

# The Plott Dog Trail in Maggie Valley

Amos and Enos Plott were guides to the Swiss geographer Guyot as he came to measure the elevation of the area mountains. Amos was known as a hunter, not a farmer – so his inheritance was Campbell Creek, very rough land with good hunting and little tillable farm land. David was a better farmer so his inheritance was level valley beside Jonathan Creek.

David's land was the North Carolina land grant of 1787 to Jonathan McPeters, the site of the Herbert and Nannie Plott house, Plott Post Office until 1904.

Credits to Bob Plott, descendant of Johannes Plott and Henry Plott, who settled in Haywood County in 1800. He is the author of **Strike and Stay, The Story of the Plott Hound**, 2007; **A History of Hunting in Great Smoky Mountains**, 2008; **Legendary Hunters of the Southern Highlands**, 2009; **Colorful Characters of Great Smoky Mountains**, 2011.

Ernestine Upchurch, fifth great granddaughter of Henry Plott, Map design and author of an unpublished article, "The Plott Dog, a good Bear Dog," 1971.

Plottware Pottery – Cory Plott, sixth great grandson of David Plott is the creator of the PlottFest Trophy. He is a local ceramic artist and potter of Waynesville, NC.

**1 – Hub Plott House** – 1728 Moody Farm, Plott Post Office was located here until 1904, in the former home of Herbert and Nannie Plott, built by Robert Henry Plott around 1890. The masonry wall in front was laid by Alex Carpenter, a Civil War veteran. Herbert was a breeder of the Plott Hound, NC State Dog. In 1900, Robert Henry Plott owned land which extended from Soco Gap to Dellwood and was known as the largest land-owner in Haywood County at that time.

**2 – Maggie Valley Restaurant** – 2804 Soco Road, one of the owners, Jewel C Carver is a fifth great granddaughter of Amos

**3 – The Stompin' Ground** – 3116 Soco Road, fifth great grandson of Henry Plott, proprietor Kyle Edwards. "The Clogging Capital of the World."

**4 – Evans Cove** – off of Soco Road – Captain John Henry, Revolutionary War soldier is buried here, hunter Roy Smith.

\*Landmark – First Baptist Church of Maggie Valley, 3634 Soco Road

**5 – Rich Cove** – View of five highest mountains in the vista and a view of the Campbell Creek Watershed; good hunting ground, hunters Floyd & Lee Rich, Jim McGaha.

\*Landmark – Maggie Valley United Methodist Church, 4192 Soco Road

**6 – Cataloochee Ranch at Fie Top** – 119 Ranch Drive off of Fie Top Road. Originally a pioneer homestead of the Fies and Moodys. 1931-1935 working potato farm of Verlin & Hattie Campbell; 1935-present the Tom Alexander family developed a guest ranch and in 1962, the Cataloochee Ski Area. Read Mountain Fever by Tom Alexander, for stories of bear hunts and muzzle loading beef shoots, hunters Rufe Sutton, Ted Sutton and sons, Frank Carpenter.

**7 – Sheepback Mountain** – off of Frank Mehaffey Road. Borders Great Smoky Mountain National Park, hunters Jim Mehaffey and Billy Finger.

**8 – Black Camp Gap Road** – Leads to Plott Camp, Plott Boundary, Masonic Marker (driving road no longer connects through.) Visit the other side via Blue Ridge Parkway and Balsam Mountain Road, hunter Stokey Caldwell.

**9 – Soco Gap** – boundary of Haywood and Jackson County

**10 – Water Rock Knob** – on the Blue Ridge Parkway, formally called Amos Plott Balsam. Right of way was seized in 1939 from Verlin Campbell, son of Martha Jane Plott Campbell and grandson of Amos Plott. Verlin inherited the land.

**11 – Setzer Cove Road** – Maggie Setzer's homestead, the original Post Office was called Plott before Maggie Post Office was named in 1904. Hunters Alonzo and Vester McGaha, Oliver Rathbone.

\*Landmark – Joey's Pancake House, 4309 Soco Road

**12 – Campbell Creek Road** – Maggie Valley Watershed, originally owned by Amos Plott 1832. His daughter Martha Jane Plott married WA Campbell in 1864.

Five of the historic houses still stand and are **private residences**:

• 1835 Amos Plott Cabin – 47 Johnson Branch Road

• 1871 Wilburn A Campbell House / Bart & Wanda Campbell Home – 121 Ole Campbell Estate Road

• 1904 Verlin Campbell/Eldridge Caldwell House – 399 Caldwell Road

• 1906 David Crockett Campbell House – 334 Campbell Creek Road (plaque placed on gate post by Carroll & Betty Avera, previous owners)

• 1910 Robert Gustafus Adolphus Campbell House / Jim & Jane Beaver Home – 55 Windswept Drive off of Ole Campbell Estate Road

Johnson Gap was renowned as a Hunting Gap, hunter Roscoe Caldwell.

**13 – Maggie Valley Town Hall** – 3987 Soco Road, the historic community Maggie School built in 1930. WPA Funds – Frank Mehaffey hauled rocks for \$20 a sled load. Cost of \$8000 for four classrooms and an auditorium. The Plott dog was honored in 2008 by Maggie Valley and the Mayor at the Community Celebration of the Haywood County Bicentennial.

**14 – Maggie Valley Pavilion** – Built in 1995 by volunteer labor as a community picnic area. Names of builders listed inside the building. The first public restrooms in Maggie Valley were provided here. Bingo here on Thursdays, late May – September. Community Concerts each third Sunday evening, May through October.

**15 – Maggie Valley Opry House**, 3619 Soco Road – Home and Theater of Raymond Fairchild, five time World Champion Banjo player

**16 – The Reuben Moody Place** – 38 Timberline Drive, original homestead of eight consecutive generations. The current house was built around 1910 and is located behind J Arthur's Restaurant@ 2843 Soco Road. Kirk's Raider's entered the house on a Civil War raid but valuables had been buried on Reuben Branch and livestock moved to the mountain. The level land was site of a switching railroad station. Widow, Mrs Jack Campbell was forced to sell off parcels of the homestead to pay the taxes. Merza Ann Plott married a Moody. She was the oldest daughter of Amos Plott and sister of Martha Jane Plott Campbell.

**17 – The Village of Dellwood** – At the junction of US 19 and 276. The village had a post office. A Methodist Church and a Baptist Church, a sawmill, a cemetery, Ferguson's Dairy and a garage with a service station. Road improvements, motel development and social changes have diminished the village concept. The Dellwood Elementary School merged with Junaluska School and the building became the

Dellwood Methodist Church. Dellwood United Methodist then merged with Maggie United Methodist and became Maggie Valley United Methodist. The building remains a church of another denomination. Lee Evans and Brownloe Messer were known hunters.

• Dellwood Cemetery – off of Gention Drive – turn left just before 3376 Dellwood Road

Amos Plott 1797-1865

Martha Jane Plott Campbell 1839-1912

Verlin Campbell 1878-1958

Elizabeth Campbell Edwards 1909-1979

Ernestine Edwards Upchurch 1937 -

Now to complete the Driving Tour, turn back toward Maggie Valley by making a right on US 19. Take a right on Moody Farm Road at the second traffic light.

**18 – Moody Farm Road** – intersection with US 19 at traffic light

• Maggie Club & Resort, 1819 Country Club Drive

• Turner Cemetery – between 190 and 263 Riddle Cove Road - Leatherwood slaves are buried here as well as Plotts, Moodys and members of other pioneer families including David Plott 1806-1865, Robert Henry Plott 1840-1926

• Felix Walker's Homestead – was located approximately 142 Riddle Cove Road, the first WNC Congressman, resided from 1806-1826. Walker was a Revolutionary soldier, a land speculator and coined the word "Buncombe." He was married to Isabella Henry, sister of Captain John Henry. Walker was a friend of Abraham Enloe, with Kentucky connections. Possibly Abraham Lincoln was given shelter here as an infant, according to legend. Now, back to Plott House and you will have made the Driving Loop.

• Hub Plott House – 1728 Moody Farm Road

You have made the Driving Loop. Come back to see us in Maggie Valley!

For more information contact Ernestine E Upchurch at 828-926-1568.

## Interesting Maggie Valley Facts

US 19 through Maggie Valley is an original Cherokee Hunting Path.

The Plott Balsams are named for the Plott family, whose ancestor, Johann George Plott 1733-1815 immigrated to North Carolina in the late 18th century from Germany. He brought with him five hunting dogs. The Plott Hound, a breed of hunting dog, is also named for the Plotts.



Herbert "Hub" Plott and his Plott bound Rattler - Photo courtesy of Bob Plott

