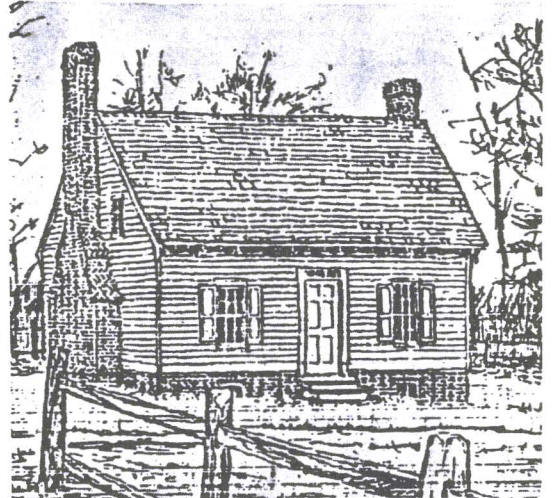


GRIGSBY STATION (MARYLAND) REVISITED.

Several months ago a centuries old log cabin, known as the "Grigsby Station Log Cabin" was the focal point of historic interest and the subject of articles in several Washington, D.C. and area newspapers. In a mid-September, 1984 ceremony held in Prince George's County, Maryland, those assembled paid honor to Belva Ann Lockwood, the first woman to be nominated as a candidate for the presidency of United States - just 100 years ago. The cabin, recently moved to nearby Glenn Dale and restored, had long been a part of the Landover, Maryland residential property of Joseph D. and Ernestine B. Grigsby who gave it this name, GRIGSBY STATION, when they acquired it in 1938.

According to Prince George's County historians, the cabin was built in 1790 in Largo, Maryland - several miles from the property location that became known as Grigsby Station - and, was at that time the plantation overseer's house. Following the Civil War, the cabin was moved to Landover and was given as a wedding present to Amanda Best and her husband who used it as a summer home. By 1884 Amanda Best had become a well known area suffragette who battled for women's right to vote years before the 19th Constitutional Amendment was ratified in 1920.



In 1884 Belva Ann Lockwood was a Washington, D.C. lawyer and the first woman to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. As events of that September, 1884 day have been reconstructed, Belva Ann Lockwood traveled from Washington to the summer farm cabin of her friend and supporter, Amanda Best, and there accepted the nomination of the National Equal Rights Party - a splinter group of the Republican Party - to run for the office of President of the United States. Here, among her supporters who sat on wood benches sipping lemonade and munching cookies, Belva Ann Lockwood outlined her platform, pledging to work for equal and exact justice without distinction of color, sex or nationality; reduce the public debt and stimulate economic recovery. In the presidential election she received 4,149 (male) votes.

In the years that followed the Best property changed hands several times and an impressive house was built on a hill near the cabin. One owner was George Hamlet, Postmaster General under President William McKinley (1897-1901), who called it 'Hamlet's View.' In 1938 the house and surrounding land on which the cabin was located was purchased by Joseph D. and Ernestine B. Grigsby who renamed it GRIGSBY STATION. It remained their home for almost 40 years and it was during a part of that period that "Joe" became one of an earlier group of researchers into the Grigsby family history and genealogy which included Paxton H. Grigsby, Mary Grigsby Fesler, Maud M. Griswold, Camellia T. Denys, Lois Grigsby and Douglas Blue. Joe died, 1976, and a year later Ernestine returned to their native Colorado. Last year the property was sold for commercial use, the house was razed and the cabin, in which the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust had become interested, was bought by L. Courtland Lee, a consulting geologist, who arranged for its removal, complete restoration and historic preservation.

Ernestine, Mrs. Joseph D. Grigsby, died on February 1, 1985 at her home in Boulder, Colorado at age 88. The historic log cabin, now identified with the Grigsby name, is part of their legacy to future generations. On the occasion of the Belva Lockwood Day Celebration, September 19, 1984, Mary Lou Grier, the Deputy Director, National Park Service, rededicated the Grigsby Station Log Cabin. Her opening remarks could have well applied to Ernestine and Joe, whose 40 year stewardship of the cabin made it possible - "I am very pleased to join with you here today to celebrate Belva Lockwood Day. Actually, it is more than remembering a very special person that we are engaged in today. It is more than dedicating the Grigsby Station Log Cabin. What we are doing today is reaching back to touch one of the basic strands of American history....."

Postscript: In the Lincoln State Park, Spencer County, Indiana, there is a place known as Grigsby Station. The legend goes that this was once the site of R. Grigsby's residence 1806-1830. Society member, Julie Pennington, in pointing to this Indiana Grigsby's Station, has not as yet determined whether this was the reference for the James Whitcomb Riley poem, Griggsby Station, or whether there was another nearer to his Greenfield, Indiana home. The poem was included in Memorabilia 1, page 190-191.

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