

F A M I L Y R E U N I O N H I S T O R Y

BY VERNON GREEN
08/13/89

MORE THAN 150 YEARS AGO, A MAN OF IRISH DECENT NAMED NATHANIEL MASON CAME TO DAWSONVILLE AND MET LUCINDA SIMMS. THEY WERE BLESSED WITH 8 CHILDREN; ISSAC, ROSETTA, JAMES EDWARD, HENRY, LLOYD, LUCINDA, MARY AND MATILDA. MOST OF THE MASON CHILDREN REMAINED IN THE DAWSONVILLE VICINITY AS THEY GREW INTO ADULTHOOD. L. MATILDA, SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY RETURNED INTO THE VILLAGE OF DARNESTOWN IN HER DAILY ROUTINE, WHERE SHE MET A TALENTED ENTERPRISING CARPENTER BUILDER NAMED GARY GREEN. THEY MARRIED, ACQUIRED PROPERTY AND BUILT A HOMESTEAD. THEY WERE BLESSED WITH 12 CHILDREN; 8 BOYS; ALEXANDER, ALONZA, ERNEST, EUGENE, JOHN WESLEY, ROBERT, WILLIAM EDWARD AND VERNON AND 4 GIRLS; EMMA, IDA, JIMMIE AND JANE.

THEY WERE BORN SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE CIVIL WAR. FAMILY TRADITION HOLDS THAT THE UNION SOLDIERS CAMPED NEARBY. FIELD AND LOCAL WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE CAUTIONED TO BE WARY OF THE FORAGING MEN IN BLUE. MARYLAND AS A BORDER STATE AND OFFICIALLY A UNION STATE, WAS NEXT DOOR TO THE CONFEDERATE STATE OF VIRGINIA. UNTIL SLAVERY WAS OFFICIALLY ABOLISHED IN THE NATION, THERE WAS ALWAYS THE THREAT THAT A FREE BLACK COULD BE KIDNAPPED AND SOLD SOUTH. IT WAS, AT BEST, A DESPERATE AND UNCERTAIN TIME BUT THEY ENDURED.

THERE WAS A NEET FOR EDUCATION. PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR BLACKS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL THE 1870'S. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO THAT TIME GARY GREEN, JAMES RICKS, AND CARLTON MASON FORMED AN ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL FOR THE BLACK CHILDREN OF QUINCE ORCHARD-DARNESTOWN AREA.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAND RECORDS REVEALED THIS ASSOCIATION OF GARY GREEN, JAMES RICKS, CARLTON MASON ACQUIRED A ONE ACRE LOT IN SEPTEMBER, 1868 TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PURPOSE OF ERECTING A SCHOOL HOUSE FOR THE USE, BENEFIT AND EDUCATION OF THE COLORED PEOPLE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOREVER.

THE ASSOCIATION AND THEIR NEIGHBORS CONSTRUCTED A SCHOOL HOUSE ON THE PROPERTY AND HIRED A TEACHER ON THEIR OWN. IN MARCH, 1874, GARY GREEN APPEARED BEFORE THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO REQUEST FUNDS FOR PAYMENT OF THE TEACHER AT THE QUINCE ORCHARD COLORED SCHOOL. THE BOARD GAREED TO PAY THE TEACHER'S SALARY PROVIDED THE LOT AND SCHOOLHOUSE WERE CONVEYED TO THE COUNTY.

THEREFORE, ON APRIL 14, 1874 GARY GREEN, JAMES RICKS, CARLTON MASON CONVEYED THE HOUSE AND LOT TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR \$5 TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE EDUCATION OF COLORED YOUTH OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

RICKS-MASONS-GREENS, THEIR DECENDENTS AND NEIGHORS WERE EDUCATED AT QUNICE ORCHARD COLORED SCHOOL DESCRIBED IN 1892 AS BEING 22 X 28 WOODEN STRUCTURE INSURED FOR \$300.

AS THEY GREW INTO ADULTHOOD, 3 GREEN SISTERS; JIMMY, JANE, AND EMMA MARRIED 3 LOCAL RICKS; ERNEST, WASHINGTON, AND JOHN. IT WAS THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP OF ERNEST RICKS AND EMMA GREEN THAT ESTABLISHED

these books were laid down & bt

QUINCE ORCHARD COLORED

- March 17, 1874 - Salary of teacher will be paid if lot is conveyed to this Board.
- April 14, 1874 - In Liber E. B. P. 18 folio 428 for \$5 from Gary Green et al one acre on south side of road from Rockville, adjoining Aquila Fisher, "Exclusively for the education of colored youth of the neighborhood".
- January 24, 1890 - (Sentinel) The colored school house at Quince Orchard escaped being burned down on Friday night last week. The roof took fire from a defective flue, but the fire was extinguished before much damage was done.
- September 1, 1892 - Insured for \$300, new, 22'x28' in size, near Quince Orchard P. O.
- February 22, 1901 - (Sentinel) The colored public school at Quince Orchard, this county, was last week destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of several hundred dollars. The fire is believed to have been the work of the party or parties who have recently made several attempts at incendiarism in the Quince Orchard neighborhood. The County School Commissioners have decided to offer a reward of \$150 for the apprehension of the guilty persons.
- March 26, 1901 - Insurance policy notation: "Burnt and Paid for".
- June 11, 1901 - New house to be built for \$600.
- November 7, 1901 - Insured for \$315, 22'x30' in size, one flue, one-third mile southeast of Quince Orchard P. O.
- August 12, 1902 - White school turned over to colored.
- December 8, 1905 - Insured for \$315.
- December 26, 1917 - Insured for \$640.
- June 11, 1935 - Delegation requested new building.
- December 9, 1941 - Contract \$3,776 to F. H. Karn and Son.
- January 8, 1952 - Notified parties interested in using the school that this building is not available for recreation purposes as it is now required for furniture storage.
- April 8, 1952 - Question of legal ownership of this lot referred to Charles Prettyman, Attorney, for an opinion.
- April 16, 1952 - Executed quit-claim deed to Board of Trustees of the Pleasant View Methodist Church, as in line with the attorney's opinion.

THE RICKS REUNION.

IT WAS THE SECOND SUNDAY IN AUGUST, 1938 WHEN THE FAMILY OF ERNEST AND EMMA RICKS CAME TOGETHER FOR A DAY OF FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP AT THEIR HOME ON DARNESTOWN ROAD. IT WAS SUCH AN ENJOYABLE DAY HAVING ALL THEIR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND FRIENDS TOGETHER THAT THEY DECIDED THAT EACH YEAR ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN AUGUST WOULD BE THE RICKS FAMILY REUNION. (SUNDAY BEING THE DAY WHEN MOST FAMILIES WERE OFF FROM WORK AND WERE USUALLY AT CHURCH IN THE MORNING THANKING GOD FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR WITH THE RICKS REUNION THANKING GOD FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

AFTER THE DEATH OF PA RICKS AS HE WAS KNOWN BY ALL, HIS DAUGHTER, EVELY HALLMAN TOOK, MOVING THE REUNION ACROSS THE FIELD TO 16020 RIFFLEFORD ROAD. THIS FELLOWSHIP CONTINUED EVERY YEAR UNTIL EVELYN HALLMAN'S HEALTH BEGAN TO FAIL, THEN HER DAUGHTER ESTHER MAE HALLMAN JACKSON LYONS TOOK OVER IN 1970 AND THE REUNION WAS MOVED TO 12430 FELLOWSHIP LANE.

ERNEST (PA) RICKS AND EMMA GREEN RICKS WERE THE PROUD PARENTS OF TEN CHILDREN: FRANCES RICKS, ESSIE RICKS BROWN, EVELYN R HALLMAN, LUCILLE R. PINKNEY, FAYE RICKS, ESTHER R. MARSHALL. THOSE THAT ARE WITH US TODAY ARE JOHN RICKS, THOMPkins RICKS, (WILLIAM RICKS, AND ERNESTINE HOWELL.

FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT REUNION OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS. (A LITTLE SADNESS WHEN WE LOOK AROUND AND SEE THE OLDER ONES HAVE PASSED ON, BUT REJOICING THAT WE CAN STILL COME TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE WITH CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND THEIR MANY FRIENDS AND FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER IN LOVE FOR EACH OTHER AND PRAISING AND THANKING GOD FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

Vernon,

In two days spent at the Hall of Records on Rowe Boulevard in Annapolis, I have come up with some information. Most of the information you already know. Let's look at some of it.

I have found death certificates for the following people:

Ernest Ricks

Emma (Green) Ricks

Martha P. Ricks (Ernest Ricks' mother)

Lethie Matilda (Mason) Green

Ralph Hallman (Grandfather Hallman's father)

Emma Hallman (Grandfather Hallman's mother)

I will now discuss each person.

Ernest Ricks is said to have been born in 1859 and died in 1946. According to his death certificate he died May 4, 1946 and was born on August 8, 1872. This does not appear correct. Even the year 1859 may not be correct, even though his birthday of August 8 is most likely correct. If one looks at the 1880 census of Darnestown in Enumeration District 116 taken June 1, 1880, one finds the following under dwelling no. 18 and order of visitation 18:

James Ricks	50
Martha Ricks	51
Allaci (or Allaei)	20
Earnest	18
John	16
Simson (or Sumson)	10
Mary	8

Ernest Ricks may have been born in 1861. Listed on his death certificate are the parents, James Ricks and Martha Gibbs. The others are probably his brothers and sisters. John Ricks reported his mother's death in 1914. Also listed in this region is a "Wash" Washington Ricks aged 29. "Simson" could actually be "Simon" named after the supposed father of James Ricks. Another phenomenon is the "F" in a couple of the Ricks boys' middle names. There was a Friterot or Freet Ricks listed in the region.

Emma M. (Green) Ricks is said to have been born October 27, 1867 and died of cancer on December 26, 1921. She had been under doctor's care since October 1919. Her family, in

the earlier years is as follows according to two census (1870 and 1880):

1870 Census (Brighton, Maryland Post office district - pg. 76, Dwelling 510 and Order of Visitation 471) dated August 6, 1870.

Garry Green	40
Matilda	38
Jane	14
*Janet	16
William	11
Robert	10
Alexander	9
Ernest	4
Emma	2

1880 Darnestown Census (June 1, 1880 - dwelling 113, order of visitation 121)

Garry Green	45
Matilda	42
Edward	22
Robert	20
Alexander	19
Ernest	14
Emma	12
Vernon	10
John	8
Alonza	6
Ida	4
Eugene	2

1830
1832
1860
1861
1866
1868
1959

One notices two things about these censuses. One, the ages of Garry Green and Lethie, not "Lethe", Matilda. Assuming that the 1870 census is correct they would have been born in 1830 and 1832, respectively; 1832 and 1833 is close enough. One may also want to compare the ages of Garry Green and Matilda in both censuses. Have you noticed that the childrens ages are consistent with the passage of time, but the ages of Garry Green and Matilda seems to have stymied. The above is not a typographical error but was taken from what was written.

The second thing one notices is that there is a Janet Green. Could this be "Jimmie"? The handwriting on these documents was horrible, however if one actually looks at the writing style, one can draw the conclusion that the writer made his "t" s the same way. This was done with the 1870 in that the "t" in Ernest is written the same way as the last letter of "Janet". Another possibility is that she was present and when she was called to be Jimmie the writer thought it was James. Anyway, to clear this item up, who did Jimmie marry? Was it Washington "Wash" Ricks? This may be another child.

Martha P. Ricks has a death certificate whose number is 8037. She is listed as having unknown parentage, said to be about 90, and is a widow at time of death. She is said to be buried in the Darnestown cemetary. May be even Pleasant View. If the 1880 census above is correct she was 85. The death certificate states that she died August 24, 1914. John F. Ricks, her son, is the person asked by the recorder. Her husband, James Ricks, probably died about the time Garry Green died in 1900 or just before, say 1897 or 1896. No recorded death on Garry Green or James Ricks has been found so far. In looking for James Ricks in Montgomery County, all I found was 2 day old baby born to a John Ricks and his wife that died January 12, 1921. Martha Ricks' son's, Ernest Ricks, death certificate has her listed as Martha Gibbs. She was probably born in 1829. The name appears to come from the Annapolis area because a slave named Pole in 1789 was enumerated by her owners and changed her name to Molly Gibbs. Molly Gibbs' descendants were set free as well. This bears researching.

Lethie, not "Lethe", Matilda (Mason) Green's death certificate says she died on January 11, 1918 and was born March, 1833. The exact day in March is unknown. Her parents are said to be Nathan Mason and Lucy (UNKNOWN). The UNKNOWN is believed to be "Simms".

Ralph (Raphael) Hallman is said to have been born June 23, 1848 and he died February 2, 1918 of a cerebral hemmorage. His father is listed as Wm. Hallman and his mother is unknown. Ralph Hallman is buried in Mt. Zion Church cemetary in Martinsburg, MD.

Emma Hallman is said to have been born May 15, 1857 and she died February 16, 1924 of myrial insufficiency. Her father's name is listed as James Brown and her mother is said to be unknown. People have told me that she was a "Bowens". This could be if the mother never married the father. Emma is said to have come from Quince Orchard and there is a Martha Bowens (1838-1890) buried in Pleasant View cemetary next to the current tree line next to the new church on Rt. 28. I saw the grave marker in 1982 when I first started looking at family history as a school project and a couple of weeks later someone had cut the grass and the marker was missing. Some Jenkins' grave stone were missing also. Anyway, in looking through the census of 1870, August 6, I found a James Brown in the same area as Garry Green and company and the family was under Dwelling no. 135 and order of visitation no. 123. It read the following:

James Brown	36
Sabrilla	35
Elijah	17
Thomas	10

Emma	7
Nicholas	5
Rachel A.	2

This Emma's age is 7 meaning birth about 1863. May be it is the same "Emma" and may be it isn't. However, about ten years ago, in looking at a 1900 census, the record Emma and Ralph were listed as well as there children and her age was 42. Needs further research.

Finally, the first time that I went to the Hall of Records, I found the place to be closed. This was August 30, 1993, a Monday. In browsing through books on the shelf, I found something that may be (may be not) linked to Nathaniel Mason. You may notice that alot of people are named after prior ancestors in the Ricks-Green family. This tradition had to start somewhere and chances are it began well before the people we know. Nathan Mason had two of his sons named Henry and James Edward. It may be that he followed this tradition. From a green covered book called "Maryland Marriages 1801-1820" with an abbreviaton "SM" standing for St. Mary's County one finds the following:

Mason, Henry (free negro, s. of Henry and Mildred); 26 Oct. 1800; Annastesey (negro woman belonging to Robert Combs; dau. of James, a negro man belonging to Mrs. Smith, and his wife Louisa, who bel. to Clement Norris).

Notice the number of times that "Henry" and "James" are mentioned and "Henry" more than once. On the other hand, these are very common names. Further research needs to be done and more interviews conducted. One more thing, Uncle Upton may have been named after a doctor that may have treated Emma Ricks or Emma Hallman. I need to look at the death certicates to be sure which.

If I ever get back to the Hall of Records, my priorities would be to look at the census for the Hallman name and try to locate the name of Nathan Mason and/or Lucinda (Lucy) Mason. I may try to trace Henry Mason forward to 1810, in St. Mary's County, to see if he has a son named Nathan or use the 1880 census to determine the age of Nathan Mason near current day Dawsonville. From here on, I will have to rely on land and census records. Death certificates, as you probably already know, were started in Baltimore in 1875 and in the counties in 1898. The practice may not have reached some inhabitants in Montgomery County until after 1910. Hopefully I can read the handwriting of some of the record keepers. I'm sure it will be an interesting search and in

the mean time, I may have to rely on researchers at the Hall of Records to find something.

Sincerely,

David Hallman

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IN MEMORIAM

(PHOTOGRAPHS REQUESTED)

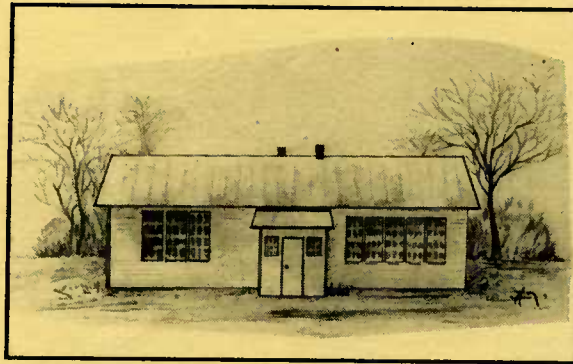
VERNON GREEN (- 1922)

Youngest child of Gary & Matilda Mason Green, was a farmer and carpenter by trade. Following the death of his father in 1900, he became the mainstay for his widowed mother. He married Miss Sadie Murray of Laytonsville. Vernon and Sadie were pillars of the Pleasant View Methodist Church where he served as a trustee and for a time as chairman of the Board. Sadie was founder of the Ladies Aid Society there, the forerunner of the WSCS - the Women's Society of Christian Service (1940). They had four sons to reach adulthood. The two elder sons Douglass and Carroll settled in Washington where they raised their families. And, the two younger sons

Burial site: Pleasant View Cemetery/ Vernon, Sadie, Douglass, Carroll (1975) and Douglass'

SADIE MURRAY GREEN (1878 - 1912)

Arthur and Gerard built homes and raised their families in Quince Orchard/Darnestown. Sadie Green died in childbirth at age 34. He remarried taking as his wife Katie Powell (?) of _____ . Vernon's life was cut short due to an accident which occurred while he was working as a carpenter. Years later, the Green homestead which Vernon had inherited from his mother and passed on to their sons with all of its contents was completely destroyed by fire. Their youngest son Gerard has followed in the footsteps of his parents by offering leadership at Pleasant View, the Board of Trustee and in the Pleasant View Association.



QUINCE ORCHARD COLORED SCHOOL

THE FRONT SECTION OF THE SCHOOL (RIGHT SIDE) WAS BUILT ORIGINALLY AS A ONE-ROOM STRUCTURE FOR WHITE PUPILS.

HOWEVER, WHEN THE COLORED SCHOOL BURNT DOWN IN 1901, THIS BUILDING, THEN ABANDONED, WAS MOVED TO THE PRESENT SITE. OVER THE YEARS TWO ADDITIONAL ROOMS WERE BUILT TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF BLACK STUDENTS UNDER THE SEGREGATED SYSTEM. LAST USED AS A SCHOOL IN JUNE 1951, THE THREE ROOM STRUCTURE HAS BEEN USED AS A PARISH HOUSE AND COMMUNITY CENTER. THE THIRD ROOM WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE. HOWEVER, THE BLACK COMMUNITY OF QUINCE ORCHARD/DARNESTOWN HAD ESTABLISHED ITS OWN SCHOOL PRIOR TO THE 1872, WHEN FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO ESTABLISH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

IN 1892, THE FIRST SCHOOL IS DESCRIBED AS BEING 22' X 28' WOODEN STRUCTURE INSURED FOR \$300 AND LOCATED NEAR THE PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH. THE REV. ERNEST J. GREEN WHO ATTENDED THE SCHOOL RECALLED IT AS BEING "A LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE."

TRUSTEES & OFFICERS

OFFICERS

Chairperson • Gerard Green, Jr.
Assistant Chairperson • Charles Thompson, Jr.
Secretary • Thompkins Hallman
Financial Secretary • William Ridgley
Acting Treasurer • Gerard Green, Sr.

TRUSTEES

Esther Lyons
Mary Jane Talley
Pearl Green
Watson Prather
Ellsworth Jackson
Charles Thompson, Sr.
Bernice Joppy

**Volunteers Are Asked To Participate
In Work Of The Association**

Mayfest Committee

Alma Ridgley • Chairperson

Cemetery Committee

William Ridgley • Chairperson

Fund Raising Committee

Esther Lyons • Co-Chairperson
Mary Jane Talley • Co-Chairperson

Historical Committee

Vernon Green • Chairperson

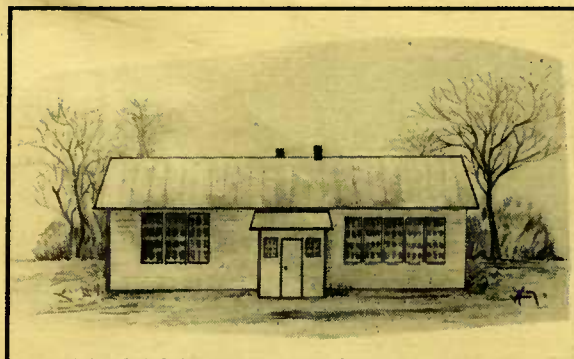
Building Committee

William Ridgley • Co-Chairperson
Gerard Green, Sr. • Co-Chairperson

Grounds Committee

Charles Thompson, Sr. • Co-Chairperson
Watson Prather • Co-Chairperson

PLEASANT VIEW HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



**QUINCE ORCHARD
COLORED SCHOOL**
11810 DARNESTOWN ROAD
GAITHERSBURG, MD. 20878

**PLEASANT
VIEW
METHODIST
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**



Home Of Mount Of Olives

PLEASANT VIEW HISTORIC SITE

More than 100 hundred years ago, on April 8, 1868, three years after the Civil War, approximately three acres were purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Aquilla Fisher by Thomas Neverson, George W. Johnson, Charles Beander, trustees and their successors. The property was purchased in trust for the sum of \$54.00 for the establishment of a Methodist Episcopal Church. Services were established in the community. The congregation worshipped in the school house, until they could afford to construct a church, as was customary in developing black communities.

By 1888 the church was constructed. In 1902, a decision was made by the Montgomery County Board of Commissions to build a new white school and give the blacks the old white school, after fire destroyed the black school in the community the previous year. The school was moved to the Pleasant View property, where it remains today.

By 1914, the 1888 church structure had outlived its usefulness and was rebuilt. In the 1950's extensive improvements were made. By 1968, dwindling membership and low population growth forced the congregations of Hunting Hill, McDonald Chapel and Pleasant View - three Victorian Methodist churches in the area to transfer their membership to the new Fairhaven Methodist Church for economic survival. However, Pleasant View did not merge and thus retained its legal distinction. The trustees maintains the responsibility for the site.

In 1985 the Historic Preservation Commission added the Pleasant View Church site to the Master Plan for historic preservation.

**PLEASANT VIEW
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

The Pleasant View United Methodist Church Corporation, also known as Pleasant View Historical Association was organized in 1982 to solicit support for the establishment and sustainment of a museum of local American History and culture with emphasis on Afro-American life and history.

THE ASSOCIATION MAINTAINS THESE OBJECTIVES:

- To establish a multi-purpose center within the confines of the three acre site
 - To collect, maintain and exhibit artifacts, memorabilia, documents, illustrative of the area's history
 - To maintain research archives and library
 - To publish relevant literature
 - To develop and encourage educational and cultural programs relevant to the expressed needs of the communities
 - And foremost to preserve, maintain and protect this three acre monument to Afro - American culture for the future generations.
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The Montgomery County Story

Published Quarterly by the Montgomery County Historical Society

Mary Anne Tuohey
President

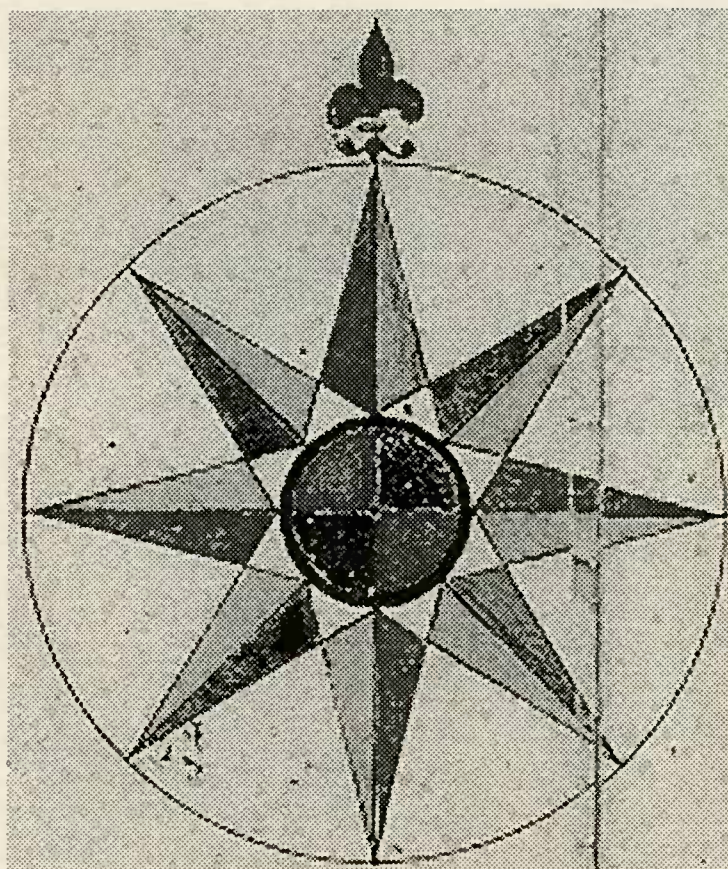


Eleanor M. V. Cook
Editor

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The Land Divided and Mapped



Detail from the plat for the property, "Charles and Benjamin," surveyed by John Griffiths.

By Eleanor M. V. Cook

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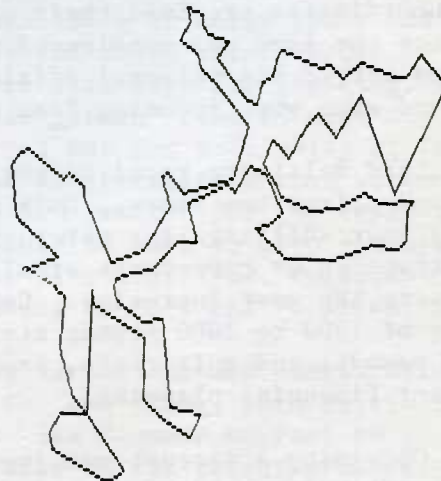
November 1997

THE LAND DIVIDED AND MAPPED by Eleanor M. V. Cook

The pattern of land tracts in what is now Montgomery County can best be described as chaotic. Looking at a map of the tracts as they were originally laid out and then resurveyed from time to time before or shortly after 1800, you see lines running in every direction, few tracts even remotely square or rectangular. Those not familiar with Maryland's land tract system are often astounded at the pattern, wondering why we have it and how it could possibly be mapped.

Most of the United States, when it was settled, was divided into grids by land companies or by the United States Land Office, and the designation of a certain quarter of a section of a township in a range makes it easy to locate a particular acreage. Maryland, on the other hand, was established long before there was a United States Land Office.

In the original colonies, New England was settled and divided by townships, but from present-day New York City south there was irregular land division, each colony having its own method. None of the southern colonies surveyed land in advance of settlement and in Virginia the first authorized surveyor did not arrive until 1621, long after settlers had begun claiming land, building homes and planting fields.¹ Many of the land tracts in Montgomery County took rather bizarre shapes as they wound their way through vacant spaces between adjacent tracts. One of the interesting examples of this is shown at right:



Resurvey on Part of Hensly and the
Addition to Hensley, patented in
1752 by Samuel Magruder of Ninian.

When Maryland, as it came to be called, was given to Lord Baltimore, he wanted to use the land as a source of wealth, obtaining the most from it that he could. He had been active in American colonization as a member of the Virginia Company as early as 1609 and knew thoroughly the business of colonization and what forms of land grants were the most advantageous. The first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert, died before actually receiving the land, but his son Cecelius, the second Lord Baltimore, who received it in 1632, had the same goal.² Given something over 10,000 square miles of magnificent virgin land that would become more and more valuable as time went on, what would you have done to secure the best returns for yourself and your descendants? Even with the benefit of hindsight, a developer of our day would find it hard to better the solution Lord Baltimore found.

As Lord Proprietor, he owned the land and had complete jurisdiction over it. He made grants of acreage to settlers but the land was held by them "in fief," a type of tenure resembling an assignable lease in perpetuity. Settlers bought and sold their land and passed it on by inheritance, but paid yearly quit rents to Lord Baltimore and under certain circumstances, at his discretion, he could and did revoke grants.³

Obtaining settlers to pay quit rents was Lord Baltimore's first concern and he set up "Conditions of Plantation" before the first settlers arrived in Maryland in 1634. At first, each person coming into Maryland to settle or bringing in others received a warrant of survey (also called a "common warrant") entitling him to a certain number of acres, the number decreasing as time went on. The warrants could be sold and often were, by those more interested in having money than land, a craftsman perhaps or a ship's captain who transported settlers. Land was granted to all takers, regardless of religion, on a first come, first served basis, and they were free to choose any land not already taken.

By 1683 Lord Baltimore decided it was no longer necessary to give free land in order to obtain settlers, and from that time on when a person (almost invariably a man) applied to the proprietor's agent for a warrant he had to pay what was called "caution money" or "purchase money." The price rose steadily and was five pounds sterling per hundred acres in 1776. The warrants, if sold, were valuable not only because of the caution money paid but because to obtain them enormous fees were also paid. Each official and many subordinates received their pay entirely by the fees from their office and since the land was considered the private property of Lord Baltimore and the land office his personal affair, the legislature left the charges untouched even when reducing fees elsewhere.⁴

Lord Baltimore received not only caution money payments but quit rents and alienation fines. Quit rents were paid semi-annually and were usually four shillings per acre; an alienation fine was paid whenever there was a transfer or conveyance of all or part of a tract. Of these, quit rents were the most lucrative. Caution money brought Lord Baltimore an average of 1500 to 2000 pounds sterling a year; alienation fines, from 120 to 200 pounds; and quit rents, from 5000 to 6000 pounds sterling.⁵ It was excellent financial planning.

Obtaining a warrant was just the first step in the patent process. The warrant was presented to the deputy surveyor with a request for a survey

of a specific piece of land. Once the survey was complete, the surveyor returned to the land office a certificate of survey that included the name of the prospective patentee, the name of the tract, land description and a plat of the property. Once the certificate of survey was approved by the examiner, it was recorded and, if all went well, a patent was then approved and recorded. The patent stated the amount and due dates of the semi-annual quit rent for the tract, which was based on acreage, regardless of whether the land was grassy meadow, deep swamp, rich loam or mostly rocks. It also gave the amount of the alienation fine, usually a whole year's rent for each transfer of all or any part of the tract. Most of these original surveys drawn up so long ago have survived and are at the Maryland State Archives, but after an original patent was recorded, it was given to the patentee as proof of title to the land.

At the time of the survey, the prospective patentee could choose whatever name he wanted for his tract. The names are a never-ending source of interest, as there were hundreds of them in what is now Montgomery. Many included the owner's name and some the name of his wife, Gattons Adventure, Andrews Folly, Wickham and Pottingers Discovery, Eleanor's Greens, Charles and William, James and Mary, for example. Occasionally a tract was named after someone else. Bealls Good Will was patented by John Adamson, possibly an indication that a Beall had been of some assistance in the matter. In other cases, the tract carried the name, not of the patentee, but of the man who purchased it from him as soon as it was patented, some prior arrangement having no doubt been made.

The many tracts with descriptive names present considerable contrast: Piney Grove and The Swamp, Barren Ridge and Rich Land, Stony Hill and Fertile Meadow. There were classical and biblical names, Bathsheba and Eden, Fair Rosamunds Bower and Finis Coronat Opus (the end crowns the work); names of foreign places such as Genoa and Desert of Arabia. Some concerned wildlife: Foxes Race Ground, Deer Park, Wolfs Den. Other names expressed the owner's displeasure with them: Little or Nothing, As Good as We Can Get, Not Worth a Name.

Some tract names can be explained or at least lend themselves to speculation. Hobsons Choice, the name used for four different tracts in the county, meant a choice without an alternative, an allusion to a Thomas Hobson who let horses at Cambridge in the late 1500s or early 1600s and insisted all customers take the horse nearest the door. Bear Garden originally meant an enclosed place where bears were kept for fighting, but bear fights were wild, noisy affairs and "bear garden" came to mean any place where riotous conduct was permitted.⁶ I Was Not a-Thinking of It, one of the more unusual tract names, leads us to speculation that someone asked, "What are you thinking of naming your new tract?" and the reply was, "I was not a-thinking of it." However, it would be rash to even venture a guess as to why an owner would name his tract Bite the Biter, Cuckolds Delight, Lost Britches, Dung Hill, Clean Shaving or Pork and Potatoes.

As might be expected, there were a few variations and complications in obtaining and keeping patents for land. For one thing, Lord Baltimore missed no opportunity to collect extra fees. The "common warrant to survey," mentioned above as the usual first step in the patent process, was adequate if the land had never been cultivated. There were times, however,

when a "squatter," or possibly a neighboring landholder who thought it was his, cultivated or otherwise improved unpatented land. In this case, a "special warrant to survey" was necessary and the improvements, including amount of any acreage previously cultivated, were noted on the certificate of survey. After judges of the land office placed a value on the improvements, the patentee was required to pay an additional sum for these, over and above the regular caution money.⁷ The improvements often amounted to no more than old fence rails, but when Richard Snowden had a 546-acre tract called Snowdens Mill surveyed in 1723, the surveyor noted, "There is about five acres of cultivated land with a small mill thereon."⁸

Resurveys of patented land were frequently made, and of course paid for, and for this a third type of warrant, a "warrant of resurvey," was required. The resurvey did serve to clarify exactly where boundaries were, but usually it was made because the landowner thought there might be vacant land contiguous to his could be added to his parcel. In resurveying, the surveyor might find that part of the tract had originally been laid out on top of "elder surveys," which meant the landowner lost that part of his acreage. However, the gain from adjoining vacant land usually compensated for it and in some cases, the gain was huge. Thomas Johns patented a 13-acre tract in 1768 that he named Piney Grove, and when a resurvey the next year found 1536 acres of vacant land, the whole was patented as 1549-acre Resurvey of Piney Grove.⁹

Sometimes land was resurveyed when a person who had acquired parts of several tracts asked that his land be resurveyed, vacancy added, and the whole patented as one tract with a new name. There were even resurveys made when the landowner decided that some of his land was less desirable than adjoining unclaimed land. Ninian Beall in 1713 filed a petition stating that he had a tract called Friendship "but upon scrutinous inspection into the bounds of the tract, he found that a considerable part thereof was very mean, indifferent and barren and that adjacent thereunto was some vacant land of better quality." He wanted to exclude what he deemed of little value and add contiguous vacancy, which he was allowed to do.¹⁰

Resurveys of a single tract might keep the same tract name; Labyrinth after being resurveyed and vacancy added, was still Labyrinth. More commonly, "Resurvey on" or "Resurvey of" was used in a new tract name. Occasionally we find resurvey names that reflect a sense of humor or an annoyance at problems. Richard Henderson had a tract Brandy, which became Resurvey on Brandy, then Double Distilled Brandy. Trouble Enough was the name Samuel Magruder gave a problem tract, called it Finish of Trouble Enough when it was resurvey, then Trouble Ended. As a matter of fact, records indicate that his troubles were not ended; his tract never did receive a patent.

A landowner could lose land surveyed or even patented if it became "escheat," and records may refer to the land later as having been obtained by a new owner with an "escheat warrant." Lord Baltimore's charter when he was given Maryland gave him the right to all escheats, which meant that land could revert to him under certain circumstances. This was a happy occurrence from his point of view, as he could then regrant it, thereby adding to his considerable revenues.

There do not seem to have been any written rules governing escheat and Lord Baltimore interpreted escheat rather broadly, even more broadly than was done in England at the time. Examining escheat cases in Maryland, we find one or more of three grounds cited: (1) the landowner failed to conform to the conditions of the patent on the land he held; (2) he committed suicide or was convicted of either treason or of a felony for which he received a sentence of death; or (3) he died without heirs.¹¹

Conditions of the patent of course included paying amounts due the Lord Proprietor and land became escheat if quit rents were not paid. Land surveyed could be lost if not patented within a specified time. If a resurvey found contiguous vacant land and the caution money on the vacancy was not paid on time, the vacancy became escheat.¹² Not many cases of escheat because of treason or felony were found, but they did exist. A Prince George's County 1730 patent, for instance, states that Walter Peak, former owner of the land, "was tryed, condemned and hanged for murder, by which the land became escheat."¹³ Failure of heirs was the most common reason for land becoming escheat but, again, this was given a broad interpretation. "Heirs" seems to have been interpreted as heirs of the whole blood only, that is, descendants. There were even cases where a father or a wife, in the absence of a will, was not allowed to retain the land. To find as many escheats as possible, it was customary for Lord Baltimore's agents to allow the discoverer to patent escheat land at two-thirds of its value.¹⁴

In 1726 William Cumming and James Edmonson obtained a special warrant to resurvey the tract Edloes Adventure, stating that Edward Edloe, who had patented 300-acre Edloes Adventure, died intestate and without heirs, by which the land became escheat. Actually, Edloe had not died intestate. His will was filed in St. Mary's County in 1711, and although he neglected to mention the tract, he left any "remaining property" to his nephew. In 1726 John Bradford owned Edloes Adventure, having purchased it in 1723 from William Maria Farthing.¹⁵

The deed from Farthing to Bradford used the phrase "after the death of Edward Edloe without heirs of his body" in tracing title to the land. Somehow Cumming and Edmonston became aware of the situation and must have reported it to Lord Baltimore's agents. Despite the lapse of years since Edloe died and the will he left, the land was held to be escheat. Cumming and Edmonston, as "first discoverers," had Edloes Adventure resurveyed and found there were 1100 acres of contiguous vacant land on which were "eight settlements." They patented the whole as Preston Marsh,¹⁶ sometimes referred to as "Preston March," which was a very profitable transaction for them, as well as for Lord Baltimore.

The American Revolution brought changes in the land system in the colonies. In 1776 Lord Baltimore lost all rights he had to the land in Maryland and, of course, to escheat. British property was confiscated and sold to help pay for the Revolution. Other persons holding land at that time became the absolute owners of it, in their own right. They no longer paid quit rents, but in 1777 the General Assembly began taxing real and personal property instead of having a head tax. The basic system of land division and ownership, that is, warrant, survey and patent, continued.¹⁷

By the time of the American Revolution, there was little unpatented land left in Montgomery County. Settlement in Maryland had begun at St. Mary's and new counties were not formed until there was sufficient population to warrant building a courthouse and providing other local services. Present-day Montgomery County was still part of Charles County in the 1680s and Indians its only residents when speculators began having surveys made in order to obtain land.

Having first choice, they took land on the rivers and creeks, where access was easier. Quit rents were low at the time and most of the earliest tracts were huge. Along and near Rock Creek, Colonel Henry Darnall had 7776-acre Girls Portion surveyed in 1687 and The Forest in 1694. In 1695 came Thomas Brooke with 3697-acre Dan and William Joseph with both 4220-acre Josephs Park and 3866-acre Hermitage. Colonel William Digges had Elizabeths Delight, a tract of 1000 acres on the Northwest Branch, surveyed in 1688. Brightwells Hunting Quarter, 1086 acres lying where Seneca Creek flows into the Potomac, was surveyed for Richard Brightwell in 1695.

Population had grown sufficiently by 1696 that Prince George's County was formed and it included what is now Montgomery County. Some huge tracts were still being laid out, but most were a few hundred acres and many were 100 acres, 50 acres or less. Tracts larger than needed for a family farm were usually held for speculation or divided later among children and grandchildren. Judging by tax lists, very few settlers actually lived in now-Montgomery County in 1719 but their numbers increased considerably by 1733. Even so, by 1741, little land had been patented by either speculators or settlers west of Watts Branch, except along the Potomac and, to some extent, along the headwaters of the Seneca. After that, however, settlement spread rapidly. Richard Snowden took a large portion of the vacant land in 1743 with his Snowdens Manor Enlarged, which contained 9265 acres.¹⁸

Surveying in the early days was a far from precise science. To begin with, there was "variation of the compass." Surveyors measured directions by a magnetic compass, which points to the north magnetic pole, an ever-changing point about 1350 miles from the geographic pole. In addition, there was the surveying process itself. The surveyor's chain was 66 feet long (4 perches or rods) and as the surveyor trudged through the woods, compass in hand, with a chain carrier and perhaps an axman, the chain must often have been curved around the huge, ancient trees, with the result that lines were less than straight. If there was a steep hillside or a swamp that could not be crossed, there could be further error. Aware of probable inaccuracy and that his work would probably be checked immediately by the grantee who paid his fee, the surveyor often enclosed more acreage than the warrant called for in order to avoid complaints¹⁹ and surveys listed acreage as so many acres "more or less."

As might be expected, problems arose with the surveying. Due to unskilled surveyors, a vast wilderness, and tracts that wound here and there around other tracts, the surveys frequently overlapped tracts already patented and neighbors found that the survey encroached on their land. In these instances, a caveat could be filed which stopped the patent process until a hearing was held to determine whether the new survey did actually include part of an "elder survey." In the colonial period, caveats were filed with the Lord Proprietor's land office, later in the Chancery Court.

When Thomas Beall of George had surveys made for tracts he called Prospect Valley and Mount Vernon (a resurvey on Prospect Valley), Andrew Isachas and Mahlon Scholfield filed a caveat stating that Prospect Valley as surveyed included their tract, Great Fall Branch, which had been patented in 1766 by John Boone and John Scholfield. Plats in the caveat papers show that almost all of the northern part of Prospect Valley lay atop the earlier patent of Great Fall Branch. The Chancellor ruled that the caveat was good, which meant that Thomas Beall of George could not obtain a patent on the survey he had filed. The Chancellor added, however, that Beall had paid for land and was entitled to it, so he was to receive corrected certificates of survey for the southern part of his claim, the largest piece that did not encroach on Great Fall Branch.²⁰ In other cases, the caveat was simply held to be good; sometimes it was withdrawn by the person who filed it.

Caveat cases could by no means settle all boundary problems. Determining the boundaries of tracts patented many years earlier was difficult at best. Metes and bounds in patents often began at a "beginning tree." Oaks, which live a long time, seem to have been the preferred tree, but even so trees are perishable and marks on trees and rocks became indistinct as time went on. Landowners were clogging the courts with their disputes. The General Assembly realized quite early that a practical method of settling boundary disputes was needed and in 1718 passed an Act²¹ that established a system of appointed commissioners to take care of the matter. The Act stated that juries in the Provincial Court, never having seen the land, could not know the true situation and verdicts were often appealed, which resulted in "vast charges that impoverished the poorer inhabitants or forced them to relinquish their right to more wealthy, litigious adversaries." Comments in the Act indicate the extent of survey inaccuracies even then:

"For as much as at the first settlement of this province, the heathen indian enemies were so very numerous and barbarous that both the persons desirous to ... settle and inhabit the land and also the surveyors appointed by the Lord Proprietor to survey and lay out lands ... were deterred from making so strict a scrutiny into the true situation of ... each tract and from setting off the courses or measuring the true distances ... and also the surveyors themselves ... were too often both very ignorant and negligent in performing their duty therein; And also ... the bounded trees so lost and forgotten that no remains or memory are left ... and the other boundaries ... and courses and distances, so darkly and unskillfully expressed, that many great controversies and suits have been and are daily moved thereupon ..." ²²

These surveys made in the 17th and 18th centuries and other practices at that time make mapping land tracts in Montgomery County difficult, yet people are very interested in finding out where the tracts were on which their ancestors lived. About eleven years ago three Montgomery County Historical Society volunteers, Sheila Cochran, Mary Charlotte Crook and Florence Howard, began working on a series of maps to show the location of the land grants in the county as of about 1800. Their maps are now in the historical society library, tentatively designated as "preliminary." It is expected that from time to time small changes will be made when new information is found, in order to have the maps as accurate as possible.

Making these maps was quite a process. To begin with, it was not a simple matter to find which tracts were in what is now Montgomery County. At first, the tracts surveyed here were in Charles County; after 1696, in Prince George's County; from 1748 to 1776, in Frederick County; and after that, Montgomery County. At the Maryland State Archives, cards listing tracts have been sorted according to present county and those for Montgomery County were a starting point, but the sorting has inaccuracies, as it is often difficult or impossible to know from patents alone in what county tracts were located.

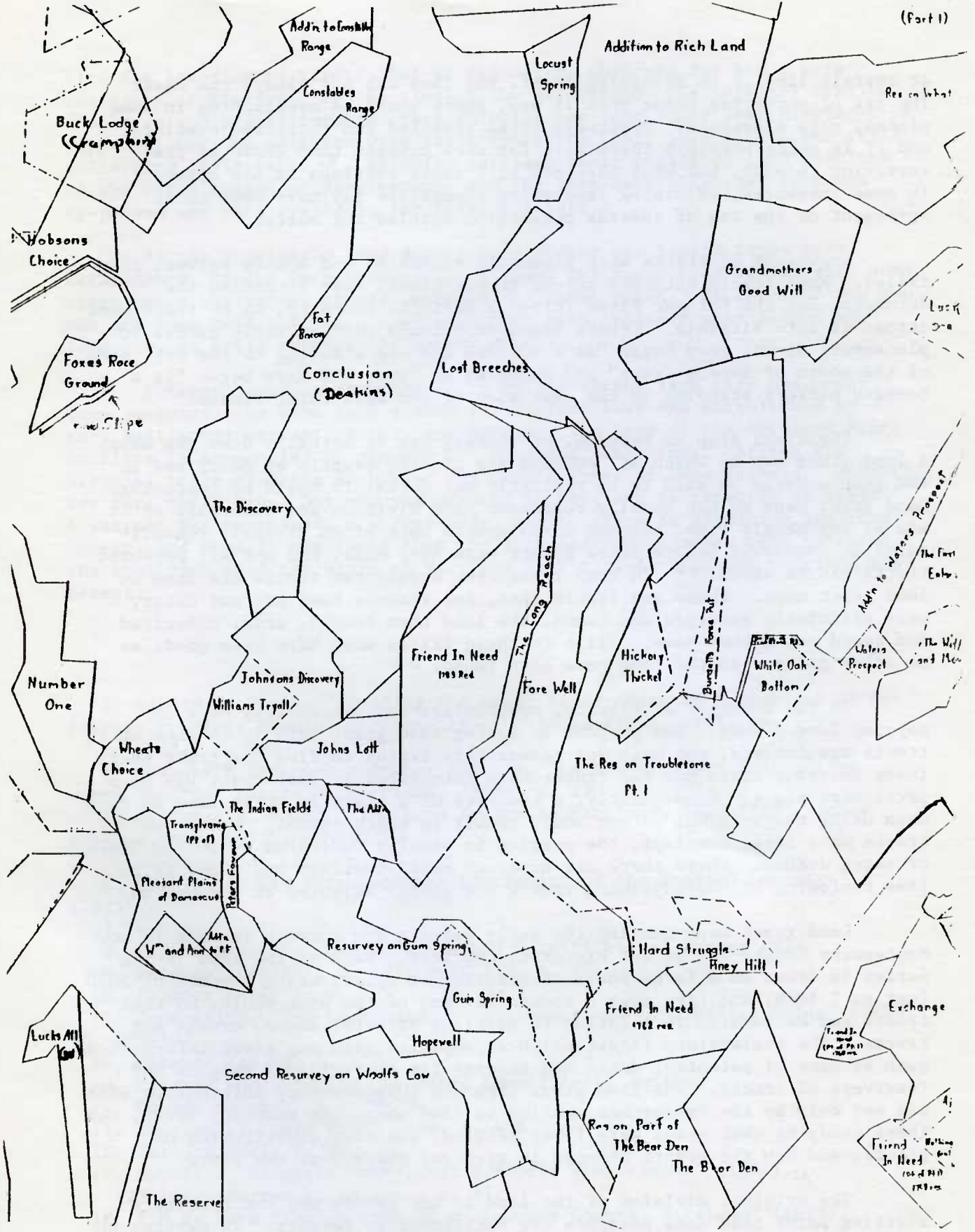
Other tracts were located through deeds, tax assessment records and surveys of adjoining tracts. These can, however, be false leads and researchers can spend much time looking for the origin of a particular tract, only to find it was never officially surveyed, much less patented. In some cases, when a person deeded part of his tract to someone, he gave it a new name in the deed, calling it "Upper Part" or "Father's Gift" or whatever he decided was appropriate. A tract such as "Wickham and Pottingers Discovery" might be referred to as simply "Discovery." There were tracts were listed in tax records as "name unknown," which is not surprising in a time when most people could not read and write and their land may have been purchased 75 years earlier by a grandfather. Adding to the confusion was the practice of giving several totally unrelated tracts the same name. There were six or seven tracts named "Friendship."

The second step was to take each tract and copy the metes and bounds and other information from the survey and/or patent and draw a plat of each tract. A computer program was used for this, but deciphering the old handwriting was sometimes a challenge and reading "seventy degrees" for "twenty degrees" could send a line off the paper.

The third step was to fit the tracts together, something like a jigsaw puzzle, a step that is far easier said than done. To determine how the tracts fit together, valuable clues were found in patents and deeds that mentioned a group of adjoining tracts. Resurvey on Addition to Mill Seat, patented for Samuel Beall, Junior in 1755 indicates that the tract adjoined Enlargement, Easy Purchase, Rubbish, and Clean Shaving. A 1797 deed from Dorsey Barnes to Nathan Musgrove lists Treed Land, Gaithers Purchase, Whats Left, Content, Hannahs Purchase, and Resurvey on John and Sarah, "all adjoining and in the fork of the Hawlings River."²³ Also useful were tax maps made in the 20th century that show tract boundaries.

The very earliest tracts tended to be fairly regular in shape; they were large and had minimal interference from other tracts. Later, as patentees looked for the best land still available, close to creeks or river and with good soil, they usually found it adjacent to tracts already in place, and their tracts would follow the curves and angles of earlier ones. Sometimes a creek was followed or an attempt was made to take in the most fertile land and the tract shape would be very irregular. As time went on, vacant land was found between the elder surveys and the resurvey might zigzag or send out tenacles, so that instead of a few sides, the tracts had a large number of short courses.

Theoretically, adjoining tracts should fit together perfectly, especially those with a precise beginning point, such as the beginning tree



Small-Scale Section of Germantown-Clarksburg Land Grant showing shapes and relative sizes of grants

or certain line of an adjoining tract, but that was not always the case. The art of surveying being what it was, there would be overlapping in some places, gaps elsewhere. Resurveys often revealed and corrected overlaps, and it is quite possible there were far more caveats than shown by the surviving records, but what happened with other overlaps is not apparent. In some instances, adjoining landowners themselves may have come to an agreement or the law of adverse possession settled the matter.

Groupings of tracts were gradually assembled and spaces between them filled. Many tracts extended across county lines, even straddled the Patuxent, but the Potomac River formed a definite boundary, as no tract went across it into Virginia. Creeks named in patents were valuable guides to placement: Seneca Ford began "at a bounded red oak standing on the east side of the mouth of Seneca Creek" and Resurvey on James and Mary began "at a bounded hickory standing on the east side of the west Paint Branch."

The final step in mapping, of course, was to actually draw the maps. A land grant map on which all parcels are plotted exactly as described in the grants could be said to be realistic but certainly would be confusing. Land grant maps do not usually represent land division and ownership as it was at any single time, because early grants were often divided, consolidated or abandoned before later grants were ever made, and not all patented tracts can be shown.²⁴ In some instances, unpatented tracts are used on land grant maps. These are tracts that, for reasons that are not clear, were officially surveyed and named, the land then bought, sold, inherited and taxed using that name. Title to these tracts must have been good, as no other patents to the land have been found.

In the interest of clarity, compromises are necessarily made in mapping land grants. The purpose in making land grant maps is to show where tracts are located, not only for researchers trying to find the tract where their ancestor lived but for researchers interested in what tract was at a particular place. Consequently, a resurvey of a tract is often used on maps when using the original patent would result in empty spaces. Where two tracts have large overlaps, the overlap is usually indicated by dotted lines or short dashes. Where there are numerous small overlaps and gaps, it is less confusing if the adjoining tracts are simply adjusted at the median.

Land grant maps showing the early patents and surveys in what is now Montgomery County are at our historical society. Each of the maps in the series is drawn on a large sheet of transparent mylar, using a scale of 1000 feet to 1 inch, and fits over a modern-day map of the same scale, so that tracts can be located in relation to existing streets, towns, creeks and rivers. The explanatory folder which accompanies each map gives information such as name of patentee, dates and acreage for the original patents and resurveys of tracts. The land grant maps and supplementary information will aid not only by the researcher wanting to find where his ancestor lived, but those studying what areas were first settled, the size distribution of grants, and how the grants changed in size and shape over the years.

The original division of the land in our county was the necessary starting point that made possible its settlement by farmers. In setting up the land system as he did, Lord Baltimore did not make it easy for us to find the location of tracts, but he did set up what was for him a very

find the location of tracts, but he did set up what was for him a very successful operation. By the time of the Revolution, the original trading companies and proprietors in other colonies had long since been displaced or replaced, but the Calverts were still operating their land office and still collecting their rent.²⁵ Allowing settlers their choice of land resulted in the rapid spread of development, and the less desirable land that was by-passed was then available for later settlers.

As the huge early land grants were broken up, family farms were established, tracts were resurveyed, divided and resurveyed again, with some tract names surviving, others lost and new names added. If the land you own has not been made part of a subdivision or been included when a town was laid out, it still carries the patent name.

For anyone today who chances to locate vacant land that has never been patented, the same land system is in place that was established by Lord Baltimore: warrant, survey and patent. The head of the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, at present Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, carries the official title of State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents. Patents are rare these days, but one was granted in Maryland as recently as 1985. A warrant was purchased, a survey made, notice given to adjoining property owners, and when it was found that the land had indeed never been patented, the applicant paid the state of Maryland fair market value and received his patent.

NOTES

1. Edward T. Price, "Dividing the Land: Early American Beginnings of Our Private Property Mosaic" (University of Chicago Press, 1995) pp. 7-9.
2. Ibid., p. 98.
3. Elizabeth Hartsook and Gust Skordas, "Land Office and Prerogative Court Records" (State of Maryland, 1968), p. 13.
4. Clarence P. Gould, "The Land System in Maryland, 1720-1765" (Johns Hopkins Press 1913), p. 15.
5. Hartsook, op.cit., p. 14.
6. "Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language" (1925).
7. Gould, op.cit., p. 16.
8. Prince George's County Unpatented Certificate of Survey #337.
9. Patents BC&GS#37, f. 125; BC&GS#43, f. 404.
10. Patents PL#4, f. 1.
11. John Kilty, "The Land-Holders' Assistant and Land Office Guide" (1808) pp. 175-177.
12. Patents Y&S #8, f. 217.
13. Patents AM#1, f. 320, patentee Samuel Beall Junior.
14. Gould, op.cit., pp. 28-29.
15. Provincial Court Deeds PL#5, f. 498.
16. Patents AM#1, f. 389.
17. Robert J. Brugger, "Maryland: A Middle Temperament" (1988) pp. 123-124. Hartsook, op.cit., p. 27.
18. T.H.S. Boyd "The History of Montgomery County, Maryland" (1879), pp. 47-48.
19. Price, op.cit., p. 350-351.

20. Caveat No. 017, Maryland State Archives Index 141.
 21. Acts of Assembly, April Session 1718, Ch. 18.
 22. John Kilty, op.cit., Appendix, pp. xxiii-xxv.
 23. Patents BY&GS#3, f. 67. Montgomery County Deeds G, f. 450.
 24. Price, op.cit., p. 129, 354.
 25. Garrett Power, Maryland Historical Magazine, Fall 1996, p. 379.
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The assistance of Sheila Cochran and Florence Howard in providing plats and assistance for this article is much appreciated. Also, on behalf of all interested researchers I wish to offer sincere thanks to them and to Mary Charlotte Crook for making the land grant maps which will contribute so greatly to our knowledge of Montgomery County history.

40th Anniversary Issue!

The Montgomery County Historical Society

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The Montgomery County Historical Society was founded in 1944 to collect, preserve and interpret the history, heritage and culture of Montgomery County, Maryland. To that end, *The Montgomery County Story* began publication in November 1957. The quarterly journal explores different facets of county history. A complete listing of published articles can be obtained from the Historical Society.

The Research Library, Beall-Dawson House and Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine are open to visitors for tours and research from 12-4:00 Tuesday to Saturday and the first Sunday of the month.

Montgomery County Historical Society

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Fairhaven United Methodist Church

12801 DARNESTOWN ROAD
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878
(301) 330-5433

June 26, 1991

Vernon Green
15715 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

RE: "Building Together by Faith"

Dear Mr. Green:

The entire church is happy to have use of the expanded facilities we completed last year. The additional classroom space, social hall and kitchen facilities fulfilled critical needs and enhanced our church life. This welcome convenience confirms our decision to proceed with building when we did.

The decision to build was made possible by the faithful stewardship of our church membership through two building fund drives and the bond campaign. The 1985-88 "Growing Together by Faith" campaign raised \$100,318 against pledges of \$109,000. The 1988 "Building Together by Faith" campaign pledged \$113,000 and is on a track to meet that target at its conclusion at the end of June. Forty-two church members purchased \$140,000 worth of bonds to finance our construction. Also the church itself holds \$200,000 in bonds through the Parsonage and Porter Ward Trusts. This stewardship is an example of the Fairhaven Church family at its best and gives us great expectations for the future.

The next challenge for our building fund will be the retiring of the bond obligations incurred to finance the expansion. Our obligation is approximately \$50,604 per year for the next 14 years. Again, this debt is payable to Fairhaven Church members and the church itself.

I am writing to make you aware of our continuing obligation for the retirement of our building debt. There is a concern that, as we are nearing the end of the three year period of pledges for "Building Together by Faith," some members of our congregation may cease making their contributions. Also, currently, we use \$20,000 per year from the operating budget to supplement our building fund contributions so we can pay the bond obligation. This has put a strain on the operating budget for normal operating expenses such as repairs, apportionments, and our church programs. It is our goal to increase building fund giving enough to meet fully the needs of our debt retirement.

June 26, 1991
Page 2

If the operating budget could be freed of contributions to the building fund, the Church would be able to be more ambitious in its goals for the future. As you know, there have been a series of meetings attempting to define a direction for Fairhaven. Greater outreach is one of the desirable goals, for example.

Since the pledge period for the "Building Together by Faith" campaign will soon end, we wanted to let you know our future plans for the building fund. This year we will combine the building fund campaign with our fall stewardship campaign. This letter is intended to kick off that drive. The fall drive will focus on the complete financial needs to support all church programs and obligations. In the interim, if you are a member who pledged to "Building Together by Faith" during 1988, please continue to give until the fall campaign when new pledges will be requested.

If you are a new member and have not formally pledged to the building fund, we urge you to commit to giving support now. If you wish to begin to contribute to the building fund, you can do so simply by placing a check or cash in the "Building Together by Faith" portion of your contribution envelope. If you do not use the envelope system, please place a check made payable to "Fairhaven United Methodist Church - Building Fund" in the collection plate or place cash in an envelope marked with your name and designated "Building Fund." Your participation is important.

Again we can all be very proud of the accomplishments that Fairhaven has made in the past. These accomplishments represent your hard work and stewardship. We pray that you will continue your faithful support as we look to the future.

Sincerely,



Barbara Fuller
Chairman, Finance Committee

achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms--that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle--the name itself has become a badge of family honor. It has become the "good name" to be proud of and to protect as one's most treasured possession.

Bardsley. Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames. 1901.

Encyclopedia Americana.

Ewen. History of Surnames of the British Isles. 1931.

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Lower. Dictionary of Family Names. 1860.

Weekley. Surnames. 1927.

Woulfe. Irish Names and Surnames. 1923.

Montgomery County Maryland

Department of Fire/Rescue Services

This certifies that

has successfully completed the

Institutional Fire Safety Program



MAY 14, 1981

DATE

James M. White
INSTRUCTOR

Vernon S. Green
DIRECTOR

A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF GAITHERSBURG
TO
MR. VERNON GREEN

We are most appreciative of your dedicated effort during the City's charter centennial year especially in assisting with the writing and publication of GAITHERSBURG -The Heart of Montgomery County.

Much time and personal sacrifice were necessary to research and document the beginnings of a community, its people, and the factors which have affected its progression from a sparsely settled rural area long ago to a full-scale City of today. Your contribution in this undertaking was extensive and as elected representatives of the City of Gaithersburg, we sincerely thank you.

Bruce A. Goldensohn
Bruce A. Goldensohn, Mayor

Council Members

- W. Edward Bohrer, Jr.
- Sidney A. Katz
- Gertrude M. Kildee
- Edward M. Steudel
- Mary B. Ward

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto affixed the seal of the City of Gaithersburg this 19th day of February 1979.

Sanford W. Daily
Sanford W. Daily, City Manager



Pleasant View Historic
Quince Orchard: From Cross Road to Suburbia
History Highlights:

(1)

When Thomas Nordens, George W. Johnson and Charles Beardsley purchased this three acre site on April 8, 1868, Quince Orchard was a cross road community, near the intersection of Quince Orchard Rd and Route 28. From the start, the community was a sprawling one, with farm families on Riddle Ford Road, Jones Lane, Darnestown Road and Quince Orchard Road, all calling Quince Orchard their home town.

This property was purchased in trust for ~~the~~ ^{James Ricks, Carlton Mason & Gary Green} for establishment of Methodist Episcopal Church. ~~Public education~~ for blacks did not begin until 1870's. However prior to that time, during the same year this property was purchased an association was formed to provide a school for the black children of the Quince Orchard/Darnestown area. Montgomery County land records reveal this association on ~~April~~ September 18, 1868 acquired a one acre lot in trust for purpose of erecting thereon a school house for the use, benefit and education of colored people of M.C. for ever.

Not unlike whites, prior to 1870's the education of blacks was dependent entirely upon individuals + philanthropic efforts. The association and their neighbors constructed a schoolhouse on the property and hired a teacher on their own. We find that during March 1874, Gary Green appeared before the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners to request funds for the payment of the teacher at Quince Orchard Colored School. The Board agreed to pay the teacher's salary provided the lot and schoolhouse were conveyed to the County Board of Commissioners. ~~sum of~~ ^{sum of}

On April 14, 1874, Gary Green, James Ricks, and Carlton Mason conveyed the house and lot to the County commissioners for the sum of \$ 5.00 to be used exclusively for the education of the colored youth of the neighborhood. Decendents and neighbors were educated at O O Colored school described in 1892 as being 22x 28 wooden structure insural 602 300. w



Local Talent
Family Fun
Local History

**TOO PRECIOUS TO LOSE
PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE**

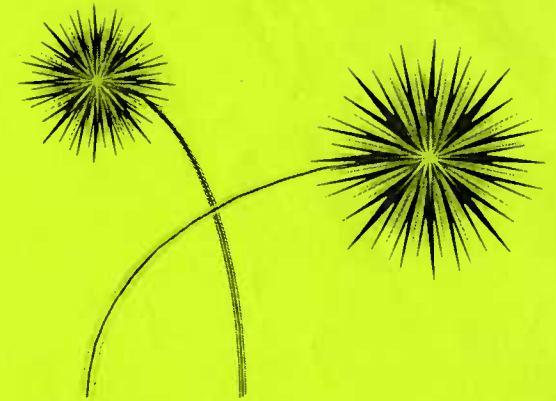
ANNUAL JUNE FESTIVAL

Saturday
June 10, 2000
11:00AM to 3:00PM

Sponsored by:

**The Pleasant View Historical Association
11810 Darnestown Road
Quince Orchard, Maryland**

**Speaker: Charles A. Moose, Ph.D.
Chief, Montgomery County
Department of Police
Music: Fairhaven Gospel Choir**



Crafters
Bake Tables
Business Exhibits
Great Food



Quince Orchard Colored School

In the 9th election district, Gary Green, a black property owner in Quince Orchard appeared before Montgomery County Board of Commissioners to request funds for an existing black school in Quince Orchard. It was 1872 and for the first time the Maryland General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 for the education of blacks. At the March meeting the Board agreed to pay the teacher's salary as requested by trustees, provided the school lot and house were conveyed to the Commissioners. On April 14, 1874, Gary Green, James Ricks and Carlton Mason sold house and lot for \$5.00 to be used "exclusively for the education of colored youth of the neighborhood."

The white school at Quince Orchard and the Quince Orchard Colored School existed across from each other on either side of Darnestown Road. A new building, 22 feet x 28 feet, was constructed for black children in 1892 near Quince Orchard Post Office. The school house was insured for \$300.00. It was destroyed by fire in 1901. In July 1902, the Commissioners decided to build a new white school and give the old white school to the blacks. The white school had remained across from Pleasant View Church. The land the white school was on was sold to F. H. Tschiffley in 1901 and the building moved across the Darnestown Road to the Pleasant View property where it remained until it closed. An addition was approved for Quince Orchard Colored School in 1941.

The school board adopted a plan to consolidate all blacks into a few modern building^s in 1948. With the establishment of the first consolidated school for blacks, it left only Quince Orchard Colored School open, of all the original schools established in Gaithersburg for blacks. In June, 1951, Quince Orchard Colored School officially closed its doors and was consolidated into Rock Terrace Elementary in Rockville.

Submitted by : Vernon S. Green

t:

buildings

S/

History

(Continued from page R-3)
have an old gas pump on display that was used at Snyder's."

The dusty old store was jam-packed, not only with household goods, gas, kerosene and food, but it served as the community's post office as well. In the 1960s, Snyder's store was robbed, and Snyder later died of injuries suffered in the course of the robbery.

The hub of the community is no longer found at the church and school site. The school closed when desegregation was started in the public schools. The old school building is still there, but it is now used as a community center.

The Pleasant View Methodist Church is still controlled by families of the original worshippers,

but they lease the church to another denomination now. In 1968, funds at Pleasant View were low and church membership had dropped, and there weren't enough members to adequately function as a congregation.

Two nearby white churches were in the same predicament: McDonald's Chapel, located on the northeast corner of Rte. 28 and Quince Orchard Road, and Hunting Hill Church, located at the junction of Rte. 28 and Key West Ave.

The three tiny churches agreed to join forces and create the integrated Fairhaven United Methodist Church. They built a new building a short distance to the north on Darnestown Road. Plans are to keep Pleasant View church as a historic site. Behind the church is the community cemetery.

Every year, the black community in Quince Orchard holds its annual Mayfest at the Pleasant View Historical Site, and it serves as a homecoming for community members, both past and present. This year's celebration will be held on May 22.

Plans are underway to honor the five living teachers that taught at the Quince Orchard Colored School: Nina Clarke, Rosalie Campbell, Lorene Levett, Julia Johnson and Grace Billingsley. A historical display about the Quince Orchard/Darnestown area will be on exhibit at the Mayfest. Lots of food, Bumper the Clown, "Visions" art, and an African clothes booth will add to the festivities.

Special thanks to Judy Christensen and the Gaithersburg Heritage Alliance for their help on Gaithersburg

QUINCE ORCHARD COLORED

March 17, 1874

- Salary of teacher will be paid if lot is conveyed to this Board.

April 14, 1874

- In Liber E. B. P. 18 folio 428 for \$5 from Gary Green et al one acre on south side of road from Rockville, adjoining Aquila Fisher, "Exclusively for the education of colored youth of the neighborhood".

January 24, 1890

- (Sentinel) The colored school house at Quince Orchard escaped being burned down on Friday night last week. The roof took fire from a defective flue, but the fire was extinguished before much damage was done.

September 1, 1892

- Insured for \$300, new, 22'x28' in size, near Quince Orchard P. O.

February 22, 1901

- (Sentinel) The colored public school at Quince Orchard, this county, was last week destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of several hundred dollars. The fire is believed to have been the work of the party or parties who have recently made several attempts at incendiarism in the Quince Orchard neighborhood. The County School Commissioners have decided to offer a reward of \$150 for the apprehension of the guilty persons.

March 26, 1901

- Insurance policy notation: "Burnt and Paid for".

June 11, 1901

- New house to be built for \$600.

November 7, 1901

- Insured for \$315, 22'x30' in size, one flue, one-third mile southeast of Quince Orchard P. O.

August 12, 1902

- White school turned over to colored.

December 8, 1905

- Insured for \$315.

December 26, 1917

- Insured for \$640.

June 11, 1935

- Delegation requested new building.

December 9, 1941

- Contract \$3,776 to F. H. Karn and Son.

January 8, 1952

- Notified parties interested in using the school that this building is not available for recreation purposes as it is now required for furniture storage.

April 8, 1952

- Question of legal ownership of this lot referred to Charles Prettyman, Attorney, for an opinion.

April 16, 1952

- Executed quit-claim deed to Board of Trustees of the Pleasant View Methodist Church, as in line with the attorney's opinion.

Monday / Tuesday
13, 14
Aug.

3, 5, 10, 21, 36, 38,
56, 58, 65, 70, 128

Although the structure was not built until 1888, services were established in the community prior to that time. As customary in the developing black communities ~~which~~ following the civil war the congregation worships in schools until they could afford to construct a church. During the same year this three acre site was purchased.

GARY GREEN, A FRIEND OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

The children of Gary and Matilda Mason Green were born several years before, during and following the Civil War. Family tradition holds that Union soldiers camped nearby and that the local women and children were cautioned to be wary of the foraging men in blue. Additionally, Maryland as a border state and officially a Union State nonetheless had strong Confederate sympathies and was next door to the Confederate state of Virginia. And, until slavery was officially abolished in the nation, there was always the threat that a free black could be kidnapped and 'sold South' into slavery. At best, it was an uncertain and desperate time and especially, a young colored family with infant and small children on the very edge of the Confederacy.

Public education for blacks in Montgomery County did not begin until 1872. However, prior to that time, Gary Green, James Ricks and Carlton Moss had formed an association to provide a school for black children of the Quince Orchard/Darnestown area.

Montgomery County Land Records reveal that Gary Green et al on September 18, 1868, acquired a one acre lot in trust for the purpose of "erecting or allowing to be erected thereon a schoolhouse for the use, benefit and education of the colored people of Montgomery County forever."

Gary Green and his neighbors apparently constructed a schoolhouse, a custom of the day, and hired a teacher on their own. For indeed, we find that during March 1874, Gary Green appeared before the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners to request funds for the payment of the teacher at the Quince Orchard Colored School. The Board agreed to pay the teacher's salary provided the lot and schoolhouse were conveyed to the County Board of Commissioners.

The record reveals further that on April 14, 1874, Gary Green, James Ricks and Carlton Mason conveyed the house and lot to the County commissioners for the sum of \$5.00 to be used "exclusively for the education of the colored youth of the neighborhood."

14/4
15/4
16/4

and Ara J. Ricks, his wife, of Montgomery County in the State of Maryland, witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of Sixty dollars, and the said James W. Ricks and Ara J. Ricks, his wife, grant unto John P. Ricks of the County and State aforesaid all that piece or parcel of land being a part of a tract or parcels of land called "Mount Pleasant" lying and being in the County of Montgomery and State of Maryland near the Village of Darnestown and adjoining the lands of the heirs of the late Mr. Fisher and George Rice and Mariah R. Brass included in the following metes and bounds, courses and distances, beginning for the same at a stone planted on the side of the road leading from Darnestown to Rockville and running thence South forty six degrees West, six and three tenths perches to a stone North forty three and one fourth West, twenty five and a half perches to a stone North forty six degrees East, six and a half perches to a stone South forty two and a half degrees East, twenty five and one fifth perches to the place of beginning, containing one acre of land, more or less, in fee simple.

Witness our hands and seals,

Test:

Samuel Higgins,

J. W. Ricks, *Esq.*
Ara J. Ricks, *Esq.*

State of Maryland, Montgomery County, To wit:

I hereby certify, that on the fifth day of October, eighteen hundred and eighty three, before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State and County aforesaid personally appeared James W. Ricks and Ara J. Ricks, his wife, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act,

Samuel Higgins, J.P.

At the request of Josephine Blair, the following deed was recorded the 9th day of October A. D. 1883. To wit:

This deed, made the 28th day of September, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty three, by Rachel Hopkins of Montgomery County and State of Maryland, witnesseth, that in consideration of Twenty five dollars, the said Rachel Hopkins does grant unto Josephine Blair of the said County and State, all that lot of land lying in Montgomery County aforesaid, being a tract bought by said Rachel Hopkins of Cyrus Bowen, and by said Cyrus Bowen conveyed to said Rachel Hopkins by deed bearing date the 1st day of August, 1883, containing one acre and se-

said William Huddleson by William O. Chapped, the Diff. by deed, dated the nineteenth day of March, in the year eighteen hundred and forty eight, and recorded among the Land Records of said Montgomery County, in Liber S. P. S. No. 3 folios 389 &c, also all that part of a tract of land called "Contention" or by whatever name or names the same may be known or called, containing four and three eighths acres of land, more or less, being the same land which was conveyed to the said William Huddleson by Thomas S. Spates & wife, by deed dated the twenty second day of December, in the year eighteen hundred and forty nine, and recorded in Liber S. P. S. No. 4, folios 508 &c, another of the Land Records of said Montgomery County, also all that part of a tract of land called "Forest" or by whatever name or names the same may be known or called, containing one hundred and two and seven eighths acres of land, more or less, being the same lands which were conveyed to the said William Huddleson by a certain Theodore Boucher & wife, by deed dated the twenty third day of May in the year eighteen hundred and fifty and recorded in Liber S. P. S. No. 4 folios 505 &c, another of the Land Records of said Montgomery County, to all of which said deeds reference is hereby made as part of this deed. The land hereby conveyed being the home farm of the said William Huddleson, on which he now resides,

Witness our hands and souls,

Test:

Morton L. Venable,

William Huddleson, *Wm*

Martha M. Huddleson, *Martha*

State of Maryland, Montgomery County, to wit:

I hereby certify, that on this ninth day of October, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty three before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the said State in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared William Huddleson and Martha M. Huddleson, his wife, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act and deed.

Morton L. Venable, J. P.

EBP-29-350

Examined & mailed
for file filed
10th Oct. 1884

At the request of John S. Ricks, the following deed was recorded the 9th day of October A. D. 1883. To wit:

This deed, made this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighty three, by us, James W. Ricks

.the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Maria G. Warfield and Israel G. Warfield her husband and did acknowledge the foregoing Deed to be their respective acts.

Edwd. O. Brown J.P.

TD 14-224

Ex. Ed Mld. to
has. W. Johnson,
Scheck, Md.
in order on deed
Aug. 16-1900.

At the request of Martin Ricks the following deed was recorded June 4th 1900
to wit:

THIS DEED made this 24th day of April in the year of Our Lord nineteen hundred by us Mary R. Easton and George Easton, her husband, of Montgomery County in the State of Maryland, Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred and fifty dollars the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, we the said Mary R. Easton and George Easton, her husband, do grant unto Martin Ricks of the City of Washington District of Columbia all that piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in said Montgomery County in the State of Maryland, being part of Lot 18 in the original division of "Bradford's Rest" and contained in the following metes and bounds, courses and distances, viz: Beginning at a stone planted on the north side of the Baltimore Road at the end of one hundred and ten and a quarter perches on the first line of said Lot No. 18 as conveyed by Thomas McCormick and Letitia M McCormick, his wife, for one hundred and fifty-five acres of land, by deed dated August 26th 1858 and running thence with said line N. 29° 50' W 577.5 ft.; then leaving said line, S 9° E, 442.2 ft. to the said Baltimore Road; thence with and along said Road, S 75° 30' E, 222.75 ft. to the beginning Containing one acre of land more or less. Being the same land which was conveyed to the said Mary R. Easton by deed from Julia Hewett and Richard H. Hewett, her husband bearing date the 13th day of December, 1892 and of record among the Land Records of said Montgomery County in Liber J. A. No 36 folios 172 &c.

Together with all improvements, rights, ways, and appurtenances.

Witness our hands and seals

Test: Mary R. Easton (seal)
Alex. C. Scheirer (Int. Rev. 50 ¢) George Easton (seal)

State of Maryland Montgomery County to wit:

I hereby certify that on this 24th day of April in the year of our Lord Nineteen hundred, before me, the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Montgomery County, personally appeared Mary R. Easton and George Easton, her husband, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act,

Alexander C. Scheirer J.P.

Ex. Ed Mld. to
Shanta
per line filed
July 23-1900.

At the request of James B. Austin the following deed was recorded June 4th 1900
to wit:
THIS DEED, Made this 17th day of May in the year Nineteen hundred, by the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company of Montgomery County, Maryland, a