

# Timeline for the Brookeville/Olney/Sandy Spring Area

## 1634

Landing of the Arc and Dove; founding of the Colony of Maryland

## 1695

Establishment of Prince Georges County (includes future Montgomery County and Sandy Spring). Area opened to land speculators

## 1713-28

John Bradford, Richard Snowden, Charles Beall, Thomas Bordley, James Brooke, and others obtain land patents on large parcels of the future Sandy Spring area

## c.1724

An overseer for Richard Snowden builds log core of the future home Greenwood north of present-day Brookeville, establishing Greenwood as Sandy Spring's and Montgomery County's oldest still-standing home

## 1727

James Brooke buys 889 acres of Charley Forrest from John Bradford.

## 1728

James and Deborah Snowden Brooke build the westernmost framed home south of Canada the start of Quaker Sandy Spring

## 1729

John Thomas and wife Elizabeth Snowden, Deborah's sister, build Cherry Grove on 549 acres of "Snowden's Manor Enlarged"

## c.1737

James Brooke builds a grist mill and biscuit factory on the Hawlings River north of present Gold Mine Road. He, father-in-law Richard Snowden, and the Thomases add to their landholdings

## 1742

John Thomas builds Clifton, oldest largely-intact surviving home in the eastern piedmont

## 1745

Friends begin conducting their Meetings near the spring that will give the community its name.

## 1747

Anglican William Waters builds Belmont in the center of an enormous farm occupying much of the land between present Olney and Brookeville. He is among the earliest in an influx of Anglicans settling the Olney-Unity-Laytonsville area

## 1748

Frederick County, containing the future Montgomery County, severed from Prince George's

## 1751

Anglican John Riggs of Anne Arundel County buys "Bordley's Choice", north of present day Brookeville, presaging the family's settlement in Sandy Spring and Laytonsville

## 1753

Sandy Spring Meeting "settled" (formally organized); Friends hold first recorded meeting in frame Meeting House (perhaps a tobacco barn) near the spring

## 1754

Philip Thomas, age 19, becomes first member of Quaker settlement to be buried in Friends' graveyard next to Meeting House

## 1758

Anglican petitioners establish a Chapel of Ease at Brighton, Sandy Spring's earliest formal house of worship

## 1760-65

James Brooke's sons settle at Fair Hill, Falling Green, Brooke Grove, and Brooke Meadow

## **1776**

Declaration of Independence; Montgomery County formed

## **1777**

Transfer of Isaiah and Hannah Boone from Virginia to Sandy Spring Friends Meeting marks first recorded entry of Meeting members named other than Brooke or Thomas; Baltimore Yearly Meeting bans Quaker buying and selling of slaves

## **1781**

Quaker Monthly Meeting imposes "disownment" banishment from Meetings of Friends still holding slaves

## **1783**

Treaty of Paris ends the Revolution and recognizes the United States

## **1784**

James Brooke dies; distribution of his estate (now nearly 20,000 acres) takes five years

## **1794**

William Stabler family arrives at Harewood, part of Deborah Stabler's inheritance from her mother, Elizabeth Brooke Pleasants

## **1800**

Richard and Deborah Brooke Thomas lay out a town they call "Brooke Ville" largely on land she inherited

## **1801**

Earliest records of Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church

## **1802**

Post Office and store established at Brookeville, Caleb Bentley postmaster. Town quickly becomes a major commercial center boasting two tanneries, a grist mill, a mill for grinding flaxseed into oil, several stores, and two doctors

## **1803**

Thomas Moore patents refrigerator (a name he also invented)

## **1804**

President Jefferson appoints Isaac Briggs Surveyor General of Louisiana Purchase

## **1806**

Quaker Richard Thomas provides for manumission of 112 slaves; they become nucleus of black community Cincinnati, near Brinklow; Thomas Moore becomes Chief Engineer for C&O Canal and National Road west.

## **1808**

Brookeville Academy enrolls boy students; receives formal State charter in 1815

## **1809**

Town of Triadelphia laid out by brothers-in-law Caleb Bentley, Thomas Moore, and Isaac Briggs, all husbands of Brooke daughters. They establish a cotton mill

## **1812**

St. Bartholomew's Church (Episcopal), successor to the 1758 Chapel of Ease, established on Hawlings River; later moves to Laytonsville

## **1814**

President Madison, fleeing invading British in War of 1812, spends night at home of Caleb and Henrietta Bentley in Brookeville

## **1816**

Using brick fired on the site, Friends erect a Meeting House, the county's largest church at the time; Sandy Spring Post Office established at Harewood, James P. Stabler postmaster

## **1819**

Caleb Bentley and James P. Stabler open general store at site of today's Sandy Spring Store; Sandy Spring becomes a village; Fair Hill Boarding School opens in Mechanicsville (today's Olney), operates for 46 years; Benjamin Hallowell begins teaching at Fair Hill Friends School in Mechanicsville

## **1822**

Sandy Spring blacks establish Sharp Street Church (Methodist)

## **1824**

Unity Post Office opens, William Price postmaster

## **1825**

Post office established at Mechanicsville (Olney), Amos Farquhar postmaster

## **1828**

Philip Thomas becomes founding president of the B&O Railroad, the nation's first

## **1830**

Edward Stabler becomes postmaster at Sandy Spring, with post office in his home, Harewood: serves for 53 years

## **1833**

Dazzling meteor shower awes neighborhood

## **1834**

Salem United Methodist Church established at Brookeville

## **1842**

Subscription library formed at Sandy Spring

## **1844**

Sandy Spring Farmers Club (Senior) established; Peruvian guano (bird droppings) introduced to restore fertility of soil exhausted by tobacco cultivation; St. John's Church (Episcopal) established in Olney; Mrs. Porter's Cottage School for the Education of Young Ladies established at Brookeville; runs for 20 years

## **1845**

Elizabeth Ellicott Lea publishes her celebrated cook book

## **1848**

Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County opens in Sandy Spring; later becomes Montgomery Mutual

## **1849**

Union Turnpike Company established to build and maintain road from Washington to Brookeville (today's Georgia Avenue); Subscription library formed at Brookeville; Pannings along stream on Brooke Meadow farm trigger Sandy Spring's largest gold strike and give name to road 1851 Former Mechanicsville Post Office becomes "Olney", named after poet William Cowper's home in England

## **1852**

Post office established in Stabler home Drayton, Caleb Stabler postmaster; later moves to Spencerville; Post office established in Stabler home Roslyn, Henry Stabler postmaster

## **1857**

Sandy Springers establish Women's Mutual Improvement Association, today the nation's oldest continuously operating women's club

## **1858**

Mt. Carmel Church (Methodist) organized in Triadelphia; later moves to Sunshine

## **1859**

Spencerville Post Office opens, William H. Spencer postmaster; Stanmore Boarding School for Boys established across from present Olney Theatre; Sandy Spring Lyceum Company launches educational programs in Lyceum hall next to Meeting House

## **1860**

Sacramental records make first reference to St. Peter's Catholic Chapel, built by parishioners at present-day Mt. Zion

## **1863**

U. S. Emancipation Proclamation becomes law; Lyceum initiates Annals of Sandy Spring, read yearly and ultimately compiled as five volumes covering nearly a century; one of nation's longest-running community records; Horticultural Society established

## **1864**

Confederate troops rob Sandy Spring Store; a posse of locals(including many Quakers) sets out in pursuit, engages the rebels near Rockville in a skirmish known as Battle of Ricketts Run, kills the leader, and recovers stolen goods

## **1865**

Enterprise Club (Junior Farmer's Club) founded; Ashton Methodist Episcopal Church organizes; new Brighton post office opens in Peirce store, Edward Peirce postmaster; Land at the end of North Street was purchased for \$300 for the Brookeville Schoolhouse one of the last remaining one-room schoolhouses in Montgomery County, the schoolhouse appears to have been in continuous use until the early 1920s

## **1868**

Savings Institution of Sandy Spring founded, embryo of today's Sandy Spring National Bank

## **1869**

Brookeville Academy moves to enlarged Riggs home Bordley's Choice, known later as Marywood and today as Merrywood

## **1870**

Home Interest Club founded; St. Luke's Church (Episcopal) established at Brighton; Sunshine acquires Unity Post Office, the first of several shifts between the villages

## **1873**

Montgomery Farmers' Club founded; Joseph T. Moore establishes Olney Grange

## **1875**

The Olney School opened as a small, one-room schoolhouse on Route 108 just west of where St. John's Episcopal Church stands today, it operated until 1929

## **1878**

County's first telephone line connects the homes Sharon and Brooke Grove; Rockland Boarding School for Girls succeeds Stanmore school, until 1892

## **1883**

Sherwood Friends School opens, becomes public school in 1906

## **1885**

Ednor Post Office established, Dr. Francis Thomas postmaster

## **1888**

Mt. Zion Methodist Church established

## **1889**

Post office established at Ashton, Alban G. Thomas postmaster; Norwood Post Office opens, James M. Holland postmaster; Disastrous flood ends Triadelphia's role as mill town

## **1890**

Brookeville incorporated as a town

## **1894**



Enterprise Telephone Co. of Sandy Spring, headed by Dr. Roger Brooke and Alban G. Thomas, links Ednor, Ashton, Olney, and Oakdale with some 30 subscribers. Sold to C&P Telephone Co. in 1906

## **1897**

Post office established at Cloverly, Ida Leizear postmistress; Post office established at Brinklow; 899 St. Peter's Catholic Mission moves from Mt. Zion to Olney; Memorable snow storm paralyzes area, earns vivid description in Annals

## **1900**

First National Bank of Sandy Spring created as mortgage arm of Savings Institution; Annals record first automobile observed in neighborhood

## **1901**

Annals record "last" deer seen in neighborhood, at Riverside

## **1904**

Wednesday Club established

## **1906**

Sherwood opens as public school, through grade eleven

## **1909**

Dr. Jacob W. Bird begins practice, at his residence Glenwood and in house calls by horse and buggy; New glass windshield shelters grateful passengers on Olney-to-Laurel stage

## **1910**

Original St. John's Church set on rollers and pulled by mules to present site in Olney

## **1912**

Parcel Post established through efforts of Reuben Brigham of Olney Grange

## **1915**

Electric lighting installed in Insurance Company

## **1916**

Dr. Bird opens temporary hospital in private home Wrenwood in Brinklow; William W. Moore acquires Sandy Spring's first tractor

## **1917**

Mary Ellicott Gilpin of Avalon becomes first woman director of the First National Bank of Sandy Spring

## **1918**

Construction of Montgomery County General Hospital begins

## **1920**

Hospital opens before completion amidst raging flu epidemic that kills Dr. Bird's wife and two of his doctors; Women win right to vote, due in part to suffrage efforts of Sandy Springers Mary Bentley Thomas and Caroline Hallowell Miller; Bank robbers slay Francis Hallowell, a tragedy that leads to founding of State Police; Hospital Women's Board holds first annual Hospital Supper, launching a major community event; Norman Price Post of American Legion holds charter meeting; named for chauffeur of Dr. Jacob Bird who died of flu at Ft. Meade the only Sandy Springer to die during World War I

## **1923**

Local baseball great Jack Bentley signs with New York Giants

## **1924**

Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department organizes as fourth unit in county

## **1925**

Local chapter of Women's Christian Temperance Union cites lack of enforcement of Prohibition laws, claiming a still brazenly brews moonshine near Sherwood School; Dean and Alice Acheson buy the Stabler home Harewood on Meeting House Road

## **1926**

Clara May Downey opens the Olney Inn with three tables seating 12 diners

## **1929**

Tornado slashes swath from Unity to Mt. Zion, killing four and leveling houses and barns

## **1930**

Women's Auxiliary of Fire Department organizes; Strength of bank during Depression helps protect local farmers from loss of farms

## **1935**

First apartments open in Sandy Spring, built atop Sandy Spring Store by owner Herbert H. Adams

## **1938**

Olney Theatre opens with play "The Lady Has a Heart"; Facing a water shortage at the Burnt Mills Filtration Plant, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission begins pumping water from the Patuxent at Mink Hollow over Parr's Ridge at Ashton and into the Northwest Branch behind Ingleside; Meeting House wired for electricity

## **c.1940**

Headwaters, Olney home of Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes, becomes the frequent poker retreat of President Franklin Roosevelt

## **1942**

Annals record flurry of World War II activities: plane spotting, sewings and preparation of surgical dressings, heightened fire protection, war bond promotions, bundles for Britain and the Red Cross, rationing of tires, gasoline, and food, and scrap metal drives; Brighton Dam begins impounding Triadelphia Reservoir on the Patuxent River; Annals record "stray" deer, observed near Brown's Corner; Olney Theatre closes due to wartime gas shortage, will reopen in 1946 with Helen Hayes in "Good Housekeeping"

## **1950**

Orthodox Friends reunite with Hicksites to form Sandy Spring Friends United; Brooke Grove Foundation established as county's first licensed group home for elderly

## **1952**

First plat recorded in Williamsburg Village, one of the earliest subdivisions in an oncoming tide

## **1954**

New building replaces original Sherwood High; Olney Elementary School opens

## **1957**

Integration begins at Sherwood, four black students enroll; St. Peter's Catholic Church builds parish hall and school on Route 108 in Olney

## **1961**

Sandy Spring Friends School founded by S. Brook Moore

## **1963**

Bank opens first branch office, at Colesville; Ashton resident Sam Rice, former fielder for Washington Senators, inducted in Baseball Hall of Fame

## **c.1964**

St. John's Episcopal Parish School opens in Olney

## **1965**

First plat recorded in Olney Mill subdivision, the neighborhood's largest

## **1967**

Sandy Spring Friends House opens as retirement community

## **1968**

William H. Farquhar Middle School opens

## **1970**

Greenwood Elementary School opens

## **1971**

Montgomery General Hospital moves into new building behind the old facility

## **1972**

First National Bank and Savings Institution combine as Sandy Spring National Bank and Savings Institution

## **1974**

Belmont Elementary School opens

## **1975**

Temple B'nai Shalom of Olney purchases its current four acres of land at the intersection of Burtfield Drive and Olney-Laytonsville Road.

## **1977**

Montgomery Mutual Insurance Company moves to new building on Meeting House Road; Fair Hill, old Brooke/Canby/Farquhar home and Quaker School, destroyed by fire; Village Mart, first large local shopping center, opens on site of Fair Hill and Richard Brooke's grave

## **1978**

Widening of Olney intersection erases heart of the old village; Olney Inn burns despite efforts of more than a hundred firefighters; Longwood Recreation Center opens

## **1980**

Delmas Wood and Willard Derrick found Sandy Spring Museum in basement of bank branch in Olney

## **1982**

County opens Olney Community Library across from St. John's Episcopal Church

## **1986**

Sandy Spring National Bank moves headquarters into new Willard H. Derrick Building on site of old Olney Inn

## **1986**

Sandy Spring Museum moves to Tall Timbers, former home of Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Tumbleson

## **1990**

Brooke Grove Elementary School opens

## **1992**

Rosa M. Parks Middle School opens; school openings reflect explosive growth particularly in the Olney area

## **1993**

Sandy Spring Meadows, a 50-unit public housing project, opens in Sandy Spring village

## **1994**

Brookeville celebrates Bicentennial; Mrs. Helen Bentley donates land for new museum in honor of husband Jack

## **1997**

Grand opening of new Sandy Spring Museum, located at Bentley Road and Rt 108; Sharp Street United Methodist Church celebrates 175th anniversary

## **1998**

New Hampshire Avenue widened to four lanes from Colesville north to Brown's Corner

## **1999**

Members' generous contributions retire museum mortgage; Sandy Springers prepare to welcome new millennium