



Newsletter

Summer 2016

greenemillpreserve.net

greenemill@gmail.com

Pool Season 2016

The pool will open on May 28th and will operate on a daily schedule from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. All members in good standing with the HOA can use the pool. There is no registration requirement or pass needed to use the pool. Please read the included enclosure from Sentry Management on the rules and regulations regarding the pool and its use. Additionally, please make sure to go over these rules with any children or caregivers that will be attending the pool this summer.

Do you have additional questions regarding the pool use or regulations? Contact Property Manager David Prutz at dprutz@sentrymgt.com

Clubhouse Update

The exterior renovation of the clubhouse is almost complete including updated paint and patio. These updates were presented during the Board of Directors Meeting in April 2016. The patio is to be used for food or drink consumption while at the pool. The patio will be closed for private parties and dates will be posted on NextDoor. The grill will be available for use for those renting the clubhouse. Please keep the patio area clean and make sure to use the trash cans for all food and waste removal.

Our Historical Foundation by Gary Cuppett

History is the foundation of legacies past that better prepares us for the journey ahead. I can't think of any better foundation for our "rare-n-refreshing" Greene Mill Preserve than that of our founding family...strong in love, work ethic, and community pride! Allow me to introduce you to the Riticor family...

Charles and Susanna Riticor built a simple wood clapboard farmhouse (picture courtesy of the Riticor descendants) in 1853 and filled it with their six children: Elizabeth, John Thomas, Elijah, Sallie, Charles Jr., and Margaret. The Riticors were subsistence farmers who grew wheat and corn on the very land we currently call home. What they grew is what fed their family. Imagine going out every day knowing that the work you perform will have a direct impact on you and your family's next meal. Work hard and there will be food on the table...waiting for someone outside the family resource pool to feed and care for you just wasn't an option.

Faith was an important pillar of the Riticor family. They were devout, church-going people who attended the Mt. Zion Church. In fact, the family sold, for the sum of \$10, the property where the historic Mt. Zion Church is currently located (the roundabout intersection of Rt. 50 and Watson Rd.). And, Charles, Susanna, and two of their children are actually buried at the Mt. Zion Church cemetery. If you ever happen to see strangers hanging around the historic Riticor chimney within our community on Father's Day every year, give them a honk or two - those are



actual descendants of the Riticor family. These descendants hold their annual family reunion at the historic Mt. Zion Church. During the reunion, the Riticor descendants visit the chimney driving to and from the church...they are absolutely overjoyed that their historic home site has been found. They knew that the house existed somewhere off the historic Carolina Road (which was formerly a Native American trail, then the Underground Railroad, and now known as Watson Road) but were never able to find it until my research connected-the-dots.



I often reflect on life back in the 1800's. If you are a technology buff, maybe a simplistic engineering marvel known as a springhouse might interest you. The attached picture shows this 19th century phenomenon constructed over the source of a spring. The water maintained a constant cool temperature inside the springhouse throughout the year. You can just see the Riticors using this for refrigeration and long-term storage of food that would otherwise spoil...such as meat, fruit or dairy products.

Our historical holdings are not limited to just the Riticor House. I have concluded that the remnants shown in the attached pictures are in fact a slave log cabin. This is based on several factors including the oral testimony of a long-time (30+ years) employee of Columbia Gas Company whom I bumped into while surveying the area. This employee confirmed that the site has always been referred to as the "slave log cabin" and that it was in much better condition when he first started working for Columbia many decades ago. And, there are other ways to confirm the age of historic buildings. Nails provide one of the best clues towards this end, especially those constructed during the nineteenth century when nail-making technology advanced rapidly. The log cabin remnants contain Type-B cut nails which were made circa 1810s-1900s. This type of nail continued to be the most common used through most of the greater part of the nineteenth century. The cabin was needed as it seems Charles Riticor "rented" one 17-year-old black male slave from his younger sister Zilpha who owned the slave. Records went on to indicate that Charles had one "slave house" on his property for this individual. This is as delineated in the "1860 Loudoun County Virginia Slave Schedule," compiled by Patricia B. Duncan. The slave schedule is a compilation of records that were transcribed from the Loudoun County, Virginia Population Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States.



If you ever want a present-day, living reminder of our rich history, every spring daffodils planted by Susanna Riticor emerge from our ground! I have been told that daffodils will last forever if planted in proper conditions...and it appears that Mrs. Riticor did just that! These particular beauties are planted next to the second chimney (which fell down) and also at the Slave Log Cabin. Keep in mind that these daffodils, which have a very unique look, were planted 8 years before the U.S. Civil War!

The Riticor House and Slave Log Cabin are located on one of the 100-acre and 10-acre conservancy lots respectively. The remnants of the Riticor House consist of a stone/brick chimney and the stone foundations of two springhouses at the source of what I call Riticor Run. The remnants of the Slave Log Cabin are V-notched cedar logs with Type-B cut nails, crossed floor boards, floor beam with multiple notches, and chimney stones (without any mortar).

I have always had a dream to someday purchase these historical treasures from their current owners, convert them to HOA property, and then rebuild them to their former glory for all to enjoy! Talk about a unique community amenity!

Social Committee

- ✓ Bunko Night on June 18th
- ✓ Movie Night and Campout on June 25th
- ✓ Fourth of July BBQ and Parade on July 4th
- ✓ Movie Night on August 20th
- ✓ Halloween on October 31st
- ✓ Thanksgiving Morning Football Game on November 24th
- ✓ Holiday Pictures with Santa on a date to be determined

Calling all neighbors!
We are still looking for help on the Social
Committee! If interested, please contact the
HOA or Kristin Rounds at
squarepair@msn.com

Coming Soon!

Look for our next edition of the newsletter to include planned community improvements and information about the monarch butterfly migration from our neighborhood to Central America!