

## The Early Settlement of Glade Valley

Centuries before the Town of Walkersville, we know today, existed; decades before the Village of Georgetown and Walkersville began; families from foreign lands settled in the lush rolling hills along the Monocacy River. Between 1724 and 1725, four prominent individuals had parcels surveyed that totaled 23,150 acres or 36 miles. This land mass began at the mouth of the Monocacy River, extended west into present day Frederick City, and stretched north past the Town of Woodsboro.

Colonel Thomas Addison had 2,300 acres surveyed along the Monocacy River and Gas House Pike. He named this survey Addison Choice. Colonel Joseph Sim purchased a large track of this land in 1771 and operated a plantation. In addition to his military service, Colonel Sim contributed money and tobacco to the Continental Army during ownership of this land. After the Revolutionary War, the remaining land owned by the heirs of Colonel Thomas Addison were confiscated by the State of Maryland, as they were British Loyalist (Tracy/Dern, p 24, 31 and MD Historical Trust)

Irish immigrant, Daniel Dulany surveyed 3,850 acres near the Monocacy River and eastward along Route 26, this survey was named Dulany's Lott. The first sale was to John Martin, who purchased 100 acres in 1732. Susanna Beatty, widow from New York, purchased 1,000 acres for her family. A large portion of her property formed the communities Ceresville and Mount Pleasant. By 1781, families purchased and settled 1,550 acres of Dulaney's Lott. Maryland confiscated the remaining land held by Daniel Dulany, the younger, as he was a British Loyalist (Tracy/Dern, p115).

Lord Baltimore, (Charles Calvert II), had Monocacy Manor surveyed that contained 10,000 acres. The land was divided into 85 parcels to generate income from land rents. Daniel Dulany and Benjamin Tasker were the assigned agents to lease the parcels on behalf of Lord Baltimore. John Biggs tenanted the first parcel in 1741 that consisted of 203 acres along the Monocacy River and Biggs Ford Road. A comprehensive survey was completed by the rent collector, J. Dickson; he recorded tenants, acreage, and rents. Based on compiled information twenty-eight parcels had been rented by 1757. All of this land was confiscated by the State of Maryland in 1781 (Tracy/Dern, p302).

Tasker's Choice was surveyed for Benjamin Tasker, business man and resident of Annapolis. This large survey contained 7,000 acres along the Monocacy River that extended westward. Today, part of Frederick City resides within the boundaries of the original survey of Tasker's Choice. Six families from Germany leased land from Benjamin Tasker with the intention to purchase the entire patent. These families were unable to raise the required money by the agreed date. An arrangement was made and Daniel Dulany acquired the land from Benjamin Tasker and subsequently passed title on 21 parcels on land in 1746. Joseph Brunner was one of the land purchasers in 1746 and his home is the beautiful stone house and museum, Schiefferstadt. (Tracy/Dern, 257).

The migration of people into this region created the need for roads to travel, places to worship, and burying grounds for the deceased. Three major roads were developed that provided travel north, south, east, and west. Community members formed congregations, erected houses of worship, and acquired land for loved ones to rest upon their passing.

Three major roads, Old Monocacy, Monocacy Manor, and Woodsboro Turnpike provided travel for people who lived in the Glade Valley area. The Old Monocacy Road that many traveled does not exist today, this road followed closely along the banks of the Monocacy River and provided travelers access to other roads for travel in additional directions. Several destinations along the river between Route 26 and Biggs Ford Road provided fords for crossing. Stoners Ford was located in this region and provided passage across the river. People, who lived in the area south of the river, would have accessed Stoner's Ford to reach Dr. Stoner for their medical needs (Shaffer 224). Today, the bridge that spans the Monocacy River on Biggs Ford Road is in close proximity to the Biggs Ford Crossing, utilized by many in years past to cross the river for continued travel. In addition, Biggs Ford provided access to The Monocacy Manor Road, also known as "His Lordship's Manor" that traveled north through Monocacy Manor (Tracy/Dern 54). Today, we commute along route 194 from Ceresville through Woodsboro and points north, the very road Joseph Wood of Woodsboro petitioned the courts to open in 1743 (Tracy/Dern, p54 and Shafer p102, p196).

The Berg family, German immigrants, leased parcels within Monocacy Manor. Today, much of this land is in the town limits of Walkersville. Parcels tenanted by Christian and Johannes Berg completely surrounded the five acres of the Glade Reformed Church that was formed in 1750, now known as the Glade United Church of Christ (Glade, p1). To prevent the church land from being confiscated by Maryland after the Revolution War, an act of Legislature was enacted (Tracy/Dern, p313). Many families have worshiped within this congregation for the past two-hundred and sixty-four years; making this the oldest active congregation in Walkersville. Land was appointed for a burial ground that was located near the original log church (Glade, p1). Loved ones are still laid to rest in the Glade Cemetery among those who have called this land home for centuries.

Daniel Dulany set aside two ½ acres of land on his patent, Dulany's Lott, for a grave yard. Many of the English settlers within the area buried loved ones in this cemetery. William Beatty, Grandson of Suzanne Beatty, purchased the grave yard at an auction of confiscated British Loyalist land in 1781 for 10 pounds. The grave yard is not used today and no roads provide access (Shaffer, p224 & Maryland State Archives).

The arrival of more families and increase settlement of land brought new needs for additional worship and burial locations. Community members, Benjamin Souder, Nicholas Randall, John Devilbiss, Phillman Cromwell, Enoch Umstead, Joseph Stauffer, and John Walker served as the original trustees to organize, purchase, and erect the Israel Creek Methodist-Episcopal Church. Funds were raised and in 1817 a small patch of land was purchased from Robert and Mary Nelson, located at the intersection of Rt. 194 and Devilbiss Road (MD Land Records, Book JS4 Page 247). John and Mary Walker, of Walkersville, were laid to rest with loved ones in the family plot that is surrounded by the ornate iron fence and gate.

Centuries ago, families from foreign lands settled in Glade Valley among the gentle rolling hills, along the winding Monocacy River, and nestled by the Catoctin Mountains. Although they departed this world long ago evidence of their existence is present today. We travel on roads they petitioned the courts to open, we worship in congregations they organized, and some reside in homes or operate businesses in structures they erected. The early settlers may be gone but they are not forgotten.

## Citations

Dern, Tracy, and John Dern. *Pioneers of Old Monocacy*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing. 1987. Print

Shaffer, Stephanie, *Inhabitants of Frederick County Maryland Volume 1 1750-1790*. Westminster: Heritage. 2006. Print

Shaffer, Stefanie, *inhabitants of Frederick County Maryland Volume 2 1749-1800*. Westminster: Heritage. 2008. Print

Rice, Millard, *New Facts and Old Families*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing. 2002. Print

Glade United Church of Christ. (2015). *Who We Are, Our History*. Retrieved 2015, February, from [www.gladechurch.org](http://www.gladechurch.org)

MD Land Records. (2015) Frederick County, *Deeds*. Retrieved 2015, February, from [www.mdlandrec.net](http://www.mdlandrec.net)

Maryland State Archives (2015) Frederick County, *Plats, MSA S 1220 423*. Retrieved 2015, February, from [www.msa.maryland.gov](http://www.msa.maryland.gov)

Maryland Historical Trust. (2001, June). Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. *Routzhan's Farm, Inventory No. F-8-30*. Retrieved 2015, February, from [www.mdihp.net/](http://www.mdihp.net/) Inventory of Historical Properties/Frederick County/Routzhan's Farm

*By Bonnie Leins*

*Walkersville Historical Society Member*