

CARR-32  
Early Land Grant (1723)  
"Belt's Hills"  
Sykesville vicinity

From:

Warner, Nancy M, Ralph B. Levering, and Margaret Taylor Woltz (1976) Carroll County, Maryland: A History 1837-1976. Carroll County Bicentennial Committee. P. 19.

"Freedom district contains the land in the first grant to contain part of Carroll County land and the first grant totally within the county. These are 'Belt's Hills,' a tract of 800 acres southeast of Sykesville, to Benjamin Belt on 10 July 1723 and 'Owings' Outland Plains,' 470 acres to Richard Owings on September 1724, respectively."

Windsor where it joined with other Indian trails coming in from the east and the north.

The early settlers in this district were mostly landholders who had acquired large tracts of land. They were large slave holders and builders of fine mansions. This accounts for the fact that today we find the better old homes in this section of the county rather than in the eastern portion which was settled by Quakers and Germans.

The first settler in Freedom District was Richard Owings, who acquired by patent OWINGS OUTLAND PLAINS, surveyed for him April 3, 1723. This tract will be pointed out as one of the landmarks of the tour.

The starting point will be at the site of the old "Chappell of Ease", the cornerstone of which was laid March 8, 1771, for the benefit of Delaware Hundred, a subdivision of the large parish of St. Thomas, which included part of Carroll and part of Baltimore counties. The small stone church, located in Eldersburg on the Liberty Road, occupied a commanding site in a beautiful grove of trees. It flourished until the time of the Revolution when the mother church no longer had authority to collect taxes for its support—taxes paid mostly in tobacco. For a number of years the church building was used as a school. Finally it became a stable and by 1842 was floorless and roofless. In 1843, however, George Frazier Warfield and his wife Rebecca started a successful movement to restore it, with the result that it was re-consecrated October 31, 1843. Services continued until 1923. But now the building is completely gone. Only the old churchyard with numerous graves of prominent people remains to mark the site of "Chappell of Ease."

That part of Freedom District which surrounds Sykesville on three sides is rich in history. The Springfield estate, formerly owned by George Patterson, was one of the most complete farming establishments in Maryland. Every school child knows the story of his famous sister Betsy who escaped from the room where her father William had locked her, mounted a waiting steed, supplied with the aid of a slave boy, and galloped down from Springfield to Baltimore town to meet her fate in the person of young Jerome Bonaparte.

George Patterson married Prudence Ann Brown. Their only child Florence married James Carroll of Charles. She died and the estate was sold in 1880 to her cousin, Frank Brown. He combined this with his own, "Brown's Inheritance." In 1875 and 1878 he was elected to the House of Delegates and in 1892 he became Governor of Maryland.

The sites of the Patterson mansion and that of Governor Brown will be included on the tour.

In the last News Letter mention was made of the old copper mine in this vicinity. Of additional interest are several large soap stone quarries which are now in operation. A soap stone mill will be visited along the way.

(The above material has been compiled from "100 Years of Carroll" by Bradford Gist Lynch and from the files of the Historical Society of Carroll County).

The Volume 2, No. 2 Bulletin of the Society was mailed to each member whose dues were paid up to the end of 1951 and to those who have joined the Society since January 1, 1952. If, by any chance, you have forgotten or have failed to receive a bill for dues, why not send in a check for back dues? As soon as it is received, you will be issued a membership card and the latest Bulletin.

T. K. Harrison, Treasurer,  
Westminster, Md.

Historical Society of Carroll County, Md., Inc.  
206 East Main Street  
Westminster, Maryland

# NEWS LETTER

## Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Inc.

Volume 1

August, 1952

Number Three

### SECOND ANNUAL TOUR — August 20, 1952

The beginning point of the tour will be on the Liberty Road, or State Road No. 26, at about one hundred yards west of ELDERSBURG, with all cars facing toward Baltimore.

- A. WELSHES TAVERN of olden days, 1756 or earlier.
- B. CHAPPEL OF EASE for DELAWARE HUNDRED.  
All persons will gather at this point for instructions as to the course and stopping places of the tour and for a short talk. The tour will start promptly at four P. M.
- C. BRANTON MANOR. All cars will keep to the old road as BRANTON MANOR is approached and will turn left on the road to Oakland Mills and park at that point. After leaving BRANTON MANOR proceed toward Eldersburg, reversing the route for two miles, then turn left on marked road.
- D. STONE HOUSE. Erected in 1813 by members of the BROWN FAMILY. Cars will not stop here.
- E. OWINGS OUTLAND PLAINS. Surveyed April 3, 1723. The first piece of land to be surveyed lying entirely within Carroll County.
- F. ELIAS BROWN HOUSE. A very interesting old stone house that has not yet been restored. The lane to this house is one way and a little rough. Those who desire to see this interesting old house will drive in, others will proceed to the next stop and inspect the Soap Stone Mill.
- G. SOAP STONE MILL. This will be of great interest to those who have not seen a plant of this kind.
- H. DELAWARE BOTTOM. A former Indian Village site and an interesting land mark.
- J. BELT'S HILLS. Surveyed in 1719. The first survey upon land lying partly in Carroll County and partly in Howard County.
- K. ELIAS BROWN MILL. At the birthplace of Governor Brown.
- 31 L. SITE OF THE HOME OF GOVERNOR BROWN. This house was very recently torn down.
- 41 M. SITE OF PATTERSON MANSION. From which Betsy Patterson eloped.
- N. THE STRAWBRIDGE HOME FOR BOYS.

(Please bring this itinerary with you when you join the caravan).

### FREEDOM DISTRICT

The Carroll County Historical Tour of 1952 features the first district in the county to be settled by white people, mostly English and Scotch-Irish. They came from Annapolis and southern Maryland over what was called the old Annapolis Road, formerly an Indian trail. Another trail crossed Freedom District from Delaware Bottom in Howard County to Eldersburg, from which it followed what is now known as the old Liberty Road to the vicinity of New

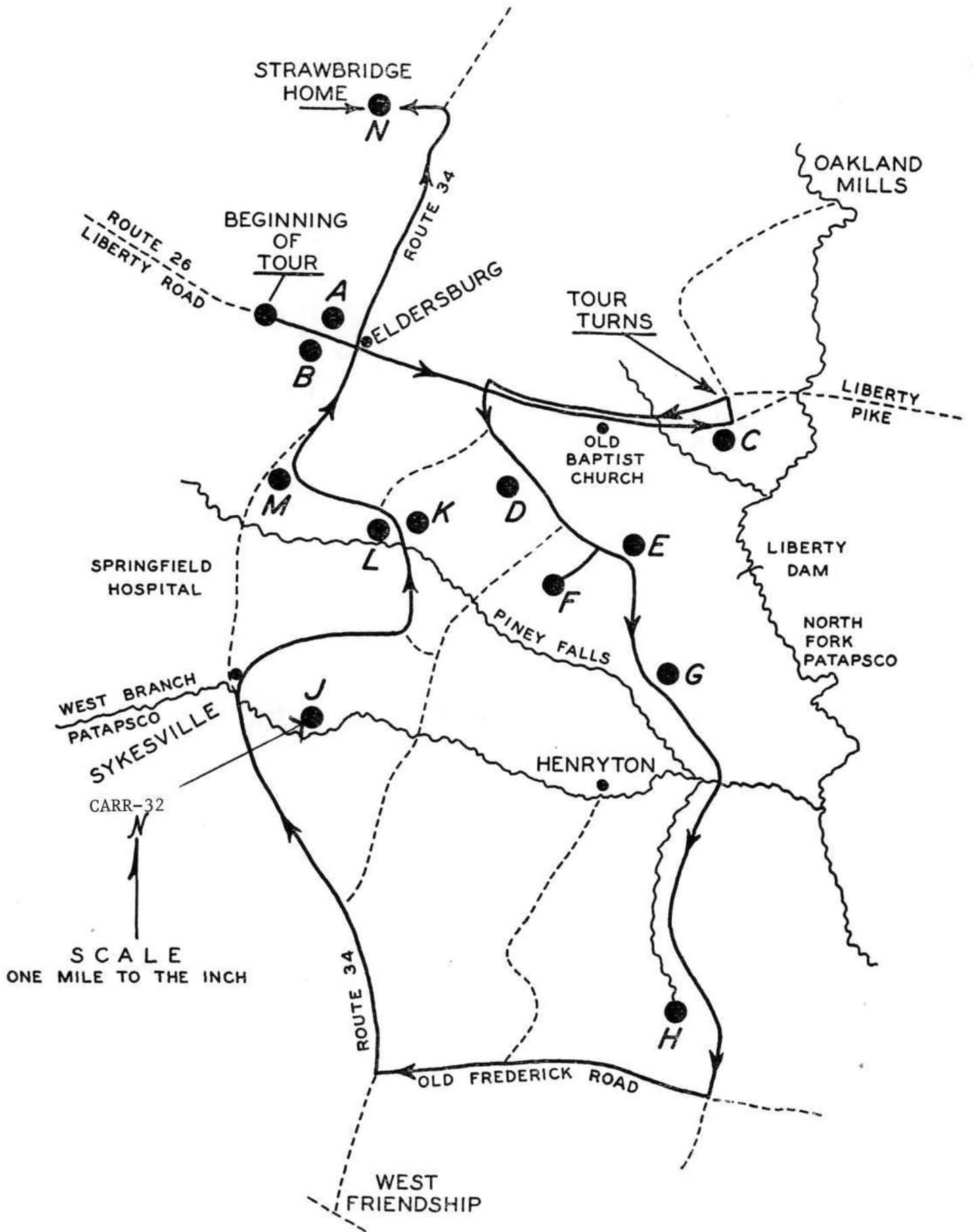
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# TOUR OF CARROLL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1952 — THREE P. M.

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(precise boundary undefined)

