

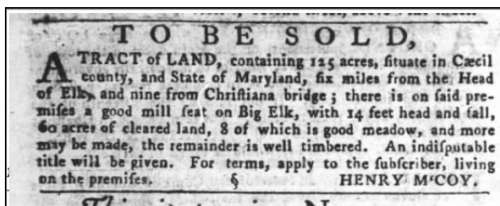
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Big Business at Scott's Mill

by Emily Kilby

A 1784 issue of Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* carried an ad for a 125-acre tract of land located six miles north of Head of Elk and nine from Christiana bridge. Along with 60 cleared acres and good timber on the remainder, the property contained a "good mill seat on Big Elk."



Ten years later a mill was being erected on that good site, and 222 years on, it's the sole survivor—or at least parts of it—of a thriving industrial corridor that once lined Big Elk Creek in Cecil County's northeastern corner.

Only the scantest physical traces remain of the other four upper Big Elk mills that at various times between 1720 and 1920 produced flour, grain meals, animal feed, cotton thread, woolen cloth, cotton cloth, carpeting, lumber, wheel and carriage parts, tool handles and sheets of copper and iron. Scott's mill is the name that sticks with the property, even though John Scott, then son David owned it for only 29 of its 135 years in operation. Perhaps it was the scope of the enterprise while under the Scotts' ownership that caused their name to stick with the site. The original industry there was a slitting mill where heated sheet iron was run through water-powered rollers and cutters to produce rods or bars for further shaping into cut nails, horseshoes, machinery parts and the like. The slitting operation lasted for less than 50 years, and Scott purchased the mill in a foreclosure action. Subsequent to the

1850 Census

Scotts' ownership, the mill produced flour, meals, animal feeds and sawn and shaped lumber for the local market, just like so many other mills in the district.

But during the Scotts' early tenure, the "good mill seat" became a place of Big Business. In 1850, the four products manufactured there—milled grain, sawed lumber, augers and ground bark—had a gross value of \$23,351, making their enterprise the second largest industrial

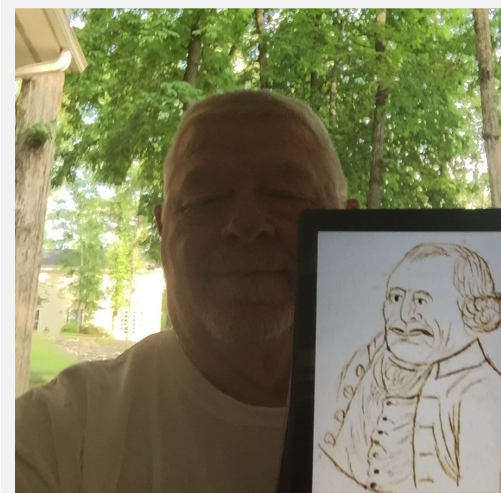
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Globetrotting with Cecil



Cecil's first trip was to Atlanta, Georgia with Richard and Gail Juergens. Where will Cecil show up next? Send your photos to questions@cecilhistory.org

President's Corner

Hi Members,

I hope everyone is having a spectacular summer.

The Historical Society's volunteer staff is taking a break from programming for the summer, but we will be back in the Fall with an exciting program about Sunset Park. That should stir up lots of memories, and even though it was not located in Cecil County everyone I talk to has some memory of it.

In October we will be hosting a presentation and cooking demonstration about common Maryland foods and there will be another annual Bootlegger's Ball.

I am very excited with this new edition of the Inkwel because it features some new contributors, a tutorial that will help you with your research and an article by a Jr. member of the Society. You will also see that "Cecil" has finally gotten out of Cecil County. In fact, we have been so busy at the Society we generated too much to fit into this edition.

Please remember to stop in on the First Friday of every month from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and engage in

stimulating conversation with some mighty good refreshments. Also, we are always looking for interesting written articles to be used in The Inkwel or in our weekly section of the Cecil Whig. If you are looking for a rewarding experience, think about volunteering at the Historical Society. We can do more with extra hands to help keep history alive.

*Paula Newton
President*

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INKWELL DESIGN BY FRAZIER WALKER

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Continued from page 1....

money maker in the fourth election district, exceeding even the two paper-making factories with their larger workforces. Only Parke & Brother, the former Evans rolling mill with its 24 workers and annual boilerplate output worth \$80,000, surpassed Scott's mills. By 1860, Scott's neighbor William Maxwell was manufacturing the augers and the sawmill wasn't operating, but even so, the milled

1860 census

grains and ground bark produced by Scott's mill were worth \$18,725, the third highest industrial gross in the district. In 1874, David Scott lost the mill to foreclosure. Who can say how much the turmoil wrought by the Civil War and Scott's significant involvement in local and state politics pulled his attentions away from his business? His biography paints him not as a hard-nosed businessman but more a passionate thinker and talented artist whose gravestone in Head of Christiana cemetery bears a single-word epitaph: "Poet."

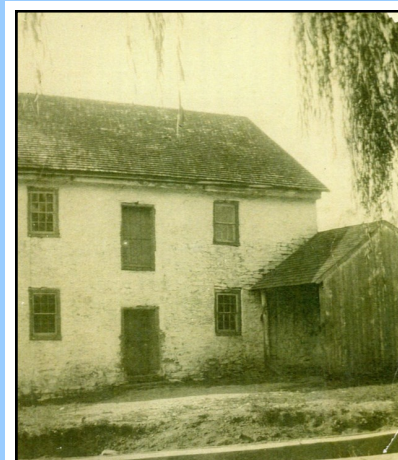
Father John Scott may well have been the true entrepreneur in the family in that he parlayed his skill in auger making, usually carried out in small shops, into a multi-product enterprise. He, his several sons and his in-laws were especially skilled in this iron-working specialty, and the fact that John Scott stamped his name on his products indicates a particular pride of

craftsmanship. The Scotts and scores of other auger makers in the Fair Hill area produced most of these essential carpentry tools sold in the central Atlantic markets during the first half of 19th century.



Some time before 1850, the elder Scott with partner James Tweed initiated the most lucrative of his family's enterprises. Until I recently got a look at the manufacturing censuses for 1850 and 1860, my presumption had been that this business of chopping up tree bark for use in leather tanning must have been a small sideline compared to the other Scott's mill production. How much market could there be for ground bark, after all? Tons and tons worth, it seems. According to the 1850 census, Scott and Tweed's four-man crew processed four tons of bark that had cost \$8,000 to turn out four tons of ground bark worth \$16,000. Again in 1860, David Scott's \$4,000 investment in 500 tons of quercitron (yellow oak) bark was doubled into an \$8,000 return simply by grinding. The big, unsolved puzzle is who used these tons of ground bark? Only one leather tanner was enumerated in Cecil County during the years of Scott's production, and by 1860 tanner Maxwell was processing his own tanbark. So, Scott's mill must have supplied tanners in a wider market, possibly even internationally in places such as long-deforested England.

Scott's mill remained in operation, grinding animal feeds for local farmers, into the 20th century. In 1935, it became one of the hundred-plus, mostly contiguous properties William du Pont, Jr., had bought to merge into the nearly 6,000-acre



1920 Mill

Maryland segment of his Foxcatcher estate. The mill was *not* one of the few buildings du Pont chose to maintain, and it was a roofless stone ruin by the time Maryland state bought Foxcatcher in 1974 to preserve as a natural resources management area.

Today, the building's east and north walls are mostly gone, but the remainders of the south and west walls recall the size and substance of a mill that was an industrial powerhouse for a century and a half, particularly during the Scott family's mid-19th century ownership.



Present Day Mill



Indentured Servants and Their Court Rights

By JoAnn Gardner

A new glimpse of life in Cecil County in the years 1701 - 1735 can be found in one of our newest resources here at the Historical Society of Cecil County. The Cecil County Court Ledgers from the years 1701-1735 surfaced at an auction in New York, finding their way to us by donation.

Diligent volunteers have been working to transcribe the documents into a readable format. So far, the first fifty pages of court petitions have been completed, revealing insight into colonial times in Cecil County. Some of the most interesting petitions came from indentured servants, exercising their rights to hold their masters accountable to the terms of their contract. Life may have been rugged in the colonies, but there was a legal system in place to settle disputes which evidently was often used.

Indentured servants were common in the colonies. The indenture was a legal contract binding the servant to a master for a specific number of years in return for passage to the American colonies. It was an attractive option for poor British and Germans wishing to escape conflict or poverty in Europe. Some arrived directly in the colonies, while others found placements in the Caribbean. Indentured servants were typically under the complete control of their masters, and subject to punishment at their whim.

When the term was over, freedom was granted along with some form of payment. Typically they were given a new set of clothing and enough tobacco (commonly used as currency in the colonies) to begin life on their own.

Indentured life was a hard one. Masters varied in their treatment of these servants. However, unlike enslaved

Africans, indentured servants had the ability to petition the court with their complaints. Some servants were set free, while others were forced to keep their position with the same master. If a female servant had a child, she was expected to make up for any time lost due to birth and child rearing. Many servants ran away. These court documents have survived, giving us a glimpse into the lives of these early Americans. Here are just a few of their stories:

Locklen Flinn began his life as an indentured servant on a plantation in Barbados. After five years his contract was sold to James MacNeale of Cecil County where Locklen would finish his term of indenture. When the time of indenture was completed, MacNeale refused to release him. After petitioning the court in June of 1703, his release was granted. MacNeale was ordered to provide Flinn with 200 lbs of tobacco and new clothing.

Runaway servants were common. If caught, they were returned to the master to finish serving their time, in addition to the time lost. Thomas Dolahunte petitioned the court for his freedom after such a situation after serving both time periods. Freedom was granted.

In November of 1706, Jane Troopy went before the court to plead for her release from John and Eliza Keye. The ledger gives a detailed account of her complaint of abuse: hanging her from the chimney until she almost died, dragging her around, and beating her until she soiled herself. The court did not find her petition grounds for her release, and merely ordered the Keyes to stop the abuse.

Not all indentured servants came from abroad. Many children of existing citizens were indentured out to learn trades or to be educated. In June of 1703, Nath Nutting bound his son John to Thomas

Kilton so he could learn to read and write. Rachell Johnson, daughter of Martin Johnson is bound to Philip Pryor until she is 16 or marries. Upon her release she was to receive a 3 year old heifer and new clothing.

Besides complaints, these court ledgers show positive aspects of the community. Thomas Maxwell petitioned the court in March of 1720 with a formal request to adopt the 6 year old orphaned son of Owen Megraph (McGraw). In addition to burying the child's mother, Maxwell took care of Owen until his death. He expressed to the court his willingness to make this child his heir and provide him with an education. The court granted him the right to adopt the child. Hopefully there was a happy ending to this story for them both.

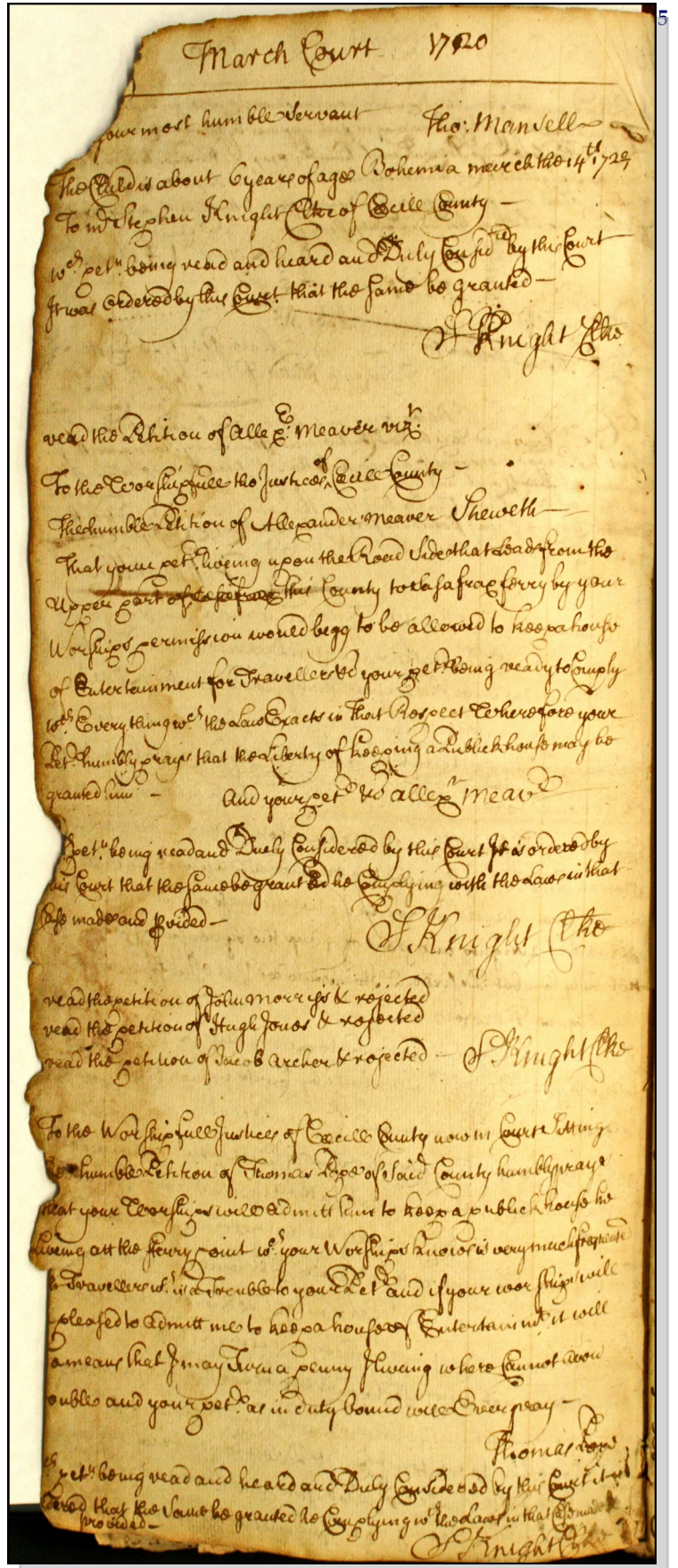
Primary sources like these court ledgers provide real insight into the lives of real people who lived here in colonial times. We are continuing to transcribe more of this valuable resource. Stop by to the Historical Society of Cecil County if you would like to explore more of these stories.



Have you found answers to your Cecil County family history mysteries?

Share your Stories!

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The Cecil County Court Ledgers from the years 1701-1735 surfaced at an auction in New York, finding their way to us by donation.

Deed Mapping Tutorial

by Travis Humiston

When researching a house, property or person, sometimes it is helpful to be able to visualize what the deed to a property looks like. There are many software programs and professional services to help in accomplishing this task, and if the drawing is to be used in any official capacity these services should most certainly be utilized. However, in many cases an unofficial map will suffice. This tutorial will show a simple way to create a digital map with software programs that most people and libraries will have (Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint and Google Maps). Additionally, the files and templates used in this tutorial will be posted to the Historical Society's website for download.

Begin by examining the deed you wish to map. I recommend transcribing older handwritten deeds first before extracting the coordinates. This will reduce confusion regarding which coordinate you are working with. Figure 1 below shows the relevant portion of the deed for our example (one parcel of a plot of land).

BEGINNING FOR THE SAME at the end of the first line of a lot formerly belonging to a certain Hall and, also formerly of George W. Goodnow, it being the southwest corner of said lot of land and running thence South 62 ¼ degrees West 7 perches to the center of the public road leading from Zion to Elkton; thence South 29 ¼ degrees East 7 perches; thence North 60 ¾ degrees East 7.5 perches; thence North 25 degrees West 6.65 perches to a point on the second line of the aforesaid Hall lot of land and thence by and with said line, reversed, South 62 ¼ degrees West 1 perch to the place of beginning. The improvements thereon being known as 170 Old Zion Road.

Figure 1 Portion of deed with coordinates

Open Microsoft Excel and start a new worksheet. Create names for the columns as outlined in Figure 2 (right). Alternatively, the Microsoft Excel template is available for download on the Historical Society web page.

Scale	Scale Size (in.)		:	Original Size (Ft)		
	Direction (N or S)	Angle		Direction (E or W)	Deed Length (Perches)	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

Figure 2 Layout of deed mapping template

Next add in the coordinates from the deed. For this example, the worksheet will look like Figure 3 below.

Scale	Scale Size (in.)		:	Original Size (Ft)		Scale Length (in.)
	Coordinate Number	Direction (N or S)		Angle	Direction (E or W)	
1	S	62.25	W	7		
2	S	29.25	E	7		
3	N	60.75	E	7.5		
4	N	25	W	6.65		
5	S	62.25	W	1		

Figure 3 Deed mapping template with coordinates from deed

The deed lengths for this tutorial were measured in Perches, a common surveying unit, which equals 16.5 Ft. In order to get a proper scale the deed lengths must be converted to Ft. If a deed was surveyed in feet then no conversion is needed. If a deed is measured in a different unit than perches or Ft. a conversion factor will have to be located and used in the formula as shown in Figure 4 below.

Scale	Scale Size (in.)		:	Original Size (Ft)		Scale Length (in.)
	Coordinate Number	Direction (N or S)		Angle	Direction (E or W)	
1	S	62.25	W	7	=E5*16.5	

Figure 4 Formula for converting lengths to Ft.

Enter the formula with the appropriate reference in each coordinate row. When completed the worksheet should look like Figure 5 below.

Scale	Scale Size (in.)		:	Original Size (Ft)		Scale Length (in.)
	Coordinate Number	Direction (N or S)		Angle	Direction (E or W)	
1	S	62.25	W	7	115.5	
2	S	29.25	E	7	115.5	
3	N	60.75	E	7.5	123.75	
4	N	25	W	6.65	109.725	
5	S	62.25	W	1	16.5	

Figure 5 Temple with all lengths converted to Ft.

In order to ensure that the map will fit on a print out or computer screen a scale needs to be defined. The scale will depend on the size of the lot. The lot in this example is less than 300 ft. wide by 300 ft. long, so a scale of 1 in. to 50 ft. would put the lot within a 6 in. X 6 in. square on a computer monitor or print out and should be sufficient. In part two of the tutorial however, the segments will be placed on Google map. In order to facilitate a Google map, an appropriate scaling factor is needed and is shown below.

To add this feature to the spreadsheet, type the formula as shown in Figure 6 into the appropriate cell (G5).

2	Scale		Scale Size (in.)	:	Original Size (Ft)		
3			2.93		107		
4	Coordinate Number	Direction (N or S)	Angle	Direction (E or W)	Deed Length (Perches)	Length (Ft)	Scale Length (in.)
5	1	S	62.25	W	7	115.5	$= (F5 * \$B\$3) / \$E\3

Figure 6 Formula for scaling lengths

Copy the formula down the coordinate rows. The finished product should look like the worksheet in Figure 7.

2	Scale		Scale Size (in.)	:	Original Size (Ft)		
3			2.93		107		
4	Coordinate Number	Direction (N or S)	Angle	Direction (E or W)	Deed Length (Perches)	Length (Ft)	Scale Length (in.)
5	1	S	62.25	W	7	115.5	3.16
6	2	S	29.25	E	7	115.5	3.16
7	3	N	60.75	E	7.5	123.75	3.39
8	4	N	25	W	6.65	109.725	3.00
9	5	S	62.25	W	1	16.5	0.45

Figure 7 All Lengths Scaled 2.93:107

Next open Microsoft Power Point. Start a blank presentation and remove (delete) the standard title boxes. This program will be used to draw the segments. Each segment will have a direction and length. These are the coordinates that were processed in Microsoft Excel. For the map to make sense the northern direction must be defined. In this tutorial North is "up". See Figure 8.

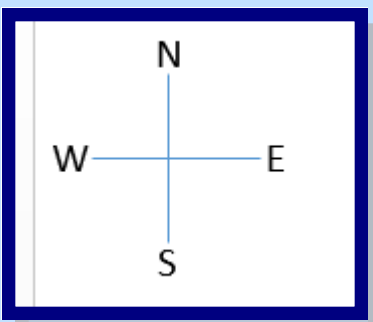


Figure 8

Click on the “insert” ribbon, the “shapes” tab and select a “straight” line as shown in Figure 9.

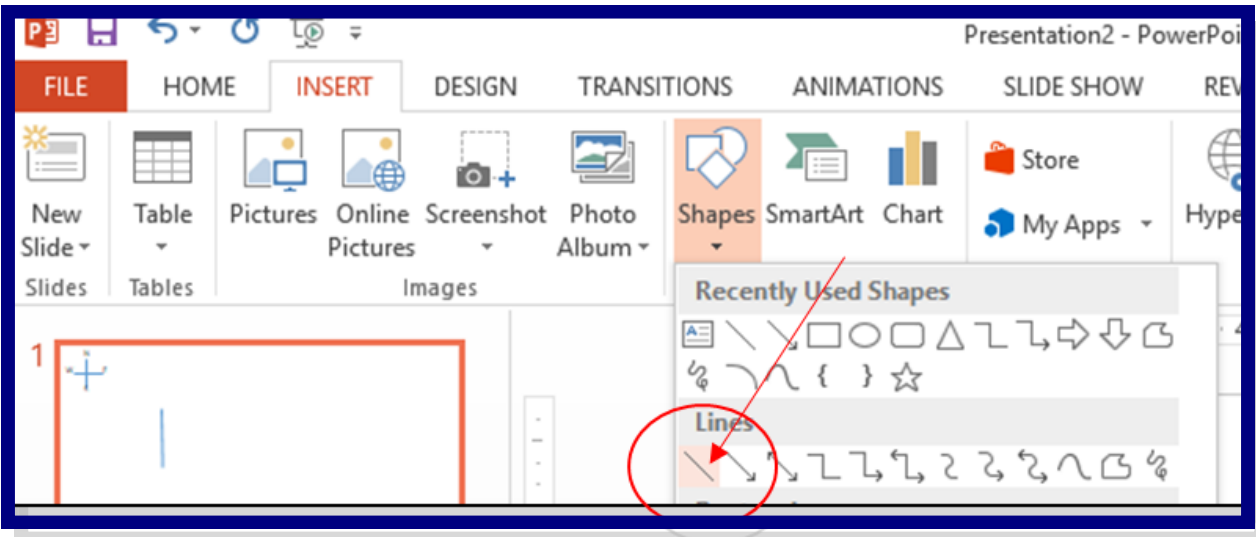


Figure 9 Adding a "Line" in PowerPoint

Draw the line approximately 2 inches from south to north. Right click on the line and select “size and position”. A screen or panel should appear, such as the one in Figure 10, with several options.

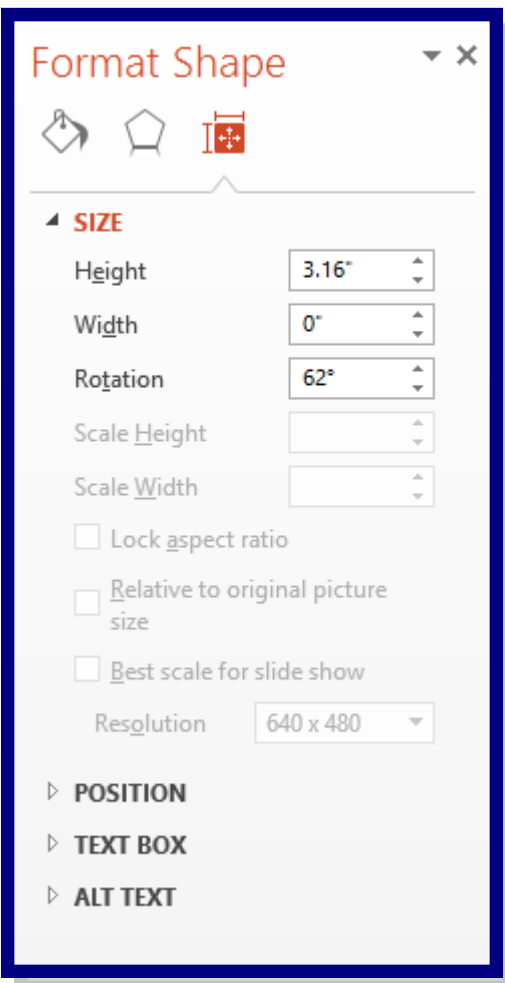


Figure 10

This format Shape menu is where each line is transformed into a segment.

The angles of each coordinate are given in three parts. The North/South Modifier, Angle, and East/West Modifier. The first part indicates if the line should be going down to up (N) or up to down (S). The Second part indicates how many degrees of rotation to set and the third part indicates the direction of rotation. If the first part is North then an East direction would be clockwise (or positive rotation) and a west direction would be counter clockwise (negative rotation). If the First part is south, then an east direction will be counterclockwise (negative rotation) and the west direction will be clockwise (positive rotation). This technique only allows for integers, decimal values must be rounded. The second part of the tutorial will outline a different technique to achieve the rotation portion of the segment which will allow more accuracy.

The scale length that was calculated in excel should be input into the “Height” text box. Ensure the “Width” text box says “0”.

Continued page 10...

Figure 11 shows a completed segment. Continue to add each of the coordinate lines from the excel sheet from tip to tail until all the segments are in place.

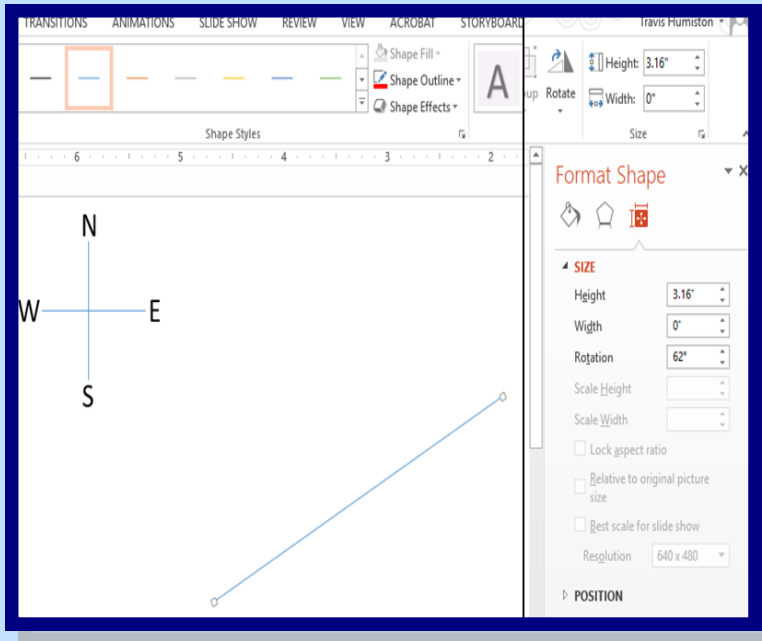


Figure 11 Complete Segment in PowerPoint

Ideally the starting point and the ending point will meet. Sometimes the last coordinate in the deed will read something to the effect of “and finally a line back to the place of beginning”. In the case of this tutorial the ends do not meet, and in fact the professional deed map confirms that there is something known as an “error of closure” at that intersection. Also worth noting, the limitations of this mapping technique can magnify or create errors of closure. This is especially true with deeds that have many segments.

Once mapped deeds can provide visual cues about a property. If it is an older property the deed may have changed over time. Mapping each one in order can show this progression. The second tutorial will show how to take these segments and place them on a Google map. It will also show an alternate technique for setting the angle of the segments which will allow more accuracy which is useful for deeds with many segments.

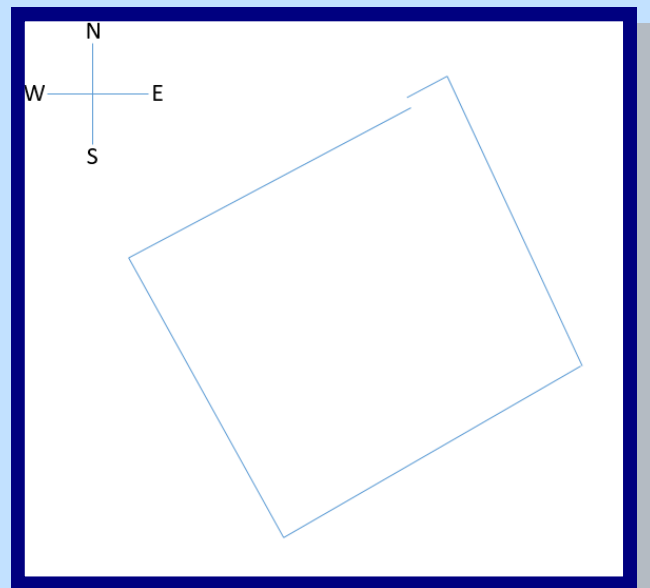


Figure 12 All Segments from Deed Mapped

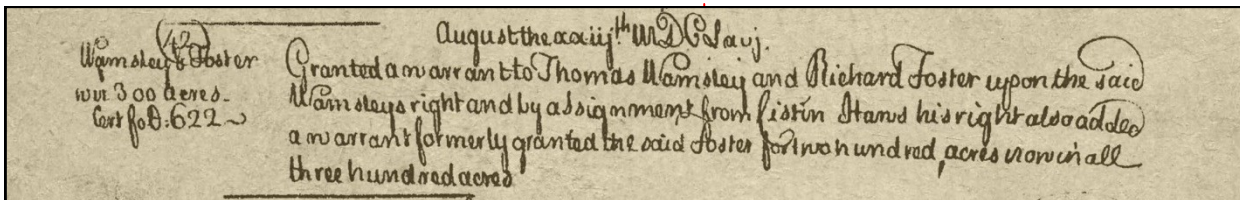
Foster Family Celebrates 350 Years in the New World

By Karlene Foster

On the eve of the 342nd Anniversary of the founding of Cecil County Maryland, I would like to reflect on the upcoming mile marker in my own family's history. This summer is the 350th Anniversary of the Foster family's arrival to the New World. On the 23rd of August, 1666 Richard Foster along with Thomas Wamsley, received a head right grant of 300 acres of land called Hassel

After John's death, Jesse moved his family to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, where he himself died just one year later. Listed among the possessions on his inventory was a conch shell, no doubt brought as a reminder of his Cecil County roots.

In 1818 his son James, along with his wife Barbara Lawrence and her family moved to Dearborn County, Indiana, descendants of which still live in Franklin County, Indiana today.



Branch, located in Baltimore County, later to become a part of Cecil County, Maryland. The property was on the East side of the Elk River by the mouth of St. Albans Creek, known today as Pearce Creek. Richard Foster was a farmer by trade, and his descendants remained so into the 20th century. In December of 1675 Richard died passing the land down to his son Richard.

In 1695 Richard sold Hassel Branch and moved along with his father-in-law James Robinson, to the North Side of the Elk River to a tract of land called Brereton, located close to Plum Point. Upon his death the property passed down to his son John, and it was from this vantage point that he and his son Jesse watched the landing of the British troops in August of 1777, at the start of the Revolutionary War.

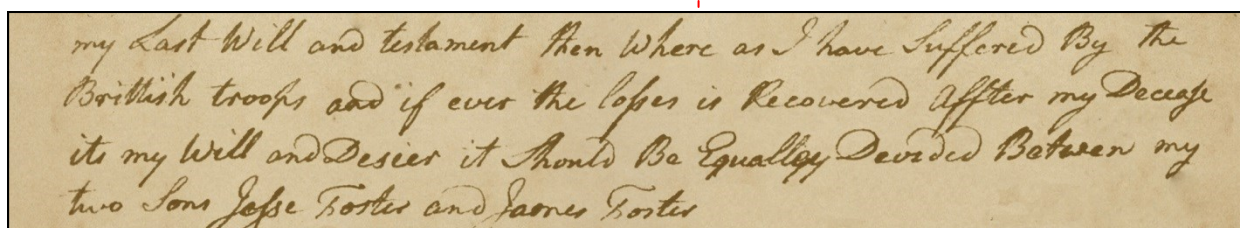
As John Foster wrote in his will dated 1789, "my Last Will and testament then where as I have suffered by the British Troops, if ever the losses is recovered after my decease it is my will and desire it should be equally divided by my two sons Jesse Foster and James Foster."

Family history research is a group effort, so I would like to thank the wonderful folks at the Historical Society of Cecil County and the Maryland State Archives for help with my research. And a special thanks to my father Rex Gordon Foster, who instilled in me the importance of family history, and my Uncle Larry Foster, who got me started. ✨

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Petroglyphs at Bald Friar

By Junior Member Ostin Younker (age 10)

Maryland's best known example of prehistoric rock art was located along the Susquehanna River at the Bald Friar site in Cecil County, where the Susquehanna Indians, A town and a tribe of the Iroquoian stock, were known to stay. These figures were pecked or carved into the rock. The Bald Friar carving include concentric circles, grid like patterns and a design that has been described as serpent head. Scholars don't understand why the petroglyphs were made or what they mean. Thought to be somewhere between 500 and 1,000 years old. Geologist Persifor Frazor Jr. was the first scholar to document the petroglyphs in detail. The Bald Friar site was threatened in the 1920s by the building of the Conowingo Dam. The dam forms a 14 mile long

reservoir. Maryland academy saved 90 pieces of the carving. After the petroglyphs were saved they were displayed in many places around Maryland, for example, they were displayed in the public library of Elkton.



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