

Southwood Farm/Big Spring
Built 1833, by Edward C. Southwood

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17?? – **Burket Reager** – this may be a Francis Lilburn grant (1750s)

17?? – Reager heirs to William Morgan [II] (son of George Morgan, grandson of Col. Wm. Morgan [I]) and William Morgan [III] (son of William [II], grandson of George, g-grandson of Col. Wm. Morgan [I]).

Col. William Morgan [I] died 1788 (BC WB 2/5) [of *Springdale*]

George Morgan died about 1796

Capt. William Morgan [II], m. Priscilla Wells, died 1795

Children: William [III], Andrew, Elizabeth, Margaret

William Morgan [III], m. Ann/Agnes, died 1816 (JC WB 2/340)

Children: Jeptha, Priscilla, Ruhamah

1787 – Berkeley Co. Personal Property tax listed “Coln. William Morgan,” “William Morgan,” and “William Morgan, III,” each with their own household.

1798 – William Morgan [III] (his father William [II] and g-grandfather Col. William [I] now deceased), was listed on the Berkeley Co. House tax with two houses, both low value. His mother Priscilla was listed with a house in the country valued at 131.25 and a house in Shepherdstown with a tenant. William’s [III] brother Andrew was listed with a house in the country valued at 630.00, likely the “home place” where he lived with his mother.

William [III] notes in his will, written in 1814, that he purchased a tract (Big Spring Tract) with his father William [II] from the heirs of Burket Reager. In various tax assessments it appears that William and Andrew split the Big Spring tract. Whether one of the above listed houses was on this tract in 1798 is not known; by 1820 there were no buildings assessed on the property.

1802 – William Morgan [III] was assessed for 162 acres plus 10 acres “of Andrew” [Morgan] (Andrew Morgan was listed in 1799 with 139 acres). His mother Priscilla was listed with a “dower” of 220 acres.

Priscilla Morgan died in 1805 and in 1806 William [III] added the 220 acres “of Priscilla Morgan” to his list of assessed land.

In 1810 William [III] was assessed for 162 a., 10 a. (formerly Andrew’s), 42 ½ a., 220 a. “of Pricilla Morgan,” 12 ½ a. “of William Rush,” and 28 ¼ a. “of Andrew Morgan.”

In 1811 he was assessed for 162 a., 259 a. (probably the 220 plus Andrew's 28 ¼ and 10), and 55 a. (the unknown 42 ½ and Wm Rush's 12 ½).

In 1815 the assessment was 162 a. adjoining Abraham Morgan (his brother), 260 a. called "home place" but also described as adjoining Abe Morgan, and 41 a. "same land." All three were shown as NW 9 miles from the courthouse.

Somehow, this 1815 assessment does not add up to the amount of land that William [III] devised in his will in 1816.

1816 – **William Morgan** left the 340-acre "Big Spring Tract" to his daughters Priscilla and Ruhamah. The "home farm" (260 a.) he left to his son Jeptha Morgan. (WB 2/340)

The 1816 tax record listed Jeptha Morgan with 260 acres adjoining Abe Morgan (NW 9), Priscilla Morgan with 81 acres called "Big Spring" (NW 8), and Ruth (Ruhamah) Morgan with 81 acres called "Big Spring (NW 8). There was no assessment for the widow Ann.

In 1819 **Ann Morgan** was assessed for a "dower" of 340 acres called "Big Spring" (NW 8) and Jeptha Morgan was assessed for 260 acres (the home place) adjoining Abe Morgan. There was no assessment for Priscilla (who may have died) or Ruhamah who may have gotten married.

1820 – Ann Morgan assessed for dower of 340 acres, "Big Spring," with no building value. The home place (260 a. under Jeptha Morgan) had a building value of \$500.

With the exception that Ann Morgan's name was changed to Agnes Morgan, this assessment of the Big Spring tract did not change until 1824 when it appeared under the name of Edward C. Southwood.

1824? – Ruhamah Morgan married **Edward C. Southwood**. Her sister Priscilla died and transferred her interest in the property to Ruhamah. Southwood, of Berkeley County, was assessed for the 340-acre Big Spring tract with no building value from 1824 through 1833.

1834 – Land tax assessed Edward Southwood for 340 acres with a \$1,530 building value with the notation "\$1,530 added for new stone house." Presumably the house was constructed in 1833.

1846 – Edward and Ruhamah Southwood conveyed by Deed of Trust the farm and life estate to John W. Boyd as trustee. (DB 28/62) Boyd then sold the 238-acre farm to **Uriah B. Kerney** for \$11,000. The deed included "a narrow slip of land" that was "occupied by the road" purchased by William Morgan from William Rush "for the purpose of a road." (DB 28/65)

1860 – Uriah Kerney's will left the "Southwood farm" to his son **John K. Kerney** and daughter **Elizabeth Kerney**. He left his "home farm" (*Rose Lawn*) to James William Kerney. He instructed the executor (William Butler) to rent out the Southwood farm to pay his debts and to emancipate all his slaves and "remove them to a free state." He provided \$200 to pay for the slaves to move, preferably to Perryville, Indiana. (WB 16/168) In later accounts the executor

recorded two of the former slaves moving to Pennsylvania in 1859 and three more in 1860. (WB 16/348)

1870 – Charles J. Faulkner and H.H. Blackburn, special commissioners for the estate of Uriah Kerney, sold the farm to **Richard McSherry** for \$10,665, with half of the purchase price to be held in reserve to support Elizabeth (Kerney) Duke. (DB 5/83)

1903 – **William McSherry**, executor for the estate of Richard McSherry (late of Berkeley Co.) sold the farm to **George W. Hoffman** for \$4,175. (DB 93/466)

1945 – George Hoffman devised the farm to his wife Byrle H. Hoffman. (WB H/230)

1956 – Robert Thornburg, committee of Byrle H. Hoffman, sold the 237-acre farm to C. Forrest Hammond for \$21,500. (DB212/175)

Now on 20-acre Lot #5 plus right-of-way owned by Eric Johnson.