

Adam's Garden Shipley Family Graveyard Restoration Project



Adam's Garden Shipley Family Graveyard, Before and After Restoration



Adam's Garden Shipley Family Graveyard Plaque Rededication

Janine Wilson, August 28, 2021

"The past is never dead. It's not even past." – William Faulkner

I first learned about the existence of the Shipley ADAM'S GARDEN homestead here in Eldersburg after I retired in 2017 and became interested in genealogy. I joined The Shipleys of Maryland in 2018. I was surprised to learn that in 1840, my great-grandfather Samuel John Adam Shipley was born near Woodbine, less than 10 miles from where I now live in Eldersburg. His parents were distant cousins, Samuel B. Shipley and Leah Shipley. Leah's father, John Wesley Shipley, is buried at Ebenezer United Methodist church on Woodbine Rd. Leah and Samuel Shipley moved to Indiana when their son was only a few months old. My grandmother, named Leah Shipley after her grandmother, was born in Indiana in 1893; and married Roy Perry, in 1913 in Vermont, where my father, Richard Samuel Perry, was born in 1920. They moved to Florida and later to Maryland, where I was born. It is totally by chance that I ended up living here so near to land patented by a Shipley. That story was told in an article published in The Shipleys of Maryland newsletter of May 2019.

I bought the 2002 edition of *The Shipleys of Maryland*, and was excited to see that there was a plaque marking a Shipley family graveyard at the Shipley family homestead called ADAM'S GARDEN, right here in Eldersburg. The land, which was located north of the Springfield State Hospital grounds, had been sold to the State of Maryland in 1920. My husband and I tried to find the plaque, but it wasn't easy. We searched around the edge of the property, and finally found the base of the plaque, almost invisible behind bushes and trees, the chain link fence around it twisted by trees. And the plaque was missing. We found the foundation of the farmhouse, in a group of trees out in the middle of the fields.

It was disheartening to find the site in such a state, so I contacted the Shipleys of Maryland. Although the organization doesn't have funds to pay for projects like that, they were helpful in connecting me to resources both inside and outside the organization. Ann Horvath and the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites were very helpful. They cleared the thick brush for free. Once they had done all that work, I felt obligated to finish the job. Ann and her late husband George were present at the dedication of the original plaque in 1984. George Horvath made maps of many of the land tracts patented in Carroll County, which are available in the library of the Historical Society of Carroll County in Westminster. Greg Shipley connected me with Kate Gossard, who manages the land for the state, and who gave us permission to access the land and clean up the family cemetery site. Jeff and Sarah Parsons, who live on the property north of the plaque, were very accommodating, and they take care of mowing the grass around the plaque site. They are very happy with the improved view. Eric Shipley, former president of the Shipleys of Maryland, had the replacement plaque made and installed, which was paid for by funds raised by The Shipleys of Maryland. Matt Shipley helped with the editing of the article describing the project for the newsletter.

Wolff Tree and Landscape removed trees, planted grass around the fence, and added the stones inside the fence. Frederick Fence installed the new fence. All this wasn't cheap, and I was daunted by the cost, but my husband Mark offered to kick in half. So thanks to everyone that made this project possible!

Genealogy research has been a rewarding, enriching hobby for me, deepening my understanding of the complex history of my family, my community and my country. I

learned about the patenting of land. I had not known that all Maryland properties can be traced back to a land patent. The early settlers in Maryland were granted land by Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert and his heirs. Some of these grants were to encourage settlers to come to the colony that had been granted to him by King Charles. The colonists had to find land not previously patented, survey it and have it recorded, after which quit-rent had to be paid twice yearly at St. Mary's City. Images of the original patents can be accessed online.

Some of what we learn when researching our ancestry may be surprising, different from the family history that was passed down to us.

I learned about Y-DNA and how it can be used to trace a family line by comparing it to the Y-DNA of other males from the same line who know their lineage. Because of an article by Matt Shipley in the Shipley newsletter, I asked my brother to do Y-DNA testing to learn about my paternal Perry line, and through that, discovered that I am not a descendant of the English Perry family of Oliver Hazard Perry, as I had been told; I am a descendant of the French Paré family!

Y-DNA has also been helpful in researching my Shipley ancestry, since one of my two Shipley lines, the line of Samuel Shipley .YA, is a "broken line", meaning the line back to Adam Shipley is not documented. I found a Shipley cousin who is descended from the same broken line, and he did Y-DNA testing. Male Shipley descendants may be able to determine from which son of Adam (Richard, Robert, or Peter) they are descended, although more participants in the Y-DNA project who can document their lines would improve the chances of being able to trace a particular line of descent. Mutations can occur when the Y-DNA is passed from father to son, and only the descendants of that son are likely to have that mutation. Because my cousin from the same line has a mutation that apparently occurred in Richard's line, I am fairly certain that Samuel Shipley .YA is a descendant of Adam's son Richard; possibly from the line of Richard's son, Samuel. The Shipley Y-DNA project at familytreedna.com especially needs more participants who are documented descendants of Adam's son Peter, since we only have one. For my own line, I am hoping more descendants of Samuel Shipley (son of Adam's son Richard) will participate, since I think that Samuel Shipley .YA, is likely from this line. So far, the Y-DNA project only has one documented descendant of Richard's son Samuel.

Dorothy Shipley Granger, who was born in 1899 at ADAM'S GARDEN, wrote a lovely family history at the time of the dedication of the original plaque, which is available at the website of The Shipleys of Maryland. The words on the plaque are based on her family history. But research shows that some of that information may not be correct.

As we know, the immigrant Adam Shipley was born in Kirkby-Fleetham, Yorkshire, in 1648, only a few miles from Kiplin Hall, the residence of Lord Baltimore. Adam was orphaned at the age of 12, and arrived in Maryland near what is now Annapolis in 1668 at the age of 20, an indentured servant who had to work seven years to repay the cost of his passage. He married Lois, and acquired 100 acres of land called HOWARD AND PORTER'S RANGE. Some believe that his wife Lois was a Howard. Others believe that Lois was more likely the daughter of Peter Porter, naming her youngest son after him.

In 1687, Adam patented 500 acres called ADAM THE FIRST in what is now Howard County. His oldest son, Richard, was born about 1677. Richard inherited ADAM THE FIRST from his father, and divided it among his siblings, keeping 300 acres for himself. Richard's oldest son

was also named Adam. This is the Adam who patented the 1212 acre tract called ADAM'S GARDEN in 1754. I am not a direct descendant of Adam Shipley of Richard. One of my Shipley ancestors, Samuel Shipley .YA, may have been from the line of Adam's brother Samuel. I am also a descendant of Adam's cousin, also named Adam Shipley, who was the son of the first Adam's son Peter. My ancestor Adam, along with his brother Absolom, patented land called EVERETT'S PROGRESS, which adjoined ADAM'S GARDEN to the west. Adam of Richard sold 397 ½ acres of ADAM'S GARDEN to John Elder, for whom Eldersburg is named; and he sold several other parcels to his daughters and their husbands, keeping about 460 acres.

Adam of Richard was likely born on the land of ADAM THE FIRST, and that was where he was living when he wrote his will in 1767. He died in 1778. Adam left the land where he then lived (ADDITION TO ADAM THE FIRST) to his son John; and he left all of his part of ADAM'S GARDEN to his grandson Robert. Robert's father, also named Adam, had died young. This land was to be rented out until Robert turned 21, in 1784. Seven years of the rent was to go to his granddaughter Ruth, Robert's sister; and the rent for any remaining years was to pay for the education of Ruth and Robert. It seems unlikely that Adam and his wife Ruth, are buried here at ADAM'S GARDEN, since he never lived here. There is a Shipley family graveyard on the land of ADAM THE FIRST which is badly overgrown and needs a lot of work. Eric Shipley is working on that project. Perhaps Adam and his wife are buried there, or somewhere else on the land of ADAM THE FIRST, which is located on Rt. 108, south of Ellicott City. At least part of ADAM THE FIRST remained in Shipley hands until 1874. That land was bought by James Curtis, and the Curtis-Shipley Farmhouse there is listed in the Maryland Historical Trust. Most of the land has since been sold, and is now part of the Shipley's Grant development.

Adam's wife was named Ruth, as it says on the plaque; but there is evidence that indicates that her last name was Whips, not Tevis. The will of Margaret Thurston Whips refers to her son-in-law Adam Shipley. Adam also administered the will of John Whips, Margaret's husband. Adam's son Adam, father of Robert who inherited Adam's Garden, married Hammutal Tevis; so it appears that the names of the wives of the two Adam Shipleys, father and son, were conflated over the years. Adam's son John, who inherited Adam's share of ADAM THE FIRST, was probably named after his grandfather, John Whips. My ancestor, Adam Shipley of Peter, who patented EVERETT'S PROGRESS, was married to Rachel Whips, the niece of Ruth Whips. Absolom, brother of my ancestor Adam, married "Usley" (a version of Ursula), who I believe was the sister of Rachel Whips. The Whips family patented large tracts of land in the Eldersburg and Sykesville area, including tracts that are contiguous with ADAM'S GARDEN and EVERETT'S PROGRESS.

Robert Shipley, grandson of Adam Shipley, was born 1763 or 1764; his other grandfather, Robert Tevis, was appointed his guardian. A 1785 deposition by Robert Shipley gives his age as 21, and he refers to his Grandfather Robert Tevis. Robert was probably the first Shipley to live at ADAM'S GARDEN, sometime after he turned 21. He is not shown on the 1790 census as living there; but he is shown in the 1798 tax assessment as having 312 acres of Adam's Garden. He married Providence Elder in 1789. Robert died in 1831, and left ADAM'S GARDEN to his sons Cornelius and Robert Tevis Shipley, who divided the land between them. The Shipley Family graveyard is at the northern edge of Robert Tevis Shipley's part of ADAM'S GARDEN. The land that includes the houses on Tydings Road and Jay Road, to the south of Macbeth Road, are on the land that belonged to Cornelius Shipley

and his children. His sons are shown still living there in the 1877 map of Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson.

Dorothy Shipley Granger was the granddaughter of Robert Tevis Shipley, daughter of his son Samuel David Shipley. In her pamphlet, she mentioned that ADAM'S GARDEN was used as a meeting place for the Methodists, beginning in 1803, before Wesley Methodist Episcopal Chapel was built in 1822. That stone chapel still stands on Liberty Road, west of Johnsville Road, and is listed in the Maryland Historical Trust. Robert's son Lewis, was one of the first trustees of that church. That congregation split in two over slavery; slave owners were prohibited from entering Wesley Chapel. That is why a second Methodist church, then called Freedom Methodist Episcopal Church, was constructed in 1869 on the south side of Liberty Road. The two congregations finally merged in 1943, as Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church.

Some of what we learn about our ancestors may be disturbing; but we can't hope to understand the past, or the present, if we ignore parts of it.

Adam Shipley of Richard owned several slaves. In 1751, there was a report in the Maryland Gazette that Adam Shipley's three slaves, Cuffee, Rachel and Sue, had run away from his Elk Ridge plantation. Adam's grandson Robert Shipley, who inherited ADAM'S GARDEN, owned 10 or more slaves from at least 1810 through 1830, documented by census records. When he died in 1832, he bequeathed them to his wife and children, to be freed after specified numbers of years of service. Robert's son, Robert Tevis Shipley, continued to own slaves until at least 1840. There were over 1,000 enslaved people in the recently formed Carroll County in that year; and over 90,000 in the state of Maryland. George Patterson, son of William Patterson who patented the SPRINGFIELD estate adjoining ADAM'S GARDEN to the south, owned 48 slaves in 1840.

Sometimes evidence about our ancestral lines is scant, so the best we can do is make an educated guess. We will probably never know, for example, whether Lois, the first Adam's wife, was a Porter or a Howard, though it can be interesting to look at all the evidence and argue one side or the other. I think it is important to remain open to changing our thinking if new evidence is uncovered, and to share the resources we find. It's a huge advantage to have an organization like The Shipleys of Maryland to help us to connect to share our knowledge and our research, so we can preserve our history as accurately as possible. I would not have known about the existence of a Shipley family graveyard at ADAM'S GARDEN if I had not seen the picture of the original plaque in *The Shipleys of Maryland* book; and I would not have been inspired to take on the project of the cleanup of the site without the support and connections facilitated by The Shipleys of Maryland.

In order to share my research and my sources, I created documents that are stored at cpuworks.com/ancestry/. I included maps and links that others might find useful in their research. See the table of contents there. Here are a few of them:

"Adams Garden Wives": *The confusion of names of Ruth Whips and Hammatal Tevis.*

"Shipley Broken Lines Theories": *Some Shipley broken lines, and the use of Y-DNA.*

"Shipley Y-DNA testing status 06-28-20": *Details about the Shipley Y-DNA project.*

"Samuel Shipley.YA": *Samuel Shipley.YA (1789-1865), who married Frances Condon.*

"My Ancestry The Shipley Family Update": *My Shipley line, back to Adam.*

"The Shipley Family in Eldersburg History": *The role of Shipleys in local history.*

"Peter Shipley Research": *More about Peter Shipley (1687-1736), married Abigail _____.*

