

Lois Shipley: Daughter of Peter Porter?

Janine Wilson, janinelwilson@yahoo.com

Lois (c. 1655-1725) who married Adam Shipley (1648-1698) is thought by many to be the daughter of Cornelius Howard; but she is not mentioned in his will and the dates don't work well. Cornelius Howard is thought to have been born c. 1643; and his children appear to have been born in the 1670's.

In 1679, Adam Shipley acquired 100 acres of HOWARD & PORTER'S RANGE (patented by Peter Porter and Cornelius Howard in 1666), having arrived as an indentured laborer in Anne Arundel County in 1668 at the age of 20.

An article titled "The Peter Porter Family of Maryland & Virginia" by Eleanor Brundick, in *The Shipleys of Maryland Newsletter*, vol. 36 no 1 (2016), explains that there are mistakes in the accepted sources regarding Porter ancestry, where two generations of men named Peter Porter were combined into one. Peter Porter I arrived in Virginia in 1621 at the age of 17. He is identified in the 1637 Lower Norfolk County court records as a carpenter. Court records of 1647 mention Peter Porter of Elizabeth River who is a blacksmith. This is not the same man, according to Brundick: this is his son, Peter Porter II. It appears that both of these men were among those Dissenters who left Virginia and went to Maryland in 1649/1650.

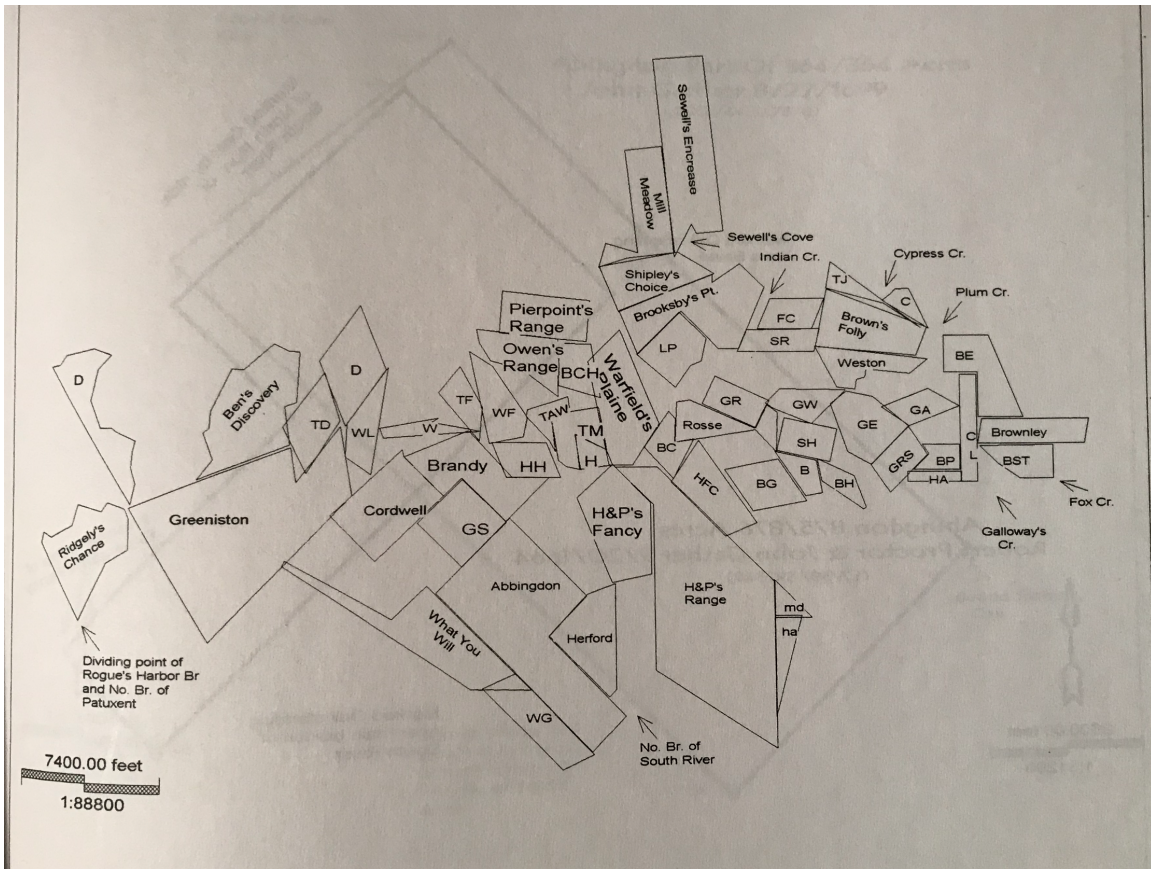
In September of 1659, a patent was issued for PORTER'S HILLS on the south side of the Severn River at Bustion's Cove. This land was due Peter Porter "the elder" (as it says in the land grant) for transporting himself and his wife Frances to Maryland; but the patent was issued in 1659 to Peter Porter "the younger", his son and heir, the elder being deceased. *The Descendants of Peter Porter*, by William Arthur Porter, says that the blacksmith Peter Porter and his wife, were murdered by Indians, mistakenly identifying this as Peter Porter the emigrant.

Peter Porter II was born before 1627. He had at least two children, Peter and Elizabeth. Brundick thinks it is likely that he also had a third child, Lois, although *Descendants of Peter Porter* says that the couple that was murdered by Indians had only one child. Peter Porter III was born c. 1650. The Indian attack must have occurred after 1659, when PORTER'S HILLS was patented by Peter Porter II, "the younger," as it says in the patent. Peter Porter III and his siblings were apparently taken in and raised by Samuel Howard, since Peter III referred to him as his "father" in his will. Samuel Howard had married Catherine Warner, daughter of James Warner, who was a neighbor to the Porters, according to the land patent. Cornelius Howard, with whom Peter Porter patented HOWARD & PORTER'S RANGE, was the brother of Samuel Howard.

Peter III married Sarah Acton in 1673. *The Founders of Anne Arundel County and Howard Counties, Maryland*, by Joshua Warfield, incorrectly identifies Peter's wife as Sarah Howard (p. 70). As Brundick explains, this was likely due to the fact that Peter referred to Samuel Howard as "father" in his will. But on page 132 of the same

book, Peter Porter's wife is identified as Sarah Acton. In 1672, Peter Porter acted as surety for the estate of Richard Acton, Sarah's father; along with Cornelius Howard. Peter III patented HARE HILL in 1673, not far from HOWARD & PORTER'S RANGE in the Middle Neck Hundred of Anne Arundel County. He also acquired land referred to as "the Ridge" at Indian Landing at the head of the Severn. This land was later patented as BROOKSBY'S POINT, in 1681, six years after Peter's death. Peter and Sarah had one child, Peter Porter IV, born in 1675. Peter died before December 12, 1675, when Sarah Porter was appointed executor of his estate (Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court, Liber 7 folio 178). In 1681, Sarah Porter married John Marriott. In *Founders of Anne Arundel County*, the text of a letter by Thomas Francis written in 1681 is given (pg 141), describing an attack by Seneca Indians "at the house of John Marriott at the head of Ann Arundel River [Severn] upon the Ridge formerly Peter Porter's." The complete text of this letter is available at Archives of Maryland Online, Vol 17, pp. 19-20. John Marriott referred to BROOKSBY'S POINT in his will, leaving it to his sons. This tract was next to SHIPLEY'S CHOICE, patented by Adam Shipley in 1681.

The map below showing the location of land patents is from *Land Grants in the Middle Neck Hundred of Anne Arundel County, 1670-1704*, by Robert Hall. It shows BROOKSBY'S POINT next to SHIPLEY'S CHOICE, at the head of the Severn River. HOWARD & PORTER'S RANGE is shown as "H&P's Range". It is located on the South River, bordered on the east by Broad Creek. The southern tip of it is labeled "Porter Point" on Google Maps.



It was common at that time to give children family names. The oldest son of Adam and Lois was named Richard, which was the name of Adam's father. Another son was named Robert, the name of Adam's brother. They named another son Adam. Their youngest son was named Peter. It seems reasonable to think that this child was named after Lois' father, Peter Porter. They had two daughters, both given Biblical names: Keturah, and Lois. Their daughter Lois married Peter Porter IV, who may have been her first cousin.