

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

MARIA MOORS CABOT FOUNDATION
FOR BOTANICAL RESEARCH

HARVARD FOREST, PETERSHAM, MASS. 01366

DATE:

FROM:

TO:

NOTICE

This tract of twenty acres of original forest has been given by a large number of donors to the Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass. to be kept forever in its natural state. Visitors are asked to respect this purpose by not building fires, leaving rubbish, picking flowers or shrubs, or other wise* disturbing trees and small vegetation, whether living or dead.

R. T. Fisher,
Director

* in 2 words

Trip to Pidgah 5/12/77

We were afraid that this trip would have to be postponed because we had ca 10' wet snow in Peterham 2 days earlier. Strangely enough though there was no snow, only rain, further north. — Purpose of the trip was that Cecilia Wabz could see the place again (she had been up there once before with Bob Cook) in view of a project to be done. We took the van; 12 persons participated: Cecilia Wabz (graduate student G1), Norton Miller (Assoc. Prof.), John Tjepsterna (Asst Prof. HF), Craig Wornner (Res. Assoc. Silviculture), Tom Pizzolato (Poulard Fellow) + wife Betty, Mark Swan (to guide us and tell us about his work with Dave Henry), Henry Wabz (post. doc. fellow of PBT), Monika Rattumiller (lab. techn. THZ), Jim Faulkner (lab. techn. / of PBT), Janet McDonough (MFS' student who works on LY in Coconut), and myself (THZ).

3/4 hr from HF to gate

ca. 2 hr " Gate to Fisher sign (with all the botany along the way)

We had a picnic lunch up there (with swarms of blackflies having their dinner too). Then Mark told us about his + Dave Henry's work + Cecilia looked at the possibilities.

On the way back we took Fisher's sign along because it was almost completely unreadable. A replica will be made and taken up.

THZ 5/13/77

NOTES ON THE PISGAH FOREST

PISGAH FOREST

Oct. 24, 1972. Mark Swan, Jim White, Jim Patric, Art Van Slyke, Bill Pritchett, and Walter Lyford walked from the main road at Ashuelot up to the Pisgah Tract. Left Harvard Forest about 9:15. Left Ashuelot about 10:00 A.M. and arrived at the tract about 11:30. We ate our lunch before examining the tract and then spent until about 2-2:30 walking over the tract. We walked up the south side to about the middle of the ridge and then northward across it to the north side where we found the David Henry plot and Mark explained it to us.

The walking ^{on the Pisgah Tract} this time was much easier than the other two times I had been there and this was really the first time it has been possible to get over the area in a satisfactory manner. Partly this is due to the larger growth of the hardwoods and partly to the decay of the branches of the larger prostrate trees. The large pine stems are still intact and the mound and pit topography is very evident. Root systems still are pretty much intact in the mounds. Several (or more) are fairly free of soil. They did not lift much soil, i.e. the pits are not ^{marked by logs} ~~naked~~ because the soil is very stony and roots are very superficial.

One large tree trunk was paced to obtain some idea of the former height. This turned out to be 125 feet or so in length. It looked longer than this on the ground.

Three large live white pines still stand on the western edge of the tract and at least two, possibly more, dead stems still stand. There are a fairly large number of dead stubs, up to 40-50 feet still standing.

We walked westward from the plot over through the beech, birch, maple stand to the reservoir and then back by way of the road. This hardwood stand to the west of the Pisgah Tract seemed remarkably clear of undergrowth - at least it was possible to see for 4-500 feet rather than the 100 feet or so in the forests around the Harvard Forest. Possibly this

was because the undergrowth was free of leaves, but I think it was because there was not much there. I wondered about the effect of browsing by deer. At any rate, there was not much hemlock undergrowth (or pine) for then the visibility would have been much less.

In retrospect, both Mark and I were impressed this time by the sudden appearance of a beech, birch, maple stand ^{on the way on} as we left the site of the old sawmill at the end of the present road (just before it starts up over the hill to the reservoir). From the main road up to the old sawmill site the forest vegetation was mostly white pine, red maple, red oak and the other species commonly seen around the Harvard Forest. But after the old sawmill there was very little white pine or red oak. There seems to be a cultural or cutting boundary here that can explain this sudden change. It is not a soil or altitude change. The old records suggest there was not much red oak before cutting.

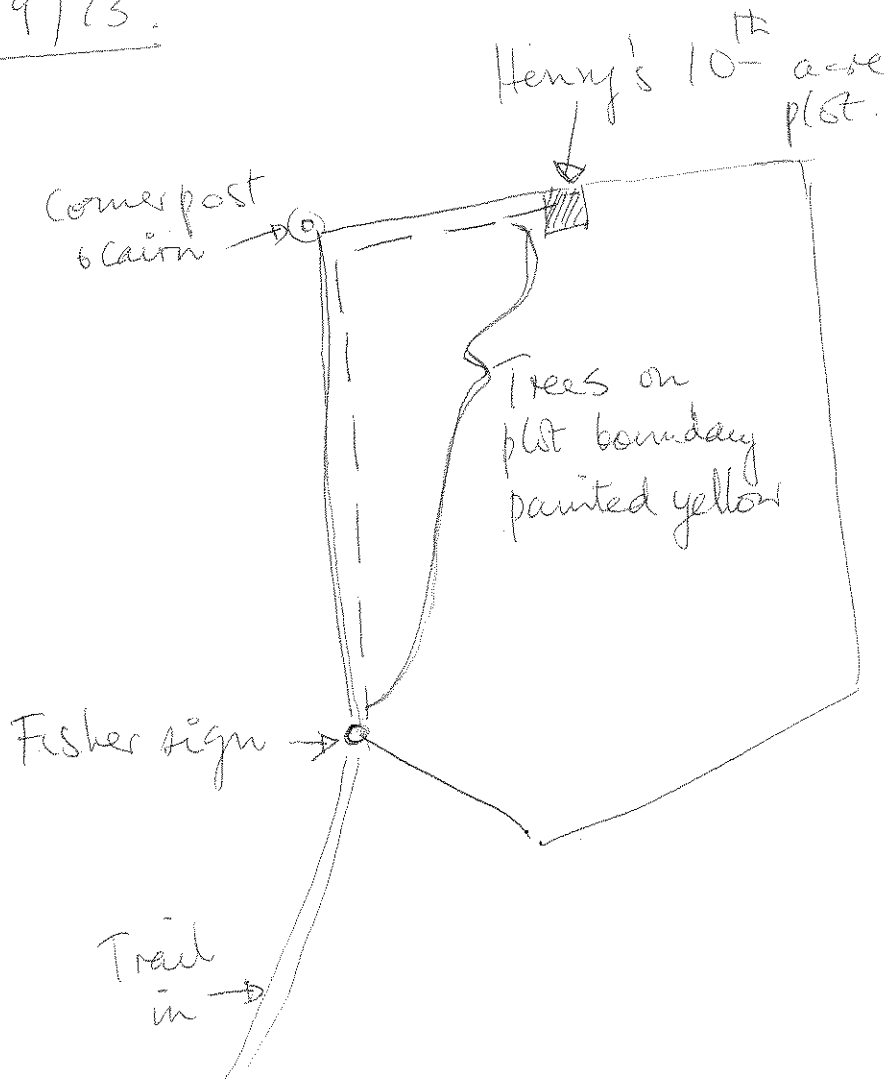
We saw a good deal of beech scale injury though none of the trees had been killed.

The one outstanding characteristics of the soils on the Pisgah Tract is their shallowness. Bedrock is exposed over 25 percent of the area and surely is within a foot or so of the surface over at least 75 percent of the area. One wonders how the trees ever were able to grow as large as they were when blown down by the hurricane. The gray layer (bleicherde) is evident wherever one examines the soil. Also, the return of B horizon material to the surface by ants is easily seen and on the Henry plot the tunnels of small fossorial mammals were evident and they had caused some disturbance of the A horizon. Thus, there is continual movement of the mineral soil in the upper two inches or so of the soil and yet there is persistence of the gray layer. This cannot form if the soil is continually being mixed, so mixing by the fauna is probably not as omnipresent as I think. On some of the nearly bare bedrock, there is a 2-3 inch layer of forest floor directly on the bedrock. Roots up to 2-4mm in diameter are numerous in this forest floor. On the large mounds the mineral soil is still exposed.

On the switchback road leading from the reservoir, basswood leaves were spotted in one place and also hepatica. Earthworm middens were also found here. This was not far from the sawmill. Earthworm activity was not noted elsewhere on the trip (no special attention was directed toward fauna activity except on the tract itself).

The absence of white pine all around Mount Pisgah is remarkable since the seed source has been abundant and old trees above present stand must provide a constant seed source. Pine was frequent in the prehurricane forest, but hasn't come back in. Why not?

10/9/73.



- Oct 9 trip to Pisgah made to mark trees from Fisher sign along western boundary to N.W. corner and then East along the northern boundary to David Henry's plot where forest history study was conducted in 1967. Plot is now easy to locate by following this trail from the Fisher sign.

- Mark.

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Henry plot
Pine...
June 68

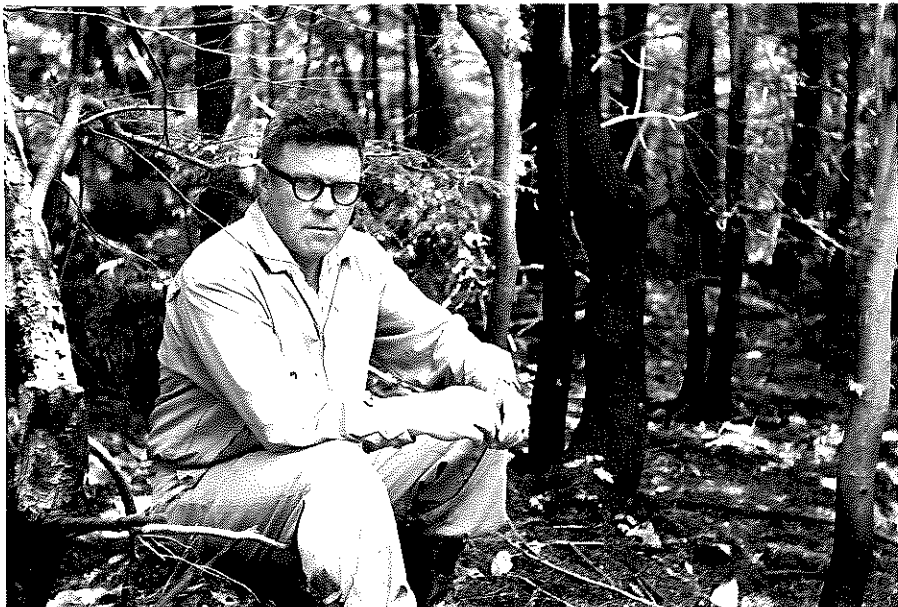


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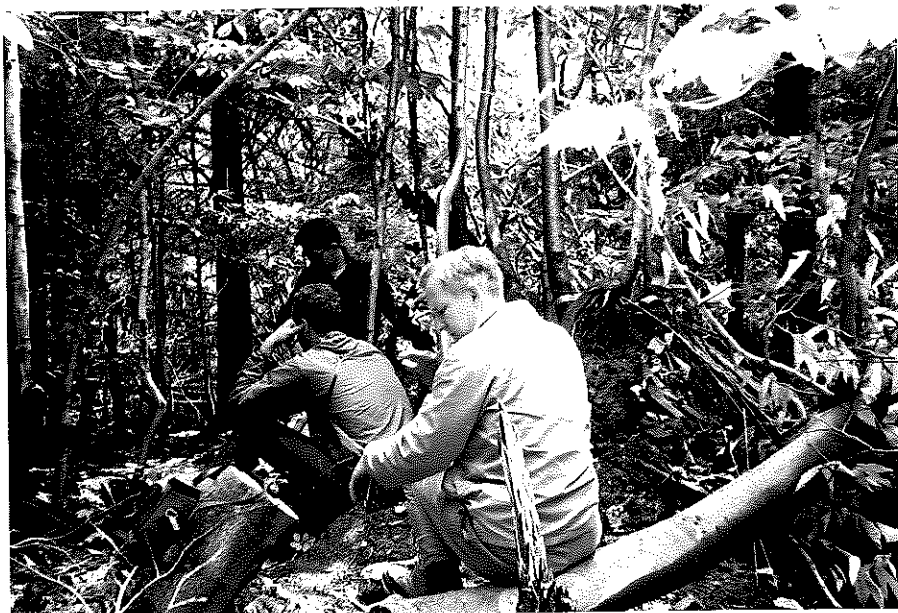
Several hemlock
growing from...
by

HENRY PLOT
PISCATAWAY
1 June 68 2001

D. W. MCELREATH



HENRY
CLARK
Zimmerman



As above
+
Maclean



Zimmerman
Clark

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HENRY PLOT
PISGAH TRACT
1 June 68

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HENRY PLOT
PISCATAWAY tract
16 June 68 WAZ

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Please file Pisgah Forest
Folder

June 1968
M.H.

D. W. Maclean Director, Petawawa Forest Exp Sta.
Canada.

M. H. Hyford.

M. H. Zimmermann. Acting Director, Hawant Forest

David Henry Graduate Student " "

John Clarke - friend of David Henry.

visited Pisgah Forest.

Drove up in AM. Arrived at end of private road
about 9³⁰.

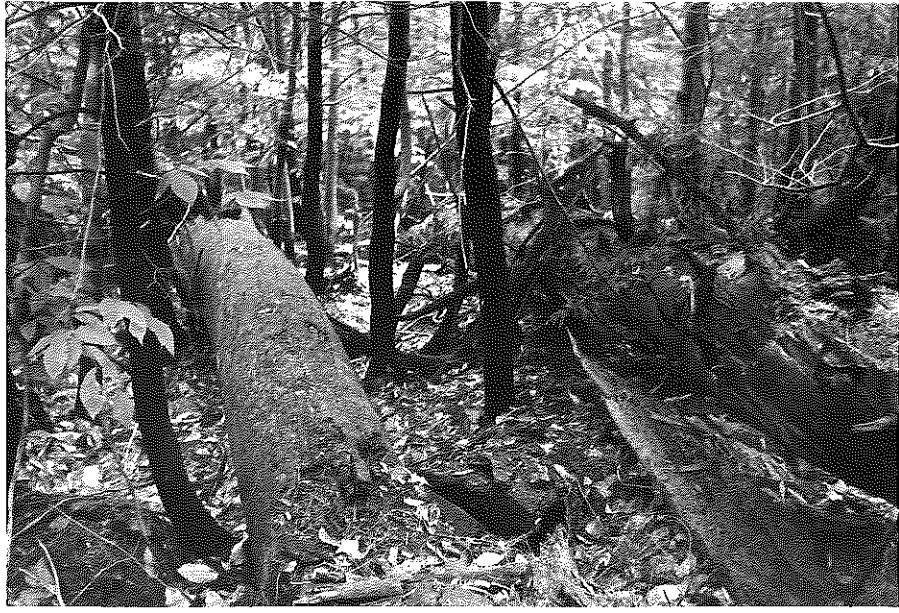
Hiked up trail & walked around the 30 acre tract.
Dave Henry described his thesis study.
Returned Hawant Forest about 2³⁰ pm.

Some photos taken.

(Primary purpose of trip was for Henry to describe area
his methods to Maclean & Hyford as they have an idea
of starting a fallen wood study)

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HENRY PLOT
PERCENITAGE
10/10/68



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Notes on Inspection Trip to Pasgah tract
of Aug 31 1965

Purpose of trip - not visited since 1957 by anyone
on staff, and before that probably only 2 or 3 times
since the 1938 Surrender.

Party Ramp.
Sise
Wilson
Lyford.

Procedure Went in Ramps Car. Found gate just to
road to tract locked. Sign on gate said
No Trespassing. Real Estate and Lumbering Co.
Inquired at Esso Station about ^{+Stores} ~~persons~~ ^{How to get a key} ~~to gate~~ to gate & he
looked at me slowly and said "Why you can't go up there
that is ^{private} ~~Public~~ property." I told him ^{with you were at what we wanted} that we had a
right of way and he said the only way we could get
in a key would be to contact A.R. Dickerson
of Greenfield Mass. His manner amused me and
made me a little suspicious so we then went to the

Post Office and I asked the man there (Mr. Stevens)
how to get a key. He knew of the H.F. Property & wondered
if we wanted to sell it. I assured him we did not
as we ^{are required} would ^{be} to keep it ⁱⁿ natural state. He said
two people in town had keys & he ^{thought} either ^{one} person
would loan ^{the key} us. One was Rodney Doolittle the other was
the man at the Esso station. I told Mr. Stevens about the ^{unpaved}
road <sup>2 miles east of the tract. After ~~some~~ ^{recommen-} ~~recommen-~~
road. Doherty used to take children of the to show them an old N. Mass</sup>

of the Esso Station man cried he said. "He, a god-damned liar. He has a Key". Slapping the counter he said "That man wouldn't ^{get out of the way at all to} help a fellow." "Well", he said "Go down to the Doolittles and I'm pretty sure you'll get a Key"

Sure enough Mrs Doolittle - ^{your} a lady ~~too~~ in her thirties - was very kind and loaned us the Key for the day without hesitation. She also seemed to know a good deal about the Pizgah tract and said her husband ~~is~~ had been there. She said the road had been improved by an association of those who ~~owned~~ ^{rented land for} cottages on Round Pond and the road now goes up to Mt Pizgah. The cottages ~~are owned~~ land on which the cottages stand ~~are~~ is owned by the Dickinsons and the ones who own the cottages pay an annual rent.

We drove up the road to the old mill site - (about a mile and a half) and parked. The only path we saw ~~led~~ ^{led} up the bed of the brook ^{and we followed it about a half of 3/4 mile} ~~but we found no path~~ ^{up the gully to a good} return ^{we found} there is a fairly good lumber ^{each} road - drivable by jeep - that goes up about a half to 3/4 of a mile. This was partially concealed ^{by shrubs} at the mill site ~~but~~ ^{is} only a couple hundred feet. (See detail A.) to the east of the ^{mill site} ~~area~~

We followed up the easily ~~discern~~ ^{discern} visible path - a foot path beyond ^{about 1/2 mile} the point where the lumber road ~~turns~~ - the north up hill. Finally the path went along a level wet ~~swamp~~ ^{swamp} area ^{with high mudflats} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~large~~ ^{large} ~~Commuda~~ ^{Commuda} ~~ferus.~~ ^{ferus.} It was 3-400 ft or so ^{we} ~~came~~ ^{came} to ~~the~~ ^{the} fork in path with distinct paths going in both directions ^{thence} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~got~~ ^{got} ~~lost~~ ^{lost} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~area~~ ^{area} ~~east~~ ^{east} of the tract. After ~~having~~ ^{having} ~~returned~~ ^{returned} the Key we drove up the road ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~point~~ ^{point} ~~where~~ ^{where} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~found~~ ^{found} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Key~~ ^{Key} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~show~~ ^{show} ~~them~~ ^{them} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~old~~ ^{old} ~~N. Adams~~ ^{N. Adams}

Found remnant of a wooden arrow ^{10 1/2"} on left fork
so decided to take left fork. Went up this road a half mile
to the top of a knoll and decided we were in the wrong place.
A good kitchen stove beside the path and other artifacts showed
this area had been a lumber camp at one time. So decided
we should have taken the right fork rather than the left.
So we returned and walked up the right fork looking for
a path to the left that would lead us up the hill to
the Piegah tract. We found none and after ^{walking} paralleling
^{along the path which bordered} the wet peat swamp all the way we decided by aid of
compass, G.S. map of a long hill opposite on the east side
of the swamp that we were ~~about~~ not far below
the head. So we walked up the steep slope - perhaps
a sharp rise of 250' altitude. At the top we saw nothing
of that game as told us we were near the tract. In fact
there were cut stumps and we knew ~~that~~ our trail had
never been cut.

~~As~~ we ate lunch ^{at the top of the hill} and Bill Wilson they strolled
over to ~~two~~ large slabs of trees ^{across him at feet} and we then noted
a blue iron pipe in a Cairn of stones and a rotted
^{rough square 7"} piece of wood with an "A" carved on one side. Bill ^{cut about} then
found blue paint on some trees and soon found
^{just by following them to the west} ~~found~~ ^{old} ~~even~~ ^{paint} found the ^{sign} at the SW corner of the tract.
We had ^{just} hit the middle ~~water~~ ^{boundary} board - ^{certainly} pure luck

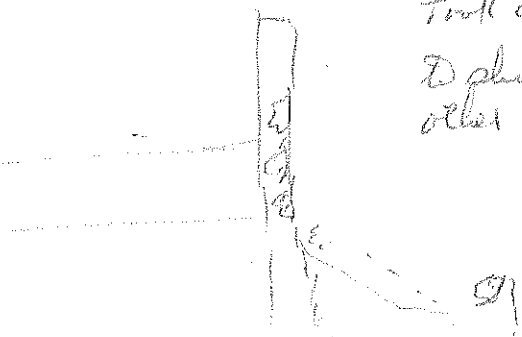
(See detail B)

thence we returned to the tract. After having returned the way we came
2 miles east of the tract. After having returned the way we came
road. It had used to be closed off then to show them an old N. 1/4

we looked around in an area 4-500' from the sign generally in a N-E direction - this we continually had to use the compass because it was cloudy and the down timber prevented us from having a land mark.

The down trees were tremendous 4' in dia + long, and the mounds were out of this world. Some were 10-12' high with a 2'-2 1/2' thickness, and 12-15' long. I counted over 25 bunches growing in one, and in general the bunches were faced like the old pine + hemlock roots. Large boulders were in most of the mounds, and in one a recent stone had fallen out & rolled to the back of the pit.

Took a couple of black + white photos of these mounds. Ramp is one best in other.



After an hour or so we returned to sign, and after marking the tree with yellow paint, started down the trail from the sign. This trail went mostly down an interm. Head stream bed and there were blaze marks at frequent intervals. Yellow paint was used to outline the old blazes. We were interested to find that this path came out on the left fork path at a cairn of stones which we had not seen on our first trip up the left fork. This was about 1300' from the fork. We painted the cairn with yellow paint & placed a painted arrow on it to show the direction of the path, which was understood here and with no features other than the cairn to tell which way to go.

When we were exploring on the trail we went to one tall old snag on a rock outcrop and from here looking SE covered some open land with a barn + house. We located this on the G.S. map as on the N-S road about 2 miles east of the trail. After having returned to the Key we drove up the road. It was used to take sketches of them to show them as did N. Hines

W. Hines
Singer

about somewhere near Fullen pond.

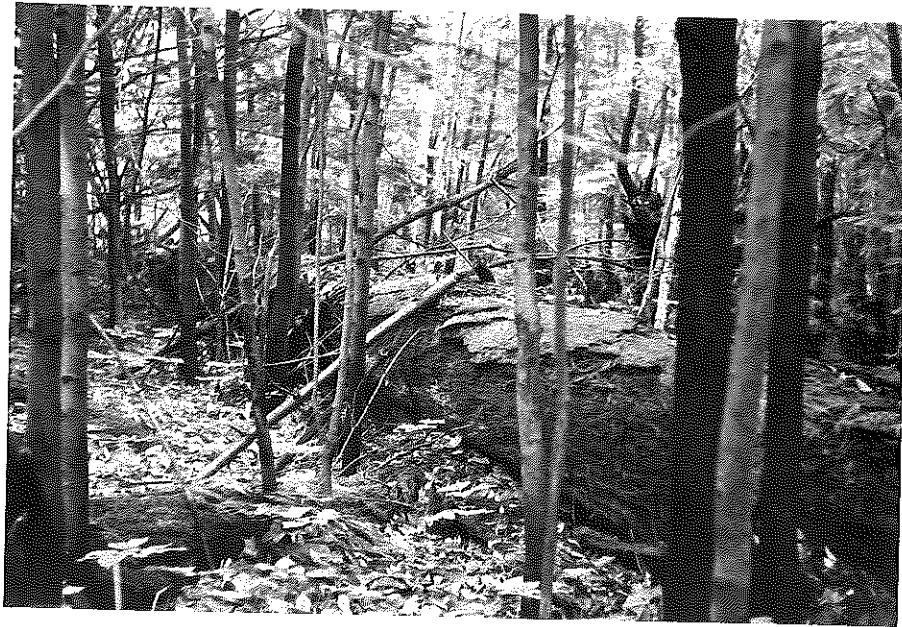
When we got to the hill where we had spotted the farm we looked across the valley and saw one ~~area~~ hill top with a number of dead snags sticking up above the rest of the forest like TV Aerials and presumed this was the location of the Pingah tract. We drove ^{past} ~~to~~ the checkered - Whittaker T.L. had to turn there as the road was too steep for any other than jeep travel.

~~-----~~

de Rang said that enough money has built up over the year for a fellowship for a student interested in studying the area. \$3-4000 probably. He thinks perhaps its about time to make a study. previously I wrote to class to be humane.

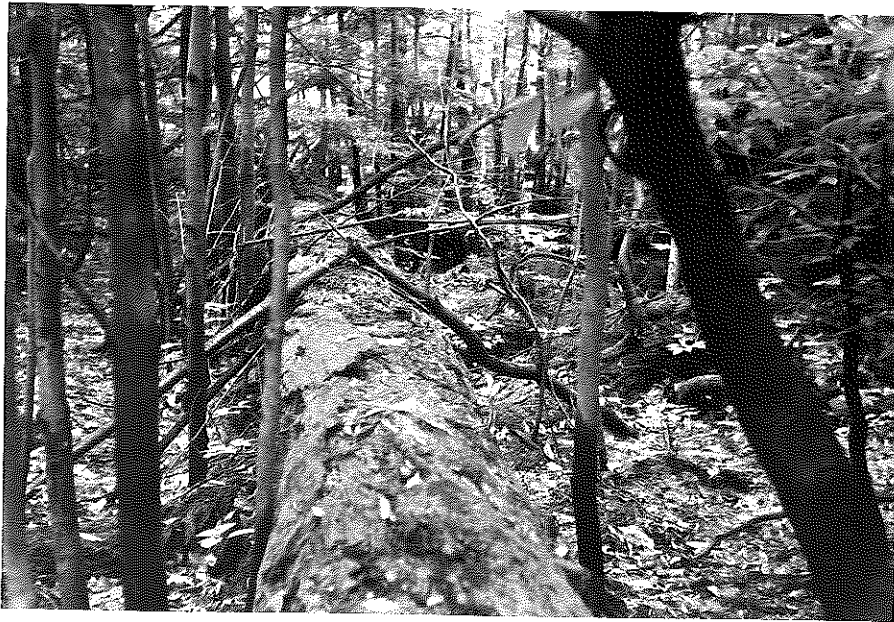
Noted soil as about as described - all gray + red (dk br) possibly toward Bh. in upper 2" below the root through weather. probably entire horizon has been class. Cert. only a weak podzol - perhaps reflected by blanket.

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HENRY PLOT
PISCATAWAY
JUNE 68 201/

JUN 68



JUN 68

