

BURKE SPRING



Springhouse

Dye House

FALLS CHURCH

BURKE SPRING BRANCH OF PIMMIT RUN
 The water flowing from the springhouse forms the Burke Spring Branch, a tributary of Pimmit Run. Fairfax Trails and Streams, a local hiking and environmental group working on the Pimmit Run Trail, directed the reconstruction of the springhouse walls and restoration of nearby habitat in cooperation with Winchester Homes. The east-west Pimmit trail, shown on the map as a red dotted line, can be reached by following Great Falls St. north for approximately one-half mile. For further information, please visit fairfaxtrails.org or fobsb.org.



This project was funded by the McLean Citizens Foundation and the Fairfax History Commission; landscape plan by Kathryn von Bredow; stone work by Jack Mandel Design. Plants donated by Earth Sangha and the Potowmack chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society; fence and historic marker donated by Winchester Homes.

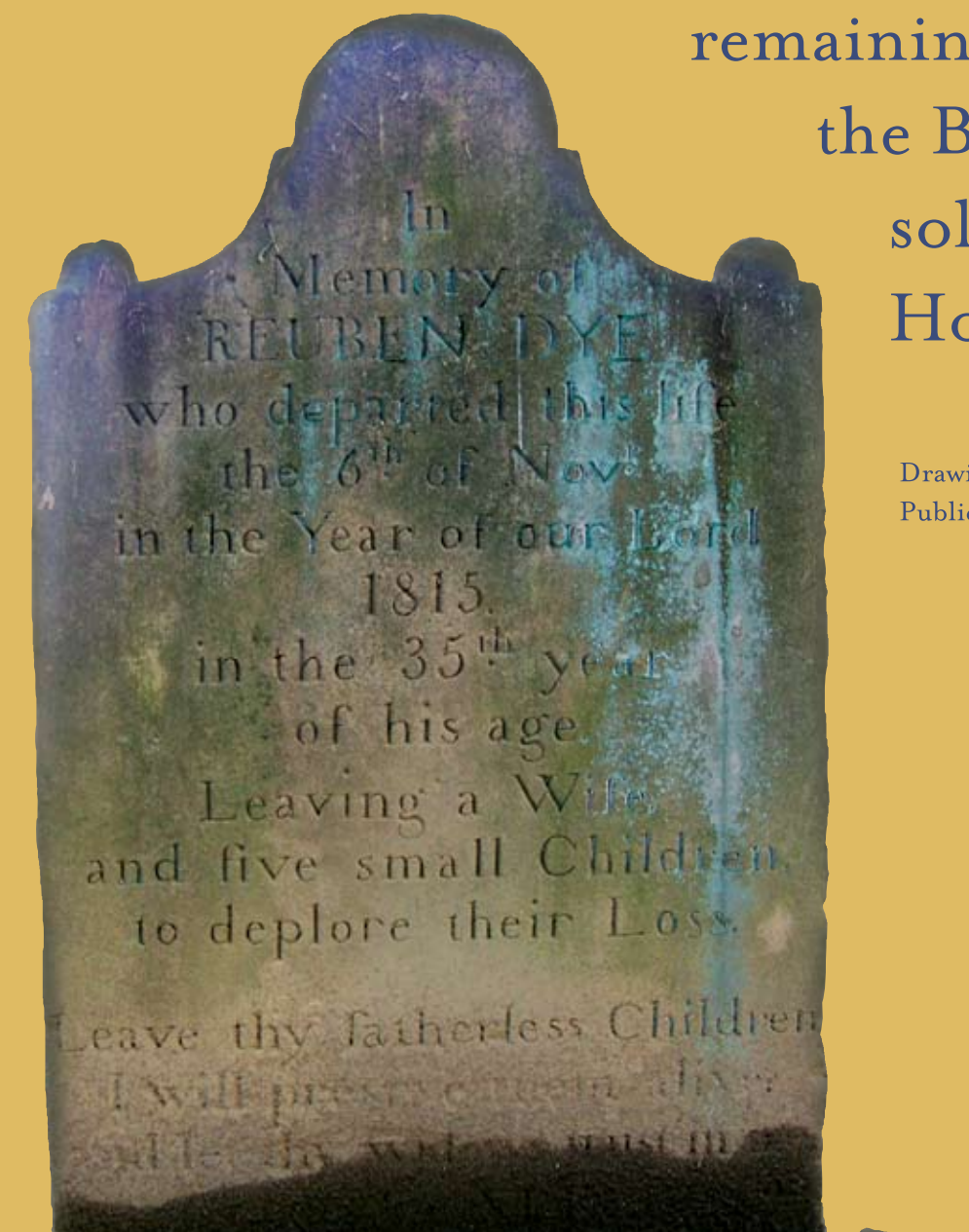
Graphic design by Katherine Lenard/FasterKitty LLC



THE DYE HOUSE
PRE 1808

REUBEN DYE HOUSE

In 1808, the 200 acres was sold to Reuben Dye of Alexandria, who probably built what became the Burke homestead (it's no longer standing), located about 200 feet south of the spring. Dye died in 1815 and is buried in the old Falls Church cemetery. His house was almost continuously occupied until 2002, as portions of the land were gradually sold for development or parkland. In 2005, the remaining acreage from the Burke farm was sold to Winchester Homes Inc.



Drawing at top courtesy of Mary Riley Styles
Public Library, Falls Church

THE WALLS SEEN IN THE WOODS BELOW were rebuilt in 2007 on the foundation of a springhouse structure owned by the Burke family when it farmed this area in the nineteenth century.

According to the 1860 Fairfax County agricultural census, the Burke family had three horses, six milk cows, 12 sheep, and 24 hogs, and produced annually 200 pounds of butter, 12 tons of hay, 300 bushels of oats. After the Civil War, the family received \$1,008 in federal compensation for theft of firewood and foodstuffs by Union troops stationed at Minor Hill on the Arlington/Fairfax border.

THE BURKE FARM LAND WAS FIRST CLAIMED by English colonists when William Darrell received a patent (or land grant) in 1715 for a substantial tract in the area. Later, 200 acres was leased to John Cockerill and others, for an annual sum of 730 pounds of tobacco. Cockerill held six slaves, and the tributary on the property was known as “Cockerill’s Spring Branch.”



Photo courtesy Library of Congress

MAPLEWOOD SPRING, MCLEAN
 No images are available of the Burke springhouse. The structure at left, which also is no longer standing, is typical of the springhouses of this region. Besides providing drinking water, a springhouse sheltered perishable products such as milk, kept in earthenware jugs immersed in the spring’s cold water.