

Harrogate's Family Tree

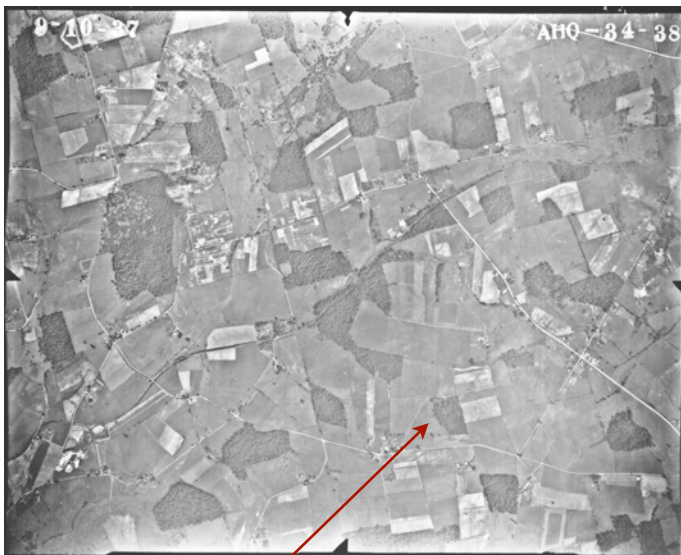
by Sonnie Sperati

THIS MONTH WE CONCLUDE THE history of the Harrogate Family Tree.

Mary and Henry Ewart bought the property in 1923 from Francis Walker. Henry Ralph Ewart was born in New Garden Township 15 February 1886, the son of Quaker parents, Samuel Franklin and Esther Clarissa Clark. His wife, Mary Louise, was the daughter of Quaker parents, John Walker Hoopes and Rachel S. Wickersham. She was born 7 March 1885. Their marriage date 7 March 1908 is recorded in the New Garden Friends Monthly Meeting Records. I am amazed over and over at the number of Friends who have owned our property!

You should recognize the surnames Hoopes and Wickersham, as members of this family have played a part in our Family Tree. We are dealing with dyed-in-the-wool New Garden people.

From what I can tell from census records, Mary and Henry always lived in Wilmington. Their parents, as derived from census records, also lived in Wilmington. This property through the years was a farm with no houses on it (until Harrogate North). Perhaps they farmed it. I have no way of knowing. Henry died in 1950 and Mary in 1966. They are buried in the Hockessin Friends Cemetery.



Harrogate land 1938

By 1929 the property passed from the Ewarts, to William Ford, and then to his brother Harry H. Ford. Harry in over the next 20 years sold property to his son, Howard D. Ford and Howard's wife, Charlotte. It again appears as all these owners lived in Delaware. They may have farmed the land or rented it to others to farm.

In March of 1955, Harold and Charlotte sold 91.8 acres to Josephine and Robert Tunis, Jr. Fifty-six of those acres is Harrogate North. The remaining 35 acres comprises the property across Southwood Road including the stone home and what would become the Estates of Harrogate. In the late 19th to early 20th century, John Speakman had sold his home to Franklin Ewart. I do not know but suspect this might have been a relative of Henry Ewart. Over time the property came into the hands of Howard and Charlotte Ford.

Robert Tunis from what I can glean from census records lived most of his life in Kennett Square. He was born in 1914, the son of Robert Wallace Tunis and Florence Harper Triechler. His occupation is generally listed as a salesman and he attended Swarthmore College. Robert and Josephine had lived in Louisiana during World War II.

The Tunis' sold the property across Southwood Road in October 1957 to Frances (Frankie) C. Glover. Three years later, Frances bought the Harrogate property. She called the farm Folly Hill. In 1977, the house formerly known as the Speakman house was known as the Glover house as indicated on a map of that year.

Frances C. Glover was born in Wilmington in 1927 to Rolfe E. and Frances Cheney Glover. She had one sibling, Rolfe E. Glover, Jr. born in 1925. I was not able to definitely determined if Frances ever lived at 854 Southwood Road but I believe she did for a time. In 1983, a city directory lists her *mailing* address as Hockessin. However she could have been living on Southwood Road. In 1984, she suffered a stroke, which confined her to a wheelchair; if that forced a change in address, I do not know.

Frances remained single for most of her life. By the early 1990's she had a home in Clearwater, Florida. On 13 June 1990, she married Edward H. Cloud. She was 63 years old and Edward was 71 years old. He was the son of Emmor and Ida Cloud. He was born in Pennsylvania; lived in

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elevations. During the uplift, the rocks split into a network of minute fractures. Rain and snow fell into the joints and formed different rock shapes, while the monsoons of summer widened small rifts into deep canyons. In winter, snowmelt seeped into tiny crevices, froze, and expanded with enough pressure to pop rock into more unique shapes.

Bryce Canyon was formed as a result of these geologic events into an amazing world of huge, colorful and fascinating rock shapes, cut as deep as 2,000 feet. We were astounded at the difference between the "above ground" formations in Arches and the deep, incredibly beautiful canyons of Bryce. There is little vegetation in the canyon, but ancient bristlecone pines, some as old as 1,600 years, find purchase in the rocks

Beautiful Zion National Park was named by the Mormon settlers as "a place of infinite possibilities at the edge of a new promised land." Zion is quite different from Bryce. Mormon pathfinders called the ruddy Navajo sandstone canyons and 3,000 foot high palisades of Zion National Park the "natural temples of God." The Paiute Indians believed the chasm was the home of their coyote spirit, Sinawave, his mercurial moods indicated by its ever changing hues of red, yellow, brown, and beige. The beauty of Zion has lured Hollywood filmmakers to the park.

Of all the unique places in the US we visited in our many trips across the country, the southern Utah National Parks have to be one of the most interesting and gorgeous. Yosemite National Park in California has always been Tom's favorite park, but after seeing the Utah parks he said, "Yosemite certainly has some competition!"

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Kennett for a brief time but by 1920 was living in Wilmington.

As an aside, I also found in my research that in 1989, NGT wanted to relocate Southwood Road which would necessitate acquiring part of Frances's land. She did in deed sell some of the property to NGT for the relocation.

Frances died 7 June 1991. And she was a wealthy woman, being worth \$8 million at the time of her death.

And now the story gets interesting. The following information comes from a court case challenging Frances's will after probate in 1991.

Frances was survived by her husband, Edward Cloud, her brother, Rolfe Glover III, her brother's three children, and her husband's nieces and nephew (Joyce Pierce Kelly, Tammy Pierce Ridge, and Martin Pierce, Jr.).

Frances owned horses. In 1960 Francis met Madelyn (Lynn) Hurley at a horse show and they became good friends. Hurley began giving Frances help with mail and preparation of checks for Frances's signature. And she eventually obtained signatory authority over some of Frances's bank accounts. The story goes, Hurley drew on these accounts without Frances's approval. In the early 1980s Frances hired Richard Ross as her financial advisor. Between 1987 and 1991, Ross and Hurley reportedly stole \$1,600,000 from Frances.

Frances had made a will dated 21 June 1989. Early in 1991, Frances and Edward drew up an Antenuptial Agreement of a cash settlement of \$2 million for Edward in the event of

her death. The June 21 will provided that the Pierces, Richard Ross, and the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center would each receive cash payments. The remainder of the estate including her farm, would go to the Glovers.

29 June 1989, Frances with Hurley present altered the will with initialed interlineations that gave the farm to the Pierces. The will in 1991 was probated in that condition. The Antenuptial Agreement was upheld in December 1991. The Glovers did not appeal the Antenuptial Agreement but did appeal the probate on 5 June 1992. The resulting hearing vacated the probate and remanded the case for a further hearing. It was not until December of 1995 that the case was resolved.

The Glovers charged that Hurley had in fact made those changes, forging Frances' initials and signature. However they lost their appeal because of the testimony of a long standing friend of Frances who was present when Frances initialed the changes and who also testified that Frances had intended all along to leave the farm to the Pierces.

Edward Cloud died in Florida 8 January 1998. The Pierces finally received the property in 2001 and sold it in 2004 to Wilkinson Builders. One more word about the stone house. In March of 2008, Wilkinson Builders sold the home and 2.6 acres to Joseph DeFillippis, et al who subsequently renovated the home and sold it to its present owners.

As for the land beneath our feet, it now belongs to the Harrogate North Condominium Association. And the first buildings on this land belong to us.