. However, the Golinski's would be hysterically correct to say that George Washington slept in what was to become their home and thus put an end to the great cover-up!

### **The Great Depression of 1788**

Annapolis Towne was unable to bring off another constitutional convention in 1786, and the colonial delegates votes to reconvene in Philadelphia in 1787. It was this convention that drafted the Constitution of the U.S. and the Bill of Rights, and which precipitated the decline of Annapolis Towne and the Great Depression of 1788. Annapolis Towne ceased all pretensions to a major trade center and slipped back into the doldrums of economic growth. All development plans for The Ridges at Annapolis were therefore scrapped, as a large number of families moved to the Towne of Baltimore which was becoming the economic and social center of the State. When the Colts moved their Blue and White to the village of Indianapolis, in the State of Indiana, Baltimore Towne itself began the same slip into obscurity.

In fact, nothing much happened in or around Annapolis Towne or The Ridges from 1788 to 1845 when the Naval Academy was opened at old Fort Severn. However, during this period of backward growth, the site of The Ridges played an important part in the life of the local townspeople and travelers along Road 450.

The road leading up into The Ridges was actually used by the lawless highway robbers of the time as a getaway route into the dense forests and wild ravines of the site. So many outlaws used it for this purpose that it soon was known as The Ridges Getaway Road. The highway robbers would race up this trail and just seem to disappear at the top of the hill where the woodsman's cabin stood. The road which is now called Hidden Ridge Path was in fact just that --- a hidden escape route to the back side of the ridge and into the ravine that, if you knew the trail, would lead you to safety. However, since Lord Hockley used this same land as his private hunting preserve, he soon drove off all the highway robbers so his deer herds would not be disturbed. Long after Lord Hockely passed into history, the descendants of that deer herd, and many other woodland animals continue to thrive on The Ridges property.

## **The Civil War**

The lassitude in cultural and economic events of the Great Depression continued until the outbreak of the Civil War. But since the sympathies of most Annapolitans were with the South, Annapolis Towne was treated as an occupied city. The entire State legislature was arrested and interned in northern prison until they swore an oath of loyalty to the Union, and in 1881 the Naval Academy student body, at least those who remained, was moved to Newport, Rhode Island.

The elevation of The Ridges made excellent observation posts

and defensive firing positions against any troops advancing along Road 450 (this is believed to be the origin of the name Defense Highway, which can still be found in maps and other reference materials). It apparently never occurred to the defenders that, if captured, these guns could just as easily be turned to fire on Annapolis Towne. In fact, the heavy mortar that was entrenched at the top of Chapparrall Court could have bombarded Annapolis Towne with impunity (actual mortar shells would have been used, however).

The Ridges also played another important part during this period; it was rumored to be one of the main north - south routes of the "underground railroad." There was talk, which was widely disseminated, but without a discernable source of its accuracy, that Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman both conducted slaves through the trail of The Ridges right under the noses of the Union Army troops stationed there. It was also thought that Harriet Tubman knew The Ridges better than anyone, since she had "surveyed" the property while serving as a scout for the Union Army. However, there is every reason to believe that there is no truth to the rumor that Kunte Kinte had been transported through The Ridges on his way south.

In 1840, the Annapolis Towne and Elkridge Railroad (AT&E) began operations to its station in Parole, and was joined some 37 years later (no one ever said Annapolitans were fast movers) by the Shortline (which actually had twice as many stations and track as the AT&E, but that is another story). There were even plans to extend the ATE&S out to Lusby's Crossroads to serve the growing commercial interests at this major intersection. These businesses included not only Lusby's Swap and Shop Boutique, Henry's Guns and Ammo, and Lee's Stable (old horses and wagons bought and sold), but also The Grand Hotel (more about that later). However, the plans for the station never materialized. This was a disastrous set-back for these



businesses, but especially so for William (The Wheelwright) Brassner, who made and sold the best wagon wheels in the area. Brassner has counted on the station to help open new markets to all the chicken farmers in the DelMarVa area for his new rubber tyres, which were sold under his famous slogan "My tyres last a good year."

### **The Grand Hotel**

One of the most famous landmarks of Lusby's Crossroad was the Grand Hotel, owned and operated by retired Admiral Slick Stocknick, and located at the entrance to the Nearapolitan settlement of Heritage Harbour. (It was in fact this location that eventually caused the Grand Hotel to be closed and later razed.) In its heyday, the Grand Hotel was the most elegant and glamorous hotel for 150 miles; it was said to be without equal anywhere on the east coast. It was the most favorite stopping over point for the rich and famous (and the not so rich and famous) on their way to the eastern shore and the playgrounds of Ocean Village. The Admiral (as Slick was know to all) was very proud of the hotel and used to throw big parties for his friends on the NASWAGON circuit, the forerunner of the little known NASCAR circuit of today. Slick was equally proud of his ladies (as he called them) and indeed, the ladies of "Mrs. Warren's profession" could be found at all hours carrying on their meretricious traffic. So great was the demand for the services of these famous ladies, that the Admiral was planning to expand the Grand Hotel to include a conference facility and cloverleaf interchange at Route 50. When the elderly Nearapolitans at the Heritage Harbour Settlement got wind of these plans, they raised such a hew and cry that the Admiral was not only forced to abandon the plans, but also had to close down his entire operation and the Grand Hotel closed its doors forever. (We have it on good authority, however, that the State Scenic Roads Commission is working

to have this once grand landmark restored to its former glory. In fact, the well known Tail-hook Association is said to be interested in running it as a training facility.)

## **The Long Canal**

No history of The Ridges would be complete without some mention of the part it played in the great debate about the Long Canal. One surveyor after another proposed the best route for this Long Canal from Annapolis Towne. The debates centered on how to connect Annapolis Towne to other canals around the area, such as the Chesapeake & Delaware to the north and the Great Dismal Swamp canal to the south and the mighty Susquehanna and Tidewater which was opened in 1850. There was even a proposal to extend the canal system from the Chesapeake Bay to Lake Ontario. The Ridges played an important and deciding part in this great debate, but most of it was not recorded for the record. However, several landowners in the area insist that the topography of The Ridges was instrumental in placing it at the bottom of the list of possible routes.

## **The Roaring Twenties**

Hardly anyone remembers and there is no remaining written record, but The Ridges played an important (some say an infamous) role in the notorious activities of the Roaring Twenties. During this period, the headwaters of the South River and the mud flats of Bacon Ridge run were used by so many rum-runners (what else!) that it became known as Smugglers Cove. There was labyrinth of trails throughout The Ridges to transport the illegal goods into Annapolis Towne and the country side. In fact, The Ridges was the main access route for this illegal traffic over to the equally notorious Renaissance Settlement on the Crowns Village Road. It would be difficult

to prove, but there was every indication that the infamous Morganstern Gang out of West Virginia controlled the vast majority of this illegal traffic during the heyday of prohibition and the Roaring Twenties. The gang members were famous for their stills in West Virginia from which they imported a moonshine that was guaranteed to remove the enamel from your teeth. Most of the gang members have since disappeared, some say into the waters of the cove itself, and others have moved on to less hazardous occupations such as landscaping. Faint traces of many of the old rum-running trail can still be seen along the hills and ravines of The Ridges, and some of them are currently being used as nature or hiking trails by residents who are completely unaware of their original uses. The last vestiges of the illegal but none-the-less sprawling piers and warehouses that once existed at Smugglers' Cove are a run-down boat house and dock now used for fishing and live bait sales ; a far cry from the "anything goes" days of the past.

### **The Country Club Set**

During the late fifties (1950's that is) The Ridges once again became the focus of local attention. It was during this period that a former President and his local supporters became seriously interested in developing an extensive Country Club and Golf Course Community in the area. The Ridges was a prime target for this community and the President and his entourage walked over most of the present-day roads and trails. A great many developers and builders were behind this effort, since it would have resulted in a great construction bonanza for them. It would also have been a source of many jobs as caddies for the young boys in the area, and young Bobby Broun, who was a whiz at figures and accounting (and who also had a knockout girl friend), was looking forward to the extra cash he would earn. Many hours were spent on preliminary plans, including one which called for a magnificent Club House with



pool and tennis courts at the top of The Ridges Gateway --- yes, you guessed it, just about where the present tennis court is located! But the developers were unable to secure the necessary financing and approvals, probably due in part to the strict covenants and restrictions on the property, and the entire project was abandoned. The proponents ended up with nothing more than a public golf course which they were able to name after the President, and young Bobbie Broun went on to become a Certifiable Professional Accountant (not to be confused with the CPA's of today).

### **The Remnants**

Since Lord Hockley and the Great Land War, Hockley-In-The-Hole and other surrounding property was cut up into smaller and smaller parcels. Many owners were only interested in the land for what it could produce in terms of cut timber, and the area was logged on several occasions. The remains of one such logging operation can still be seen at 613 Woodsman's Way where a large beech tree has grown through the anchor bracket of a log sling at an old saw mill site. When the property was developed, these old logging trails, for the most part, were converted into the roads of The Ridges. And because the names of these road and trail had historical significance, they were used where possible. For example, the trail leading into the thickly wooded property from the pond at Route 450 and up to the top of the hill used by so many highway robbers was not called The Ridges Gateway, but rather The Ridges Gateway. At the top where this trail split into three trails, the roads would become Woodsman's Way to the right and left and Hidden Ridge Path in keeping with the old woodsman's cabin and the long hidden escape route that had been used by so many highwaymen. The names of other roads in the community were suggested by the circumstances surrounding them: Chapparrall Court was named for the thicket of evergreen chaparrall oaks

that existed before construction; Pump Handle Court because the road design resembles an old pump handle; Beeches Glory Path for the stand of beech trees in the area which in the Fall presents leaves of glorious gold; and Wood Lot Trail Road after the character of the home sites along this ridge.

### **The Last Purchase**

The land on which The Ridges now sits has had many owners, including most recently Robert L. Soone who sold it to Katherine Korbien on October 2, 1953. The last remaining tract, consisting of only 185.5 acres, encompassed a large gorge and plateau along Route 450. On October 20, 1978, this property was under contract of sale from the owner, Katherine Korbien of Baltimore, to Park Venture Limited, a Maryland Corporation. Subsequent negotiations led to a contract of sale on May 21, 1980, to the Woodhill Corporation, with the final Deed of Sale being dated October 19, 1981, (some three years just to complete this single transaction). For those of you who like such information, the property is described as 186 acres, more or less, on the north side of Defense Highway (Maryland Route 450) and also fronting for 1000 feet, more or less, on Chesterfield Road (Anne Arundel County Road) generally located 2500 feet, more or less, west of the intersection of Defense Highway with Crownsville Road, shown on page 44 of the property tax maps of Anne Arundel County, Maryland as parcel No. 67 (ref. Liber 3449, folio 826). The purchase price was about \$575,000 for the 185.5 acres.

When purchased by the Woodhill Corporation, the land had been untouched for many years and was almost pristine. The property lay along Route 450 just to the west of Lusby's Crossroads with the South River to its west and Chesterfield Road to the north. Some of the neighboring property includes the old G. D. Staples Hidden View Farm, the Elks Camp

Barrett, the Pine Tree Association, Worthington Estates, Sylmac, Twin Hills of Annapolis, and North River Forest. As shown on topographical maps, the land was a magnificent ravine and plateau draining towards the South River. The top of the plateau was relatively flat, but the sides were steep and rugged; at the bottom of the ravine separating the two main ridges were two streams. The land was covered with magnificent stands of mature hardwood and holly trees with abundant mountain laurel growing on the most exciting topography in the area. About midway along its frontage was a small pond, which highway engineers insisted had to be filled in, can still be seen to right of The Ridges Gateway. It was a favorite watering spot for deer, foxes and other animals that can still be seen traveling their well know, but to use, unseen trails.

When the developer, Joseph J. Feehley, President of the Woodhill Corporation, later called Jack by all who came to know him, first walked over the property he was impressed but at the same time shocked and disappointed. Shocked and disappointed in that the property offered so little in the way of standard-sized residential lots as a result of the severe topography and the environmental concerns, but still impressed and thrilled by the magnificence of the place. The quiet, the light, the colors, the plants and mosses, the streams, the great trees, the smells, the wild flowers, and the unseen animals convinced him that the area was truly a treasure and an amenity that should be preserved and protected. All of these amenities are evident all around those of us who are fortunate to live in The Ridges.

One of the developer's most exiting wildlife experiences occurred during the construction of 622 Woodsman's Way (currently owned by David & Wanda Spikes) when he saw a pair of American Eagles flying over The Ridges. Jack was looking over the construction of the house from the rear deck

when he noticed a large bird make circles effortlessly over the large ravine between Sections I and III. It was largely colored brown and its wing span had to be in excess of six feet. After awhile, the eagle glided across the ravine to the other side and disappeared into the tall trees. In a short time it emerged again with a smaller companion of the same species. As they performed their aerial acrobatics, the larger bird banked around in such a way as to present its top view to Jack's complete view. The brown top feathers of the bird, reflecting in the setting sun, made the bird look like it was made of highly polished gold. The sight was, for about six seconds, extraordinary according to Jack. Over the following three years the pair were seen twice more, but unfortunately have not been seen since.

### **The Vision**

As Jack walked the land, he envisioned a community of pleasant homes with large yards and lots of open space unmarred by fences and sheds; unspoiled by over-development and excessive man-made features. He saw a place where neighbors could gather together in peace and harmony; where the residents could forget their care in the work-a-day world and return to the pleasures of a natural environment; where nature and man could exist in harmony and grow in grace and spirit. Jack spent long hours with land engineers, surveyors, planners, and county and state official explaining how The Ridges was not to be just another development, but a place of beauty and a standard for others to follow. The Governor's Certificate of Excellence for The Ridges at Annapolis, awarded to Jack, is ample evidence that his work is paying dividends to all of us.

### **The Development Begins**

Actual construction of the roads and layout of the lots began in The Ridges early in 1981, with lot sales originally planned in six stages. Over the years, these six stages have become known as three Sections; Section I consisting of everything west of the intersection of Chapparrall/Pump Handle Court; Section II consisting of Chapparrall Court and Pump Handle Court; and Section III as the Chesterfield Road section. Some of the initial development plans included a connecting road between Hidden Ridge Path and Beeches Glory Path, along what are now drainage easements. However, this connecting road proved too costly and damaging to the ecology of the large ravine separating these area, so it was dropped. Originally the construction trailer was located at the bottom of the hill at the Route 450 entrance. It was later renamed Sales Trailer and moved to the corner lot at 608 Woodsman's Way. It stayed there for almost four years until Section II was opened in 1985, and then it was moved down to 1916 Chapparrall Court. After two more years, the Sales Trailer was moved to 1901 Beeches Glory Path when Section III was opened in 1987. Although it is now gone it brings back many fond memories to "the old timers" of the times spent talking about their "dream home" with Jack and his lovely wife Dee and their dream for The Ridges at Annapolis.

### **The Last Hurrah**

One of the last efforts of the developer was the construction of the Tot Lot and Tennis Court at the top of Ridges Gateway. This community recreational facility was started in October and completed in November 1990; a copy of the Deed to this property was received by the Association in April 1991.

### **Ridges @ Annapolis Community Association**

After the development was well underway and sufficient



community support was available, The Ridges at Annapolis Community Association (RACA) was formally established by the developer. The RACA Articles of Incorporation were approved for the record by the county on March 14, 1990, and the By-Laws were formally executed on May 1, 1990. The Covenants and Restrictions, which run with the property and are binding on all property owners, were executed on June 13, 1984.

The first General Membership Meeting was held on May 30, 1990 and the following members were elected as the first Board of Directors of the Association:

Robert Brown, Theodore Mack, and Skip Stocknick for three years;  
Gail Bohm, Lucretia Lawson, and Robert Van Fleet for two years;  
and  
Marvin Baer, Ed Morgan, and Susan Venter for one year.

### **The Board of Directors**

At the first meeting of the Board of Directors on June 6, 1990, the following were elected as the first officers of the Board of Directors:

Skip Stocknick, President, Ted Mack, Vice President; Robert Brown, Treasurer, and Lucretia Lawson, Secretary.

The Board of Directors meets once a month and meetings are open to all members of the Association.

## **Lore on Homes of The Ridges**

**605 Woodsman's Way**, completed in October 1983.

The first home to be built in Section I. According to reliable sources this home was completed some six months before the street lights were completed and the original owners spent the first winter alone in the Ridges.

**615 Woodsman's Way**, completed February 1984.

This home was originally built as a model home featuring the Timber peg and framing style of construction. The large open space to the left of the house was a parking lot and took many years to regrow a cover of young trees and grasses.

**622 Woodsman's Way**, completed August 1985.

February 14, 1984 was a very special day at "622". There was more activity than usual at the unfinished house. First, there was the florist, then the caterer, then friends and family gathered before the roaring fireplace (the only source of heat on a very cold day) and there Duff Bradley (the Builder) was wed. You could not ask for a more romantic beginning to a beautiful home!

**619 Woodsman's Way**, completed in July 1986.

Built by Ted and Betty Mack. Ted and Betty brought their lot in February 1984 and watched the first homes being built in The Ridges. After spending long hours consulting with contractors, they finally decided to act as their own General Contractor and build the house themselves. They broke ground on September 29, 1985 with a storm brewing, and one of their first jobs was to stake out the required erosion control bales around the construction site. West River Builders completed the major structure and exterior with other subcontractors

completing the mechanical systems. Ted and Betty completed the major portion of the interior themselves, including three decks and a porch. Whereas the Macks enjoy the peacefulness of The Ridges, they likewise enjoy the stimulation of social occasions. They have hosted a "Last Brick Champagne Party", Ted's surprise 35 year retirement party (with live band on the Garden Room deck), an 80 year birthday party of a friend, and a nephews wedding reception.

**1904 Pump Handle Court**, completed in October 1986. Sitting below street level this contemporary home cannot be seen from the street. It was the first home completed in Section II.

**629 Wood Lot Trail**, completed in September 1988. This was the first home built in Section III. The house is situated on a lot that was adjacent to a fire road left from the logging operations years ago. The owners spent the first winter alone in their new home.

**613 Wood Lot Trail**, completed December 1989. Built by Robert and Lucretia Lawson. They acted as their own general contractor for the house and did much of the interior finishing themselves. They broke ground in March 1989 on a day when a freezing rain was falling. It was on that first day of ground breaking that Lucretia spotted her first "real live" blue bird. The bluebirds still build their nests on the property each spring.

**623 Wood Lot Trail**, completed May 1990.. This home was built as a solar passive home, with a massive masonry wall to absorb the sun's heat in the winter. The original owners, Marvin and Laudie Baer, did much of the finishing work themselves. The home has a magnificent white quartz fireplace that was built by Laudie's father.

**628 Wood Lot Trail**, completed May 1992.

The original owners purchased the house, which was framed out and had been sitting vacant for nearly two years, at a foreclosure auction. They then lived in a trailer on the lot for nearly a year while completing most of the construction themselves.

**1902 Beeches Glory Path**, completed 1999.

The original owners built this home to be fully handicapped accessible.

**619 Wood Lot Trail**, completed July 2003.

This is the final home to be built in the Ridges. Built during one of the worst winters in memorable history, its completion was delayed 5 months past the projected move-in date.



## Rave Reviews --- Rage Reviews

"One of the best local histories written in the last millennium."  
Trevelyan, Sir George Lotto (1838 - 1928).

"More about **The Ridges at Annapolis** than you ever needed to know." The Maryland and Annapolis Towne Gazette.

"A sagacious blending of fictional facts and mythology." The American Literary Association of Maryland.

"The authors are to be commended for their judicious intertwining of palaver and platitudes and their overall general dissertation of the local traditions and common folklore." A former resident who knows better than to identify himself.

"Never has so much been written about so little with such regard for mixing generally accepted knowledge with plain unadulterated misstatements and innuendo." The Maryland Hysterical Society.

"If only one-half of it were true, it would still be fascinating reading." The Guinness Book of Historical Facts and Figures.

"A clear and precise rendition of the trials and tribulations of a tumultuous era." A current resident who wishes to remain anonymous since he lived through much of this perilous time.

"Places **The Ridges at Annapolis** square in the middle of my land Patent, which is not the case at all; **The Ridges** was much further west of my vast land holdings and was not as historically important as the authors imply." The First Lord Hockley (1664 - 1684).

"The researches of many commentators have already thrown much darkness on this subject, and it is probable that, if they continue, we shall soon know nothing at all about it." Mark Twain.