

## **The Shipley Family in Eldersburg History**

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When talking about Eldersburg and Sykesville history, the names of Elder, Patterson, Dorsey and Warfield are commonly heard. Other names that I was less familiar with, but are well known to those who have studied the history of the area, include John Welsh and Abel Brown.

But the Shipleys were in the Eldersburg area earlier and for a longer period of time than the Pattersons; they married into the Brown family, and through the descendants of that marriage, also married into the Warfield and Patterson families; patented land tracts that were later sold to the Elders, the Browns, and the Pattersons; and were neighbors to all of them. The Shipleys had many children, and much of the land that they patented was sold to their neighbors or divided among their children.

The Shipleys never accumulated as much wealth as those better known families; their lasting legacy is their many descendants, many of whom still live in Carroll County. J. Thomas Scharf, in his book *History of Western Maryland* (published in 1882), after listing the names of the earliest settlers of the Freedom district, wrote "The Shipley family, embracing several branches, was the most numerous, and is to the present day."

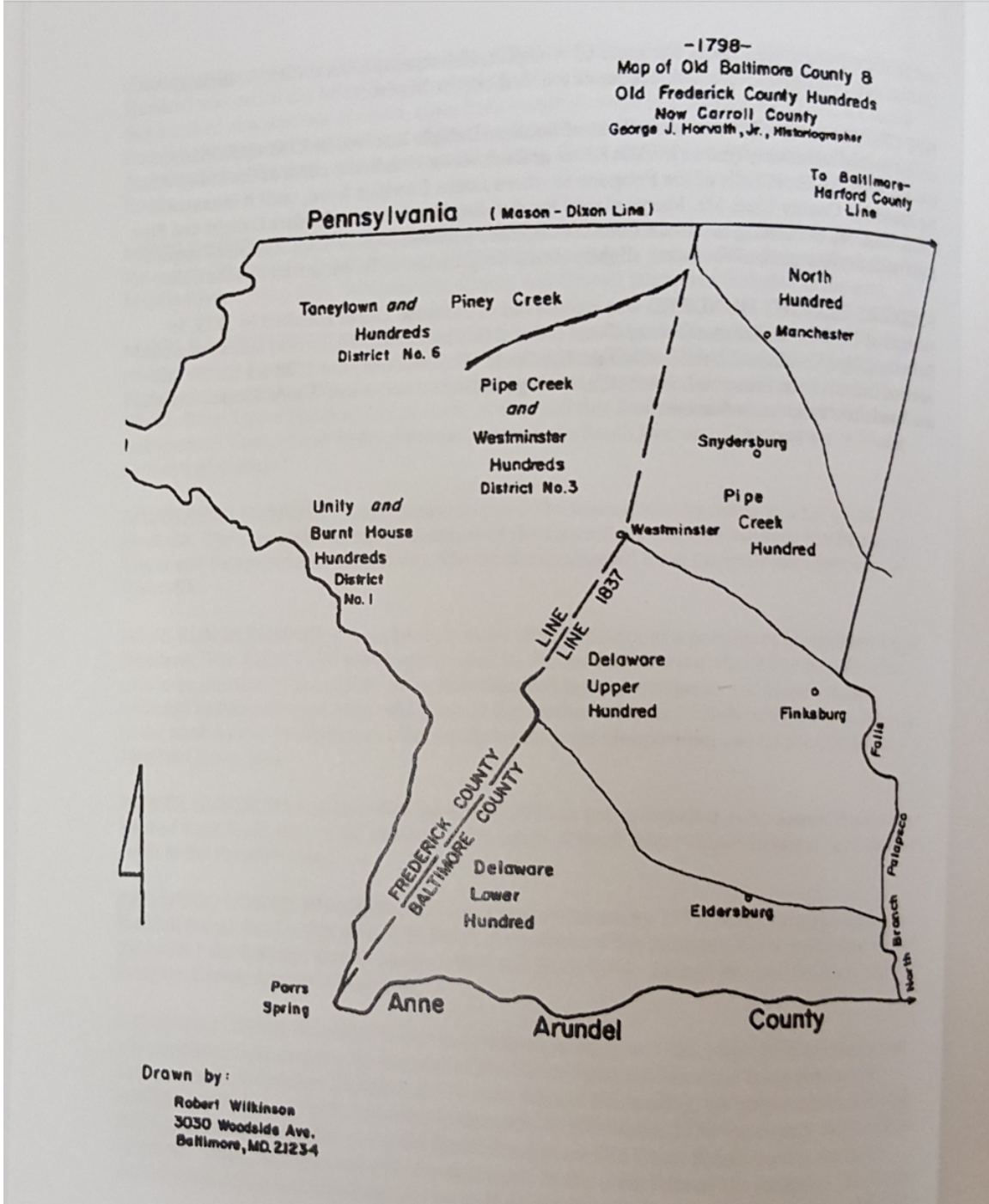
The first of the Maryland Shipleys was Adam Shipley (1648- before 1698) of Yorkshire, England, who arrived in Annapolis in 1668. I am a descendant of Adam Shipley, through his son Peter (1687-1764). I also have another Shipley ancestor whose line has not been proven, Samuel Shipley (1789-1865), but whom I believe is most likely a descendant of Adam's first son, Richard (1677-1725).

Other early settlers in the Eldersburg and Sykesville area were John Whips (1719-1778) and his brother Samuel (1721-1764), who are descendants of John Whips (1631-1716), also of Yorkshire. I am also a descendant of John Whips. John Whips' daughter Rachel married my ancestor Adam Shipley (c. 1738-1818), son of Peter.

The Freedom District of Carroll County was then part of what was called the Delaware Hundred of Baltimore County. Baltimore County was formed in 1659. My ancestors, the Shipleys and the Whips, settled south of what is now Liberty Road, in the Lower Delaware Hundred. The south branch of the Patapsco River was then called Delaware Falls, due to the presence of Delaware or Lenape Indians. Indian paths later became Liberty Road and Ridge Road. The roads now known as Ridge Road and Marriottsville Road No 2 were earlier one road, called the road from Delaware Bottom.

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“Hundred” is a political division used by the English, and the word is thought to have originally been used to mean the area of land needed to raise a hundred men at arms, or perhaps the area of a hundred “hides”, which is the area necessary to support a family. The origin of the word is not certain. When Carroll County was formed in 1837, it took portions from Baltimore and Frederick County. Here is George Horvath’s map, from the website of the Carroll County Genealogical Society ([ccgsmd.org](http://ccgsmd.org)), showing the Frederick County and Baltimore County Hundreds that became Carroll County:



### Yorkshire Origins

Cecil Calvert, the second baron of Baltimore, was the first proprietor of the province of Maryland. The charter was confirmed in 1632. His home was Kiplin Hall in North Yorkshire, and he managed the province from there. He never visited the province, leaving that to his brother Leonard, and, later, his son Charles. As an English Roman Catholic, Lord Calvert wanted to promote religious tolerance in his colony. He sent two ships, the Ark and the Dove, with the first settlers, who founded the first settlement at St. Mary's City in 1634.

My ancestor, Adam Shipley, was born in 1648 in Kirkby Fleetham in Yorkshire, England, only 2 ½ miles from Kiplin. The church records show that he was orphaned at the age of ten, when his father, mother and a brother died within a month of each other. John Whips came from Thirsk, also in Yorkshire, only 15 miles from Kirkby Fleetham.

James Sykes, the founder of Sykesville, also came from Yorkshire, although he arrived in the Freedom area later than the Shipleys and the Whips. He was born in England and was brought to America as an infant, arriving in the Freedom area by 1833. He bought land there, where a grist mill was located, on land that had been patented in 1742 by John Whips.

### **Maryland history: Proprietary colonies, the Calverts, land patents, and the quit-rent system**

Some of the colonies in colonial America were royal colonies, meaning they were ruled by officials appointed by the reigning sovereign of Great Britain; and some were proprietary colonies, meaning that the land was granted, either as a favor in in payment of a debt, to one or more individuals who had full governing rights.

In 1623, as a reward for loyalty, George Calvert (1580-1632) was appointed as the first Baron Baltimore by King James. Baltimore was a 2300 acre estate in County Longford in Ireland. "Baltimore" is an Anglicization of the Irish name "Baile an Ti Mhóir", meaning "town of the big house". Irish peerages were granted to major landowners to support the status quo in Ireland, and as a way of giving the honor of a peerage without granting a seat in the British House of Lords.

George Calvert had converted to Catholicism. His son, Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, was the first proprietor of the Province of Maryland. He wanted the colony to be a refuge for Catholic settlers. He held the land from the King for the payment of "two Indian arrowheads and one fifth of all gold and silver found in the colony". The proprietor had the authority to establish courts, enforce laws, grant titles, convey or lease the land, etc. More information can be found in the Wikipedia article about the Province of Maryland:

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province\\_of\\_Maryland](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province_of_Maryland)

Maryland remained a proprietary colony until the American revolution, except for the years 1689-1715. Although the Maryland colony was intended to be a refuge for Catholics, eventually the majority of the population was actually Protestant. There was a Protestant revolt in Maryland in 1689, at least partly because of the preferment of Catholics; and Maryland became a royal colony. The Calvert family regained control of the colony in 1715, when Charles Calvert, 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Baltimore, renounced his Catholic faith and swore publicly that he was a Protestant.

I found two excellent and informative papers about the system of managing the land in colonial Maryland, both written by Garrett Power, who is a professor emeritus at the University of Maryland School of Law. One is called "Calvert versus Carroll: The Quit-rent Controversy between Maryland's Founding Families"; and the other is called "Parcelling Out Land in Baltimore: 1632-1796." Those papers are both available online at a site called [digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu](http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu). Another informative article was "The Quit-Rent System in the American Colonies" by Beverley W. Bond, Jr., at the site [jstor.org](http://jstor.org). If you google those titles, you should be able to find those papers and read those for more information. Some of the information below is from those articles.

The method of granting land in the American colonies was based on English customs. In England, the lord granted the villeins (feudal tenants) the right to occupy a tract of land, and the villeins then owed food and labor dues and also owed their fealty to their lord. The payment of food and labor eventually evolved into paying instead a fixed annual charge, called quit-rent, which was owed by the tenant and then their heirs. This was called socage tenure. Although, in England, the quit-rent system was regarded as a welcome relief from the feudal system, in the colonies, it came to be regarded as a tax upon the land that was being imposed by an outside power.

At first, to promote immigration, Lord Baltimore granted "headright" allotments of one thousand acres to gentlemen who would transport five yeoman to the new colony, but this was reduced to fifty acres per man by 1652. Those whose costs were paid by another then had to serve as indentured servants for an agreed-upon period to pay off their debt, after which time they could appear before a magistrate to prove their right to 50 acres.

Before receiving a land grant, land not previously granted had to be surveyed and a name was given to the tract of land. Then if the grant of that land was approved, a patent was issued in the form of a document which specified the conditions and location of the land grant. The grantee would owe quit-rent in perpetuity to the Calverts and their heirs, which Calvert originally set at 2 shillings per hundred acres, increased to 4 shillings in 1671. A fine equal to one year's rent was due any time the land, or any part of it, changed hands. Also, if the grantee died without a will, the land could revert back to the proprietor (Lord Baltimore), called escheatment. These conditions were called "Conditions of Plantation". Sometimes land surveys

were done but the patenting process was not completed for years, since the quit-rent was not due until the patent was issued.

Maryland's system of quit-rents worked better than in most of the colonies, because a system of collection was established in 1733. There was a collector in each county whose accounts were carefully supervised. In Maryland, the taxes had to be paid at St. Mary's City, which would be a great hardship for many colonists. That would be more than 100 miles each way, from here in the Eldersburg area.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, tobacco was the chief currency used. Tobacco was labor-intensive, which led to the use of indentured servants and slaves; and it quickly exhausted the soil. This article about tobacco production in Maryland and the historic tobacco barns is very informative, explaining how tobacco production influenced Maryland history:

[https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/NR\\_PDFs/NR-MPS-17.pdf](https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/NR_PDFs/NR-MPS-17.pdf)

The Maryland Assembly attempted to set the legal price of tobacco. In 1671, the proprietor (Lord Baltimore) agreed to accept tobacco in payment of quit-rents at 2 pence per pound, about twice its real value. In 1716, a 2-shilling duty was accepted in lieu of all rents. This agreement ended in 1733, and the rents became due in money, although tobacco continued to be received in some cases.

Poor wages and high unemployment in England in the late 1600's were factors that encouraged immigration to the colonies. Adam Shipley was one of those who chose this path. He was only twenty years old, coming to the new colony with eight other men whose passage was paid by an English merchant named John Pawson. Adam had to work as an indentured servant for five years to pay off that debt. He then claimed his 50 acres of land, although there is no documentation establishing whether he actually took possession of that land. The process of surveying and patenting the land took money, and less than ten percent of indentured servants who were due land in Maryland during this period actually received it.

By 1687, Adam had acquired 800 acres of land in Anne Arundel County, including 100 acres of a tract called HOWARDS AND PORTERS RANGE; 200 acres south of the Severn River called SHIPLEYS CHOICE; and 500 acres patented as ADAM THE FIRST. ADAM THE FIRST was in what was then the northern part of Anne Arundel but is now Howard County, the first large land grant in Howard County. There is a historical marker commemorating this land grant called ADAM THE FIRST, on Rt. 108 (then called the Old Annapolis Road) in front of Shipley's Grant shopping center, near Snowden Parkway. This is in the area that was then called the Elkridge Hundred, so called because elk were so plentiful in that area in the early days of the colony.

In 1756, my ancestor, Peter Shipley, son of Adam, patented 100 acres of land that he named PETER'S PURCHASE, in the Lower Delaware Hundred, just west of what is

now Freedom Avenue, off of Rt. 32 in Eldersburg. I first saw the phrase “Conditions of Plantation” when reading that patent. Later patents that I have looked at didn’t give these details in the patent, so this one was particularly interesting because of how precisely the conditions were given. It specified that 4 shillings per 100 acres had to be paid in silver or gold at St. Mary’s City, twice a year in two equal portions, on the most usual feasts, which were the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St. Michael the Archangel. I thought that must have been a terrible hardship to travel to St. Mary’s City twice a year, but then I learned about the system of collection.

I got the copy of the patent from Ann Horvath, who has been a great help to me in my research of local history. She loaned me some of the papers of her late husband George Horvath, which included wonderful maps, copies of land documents, and genealogy research done for some of the Shipley descendants. The full transcript of the Peter’s Purchase patent can be seen here:

<http://cpuworks.com/ancestry/Peters%20Purchase%20Patent%20transcript.pdf>

A pdf of the original patent can be seen here:

<http://cpuworks.com/ancestry/Peters%20Purchase%20Patent%201756.pdf>

Theoretically, all land in Maryland has been patented. That means that the first to hold title to the land, either as a grant from Lord Baltimore, or later, from the state of Maryland, surveyed the land and gave it a name, and the patent was recorded on parchment. All deeds in Maryland can be traced back to a patent. Many of these patents, from 1704 on, have been scanned and are available online (the earlier ones were destroyed in a fire). You can find those copies at [plats.msa.maryland.gov](http://plats.msa.maryland.gov). Select the county that the tract was in at the time it was patented at top left, then select “Advanced Search”. In the “Description” section of the Advanced Search screen, you can enter any word from the description, including all or part of a tract name, or the name of the person who patented it.

Dr. Arthur G. Tracey put a lot of the patent information for Frederick and Carroll County on index cards which included the name of the tract of land, the person who patented, the number of acres, the date surveyed and the date patented, and what other land tracts this tract is next to, or is a resurvey of. Sometimes previously patented land was bought and resurveyed to include all or parts of additional land tracts. Those index cards have been copied and can be found at this site, in alphabetical order of the name of the land patent (scroll down to select the tract by the first letter of the name of the tract):

[http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msaref07/tracey\\_fr\\_wa\\_cr/html/index.html](http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msaref07/tracey_fr_wa_cr/html/index.html)

Another useful source is the library of the Historical Society of Carroll County (HSCC) in Westminster, MD. The information from Dr. Tracey’s cards, along with some information that has been found in land records about early sales, has been typed up and put on a computer at the library. Copies of the plats are also available

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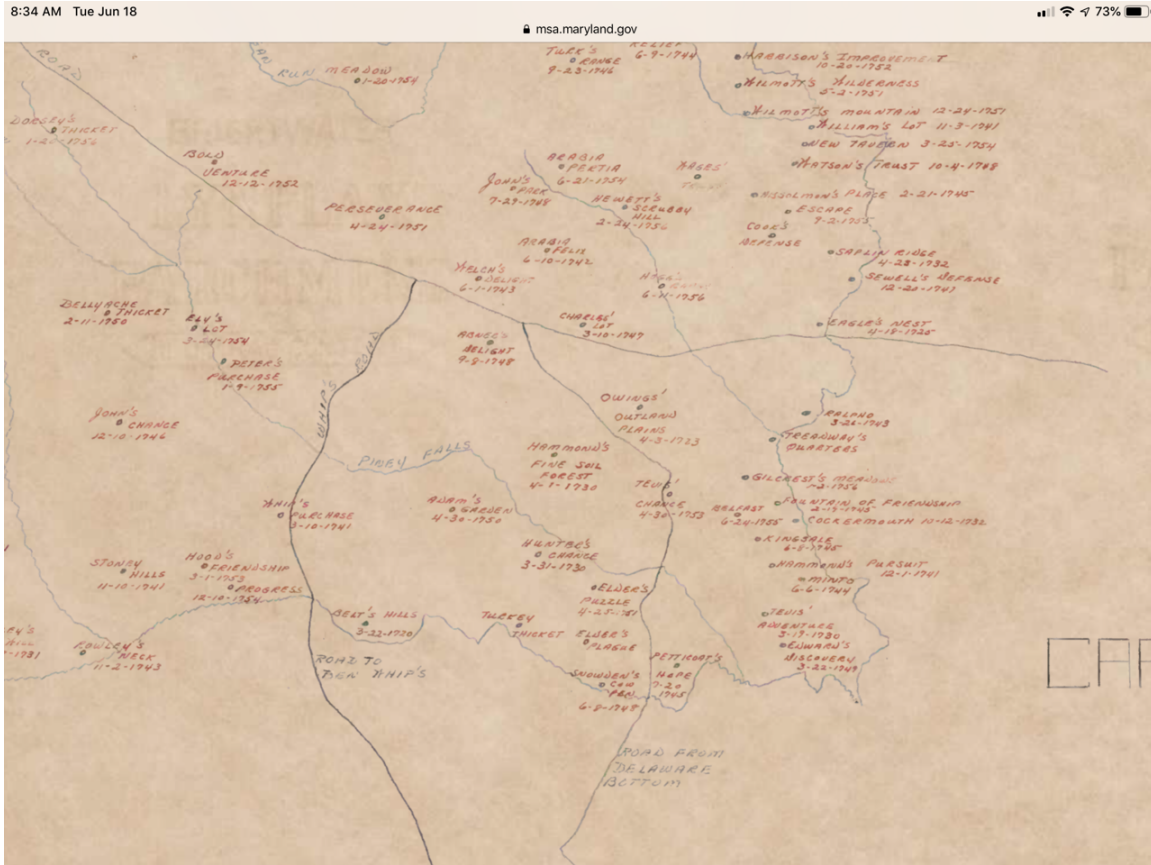
on the computer. In the computer, the tracts are listed by tract name. There is also a card catalog at the library, where you can search by the name of the person who was granted the patent.

There are also some wonderful maps created by George Horvath that show the exact location of the early land patents in Carroll County. Those are in a folder at the HSCC library, and copies can be made for a small fee. The Genealogical Society of Carroll County has put those maps online at its site, [ccgsmd.org](http://ccgsmd.org). Select maps at the left, then scroll down to the bottom of the list of maps to see the Horvath maps.

Here is a portion of a Tracey map that I found online (link below) showing the location of some of the earlier land patents (1720 -1756) in the area around what are now Eldersburg and Sykesville (this is a portion of a larger map. Note that what is shown as Whips Road, or the road to Ben Whips, is now Rt. 32, which leads to what is now Liberty Road. According to a card in the card catalog at the HSCC, this road was so called because Ben Whips was named the supervisor of this road, and was responsible for its maintenance. From comparing this to modern maps, it appears that The Road from Delaware Bottom includes what is now Ridge Road, part of Marriottsville Road #2, and part of Henryton Road):

<http://mdhmapping.com/tracey-patent-map-carroll-county-1720-1756/>





### Early settlers in Carroll County

The earliest land patent in what is now Carroll County was in 1720, Belt's Mill (800 acres, patented by Benjamin Belt); and the second was Owings Outland Plains, (470 acres, Richard Owings, 1724), both in what was later called the Freedom District. By the end of 1743, there were only 65 families living there, and 105 land tracts patented, including three by members of the Shipley family: SHIPLEY'S WILL, patented by Charles Shipley in 1732; GREENBURY'S GROVE, patented by Samuel Shipley in 1743; and SHIPLEY'S CHOICE, patented by George Shipley in 1749. There were also several patents by John and Samuel Whips. I am also a descendant of John Whips, since his daughter Rachel married by ancestor Adam Shipley (son of Peter).

Between them, my ancestors (John Whips and his brothers; Peter Shipley, and his sons Adam and Absolom; and Peter's nephew Adam Shipley) patented large areas of land (a total of about 2500 acres) south of that patented by John Welsh (who patented WELSH'S DELIGHT and PERSEVERANCE around the intersection of what is now Rt. 32 and Rt. 97) and north of John Elder's land (whose early land tracts were near the Patapsco River); on both sides of what is now Route 32 (then called Ben Whip's Road); down to the area where Sykesville is now located. The Shipleys and the Whips sold much of that land or divided it up among the many children they had; and much of it eventually became part of the Springfield estate, owned by the Pattersons and later, the Browns.

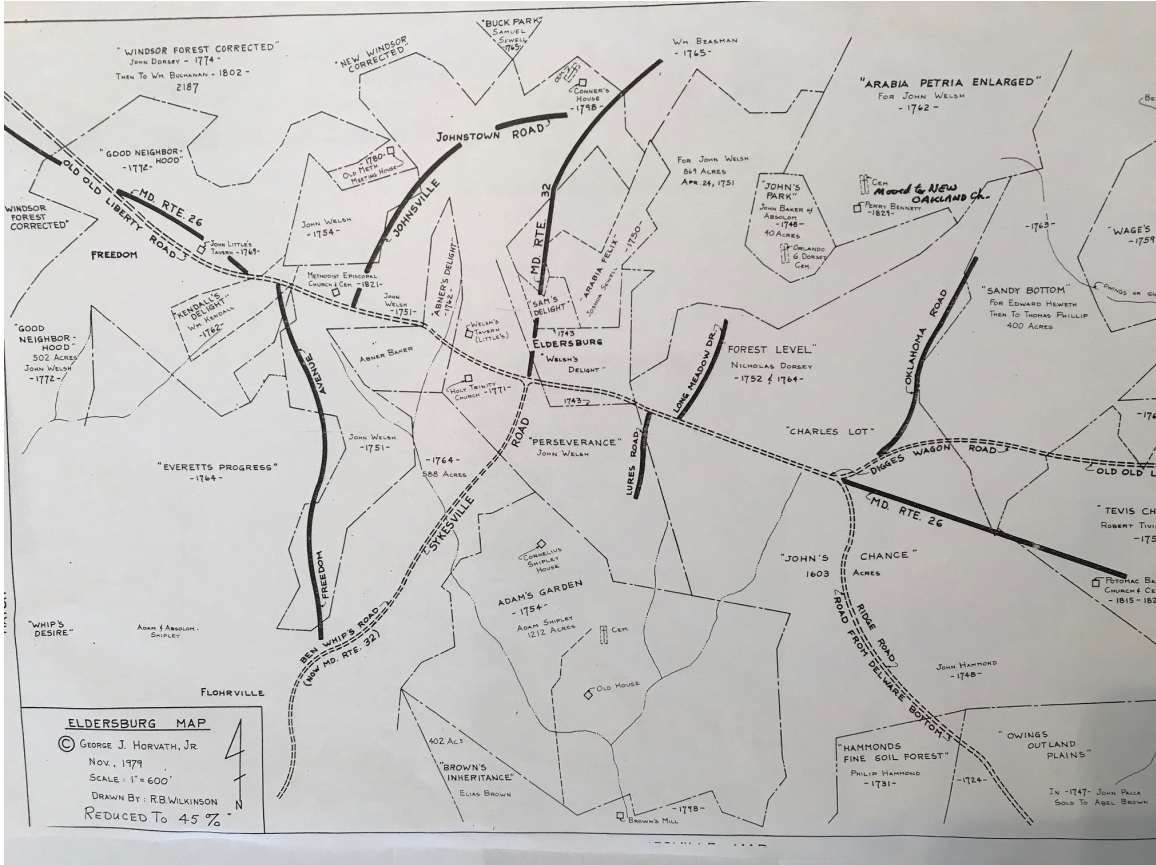
Peter Shipley's tract called PETER'S PURCHASE was west of where Freedom Avenue is now. It was on the north side of what is called Piney Falls on the map above. Piney Falls is called Piney Branch on maps today, and it is a tributary of the Patapsco River. Piney Branch leads to what later became Piney Run Lake. Peter's land was north of the east end of where Piney Run Lake is now, created in 1973 by building a 73 foot high dam.

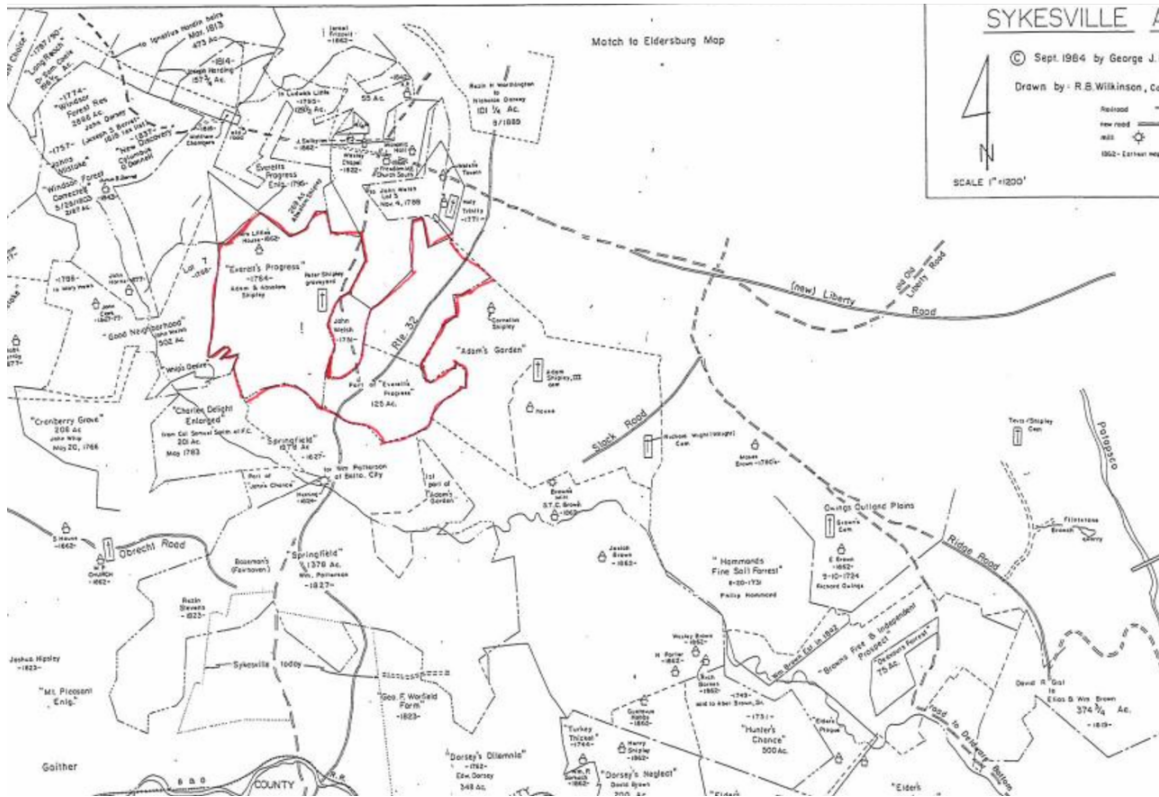
Peter's sons, Adam (1738-1818, my ancestor) and Absolom (1746-1809) included PETER'S PURCHASE in a 588 acre tract, EVERETT'S PROGRESS, patented in 1764, the year that Peter died at the age of about 77. In a deed dated 1762, Peter sold PETER'S PURCHASE to Adam and Absolom.

Peter Shipley's brother Richard died fairly young, at the age of only 48, and Peter Shipley seems to have been close to Richard's son Adam (1705-1767). Peter's nephew Adam patented five acres of land called ADAM'S GARDEN in 1750, which he resurveyed and patented as 1212 acres under the same name, in 1754. The resurveyed ADAM'S GARDEN included 400 acres of the 1603 acre tract called JOHN'S CHANCE, patented by John Hammond in 1746. JOHN'S CHANCE extended from the west side of what is now Rt. 32, to the east side, over to the tract called HAMMONDS FINE SOIL FOREST, patented by Philip Hammond in 1731.

The two maps below, drawn by George Horvath, show the location of EVERETT'S PROGRESS and ADAM'S GARDEN, right next to each other, both touching the tract called PERSEVERANCE, patented by John Welch. A portion of the PERSEVERANCE tract comes down along Freedom Avenue, in the middle of EVERETT'S PROGRESS. The second map shows EVERETT'S PROGRESS outlined in red. The first map below shows only a portion, about a quarter, of the original ADAM'S GARDEN tract, since the southern part was divided up among Adam's children, or sold.

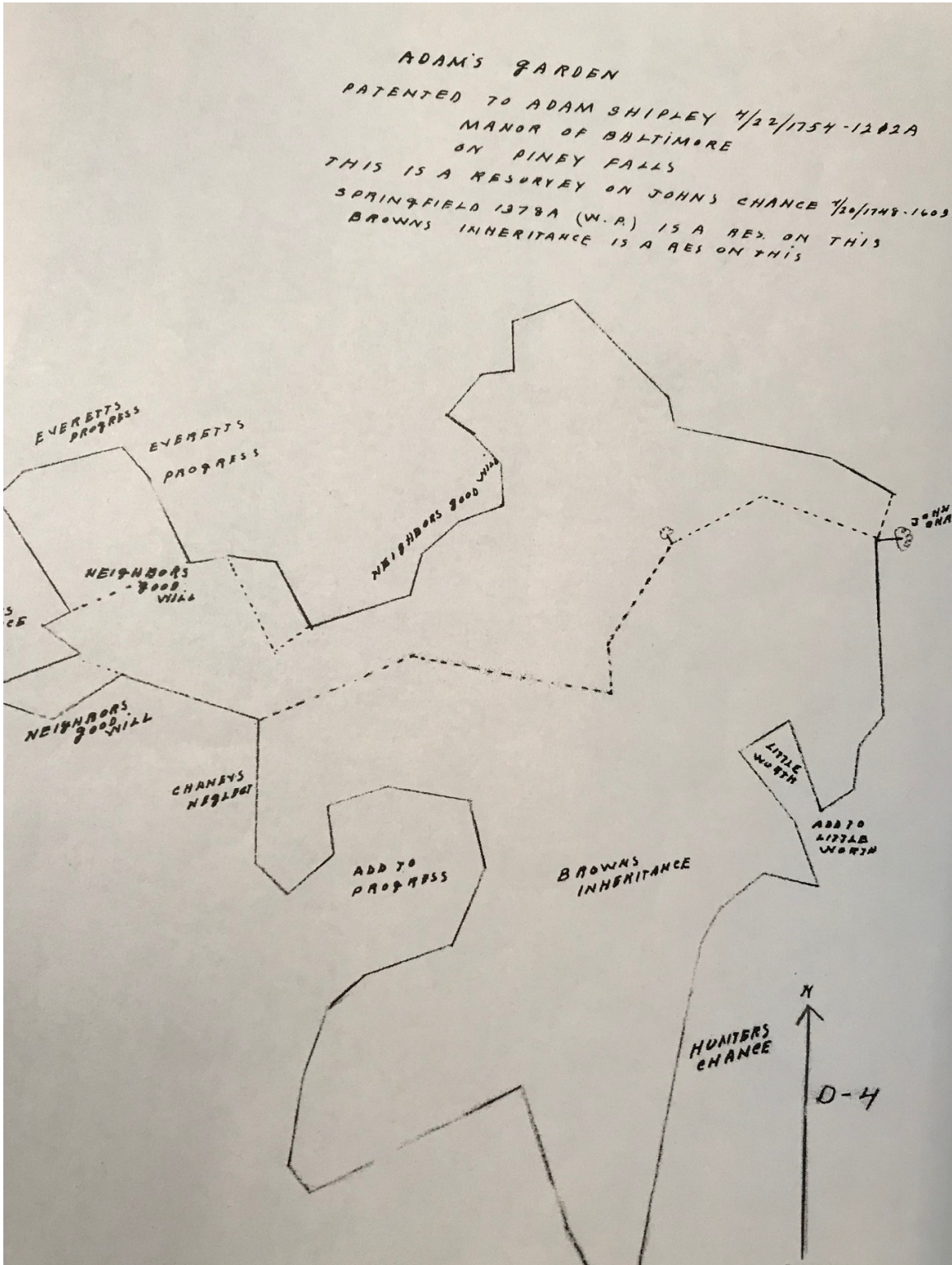
The tract called BROWN'S INHERITANCE, south of ADAM'S GARDEN, includes part of ADAM'S GARDEN. It became part of the SPRINGFIELD tract. The family of Peter's nephew Adam Shipley lived on that land until 1920, when it was sold to the state. Adam and Absolom sold portions of EVERETT'S PROGRESS to the east of Freedom Avenue and Rt. 32, dividing up the remainder, to the west of Freedom Avenue, in 1775, into two equal portions of 171 acres each, where they lived and raised their families. Most or all of EVERETT'S PROGRESS eventually became part of the SPRINGFIELD tract.





The drawing below shows the shape of the original 1212 acres patented as ADAM'S GARDEN, with a dotted line which shows the portion of it that was part of the tract called JOHN'S CHANCE.

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Adam (of Peter) Shipley married Rachel Whips. It's interesting to look at the maps of the tracts, and see that the Whips family owned land right next to EVERETT'S

PROGRESS. Both the Whips and the Shipley families had also patented land in what is now Howard County. The families knew each other before they moved north to what is now Carroll County. Adam Shipley of Richard, who patented ADAM'S GARDEN, married Ruth Whips, the aunt of Rachel Whips, who married Adam Shipley of Peter. *The Shipleys of Maryland* indicates that Ruth's last name was Tevis; but that appears to be a confusion between the wife of Adam who patented ADAM'S GARDEN; and the wife of his son Adam, who married Hammutal Tevis.

The oldest son of Adam and Rachel, my ancestor John Wesley Shipley, married Sarah Kendall. Her family patented land (KENDALL'S DELIGHT) just north of EVERETT'S PROGRESS. John Wesley's sister Rachel married Vachel Kendall.

Adam's portion of EVERETT'S PROGRESS remained in the family until after Rachel died, in 1820, when his children sold it to James Smith. It later became part of the SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED patent (patented by George Patterson) in 1854.

John Wesley Shipley and his wife Sarah lived about five miles west of EVERETT'S PROGRESS, near where Bushey Road and Old Liberty Road intersect. Their home was near the same branch of the Piney Run that ran next to EVERETT'S PROGRESS, where John Wesley was born. I know this because the location of their home is shown on the Martenet Map of 1862:

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3843c.la000287>

John Wesley Shipley died in 1851 and Sarah died in 1861, but the name "Sarah Shipley" is still shown on the map in 1862. I verified that this is the correct person by looking at the 1860 census (where I can verify that this is my ancestor Sarah by who is living in her household) and seeing who Sarah's neighbors were by who was listed in the census close to where she is listed. Then I checked the Martenet map to see who lived close to her. John Wesley and Sarah Shipley are both buried at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, about a mile further west in Winfield; but I did not know where they had lived until I found Sarah's name on the Martenet map.

BROWN'S INHERITANCE (402 acres patented by Elias Brown in 1798, which the Eldersburg map shows south of the portion of ADAM'S GARDEN that stayed in the family until 1920) and SPRINGFIELD (1378 acres patented by William Patterson in 1827) are resurveys of portions of ADAM'S GARDEN. In 1854, George Patterson patented 1759 acres as SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED.

Elias Brown was a descendant of Abel Brown, one of the early settlers in Eldersburg, who was born in Scotland in 1662. The parents of Elias Brown were Abel Brown (grandson of the first Abel Brown) and Susannah Shipley. Susannah is a descendant of Adam Shipley, but she is part of a "broken line", meaning the line back to Adam has not been documented. Moses Brown was another child of Susannah and Abel Brown. The Moses Brown house, built in about 1785, at 6736 Ridge Rd., is still there, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Elias Brown

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house, built in about 1790, situated at the end of a lane at 7020 Ridge Rd., is also still standing as of 2022. The property has been bought by a developer, and the fate of the house has been determined at the time of this writing.

Frank Brown was also a descendant of Abel Brown. He inherited BROWN'S INHERITANCE and SPRINGFIELD, became governor of Maryland (1892-1896), and sold part of the Patterson/Brown estate to the State of Maryland as a site for Springfield State Hospital.

**More on the Shipleys in Eldersburg history: Slavery; and the History of the Methodist Church in Carroll County**


See pages 16-20 in the document called "My Ancestry The Shipley Family" at [cpuworks.com](http://cpuworks.com), and also at the website of The Shipleys of Maryland.

**The Gate House Museum**


The house where the Gate House Museum is located was once the home of William Shorb Shipley, the half-brother of Dorothy Shipley Granger. Dorothy and her sister Gloria, born in 1899 and 1900 respectively, were the last Shipleys born at the Adam's Garden Homestead. William's house was originally intended to serve as a Gate House to Springfield State Hospital, but it was never used for this purpose. It became the home of William Shipley, who worked as a procurer for the hospital. This display is in the hallway at the Gate House Museum:

Welcome to The Gate House Museum


# The Gate House to Sykesville's History




**F**irst, It Was a House Built in 1904  
The house was intended as the south gate house and main entrance to Springfield State Hospital, which opened in 1896. It was most likely designed by architects Wyatt and Nolling and built by J.H. Fowble, who built much of Sykesville. There were once iron gates and a time when the hospital policeman in a sidecar motorcycle would close them each night, but the policeman and the gates are long gone. No one knows what happened to the gates.



Lillian and William Shipley




William Shipley



Margaret Shipley and her father, Willie, on the front porch, with Lillian Shipley's sister Katie Bonner (center).

**William Shipley and Family**  
The house never did become a controlled entry point. Instead it became home to William Shipley, known to friends as "Willie." Willie was chief purchasing agent for the hospital. He lived here for no cost with his wife, Lillian, and daughters, Margaret and Mary Agnes, from 1913 till his death in 1954. You're standing in the foyer, where the girls once played the piano. To your left is the parlor, where Willie was laid out after his death. To your right is the dining room. Mrs. Gaston, a patient from the hospital, cooked for them on a cook stove in the basement and sent the food up by a dumbwaiter. She

**Becoming a Museum**  
After the Shipleys left, the house fell into disrepair, and when Route 32 cut it off from the hospital, it became further neglected, and eventually the town bought it from the state for \$100. Volunteers, including Thelma Wimmer, collected all they could about the town's history, while others, like Mark Rychwalski, Wiley Purkey, and Robert McLeod, put in countless hours helping gather artifacts, analyzing paint, and battling termites to restore the house. They hired a painter named Jim Purman.



"Thelma is really our patron saint," Purman said. "She was so assiduous in searching for things and keeping records of what she got. Without her, we wouldn't be much of a museum."

**The First Curator**  
The Gate House opened as a museum on September 7, 1997, with Jim Purman as curator. The much-loved Purman had been the rector of St. Barnabas Church in Sykesville from 1965 to 1973. He won the Bronze Star in WWII, and was once a drug counselor at Springfield Hospital Center. Mr. Purman passed away in 2007, and the library upstairs (formerly a bedroom)

## The Pattersons, Springfield, and James Sykes

Although various sources give different estimates as to the size of the Springfield estate, sometimes 3,000 or 5,000 acres, I don't think the Springfield Estate was ever that large, since the SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED tract was only 1,759 acres. Perhaps the acreage is inflated because Frank Brown bought the Springfield estate in 1880. If you combine the Springfield land with the land that he owned through the Brown family, the total acreage would have been quite extensive.

In his book **History of Western Maryland** (published in 1882), J. Thomas Scharf says, in his section about the founding of Sykesville: "The town was named after



James Sykes, son of John Sykes, a famous Baltimore merchant. He came here in 1825 and bought a thousand acres of land in different tracts, including the site of the town, on which at that time the only building was a saw- and grist- mill.”

Scharf also says, incorrectly, that George Patterson took possession of the Springfield estate in 1824, and that the estate was about 3,000 acres. I suspect this may be the origin of the oft-repeated error that George Patterson inherited the estate in 1824. But William Patterson did not die until 1835. He transferred Springfield to his son in 1828; and Springfield was only 1,378 acres at that point.

George Patterson continued buying and selling portions of land, and repatented his land as SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED in 1854, a total of 1,759 acres.

It’s hard to figure out where James Sykes got all the land that he bought, or how much he owned; but it is not just an oversimplification, but incorrect, to say that he bought 1,000 acres from George Patterson, as some sites say. At the website of the Maryland States Archives, there is a PDF of a survey done for James Sykes for “Sykes Mill”, dated 1826. I can’t find any tract patented under that name; I think what may have happened is that Sykes had the land surveyed and bought the land from various owners, without patenting the tract. The land surveyed included tracts owned by many different men. Some of the land surveyed had belonged to Robert Shipley at one point but had been transferred to Edward Dorsey in 1796, according to a document in this PDF. Here’s a link to that survey:  
<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/coagser/c2800/c2843/000100/000170/tif/msac2843-170-1.pdf>

The only record of a sale of land from a Patterson to James Sykes that I could find was dated 1841, when George Patterson sold 142 acres to James Sykes, from the land tract called MT. PLEASANT, which was one of the many tracts parts of which were included in the SPRINGFIELD tract. I could not find any other sales of land by George Patterson to James Sykes, although it is possible that there are others. I looked at the index cards at the Historical Society of Carroll County (HSCC) library for records of sales for the land patents that I’ve seen on maps in what is now the area of Sykesville; so this was not an exhaustive search of all land purchase by James Sykes.

When researching genealogy and local history, I have come to learn that some “facts” found in some sources are exaggerated, confused, or completely incorrect; and those “facts” get repeated in multiple places.

For example, the “Sykesville History” tab at the website of the Downtown Sykesville Connection, says that George Patterson inherited Springfield when William Patterson died, in 1824; but William Patterson didn’t die until 1835. I found a picture of his gravestone on line.

Last update: 8/30/22

Several sources, including the website called the Downtown Sykesville Connection, and the Maryland Historical Trust listing for the Howard Cotton Factory incorrectly indicate that James Sykes acquired 1,000 acres of land from George Patterson. Wikipedia says that Sykesville was part of the 3,000 acre Springfield estate. I believe both of those are incorrect.

Linda Greenberg says in her book *Sykesville Past & Present* that she searched and could find no record of any deed or land records showing any land purchased by James Sykes from the Pattersons during the period 1820 through 1835.

William Patterson patented the SPRINGFIELD tract in 1827 (1,378 acres). The index cards of the land patents found in the library of the Historical Society of Carroll County list some of the land transfers that occurred for the tracts. The one for SPRINGFIELD shows that William Patterson transferred SPRINGFIELD to George Patterson in 1828, seven years before William died.

William Patterson had owned large tracts of land for many years before he patented SPRINGFIELD as one estate. I'm not sure why the land was patented so many years after he bought the land. I think part of the reason is that all of this land had been previously patented, and Patterson was buying land from the various men that owned it. Perhaps he wanted to consolidate the various parcels of land that he owned as one tract in order to transfer the estate to his son.

The 1789 Tax Assessment for the Lower Delaware Hundred for William Patterson shows that he owned 143 ½ acres of EVERETT'S PROGRESS; 317 Acres of NEIGHBOR'S GOODWILL; 108 acres of CHEYNEYS NEGLECT; 100 acres of PROGRESS; and 11 acres of JOHN'S CHANCE, for a total of 679 ½ acres.

George Horvath's book, *The Particular Assessment Lists for Baltimore and Carroll Counties, Maryland: 1798*, says that William Patterson was assessed for 1,558 acres, which included parts of NEIGHBORS GOODWILL, CHANEY'S NEGLECT, PROGRESS, JOHN'S CHANCE, PERSEVERANCE, EVERETTS PROGRESS, WHIPSES PROGRESS, ADAMS GARDEN, and CHARLES DELIGHT.

The index cards at the HSCC library did mention a land transfer in 1841 of 142 acres from George Patterson to James Sykes, of the land tract called MT. PLEASANT, which was one of the earlier tracts included in the SPRINGFIELD tract.

The index card for MOUNT PLEASANT ENLARGED (1,488 acres), patented by Benjamin Hood in 1801, shows that almost 500 acres of that tract was transferred to John Sykes. This is the largest sale of land to James Sykes that I came across; there may be others. No date is given; it appears the land was owned James George when it was sold to James Sykes.

Here is exactly what the card says:

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“No date – Jas. Sykes land – John’s Chance; Mt. Pleasant Enl.; Add. To Springfield – 381-3/8 A. & 108-5/8 A. Agt. Bk. 136, pg. 56.” (It appears this occurred in 1851, since it was in the same book and on the same page as the previous listed transaction, which occurred 1/1/1851; note the total acreage is 490 acres).

A previous note on the card says “James George Land - 487-3/4 A. –Agt. Survey bk. 135, pg 195.”

I think what this means is that land from MOUNT PLEASANT ENLARGED had been sold to James George in 1851, who later sold it to James Sykes.

In 1852, Samuel Dorsey sold 138 acres of WHIP’S DESIRE, also patented by John Whips, to James Sykes. I found a record of a transfer of 30 acres of the tract called CRANBERRY GROVE, which was also originally patented by John Whips, from James Sykes to George Patterson, in 1852.

It appears that James Sykes bought land from various landowners. Whether he actually bought as much as 1,000 acres, I have no idea; perhaps that is an exaggeration. But if he did, I don’t think it could have been from George Patterson.

According to the index cards of the land patents found at the HSCC library, George Patterson sold 142 acres of the land patented as Springfield to James Sykes, in 1841. Looking at the shape of the SPRINGFIELD patent and the shape of SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED, it appears that George Patterson may have sold some of the land in the southwest portion of his land to James Sykes.

On the index card for CRANBERRY GROVE (208 acres patented by John Whips in 1765), there are these notes: in 1852, Samuel Dorsey sold 138 acres of WHIPS DESIRE and CRANBERRY GROVE to James Sykes. In 1856, James Sykes sold 30 1/8 A. to George Patterson. In 1856, James Sykes sold 285 acres to Peter V. Webb.

I think the Patterson home was located near where ADAM’S GARDEN, EVERETT’S PROGRESS, and WHIP’S PURCHASE meet.

The area where the town of Sykesville is now, on the Carroll County side of the Patapsco, includes land that was part of the Whips’ patents called PROGRESS, ADDITIONAL PROGRESS (both surveyed by Richard Shipley, Deputy Surveyor of Ann Arundel County) and WHIP’S DESIRE. ADDITIONAL PROGRESS (412 acre) connects to SHIPLEYS SEARCH, WHIPPS LOT, and ADAM’S GARDEN.

PROGRESS and ADDITIONAL PROGRESS were not wholly in what is now Carroll County; they cross over between Howard and Carroll County. I found records of those land patents in this list of Howard County land patents:

<https://jsfecmd.info/FREAK/HowardCountyLandPatents.html>

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Other tracts in the Sykesville area include HOOD'S FRIENDSHIP, patented by John Hood in 1754; WHAT'S LEFT, 100 acres patented by Robert Shipley in 1743; and MT. PLEASANT ENLARGED, 1,468 acres patented by Benjamin Hood (of John) in 1800. MT. PLEASANT ENLARGED was a resurvey of earlier tracts JOHN'S CHANCE, MT. PLEASANT, and HOOD'S FRIENDSHIP.

SPRINGFIELD and SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED contained some of the land patented as ADAM'S GARDEN; and SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED contained most or all of the land patented as EVERETT'S PROGRESS by Adam and Absolom Shipley. SPRINGFIELD also included land patented by John and Samuel Whips: PROGRESS, WHIP'S PURCHASE, WHIP'S DESIRE, and CRANBERRY GROVE.

J. Thomas Scharf says in his book that James Sykes came to the Springfield area in 1825, and bought a thousand acres of land in various tracts, when there was only a saw and grist mill at the site. I'm not sure that Sykes bought as much as a thousand acres; and I think he bought whatever land he bought at different times, from different people.

Below are the plats for SPRINGFIELD, and SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED. You can see that a section in the southeast portion of SPRINGFIELD is gone in SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED, which is why I suspect that the 142 acres that George Patterson sold to James Sykes in 1841 was in that area.

The plats also list the names of the tracts from which all or portions were bought by the Pattersons to make up their estate. The plats show the branch of the Piney Falls that runs through the SPRINGFIELD property, which helps to place where the land in the two different diagrams are found in relation to each other. On the second map, I circled the Shipley and Whip land patents that became part of SPRINGFIELD ENLARGED.

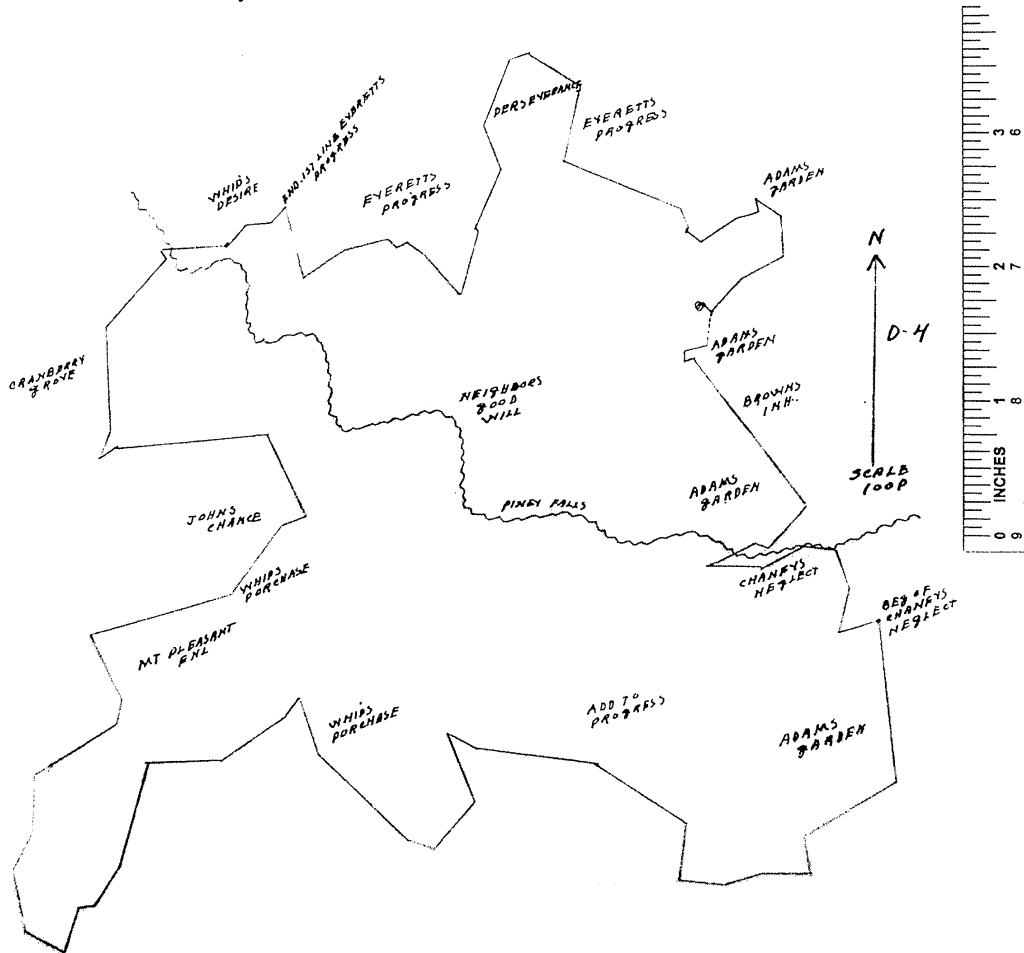
# SPRINGFIELD

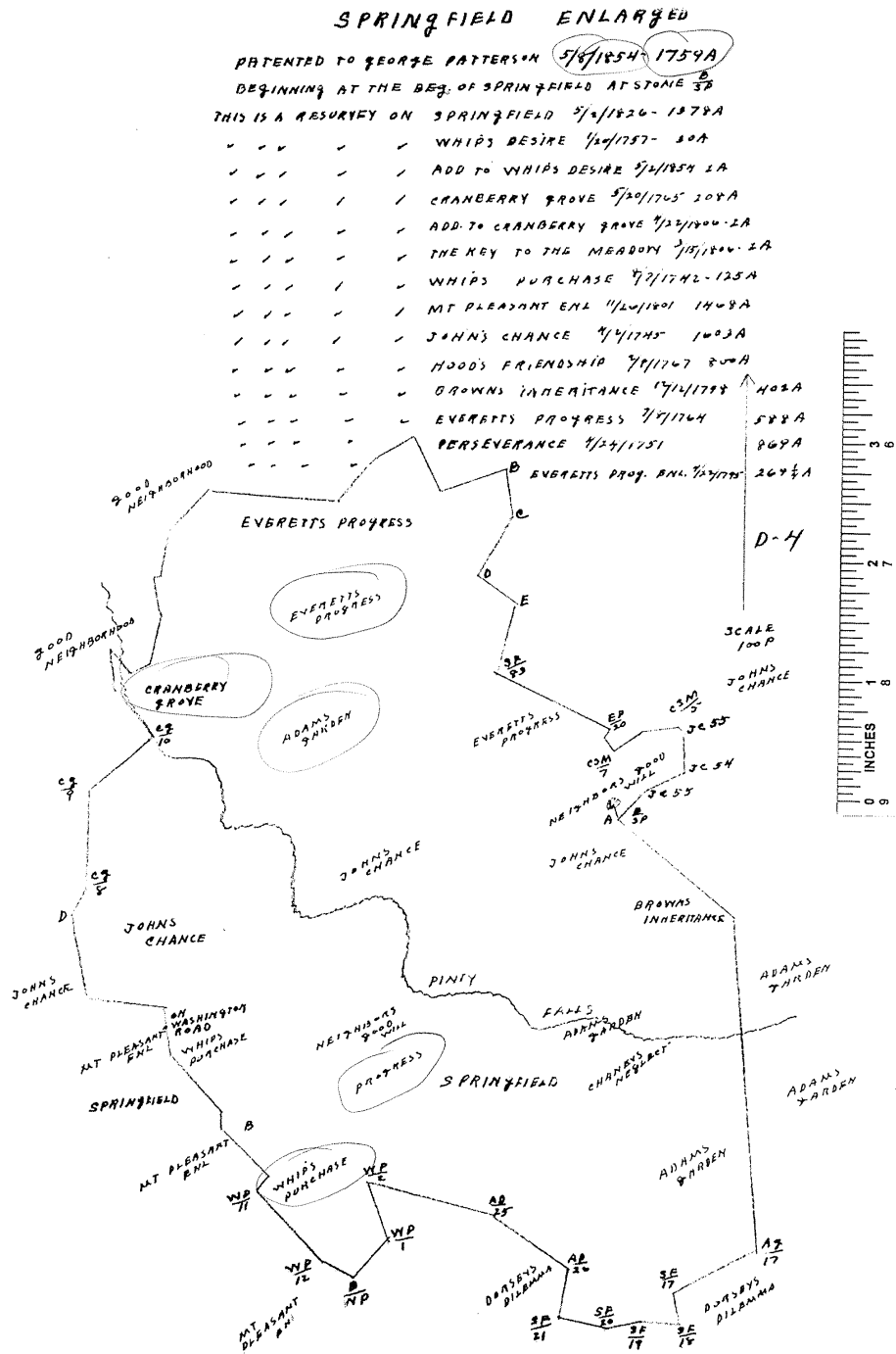
PATENTED TO WILLIAM PATTERSON 14/1827-1378A.

THIS IS A RES ON PROGRESS

- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NEIGHBORS GOOD WILL
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ GREAT PAINS FOR SMALL GAINS
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ PERSEVERANCE
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ JOHNS CHANCE
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ WHIPS PURCHASE
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ MT PLEASANT ENL. 1468A.
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ADD TO PROGRESS
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ADAMS GARDEN
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ CHANEYS NEGLECT
- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ EVERETTS PROGRESS

SPRINGFIELD ENL 1759A IS A RES. ON THIS.





**The Grist Mill, the Whips family, and James Sykes**

According to Ken Short, Howard County Architectural Historian, in 1789, Benjamin and George Whips (who were sons of John Whips Sr.) advertised a grist mill for sale in the area now called South Branch Park, in what was then Anne Arundel County

but is now Howard County. This mill was on the land patented as WHIPPS MILL SEAT, 9.7 acres surveyed for Samuel Whips in 1782, later sold to George Whips who completed the patent in 1791. WHIPPS MILL SEAT was on land (5 acres) originally patented as WHIPPS LOT in 1742 by John Whips.

In 1789, Benjamin and George Whips advertised 390 acres of land for sale in a number of contiguous tracts which must have included the land where a grist mill was located.

There is a lot of information about James Sykes and the early history of Sykesville in this document from the Maryland Historical Trust about the Howard Cotton Factory:

<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Howard/HO-751.pdf>

That document includes the chain of title of the area where the grist mill was located. The first owner was Samuel Whips, who sold it to his brother George in 1784. George Whips sold it to his nephew, John Whips Pool, in 1807. The mill was bought in 1811 by Eliza Warfield, wife of Charles A. Warfield of Baltimore, and he rebuilt the mill, which he sold to Louis Pascault in 1817.

The farm and mill were bought by Columbus O'Donnell, who sold it to James Sykes in 1833 for \$10,500. The area of land included was 209 acres.

Columbus O'Donnell was one of the directors of B&O railroad. William Patterson was also on the board of B&O railroad, so this may have contributed to the incorrect idea that James Sykes acquired a lot of land from the Patterson family.

By 1850, James Sykes had a cotton factory operating there. It appears that Sykes had business partner who also held an interest in that land, since in 1834, trustees offered for sale the interest in some land of the late Robert A. S. Shipley, on which were situated the improvements of Sykes' Mill on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

William Patterson was reputed to be the second wealthiest man in Maryland at that time, after Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The Wikipedia article about him does not mention his plantation at Springfield; it apparently was not an important source of his wealth.

William Patterson was a gun-runner during the Revolutionary War, the first president of the Bank of Maryland, and a founder of the Canton Company, a business established in 1828 by Patterson and Peter Cooper, who invented the Tom Thumb steam locomotive, which was the locomotive built in America to be operated here. I think it's amazing that, in 1830, the first train to travel the first leg of the railroad, 26 miles from Baltimore to Ellicott Mills, was pulled on horses. The founders were not sure what type of power would work, and how the tracks should be built.

Columbus O'Donnell bought the grist mill from Louis Charles Pascault (of Ann Arundel County), who got the land from Louis Pascault (of Baltimore), who owed him money.

Louis Pascault was the Marquis de Poleon, and a wealthy French merchant. Pascault had fled to Baltimore from what is now known as Haiti, after a slave uprising in 1791. Pascault built a row of eight houses on Lexington Street, known as Pascault Row that was one of the earliest examples of the Baltimore rowhouse (now renovated and serving as offices and student housing). It was a prestigious address, and Columbus O'Donnell lived there.

According to the story told by Betsy Patterson, daughter of William Patterson, she met Jerome Bonaparte at the home of the Marquis de Poleon. She said she was standing with Henriette Pascault when two young men approached. Henriette pointed to one and said she would marry that one. Betsy said that she would marry the other one; and they both did as they said they would. This story was described in a newspaper article called "Local Bonaparte romance ended badly" (*The Baltimore Sun*, August 22, 1998).

## **Susannah Shipley and the Browns, the Pattersons, and the Warfields**

### **Abel Brown**

According to **Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties**, by J. D. Warfield, Abel (or Abell) Browne (c.1692-1701) was one of the early settlers in Anne Arundel County. He came from Dumfries, Scotland. His wife was Elizabeth Phillips. He was a Sheriff of Anne Arundel County, and in 1692, was one of the Associate Justices.

His grandson, also named Abel Brown (1704-1796), son of Robert, settled in the Sykesville area. He was baptized at All Hallows Parish in Anne Arundel County on 6/25/1704. His wife's name was Susannah.

This book does not give Susannah's last name; but *The Shipleys of Maryland* (2002 edition, Volume 3, pg. 1632), says that Abel Brown's wife Susannah was the daughter of Adam Shipley and Catherine Hamilton. This Adam Shipley is from a "broken line" (his line back to Adam Shipley the immigrant is not documented); but being found in this area so early in the history makes it quite likely that he is a descendant of the Adam Shipley who arrived in Annapolis in 1668. There is a theory that this Adam Shipley was the grandson of the immigrant Adam, through his son Richard, the same Adam Shipley who patented ADAM'S GARDEN, which was contiguous to land owned by the Brown family. Adam Shipley of ADAM'S GARDEN was married to Ruth Whips; so if Susannah was his daughter, it appears she was the result of a relationship outside of marriage.



The other children of Adam Shipley and Catherine Hamilton were: Catherine, who married Nicholas Wilson, and later, a Basemen or Beasman; Mary, who married James Criswell; Sarah or Nancy, who married Louis Evans; and Elizabeth, who married William Brown.

*The Shipleys of Maryland* does not give the date of birth of Susannah (or of any of her siblings); some trees at Ancestry.com give the date of her birth and death as 1742 to 1796, and the date of marriage to Abel Brown as 1760, but I haven't seen any documents verifying those dates. This would make Abel about 54 at the time of their marriage.

J. D. Warfield's book *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland* says that the children of Abel Brown and his wife Susannah were Elias, Moses, Ruth (wife of Thomas Cockey), and Rebecca (wife of George Frazer Warfield). The 1790 census shows Abel Brown Jr in the Two Delaware Hundreds, with 3 males under the age of 16, and 3 males over 16, and 4 females.

### **Moses Brown (1768-1826)**

The Moses Brown house, at 6704 Ridge Road, is listed on the National Register of Historic places. This house was the home of the Moses Brown, son of Abel Brown and Susannah Shipley. It was built in 1814, and remained in the Brown family only until 1839.

[https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/NR\\_PDFs/NR-663.pdf](https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/NR_PDFs/NR-663.pdf)

### **Elias Brown (1765-1800)**

In 1795, Elias Brown bought land 233 acres of ADAM'S GARDEN from John Elder. In 1796, Joshua Harley (son-in-law of Adam of ADAM'S GARDEN, who had acquired 100 acres of Adam's Garden from his father-in-law in 1756) sold 25 acres of ADAM'S GARDEN to Elias Brown. Elias Brown also bought parts of tracts called LITTLE WORTH and ADDITION TO LITTLE WORTH. In 1798, he repatented his land, 402 acres, as BROWN'S INHERITANCE. Looking at the plat of BROWN'S INHERITANCE, it appears that the majority of it had been part of ADAM'S GARDEN, so perhaps he bought some parts of it in addition to the two sales that were mentioned on the Tracey index cards at the HSCC library in Westminster. By this time, Adam of ADAM'S GARDEN had died, and his grandson Robert had inherited the family homestead. It's interesting that Robert's neighbor Elias Brown had Shipley family ties, especially if it's true that Elias was also a grandson of Adam Shipley.

The wife of Elias Brown was Ann Cockey (1760-1837). Their children were Thomas Cockey, Stephen Cockey, Elias, William, and Prudence Ann.

The son of Elias Brown, also named Elias (1793-1897), was a U. S. representative from Maryland, serving from 1829-1832). He served as a Maryland state senator 1836-1838.

**Rebecca Brown (1774-1852)**

Rebecca Brown, the daughter of Abel Brown (1704-1796) and the sister of Moses and Elias Brown, married George Frazer Warfield. According to *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*, their children were Dr. George Warfield, Lewis, William, Henry, Rebecca, Susannah, and Ann Elizabeth. Susannah Warfield (1796-1890) was an authoress and musician, and her home was Groveland. It seems likely that her name came from her grandmother, Susannah Shipley.

**Prudence Ann Brown (1799-1800)**

Prudence Ann Brown was a daughter of Elias Brown (1765-1800), granddaughter of Abel Brown and Susannah Shipley. She married George Patterson (1796-1869), the son of William Patterson. Their children were George (1844-1849) and Florence (1847-1878). Florence married James Carroll in 1877, and died less than a year later, at the age of 31, while giving birth. The child did not survive.

**Frank Brown (1846-1920)**

Frank Brown's parents were Stephen Thomas Cockey Brown and Susan Ann Bennett. Stephen Thomas Cockey Brown's parents were Thomas Cockey Brown (son of Elias Brown and Ann Cockey); and Susannah Snowden. Thomas Cockey Brown was the brother of Prudence Ann Brown, so she was Frank Brown's great aunt, and her daughter Florence was Frank's first cousin once removed. After Frank's cousin Florence died, his great aunt, Prudence Patterson, and her son-in-law James Carroll sold the Springfield estate to Frank Brown.

Frank Brown served in the Maryland House of Delegates 1876-1878, and became the 42<sup>nd</sup> governor of Maryland, 1892-1896. He sold 728 acres of the Springfield estate to the state of Maryland for \$50,000, for the establishment of a psychiatric hospital, Springfield Hospital Center. Construction started in 1896.

So part of ADAM'S GARDEN that had been sold became part of the SPRINGFIELD estate went back into the hands of someone with Shipley blood. It was eventually sold to the state of Maryland. The remainder of ADAM'S GARDEN, which adjoins the Springfield State Hospital grounds, was sold to the state in 1920.

**John Welsh, John Elder, and other historical errors in the Freedom Plan**

The Freedom Plan, a document approved in 2018 for the zoning plan of a section of Carroll County, Maryland, has a section on the history of Eldersburg that is riddled with historical errors. The Wikipedia article about Sykesville, Maryland also has multiple errors.

The Freedom Plan can be found here:

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/media/3269/2018-freedom-community-comprehensive-plan-adopted-10-10-18b.pdf>

**The Freedom Plan states, incorrectly, that John Elder founded Eldersburg in 1750, patenting the tract of land called Perseverance, which is the land around the area where what is now Rt. 32, then called Ben Whips Road, intersects Liberty Road.** Although John Elder was one of the early settlers in the area, it was John Welsh who patented the tract called PERSEVERANCE. He also patented other tracts of land around this intersection that is the heart of Eldersburg, along both sides of what is now Liberty Road.

A scan of the original PERSEVERANCE patent is available here. Click on the links at lower right to see each page of the patent:

<https://plats.msa.maryland.gov/pages/unit.aspx?cid=BA&qualifier=S&series=1190&unit=3921&page=adv1&id=2040494117>

**The Freedom plan also says that the King of England granted John Elder as much land as he could stake out in 24 hours.** That's not how the land grant system worked. Land in the Maryland colony was granted by Lord Baltimore, not the King of England. See the earlier sections of this paper for a description of how land was granted in the Maryland colony.

In 1743, John Welsh patented 100 acres called WELSH'S DELIGHT, which was included in the later tract called PERSEVERANCE. He built a tavern on that land, northwest of the intersection. Since Eldersburg was midway between Baltimore and Frederick, along the Indian path that became Liberty Road, it was an ideal place for a tavern. The narrow Indian path was improved and widened to be used as a road around 1749, by an entrepreneur named John Digges, who needed to haul ore from his mine near what is now Linwood to Baltimore.

The early land patents by John Elder were further south, closer to the Patapsco River. The early land patents belonging to John Elder, ELDER'S PUZZLE (150 acres, patented in 1751) and ELDER'S PLAGUE (382 acres, patented in 1753) are south of the Piney Falls, and north of the Patapsco River.

In 1754, John Elder bought 397 ½ acres of the southern portion of the 1212 acres of land patented as ADAM'S GARDEN by Adam Shipley, son of Richard (nephew of my ancestor Peter). Michael Elder later (in 1795) sold 233 acres of ADAM'S GARDEN land to Elias Brown, who patented BROWN'S INHERITANCE in 1798, some of which land later became part of the SPRINGFIELD tract.

**The Freedom Plan tells a wildly romantic story but inaccurate story about how Betsy Patterson made a dramatic escape from the Springfield estate with the help of her mother and a slave, after being locked in her bedroom by her father because of her threat to elope with Jerome Bonaparte.** Betsy Patterson did not elope from Springfield; she was actually married to Jerome Bonaparte on Christmas Eve in 1803 by Bishop John Carroll in her father's Baltimore home,

although her father was against the marriage because of what he had learned about the past of her intended.

Note: I did find online a newsletter of the Historical Society of Carroll County Maryland, Inc, dated 1952, which recounts a similar story of the elopement of Betsy Patterson from Springfield, so that may have been the source of the story in the Freedom Plan.

However, there apparently was a grain of truth in this story. Ann Horvath sent me a copy of an article published by *The Sun* of Baltimore, Maryland, on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1889. It recounts a story told by Miss Susanna Warfield, a contemporary of Betsy Patterson who was a neighbor of the Pattersons at their Springfield estate. Susanna's father, George Frazer Warfield, also had a home in the country in the Sykesville area. Susanna Warfield's mother was Rebecca Brown, daughter of Abel Brown. This article does not mention Rebecca's mother, but her mother was Susanna Shipley, according to the 2002 edition of *The Shipleys of Maryland*.

Miss Warfield said she "vividly recalls Miss Patterson's flight from 'Springfield', her father's home, to Baltimore to meet Bonaparte, the distance to the city being covered in the night on a mule." This event, assuming it actually happened, was probably sometime after Betsy had met Jerome Bonaparte but before they were married, while her father was attempting to keep the couple apart because he had heard of Jerome's reputation. But this nocturnal flight was not an elopement. Susanna Warfield also stated that her sister Elizabeth traveled extensively and was a companion of Madame Bonaparte, and that Elizabeth "was once compelled to flee from Paris on the return of the Bonapartes to the city, they having refused to approve of the wedding of Miss Patterson and Jerome Bonaparte."

**The Freedom plan says that the Village of Elders was re-named to Freedom after the Revolutionary War, and was settled by a Mr. O'Donald.** Freedom and Eldersburg were actually two separate villages. Their histories are described in Scharf's book, *The History of Western Maryland*, which confirms that Freedom was laid out by a Mr. O'Donald. The section of his book about the Freedom District is available here:

<http://www.marylandroots.net/index.php/county-resources/carroll-county/93-historyofwesternmaryland/63-freedom-district-no-5-chapter-39a>

**The Freedom plan says that by the early 1800's, the largest property in the County was the 3000-acre Springfield.** Springfield never contained as much as 3000 acres. The Springfield tract of 1378 acres was originally patented by William Patterson in 1827. It was repatented by his son George in 1854 as Springfield Enlarged, containing 1759 acres.

**The Freedom Plan says that William Patterson insisted that the B&O Railroad go near his summer home in Springfield.** The B&O railroad followed the Patapsco River. See the Wikipedia article titled "Old Main Line Subdivision." The

location of the Patapsco river and its tributaries influenced where settlement occurred in the Eldersburg and Sykesville area.

**The Freedom Plan says James Sykes bought 1000 acres of land in 1825 and rebuilt an existing saw and grist mill. James Sykes actually bought 238 acres in 1833 from Columbus O'Donnell, one of the directors of the B&O Railroad, as confirmed in the Maryland Historical Trust Documentation of the Howard Cotton Factory:**

<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Howard/HO-751.pdf>

**Many sites, including the Wikipedia article about Sykesville, incorrectly state that James Sykes bought 1000 acres from George Patterson.** James Sykes bought sections of various tracts from different people. The largest land purchase by James Sykes that I found was one of 497 acres of the tract called Mt. Pleasant Enlarged, from James George.

**The Wikipedia article about Sykesville says that George Patterson inherited the Springfield estate when his father died in 1824.** William Patterson died in 1835. He patented the Springfield estate in 1827; and he transferred it to his son in 1828, six years before his death.