**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Jeff Zyontz, Division Chief, Countywide Planning Division
John Hench, Supervisor, Park Planning and Resource Analysis *J Hench*

FROM: Brenda Sandberg, Legacy Open Space Program Manager *BCS*
Gwen Wright, Historic Preservation Supervisor *GW*

DATE: July 12, 2002

RE: Farquhar Property (The Cedars), Sandy Spring, MD

Recommended Action

Staff recommends that the Planning Board approve adding the Farquhar Property, consisting of 75 acres of open space including The Cedars house in Sandy Spring, as a Class II site to the Heritage Resource category of the *Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan*. The historic farmland and home on the property contribute to the historic rural setting of Sandy Spring, one of the key heritage themes of the Legacy Plan. Staff further recommends that the Department of Park and Planning continue to work with the owners of the property to pursue preservation of the site through a combination of sensitive development and purchase and donation of easements.

Introduction

Staff has completed an evaluation of the Farquhar Property in Sandy Spring as a potential Heritage Resource in the Legacy Open Space program. This property is the first new site brought to the Planning Board for addition to the Legacy program since the approval of the master plan in 2001. The property was brought to staff's attention as a potential Legacy site by one of the current owners of the property and representatives of the Sandy Spring community. Addition of the property to Legacy Open Space is timely due to the owners' potential interest in a cooperative effort to preserve the property.

The evaluation of the site follows the process set forth in the Master Plan for adding new sites to the Legacy program. Since this recommendation is for a Class II site,

Planning Board approval is sufficient to add the property to the Legacy program. This memorandum discusses how the property was judged against the criteria for selecting Legacy Open Space sites and makes a recommendation to the Planning Board for protecting the important resources on the property.

Background

The Farquhar Property, also known as The Cedars, is located on Olney-Sandy Spring Road (Rt. 108) approximately one-half mile west of the Sandy Spring Historic District at the intersection of Brooke Road and Rt. 108. The 75-acre site consists of roughly 12 acres of forest, 43 acres of active cropland and 15 acres of open field and meadow (Attachments A, B). Structures on the property include the existing house plus the foundation remains of a barn and other outbuildings. Most of the site drains to the Hawlings River watershed, including some stream valley and sensitive areas on the northern side. The entire property is zoned RNC. The *Sandy Spring-Ashton Master Plan* (1998) identifies some stream valley on the site as a potential reforestation area (Attachment C).

The first house known as The Cedars was constructed by William Henry Farquhar in 1838. The Cedars in its current form was built in 1901 by Allen Farquhar, the son of William Henry, to replace the old family house. The Cedars is an elaborate Colonial Revival residence showing influence of earlier Queen Anne and Shingle styles (Attachment D). The large home was designed for two families with separate entrances and includes elaborate porches, bays, hipped roofs, and windows. The house is surrounded by mature specimen trees and open fields to the south and forest to the north.

The Farquhar family has been in residence on the property continuously since 1838. The family was a key player in the early social and business organizations of Sandy Spring. William H. Farquhar was a founding member of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, the first insurance agency in the County, and the first president of the Montgomery County School Board. Succeeding generations of Farquhar's continued their involvement with the Mutual Fire Insurance Company and other civic and business organizations of Sandy Spring, Montgomery County, and the Nation (Attachment E).

The property now is owned jointly by a family trust and the descendants of Arthur Farquhar, the grandson of William H. Farquhar. Representatives indicate that the owners are interested in proceeding with some development of the property. Representatives have also expressed interest in a project to proceed with limited development on the site and protect most of the existing open space through a combination of purchased and donated easements.

Issues

Heritage Resources

The Cedars and its surrounding farmland is a key parcel that provides historic character to the Sandy Spring area. The Underground Railroad/Quaker Heritage theme is one of four heritage themes that serve to organize the heritage resources in the Legacy Open Space plan. The Farquhar Property contributes to this heritage theme in several ways. The Farquhar family has many historical connections to the Quaker heritage of Sandy Spring. The site's location west of Sandy Spring along Route 108 provides important gateway context to the center of Sandy Spring. The location of The Cedars between Route 108 and Brooke Road further provides important connectivity for equestrian trails that traverse rural and farmlands around the Sandy Spring area. Most importantly, the farmland along Brooke Road and the open space surrounding The Cedars provides critical historical context to the preservation and interpretation work being done in the Sandy Spring village center and in the African-American historic sites further along Brooke Road.

Other Legacy Resource Categories

The preservation of open space on the Farquhar Property contributes to two additional Legacy resource categories. The preservation of up to 55 acres of rural open space and active farmland contributes directly to the farmland preservation goals of the Legacy Plan. Cropland and equestrian-oriented agriculture will continue to be important facets of the area of the County surrounding Sandy Spring, and preservation of this open land will contribute to the continued economic and practical feasibility of these activities.

The Farquhar Property drains to the James Creek tributary of the Hawlings River, one of the primary tributaries to the upper Patuxent River watershed and the Rocky Gorge Reservoir. The potential reduction in impervious surface, preservation of existing forest and replanting of unforested stream buffers that could result from a preservation plan for this site would contribute to improved water quality in the Lower James Creek and the Patuxent watershed as a whole.

Analysis of Overall Legacy Criteria and Specific Heritage Resource Factors

Staff's analysis of the Farquhar Property's significance in relation to the overall Legacy Criteria has determined that:

- The site has particular countywide significance in terms of its association with Sandy Spring, providing exceptional viewsapes and historic association.
- The site contributes to the Legacy program's heritage theme of the Underground Railroad/Quaker Cluster that is focused on the Sandy Spring community.

- The site is part of a “critical mass” of open space in and around Sandy Spring that contributes to the value of the larger heritage resource.
- If preserved as open space, the site would contribute to the opportunities for broader interpretation and public understanding of the resources in the Underground Railroad/Quaker Cluster.

After further analysis of specific heritage resource factors as discussed in the Legacy Open Space Master Plan, staff concludes that:

- The Farquhar Property helps define the historic rural setting of the Sandy Spring community.
- The property serves as contextual open space by helping convey a sense of historic time and place that would be diminished considerably if the site were fully developed.
- Preserving as much as possible of this open space would help to maintain the community’s unique character.

Based on the above analysis, staff recommends the Planning Board designate the Farquhar Property as a Class II Legacy Open Space site under the Heritage Resources category of the *Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan*.

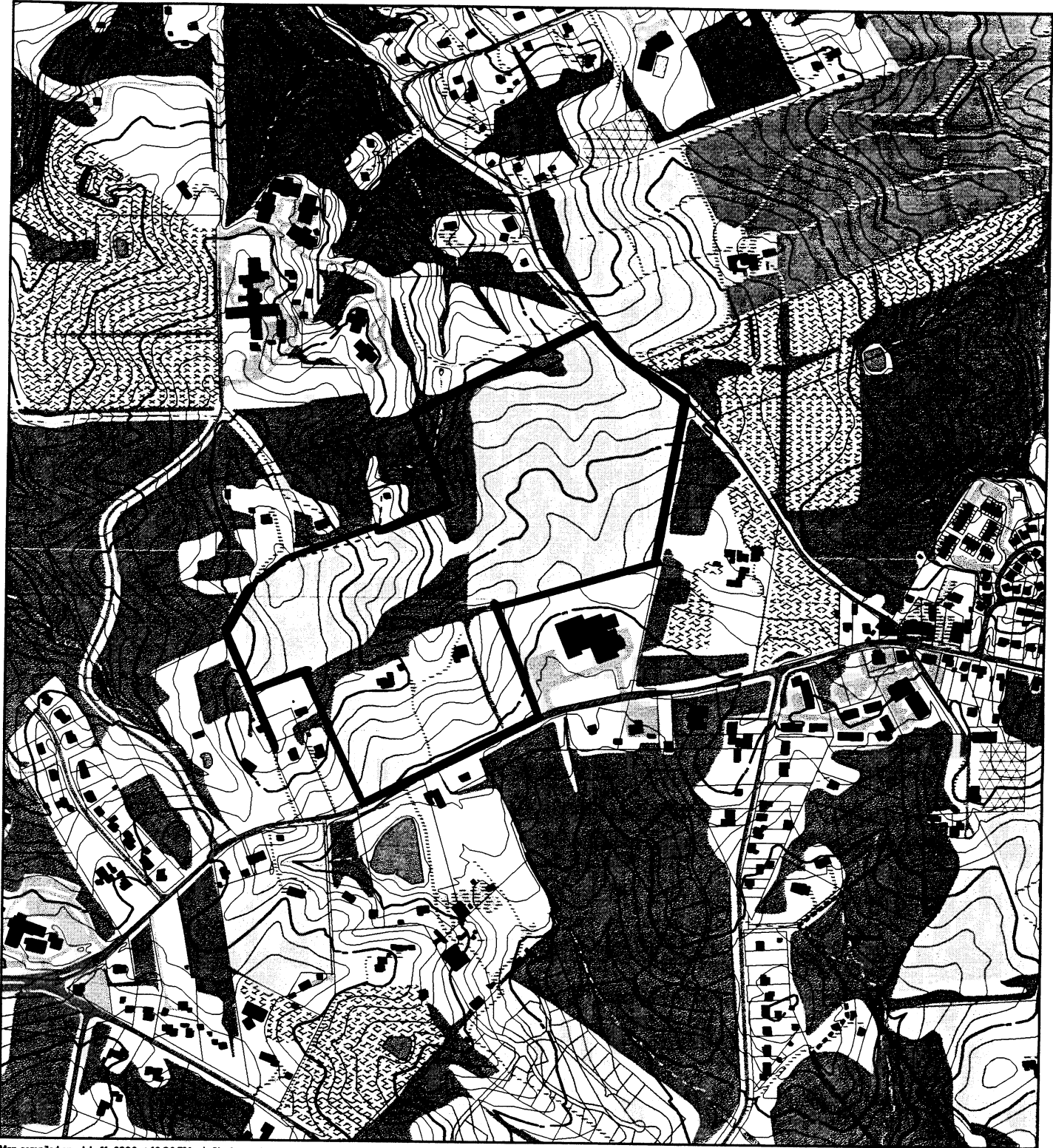
Implications of Legacy Designation/Implementation Issues

The representatives of the owners of this property have actively sought Legacy designation to make possible the potential protection of open space on the site. Discussions with staff have focused on a preservation plan that utilizes a variety of preservation tools, including limited historically sensitive development, purchase of development rights by the Commission, and donation of some development rights by the owners. Such a preservation plan would be a unique opportunity for the Commission to leverage Legacy funds to provide the maximum protection of open space with a limited investment of County funds.

Given the importance of the Sandy Spring heritage area and the existence of funds previously earmarked for preservation in the Underground Railroad/Quaker Cluster, staff feels negotiations for a comprehensive preservation plan on this site should be continued. Therefore, staff suggests the following procedure to achieve protection of the Farquhar Property:

- Staff will continue to work with the owners of the property to pursue preservation of the property through a combination of sensitive development and possible purchase and donation of easements.

VICINITY MAP FOR
FARQUHAR PROPERTY



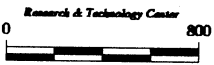
Map compiled on July 11, 2002 at 12:32 PM | Site located on base sheet no - 224NW02

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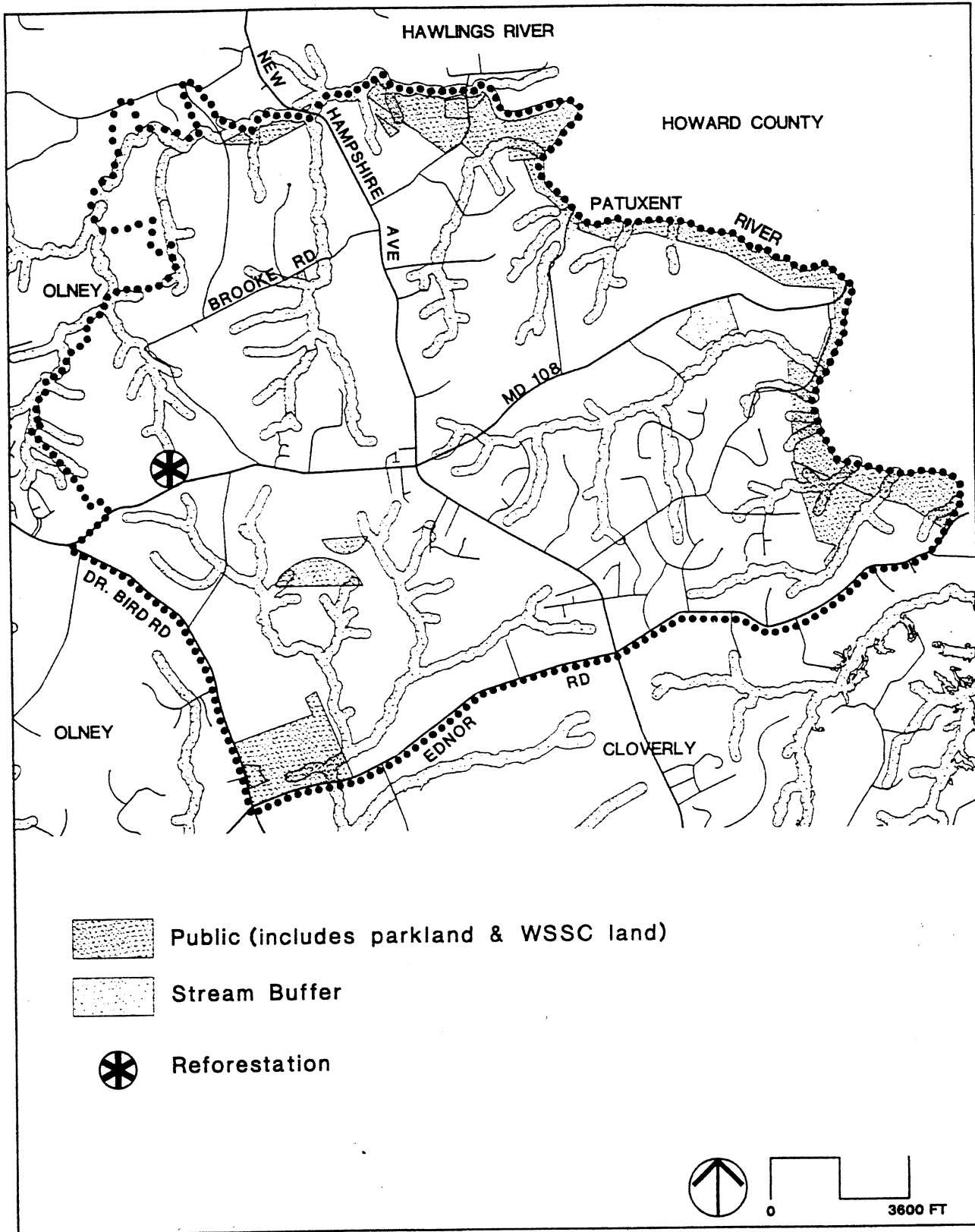
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STREAM VALLEY AND FOREST PROTECTION

FIGURE 26



SOURCE: Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, Sandy Spring Historic District, January 1985.

RESOURCES

Beginning at the western end of the Sandy Spring Historic District, on the northern side of the Olney-Sandy Spring Road (Rt. 108) is the Farquhar family property. #1601 is a fine, elaborate Colonial Revival Residence influenced by the preceeding Queen Anne and Shingle styles. It is an asymmetrical, two story residence and has a gambrel roof main block with overhanging, bracketed eaves. A single two bay dormer protrudes from the roof's center. A large two story extending bay window is located to the eastern side of center. A porch supported by pairs of doric columns with balustrade runs from this extended bay around the western side of the house to a two story one bay by three bay hipped roof wing at the northwest corner. Another two story hipped roof wing appears at the rear northwest corner to the rear of which is a single story gable roof wing. The entry is located just west of the extending bay. To the east side of the bay is a palladian window center between the two stories (in a stair well). The house is lit by fifteen over one sash windows and has a center brick chimney. At the eastern side elevation is a porte cochere.

In 1838 William Henry Farquhar began farming on a portion of "Charley Forest" which he had acquired from Isaac Bond and from his mother-in-law, Hannah Brooke Briggs, wife of Isaac Briggs of "Sharon." He built a home here for he and his wife, Margaret Briggs, and called it "The Cedars" for all the cedar trees on the property. In addition to being a farmer, William H. Farquhar was one of the founders of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the first president of the Montgomery County School Board, and for twenty years the historian of the Annals of Sandy Spring. Allen, the youngest of the five Farquhar children, later inherited "The Cedars." He was an officer and employee of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

In 1901, Allen Farquhar had a new home built at "The Cedars" to replace the old family dwelling. The present residence was designed by the Baltimore architectural firm of Ghequier & May (T. Buckler Ghequier and Howard May) and constructed by Walter E. Burnham, contractor. The Cedars was built as a two family home. The smaller western section of the house was built for Allen's sister, Ellen Farquhar, who had been a teacher at "Stanmore." The larger portion of the house was inhabited by Allen, his wife, Charlotte, and their children, Marion and Arthur Douglas.

Arthur Douglas Farquhar later acquired possession of "The Cedars." In November of 1919 he married Helen Thomas Nesbitt of "Tanglewood." Like his father and grandfather, Arthur Farquhar was connected with the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was the secretary treasurer and later, president. Arthur Farquhar also farmed the

the property growing wheat, hay and corn and raising sheep, pigs and chickens. Arthur and Helen Farquhar raised four children here; Norman, Gordon, Margaret and Ann. Arthur Farquhar passed away on February 20, 1977. His widow, Helen, still resides at The Cedars.

The Dutch influenced Colonial Revival cottage just west of The Cedars was built for Allen Farquhar and his new bride in 1926. Arthur and Helen Farquhar and family had been residing at The Cedars for a number of years when Allen Farquhar, a widower, decided to remarry when in his 70's. In order to make a new home of their own for he and his wife, this house was built.

This is a two story, three by two bay frame residence. It has a gambrel roof with a continuous, three bay dormer. The centrally located entry way is covered by a gabled hood. To the rear of the house is a modern, two story addition. The windows on the first floor facade are triple grouped. The house has a center brick chimney.

getically let them pass. When they arrived home, Griffith's gold was delivered to him, Barnsley kept his in Olney, and Josiah buried his in three parts, \$2,500 each, in three different places at the Old Pleasant Valley farm.

In 1873, when he wanted his money to pay for the land he bought from Dr. Magruder of Oakley, he found two of the caches, but was a long time finding the third, because a post near which it had been buried had been moved. He gave

\$20 gold pieces to four members of his family, each of whom had jewelry made of his piece, except his son, "Si," who characteristically put his in the Sandy Spring Savings Bank; the balance Mr. Jones, Sr., took to Washington and deposited in the Riggs Bank after it had been counted by the President, Mr. Riggs himself. Riggs remarked about the "grit on the money," and was told it had not seen daylight for ten years.

The Cedars

WILLIAM Henry Farquhar was a very remarkable man whose plain house shown next page was his home for fifty years. Of rare mentality himself, he fostered and developed in his progeny minds that were striking demonstrations of the power and wonder of the human brain. Fortunately ample records have been left behind to speak for them. The sons of William Henry and Margaret Farquhar were unusual men who seemed able to acquire, digest, and expound the wisdom of the ages.

Some descriptions of the characteristics of the men of The Cedars and of one daughter are justified, although they must be brief. The modest home where William H. Farquhar raised these sons and one daughter to maturity was located on the north side of the highway from Olney to Sandy Spring, one mile from the latter village and twenty miles north of the Zero milestone. The house is higher than the roadway and stands about 300 yards back, obscured by a wealth of large trees on the lawn.

William Henry Farquhar came as a young boy of about eleven with his parents, Amos and Mary Elgar Farquhar, from York, Pennsylvania, where he had first seen the light in June, 1813. They first lived at Fair Hill School in the village of Mechanicsville, long since known as Olney, where Amos was for a time postmaster. He also taught in the school and looked after the 350-acre farm. After completing his education at the Alexandria School of Benjamin Hallowell, William Henry became a principal jointly

of the Fair Hill School with Mary (Farquhar) Kirk, his sister, before the Civil War.

He married Margaret Briggs, a daughter of the eminent engineer of Sharon, Isaac Briggs. They started farming in 1838, and he tells with feeling about the unpromising land and the "hard lines" he was confronted with. Part of the land was purchased from Henry Pierce as shown by a deed dated July 2, 1838, for ten acres of Sharon, for which he gave notes for the purchase price of \$360, payable in three years. He acquired 132 acres more from Isaac Bond, by a deed dated April 28, 1838, and a quantity more from his mother-in-law, Hannah Brooke Briggs, of Sharon.

As stated in his obituary, "He was for half a century the intellectual center of the community." He was the county surveyor, school commissioner, civil engineer on railroad construction, and headed the Lyceum for many years, frequently lecturing there himself. He was for twenty years the historian of the Sandy Spring Annals which he initiated in 1863, writing most of the first volume of that history, published in 1884. He was one of the founders of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, and served as a director from the first meeting in 1848 until 1885. He died in February, 1887, and his wife followed two years later.

The children of this revered couple deserve special remembrance. The oldest child was Ellen, born at the Fair Hill School. It seemed quite appropriate that she should spend thirty



NO. 112 E-10 WILLIAM HENRY FARQUHAR 1838 FRAME REPLACED IN 1901

Photograph taken about 1800 from left to right: standing, colored servant; seated on grass, Marion Farquhar; seated in rocker, Charlotte Farquhar; on the grass in front, Ethel Farquhar, in baby chair, Douglas; and on the extreme right, Ellen Farquhar.

years of her life as an inspiring school teacher, and as many more after she retired from the classroom, exerting a widespread cultural and spiritual influence upon those around her. With an "extraordinarily fine mind, and a keen sense of humor, and above all an interest in and a love of young people, it is impossible to overestimate her widespread influence."¹

On five trips to Europe she was a joy and inspiration to the groups with whom she travelled. She visited the Pacific Coast and nearly every state in the Union. When nearly eighty years of age, she walked and climbed a good part of the way up Pike's Peak. In knowledge of flowers as well as in mathematics, she was a perfectionist. A riot of color in the garden and conservatory prevailed throughout the year at The Cedars, her life-long home, where she died in her ninety-second year, January, 1927.

"With the kiss of the sun for pardon
And the song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth."

¹ Annals of Sandy Spring.

The next child, Arthur B. Farquhar, born September, 1838, was a precocious, mechanical, and business genius. He no doubt inherited these pronounced attributes from his grandfather, Isaac Briggs. His career was truly meteoric. At the age of eighteen he went to York, Pennsylvania, apprenticed himself to a machinist, and advanced rapidly.

With ample nerve, unembarrassed assurance, and evident sincerity, he obtained interviews with A. T. Stewart, merchant prince of the mid-nineteenth century, William B. Astor, the Vanderbilts, and others of their type. He asked them at once, "How can I make a million dollars?" His approach was so disarming that the talks continued freely, and they gave him some mighty good advice upon subjects they were so eminently fitted to discuss.

He founded a successful, widely-known agricultural implement business in York, travelled all over Europe and South America, advancing the sale of his products. He interviewed crowned heads, and heads of states and was on friendly terms with all the Presidents from Lincoln to

Coolidge. He was one of the founders of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and for years was a director and one of its vice-presidents. His views on business were widely sought.

He attracted attention in June, 1863, when General Lee's armies were pushing toward Gettysburg. Farquhar met the "Invaders," and obtained a written agreement from General John B. Gordon to leave York undamaged if certain amounts of money were raised. The citizens approved the agreement, and York escaped. Arthur Farquhar retired to Sharon nearby, his mother's birthplace, where he built a mansion.

The next son of William Henry and Margaret Farquhar was Edward, born September, 1843, who began to show rare mental abilities at the age of six years. It is reported that at that age he had read the Bible through, and could quote freely from it. With the briefest formal schooling, two years in a public school, one term at a boarding school, one term in a medical school, and several years of tutoring by his father, he acquired a vast storehouse of knowledge and was considered a walking encyclopedia. He was widely proclaimed as a philosopher, poet, scientist, preacher, and literary authority.

His complete absorption in a subject, his ability to concentrate, was illustrated by statements that as a young farmer boy he read Greek classics while his plow team was turning at the end of the furrow. On one occasion, when riding to the Brooke Grove mill on horseback with a sack of grain to be ground, his horse stopped for a long time at a gate without Edward's notice. In time, someone came along, opened the gate, and let the horse proceed to the mill while Edward continued to be absorbed in his study.² At the age of twenty-two he was appointed to a position in the United States Patent Office and for many years was librarian there. He was appointed professor of English literature at Columbian University in 1893.

Edward Farquhar was one of the organizers of the Washington Society of Philosophical Enquiry, and was a frequent lecturer before that body of noted savants. On one occasion a program committee failed to agree on a subject

to assign him for his lecture. The time of the meeting arrived, the learned audience was assembled, and the unperturbed lecturer arrived. He was then told that they had just decided to ask him to give a lecture on "Etiquette." He at once proceeded to give an illuminating dissertation on the subject, from the stone age down to the present, to the delight of his learned audience. He was also a profound speaker in Friends Meetings on religious and ethical subjects.

The author had a personal experience with the profound mind of Edward Farquhar. While sitting around the table one winter evening at Rock Spring, the author was studying his Virgil lesson. When coming to a difficult passage, and making a move to show "Cousin" Edward the text, the latter indicated it was not necessary for him to see the book. He asked for the book number and the chapter number. When given this clue he proceeded to first quote the Latin verbatim, then the English translation, without the least hesitation.

Edward Farquhar married late in life, 1902, and died in October, 1905. His wife, Mary Milham, preceded him to the grave by only a few days. They lie side by side on the lovely wooded hillside in Rock Creek Cemetery.

Henry H. Farquhar, the next son of the Cedar's family, born in August, 1846, had a profound mentality also, but his genius took another form. Mathematics was his great medium of expression. He was reputed to be able to give the correct result, without aid of pen or paper, of multiplying an unbelievable number of digits by an equally large number.

To quote from the Annals of Sandy Spring a memorial written at the time of his death in October, 1925, "His marvelous memory and his wonderful mathematical brain directed his work into channels where abstruse calculations were needed. He belonged to the most eminent and advanced scientific and mathematical circles in Washington, where his mighty intellect was looked upon with wonder and awe."

In a visit to the Vatican, Dr. Farquhar amazed a monk when he easily translated a page of ancient Greek. He was for years identified with the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the United States Census, and for five years did important

² Annals of Sandy Spring.

statistical work for the Department of Agriculture. He was a Fellow of the American Society for the Advancement of Science, The Philosophical Society, The American Society for Judicial Settlement of International Disputes, and other learned organizations. He was a delegate to the World's Peace Conference at the Hague in 1907. Henry Farquhar married Isabel Robbins in 1881. He died in October, 1925, and she passed away in 1926.

The youngest son of William H. and Margaret Farquhar was Allan, born November, 1853. He was a highly valued and greatly beloved citizen of his neighborhood, where his active life of ninety years was spent. His death in August, 1944, caused many to mourn the loss of a grand old personality. For about sixty-six years he was a most efficient officer and employee of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, located in Sandy Spring. He was a familiar figure for several decades walking to work from The Cedars. He was elected secretary-treasurer of Mutual in 1895, and discharged the many duties called for with great fidelity and marked ability until a few weeks before his death. He was a master of every detail of its business.

Allan attended every inauguration ceremony in Washington from President Lincoln's Second in 1865 to Franklin Roosevelt's Third in 1941. He delighted some of the County's organizations with his accounts of his twenty trips to Washington during seventy-six years to see the inaugural parades. On these trips he used nearly every method of travel but an airplane. He went by shank's mare, horseback, horse and buggy, sleigh, ox-cart, carriage, stage, railroad, automobile, and bicycle.

Allan Farquhar first married Charlotte H. Pleasants, of Virginia, in January, 1880, and they lived at The Cedars, which Allan inherited from his father. Charlotte Farquhar died in

November, 1913, and in August, 1924, he married Mrs. Alice C. Cockey, of Baltimore County.

These sketches would be incomplete without referring to the walking proclivities of the Farquhars. In the frequent visits of Henry and Edward to their early home, they both walked by deliberate choice, the nine miles from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad trains in Rockville to The Cedars and back to the trains after week-ends at home. They usually refused any offered rides, although they may have been trudging along in great heat, or in dust, mud, or snow according to the season of the year.

Allan and Charlotte P. Farquhar had two daughters and one son. The oldest daughter, Marion, became the wife of Ronald Van A. Mills.

The younger daughter, Ethel Farquhar, married R. Bentley Thomas, of Sandy Spring.

Arthur Douglas Farquhar, Allan's only son, took over the old home after his father moved into the cottage and assumed management of the farm. He married Helen T. Nesbitt, of Sandy Spring, in November, 1919. He followed his father into the Insurance Company, where he went to work in 1905. He had graduated at Kenyon College and served with distinction in the United States Air Force as a pilot in World War I. From 1944 to 1946 he was secretary-treasurer of the company, becoming its president in 1946.

Of frame construction, built and added to by William Farquhar, the old Cedars house shown above, was occupied by the family from 1838 until 1901, when it was replaced with the present modern frame house, which is also built for two-family occupancy. It is believed that there was a log house on the farm when purchased in 1838. The original house was arranged for two families, Ellen having the west part for her own use.