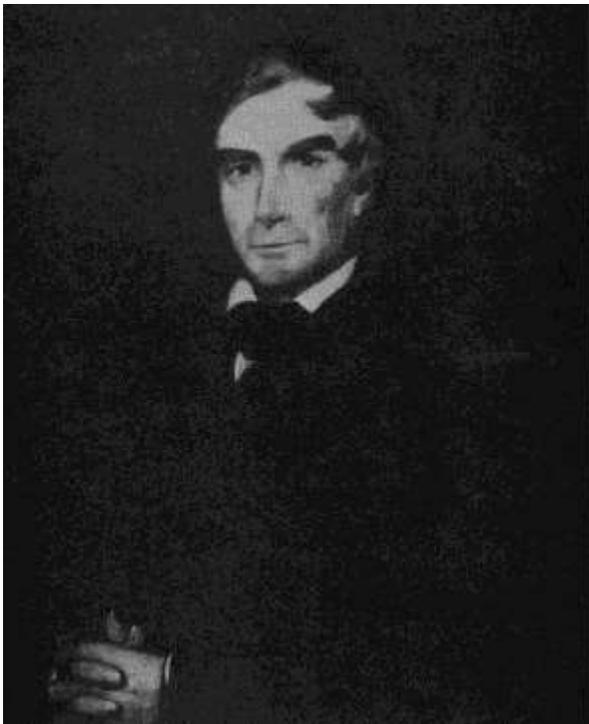


THE DUVALLS AND KLUCKHUHNS AT PATUXENT

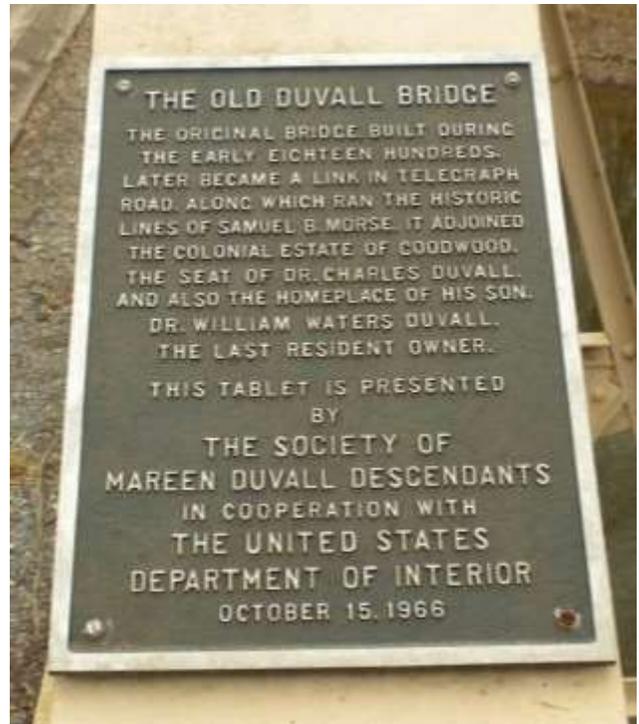
by Matthew C. Perry

When I first came to Patuxent Research Refuge in 1971, I heard the name Kluckhuhn mentioned frequently by my colleague Fran Uhler when he talked of the endangered species research area. The Kluckhuhn family lived at Patuxent in this area when the land was obtained by the government in the late 1930 with land purchases occurring as part of the Resettlement Act. For old-timers like Fran, the Kluckhuhn Farm referred to Farm A, which was part of an early conservation study comparing a farm area managed for wildlife (Farm A) and one managed just for farming (Farm B). The name Farm A predated the Endangered Species name for the area, which did not come into use until 1965, when the Endangered Species Program was initiated at Patuxent.

The Kluckhuhn house was originally the home of Dr. Charles Duvall in the early 1800s. Charles Duvall was born in 1784 in Queen Anne's Parish, Prince George's County. He married Flavilla Waters in December 1808. Dr. Duvall was a medical doctor, and in 1807 received the first diploma issued by the Maryland Medical College, now part of the University of Maryland. The name of the house according to family records was Goodwood, although a variation of the name was Gladswood. The original home was built before the Revolutionary War with brick that had come from England used as ballast in ships. The prominent large chimneys were also built with brick that had originated in England. During the 1700-1800s, barges came up the Patuxent River as far as the bridge called Duvall Bridge. This bridge exists about in the middle of the Patuxent Research Refuge and is one of the few areas connecting Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. Brick was unloaded in the area of the bridge and then tobacco and iron ore loaded onto the barges, which were then transferred to ships going back to England.



Dr. Charles Duvall portrait which now hangs at the University Hospital.



Brass plaque on Duvall Bridge placed on October 15, 1966, by the Society of Maren Duvall Descendants.

A plaque was installed on the bridge in 1966 by the The Society of the Maren Duvall Descendants, and it states that the bridge was a link for the telegraph line used by Samuel Morse. Although a telegraph line did run across the bridge, as indicated by the nearby old telegraph poles made of American chestnut, the original line for the Morse telegraph was along Route #1 in Laurel. Some of the old telegraph poles still exist as the American chestnut was known for its longevity as a wood. According to Patuxent legend that I heard when I first came to Patuxent, one of the early employees of the Refuge, Dr. Joseph Linduska, took some of the old telegraph poles and made a beautiful coffee table for his home. I knew Dr. Linduska and he was quite colorful, so the story is probably true. The plaque also states that William Waters Duvall was the last resident owner of the property, after his father Charles died in 1862. According to family lore, William changed the name of the house to Gladswood to please his wife, whose Scottish home had that name.

The Duvall Bridge was constructed on a narrow part of the Patuxent River that had high banks. Other bridges along the Patuxent have not been so fortunate during storms. I remember checking on the bridge by canoe after Hurricane Agnes in 1972, when the entire Patuxent floodplain was heavily flooded and was happy to see the bridge had survived the extensive flooding. In the late 1970s, Patuxent administrators were aware of the increasing deer population and wanted to decrease the population without hunting. An active hunting program existed on Fort Meade land adjacent and north of Patuxent. The wildlife manager, Bill Harmeyer, was a good friend of mine and agreed to trap deer at Patuxent and take them to Fort Meade for release.



Dr. Duvall House (Goodwood) from front and showing left side porch, 1930s.



Kluckhuhn House from right side and showing right side porch and original house on left, 1930s.



Kluckhuhn House from front and showing right side porch, 1930s.



Kluckhuhn House from right side and showing right side porch and garage, 1930s.

The plan was fairly well finalized when the Director, Dr. Lucille Stickel, realized that Bill planned to use U.S. Army trucks and travel on the Baltimore Washington Parkway with the deer. This idea was quickly rejected and to accommodate the large trucks over the Duvall Bridge, the old rotting wooded boards on the bridge were immediately replaced. All deer were transferred over the bridge, without causing any publicity, which might have resulted by using the heavily travelled parkway. No data were available to evaluate the success of the transfer.

The Kluckhuhn family lived in the old Dr. Duvall house for many years after the Duvalls ceased living there. To my knowledge, no one from the Kluckhuhn family worked at Patuxent. The house was destroyed by the government in the late 1930s. The Kluckhuhn family still lives locally and runs the Laurel Fuel Oil Company. Richard Kluckhuhn is current owner and manager and for many years has delivered fuel oil to Patuxent. I started getting fuel from his company in 1971 when I lived at Patuxent in the Hance Cottage. When I left my house at Patuxent in 1979 Mr. Kluckhuhn agreed to provide fuel for me in Mitchellville even though it was out of their delivery range at that time.



Right side porch of Kluckhuhn House, 1930s.



Old Duvall Tobacco Barn converted to WPA Storage Facility, 1930s.



Upper Duvall Tobacco Barn, restored by WPA in 1930s. Photo by National Park Service, 1987.



Lower Duvall Tobacco Barn, restored by WPA in 1930s. Photo by National Park Service, 1987.



Duvall Farm Tenant House and storage shed, 1930s.

When the government took possession of the land in 1936, they destroyed the old Duvall home, tenant house, old slave quarters, and several barns. Dr. Duvall's original house was an outstanding example of pre-Revolutionary or early Federal architecture with the oldest part being of brick from England. The dwelling was burned by orders of the Army engineer over the protest of many who wanted to preserve certain features, such as the staircase, mantels, and doorways. The Army colonel said "burn" so it was burned and in the course of which the ancient and beautiful box bushes surrounding the house were also completely destroyed.

The bricks in the original Duvall home and in the many large chimneys were used to add two small additions (hyphens) to both ends of Snowden Hall in the headquarters area. People now who see Snowden Hall have no realization that the bricks came originally from England and the early government workers had the knowledge and foresight to take bricks from one building to restore another so that there would be no obvious signs of different brick styles between two countries on different sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

The government restored two tobacco barns and in the 1930s these facilities were used as storage facilities by the men working on the Refuge for the Works Progress Administration. I remember well my first trip into the upper tobacco barn building and walking up the old staircase to the top floor. There on the walls and in cabinets were the tools of the men who had been working on the refuge over 30 years earlier. I was amazed on how the old axes and two-man saws seemed to exist all these years, just had they been left in the early 1940s, when most of the men were drafted to serve in World War II.



Implement Shed, Kluckhuhn Tract, 1930s.



Old slave quarters on the Kluckhuhn Tract, 1930s.

I learned later that the tools, equipment, and materials had been transferred to Patuxent from the Patapsco Civilian Public Service Camp of the National Park Service near Baltimore when this camp had closed. With closure of other camps, the upper storage barn became very crowded and it was necessary to provide additional storage at the lower tobacco barn of the Kluckhuhn tract of land. The lower barn was floored on three levels as a warehouse for construction and maintenance equipment. The upper barn was then restored in similar fashion with some individual bays in both barns enclosed with wire netting that could be locked for security of maintenance and scientific equipment.



Black Angus cattle grazing Kluckhuhn Farm. Lower tobacco barn in background.



Haying on Kluckhuhn Farm pasture. Lower tobacco barn in background.



.Duvall Bridge over the Patuxent River



Old telegraph pole made of American chestnut wood near Duvall Bridge.

For many years researchers, including me, and maintenance personnel used the upper and lower tobacco barns for storage of various maintenance and research projects. Eventually the upper barn was in disrepair and no one could use the facility for safety reasons. In the 1990s, following a major evaluation of all buildings on the Refuge, a decision was made to raze the upper tobacco barn. As in other government demolition projects occurring at that time, the company doing the demolition was allowed to salvage any materials related to the facility. The large tobacco barn with years of history with the Duvall and Kluckhuhn families and later with government workers, finally lost the battle with time and now no sign of the barn exists.



Front of Caretaker's House August 1953.

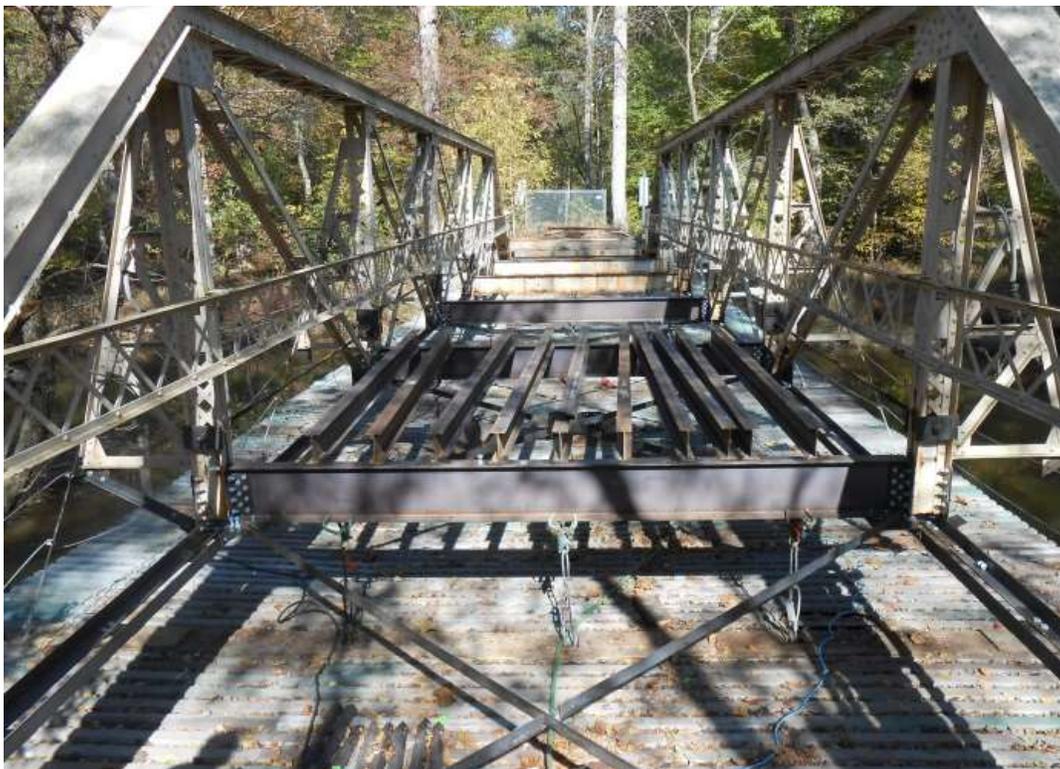


Back of Caretaker's House, 1980s.

The site of the Duvall house however, was eventually used for the construction of a caretaker's house in 1952. No information exists of the first occupants, but since the Endangered Species Program was initiated in 1965, the house has been occupied by staff of this program including Jane Niccolich (now Jane Chandler), Brian Clauss, and currently Robert Doyle. The house is surrounded by beautiful old trees that might have existed in the Duvall era, including an American dogwood, American holly, and a norther catalpa. Some of the trees have been recognized by the county and state foresters as local and state record-size trees.



Mr. and Mrs John Ball after landing plane on the Kluckhuhn Farm in 1938. They were greeted by the Superintendent Leland Morley's two sons. The Duvall home can be seen in the background. Mr. Ball was there to inspect progress of the WPA Project. Photo by Dr. Morley.



Duvall Bridge during restoration in 2015.