

1. Name Rockland

2. Planning Area/Site Number 23/97

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 16

4. Address Route 108 and Old Baltimore Roads, Olney

I-1

5. Classification Summary

Category building  
 Ownership private  
 Public Acquisition N.A.  
 Status unoccupied  
 Accessible no  
 Present use agriculture  
 Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC Federal      State X County X Local       
 1976

6. Date pre 1838  
 with additions

7. Original Owner : William Birdsall,  
 with additions by Benjamin Hallowell

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair

c. original site

b. altered

9. Description : Rockland is a detailed and sophisticated Federal-style structure. It is a two-story, frame house that faces south. The main (south) facade is of five bays and there is a central doorway. The wide clapboards are beaded and the windows are all six-over-six, double-hung, with narrow sash. An "A" roof of moderate pitch features two peaked dormers in the center of this facade. Large twin brick chimneys are set half in/half out in the west end and are enclosed in the east wall by a shorter, recessed, two bay frame wing. The rear (north) of the house has been extended with a two-story shed roof section that obscures the once-elegant Federal styling. A local building characteristic appears in the form of stepped weatherings in the

10. Significance: Rockland is significant for its associations for chimneys.

nearly a century with the Hallowell family, Quakers who contributed much to the intellectual and educational life of Sandy Spring and Alexandria, Va.

Benjamin Hallowell came to Olney in 1819 to teach, married, and moved to Alexandria where he founded "Brimstone Academy" for boys. He was active in community affairs, organizing the Alexandria Water Co. and the Alexandria Museum. He began assembling land in Montgomery County in 1838; the property contained a log cabin at that time. In 1842 the family moved to Rockland, and converted the log cabin into a large double house. Hallowell moved permanently to Rockland in 1860, and settled down to farm, preach, and write for pacifist and other causes. He was a founder of Swarthmore College and first president of University of Md. Agricultural College. He died in 1877.

Benjamin's son Henry moved to Rockland in 1858, and was known as a scholar, lecturer, founder and long-time president of the Sandy Spring Horticultural Society. He opened a school for girls at Rockland and ran it for 20 years. Their son Frank also was a respected community leader; he died in 1920. Rockland remained in the Hallowell family until 1941.

11. Date researched and researcher: Grace Ann Coleman/Eileen McGuckian 11/78

12. Compiler Eileen McGuckian 13. Date Compiled 12/78 <sup>Candy Reed - Architectural Description</sup>

14. Designation Approval

15. Acreage: 182 A. - both sides of 108  
 c. 100 A. - south side of #108

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 23/97  
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Rockland

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 108 and Old Baltimore Road

CITY, TOWN

Olney

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS                                       | PRESENT USE  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS    | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED     | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED   | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO       | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                           |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME John M. Beane, Jr. c/o Jack Beane Telephone #: (301) 728-8676

STREET & NUMBER 863 N. Howard Street Antiques

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21202

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURT/CASE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 1433  
Folio #: 376

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This five bay by six bay, two and half story clapboarded frame house sits back from the road facing north.

There are three large stone steps leading to the north (front) door. This is a six-paneled wooden door surmounted by a wooden pediment, and flanked by voluted pilasters. At the north corner of the east elevation, there is a six paneled door covered by a gabled hood. There is a porch on the west half of the south elevation. The gable roof which covers the house extends out over this porch. A twelve light door leads into the house. There are six over six light double hung windows throughout the house. A triple window of six over six light windows is on the south elevation, at the first level. There is a row of five connected shed dormer windows on the south elevation. These break through the gable roof which has asbestos covering and extends further on the south than on the north elevation. There is an exterior end chimney with a corbelled cap on the west elevation and an interior end chimney with a corbelled cap on the east elevation.

There are two five-part pin oak trees north east of the house. There are flowering trees and bushes and a broad lawn.

|   |   |   |   |  |                          |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--------------------------|--|
| <b>PERIOD</b>                                 |   | <b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b> |   |  |                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING             | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC    | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                   | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                      | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                    | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE               | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT         | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                       | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                      |   |  |                          |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1838 (with additions) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Rockland is significant for its associations for nearly a century with the Hallowell family, Quakers who contributed much to the intellectual & educational life of Sandy Spring & Alexandria, Va.

Benjamin Hallowell was born in Pennsylvania in 1799, & came to Olney at the age of 20 to teach at Fair Hill School. After marrying a fellow teacher, he moved to Alexandria & in 1824-5 founded "Brimstone Academy" for boys. Hallowell was active in Alexandria's affairs, organizing the Alexandria Water Company & the Alexandria Museum.

Returning to his wife's home community, Hallowell began assembling land in 1838; the property they called "Rockland" contained a log cabin at that time. In 1842 the Hallowells left the Alexandria school to Benjamin's nephews and moved to Rockland. They converted the log cabin into a large double house which could accommodate 2 families. Hallowell supervised the farming operation, wrote, studied, and lectured.

After again running the "Brimstone Academy" (1846-1854), Hallowell turned the school over to his son Henry Clay Hallowell & nephew Francis Miller; he later sold the school, and in 1860 moved permanently to Rockland. He assembled a total of approximately 320 acres. He sold 30 acres to Francis Miller<sup>2</sup> to open a school nearby, and settled down as farmer, Quaker preacher, and writer for pacifist & other causes. Hallowell was a founder of Swarthmore College & the first president of the University of Maryland Agricultural College.

Benjamin's son Henry moved to Rockland with his new wife Sarah Miller in 1858. He was widely known as a scholar, lecturer, founder & long-time president of the Horticultural Society of Sandy Spring, and participant in literature & the arts. When Francis Miller's "Stanmore" school closed in 1868, the Hallowells opened one for girls at Rockland; it attracted considerable attention during its 20 years of operation. Henry Hallowell remained at Rockland until his death in 1899, & Sarah until hers in 1924. During these years, Rockland served as a favorite summer boarding house for Washingtonians seeking to escape that City's heat & humidity.

Henry & Sarah's son Francis married Helen Thomas in 1914, and they also lived in the large double house. Frank was a respected community leader, athlete, and director of the Sandy Spring Savings Institution. He was shot & killed by a bandit in 1920 at the bank.

Rockland was sold out of the Hallowell family in 1941 to John M. Bean<sup>3</sup>

1. Land Records of Montgomery Co., Md. BS9/43; BS9/45; BS9/47 (all 1838).
2. IBID., JGH7/174 (1858).
3. Ibid., 876/492 (1941).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, Md.  
Hallowell, Benjamin, Autobiography, 1884.  
Farquhar, Roger Brobke, Historic Montgomery County, Md. Old Homes  
and History, Monumental Printing Co., Baltimore, Md., 1952

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 186.07 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | COUNTY |
|-------|--------|
| STATE | COUNTY |

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

Candy Reed - Architectural Description

NAME / TITLE

Grace Ann Coleman

11/30/78

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE  
926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE  
Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historic Sites Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510

The following are the purchases of land Benjamin Hallowell made to assemble Rockland:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Grantee</u>     | <u>Grantor</u>     | <u>Instrument</u> | <u>Liber</u> | <u>Folio</u> | <u>Acreage</u>     |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 8/21/1837   | Benjamin Hallowell | Thos. Stabler      | D. in T.          | BS 8         | 394          |                    |
| 7/2/1838    | "                  | John S. Mannakee   | Deed              | BS 9         | 43           | 8 A.               |
| 7/2/1838    | "                  | Wm. Birdsall       | Deed              | BS 9         | 45           | 56 A. w/ log house |
| 7/2/1838    | "                  | Roger Brooke       | Deed              | BS 9         | 47           |                    |
| 5/6/1839    | "                  | Caleb Bentley      | Deed              | BS 9         | 369          |                    |
| 6/11/1840   | "                  | Wm. Birdsall       | Deed              | BS 10        | 178          | 10                 |
| 6/2/1847    | "                  | Roger Brooke       | Deed              | STS 3        | 27           | 7 1/4 A            |
| 5/12/1849   | "                  | Deborah D. Burgess | Deed              | STS 4        | 49           |                    |
| 10/5/1849   | "                  | Charlotte Briscoe  | Deed              | STS 4        | 217          |                    |
| 10/5/1849   | "                  | Nicholas Waters    | Deed              | STS 4        | 218          |                    |
| 4/8/1857    | "                  | Wm. R. Berry       | Deed              | JGH 6        | 27           |                    |
| 4/8/1857    | "                  | Walter G. Berry    | Deed              | JGH 6        | 29           |                    |
| 4/8/1857    | "                  | Elisha D. Berry    | Deed              | JGH 6        | 29           |                    |
| 5/3/1865    | "                  | Sarah Farquhar     | Dd. Div.          | EBP 2        | 95           |                    |
| 8/4/1865    | "                  | Chas. Stabler      | Deed              | EBP 2        | 228          |                    |

Total: 321 acres approx.

The following are sales of part of the rockland estate reducing its acreage to approximately 187 acres:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Grantor</u> | <u>Grantee</u> | <u>Instrument</u> | <u>Liber</u> | <u>Folio</u> | <u>Acreage</u> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 6/2/1847    | B. Hallowell   | Roger Brooke   | Deed              | STS 3        | 26           |                |
| 10/5/1849   | "              | Edward Elcorn  | Deed              | STS 4        | 219          |                |
| 12/18/1858  | "              | Francis Miller | Deed              | JGH 7        | 174          |                |
| 9/13/1864   | "              | Francis Miller | Deed              | EBP 1        | 333*         | 30A.           |
| 5/3/1865    | "              | Sarah Farquhar | Deed of Div.      | EBP2         | 95           |                |
| 5/16/1865   | "              | Francis Miller | Deed              | EBP 2        | 116*         |                |

\* Both deeds to Francis Miller dated 9/13/1864 and 5/16/1865 pertain to the same acreage amounting to 106.5 acres. The deed dated 12/18/1858 to Francis Miller established Stanmore and amounted to approximately 27 - 30 acres. Reference to these 30 acres to Stanmore also made in the B. Hallowell Autobiography p. 161.

1606025304

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

|  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>1. NAME</b>   |  |   |   |  |
| COMMON:  |  |   |   |  |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:<br>"Rockland"   |  |   |   |  |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>   |  |   |   |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>Rte. 108 and Old Baltimore Rd.   |  |   |   |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Olney   |  |   |   |  |
| STATE:<br>Maryland   |  |   | COUNTY:<br>Montgomery                     |  |
| <b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>   |  |   |   |  |
| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  |  | OWNERSHIP   |   | STATUS   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Public                       | Public Acquisition:                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site  | <input type="checkbox"/> Structure           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private           | <input type="checkbox"/> In Process       | <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Object  | <input type="checkbox"/> Both                |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |  |   |   |  |
| Yes:   |  |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted  |  |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted  |  |   |   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |  |   |   |  |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)   |  |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural  | <input type="checkbox"/> Government          | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious                    | _____                                     | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum              | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific                   | _____                                     | _____  |
| <b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>  |  |   |   |  |
| OWNER'S NAME:<br>Mrs. John N. Beane  |  |   |   |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>Georgia Ave.   |  |   |   |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Olney   |  |   | STATE:<br>Maryland                        |  |
| <b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>  |  |   |   |  |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:<br>Montgomery County Courthouse  |  |   |   |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER:   |  |   |   |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Rockville   |  |   | STATE:<br>Maryland                        |  |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):  |  |   |   |  |
| <b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>   |  |   |   |  |
| TITLE OF SURVEY:   |  |   |   |  |
| DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local |  |   |   |  |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:   |  |   |   |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER:   |  |   |   |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:  |  |   | STATE:                                    |  |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| 7. DESCRIPTION  |   |
|---|---|
| CONDITION   | (Check One)   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|   | (Check One)   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site   |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE  |   |
| <p>Rockland is a detailed and sophisticated Federal-style structure. It is a two-story, frame house that faces south. The main (south) facade is of five bays and there is a central doorway. The wide clapboards are beaded and the windows are all six-over-six, double-hung, with narrow sash. An "A" roof of moderate pitch features two peaked dormers in the center of this facade. Large twin brick chimneys are set half in/half out in the west end and are enclosed in the east wall by a shorter, recessed, two-bay frame wing. The rear (north) of the house has been extended with a two-story shed roof section that obscures the once-elegant Federal styling. A local building characteristic appears in the form of stepped weatherings in the chimneys.</p> |   |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 6/10/75

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
 National     State     Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# Rockland

## Part I

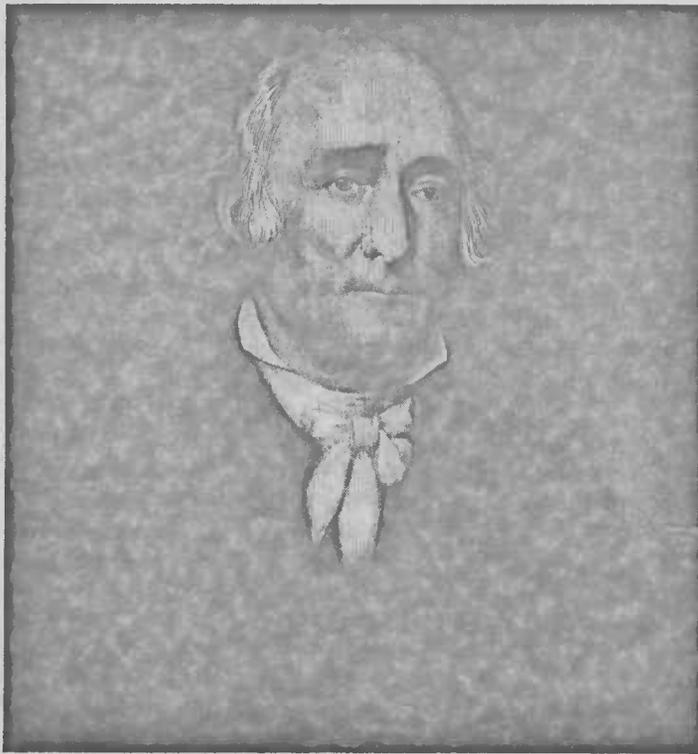
ROCKLAND was one of those rare homes which cannot be adequately described by words on a printed page. The atmosphere created and maintained for years by the Hallowells three quarters of a century ago, the intangible, the esthetic, are not easily described. To portray the Rockland story adequately would require the talents of a Washington Irving or a Nathaniel Hawthorne. To do justice to the colorful life surrounding that home, one would have to call upon the art of a film in technicolor.

The Hallowells lived at Rockland for nearly a century. They were blessed with unusual traits of intellectual and cultural leadership. They set a pattern and left a tradition in the nineteenth century, to bear comparison—in the opinion of this author—with the "Flower Of New England." There were comparable similarities between personages of New England and those of Sandy Spring, and Rockland was truly the fountainhead of neighborhood culture at that time.

The old white frame house shown herein where Benjamin Hallowell came to live in 1842, in 1962 stands far back from the State road which connects Olney with Sandy Spring.

Benjamin Hallowell, was born in 1799 near

Germantown, Pennsylvania. His first acquaintance with Sandy Spring was in 1819 when he made the long journey from Philadelphia to take a position as a teacher in the Fair Hill School established at Olney that year. His many difficulties in finding the then remote village and his problems of transportation thence are graphically told in his *Autobiography*.



Very sincerely  
Benjamin Hallowell

At Fair Hill at that time he met his future wife, Margaret Farquhar, also a young teacher. They were married a few years later in the Sandy Spring Meeting House by a Friends' ceremony. He wrote in long-hand his own marriage certificate which was read by the "Venerable" Roger Brooke V, and after the wedding they drove to Alexandria. The next day they were among the throngs which welcomed General Lafayette, who called next door to where they were staying. They waved to the old general who bowed and smiled in return.

In 1824-1825 Hallowell founded his school for boys in Alexandria known as "Brimstone Academy" and it attained wide recognition throughout the country. For over fifty years he was a commanding figure in educational circles. He attained great success as an inspiring teacher and disciplinarian. He was rated as

turned the school over to them. They had previously been taken in as partners. For a year or so he traveled on religious missions, lecture tours, and made one or two trips beyond the Mississippi with his horse Ande to his buggy. He made another trip to Canada by the same method of travel. For part of this time he rode from Rockland to Alexandria twice a week on horseback to give lectures at the school. Since this proved to be too arduous, he moved to Rockland permanently in 1860.

In 1858 the Alexandria school was sold, and as his nephew, Francis Miller, wanted to start a school for boys in the country, Benjamin gave him thirty acres of land off the east end of the farm and Francis built a fine modern house, naming it Stanmore, and opened his school. Henry Hallowell and his family came to Rockland, and in 1878 after the death of his father the year before, the Rockland school for girls was started.

During the Civil War Benjamin had two exciting experiences with the soldiers bent on getting his horses. One soldier had removed Ande, his favorite horse, from the stable when Benjamin interfered. The soldier pointed his pistol directly at Prof. Hallowell and ordered him to remove his hand from the bridle. The old gentleman looked the man firmly in the eye and stood his ground. Soon the man cowered before Benjamin, lowered his pistol, and before leaving apologized for his rude action.

A few days later Benjamin was riding toward Olney. He had heard of troops in the neighborhood, and his sister-in-law, Sarah B. Farquhar, was living at Olney at that time. When he reached about where the hospital is now located, he met the cavalry of General Bradley T. Johnson, two thousand strong. An officer ordered him to halt and told him, "We want that horse." Benjamin refused to dismount, and the officer ordered him to follow to see his superior officer. The superior after walking around the fine animal, sharply told the soldier, "Take that horse!" then rode away.

The soldier took Benjamin and Ande to the side of the road and repeated his order to Benjamin to dismount. Again the old gentleman refused. He explained that the soldiers had taken his other horses, only Ande remained. She had taken him four times across the Allegheny Mountains and into Canada; he had

brought her from Canada at great expense and would not willingly part with her. The soldier, seeing his resistance, unbuckled the saddle girth, put one hand behind the saddle and the other on the pommel, pulled the old gentleman over toward him, laid him gently on the ground, took Ande's rein, jumped on his own horse, and rode off leading his prize, disappearing in the dust of the marching cavalry.

In his days of retirement in the seclusion of Rockland, the elder philosopher-patriarch continued to exert his influence, in various causes for humanity. He wrote articles, received callers, and continued his Quaker ministry.

In 1871 he wrote a letter and made a personal appeal to President Grant urging that Congress call upon other nations to unite with us in adopting measures by which differences might be amicably and peaceably settled, so that "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." He reminded the President that William Penn, the great apostle of peace, in 1695 in an essay on the subject of the "General Peace of Europe" had advocated the formation of an assembly to be called "The Sovereign Imperial Diet, Parliament or State of Europe" before which differences should be brought. Penn urged that "if any shall refuse to submit their claim, or abide by the judgment of the Parliament, and seek remedy by force of arms, then all other nations united as one strength shall compel submission."<sup>2</sup> Significantly this sentence shows Penn was not a "Pacifist" under all circumstances but believed "in agreements to prevent aggression by a combination of peaceful nations." Professor Hallowell called President Grant's attention to a new factor, not involved in Penn's day, namely, financial business and trade agreements between nations to enforce peace, thus anticipating the "cold war" that has become so provocative under modern conditions.

In 1952, Penn's dream of 266 years ago seems within the hope of realization. On April 25th, 1952, Secretary of State Dean Acheson in referring to the Marshall Plan, and the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), was quoted as saying, "It is a great stride toward the long-cherished goal of a united Europe, and even more, toward the unity of international society."<sup>3</sup>

As the last few years of the beloved, friendly man passed quietly, he aimed to keep his health

<sup>2</sup> Autobiography of Benjamin Hallowell.

<sup>3</sup> Ferdinand Kuhn, in The Washington Post.

highly as a mathematician, scientist and astronomer, as an inspiring Quaker preacher.

Robert E. Lee was one of his students. Later General Lee gave Professor Hallowell credit for the sound rudimentary instruction in mathematics which enabled him to be graduated with honors at West Point, and become a military leader of unsurpassed ability. Many boys from Maryland attended the Hallowell school. Among them was Roger B. Farquhar from Olney. His school reports given by the school master during 1852 and 1853 are remarkable in their critical analysis of the youth's progress in studies and behavior.

Professor Hallowell was a member of several learned societies before which he was in great demand as a lecturer. He lectured at the Smithsonian Institution, was professor of chemistry at Columbian College (now George Washington University), belonged to the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, was one of the founders of Swarthmore College and of the University of Maryland, and was the first president of the latter institution in 1859.

He founded the Alexandria Water Company and was its first president. The company erected a monument to his memory. He organized the Alexandria Museum, a notable organization of intellectuals at that time, and was in demand as one of its lecturers in their marble building on South Washington Street, near King, which, with its large columns still standing, looks like a Greek Temple.<sup>1</sup>

The *Autobiography of Benjamin Hallowell*, published in 1884, is fascinating reading. It has been widely read by many people unfamiliar with the man and his career because of his wholesome simplicity, high ideals, spiritual depth, and methods of discipline.

In 1842 Professor Hallowell decided to turn his school in Alexandria over to his nephews, Caleb and James S. Hallowell, and move to his farm at Rockland the land of which he had begun assembling from several tracts in 1838. By one of these deeds, dated July, 1838, he acquired fifty-six acres from William Birdsall. In another deed from the same man he added ten acres, a total of sixty-six acres for which he paid \$600.00. The Birdsall tract had a log house on it which was incorporated in the house still standing. Another plot of eight acres was acquired from Elizabeth Ann Mannakee for \$160.00, and Roger Brooke V of Brooke Grove

sold him seven and one-fourth acres for \$1.00 current money. Brooke knew the value of a good neighbor.

These purchases were from old grants known as Shepherd's Hard Fortune, Brother's Content, and George Third, and within the next thirty years he assembled a farm containing about 300 acres. In 1838 his wife's mother, Mary Elgar Farquhar, then a widow, and her son, Granville, and his family, moved into the two parts of the Rockland house which had been remodeled and enlarged to accommodate two families.

When Benjamin moved to Rockland in 1842 to begin farming in the spring of 1843, he had some of the usual experiences of city folks when attempting to become "agriculturists." He started Sam, his colored man, mowing the lawn with a scythe. He had previously set out six young seckel pear trees and a juniper bush. Under the latter a hen was setting on her nest of eggs. Benjamin took Sam around, carefully showed him the trees and the hen, and warned him to be careful not to harm any of them. In a short time Benjamin came back to the lawn after dressing for "Fourth Day Meeting" and to his amazement found that Sam had cut down five of the six pear trees and cut off the hen's head!!! To quote the good man, "I was glad it was meeting morning. I got right into my carriage without saying a word and drove off to meeting."

Another time he gave Sam his muddy boots to clean and polish. Sam grumbled: "they will just get dirty again." So Benjamin took the muddy boots and polished them himself. When Sam came into dinner, Professor Hallowell met him and said, "Now, Sam, there is no use in your eating dinner today; you will just get hungry again." Sam never complained about cleaning muddy boots after that.

In 1846 all Professor Hallowell's plans had to be changed. He had looked forward to retirement at Rockland to pursue his studies, lectures and writing. His nephews, the Hallowell brothers suddenly notified him that they desired to give up the school in Alexandria. There was nothing for Benjamin to do but to return to Alexandria with his family and resume charge of the school.

In the following years his son Henry Clay Hallowell and one of his nephews, Francis Miller, were graduated from Yale, and in 1854 he

<sup>1</sup> History of Old Alexandria, Virginia, Mary G. Powell.

by walks around the lawn which each day became shorter and shorter. Benches were placed where he could sit, rest, and meditate. Just a week before his end, he was driven in his carriage to make a call. Finally on September 7, 1877, his great spirit took its flight. His wife Margaret had died two years before.

His son, Henry, wrote, "As teacher, lecturer, philanthropist and Friend, he had filled a wide sphere of usefulness and had earned the long desired rest and attained the victor's crown." It was said of him, "the religious element was large in his nature. None approached him without reverence, nor left him without love."

## Rockland

### *Part II*

**H**ENRY Clay Hallowell, son of Benjamin, became a teacher in his father's school in Alexandria after being graduated from Yale. Returning to the school, he and Francis Miller, Henry's first cousin, were taken into the school as partners. When the school was sold in 1858, Francis decided that he wanted to open a boys' school in the country. His uncle gave him thirty acres of land off the east end of the Rockland farm, where he erected a large house, and established the school, naming it Stanmore.

Henry C. Hallowell married Sarah Miller of Alexandria in 1857. After the Alexandria school was sold in 1858, he and his family moved to Rockland with Benjamin Hallowell, and remained there the rest of their lives. Henry was a scholar, a student of literature and the arts, an astronomer, and, hence with his education, was in great demand as a lecturer. His erudition was an ornament to any occasion. One example was his stirring ode, a poem read at the Centennial Celebration of the founding of Montgomery County, held at Rockville in 1876. He was active in the Grange, was its lecturer for years, was one of the founders and for twenty-five years was president of the Horticultural Society of Sandy Spring. When the Stanmore School was closed in 1868, the Hallowells started a school for girls at Rockland.

This latter school became far-famed because of its ideal home atmosphere in beautiful country surroundings presided over by a couple who gave loving care and attention to their young charges. Many parents of distinction sent their daughters to be educated in the rudiments of

culture, and to absorb qualities of gentility and simplicity.

These girls came from twelve states, Bermuda, the District of Columbia, nearby Maryland, and from far removed New York and California. Returning to their homes, in many corners of the land, they blessed the memory of Rockland. The influence of such an institution for gentle, kindly, rational living, and happiness was recognized as widespread.

Henry Hallowell was a brilliant leader of conversation at meals and elsewhere. He was often likened to Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., the Autocrat of The Breakfast Table. He somewhat resembled Dr. Holmes in his quick wit, his superior mentality, and physical characteristics. His deportment was unusually striking. He appeared in formal dress, white vests and gaiters when those accessories were in vogue, and always had a white beard, on his chin, in those days that some of us can recall. He could reel off quotations from the poets and sages of the past and to be within the circle of his intimates was an inspiration to young and old. One of his favorite injunctions to youth was: "Look not mournfully into the past; it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present; it is thine. Go forth to meet the dim and shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart."

During the years after the school closed in 1888 until his death in August, 1899, Henry Hallowell, while exercising a wide influence in the community, took great interest in the farming operations at Rockland. His son, Francis M. Hallowell, took active charge of the place, assuming the main responsibility at all times. He was most resourceful and capable in that



NO 93 F-9 WILLIAM BIRDSALL PART LOGS PRIOR TO 1838 ADDITIONS MADE AFTER 1838

work. In 1886 Roekland farm took seventeen premiums at the Roekville Fair.

Many charming events were staged on the beautiful shaded lawn at the farm; some of them were in moonlight or illuminated with scores of "Roman Candles." In 1882 one long-remembered event was the wedding of the oldest daughter of the family, Cornelia, to John C. Bentley of Bloomfield. At the same time her mother and an aunt celebrated their silver wedding anniversaries. Over 300 guests lingered to enjoy the occasion and to congratulate the three couples.

Two other weddings were celebrated with receptions in the big school building. In 1891 a daughter, Eliza M., was married to Washington B. Chichester, Jr., in St. John's Church at Olney, followed by a reception; and in 1898 Mary Hallowell was married to Newton Stabler in the school.

A major industry of Sandy Spring for many years was created by the influx of scores of "summer boarders," and Roekland was their favorite headquarters. With the school closed during the summer months, the commodious house was a haven for many Washingtonians

desiring to flee from the heat of the city. The wives and children delighted in the country surroundings, the cool lawns and shade, the open fields, and the sumptuous food provided. The social and intellectual activities attracted many, and the men with or without a week or two of vacation could in any ease come out daily to Rockville on the B. & O. Railroad and reach Roekland in time for supper by a stage line or with their own horses and buggies which were left in Roekville during the day.

There were frequent dances or an occasional Cotillion with favors in the school room, swimming parties, baseball games, tennis, croquet and horseback rides to be enjoyed. The neighborhood was filled with city folks during the hot months in the years before the automobile changed all this, and the young men even enjoyed the thrill of helping with hay harvest. Farming then was more romantic.

After the death of Henry Hallowell his widow continued living at Roekland. Her daughter, Miss Edith M., lived with her until the mother died in 1924. During these years the home retained its usual hospitality and cheer. Although subdued, compared with earlier years, the

widow retained and radiated her usual cheery welcome, her kindly temper, and infectious humor. During these years the mother and daughter, and later the daughter-in-law were blessed with the pervading presence, comradeship, and care of one of the most unusual and lovable characters the neighborhood ever knew, Francis Miller Hollowell. In 1914 Frank, as he was always called, married Helen L. Thomas of Tanglewood, one of the popular girls in the community, and he brought his bride to live in part of the big double house, to add a new blessing to the homestead.

Such a many-sided character as that of Frank Hollowell is impossible to describe adequately. After his tragic death, it was truly said of him by one of his scores of admirers, "We shall not look upon his like again." His physical strength was phenomenal; his fun and humor infectious, his kindness and courtesy unbounded. As an athlete he was a star in baseball. He was in as much demand as leader of a "cotillion," as leader of a gang of men at a barn raising. He was ready to help a neighbor with harvest or, gentle and full of cheer, to help in a sick room. There was no neighborhood activity in which he was not in demand as a leader. His loving courtesy to his aging mother, to his relatives, and to his devoted wife were liberally bestowed at all times.

One example of Frank's fun and frolic was for years a regular annual event at the Rockland Christmas dinner parties. It was usual to have at least twenty to twenty-five seated at the long family Christmas dinner table. Aunts and uncles, sons and daughters, and all the in-laws from far and near with the grandchildren would assemble for the bountiful feast. When the meal was about over and everyone was "too full for utterance," Frank would pick up one of the youngest grandchildren, one just learning to walk, place him or her on top of the long table at one end, and start the infant toddling toward the other end. No matter how many coffee cups were kicked over, glasses knocked to the floor, or gravy dishes upset, screams of laughter at the prank were an aid to digestion.

Frank Hollowell was a Director of the Savings Institution of Sandy Spring for a number of years. While attending a meeting at the bank in April, 1920, he was seated inside the teller's counter when bandits entered the building. He was shot as he arose and turned around. He

died almost instantly. This outrage stirred the quiet neighborhood as nothing had done before, and everyone asked, "Why did they have to take the life of one so universally loved and admired?" It can be truly said, "His virtues pled like angels trumpet-tongued against the deep damnation of his taking off" (Macbeth, Act I, Scene 7). Later, the outlaws were all captured and punished.

After the death of Sarah Hollowell in 1924 at the age of eighty-eight years, Edith M. Hollowell went to live with her sister Cornelia Bentley at Cloverly and the farm was rented for a few years by Frank's widow, Helen Hollowell, until it was sold in 1941 to John M. Beane. Mr. Beane owns the adjoining farm Menden, where his modern Colonial brick house is much admired. Frank Hollowell left one son, A. Thomas Hollowell, who received a Ph.D. degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology some years ago, and is employed by the Du Pont Company, as a research engineer. His mother has lived in an apartment at the Cedars, with her niece, Helen N. Farquhar, since she sold Rockland. Helen T. Hollowell is one of the most active supporters of all neighborhood organizations, especially of the Montgomery County General Hospital near Olney.

Henry and Sarah Hollowell had two other sons, who left the old family home to become successful in other states, Robert M., younger than Francis lived in St. Louis for some years then went into the lumbering business in Louisiana, and became very prosperous. He never married and frequently visited his relatives in Sandy Spring until his death a few years ago.

J. Elgar Hollowell also started in business in St. Louis, and later operated a shoe manufacturing business in Chicago, until his death ten or more years ago.

A small tract in the western part of Rockland farm has been sold to Catholics, where St. Peter's Church and parochial school have been erected recently.

The house at Rockland facing south over a five-acre lawn covered with shade trees, has a hall that extends from the porch in front through to a glassed-in back porch. On the east is a double living room with one fireplace; and on the west, a double parlor with two fireplaces. On Sundays the girls were all taken in big busses either to the church at Olney or to the Friends Meeting in Sandy Spring.

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Rockland





#23-97

NAME ROCKLAND

LOCATION RTE. 108, E. OF OLNEY, MD.

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 6/10/75  
M. DWYER



NAME        *ROCKLAND*        *#23-97*  
LOCATION     *RT 108*    *OLNEY, MD*  
FACADE     *S*  
PHOTO TAKEN    *6/10/75*    *MDWYER*