

The History of DuFief

From an article by **Judy Williams**, former DuFief Media Specialist, and from research done by **Linde Fuller**



John L. DuFief (second from left), shown with Robert Carter, George Peter, and John Gassaway, all prominent citizens of Montgomery County. They may have been celebrating their release in February 1864 from Old Capitol Prison where they were held for "disloyal practices," that is, being Confederate sympathizers. They were released upon taking "the oath" (of allegiance to the North). The original sepia photographic print had the caption "Incidents of War. Well, Boys! Who let you out?"

John Lawrence DuFief was born on June 14, 1817, son to Cherubim du Fief, who came to America with his father Nicholas Henri Gouin, Lord du Fief, from Nantes, France, in 1786. Lord du Fief, a "Royalist," left France during the French Revolution, recognizing that he was fighting a lost cause. Nicholas did quite well in America, developing a system of French language instruction. Little is known about Cherubim, John L. DuFief's father (apparently the spelling had become thus at some point). John L. DuFief became a builder and also dabbled in architecture, designing houses for friends. In about 1850 he had a windfall. A rich aunt, Mary DuFief Fowler, of New Orleans, died leaving him enough money to buy property above Turkey Foot Road and below what is now Route 28. John L. DuFief, who had married Catherine Amelia Talbot of Prince George's County in 1847, moved to his newly purchased farm with his wife and two children in 1853.

DuFief designed and built a sparkling new home, "Millwood", which stood until 1941. Within 10 years he owned more than 1,100 acres in this area, making him one of the largest landowners in the county. Incidentally, the name of his primary holding here was "Mt. Pleasant."

There was also a mill. In the *Montgomery Sentinel* of January 5, 1866, DuFief said the mill was "50 feet by 60 feet, four stories high, slate roof...capable of manufacturing from 10,000 -12,000 barrels of flour annually." Millwood was a "3-story brick mansion, 30 by 36, containing nine rooms and cellar, with verandah, eight feet wide round the entire house." The property boasted two dairies, an ice house, meat house, workshop, two barns, three tenant houses and a "fine thrifty young orchard of peaches and apples..."

The Slave Census of 1860 recorded that DuFief had 10 adult and 9 child slaves on his property and he was at the forefront of efforts to sustain the status quo. DuFief, during the Civil War, initially pledged his allegiance to the South in support of his Constitutional rights. A later abstract states that DuFief supported the North, opposing the secession of the southern States.

John L. DuFief had eight children. After selling some of his land in 1866, DuFief apparently stayed in the area. Upon his death on March 26, 1877, services were held at St. Rose's Catholic Church in Rockville. His body was interred in Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown.

To be continued

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| A Man of Many Talents | 2 |
| DuFief Treasurer's Report | 3 |
| Cement Fiber Siding | 4 |
| What to Avoid—Musings of an Original Resident | 5 |

Special points of interest:

- Artist in Residence
- Cement Fiber Siding
- Recipe

Artist in Residence — Jean-Louis Staudenman, a Man of Many Talents

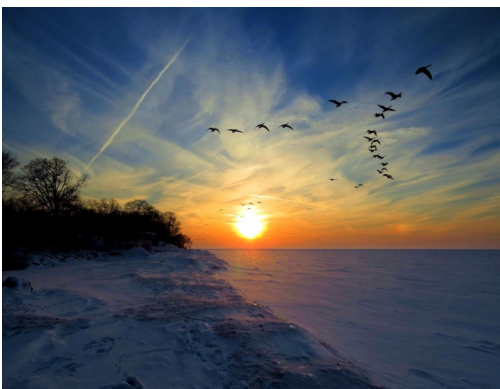
By his Wife **France Staudenman**, *Happy Choice Lane*

The Staudenmans moved from Long Island to Maryland twenty years ago. Their dream was to find a quiet neighborhood that offered possibilities for walks in a beautiful setting. They found such a place on Happy Choice Lane.

Jean-Louis is a man of many talents: photography, woodcarving, landscaping and construction. He started taking photographs in Geneva, Switzerland, with an old camera with bellows when he was a youngster. He would go on long bicycle rides, take pictures of the countryside, then develop his pictures in an improvised darkroom over the kitchen sink. These were black and white pictures. He now takes digital pictures, mainly of landscapes, birds and flowers, returning sometimes year after year to the same favorite spots until he finds the perfect lighting, knowing that it will give life to his pictures.



Swans—*La Perle du Lac, Genève (May 1971)*



Sunset on frozen Lake Erie at -20°F (February 2014)

A gift Jean-Louis received on Christmas when he was a child allowed him to develop a passion for woodcarving. He got a toolkit for woodworking and started cutting out wood panels with a handsaw to build model houses. Later on, when he was a college student, he had the opportunity to spend a summer in the Swiss Alps where the tradition of woodcarving was very much alive. He was inspired by the motifs found on pieces of furniture such as chests, tables and chairs, and decided to try his hand at carving. He first carved round wooden plates, using half a dozen chisels and gouges. The designs became more and more intricate over the years, requiring the use of over one hundred different hand tools. He incorporates in his creations designs inspired from Romanesque art, antiquity or medieval pieces seen in museums, jewelry designs, kimono embroideries, or even Swiss stamp designs. When he selects wood for a project, he looks for an interesting vein, a smooth grain that allows for very fine carving, and a beautiful color, which, when polished, will stand out, such

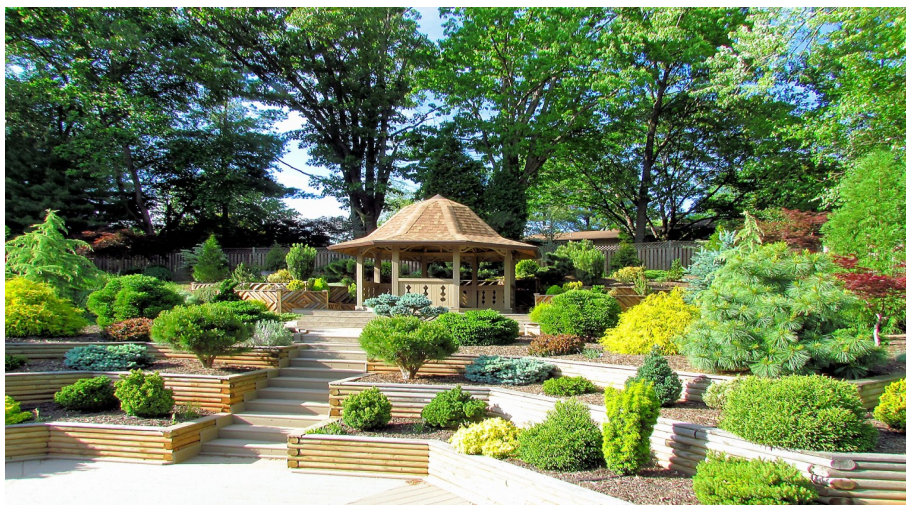
as padauk (a dark flaming-red wood from Africa), mahogany, cherry, sugar pine (a bright-gold wood from Oregon), aromatic cedar, with its play of dark light mauve, or Swiss pine (a favorite with its warm amber tone), sometimes combining different woods into one piece for contrast.



The Sun—Sugar Pine (Oregon)

Fifteen years ago, Jean-Louis decided to enlarge the family house. He faced a conundrum: the steep slope in the backyard was too close to the new house extension. His solution was to carve terraces into the landscape. He eventually constructed five terraces and a gazebo, all by hand. The design on the gazebo is inspired by a Swiss chalet balcony.

**Let your talents flourish,
And you will be amazed where they will lead you!**



Kale and Brussels Sprout Salad

From *Bon Appétit Magazine*, November 2011 (submitted by **Linde Fuller** who has made it and found it delicious).

Ingredients

SERVINGS: 8–10

| | |
|--|---|
| 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice | 2 large bunches of Tuscan kale (about 1 1/2 lb. total), center stem discarded, leaves thinly sliced |
| 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard | 12 ounces Brussels sprouts, trimmed, finely grated or shredded with a knife |
| 1 tablespoon minced shallot | 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided |
| 1 small garlic clove, finely grated | 1/3 cup almonds with skins, coarsely chopped |
| 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt plus more for seasoning | 1 cup finely grated Pecorino |
| Freshly ground black pepper | |



Preparation

Combine lemon juice, Dijon mustard, shallot, garlic, 1/2 tsp. salt, and a pinch of pepper in a small bowl. Stir to blend; set aside to let flavors meld. Mix thinly sliced kale and shredded Brussels sprouts in a large bowl. Measure 1/2 cup oil into a cup. Spoon 1 Tbsp. oil from cup into a small skillet; heat oil over medium-high heat. Add almonds to skillet and stir frequently until golden brown in spots, about 2 minutes. Transfer nuts to a paper towel-lined plate. Sprinkle almonds lightly with salt. Slowly whisk remaining olive oil in cup into lemon-juice mixture. Season dressing to taste with salt and pepper.

Do Ahead: Dressing, kale mixture, and toasted almonds can be prepared 8 hours ahead. Cover dressing and kale mixture separately and chill. Cover almonds and let stand at room temperature. Add dressing and cheese to kale mixture; toss to coat. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Garnish with almonds.

Treasurer's Report

By **Brian Frank**, HOA Treasurer

Notices for the 2015 annual dues have gone out and payments are due by January 31, 2015. The dues amount for 2015 is \$190.00. This increase was approved by the vote of the members at the Special Meeting in June, 2012.

As of January 26, 2015, the Board has collected annual dues from 183 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (60%). The annual assessments that we use to maintain our common areas in order to keep the DuFief neighborhood a popular area for homebuyers **are not optional**. Every household must pay the annual dues.

Any homeowners who have not paid their dues are subject to potential lawsuit which will include a request for interest and attorneys fees and may result in a lien on the property.

We have been very successful in collecting dues. All assessments have been collected for 2010 and all years prior. There is one homeowner who has not paid dues for 2011, three homeowners who have not paid dues for 2012, eight who have not paid dues for 2013 and eleven who have not paid dues for 2014.

**We have collected
60 % of 2015 dues.**

The Board does not enjoy having to take neighbors to court; however, the homeowners assessments are no different than having to pay real estate taxes. To those of you who have paid their annual assessments in a timely manner, "THANK YOU!" Those of you who have not paid dues for this year or prior years, please do so immediately.

If you have questions or would like to discuss your annual assessments, please feel free to contact
Brian Frank at 240-606-5100.

Fiber Cement Siding in DuFief

By **Foster and Nancy Morrison**, *Silent Valley Lane*

JAMES Hardie Fiber Cement Siding

The cedar clad siding originally installed on the DuFief homes was quite attractive and resistant to termites and most other pests, except sometimes woodpeckers or squirrels. But the four decades or so since construction have taken their toll. Simply replacing the old wood siding with new wood siding is, of course, an option that is compatible with DuFief's architectural style and aesthetics. However, technological progress now offers a couple of interesting alternatives for refurbishing. A popular one is vinyl panels, which come in many colors and textures. These offer the advantages of relatively easy installation and fairly attractive costs. Disadvantages include possible fading; thin, weak structure; difficulty to remove mildew; and little or no better resistance to fire than the original wood siding.

A robust alternative is fiber cement siding, which is rigid and sturdy, as well as more durable. It also is fire resistant, though the original framing of the houses (wooden 2x4s) is not, nor is the plywood over which the fiber cement is installed. (The original siding may be used for this purpose where it is still structurally sound.)

A little more than a year ago we decided that we should begin to rehabilitate the house we have occupied since 1975 and begin with the exterior. After a reasonable amount of research we decided to spend a little more

money than we wanted to and selected the James Hardie cement board siding. We chose to have it installed by Custom Concepts Construction, Inc., a local company designated as a "James Hardie Preferred Contractor." But you can have the siding installed by any contractor you choose or even do it yourself, if you are skillful, patient, and hard working. The fiber cement panels are rather large and require precise cutting.

A proper installation includes Hardie Wrap weather barrier, a plastic sheet material designed to be placed between the fiber cement exterior and the original siding or other materials used for structural support. It keeps the area within your walls dry, helping to prevent mildew and reducing energy loss.

The James Hardie product line is highly compatible with the DuFief architecture, so it was not hard to choose materials that met our desires and conformed to the community standards. We also chose new gutters, by necessity, and in a contrasting color that matched the trim pieces. New doors and windows also were installed, except for the garage door which had been replaced earlier.

We concluded that the James Hardie siding was a good long-term investment in comfort, security, and energy savings. By how much would it increase your home's resale value? Your real estate agent should be able to give an estimate of the numbers.



For more product details visit the website:
www.jameshardie.com.

Before making changes to your home, please go to www.dufief.org/architectural-review for the DuFief Community's architectural guidelines for renovations, repairs, and additions.

What to Avoid—Musings of an Original DuFief Resident

By Jack Weld, Brandy Hall Lane

To Avoid:

1. Having no hand rails in, at least, the master shower. Shower stalls are slippery, dangerous places, especially for older people.
2. Glass shower doors. The attractive ones are expensive. And, eventually, if they jam in their tracks or if you fall against them, they may shatter. Also, glass needs a lot of cleaning attention to maintain a pristine appearance.
3. A mail box in poor condition.
4. Letting the architecture of your home be defined by a row of garbage cans permanently parked in front of your garage door.
5. Roofers who want to strip your roof, make needed repairs or replacements on the aged underlying plywood sheets, and add new tar paper and shingles in a day or two. Completing the phases of a well-made roof should be a measured and careful process. It's especially important that they do a professional job making the underlayment up-to-code, solid and problem-free before they shingle and run.
6. Killing snakes. We need to feel deeply sorry for these useful critters in a world that has no place for them. I have a gadget (pole, handle, and claws) that I ordered from a Florida firm which allows me to move them, I'm not recommending this method for everyone.
7. Letting a house (probably a family's biggest investment) slide from good condition to "fixer-upper." From retail to wholesale value. The money "saved" over the years is going to eventually bite you.
8. Leaving or entering DuFief Drive from Route 28 carelessly. Always take a breath and make certain all of the players/drivers are about to act logically before you step on the pedal. Make eye contact when possible.
9. Believing that an asphalt driveway is some kind of finished product. It's not. It is meant to be kept covered by sealer. If a driveway is gray, it has become porous and is subject to increasing water damage. See a local, established sealing company every few years or so. (At a cost of 100 bucks, more or less.) Don't purchase sealing or anything else from a passing trucker.
10. Planting forest trees (or anything big) near the house. Trees like blue spruce, white pine, oak, sycamore, etc., can become a root and gutter problem.
11. Allowing anyone, including beloved adult relatives, to put kids' diapers, baby wipes, etc., into your toilet and flushing. I have two neighbors who have had serious and expensive problems when these products blocked their 40-year-old sewer pipe.
12. And **don't avoid** subscribing to Angie's List on-line. It's cheap and contains useful reviews of businesses and their services by smart people like you. Last time I looked it was about 10 bucks a year.



DuFief Homes Association

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Announcement

Gene Arnow, long-time resident of DuFief and former President, Vice-President and Member of the DuFief HOA Board, recently sold his house on Talking Rock Court and moved to Germantown to be closer to where his son lives. His wife Dona passed away a couple of years ago. We wish him well, and we certainly miss seeing him take his daily walk around DuFief.

Reminder

**The Annual Potluck and Member Meeting will be held at
the DuFief School
February 19, 2015
Potluck at 6:30 pm, Meeting at 7:30 pm
Please email Board@dufief.org to RSVP for the dinner**