

**Maryland Women in Conservation: the Trees and the Forest
at
"Old Fort Frederick"**

Welcome to Fort Frederick State Park

2021 Park Quest



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Instructions: Exploring Conservation History Along the Trail

Please start your adventure near the park's visitor center. Visitor center hours vary depending on the days of the week and the season (Currently Closed to the Public). Please check the park's website for details or call the park 301-842-2155. Please download and print this booklet and the tree guides from home. Alternatively, you can use your phone's .PDF reader to access these files online. (See the picture below and **START HERE**. Hike up the path and follow the Park Quest signs).



Follow the paved path behind the visitor center and look for the "Park Quest" signs pointing you towards the Plantation Nature Trail. Be careful crossing Fort Frederick Road! Folks should only be traveling 20mph...

Along the Plantation Trail you will discover the stories of Alice Burnside Paret Dorsey, the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and how their conservation efforts contributed to the establishment of Fort Frederick State Park. In addition to this, see how the Maryland Park Service continues the legacy of women in conservation and how this park and region have strong leaders who just happen to be women.

To complete this adventure, please hike the trail and enjoy the interpretive panels that are based on local conservation history in Maryland. Take the "additional attractions route" (purple) to see if you can discover other interesting areas of the park. There are three park conservation related sites near the Fort.

Plantation Trail

The Plantation Trail is named after the tree plantations that were established in the early 20th century. One of the original stated goals for purchasing the property was to reforest the land as the management of Fort Frederick was to be conducted by the State Board of Forestry and their appointees. Many areas of the country were denuded of trees during this time. It was common practice to purchase land, clear it of trees and then sell the land afterwards. This led to erosion and drought throughout the country. Fort Frederick State "Forest Reserve"¹ was to be a demonstration forest alongside a protected historic structure. What is a demonstration forest? Find the answer to this question and more! Hike the trail and see what you discover!

This trail has been in existence for a long time. However, a recent trails grant enabled staff to resurrect the trail and reroute sections onto more sustainable terrain. Maintenance of the trail is an ongoing task within the park and volunteers and staff continue to remove invasive species year-round. This trail has recently been adopted by Girls Scout Troop 37005 of Frederick, MD. They will make trail maintenance and beautification their Bronze Award Project. We are happy to partner with the Girls Scouts and look forward to working with them!

Want to identify trees along the way? Please use the MD Forest Service tree ID. field guides. There are links below. See if you can identify 10 or more trees using the materials.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #①

In a field of U.S. labor that, at one time, was not well populated with female staffing, the Maryland Park Service maintains representation in all levels of field work and management. Women park managers and assistant managers outnumber men in some regions, and are at least equal to male representation throughout the state. In 2021, Fort Frederick State Park Complex will plan to hire women in every department of work: maintenance, interpretation, and operations.

Read Panel #1 and consider the impact that women have had in recent years. The decisions that are made by our leaders within the park service help to shape our parks and even the landscape itself.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #②

These trees began their journey with the work of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who started planting as early as 1924 here on the grounds of the park property. 1,149 white pines were planted that year, "one for each Maryland Daughter of the American Revolution," according to the DAR publication *Pilgrimage To Old Fort Frederick*.

¹ <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/history.aspx>

Fun Fact:

The DAR symbol, seen on this panel, is that of a spinning wheel or treadle wheel. Among its uses, the treadle wheel was used to spin flax into linen.² The DAR chose this symbol due to the importance of spinning during colonial days. England controlled the textile trade and American colonies decided that sending raw materials to England just to buy them back as finished goods was not in their best interests. Spinning became a patriotic endeavour for the Americans leading up to the revolution.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #③

Alice Burnside Paret Dorsey is a focal point along our journey into women's history here in the park. She worked hard for the Fort. Read about her conservation and tree planting efforts on this panel. The work of the DAR at Fort Frederick predates the national effort by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which is often credited as the start of conservation and tree restoration in the United States. On the DAR map, see the approximate location where a tree may still stand that was dedicated to Alice nearly 100 years ago.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #④

The Fort Frederick Road of Remembrance tree plantings can be seen using the purple “**additional attractions**” route found on the Year of the Woman Map.

Alice Paret Dorsey was among the pioneers in Maryland conservation. She rubbed elbows and held influence with some of the more prominent figures in Maryland conservation history. According to Maryland DNR, the “Maryland Park Service operates one of America's oldest state park systems.”³ That makes Alice one of the earliest *women in conservation* for the United States at large.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #⑤

While researching this remarkable historic figure, it occurred to us that we should have a photograph of Mrs. Dorsey. There should be a picture somewhere right? Something labelled? Well research can be tricky, frustrating and time consuming. Finding Alice's maiden name through engagement and wedding announcements led to some photos, but nothing that was labelled. We searched our records, scoured the internet and even made phone calls and sent emails to local and national DAR members. No luck. We searched for months. Finally, we found a photo of a woman standing next to an Elm Tree. It was on DAR's archives site, but not labelled with Alice's full name.

² <https://www.dar.org/museum/featured-object/taking-dar-spin>

³ <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/history.aspx>

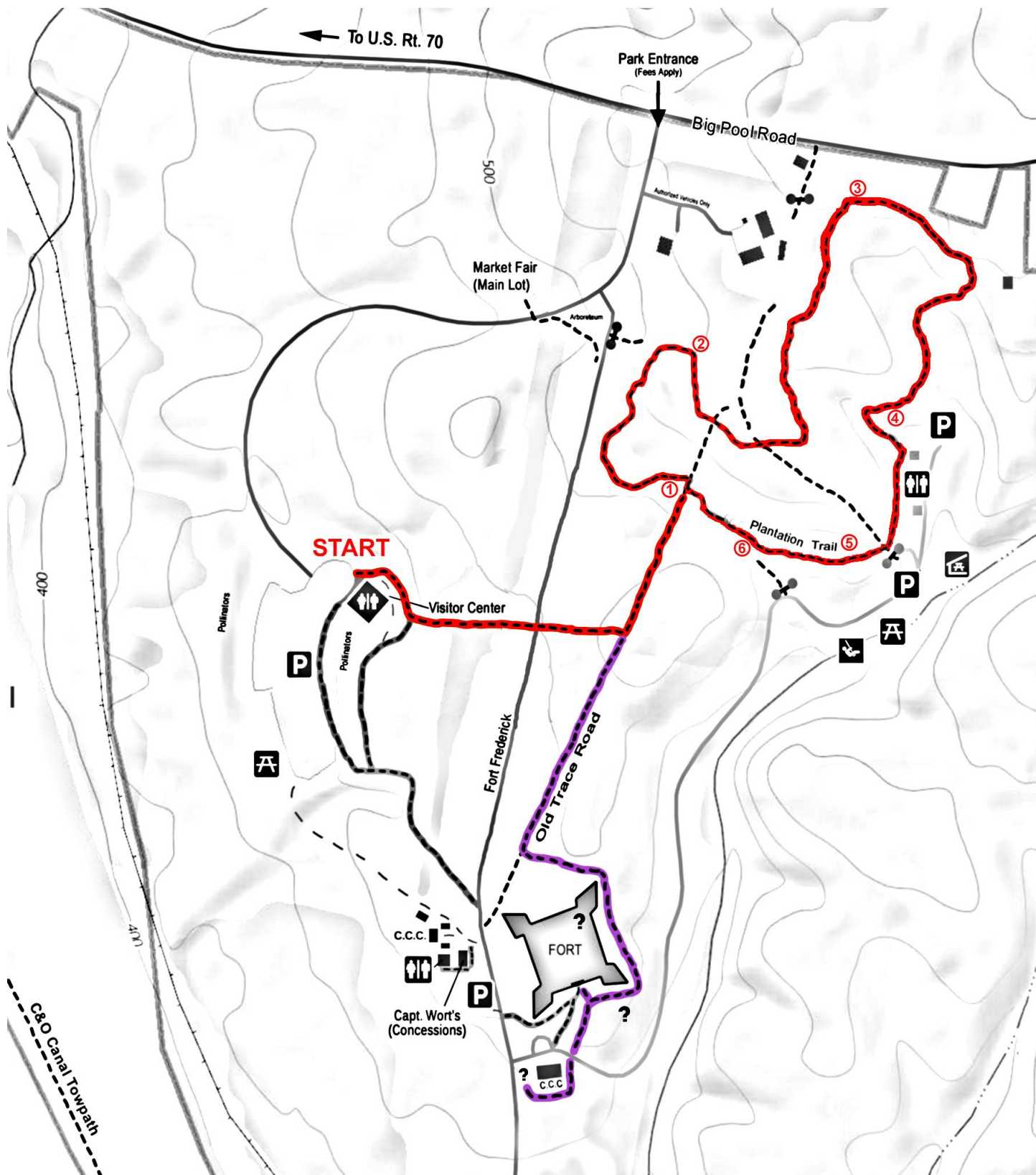
On close inspection, we noticed the last name "Dorsey" on this photograph, but the first and middle names were torn off for some reason. With this, and the fact that the photo is registered in Maryland 1932 and titled "George Washington Bicentennial Tree, Washington Custis Chapter, Maryland. The year seems right and the DAR planted American Elms. It is taken in Maryland where Alice is Chairman of Conservation and it is on a DAR site. This must be Alice Burnside Paret Dorsey!

If you decide to see the "**additional attractions**," (see **Park Quest** Map) you will discover that Fort Frederick was the site of a tree planting for Wye Oak seedlings. That Wye Oak progeny is still growing just south of the Fort Gate.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #⑥

Along the Plantation Trail many different tree species were planted throughout the years. Some trees would not usually be found in this area. Some of those species include: Bald Cypress, European Larch, Corsican Pine, Loblolly Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Japanese Red Pine, Norway Spruce, and European Alder. When trying to identify trees at Fort Frederick one may have to broaden their studies to include other regions of the world.

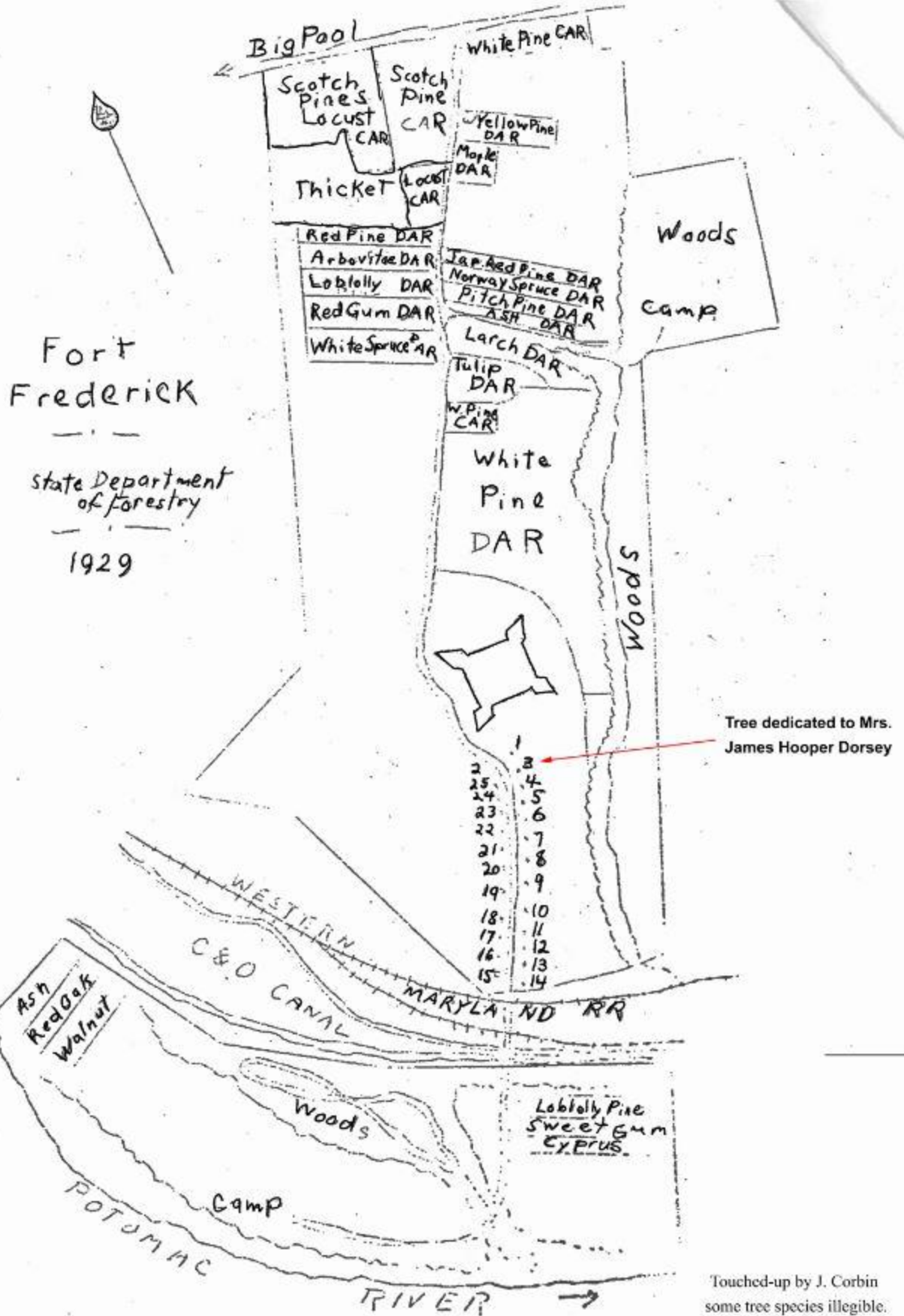
The water well that is mentioned on this panel can be found by following the purple route to "**additional attractions**." Look for the question marks. (?)



Park Quest Map:

- **Red Route** is for **I Hiked 2021** (follow the signs going clockwise). The trail is blazed **Red**.
- **Purple Route** is **Additional Attractions** you may want to see.
- **?** - Find this symbol on the map to locate the well, the Wye Oak progeny, and the Road of Remembrance.
- Interpretive panels are numbered on the map. Follow the trail clockwise starting with **①**.

DAR Map



TREE ID CHALLENGE

Optional:

1. Please use the interpretive panels, any field guides you may have, and the printed field guides provided by the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Service to complete this challenge. Please print off or use on your phone, the *Leaf Key for Common Broadleaf Trees in Maryland* field guide: https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/TreeGuide_Common-Broadleaf.pdf and the *Identification Key for Coniferous Trees in Maryland* https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/Basic_conifer_key.pdf
2. Identifying trees in winter is more difficult, but not impossible. Evergreen trees keep their leaves/needles in the winter. That makes identification easier. However, broadleaf trees drop their leaves in winter. You may need to look around on the ground underneath of a tree to find seeds, cones and leaves. Additionally, if you have binoculars you can often look up in a tree and notice leaf shapes and seeds/cones still attached to the tree.
3. Identify as many different tree species in the Plantation Forest as possible.
4. Post your numbers on **Park Quest**/Maryland Park Service social media for braggin' rights!



References

Research by Ranger Jeremiah Corbin, Maryland Park Service, using primary and secondary documentation.

Daughters of the American Revolution Pilgrimage to Old Fort Frederick *Big Pool, Maryland April 27, 1929*

The Sun Papers: 500 Attend Rite at Fort Frederick *Maryland Society, DAR, Presents 56 Acres of Reforestation to State Trees are Memorial - \$10,000 Appropriations to Restore Wall of Fortification Asked in Resolution*

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<https://janetmontgomerydar.wixsite.com/jmdar/historical-markers>

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