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# TRACING THE SETTLEMENT OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

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## OVERVIEW

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This document serves as an addendum to the like-named document Tracing the Settlement of Howard County.docx with information pertinent to my research of Anne Arundel County. I realized during my first project I should have started with the oldest Anne Arundel County patents before I tackled Howard County as many of the settlers of Howard County already owned property in Anne Arundel. The more I learned about these earliest of Central Maryland's settlers the more I wanted to research their efforts to settle Anne Arundel County, although I had no connection to it. I lived in Howard County for nearly 25 years starting in 1995 and grew up in a town just downriver on the Baltimore County side of the Patapsco. I was lucky to watch Columbia grow from vacant farmland to the sprawling bustling town it is today, and lucky to live in greater Ellicott City which allowed easy access to Ellicott City's famed Main Street. Now my husband and I have retired to Anne Arundel county so it's nice to feel a more personal connection to it.

The techniques I used to research Anne Arundel were all the same as described in my previous document – just the file names have changed for the county name. Until I learned how to access the earlier land patents, I had to rely more heavily on later resurveys and research by others to determine where these old tracts were located. I am providing an additional appendix of bibliographical information. I am particularly grateful to Robert W. Hall for his excellent and no doubt painstaking research into these old tracts – I simply could not have gotten very far without his books. Many of the descriptions of the patents appear to have been lifted directly from the patent documents so I wasn't sure I needed to cite him at first but such time spent extracting all of this information from the patents certainly requires credit. His books also contain maps of the tracts and rivers, and additional information about many of the tracts that you may find helpful.

Eventually I learned how to access the patent books directly so I could extract the survey information for myself, but Hall's books continued to provide clues to their location within the books when the Maryland State Archives (MSA) index proved unreliable at times.

I kept a list of sources at the top of the first worksheet of the Excel workbook labeled Land Grants. The patent descriptions reference them using the shortened label. In this way, if someone uses my Google Earth land patents kml file, the source citation is included in the placemark descriptions, but it won't mean anything without the Excel spreadsheet to decipher it. These sources are included in Appendix B.

Unfortunately, the free web server app platplotter.com ceased to function before I completed creating all the plats for this project. It no longer appears to be supported so not only can I no longer create additional plats but I can't even update the plats I have already created. I do know

that Coxby should adjoin both Collierby and Bessenden which probably means Bessenden's southeast corner needs to tilt to the northeast. There are many other issues described in the location field of each plat in the Excel Land Grants sheet. Many of the surveys are vague or just off-the-cuff estimates so the resulting plats and their placement will reflect this situation.

I am also left with many conflicts and questions. If you have information to offer please email me at the link at the bottom of my website: Here is a sampling of some of my questions and quandries:

1. The survey for Providence to Amos Garrett seems terribly off – is there a corrected one extant?
2. Roper Gray vs. Ross Gray – are they not the same?
3. Cromwells Inheritance area does not align - Locust Hill and Milford, Coxes Forest
4. Pumphreys Search does not align with both Piney Forest and Mill Seat – Hammond; too many course corrections are needed.
5. Why does Birkheads Lot seem to fit between Sanetly and Dann and yet it is bordered on the north by Truman and Birkheads land (which tract is this)?
6. Why does the later resurvey of Harrison's Security - Elisha have it lying farther to the north?
7. The plat for Solomons Range drawn by Ray Robosson in 1939 shows Richie Highway bisecting the plat but if I lay it on the map that way then the eastern boundary bumps right up against the old Rte 2 (now 648), leaving little room for the plat lying to the east. Also, original Huckleberry Forest does not seem right, does not align with Solomons Forest, lots of conflicts.
8. Multiple properties want to adjoin Christopher Rowles land (Addition) but they don't all fit.
9. Davidsonville Park area is a mess - Elizabeths Fancy, Larkins Choice, Darbeys Choice, Addition - Jacob, Clarkes Inheritance, etc.
10. Why is the word pocosin used in some surveys (e.g. Waters His Lot) instead of swamp or marsh?
11. Area around Pascalls Chance, Hillington, Golden Valley, Turkey Hill, Fish Pond, Burrages End seems messed up.

## APPENDIX B

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Here is a list of the sources I found most helpful in compiling information specific to Anne Arundel county. The bibliography in the original document also applies to this project. Many of the books can be found in Google Books or Ancestry.com.

### Sources cited in the Land Grants worksheet:

DORMA - Dorsey, Maxwell J. and Jean Muir, and Nimmo, Nannie Ball, *The Dorsey Family*, Urbana, IL and Baltimore, MD: self-published, 1947.

CROMW - Culver, Francis, Cromwell Family, Maryland Historical Magazine, Baltimore, MD: 1918.  
HALAA - Hall, Robert W., *Early Landowners of Maryland Volume 1: Anne Arundel County 1650-1704*, Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 2003.

HALBA - Hall, Robert W. and Sandy, *Early Landowners of Maryland Volume 7: Baltimore County 1658-1710*, Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 2010.

HALCA - Hall, Robert W. and Sandy, *Early Landowners of Maryland Volume 3: Calvert County 1640-1710*, Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 2009.

HALMN - Hall, Robert W., *Land Grants in the Middle Neck Hundred of Anne Arundel County Maryland 1650-1704*, Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2001.

HALPG - Hall, Robert W., *Early Landowners of Maryland Volume 2: Prince George's County 1650-1710*, Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 2004.

HALSR - Hall, Robert W., *Land Grants in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1650-1704 South River Hundred*, Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2002.

NELTN - Nelker, Gladys P., *Town Neck Hundred of Anne Arundel County The Land*, Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1990.

RILAA - Riley, Elihu Samuel, *A History of Anne Arundel County in Maryland*, Annapolis, MD: Charles G. Feldmeyer, 1905.

WARFO - Warfield, J. D.. *The founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland : a genealogical and biographical review from wills, deeds and church records*, Baltimore, MD: Kohn & Pollock, 1905.

WILLS - *Maryland Perogative Court Wills (S538) 1635-1674 photostat 1*,  
[[https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagser/s500/s538/000000/000001/pdf/msa\\_s538\\_000001.pdf](https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagser/s500/s538/000000/000001/pdf/msa_s538_000001.pdf)]

## Other Sources on the Internet:

A Brief Description of the Ancient City of Annapolis: [https://books.google.com/books?id=Vr9ib-I1WlIC&pg=PA5&lpg=PA5&dq=providence+anne+arundel+history&source=bl&ots=n4n2\\_BUWif&sig=I0vnworRy3LF2uBxS9yJkfzYKlk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi7tL2E99TYAhWsUd8KHer7DIY4HhDoAQhUMak#v=onepage&q=providence%20anne%20arundel%20history&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=Vr9ib-I1WlIC&pg=PA5&lpg=PA5&dq=providence+anne+arundel+history&source=bl&ots=n4n2_BUWif&sig=I0vnworRy3LF2uBxS9yJkfzYKlk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi7tL2E99TYAhWsUd8KHer7DIY4HhDoAQhUMak#v=onepage&q=providence%20anne%20arundel%20history&f=false)

A History Of Anne Arundel County In Maryland: Adapted For Use In The Schools:  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=LkwVAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA29&lpg=PA29&dq=providence+anne+arundel+history&source=bl&ots=JOEQsFxyy3&sig=DI\\_VzpRrIPBC8mYAE8yprie6v-A&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiA1ur09dTYAhXNMd8KHbJAAAg4FBDoAQgtMAE#v=onepage&q=providence%20anne%20arundel%20history&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=LkwVAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA29&lpg=PA29&dq=providence+anne+arundel+history&source=bl&ots=JOEQsFxyy3&sig=DI_VzpRrIPBC8mYAE8yprie6v-A&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiA1ur09dTYAhXNMd8KHbJAAAg4FBDoAQgtMAE#v=onepage&q=providence%20anne%20arundel%20history&f=false)

Ancestry.com – Birckhead’s Mill: <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/37124903/person/29346361876/media/2b853035-6714-473c-a31e-8454e9fd3a6b>

Anne Arundel Mill Chapter:  
<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4300/sc4300/000005/000000/000002/unrestricted/anne%20arundel%20mill%20chapter.pdf>

Anne Arundel County’s Inventory Of Historical Properties:  
<https://dev.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/forms-and-publications/AACoInventoryHistoricProperties.pdf>

Anne Arundel County Historical Boundaries: <https://aagensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=27>

Anne Arundel County Maryland 2013 Zip Code Areas:  
[https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Documents/zipcode\\_map/2013/annezc13.pdf](https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Documents/zipcode_map/2013/annezc13.pdf)

Anne Arundel County Maryland County History: <https://www.aacounty.org/our-county/history/>

Anne Arundel County Maryland History: <https://www.aacounty.org/boards-and-commissions/severn-river-commission/history/>

Assessment of Anne Arundel County – 1783:  
<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/stagser/s1400/s1437/html/1437aa.html>

Birckhead’s Mill: <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/37124903/person/29346361876/media/2b853035-6714-473c-a31e-8454e9fd3a6b>

From Mother to Daughter, Following My Maternal Line: Information About James Weems:  
<https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/s/c/a/Jodie-Kay-Scales-IN/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0003.html>  
<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/educ/exhibits/images/fig18.jpg>

History of the Weems Family:  
<http://www.weemsjohn.com/PVH%20and%20Douglas%20Andes%20Weems%20History%20of%20the%20Weems%20Family.html>

Lost Towns Project: <http://www.losttownsproject.org/> There are many projects under the Research the Past menu item at this site that provided useful information – the list is here:  
<http://www.losttownsproject.org/research-the-past/catalog-of-papers-articles-academic-works/>

Burle's Town Land (18AN826): <https://core.tdar.org/project/6074/burles-town-land-18an826>

Maryland Genealogy Trails: <http://genealogytrails.com/mary/annearundel/ourearlysettlers.html>

Maryland Historical Magazine:

[http://archive.org/stream/msa\\_sc\\_5881\\_1\\_87/msa\\_sc\\_5881\\_1\\_87\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/msa_sc_5881_1_87/msa_sc_5881_1_87_djvu.txt)

Maryland Manual On-Line, September 1927:

<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/36loc/an/chron/html/anchron.html>

Pasadena/Marley Neck Small Area Neck: [https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/long-range-planning/small-area-planning/forms-and-publications/PasadenaSAP\\_Final.pdf](https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/long-range-planning/small-area-planning/forms-and-publications/PasadenaSAP_Final.pdf)

South County Small Area Plan: [https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/long-range-planning/small-area-planning/forms-and-publications/SouthCountySAP\\_Final.pdf](https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/long-range-planning/small-area-planning/forms-and-publications/SouthCountySAP_Final.pdf)

Williams, Richard, *Chew of Virginia and Maryland*, 1913:

<https://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/chew/851/>

### **Books:**

McMahon, John Van Lear, *An Historical View of the Government of Maryland: From Its Colonization to the Present Day Vol. 1*, Baltimore, MD: F.Lucas, Jr. Cushing & Sons, 1831.

Ridgely, Helen W., *Historic Graves of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, New York, NY: Grafton Press, 1908.

Sioussat, Anne Middleton Leakin, *Old Manors in the Colony of Maryland, Volume 2*, Library of the University of Virginia, 1913.