

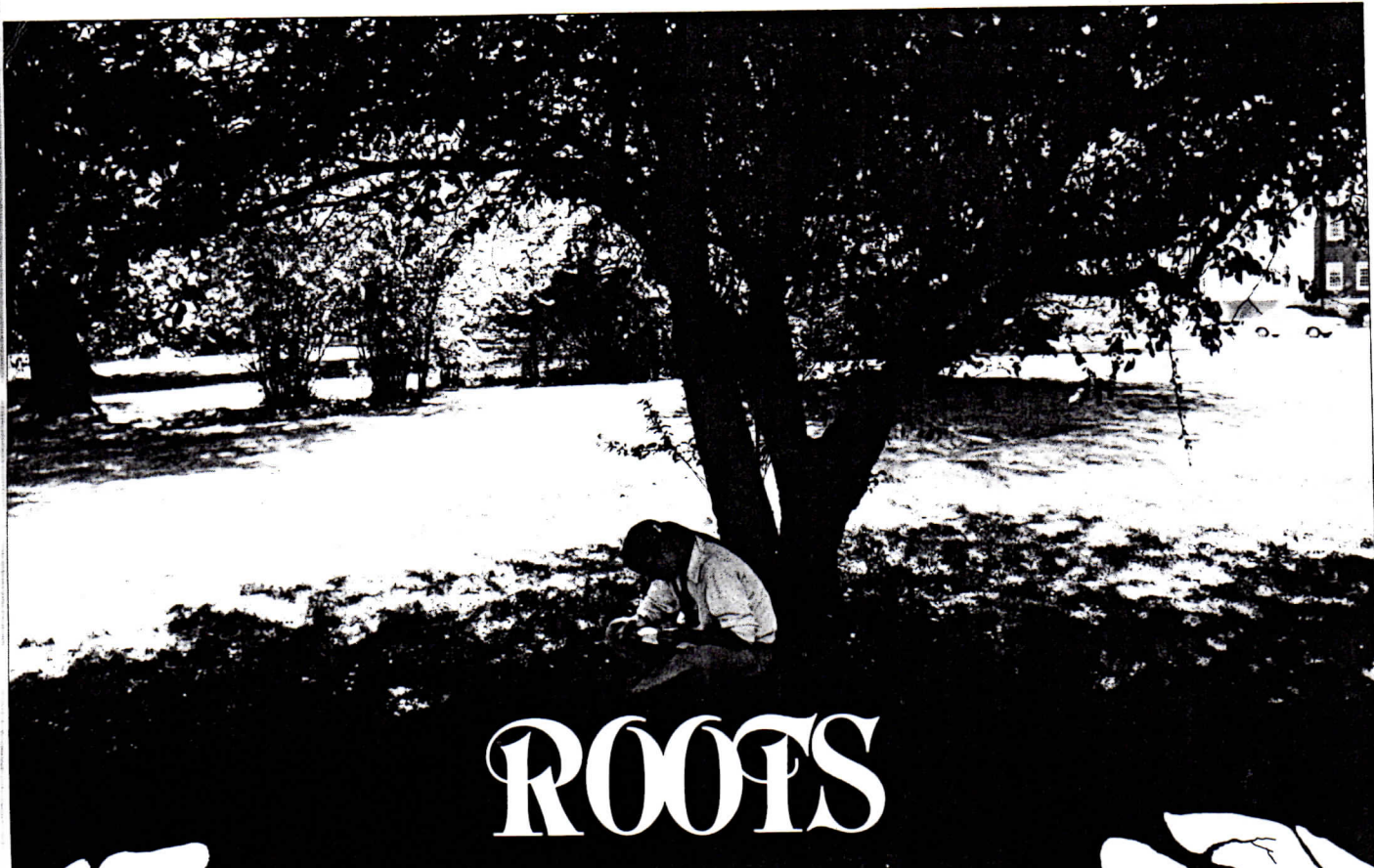
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ROGER MILLER

ROOTS

AT HOOD COLLEGE

by

Christine Plankenhorn Tischer '65

As we marvel at some of the twenty elm still spreading giant umbrellas over the Joseph Henry Apple Library, Tatem Arts Center, and Brodbeck Hall, it is difficult to imagine them ever as young spindly saplings. But they were carefully planned and placed as were most of the 100 species of trees found on the Hood campus today. Additions through the years have resulted in making the Hood campus uniquely planted. Mr. Ray Frank, research horticulturist, USDA at Fort Detrick believes, "You would have to go to Baltimore or Washington, D.C. to find such a collection of tree species—some of them are rather rare and interesting."

Of course some were already in the ground when the College moved from Winchester Hall, but an ambitious program was carried out by Hood's first first-lady, Mrs. Gertrude Harner Apple, according to one of her daughters, Emily Apple Payne '24. She saw to it that our trees would have a

heritage that would impress anyone looking for roots!

One such tree is the large European beech standing in front of Shriner Hall. This tree (two had been planted) came from the Gwynne Estate in Hawarden, England, of William E. Gladstone, Prime Minister of England in the late nineteenth century. Mrs. Apple's notes indicate that the two trees were gifts of Dr. William Mann Irvine, who was headmaster of Mercersburg Academy from 1893-1928.

Of the many weeping willows which gracefully curtained the campus, only a few remain. Those can be traced back to the Island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic which was visited by one Captain Charles Simmon of the

Almost timeless in their expanse of cool dark shade, almost impervious to the winds of change, the stately old trees at Hood have inspired peace, sheltered laughter, and echoed voices for class after class of Hood students. Even those who never knew the shape of the crimson and golden variety of leaves crushed beneath their feet in the fall were always in awe at the fairyland of delicate blooms which blanketed the campus in the spring. Drawing classes through the years have immortalized them, botany classes have studied them, and young love has blossomed at their feet. They are as much a part of the College as the buildings themselves, perhaps even more.

merchant marine. He married Matilda Houck '94-'95 of Frederick and, according to Mrs. Apple, gave the original tree to the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Later when a new chapel was built on East Second Street, the Babylon weeping willow was transplanted to the grounds of the Frederick Female Seminary on East Church Street. According to Mrs. Apple, it was of the species *Salix babylonica*. The campus willows were grown from shoots brought from the tree at Winchester Hall.

These small willows on the new campus were shaded by large maple trees already growing around Brodbeck Hall and down Brodbeck drive. Originally planted by the German society that erected Brodbeck Hall, the maples were swamp maples or red maples, not able to withstand storms. Eventually, according to Mrs. Apple, most of these maples were removed and replaced by Norway maples and spruce. A line of these maples extends, at intervals of thirty feet, along the entire south front of the campus, bordering Dill Avenue. These trees and most of the young trees and shrubs were planted in 1915 when the new grounds were graded, seeded, and landscaped by the firm of Harrison and Schreiber of Berlin, Maryland.

As the young plantings grew to adulthood, another first lady, Noradel Truxal, continued the care, adding several ornamental trees each year herself. Some of her additions were the red bud, Japanese blood-leaf maple, and ornamental cherries. However, she relates, many of the unusual species already on campus were the gifts of Clinton N. Myers, one of the founders of Hanover Shoes and Hanover Farms, who was a fancier of trees and shrubs. He hybridized and grew the trees himself at his own arboretum

JOY DERR



The Japanese dogwood (above) and the Japanese tree lilac (below) have adorned commencement activities for years. Blooming later than the other campus dogwoods and lilacs, they were planned to coincide with commencement in the Hodson Outdoor Theater, reaching their peak the first week in June.

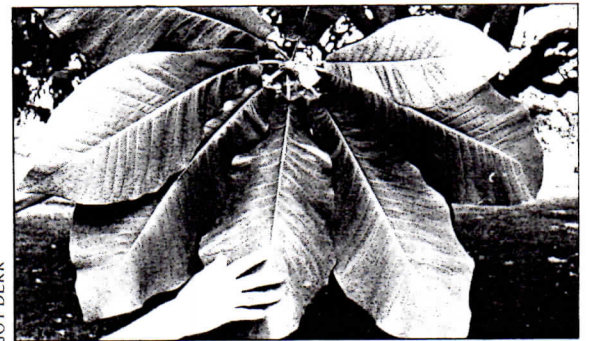
JOY DERR



JOY DERR



JOY DERR



Two unusual trees are shown by a close-up of their leaves. The big-leaf magnolia (above) in the President's front yard has a large showy white flower. The ginkgo (left) has a fan-shaped leaf which was characterized by the Chinese as "leaves like a duck's foot."

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RUTH RANDALL

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Looking as though carpeted with crocus, the lawn beneath the Carolina Silverbell is the best place to see the delicate bell-shaped blossom which appears in profusion in early spring.

RUTH RANDALL

Frederick Community Commons label some of the trees on the campus. This has been an on-going dream of those who for years especially appreciated the beauty of the campus. This spring the dream has become a reality as labels were applied to about 130 trees, both on campus and in Baker Park in Frederick. The markers are designed to allow the tree to grow, and are the same type used in the National Arboretum.

Now, thanks to Community Commons, Hood students dreamily resting beneath a lacy-leafed sky may not only find a moment of peace, but a fragment of a fact . . . ah, Acer platanoides, a Norway maple.

Acer platanoides, Norway maples, indeed are the most abundant specimen with the count in 1970 done by Mr. Ray Frank numbering them at 94. Dark green and a good shade tree,

they are followed closely by the flowering dogwood (numbering 90) as anyone will attest who has visited in early May. White pines come in third with 83 of them lining the golf course and various boundaries of the campus.

There are four types of magnolia, some of which are of great size. Of the four types of magnolia, the one in front of the library is quite impressive when in bloom, while the one big-leaf magnolia on the left side of the French House driveway is an unusual species with a leaf as large as an elephant ear and a large white flower. There are two star magnolias whose blooms are as delicate and lacy against the sky as a bunch of daisies.

Of the unusual blooming varieties, we must mention 11 Japanese dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), most of which were planted around the Hodson Outdoor Theater. Since this variety (which has exfoliating bark like a Sycamore) blooms later than the flowering dogwood, they were planted so that they would be in bloom at about the time of commencement exercises. Also unusual are the nine Japanese tree lilacs around the Hodson Outdoor Theater and in front of Smith Hall. Although the fragrance is considered by some to be not pleasant, this large white bloom is one not to be forgotten, appearing about one month after the profusion of campus lilacs have faded.

Another unusual bloom is the delicate bell-shaped blossom of the Carolina Silverbell which are represented by four well-established trees. They are truly lovely in the spring. Behind French House a Japanese snowbell blooms nicely in early summer with delicate fragrant white flowers suspended from the tree's slender branches. In addition to those

in Hanover.

Aware of the need to catalogue our maturing elegance, Dr. Randle Elliott, fourth President of Hood, asked Mr. Ray Frank in 1970 to identify, map, and key the specimens on campus. The U.S. Army, where Mr. Frank worked, felt it was important to further good relations and as Mr. Frank became interested, he put in many of his own hours completing the project. As a result, he has become an expert on the trees and shrubs at Hood and has conducted several Tree Identification Walks of the campus for garden clubs and the Frederick Community Commons.

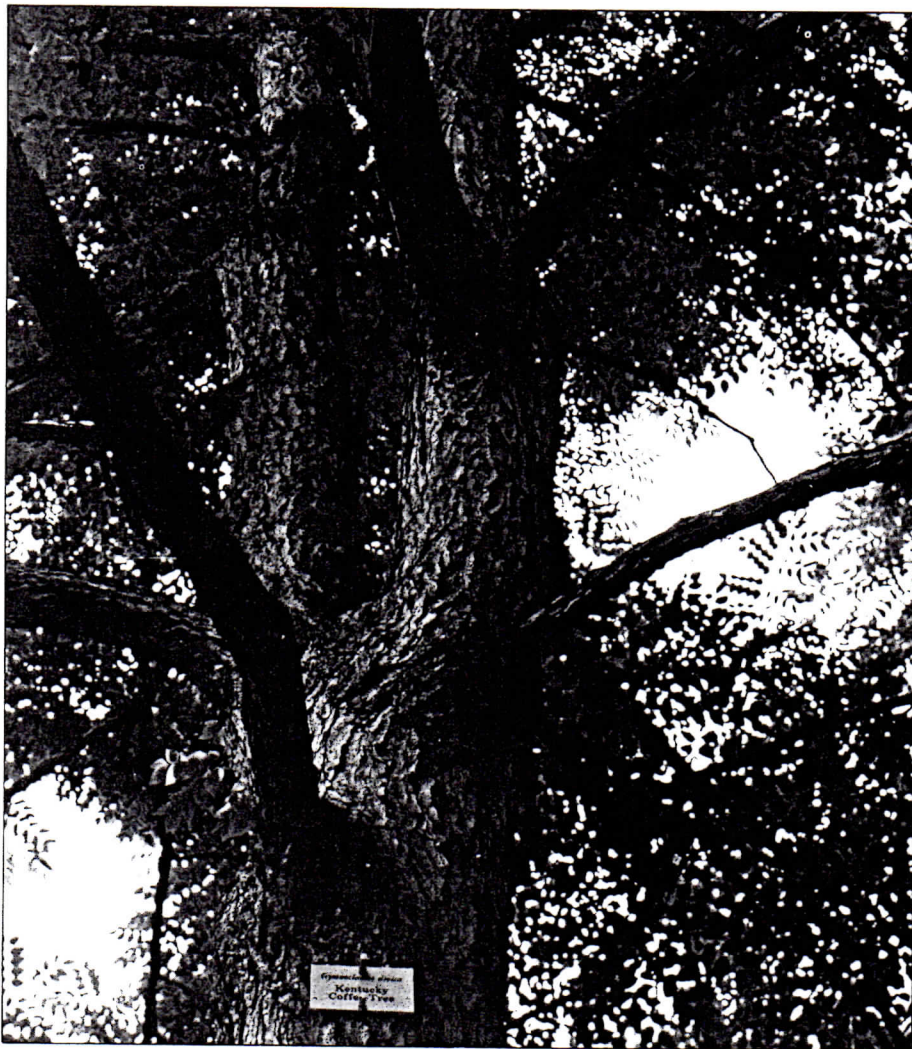
Mr. Frank has been a part of the Frederick Community Commons, an organization of people interested in publicizing the importance of horticulture. Dr. Susan Munch, assistant professor of botany, as a committee of one, began a campaign to have the



The star magnolia is a delight to behold. This large one in front of French House was packed with blooms, delicate and lacy against the sky as a bunch of daisies.

RUTH RANDALL

Every summer the trunks of about 20 elm are injected with Lignasan, an agent that has slowed the instance of Dutch Elm disease.



The Kentucky Coffee Tree, as its name indicates, was used by early colonists to make a bitter-tasting beverage. The label at the bottom of the picture is an example of the markers applied to nearly 100 campus trees by the Frederick Community Commons.

already mentioned, Hood has its share of other blooming beauties: cherries, plums, and peaches, crab-apples, pears, silk tree, empress tree, golden-chain tree, crape-myrtle, and horse chestnut. Ornamental trees which provide contrast and interest all summer are the Japanese blood-leaf maple and the copper beech.

Of course there is not room to mention here the names of over 100 species of trees, some of which are

interesting because of their size, maturity and health. But some such as the ginkgo and Kentucky coffee tree are worth knowing about.

The five large ginkgoes at Hood are representatives of oldest known species of tree; the impressions of their ancestors' leaves may be seen in various parts of the world, including the United States, in rocks that are known to be millions of years old. There are no known forest of ginkgoes, even in

China, where western travelers first found them in the 17th Century growing in temple gardens. Disease- and insect-free, their leaves are fan-shaped, causing them to be characterized by the Chinese as "the tree with leaves like a duck's foot." The Hood ginkgoes have the mature full look of symmetry.

The Kentucky Coffee Tree, as its name indicates, produces a six to ten-inch pod, the seeds of which were used by the early colonists to make a bitter-tasting beverage. This slow-growing pest-free tree produces one of the largest leaves borne by any American tree. However, they do not appear massive as they are composed of 40 to 100 small leaflets which allow light to filter to the grass below. Hood has seven of these trees; one male tree can be easily identified on the walk from Administration Building to Hodson Science Hall.

These trees and the thirty-some species of shrubs are kept in healthy condition under the watchful eye of Joe Pastore, Vice President for Administration. Just as many newcomers who upon first coming through the Thomas Gateway are overwhelmed with the beauty of the campus, so was Joe Pastore when he came to the College in the spring of 1976. "Walking into this new world of beauty off Rosemont Avenue, I became immediately aware that it would be my responsibility to preserve this legacy of green. It has been a labor of love," according to Mr. Pastore.

One of the first unhappy chores that Mr. Pastore had to perform was the removal of six stately American elm which had succumbed to the Dutch Elm disease. He began a program of treatment to preserve the elm that are still healthy. Every summer

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the trunks of about 20 elm are injected with lignasan, an agent that has slowed the instance of this disease which has victimized the graceful elm lining the village streets of 19th Century America.

The storms and Maryland winters have taken their toll of the trees and shrubs. For the past three years the efforts and resources of the College have gone to preserving and enhancing what is on the campus. However, according to Mr. Pastore, the point is approaching when tree replacement will need to be addressed. Resources naturally are limited in this area and Mr. Pastore must consider the more pressing needs to landscape the renovated Strawn Cottage and the new Link Building.

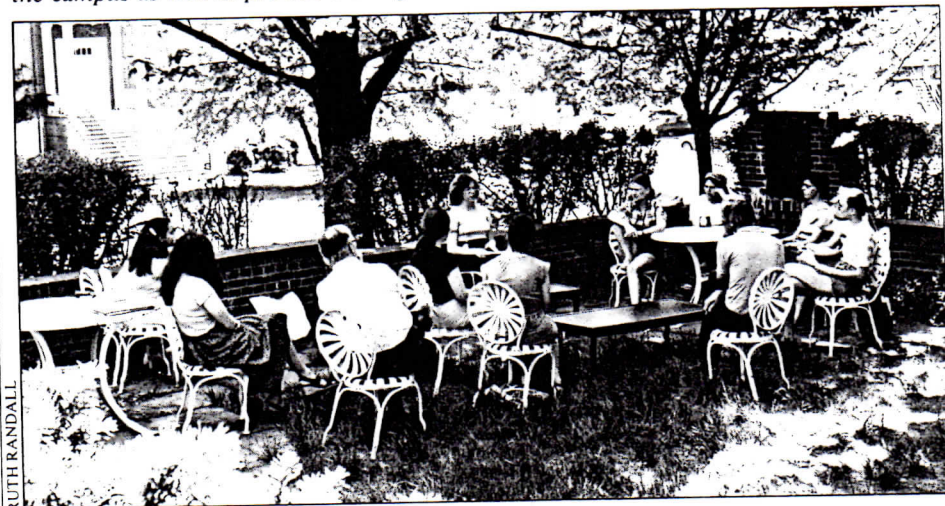
Some replacements and new plantings are being provided through memorial gifts and class gifts. In addition to the many trees and shrubs planted through the years as either gifts (The Garden Club of Frederick donated all the plantings around the chapel) or as memorials (The Thomas Gateway plantings honoring the Clyde Thomas's of Frederick), we have: a blue spruce behind Smith Hall which was planted in Blaine Broadwater's name; three blue spruce planted by Hugo R. McGraw and Melvin Derr to honor Frances Witt McGraw '33, Margaret L. Witt '24, and Anna Grace Witt Derr '31; a weeping cherry planted by the Class of 1927 to honor Fannie Magee Miller; two trees to the side of Memorial Hall given by the Class of 1976, and a zelkova tree by Memorial to honor Dr. Ross Pritchard, sixth President of Hood.

Whether given as a living tribute or planted by someone who cared many years ago, the trees and shrubs at Hood live on in perpetual beauty, nurtured and cherished by those who know the value of living things. ■



RUTH RANDALL

The gracefully falling blossoms of the weeping cherry in the Alumnae Headquarters Garden (above) bloom in memory of Blaine Broadwater, Business Manager at Hood for many years. Such memorials as the Delaplaine Reading Garden (below) offer a spot of beauty on the campus as well as provide a living tribute to one's memory.



RUTH RANDALL

HOOD

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Cover: This drawing from the art files is anonymous, but it seems to capture the feeling of individuality and life that our campus trees breathe into the air, creating an atmosphere of beauty and dignity.