

100 YEAR HISTORY OF THE GILBERT GREENBRIER PROPERTY

In 1921, our grandfather, Lewis Neuman Gilbert, ("Poppaw Gilbert"), a logger, blacksmith and coal miner from Ronceverte, WV, purchased the original 170-acre tract of land in Greenbrier County with the apparent notion that the property was very close to the Organ Caves/Lost Caverns. Folklore was that these caves still held hidden Civil War treasures of GOLD left there by the Confederates when Confederate paper money was no longer being accepted as legal tender and subsequently hidden there from the Union soldiers to be later recovered. The Gold was never found. Nevertheless, forty years went by and in the 1960's, the US Federal Interstate Highway system came through Greenbrier County, cutting the right of way of this property away from the Organ Caves/Lost Caverns connection. The property was rich in wildlife, big game, as well as huge American Chestnut trees that were 3-4 feet in diameter. (It was later discovered in the early 60's the Chestnut trees were cut down and "stolen" from the property!)

In 1962, Lewis Neuman Gilbert passed away leaving his three sons- WF "Pete" Gilbert, Arthur "Arch" L Gilbert, and Jack "Jack" D Gilbert-Sr, the original 170 acres property. In the mid 1960's, the Gilbert brothers were approached by a lumberman to timber the property. In doing so, the lumberman not only paid them for the lumber, but he also agreed to obtain and transfer a Right of Way to Route 60 (now the gate entrance) and bought and transferred an additional 168+ acres to the Gilbert brothers, that now represents the existing 338.58 acres of the Gilbert Property. The lumberman also created/improved the now existing hunting access/logging roads. Since the 1960's the property has been primarily used for family game hunting and ATV recreation/camping.

In 2009, Arthur L. Gilbert passed away, leaving his 1/3 of the Property to his son, Dr. Lewis D. Gilbert. In 2012, WF Pete Gilbert passed away and left his 1/3 to his surviving brother, Jack D Gilbert, Sr. The current owners of the Property are Jack D Gilbert, Sr 2/3 and Dr. Lewis D Gilbert 1/3. Approximately five years ago, a carefully selected harvest of timber was conducted by Certified Foresters to enhance grassland areas for the benefit of upland game and the deer population. Timbered areas were reseeded with quality grasses to restore the grasslands. The logging roads were also improved to gain better access to the far regions of the property from the Route 60 gate entrance. As Mother Nature continues to enhance the property, it is a choice setting for a rustic or log cabin residence, camping sanctuary, Air B&B or wildlife meeting center. Located only minutes from I-64, and 10 minutes from Lewisburg town center.

History compiled by Jack D Gilbert, Sr; Cathy Gilbert Barnes-daughter of Jack D Gilbert, Sr; Jack D Gilbert II- son of Jack D Gilbert, Sr; and Dr. Lewis D. Gilbert-son of Arthur I Gilbert (deceased)

Submitted by Dr. Lewis D. Gilbert

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