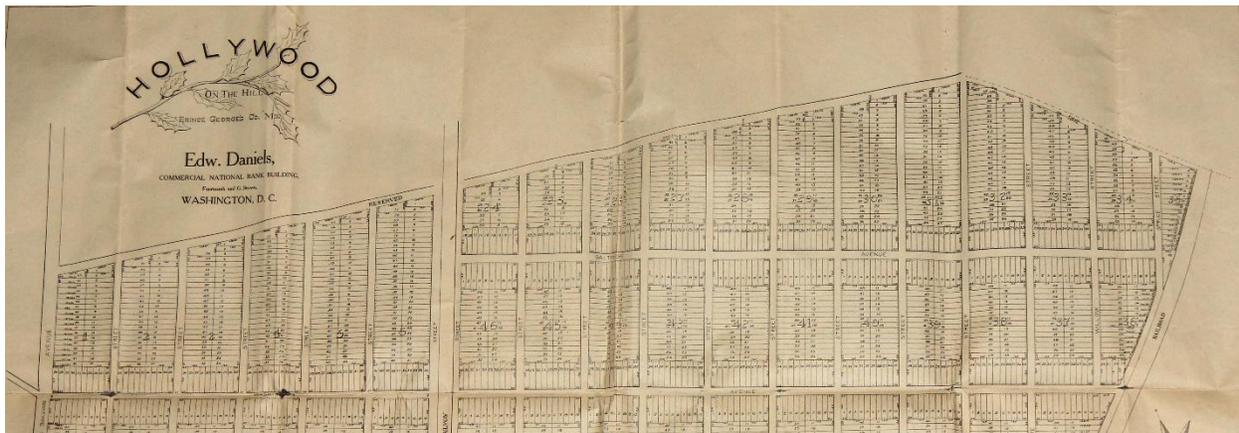


The Vision of Edward Daniels: The History and Heritage of Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill

By Moriah James

Abstract: While the history and heritage of Maryland and cities such as College Park have been thoroughly documented, the histories of individual neighborhoods within those boundaries are not always fully explored. In north College Park lie the two neighborhoods of Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill. Both communities were founded by a man named Edward Daniels in the early 1900s. This research paper will aim to synthesize the oral histories of local residents with the written and recorded past in order to explore the history and heritage of these two north College Park neighborhoods.



The Early History of Maryland and Prince George's County

In the summer of 1608, Captain John Smith navigated the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, discovering land that would eventually become the State of Maryland.¹ While this early 1600s voyage often serves as the starting point for the history of Maryland, Native Americans were already inhabiting these same lands for thousands of years prior to his landing. In the mid-Atlantic Coastal region of the United States, tribes like the Lenni-Lenape, the Powhatan Chiefdom, and the Nanticoke lived and continue to live around the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond.² One tribe in particular called the Piscataway, however, were the peoples who lived on the territory that is now the City of College Park. In 1978, an archaeological dig was completed in a waterway that runs along the eastern side of the city called Indian Creek. There the team recovered artifacts such as projectile points and other stone tools that were left in the basin. Evidence such as seeds, faunal remains, and animal bones were recovered from the ground and aided the team in reconstructing early native lifeways.³

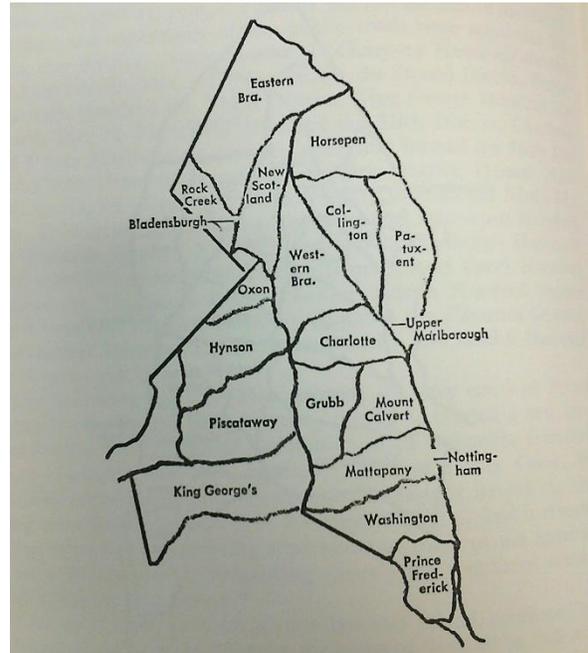
¹ Maryland State Archives, "Historical Chronology," <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/chron/html/chron16.html>

² Redish, Laura and Orrin Lewis, "Indian Tribes and Languages of the Northeast Woodlands," <http://www.native-languages.org/northeast-culture.htm>

³ "Indian Creek V - 18PR94," Archaeological Collections in Maryland, <https://www.jefpat.org/NEHWeb/18PR94-%20Indian%20Creek%20Finding%20Aid.aspx>

It is also said that current names such as Paint Branch Road were named by Parks and Planning in order to commemorate their legacy as well.⁴ While the precarious relationship between settlers and Native Americans began hundreds of years ago, it was not until 2012 that the State of Maryland formally recognized the Piscataway Conoy Tribe’s American Indian status.⁵

The Colony of Maryland was established in 1634 when colonists first settled in St. Mary’s City.⁶ Any newly discovered territory by European settlers typically became divided into segments called “hundreds,” which were political divisions of land that were arranged for administrative purposes such as taxation. Prince George’s County was formed in 1696 after being carved from land that originally belonged to Charles County and Calvert County. Initially, Prince George’s County consisted of six separate hundreds but increased to twenty-one over the following century.⁷ The region surrounding Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill were included in one of these administrative divisions called the New Scotland Hundred.⁸ This hundred covered everything north of St. Mary’s before it was



Hundreds of Prince George’s County, 1800-1848.
Photo Credit: Louise Joyner

reduced to its final size in 1715. This colonial administrative system was dissolved a few years before 1850, though other counties ended their use of it decades before in 1824. Well into the 1700s, the non-indigenous population increased as more Europeans, slaves, and other indentured servants arrived. Prince George’s final shape would take form when the capital of the United States moved to Washington D.C., taking land away from the county in the process.⁹

⁴ Burch, T. Raymond, *History and Development of the City of College Park, Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt and Adjacent Areas*, College Park, MD: City of College Park, 1965.

⁵ Maryland State Archives, “Recognition of the American Indian Status of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe,” 2012, <http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/016000/016239/unrestricted/20130091e-001.pdf>.

⁶ Lam, Kenneth K., “Unearthing early American life in St. Mary’s City,” *The Baltimore Sun*, August 30, 2013. <http://darkroom.baltimoresun.com/2013/08/unearthing-early-american-life-in-st-marys-city/#1>.

⁷ The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, “History of Prince George’s County,” <http://www.mnccppcapps.org/planning/publications/pdfs/77/History%20of%20Prince%20George's%20County.pdf>.

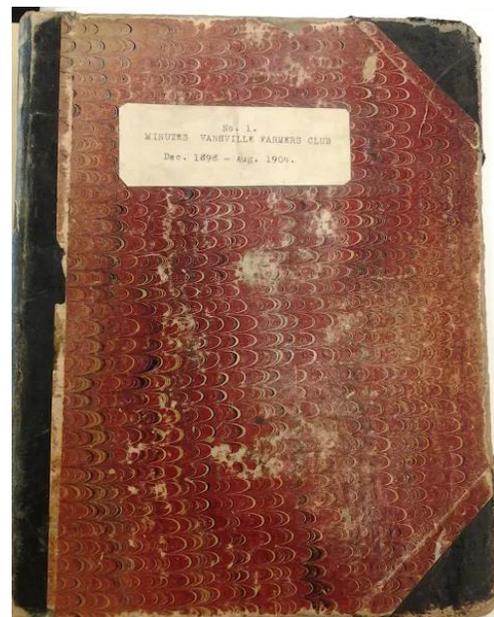
⁸ “Brief History of Berwyn Heights,” *Town of Berwyn Heights Maryland*, <https://www.berwynheightsmd.gov/about-berwyn-heights/pages/brief-history-berwyn-heights>.

⁹ Joyner, Louise, *Prince George's heritage; sidelights on the early history of Prince George's County, Maryland, from 1696 to 1800*, Baltimore, MD: Pridemark Press, 1972, 44-53.

As the population of the nation's capital continued to expand, it also resulted in the growth of neighboring communities.¹⁰ This ongoing process of people arriving from across the Atlantic forcefully removed Native Americans off of their ancestral lands while simultaneously making room for settling families who were looking to start their lives in the new colonies.

Agriculture was a major element for those living in colonial states and in Prince George's Bladensburg-Vansville District—the area where Edward Daniels would eventually establish Hollywood on the Hill and Daniels Park. The district of Vansville is mentioned frequently throughout Maryland newspapers like the *Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser* (1845-1898) and *The Prince George's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser* (1882-1925).¹¹ Land-owning planters from Vansville and surrounding areas even started an exclusive club called the Vansville Farmers Club which was among the oldest agricultural societies in Maryland.¹² Starting in 1898 and ending around 1900, members met on a monthly basis to discuss various topics surrounding agriculture.¹³

For Prince George's County, the crop of choice was tobacco. The county grew so much tobacco, in fact, that its planters produced nearly double the amount than the next highest tobacco producing county of Anne Arundel did. Since agriculture was a major source of income, it is no surprise that this endeavor was fueled by slave labor. According to an 1860s slave schedule, the Bladensburg-Vansville District was shown to have had 205 slave owning whites compared to the 3,465 whites who were non-slave holding. For African Americans, 2,179 of them in this area were enslaved while 290 individuals were freed. Of those families who owned slaves, the average number of slaves that they owned was between two and ten. It was extremely rare that a family owned more than 50 slaves in this part of Maryland. Agriculture was also particularly significant for the history of Prince George's County due to the important role that the Maryland Agricultural College (1856) played in the region's history. The founder of the college



Original notebook from the Vansville Farmers Club, dated 1898-1904.
Photo Credit: UMD Special Collections

¹⁰ The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, "History of Prince George's County," 11, <http://www.mnccppcapps.org/planning/publications/pdfs/77/History%20of%20Prince%20George's%20County.pdf>

¹¹ "Digitized Newspapers," *Chronicling America*, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Marylandðnicity=&language=eng>

¹² Bruder A., "Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form," http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/018000/018200/018235/pdf/msa_se5_18235.pdf

¹³ Vansville Farmer's Club, "Minutes: Vansville Farmers Club Dec. 1898-Aug. 1904," UMD Special Collections.

was Charles Benedict Calvert who owned 52 slaves and came from a legacy of slave owners. Many of these slaves worked on his Riversdale Plantation which includes land that the University of Maryland campus currently sits on.¹⁴

In relation to Daniels Park and Hollywood, the historic town of Lakeland is an important adjacent community to the south that became populated with African Americans around the early 1900s. While the neighborhood today has a significant population of college students from the University of Maryland, its history still lives on in the recollections of local descendants. Maxine Gross, a resident of Lakeland and former Councilmember talked about the isolation of the Lakeland community felt from the rest of College Park:

“We just didn't have too much to do with people outside of the neighborhood. Especially kids, you know. You went to school in Lakeland, you went to church in Lakeland you lived there, so you just didn't do all that much out. Now some kids did. They went to things like the Boys & Girls Club, you know, for sports and that was mostly some of the boys. There were places that you knew that you weren't supposed to go and most people didn't.”¹⁵

Brad Herbert, a resident of Daniels Park since he was born in 1962, told during his interview the story about how he was friends with other African American youth from Lakeland, worked alongside them, and frequented their local tavern. He also mentioned that some roads were blocked off, intentionally obstructing travel into the black community.¹⁶ Lakeland's connection to the University of Maryland was that it employed many of them to work in their kitchens and in other service jobs.¹⁷ Maxine Gross' father was one of those men who worked in the kitchens for the University. She recalled that he wasn't allowed to attend, but they would pay the difference of a course if he went elsewhere for his education. He could also take home as much food as he wanted for his direct family, Gross added.¹⁸ Prior to the 1960s, housing in Prince George's County was segregated, meaning that integration also came to Daniels Park, Hollywood and the rest of College Park at around that time as well. Gail Kushner, a resident of College Park and wife of former Mayor Alvin Kushner, explained how students from the elementary schools of Cherokee Lane and Adelphi were sent further west to Ridgecrest Elementary in Chillum, Maryland.¹⁹

¹⁴ Students of History 429, *Knowing our history: African American slavery & the University of Maryland*, University of Maryland, 2009, 2-15, <http://cdm16064.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p266901coll7/id/2614>.

¹⁵ Maxine Gross (Resident of Lakeland for over 50 years and Councilmember in the 1980s) interview by Moriah James, July 26, 2017.

¹⁶ Brad Herbert (Resident of Daniels Park since 1962 and Ruth Herbert (Resident of Daniels Park since 1927), interview by Moriah James at Hillhaven Assisted Living, Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Adelphi, Maryland, June 30, 2017.

¹⁷ The Lakeland Community Heritage Project, Inc., *Lakeland African Americans in College Park*, Charleston SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009, 51.

¹⁸ Interview with Maxine Gross and Moriah James.

¹⁹ Gail Kushner (Resident of College Park since 1963 and wife of former Mayor Alvin Kushner), interview by Moriah James, June 29, 2017.

Considering the history of slavery in the Vansville District pre-dating the founding of Daniels Park and Hollywood, it is highly unlikely that Edward Daniels sold land to African Americans. Those families he did sell land to, however, would go on to establish a community that still thrives today.

Transportation and the Transformation of College Park

Prior to the present-day roadway system, waterways had been the primary means of travel and transportation along the East Coast and throughout the Chesapeake region. The Chesapeake Bay was particularly useful to settlers due to the abundance of rivers that led inland. Footpaths on land were available, but not all of them could be passed by horses. The use of stagecoaches, previously known as “stage-wagons,” in Washington D.C. began in 1783. Two men named Nathaniel Twining and Gabriel Peterson Van Horne were major proponents in establishing such transportation from Maryland to Washington D.C. Van Horne moved to the Vansville-Bladensburg District in the early 1780s to be closer to the tracks that he managed.²⁰ He also ran the Van Horn Tavern that George Washington was said to have frequented on his trips between Washington D.C. and Philadelphia.²¹

The City and Suburban Railroad Company would eventually form the Washington, Berwyn and Laurel Electric Railway. The railway originally ran from the capital to Berwyn from Laurel in 1910 but was then cut back to Beltsville in 1925.²² Remnants of the old railway still exist along today’s College Park Trolley Trail. Since the previous dirt roads tended to be burdensome for travelers and their horses, inns and taverns were commonly built along such passages to serve as rest stops. Some of these US-1 stops included the Vansville Inn, the Rhodes Tavern, which would later be known as the White House Tavern, and the Rossborough Inn which still sits on the University’s campus. The B&O Railroad Company completed a railroad in College Park in 1832. The first two stations included College Station, now called College Park, at Calvert Road, and Scaggs Crossing on Branchville Road.²³ Trolleys also provided an incredibly important means of transportation for the residents of early College Park.

²⁰ Holmes, Oliver W, "Stagecoach Days in the District of Columbia," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.* 50 (1948): 1-4, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40067314>.

²¹ “Site of Van Horn’s Tavern,” *Waymarking*, March 10, 2006, http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM8NZ_Site_of_Van_Horns_Tavern.

²² Wallace, James N., “The History of the Maryland Line of the Washington Railway and Electric Company,” 2-7.

²³ Burch, *History and Development*.

“The Trolley ran from Washington DC— it went up to Beltsville and originally it went all the way up to Laurel. And I had a gentleman who lived across from me who used to drive the trolley. And so he told me something about that... What he told me, when he was driving the trolley... it was a larger trolley on the part up to Branchville, and the electric wire was underground, just like they were in DC. And then once you got north of Branchville, the trolley line was above-ground and he had to flip around a device to get the electricity from up above and the cars that went from north from Branchville up to Beltsville and Laurel. They were smaller cars and they had an above ground wire.”²⁴

- *John Krouse*

With these more efficient modes of urban transit being used, came the rise of “streetcar suburbs” such as College Park.²⁵ A streetcar suburb is a term given to residential areas that grew out of the introduction of this type of transportation to the area. Before Rhode Island Avenue was the paved road that it is today, it used to host a streetcar line that ran from Beltsville and headed into Washington D.C. It becomes a discontinuous roadway by the time it hits Berwyn Road in College Park, rendering it inaccessible to cars until it merges with Baltimore Avenue while heading into the nation’s capital. A resident that grew up in College Park named Betty Rodenhausen recounted that her earliest memories were of her catching the streetcar to get to Holy Redeemer Catholic School when she started attending in 1938.²⁶

Today’s neighborhoods of College Park include Berwyn and Lakeland in the south, Daniels Park and Hollywood in the north, and the University of Maryland’s campus on the west side of US-1. Berwyn and Hollywood were not originally planned to be incorporated with the City of College Park and were voted “no” on by a College Park committee on incorporation by other residents in 1945. “Old College Park” consisted of Calvert Hills, Lakeland, Berwyn, the Yarrow subdivision on Edmonston Road and UMD. College Park tried to lure Berwyn into joining them and succeeded in 1945 when the neighborhood choose them over Berwyn Heights when it became clear that incorporating all three together would not be feasible.²⁷ While each community in College Park has their own histories, the two neighborhoods of Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill in north College Park will serve as the further focus of this research paper.

²⁴ John Krouse (Former Councilmember), interview by Moriah James, June 7, 2017.

²⁵ “Daniels Park (66-027),” The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1, <http://www.mnccppcapps.org/planning/HistoricCommunitiesSurvey/CommunityDocumentations/66-027%20Daniels%20Park/PG%2066-027%20Daniels%20Park%20Community%20Survey.pdf>

²⁶ Betty Rodenhausen (Resident of College Park since 1936) interview by Moriah James, August 17, 2017.

²⁷ Davis, Charles R., Sr., *The First Twenty-Five Years of the City of College Park, MD 1945-1970*, 1970.

Edward Daniels and the Creation of Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill

Located in north College Park between US-1 on the west and the old railroad tracks on the east in north are the two neighborhoods of Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill. The individual who established these communities was a man named Edward Daniels, who was born in 1871.²⁸ A direct descendant of Edward Daniels named Larry Daniels, along with his wife Ann Daniels, recalled some information about Edward “Ed” Daniels Jr.—the founder of Daniels Park. Larry Daniels explained that his Aunt Grace said that Edward Daniels Sr. came to America from New Zealand. The only story that Larry Daniels specifically remembered about the founder was one he heard from his father who told him how Edward Daniels Jr. lost a brick house located near a parking garage and motel behind the University of Maryland to gambling.²⁹



Edward Daniels Jr. circa 1900.
Photo Credit: Daniels Family

Written sources on the founder of Daniels Park are also present. The vision of Edward Daniels began with a 1905 article from *The Washington Post* that illustrated Daniels’ intention to create a utopian society for the working class:

“There is a most attractive field for persons of moderate means who have a taste for country life. I am not thinking of the poor and unemployed, but of the large class of clerks and business men who are confined to the city during the day most of the year.”

In that same year of 1905, it is known that Mr. Daniels bought 35.25 acres off of a tract of land called “Vernon.” In order to attract potential buyers to these properties along the “car line,” he provided free food, and music for interested buyers, even bringing people from D.C. himself to see his newest real estate project.³⁰

²⁸ Gingell, Craig, “Edward Daniels,” <http://www.gingell.com/familytree/?indi=20619>.

²⁹ Larry and Ann Daniels (Descendant family of Edward Daniels Jr.), interview by Moriah James, College Park, Maryland, July 18, 2017.

³⁰ “Daniels Park (66-027).”

Edward Daniels married Annie Bewley whose parents John and Jane Bewley emigrated from Wales in 1876.³¹ The Bewley family was a well-established family of eleven who owned the Bewley Mill. This marriage united the two family's interests in their business because the Bewleys owned the only sawmill in the area, Ann Daniels said.³² By 1907, Daniels' newest project "Hollywood on the Hill" was already purchased and underway. Though there are fewer advertisements for properties being sold in Hollywood, available land were being published in newspapers by March of 1913.³³ A common misconception about this neighborhood is that it was named after Hollywood in California. Despite the similarities, the name "Hollywood" in north College Park was inspired by the large Holly trees that were abundant in the area, John Krouse explained during his interview. In 1946, Hollywood on the Hill was bought by the Burch Realty Company and re-distributed the plots of land into a modern community.³⁴ Some of that land also belonged to the Hollywood Swamp which consisted of the area surrounding the Greenbelt Metro Station.



⇐ Map of north College Park in the 1960s. In relation to the University of Maryland on the bottom left corner (southwest), Hollywood and Daniels Park are located east of US-1 and west of the Metro's Green Line.
Photo Credit: Ron Jewell

³¹ Burch, *History and Development*.

³² Larry and Ann Daniels interview by Moriah James, July 18, 2017.

³³ "The Prince George's enquirer and southern Maryland advertiser, March 28, 1913," *Chronicling America*, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89060124/1913-03-28/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=1789&index=0&date2=1924&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&lccn=&words=Hill+Hollywood&proxdistance=5&state=Maryland&rows=20&ortext=&proxtext=&phrasertext=Hollywood+on+the+hill&andtext=&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>.

³⁴ Burch, *History and Development*.

Saturday, May 4th 1907.

At 8 O'clock P. M.,

the property particularly described in said mortgage by metes and bounds, courses and distances, as containing

**218 ACRES
MORE OR LESS,**

adjoining the property of the Maryland Agricultural College, and the lands now or formerly owned by Dr. Eversfield, Dr. Metzgerott and General Beale. The improvements consist of an excellent dwelling, barn, tenant house, wagon shed, poultry house, hay barrick, cow barn and potato house. The soil is good and well adapted to the growth of all kinds of truck: This farm, which formerly belonged to Roger T. Bellis, is well and conveniently located on a good public road, being within about one hour's drive of Washington City, 20 minutes walk from the electric car line, (a fare to any part of Washinto. being 10 cents) and about 1½ miles from College Station on the B & O. Railroad.

TERMS OF SALE.

One-third cash, and the balance in equal instalments of one, two and three years, or all cash as the purchaser may elect; the deferred payments to be secured to the satisfaction of the undersigned, and the entire purchase money, less a cash deposit of \$800 which will be required on the day of sale, to bear interest from said day, when a plat of the property can be seen. These terms may be modified and a portion of the purchase money may remain on mortgage if deemed advisable. For further particulars apply to

THE SAFE DEPOSIT & TRUST CO.,
of Baltimore, Trustee, Nos. 9, 11 and 13 South St., or **PHIL. H. TUCK** its Attorney, No. 307 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Md.
April 12 1907

↑ *Prince George's Enquiry* newspaper article of an advertisement for Hollywood on the Hill in 1913.
Photo Credit: Chronicling America.

T. VAN CLAGETT,
Solicitor for Petitioner

ORDER OF PUBLICATION.

In re. Recording of Plat of **HOLLYWOOD ON THE HILL.**

In the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Md.

No. 4226 Equity.

WHEREAS George N. Buck has filed his Petition in this Court for the purpose of placing on record, under the provisions of Chapter 619; of the Acts of 1908, of the General Assembly of Maryland, the subdivision to be known as "Hollywood on the Hill," in Vansville District, Prince George's County Md., and has filed Plat of said Subdivision and avers that the outlines of said subdivision are not in conflict with any adjacent property and that the name of said subdivision is not synonymous to any other subdivision duly recorded in said County and that boundry stones have been planted as required by law.

It is thereupon, ordered by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in Equity, this 17th day of March, 1913, that the Petition be granted, and the Plat recorded as prayed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or

← *Prince George's Enquiry* newspaper advertisement for Daniels Park in 1907.
Photo Credit: Chronicling America

ORDER OF RATIFICATION

SAFE DEPOSIT & TRUST CO., of Baltimore, Trustee.

vs.

EDWARD DANIELS and ANNIE DANIELS, his wife.

In the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, In Equity.

No. 3413 Equity.

ORDERED, This 9th day of May 1907 that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported by Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore, Trustee, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the first day of June, 1907; provided a copy of this order be inserted in some newspaper printed in Prince George's county, once in each of three successive weeks before the 1st day of June, 1907.

Report states the amount of sale to be \$6,300.

← Order of Ratification for Edward and Annie Daniels in 1907.
Photo Credit: Chronicling America



↑ Photo of Edward Daniels Sr., Edward Daniels Jr., Sydney Daniels Sr., and Sydney Daniels Jr.
Photo Credit: The Daniels Family



↑ Photo Edward Daniels Jr., Sydney Daniels Sr., Sydney Daniels Jr., Larry Daniels circa 1950.
Photo Credit: The Daniels Family



↑ Edward Daniels Jr., founder of Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill and his family.
Photo credit: The Daniels Family



↑ Woman believed to be Annie Bewley.
Photo Credit: The Daniels Family

Early Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill

The land that Edward Daniels Jr. purchased was eventually settled by families who moved to College Park during the early 1900s and built homes on these newly-available lots. Many of the homes were also built for veterans returning from WWI. Ruth Herbert, who was born in 1927, along with other long-time residents recalled what the landscape of early north College Park looked like:

“On Indian Lane there was a house further down. There were three houses together and that’s all there was in the neighborhood. We had nobody around.”³⁵

- *Ruth Herbert*

“It was pockets of civilization, pockets of houses that had [been] built right next to each other for blocks at a time, and then a lot of open space.”³⁶

- *Sabra Staley*

“... up here it was pretty much country. The parcels of land that this community was built on were all little farms and things. Most of the crops, mostly for things related to milk and vegetables and things like that to sell to the city.”³⁷

- *Kennis Termini*



Indian Creek Laundry circa 1900.

Photo Credit: Brad Herbert

The recollection by Kennis Termini is particularly of interest because it falls right in line with Edward Daniels’ original vision for his neighborhood—for Daniels Park, and later Hollywood on the Hill, to both offer rural escapes for those who worked in the city. The founder

³⁵ Brad Herbert (Resident of Daniels Park since 1960s) and Ruth Herbert (Resident of Daniels Park since 1927), interview by Moriah James at Hillhaven Assisted Living, Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Adelphi, Maryland, June 30, 2017.

³⁶ Sabra Staley (Resident of College Park since 1935) interview by Moriah James, July 13, 2017.

³⁷ Kennis Termini (Resident of Daniels Park since 1974) interview by Moriah James at the Hollywood Farmer’s Market, College Park, MD, June 10, 2017.

also wished for this rural “utopian community” to have a “cooperative dairy, laundry, orchards, vineyards, truck gardens, and schools,” along with greenery that would juxtapose the rest of industrialized College Park.³⁸

Most of the original businesses around north College Park are no longer here today despite the original structures still remaining in many cases. The majority of the residents interviewed, however, still recalled the places that they used to frequent decades ago. Many residents who were interviewed recalled that the Johnson family, for example, had businesses in north College Park such as Johnson’s Drugstore which is now occupied by a 7-Eleven that sits on the intersection of Greenbelt Road and Rhode Island Avenue. Other notable mentions include Indian Creek Laundry which sat on Indian Lane, the old Post Office on Rhode Island Avenue, and even a dancehall and circus that had elephants that moved closer to Greenbelt Road, Ruth and Brad Herbert specifically recalled during their interview.³⁹ Before Prince George’s Plaza was the commercial hub it is today, it used to be a farm, resident Bill Robertson explained:

“I remember that there’s an old farm called Hires Farm which is where Prince George’s Plaza is now with a really nice area. In fact, a lot of times their school like themed trips and we would go up to Hires Farm to see the animals.”⁴⁰

Despite those buildings changing companies throughout the 20th century, a handful of current locations in the neighborhoods of Daniels Park and Hollywood are still treasured by the local community.

Duvall Field

Located east of the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and Blackfoot Place is a popular recreation area called Duvall Field. Previously known as the “Rhode Island Avenue Recreation Area,” this field offers a space where locals have been playing since 1964. It was renamed the Duvall Recreational area in 1969 in honor of William A. Duvall who was the first Mayor of College Park.⁴¹ The Duvall family has a long history amongst the other founding families of Maryland. The first Duvall to emigrate to America in the 1650s was Mareen Duvall, whose nationality was French.⁴² His



Sign to Duvall Field
Photo Credit: Patch.com

³⁸ “Daniels Park (66-027).”

³⁹ Brad Herbert and Ruth Herbert interview by Moriah, June 30, 2017.

⁴⁰ Bill Robertson (Resident of Hollywood since 1959) interview by Moriah James, August 22, 2017.

⁴¹ Davis, *The First Twenty-Five Years of the City of College Park*.

⁴² “First Generation,” *Rootsweb*, 1997, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdannear/firstfam/duvall/d18610.htm>.

descendants can be found throughout historical maps of Prince George’s County and the Vansville-Bladensburg District.

The College Park Boys & Girls Club of America

The first Boys Club was founded in 1860 in Hartford, Connecticut by three women named Elizabeth Hammersley, Mary Goodwin, and Alice Goodwin. They believed that the young boys who roamed around their city were misusing their time and sought to find a beneficial alternative for them.⁴³ In 1990, the organization extended its membership to include girls. Today there are over 4,000 Boys & Girls Club facilities spread across America—Hollywood hosting one of their own. According to information mentioned by Anna Owens, the former Mayor of College Park from 1987–1993, the Hollywood Boys Club was founded in 1952. In 1953, the Hollywood Boys Club was renamed the Hollywood-Berwyn Boys Club, presumably, to include more youth in the surrounding area. Additionally, Raymond Burch donated the field which is known as the Hollywood Recreation Center. During her interview, she approximated that the College Park girls merged with the boys sometime in the late 1980s.



Before Anna Owens was Mayor, she served on the Board of Directors for the Girls Club and volunteered

with the Boys Club. Owens recalled that in the early days, field time for the girls wasn’t always guaranteed. The Girls Club also held banquets, cultural events, and did their own fundraising because they were not funded otherwise.⁴⁴

But the Boys & Girls Club did not only help the youth of north College Park enjoy sports—they were also responsible for the parades. Several residents recalled how the parade was an important tradition for the community. Debbie Herbert, a resident from Hollywood since 1961 and previous athletic director for the Girls Club also recalled details about the parade. Herbert said the parade involved the sports teams, bands, majorettes, cheerleaders and floats as well as the fire department and police department. Her mother Edna Herbert, in fact, was the

1954 Hollywood Parade photo in *Images of America: College Park* (2005) by Stephanie Stullich and Katharine D. Bryant.
Original Photo Credit: College Park Boys and Girls Club

⁴³ “BGCA - Our Mission & Story,” Boys & Girls Clubs of America.
<https://www.bgca.org/about-us/our-mission-story>.

⁴⁴ Anna Owens (Former Mayor of College Park), interview by Moriah James, August 1, 2017.

reason why she first got involved with planning the Hollywood parades. Herbert approximated that the parades ended in the 1990s because the decline of local children who participated in the Boys & Girls Club.

“It was just a day to get everything going.... so all the teams would gather up down at REI when it first originally started it was over where the old police barracks was —is. We used to line up there and we'd take it all the way down Route 1 to Duvall Field. And then after that, after the parade was completely over the team would get out on the field and we'd play ball all afternoon.”⁴⁵

- *Debbie Herbert*

Churches of Hollywood and Daniels Park

By the time *History and Development of the City of College Park, Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt and Adjacent Areas* was finished in 1965, the churches that were listed in the “Hollywood section” included Pilgrim Church on Edgewood Road, Church of the Nazarene and North Side Baptist Church which were both along Rhode Island Avenue, Berwyn Baptist Church on Cherokee Street at 48th Place, and Hope Evangelical Lutheran on Guilford Road. Some of these churches, however, may have undergone name changes, moved, or have been torn down. Hope Evangelical Lutheran, for example, is located outside of the Hollywood neighborhood but was possibly renamed the Hope Lutheran Church. The Pilgrim Church on Edgewood Road does not exist today, however, the College Park Wesleyan Church is present on that same road, possibly indicating a name change that occurred at some point.⁴⁶

The churches of today’s north College Park include the Church of the Nazarene, the United Methodist Church-College Park, College Park Wesleyan Church, and the Methodist Church which was built in 1874 but moved to another location on Hollywood Road in 1958. Both Ruth and Brad Herbert recalled the Methodist church being built on Rhode Island Avenue and that Brad’s grandfather contributed to the building of the structure.⁴⁷ The United Methodist Church’s timeline goes from 1874-1953, and even mentions that William A. Duvall, a member of the church, and Virgie M. Hughes were the first couple to be married there.⁴⁸ In an interview with resident Pat Hughes, she recalled the role that women played in this same church:

“And, well see—in the church are groups of ladies. They were called circles... And these ladies did lots of crafting things and from time to time they would gather, say, on Thursday mornings, for instance, and they would get together and they would do crochet work, they would do embroidery work... but I particularly remember to crochet

⁴⁵ Debbie Herbert (Resident of Hollywood since 1961 and Hollywood Parade coordinator), interview by Moriah James, August 7, 2017.

⁴⁶ Burch, *History and Development*.

⁴⁷ Brad Herbert and Ruth, interview by Moriah James, Adelphi, Maryland, June 30, 2017.

⁴⁸ “College Park United Methodist Church History (1874-1953),” *College Park United Methodist Church*, <http://www.umccollegepark.org/church-history.html>.

work those ladies did. Back in those days crocheting and knitting and so forth, all kinds of handiwork were very popular. Now it's sort of regaining some of its popularity but back in those days, ladies sewed and did handwork because they would do for other people and it was a way for them to make a few extra dollars for their families because remember they had just come through a depression and or time and funds were few and far between.”⁴⁹

Historic Sites of Daniels Park and Hollywood

In order for a site to obtain the recognition of being a historic site, it must be identified as having maintained its historical qualities. As of July 2017, 103 properties in Prince George’s County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Such nearby properties around College Park include the Calvert Hills Historic District, the Old Town College Park Historic District, and the College Park Airport.⁵⁰ Despite the neighborhoods of Daniels Park and Hollywood not being considered eligible candidates to become historic districts, the community does have three official Historic Sites: The Baker-Holliday House, the LaValle House, and the Bowers-Sargent House.⁵¹

Baker-Holliday House

Located off of Rhode Island Avenue on Huron Street is a colonial revival foursquare home that was built for the couple Annie and Robert Baker in 1907. When Annie Baker died in 1939, her husband remained in the house, remarrying a year later and making changes to the property thereafter. In 1956 he sold the home and four other lots to his step-daughter. The Baker-Holliday house represents “... a substantial example of a house type which was very popular in developing suburbs in the first decade of this century...” The areas of significance criterion that the home meets include appropriate representations of “architecture” and “community planning”



Baker-Holliday House
Photo credit: Steve Yusko

⁴⁹ Pat Hughes (Resident of Prince George’s County since 1937 and Daniels Park since 1990), interview by Moriah James, August 21, 2017.

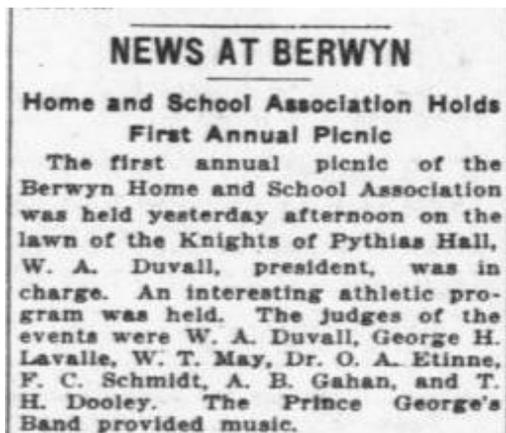
⁵⁰ Maryland Historical Trust, "Maryland's National Register Properties," Maryland Historical Trust, 2015. <http://mht.maryland.gov/nr/NRCountyList.aspx?COUNTY=prince%20georges>.

⁵¹ “Daniels Park (66-027).”

in the period of the 1900s.⁵² Steve Yusko, the current resident who has been living in the Baker-Holliday house since 1998, explained some of the changes previous owners made to the property and the measures he has taken to maintain such an old home. Yusko recalled that after Mrs. Baker died in 1939, Mr. Baker altered the layout of the home for renters, presumably, for the extra income.⁵³

LaValle House

The LaValle House was built in 1910 on the “Addition of Daniels Park.” The property itself serves as a “representative example of suburban housing at the end of the Victorian period.” The structure stands at two-and-one half stories with a cross-gable frame and use of Victorian detail. The home was originally owned by George H. *Lavelle*, whose last name, it should be noted, changes several times throughout written records. George and his wife Mary emigrated from Germany in 1889 to New York where they later moved to Daniels Park after the turn of the century. Edward Daniels sold the couple eighteen adjoining lots on the Addition in 1910. George Lavelle was a florist and had a nursery west of Baltimore Avenue, as well as a greenhouse and workshop on their own property.⁵⁴ Lavelle himself is mentioned several times in various newspapers. In a 1912 edition of *Florists' Review*, George H. Lavelle is listed with



“News at Berwyn, May 31, 1917.
Photo Credit: *Chronicling America*

dozens of others who participated in an event called “Say it with Flowers Week.”⁵⁵ Four years later in 1916, he is also mentioned in the *Florist Review* where it states:

“*George H. Lavelle of Berwyn Md., has added a delivery car to his facilities. Mr. Lavelle is producing good sweet peas and gladioli.*”⁵⁶

A 1917 article from the *Washington Times* titled “News at Berwyn” also announced the Home and School Association’s First Annual Picnic. Here, George H. *Lavelle* was a judge among a few others for events like potato-sack races, and a baseball

⁵² Pearl, Susan G., “Baker-Holliday House.” Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form. P.G. Co. Historic Preservation Commission. College Park, MD. September, 1988.

<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Prince%20Georges/Pg:66-24.pdf>.

⁵³ Steve Yusko (Owner of the historic Baker-Holliday House since 1988), interview by Moriah James, July 24, 2017.

⁵⁴ Pearl, Susan G., “LaValle House,” Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, P.G. Co. Historic Preservation Commission, College Park, MD, December, 1988.

<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Prince%20Georges/Pg:66-25.pdf>

⁵⁵ “Florists’ Review,” Internet Archive Book Images,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/16514573649/>.

⁵⁶ Florists’ Publishing Company, “Washington DC—The Market,” *Florists' Review*, June 29, 1916,

<https://books.google.com/books?id=5gtAAQAAMAAJ&dq=%22george+h.+lavelle%22+florist&q=lavelle#v=snippet&q=lavelle&f=false>.

game where Berwyn beat Beltsville.⁵⁷ The property's areas of significance are marked in "architecture," "community planning" and is the only one of the three sites marked "commerce" on the form. The LaValle home is also significant because it represents the developing suburbs of Prince George's County and Washington D.C.⁵⁸

Bowers-Sargent House

The Bowers-Sargent House is a 1 ½ story Bungalow house built in 1909 and "is a good representative of early twentieth century suburban housing." It also represents several common architectural styles that were used in residential homes during the time, including "Queen Anne style decorative elements, modified bungalow appearance, and a simplified American Foursquare floorplan." In 1909, Daniels sold the land to Walter J. Cogswell who built the house. Members of the Bowers family were the first long-term owners who had the house for 50 years prior to it being sold to William Sargent in 1970. The Bowers-Sargent House is marked in two areas of significance—"architecture" and "community planning." It continues to display its original appearance of the early Daniels Park neighborhood.⁵⁹ During an interview with Ron Jewell, he mentioned that a McCarthy family used to live there and would tell him about how the home was used for injured veterans of WWI.⁶⁰

Daniels Park and Hollywood Today

From a stretch of farmland to the rural refuge that Edward Daniels developed in the early 1900s, the two modern neighborhoods of Daniels Park and Hollywood on the Hill have both grown into communities that continue to offer residence in College Park. Though the landscape of north College Park has changed, the people have also changed as time has progressed. After Native American occupation, Daniels Park and Hollywood became populated with white Americans who emigrated from Europe. Robert Boone, a resident since 1987, pointed out that the community was "white, blue-collar workers" when he moved to Hollywood.⁶¹ Over the past few decades, the demographics began to slowly shift into the racially diverse community that it is today. The ages of the residents have also changed over time, Tammy Cowfer illustrated during her interview:

⁵⁷ "News at Berwyn," *Chronicling America*, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1917-05-31/ed-1/seq-11/>.

⁵⁸ Pearl, "LaValle House."

⁵⁹ Pearl, Susan G., "Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form," April, 1990. <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Prince%20Georges/Pg:66-28.pdf>.

⁶⁰ Ron Jewell (Hollywood resident since 1960s), conversation with resident, August 1, 2017.

⁶¹ Robert Boone (Hollywood Resident since 1987) interview by Moriah James, College Park, Maryland, July 26, 2017.

“...for years it was probably more like retirement age. And now that they're moving out, or passing away, you have other people coming in and buying the homes. And they're people that are planning on having children and this might be their starter home. So I think that it will evolve back to that... it's just there's not a necessity for it right now.”⁶²

Yet, along with these new developments also comes the growing pains of a starter community. Ellie Blankenship, a resident of Daniels Park since the late 1970s noted that she felt that when you start to get close to other residents, they move away.⁶³ A handful of few other local citizens that were interviewed agreed to various extents. In another interview with Ann Bolduc, a resident since 1982, she explained that while the Metro offers a positive addition for the residents, it has also affected her life negatively because her family now has to pay to park in front of their own house.⁶⁴ Despite these changes, residents like Jim Hartsock who described the neighborhood overall as “family-oriented, safe, [and] friendly,” continue to agree that the two neighborhoods provide a great area to live.⁶⁵

Regardless of the ebb and flow of families looking to spend varied portions of their lives in north College Park, the history and heritage of Daniels Park and Hollywood continues to live on in the physical manifestations of history as well in the stories of the people who lived there. Historical homes like the Baker-Holliday House, the LaValle House, and the Bowers-Sargent House each continue hold their historic values, as well as other lasting structures whose businesses have shifted with the times. The heritage of north College Park is reflected in traditions such as the Boys & Girls Club parade in Hollywood which represented an event that centered around children, their families, and their community. It also continues to rest in the stories of the long-term residents whose legacies have established a foundation for new families looking to live their lives in Daniels Park and Hollywood.

⁶² Tammy Cowfer (Resident of Daniels Park since 1970, family in the area since the 1860s), interview by Moriah James, July 20, 2017.

⁶³ Ellie Blankenship (Resident of Daniels Park since late 1970s) interview by Moriah James, July 15, 2017.

⁶⁴ Ann Bolduc (Resident of Daniels Park since 1982), interview by Moriah James, July 20, 2017.

⁶⁵ Jim Hartsock (Resident of Hollywood since 1964) interview by Moriah James August 15, 2017.