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## **Adam's Garden: Shipley Family Graveyard Project and My Family's Shipley Connection**

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This document was used as the basis of an article in the Spring 2019 newsletter of The Shipleys of Maryland. Matt Shipley edited it and added an introduction. This document was written in 2019, and updated in 2022.

(Note: This article uses the Henry System used in **The Shipleys of Maryland** books. Adam Shipley is the starting person, so he is Adam (.1). Adam's first child would be .11, his second child .12, etc. A digit is added for each generation.)

My Henry number is .141161343, so I am a descendant of Adam Shipley's fourth son, Peter. But I am also a descendant of Samuel Shipley .YA, a Shipley broken line (a Shipley whose line back to Adam has not been documented). The grandparents of my grandmother, Leah May Shipley, were distant Shipley cousins.

I recently took on a project to clean up a Shipley Family Graveyard at the Shipley Family Homestead at ADAM'S GARDEN in Eldersburg. Here's the story of how I was inspired to do that.

I became involved in the Shipleys of Maryland organization in early 2018. Since then, I have learned that my great-great-great grandfather, John Wesley Shipley (.1411) was born in 1766 at EVERETT'S PROGRESS, less than two miles from where I live! Five generations of my Shipley ancestors lived in what is now Carroll County. Then my Shipley ancestors moved from Carroll County to Indiana in 1840, taking with them their infant son, my great-grandfather, Samuel John Adam Shipley.

169 years and 3 generations later, totally by chance, I ended up living less than two miles from where my Shipley ancestors lived!

I live on land bordered by Slacks Road, about a block away from land that was patented in 1754 as Adam's Garden by Adam Shipley (.111). That Adam was a cousin of my direct ancestor, also named Adam Shipley (.141). My ancestor Adam, and his brother Absolom, patented land called EVERETT'S PROGRESS in 1764, which was on the western border of ADAM'S GARDEN, straddling what is now Rt. 32 and extending west of Freedom Avenue.

All deeds in Maryland can be traced back to a patent, which was when the land was surveyed and named, and rights to that land were granted by the Calvert family or, after the Revolution, by the State of Maryland. That was something I didn't know until I began researching my genealogy.

My ancestor Adam's son, John Wesley Shipley (.1411), and his wife Sarah Kendall Shipley, are buried about eight miles away in Winfield, at Ebenezer United

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Methodist Church. In 1838, John Wesley's daughter Leah Shipley (.14116) married Samuel B. Shipley (.YA1). This Henry number, beginning with a letter, indicates we are unable to document his line back to Adam (.1). The various "broken lines" are shown at the end of the Shipley of Maryland books, with the earliest known person in that line being given a unique, two-letter identifier. In 1840, Leah and Samuel had a son, my great-grandfather, Samuel John Adam Shipley (.141161), in what had recently become Carroll County, and his parents Leah and Samuel B. Shipley moved with their infant son to Indiana that year, along with other relatives, including Leah's brother Nelson. Nelson married Samuel B.'s sister, also named Leah (how confusing!). A biography of Nelson Shipley that was published in an Indiana newspaper says that he moved to Indiana because of an opportunity to work for his uncle, who had previously moved to Indiana, as a blacksmith.

My grandmother Leah May Shipley (.1411613) was born in 1893 in Indiana, and moved to Vermont in 1913, where she married my grandfather, Roy Perry. They moved to Florida in the 1920's, and then to Maryland around 1930. I grew up in Baltimore County, and moved to Westminster after attending what was then Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College); and my two sons were born there. I moved to Eldersburg in 2009 when I married Mark, and ended up living next to land where my ancestors had lived over 250 years ago.

My paternal grandmother, Leah Shipley Perry, was a member of the Shipleys of Maryland, and had a copy of the 1968 edition of the Shipleys of Maryland books. I knew very little about the Shipleys, and didn't pursue any research of my ancestry until 2018, when I got a DNA test through Ancestry.com and started researching my family tree. I found the Shipleys of Maryland website, which had a lot of interesting information about the history of the Shipleys. I ordered a set of the 2002 edition of *The Shipleys of Maryland*, and became a lifetime member.

In the Shipley books, on page 13, I was very excited to see the picture of a memorial plaque that had been installed by the Shipleys of Maryland in 1984, at the site of the Shipley Family Graveyard at ADAM'S GARDEN. ADAM'S GARDEN had remained in the Shipley family until it was sold to the State of Maryland in 1920. There is an entrance to the property on Slacks Road, where there is a dirt lane that leads to the ruins of a barn. The house was on a ridge behind the barn, and the old stone foundation is still visible there.

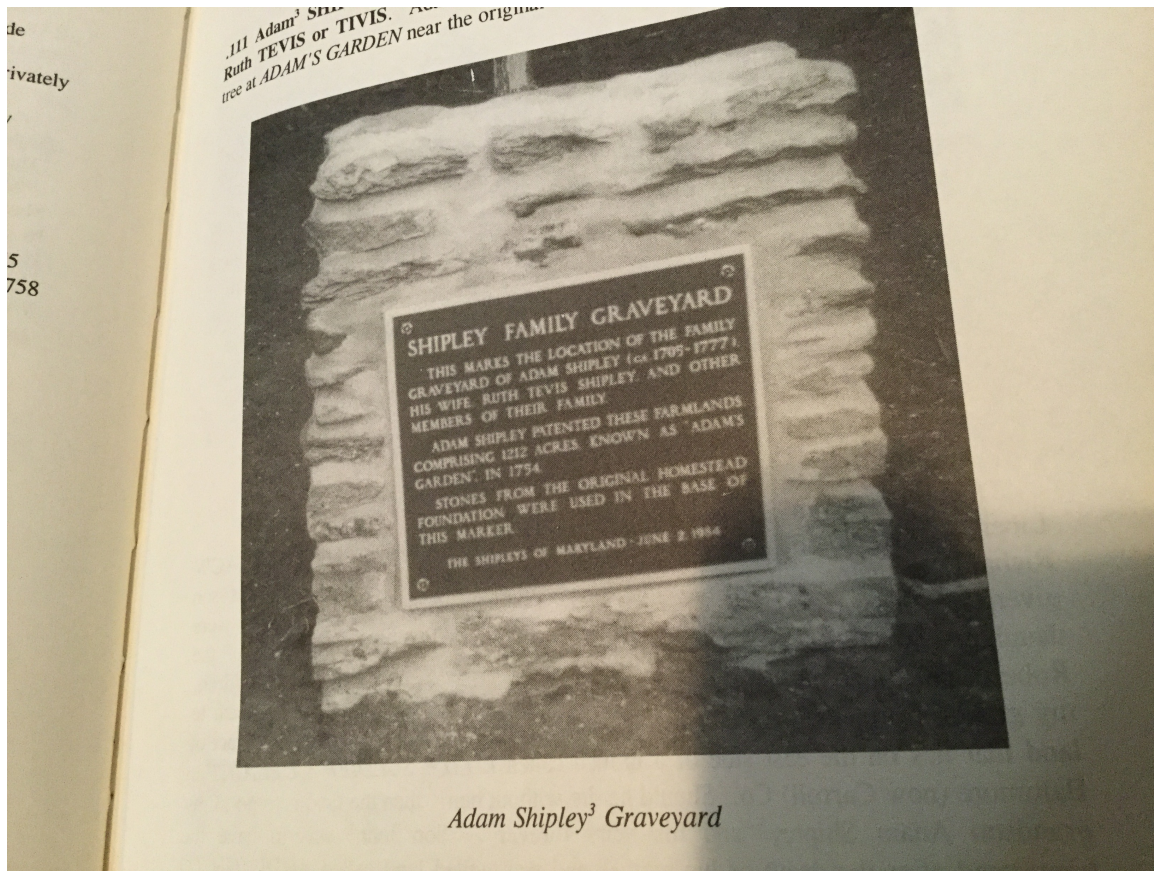
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The plaque says that Adam Shipley and his wife Ruth Tevis are buried at ADAM'S GARDEN. According to a letter written by Dorothy Shipley Granger, who was born at ADAM'S GARDEN in 1899, Cornelius Shipley (.111316) and his wife are also buried there; and Dr. Henry Clay Shipley (.1113163), who died in 1915. In the ADAM'S GARDEN pamphlet written at the time of the dedication of the plaque, Dorothy also said several English servants were believed to be buried there, in addition to cousins and nephews. *[NOTE: after further research, I now believe Adam Shipley .111 and his wife are not buried here; and that the name of Adam's wife was Ruth Whipps. For more about this, see my research document called Adams Garden Wives.]*

Dorothy Shipley Granger (.11131844) and her father Samuel D. Shipley both served as presidents of the Shipleys of Maryland.

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The original house had burned down in 1907, but Samuel D. Shipley built a larger, two-story house, on the old foundation. The house was later razed by the state.

The Shipleys of Maryland got permission from the state to install the plaque, which was mounted on a base made of stones from the original foundation. Dorothy put together a history of the Shipleys of Adam's Garden in a pamphlet at the time of the dedication of the plaque. There is a reissued copy of the pamphlet at the website maintained by The Shipleys of Maryland:

<http://www.shipleysofmaryland.org/images/AdamsGarden.pdf>

Ann Horvath, who is an honorary member of the Shipleys of Maryland, and one of the most helpful resources I have been fortunate to have while taking on this project, sent me these pictures taken at the dedication ceremony:

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I was very excited to go find the plaque, since the property is within walking distance of my house. My husband and I searched, but we had a lot of trouble finding it. We finally found it, and I was very distressed to see that the area had been totally overgrown with trees and underbrush, and the plaque itself was

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missing from the base. It was lucky we were looking in March, because in summer, when the brush grows up, the plaque base and the fence around it become almost completely hidden by the greenery.



Sarah Parsons, the owner of the property behind the memorial (6551 Tydings Rd), happened to be outside, and we talked to her. She said that someone from the Shipley organization had found the plaque base a year or two earlier and had talked to her. That turned out to be Greg Shipley, the spokesman for the Maryland State Police. Sarah and her husband Jeff had hoped that the organization planned to clean the area up. So I decided to contact the board and see if there were any plans to pursue that.

The board members were very helpful and supportive, but the Shipley organization does not have the funds that would be needed to take on such a project. I decided to look into whether it would be possible for me to accomplish the cleanup on my own. The board and the Shipley Facebook page were helpful resources in connecting me to people with the necessary expertise and knowledge.

Greg Shipley was a big help in connecting me with Kate Gossard, who manages the property for the state. She had not been aware that there was a family graveyard on

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the property, so I am glad to be able to raise awareness of the historical importance of the ADAM'S GARDEN property. Kate has been very cooperative, allowing access to the contractors hired to remove the trees, replace the fence, and seed the surrounding area.

I can't say enough about how helpful and gracious Jeff and Sarah Parsons have been throughout this project. Not only have they allowed me and other volunteers and contractors to go through their yard, Jeff has offered to keep the grass outside the fenced area mowed. The Parsons also said that members of the Shipleys of Maryland are welcome to go through their yard to visit the memorial; they only ask that we notify them if there will be a large group.

Ann Horvath and the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites have also been hugely helpful. Tina Simmons and Dennis Green came out and spent several days clearing the brush, free of charge.

Ann was present at the dedication of the plaque in 1984. Her late husband George was an honorary member of the Shipleys of Maryland, and Ann was made an honorary member this year. Ann has been a great help, with her extensive knowledge of local history and genealogy, and her many contacts and resources.

Even with all that help, when I realized how much this project would cost, I was a little overwhelmed; but my husband Mark offered to split the cost with me. Without him, this project would probably never have happened.

Ann gave me a copy of a map that her husband George produced, that shows the location of the ADAM'S GARDEN land patent, and also EVERETT'S PROGRESS, which adjoins ADAM'S GARDEN on the west. This was absolutely fascinating to me, because my ancestor, Adam (.141), and his brother Absolom (sons of Peter .14), patented EVERETT'S PROGRESS in 1764. They were cousins of Adam (.111) of Adam's Garden. I'm not sure why, but it is very satisfying to know exactly where they lived!

The map below shows EVERETT'S PROGRESS, which was 588 acres, outlined in red. It's nestled against the west border of ADAM'S GARDEN. ADAM'S GARDEN was originally 1212 acres. The map below shows ADAM'S GARDEN's borders after various sections had been sold. There was a piece of ADAM'S GARDEN to the south of EVERETT'S PROGRESS, on the west side of what is now Rt. 32. I live about one block east of the northern border of ADAM'S GARDEN, which would be about where Macbeth Rd is now. The land where I live was originally part of land patented by John Hammond as JOHN'S CHANCE in 1748. Four hundred acres of the 1212 acres patented as ADAM'S GARDEN in 1754 were originally part of JOHN'S CHANCE.

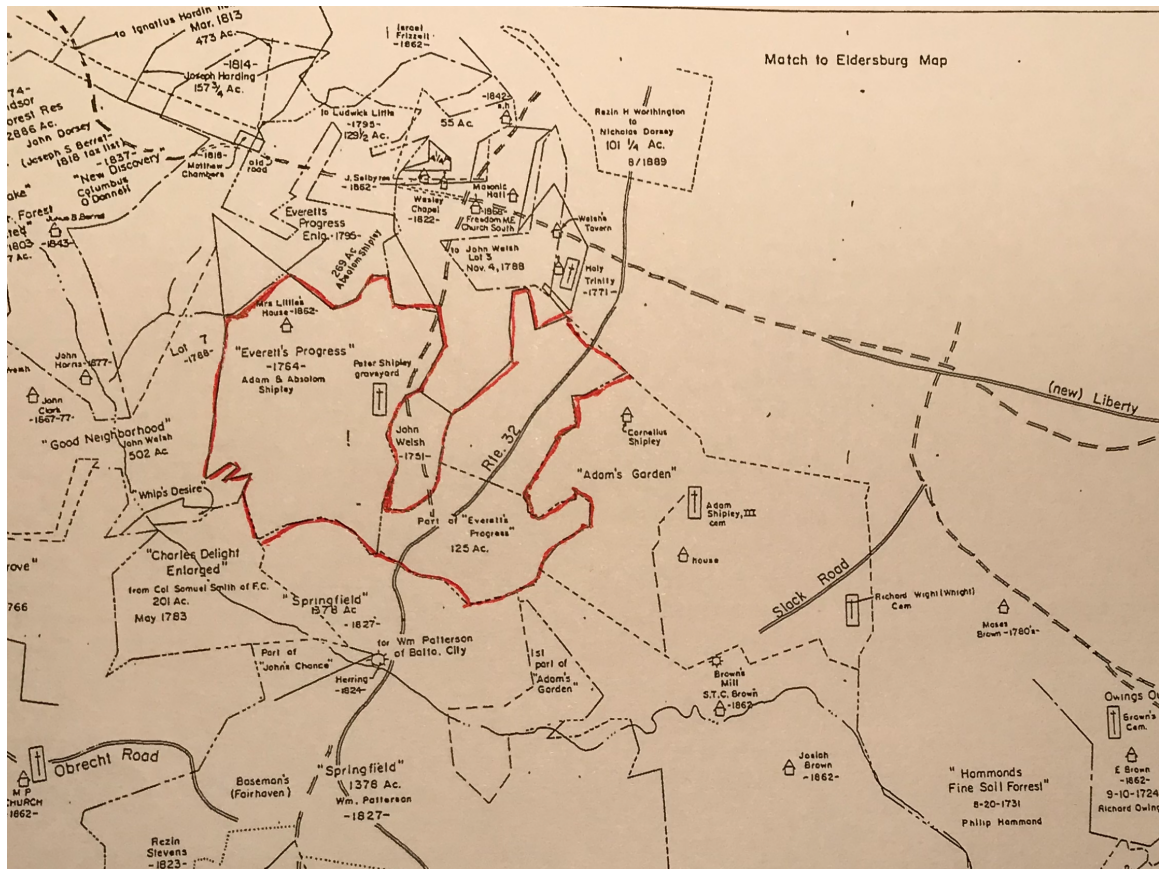
The map shows the Richard Wight Cemetery just within the east border of ADAM'S GARDEN. That land is now part of the Brimfield development. The Brimfield HOA

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website says that Zachariah MacCubbin bought 86.5 acres of ADAM'S GARDEN in 1805.

The map below shows the location of the ADAM'S GARDEN house, and the family cemetery where descendants of Adam Shipley .111 and his wife Ruth are buried is to the north of that, near the northern border of the property.

George Horvath plotted several maps of the early landowners in North Central Maryland. Copies of those maps, including the complete version of the Sykesville Area map from which the segment below was taken, can be found on line at the site of the Carroll County Genealogical Society ([ccgsmd.org](http://ccgsmd.org); click on MAPS from the list on the left).



My husband and I first found the plaque base in March of 2018. Now, in April 2019, the brush has been cleared, the trees removed, the fence replaced and the area inside covered with river stone. The area outside has been seeded.

The board of the Shipleys of Maryland paid for the replacement of the plaque.



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Here is the site as it looks as of April 2019:



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