

## SCOUT HOUSE HISTORY (Robin Hoehne, 1999)

Located at 128 Spring Street, Falls Church, VA, the Scout House is a historic log cabin, built in the early 1940's and home to generations of Falls Church Boy and Girl Scouts. It currently houses several scout organizations and serves as a polling place for Falls Church voters on election days.

Scouting has enjoyed popularity in Falls Church almost since Lord Baden-Powell and Juliette Lowe founded the movement. In 1939, local Scout leaders recognized the need for a place for Scout groups to meet. By March 1939, a well-publicized fundraising drive was underway to raise the \$4,500 needed to construct the log building that stands on South Spring Street. The property was purchased for \$600 in June 1939. A.J. Webb who was assisted by Kenton Hamer, builder of the Falls Church Presbyterian Church, and George W. Carlton, who donated their architectural services, designed the building. Walter Johnson, chairman of the Falls Church Scout Committee, secured pledges, building materials, and labor from businesses and groups throughout the community. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Turner of Fairfax County donated the logs and stones to build the structure and its fireplace and chimney.

When the initial fundraising effort fell short of its goal, 15 local residents guaranteed a loan from the Falls Church Bank for the construction of the Scout House, which began in late 1939 and completed early 1940.

By 1942 the Scout House was headquarters to more than 200 Scouts from 9 different troops. Scouts collected discarded paper, toothpaste and shaving cream tubes, and old license plates to help reduce the building indebtedness. The Scouts persistence in fundraising paid off when on June 17, 1945 the Scout Building Association held a mortgage burning celebration just five years after construction.

In addition to the Scouts, other civic groups use the house for social functions, including square dancing. During World War II, the building was made available for the American defense effort as an air-raid shelter, hospital and first aid center. However, its primary purpose has always been to further the objectives of Scouting, which the building has served for 60 years.

Over the decades, several generations of Scouts have passed through the log cabin on South Spring Street. In fact, the current Scoutmaster of Troop 681 met in the building as a boy, and his sons, also Scouts, continue the tradition today. Recently, Col. Wayne Sanford, a long-time Scouter whose sons called the log cabin home, passed away. Col. Sanford served on the Board of the Scout Building Association for 26 years. During the barbecue on September 25, a flagpole will be erected and dedicated in recognition of Col. Sanford's dedication to Scouting and the Scout House.

The Falls Church Scout Building Association (FCSBA) is a non-profit organization, which owns and maintains the house. The FCSBA is sponsoring its third annual fundraising barbecue in a tradition which harkens back to the days of collecting toothpaste and having cream tubes, and crushing aluminum cans. This time funds will be used to complete major repairs. With the proceeds of previous fundraisers, several major projects have been undertaken: the wooden benches and floor were refinished, a concrete basement was poured, a new furnace was installed and ductwork will be completed shortly. But more work remains to help this historic building enter the 21st century. In the City of Falls Church, the log Scout House holds a unique place by recognizing the past and looking toward the future of Scouting.

**LAND OWNERSHIP CHRONOLOGY OF THE "SCOUT HOUSE"**  
(M. J. Terman, 1999)

Date	(Map) Owner	Acres	Acquired by
12,000+ yrs	Native Americans		
1584	Raleigh's colony in "Virginia"		Colonizing
1607	Colonists settle Jamestown		Colonizing
1649	Seven English noblemen	5.28M	King Grant
1693	5th Lord Fairfax	5.28M	Marriage
1719	6th Lord Fairfax	5.28M	Inherited
1 Aug 1724	(1) Capt. Simon Pearson	1279	Patent
1733	Thomas Pearson	1279	Inherited
1743	Simon Pearson (Centre Lodge)	1279	Inherited
[by 1740s]	Tobacco Rolling Road passed through later parkland		
11 Aug 1778	(2) Charles Broadwater (stepfather)	917	Bought?
26 Mar 1806	(3) George Wm. West (grandson)	100	Inherited
1815	George Beale Jr. (wood Mt. Hope?)	100	\$1,000
9 Jul 1819	Daniel Dulany (Oakmont owner)	100	Bought
10 Dec 1819	(4) John Johnston	216	\$4,000
16 Jul 1829	Daniel Dulany	216	\$3,000
1 Sep 1830	Samuel Moxley	216	\$3,000
23 Aug 1831	Samuel Chew & Peter Ritter	216	Bought
3 Feb 1833	Peter Ritter	216	Bought
1 Jan 1840	Ruth Fish Mills	216	\$1,800
13 Apr 1842	Amzie Coe	216	\$1,800
[by 1840s]	Leesburg-Alexandria Turnpike (Broad St) completed		
05 Apr 1867	(5) Seth Osborn (house?)	22.85	\$1,142.81
24 Nov 1900	Francis M. Hodgson	22.85	\$5,500
26 Jul 1910	Reginald Munson	21.7	\$8,000
07 Mar 1917	Lewis Thornton	21.7	\$10,000
01 Sep 1922	Leslie Kerr (Kerr's Addition-lots 1-18; S. Spring St. on plat)	21.7	Bought
13 Jan 1926	(6) S. Dillow Smith (lots 9-18)	14.5	Bought
30 Apr 1926	William S Browning	14.5	Bought
22 Aug 1931	John A. Smith	14.5	Bought
23 Nov 1931	Metropolitan Properties	14.5	Bought
22 Jul 1939	(7) Falls Ch. Scout Building Assoc.	1.1	\$600
1940?	(lot 14; log cabin completed by: R. E. Ankars, Leo King Couch, Dale Dillon, Charles R. Fenwick, Edward C. Fenwick, Kemper Grille, Hugh Johnson, Charles Kellogg, Hubert Lundein, Maj. Morton Macartney, Col. Lee Parks, John Parmalee, Deming Shear, and Adelbert J. Webb)		