1. Little Hunting Creek Lodge. This is for Shirley and Tomogue algae, by William J. Renner.

In 1928, Ernest Jacques Sr. owned the Catoctin Furnace complex. Herbert Hoover Sr. was elected President and Mr. Hoover went to Florida to rest that winter. Mr. Jacques knew Mr. Hoover liked to fish, so Mr. Jacques went to see him and tell him what a good trout stream he had here at Catoctin Furnace and that it was for sale so the following April 1929, Mr. Hoover and his personal secretary Lawrence Richy came up from Washington to see and fish for trout. And Mr. Hoover caught some trout. In the meantime, Mr. Richy told Mr. Jacques that the Chief (Mr. Hoover) that he was interested in purchasing the place but it must be private. So, Jacques surveyed out 15.50 acres with 4½ miles of trout stream and closed the county road that ran through the place by putting gates at each end with locks to be looked when the President would be on the property. And Mr. Richy told Mr. Jacques to make the deed out to him (Mr. Richy) because there was a lot of publicity about it and that the Chief didn't want that. Richy said he would turn the place over to the Chief after things quieted over.
So Mr. Richly bought the 1550 acres for a dollar an acre. James signed the deed to Mr. Richly and soon found out he was taken. The County commissioners tore off the gates and threw them off the road, and after that Mr. Hoover only came up a few times. The government built 10 trout rearing ponds and Richly leased them to the Bureau of Fisheries and were operated from U.S. Fisheries from Kearneyville, Va.

Mrs. Richley died in 1930 and Mr. Richley leased the place to Paul Townsend from Delaware. And before the Administration went out of office, Herbert Hoover Jr. came up and stayed a month and while here he and Tom Shipp, Butch Smith and Doc Bishop organized the Western Air Express. The air route was from Chicago to Los Angeles cal. And Herbert Jr. what a pound of freight would cost from these two cities and he said 300. After this, Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Akins purchased the complex. Then in 1945 all the temporary buildings were rebuilt.
Then in 1949 the swimming pool was built at a cost of about 13,000. Mr. Asker spent about 100,000 on the complex the year 1948. The pavilion also was built that year. The TIAS E.A. house was built in 1968 at a cost of 100,000 (labort-material).

When Richey owned the complex he sold 891 acres on the west end to Kingman Brewster for 10,000.

When the Richeys first came up here the place was infested with copper snakes. Mr. Richeys dog was bitten and died, one day right after a cold shower of rain, the sun came out warm and I went snake hunting and when evening came I had killed 25 copper snakes; it was many years before any snakes were seen.

When Mr. Richey died he lived in an apartment on 16th st. in Washington and he had 338,000 in hard cash, gold and silver and no relatives hardly a second cousin on his wife's side in Wisconsin somewhere.
In the four years I was working at the Lodge, I got to know many people in the Government. The President and Mrs. Hoover and their boys Herbert Jr. and Allen, Ted Roosevelt and his sister, Alice Longworth, Arno's and Andy's (Billy Mitchell of the air force, Lewis Strauss of the Atomic Energy), Mary Roberts Rinehart the writer, and most of the President's cabinet also Betty Davis the actress and many others.

One day Mrs. Hoover came up with three other women, and after dinner was over, Mrs. Hoover went in the living room and laid down on a couch to take a nap. The other women went out to take a walk up the valley, and they told me to be quiet while Mrs. Hoover was sleeping. I was cleaning up the table, and as soon as they left Mrs. Hoover raised up and saw them go out of the entrance gate, she came out in the kitchen and helped me wash the dishes, and she said to me, "Good ridance, this is what I have to put up with all the time."
than one day before Mrs. Richley died, she and several other women came up and Mr. Jacques took them up on the Shingle road north of the camp to a spot on the east to Parks Ridge near Westminster, Mrs. Hoover said on my, How I would like to have a log cabin built here, where I could lay in bed and look down this valley. Then right away Mr. Jacques surveyed out 20 acres for her to do this. And Shirley I think this addition was needed to Mrs. Herbert Hoover Sr. It may have been that it was never recorded in the Richley name, but I built a log cabin (one room) on this place, several years later after he hit it and destroyed it.

Along about this time Mr. Jacques awoke up to the realization that he had been taken, so he began borrowing money from the deposit of his Bank, The Smithsburg Bank and using it to finance a housing project, Hill's development company in north Potomac Street in Hagerstown.
Mr. Jacques finally went in to bankruptcy, and the balance of the Catoctin Furnace property was sold for $7,500. Lancelet Jacques Jr. bought through his brother-in-law Ed McAdams. Ed McAdams sold it back to Lancelet Jacques, who sold it to the Federal Government. Shirley I hope you can read this as after I write this I cannot read it myself, as I am so blind but everything I write is the truth.

Now getting back to the History of the Place. There is an Indian grave yard on the portion that Mr. Richy sold to Kingson Brewster. Also Rileys Backbone, a ledge of rock resembling a pre-historic animal that laid down and died and and it's back bone turned to stone.
During the Revolutionary War, more than 200 men enlisted in the Continental Army from here. My great great grandfather on my mother's side was at Valley Forge the awful winter of 1777. He and John Six walked home to here at Catactin Furnace by the way of Path Valley in Pennsylvania. They walked snow all the way, and when night would come they would stop at some pioneer's cabin for the night, and after spring came and the snow melted they went back to Valley Forge and rejoined their outfit, and when the war was over my great, great, great grandfather was given a fifty acre tract of land west of Cumberland for his services. This tract was in the rich Georges Creek coal belt.

While the Revolutionary War was going on Alan Cameron with his Tory Refugees marched from Canada to Hamburg, a village west of Frederick on top of the mountain. They knew about the furnace here at Catactin Furnace, Cameron stopped at the Gates Place (now George Willard Place) and he sent two spies down to the furnace to see
How well the furnace was guarded. They were caught and put to jail at Frederick, so was several others, their plan was to capture the Arsenal at Frederick, all of the spies was caught and hanged. One of them was Casper Fitch, old Barbara Fitch's father-in-law.

There is an Indian burial ground on the south-west portion of your property adjacent to the burnet property and there is outcroppings of lead ore, and small bits of coal, iron ore and paint ochre on the property.

I must stop trying to write or I will go completely blind. I hope sometime you will be fit to stop at my place to see me before I pass on to my reward. I am now 91. So is my good friend and ex-senator Mackey Mathies, his and my birthday are on July 24th.

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