

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Indian Hill Roads Named for Trees

Driving through Indian Hill is a treat any time of year. Houses are nestled in its beautiful landscape which continues to reflect the rural legacy of its past. Many curves in the roads have tree tunnels or majestic canopies of old growth forests. Some of the Village byways are named for species of American trees.



A small road off of Given Road, Beech Trail recognizes the stately and formal American Beech tree. Sturdy and densely canopied, they were a sign of fertile soil to early settlers, who cut them down and farmed the land they occupied. This large tree has smooth gray bark and grows to a height of 80 feet or more. Its leaves are oval or elliptical, dark green with veins that end in toothy edges. It provides shade in summer, and the foliage turns golden bronze in fall. In spring it produces yellowish green flowers, and the female flowers become beechnuts that are ½ - 1 inch in diameter. Squirrels, chipmunks, and birds feed on these ripened nuts. Beech trees have shallow broad reaching roots and grow very slowly. They are long-lived and if healthy can prosper for more than 150 years. Beech trees have acquired many meanings: religious, mythological, and symbolic. Slivers of beechwood were once carried as talismans to bring good luck and increase creative energy.



Accessible from Park Road, Holly Hill is a quaint quiet road whose name can be traced to the Holly tree. A broad leaf evergreen, over 1,000 cultivars of the American Holly exist. It can be a tree, shrub, or climber. The foliage usually consists of dark green glossy leaves with spiny points. Notable are the clusters of red berries which it produces throughout fall and winter. The fruit is toxic to humans but an important food source for birds and other wild animals. During winter storms, birds often take refuge in hollies, which provide protection from predators because of their sharp pointed leaves. Holly is frequently used as a Christmas decoration in wreaths and floral arrangements. These trees can grow up to 50 feet tall and spread to 40 feet wide. To Celts, the holly symbolized peace and goodwill. Druids planted holly trees to protect against evil spirits. Christians believed the sharp leaves were reminiscent of Jesus' crown of thorns, and the red berries reminded them of his drops of blood. Holly trees were sacred in many cultures.



A cul-de-sac off of Shadyglen Road, Chinquapin Lane has fifteen homes. It is named for the Chinquapin tree, sometimes known as dwarf Chestnut or Ozark Chestnut. It can reach 65 feet in height. Its leaves are serrated lance shapes. It flowers in the spring, and the fruits which form after flowering are small spiny spheres which develop the shiny brown nut within. The nut can be roasted or eaten whole. Native Americans incorporated them into their seasonal diet. Captain John Smith was introduced to the tree in 1607, when the natives called it “chechinquamin” meaning mini berry or fruit in Powhatan language. The wood is durable and has been used in products such as barns, furniture, railroad ties, and fence posts. In former centuries, the leaves and bark were used to treat ailments such as malaria, headaches, and diarrhea. These folk remedies may have promise in creating new cures for current maladies.