

## Warfield's Range Property 1694-1983: A History

Richard Warfield, an English immigrant, was one of the great landowners in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in the new United States. He held several large tracts of land in present-day Anne Arundel County. One of those was in upper Anne Arundel County, which became Howard County in 1851, and was called Warfield's Range, a 1,080-acre tract patented by himself and his son in 1694. In his will dated 1703, Richard left a 150-acre section of Warfield's Range to his daughter, Rachel, and her husband, George Yates. After Rachel's death in 1709, George sold the land to John Warfield. The first structure built on this section of land was a cabin constructed as early as 1696 which may have been a settler's house. It is conjectured that the first part of the house which still exists on the land was built by a tenant farmer between 1703 and 1709.

In 1845 Thomas Worthington purchased the land from descendants of John Warfield and enlarged the existing house. Dr. Worthington was a prominent Baltimore physician and also was one of the early Howard County Commissioners in the 1850's. During Dr. Worthington's lifetime, he acquired an additional four pieces of land that consisted of 110 acres. In 1900 the property was conveyed from the Worthington family to James Baxley and his wife Ella for \$2,600.

In 1920 the property was assigned to the Citizens National Bank of Laurel and in June 1937 George Daniel purchased it. The property totaled 260 acres when Chester Gilbert and his wife Janet bought it in 1939. In 1947 the Gilberts sold 100 acres at \$40 per acre to Edith and Glen Wiltruff. That property is now the site of the Columbia Horse Center. Chester Gilbert died in 1958 with his wife Janet becoming the sole owner. She remarried in 1964 to Charles Phelps, who died in 1974. In 1983 Ms. Phelps contracted for sale of her property to a housing developer. She continued to reside on portions of the property until her death in 2001.