

HO-163

before 1753

Tierney Gambrel Roof House, site
(Worthington's Range, Howard's Chance, Howard's Range)
Corner of MD 108 and Old Guilford Road (former MD 32)

Burned by vandals in May of 1977, this 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed log house had one brick chimney within the wall and one brick chimney exposed. The gambrel was very steep, and had two shed-roofed dormers on the front facade. The following is from an article by Judith Kreiner called "Sad Obituary of an Old House: Too Few People Really Cared," which was published shortly after the building burned:

Originally the house was made of logs. The clapboard siding was added a little later. The roof, which sloped to shed snow, was covered with split shakes hand trimmed one by one. Inside, the house had wide pegged-board floors and handsome wrought-iron fittings on doors and windows. Some of that hardware existed up until the fire.

On April 30, 1958, an article by Mrs. Clifford F. [Alice] Shaw appeared in The Ellicott City Times entitled, "Two 18th Century Cottages Subject Of Latest Article On Old Homes In Howard." The following are quotes from that article:

By the time of their father's death in 1753, the six daughters of Thomas and Elizabeth Worthington had left the family homestead

“Broome,” their birthplace near Annapolis, and moved into upper Anne Arundel with their Howard, Dorsey, Gassoway, Watkins and Warfield husbands. The lure of virgin lands that had been amassed by their father and passed down as dowries, was undoubtedly the cause of this migration, and as each daughter married, her portion was “settled” with the erection of a small home, and thus a new life on a new frontier began.

At Clarksville, at the junction of the Clarksville Pike and Route 32 still stands the home on “Worthington’s Range,” or “Howard’s Chance,” that was built on Rachel Worthington’s dowry, but more familiar today as the birthplace of the late Mr. Pete Stromberg.

Originally settling on Howard lands between Elioak and Simpsonville, Rachel and her husband, Cornelius Howard, later moved to the tract described in her father’s will of 1753 as “369 acres of ‘Worthington’s Range’ on which her husband has a plantation.”

According to Celia M. Holland’s 1987 book, Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland, (pp. 349-354), the Mr. Stromberg mentioned above was the late state senator, Paul G. Stromberg, a longtime owner and publisher of

the Howard County Times and father of Doris S. Thompson, editor of the paper from 1966 until her retirement in 1978.

Judith Kreiner's article mentions the sad fact that the house had been attacked by vandals previously, and had been boarded up to keep them out. The owners were investigating the possibility of moving the house to a protected location when it was destroyed by fire.



(John Brennan)

HOWARD'S RANGE

plus the Strombergs and Howard County Journalism

While the history of the region remains fresh in the minds of some of the older residents of the Fulton-Clarksville area, stories abound of the Worthington and Ridgely families and the vast acreage accrued by them during the early years of the 18th century. But one particular story, as passed down, is based in part on legend rather than on fact.¹ In 1958 an account pertaining to the homes occupied by the daughters of Thomas and Elizabeth Ridgely Worthington read in part:

By the time of their father's death in 1753, six daughters of Thomas and Elizabeth Worthington had left the family homestead, "Broome," their birthplace near Annapolis, and moved into Upper Arundel with their Howard, Dorsey, Gassaway, Watkins and Warfield husbands. The lure of virgin lands that had been amassed by their father and passed down as doweries, was undoubtedly the cause of this migration, and as each daughter married, her portion was "settled" with the erection of a small home, and thus a new life on a new frontier began.²

Yet more recent findings differ. Although Worthington did indeed include land as part of his daughters' endowments, proof has yet to be presented that all six and their spouses did in fact reside permanently on Worthington land as heretofore believed.

Of the daughters, Sarah married Basil Dorsey, son of Caleb and Elinor

Holland, Celia M.

1987 Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland.
Privately printed.

Warfield Dorsey of Hockley-in-the-Hole, St. Anne's Parish. At the time of his death, although his estate included a portion of Howard's Range and Resurvey of Howard's Range, it is recorded that Dorsey purchased the additional acreage from John Howard, a son of one Gideon Howard. Whether or not he ever lived on Howard's Range has yet to be determined.³

On 1 July 1735 Elizabeth married Henry Dorsey, son of Capt. Joshua and Anne Ridgely Dorsey of ELK RIDGE. While his will disclosed the acreage he had accumulated, no reference was made to Worthington land. Yet there is record that Elizabeth inherited 389 acres of Worthington's Range. Upon her death in 1776, her entire estate was divided equally among her seven children.⁴

Katherine married Maj. Nicholas Gassaway, son of Capt. Thomas and Susanna Hanslap Gassaway of All Hallow's Parish, and did settle on a portion of PARTNERSHIP, believed to have consisted of approximately 350 acres, to which her spouse added parts of Addition to Snowden's Manor.⁵ Gassaway preceded his wife in death, dying in 1775. Katherine followed in 1788, having willed the estate to her son, Capt. Brice John Gassaway, who married Dinah Warfield.⁶

Rachel married Cornelius Howard, son of Joseph and Margery Keith Howard. They were seated upon Worthington's Range, their homestead being opposite old ST. LOUIS KING CATHOLIC CHURCH in CLARKSVILLE. Rachel's share totaled some 369 acres, which later became known as Howard's Range.⁷

Ariana married Nicholas Watkins, Jr., son of Nicholas and Margaret Watkins of Anne Arundel County. He is believed to be the founder of the Howard County branch of the Watkins family. After settling on her 300-acre portion of Worthington's Range, which was also located near Clarksville, the couple acquired additional land originally known as Altogether. They produced four boys: Thomas, who served as high sheriff of Anne Arundel County; Nicholas III; John; and Col. Gassaway Watkins of Revolutionary War fame. Married three times, Col. Gassaway Watkins was destined to become the grandfather of Gov. Edwin Warfield.⁸ Charlotte Watkins, daughter of the colonel, married Alfred Coale, brother of the wife of Commo. Joshua Barney, whose home still stands at Guilford.⁹

Thomasine married first Alexander Warfield of Warfield's Range, son of John and Ruth Gaither Warfield, by whom she had seven children. Following the death of her husband, she married Francis Simpson of Frederick County. All of her first husband's estate was left to their sons and daughter: Thomas, the bachelor of Warfield's Range; John Worthington and Brice, twin brothers of Venison Park; Alexander Warfield, Jr., also of Venison Park; Ruth; Elizabeth; and Deborah. Simpson then bought the entire interests of the Warfield heirs, which he held until his death in 1804, when his estate in its entirety presumably passed to "Thompsy" Worthington Simpson, his wife.¹⁰

Although Thomas and Elizabeth Ridgely Worthington had three sons—Brice Thomas Beale, Thomas, and Nicholas—and another daughter, Ann, of these, only Nicholas moved to Upper Arundel; the others remained closer to home and are a part of Anne Arundel County history. But there are interesting accounts pertaining to the homes erected for Rachel and Katherine in Upper Arundel, both of which stood until the latter half of this century.

Upon the death of Thomas Cornelius Howard, son and heir of the home of Rachel and Cornelius known simply as Howard's Range, the homestead passed

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to his son Thomas Worthington Howard, who left it to his wife Amy, after whose death it passed to Thomas Hall Howard, nephew of Thomas Worthington Howard. Then in 1850, after more than a century of Howard ownership, the little gambrel-roofed cottage was purchased by Denton Miller, a newcomer to the county, who held it until his death. His grave with headstone, and five others marked only with remnants of the original markers, were fenced in and cared for as recently as 1958. The five unidentified graves are believed to be those of members of the Howard family. In the early 1960s a deed was found in the HOWARD COUNTY COURT HOUSE by Mrs. Clifford F. Shaw, erstwhile writer and preservationist, that provided for "15 square perches of this burial ground and a road leading to it from the Clarksville Turnpike *to be used for no other purpose.*"¹¹ As of this writing all have disappeared. As for the house itself, it was of frame construction, the siding having been added in later years over the original log, and is believed to have been erected in the early 1730s.

From 1967 through 1971 James C. Wilfong, Jr., columnist and respected authority on Maryland architecture, wrote several articles on the landmark in the hope that "the little gem would catch the eye of the restorer." In an early article entitled "Wanted: One Benefactor, Sensitivity Preferred," his plea for preservation was eloquent and moving. Then, in another article, dated 6 May 1971 and entitled "Landmark Lost to Howard County," he lamented the loss of Howard's Range, which had been burned to the ground by mindless vandals. Wilfong characterized the landmark as "something quaint and desirable that had graced the local scene some 240 years." He also presented Howard's Range to the public "as previously seen by John Calder Brennan (of Laurel) through the lens of his far-ranging camera."¹²

Mr. Wilfong's investigation had disclosed that this picturesque property was indeed Howard's Range, which stood on a portion of Worthington's Range, the early grant. Though not ostentatious, the house had beautiful wrought-iron fittings throughout, and handsome fireplaces. According to another observer: "For its day, the house was large and comfortable, and not without its elegance. The design, though simple, was attractive and practical. The two sets of fireplaces, one on either end of the house, were a sure sign of comfort and wealth."¹³

Unknown to many, Howard's Range was also the birthplace of the late state senator, Paul G. Stromberg, a longtime owner and publisher of the *Howard County Times* and the father of Doris S. Thompson, editor of the paper from 1966 until her retirement in 1978.¹⁴ Before leaving Howard's Range it is well to pause to honor this accomplished son of Howard County, who was born there on 21 March 1892. Paul Griffith Stromberg, better known as "Pete," was one of 12 children, the son of Antony P. and Mary Ellen Flanagan Stromberg. When he was one year old the family moved to the old gate house at DOUGHOREGAN MANOR, and it was from this new home that young Stromberg walked the several miles to school in ELLICOTT CITY in good weather and bad.¹⁵ Following graduation from high school, in 1911 Stromberg took a job with the *Baltimore Sun* as "captain" of the copyboys. Over the next several years he held positions with other newspapers, notably the *Cleveland Press*.

Stromberg resided in Maryland at the outbreak of World War I, and his

ambitions were disrupted with the American entry into the war in 1917. He enlisted in the Maryland National Guard, attaining the rank of captain by the close of hostilities in 1918. Returning to the *Sun* as a member of the advertising department, he soon married La Rue Radcliffe, a descendant of the Shipley family of Maryland. There were two children from this marriage: Paul, Jr., and Doris Virginia; a third child was adopted, Charles Lee Gerwig, Mrs. Stromberg's son by a previous marriage.



(courtesy of Doris S. Thompson)

PAUL G. STROMBERG

In 1929 the couple moved to Mt. Misery—near the Howard County Court House—on property purchased from Wilson Talbott. An old ambition was finally realized in 1952 when the Strombergs moved into their new home built by G. Y. Clark. A memorable feature of the place was the lintel over the front door fashioned from timber from the old Ellicott City High School, where Pete had been a student and on the site of which his home now stood. He was to live but 11 months from the time he entered his new home.

A synopsis of the history of the oldest newspaper in Howard County gives a sense of its place in the community, which Stromberg was about to enhance. In 1840 Matthew Fields and Edward Waite started the *Howard Free Press*, which they eventually sold to James Wingate, who changed the name to the *Howard District Press*. Wingate in turn sold out in 1847 to Richard Chaney; other owners followed, among them John Schofield, who changed the paper's name to the *Howard Gazette*. John R. Brown, Jr., a Confederate veteran of Company 19, First Maryland Cavalry, acquired the paper in 1869, calling it the *Ellicott City*

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Times. Several successive owners had their go at managing the *Times*, including Edwin Warfield prior to his days as governor, but for financial and other reasons the turnover continued until 1920 when Paul Stromberg became manager and editor; by 1939 he was in sole possession.¹⁶

Stromberg gradually purchased all the stock in the Maryland Printing and Publishing Company, which had controlled the *Times* since 1913. Once he was the sole owner, the company was liquidated in 1940.¹⁷ In subsequent years Stromberg built a chain of six newspapers, which, after his death, grew to 13, serving Howard, Carroll, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel counties, plus the award-winning *Sentinel* of Montgomery County. In February 1973 all interests were sold to the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*.

World War II occasioned distinguished service by two Strombergs, father and son. Paul, Sr., organized Company F, Seventh Battalion, Maryland State Guard, which replaced the National Guard, called to national service. Company F was headquartered in Ellicott City, with Captain Stromberg commanding. Lt. Paul G. Stromberg, Jr., served in the Army Air Corps as a pilot flying the China-India-Burma run. He met his death in the line of duty at Assam, India.

The demands of managing so extensive a publishing enterprise did not keep the Strombergs from taking a leadership role in community affairs. Throughout his demanding and successful career Pete gave selflessly of his time on countless occasions to civic and professional causes. Within his own profession he was warmly regarded and "will forever occupy a high and honored place" in his field.¹⁸ Once retired as editor, Stromberg entered public service as state senator for Howard from 1947 to 1950. Death came suddenly on 4 November 1952.

Early in 1960, with the founding of Columbia and its subsequent increase in county population, the *Ellicott City Times* became the *Howard County Times*. The *Columbia Times* was initiated in 1965, coinciding with the first major influx of residents to the planned community.

Successive family members directed the expanding journalistic operation: Charles Lee Gerwig became general manager upon the death of the founder; Phillip St. Clair Thompson, husband of Doris, succeeded Gerwig in 1966 and remained manager and publisher until 1978, while Doris Stromberg Thompson served as editor from 1966 until her own retirement in 1978. In October 1975 she was honored with the much coveted Emma McKinney Award at a professional convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

AWARD OF MERIT
EMMA C. MCKINNEY AWARD
PRESENTED TO
DORIS STROMBERG THOMPSON
RECOGNIZING HER CIVIC LEADERSHIP AS
EXEMPLIFIED IN CONTRIBUTIONS
THROUGH HER NEWSPAPER EDITORSHIP,
HER SERVICES AS A PUBLIC SERVANT
ALL THE WHILE CONTINUING A
GRATIFYING HOME LIFE WITH
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THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

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Today Doris and Phillip Thompson are enjoying the freedom to pursue a host of interests. She remains a vital participant in many county activities and serves on many boards, while Phillip, named the Outstanding Dairy Farmer in Maryland in 1951, continues to enjoy the attributes of rural life. They have traveled extensively, seeing much of the world. Doubtless the most enjoyable hours are spent with family. As parents of five daughters and grandparents of seven, they are not likely to be at a loss for things to preoccupy their considerable energy and talents.

NOTES

1. The combined land grants that were taken up by the Ridgely and Worthington families from 1722 through 1763 eventually reached from SAVAGE in the southeastern part of Howard County to an area south of LISBON in the northwestern part of the county, where at one point Ridgely's Range touched Warfield's Forest, the first part of which was taken up in 1760.
2. [Mrs. Clifford F. (Alice) Shaw], "Two 18th Century Cottages Subject of Latest Article on Old Homes in Howard," *Ellicott City Times*, 30 April 1958, Sec. 2, p. 3A.
3. Harry Wright Newman, *Anne Arundel Gentry*, 3 vols. (Annapolis: By the Author, 1970-79), 2:169-70.
4. *Ibid.*, pp. 59-61.
5. *Ibid.*, 1:167.
6. William Kenneth Rutherford and Anna Clay (Zimmerman) Rutherford, Comps., *Genealogical History of the Gassaway Family* (Lexington, Mo.: By the Authors, 1981), pp. 24, 32.
7. Newman, *Gentry*, 2:308.
8. See WALNUT GROVE.
9. Charles Francis Stein, Jr., *Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland* (Baltimore: By the Author, in cooperation with the Howard County Historical Society, 1972), pp. 330-31. See also JOSHUA BARNEY HOUSE.
10. Newman, *Gentry*, 1:356-57.
11. Quotation courtesy of Mrs. Clifford F. (Alice) Shaw.
12. James C. Wilfong, Jr., "Wanted: One Benefactor, Sensitivity Preferred," *Laurel News Leader*, 27 July 1967, sec. B., p. 2; James C. Wilfong, Jr., "Landmark Lost to Howard County," *Laurel News Leader*, 6 May 1971. See also T. Douglas Butcher, "Historic Howard Home Destroyed," *Howard County Times*, 6 May 1971, p. 11, in which Howard's Range was described as "a landmark, relegated to the fires of time."
13. Judith Kreiner, "Sad Obituary of an Old House: Too Few People Really Cared," *Baltimore News American*, sec. C, 3 May 1971, p. 9.
14. Doris S. Thompson, daughter of Paul G. Stromberg, 9 September 1985, conversation with the author; most of the following information on Stromberg is from conversations and correspondence with Mrs. Thompson.
15. Conversation with the resident of the former Doughoregan Manor gate house, October 1985.
16. "The Times: 133 Years of Publication," *Ellicott City Bicentennial Journal*, 1772-1972 (Summer-Fall 1972), sec. B, pp. 40-41; Jim Thomas, "It All Started with The Howard Free Press. . .," *Howard County Times*, Bicentennial Edition, 28 April 1976, sec. B, p. 6.
17. "The Times: 133 Years of Publication," p. 40.
18. Morris L. Radoff, *The Old Line State: A History of Maryland*, 3 vols. (Baltimore: Historical Record Association, 1956), 3:1432.



Also Know

Although the early 18th century Gassaway, also called HOWARD'S RANGE, is the site of her sister's condition to His Majesty's father. Once coming Howard's Range. Having four fireplaces and other niceties stood approximately called Partnership

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Tierney Gambrel roof House, site (worthington's range
near intersection Clarksville Pike and Rte 32, Clarksville Howard's Gift)

1 1/2 gambrel - one brick chimney ~~within~~ wall
other exposed - very steep roof -
located in field by MBS 7/20

Burned by vandals

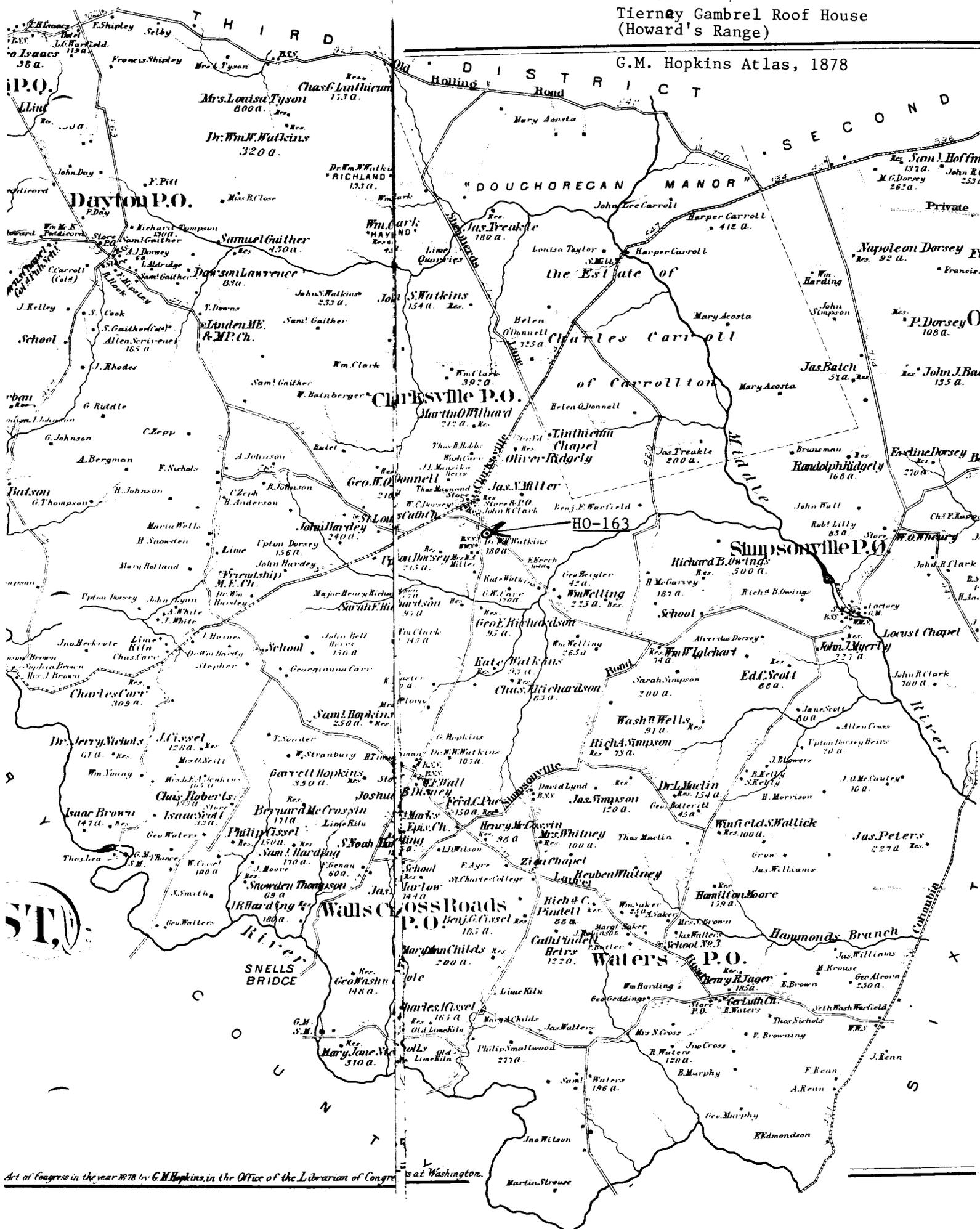
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James J. Tierney

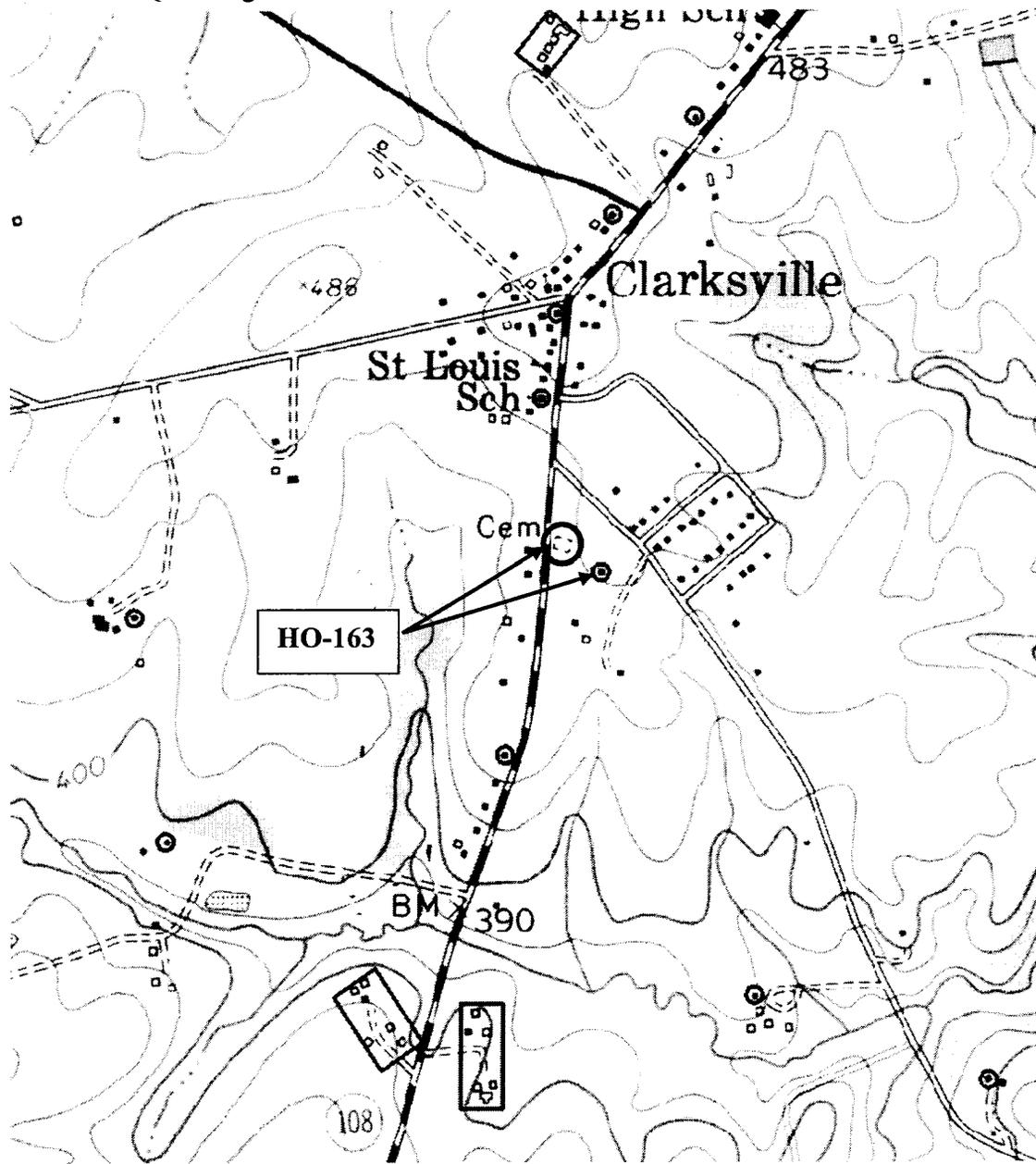
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HO-163
Tierney Gambrel Roofed House, site and Miller Cemetery
MD 108 and Guilford Road, Clarksville
Clarksville Quadrangle



HO-163
Tierney Gambrel Roofed House, site
Looking east
Jennifer K. Cosham
April 21, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-163
Miller Cemetery at site of Tierney Gambrel Roofed House
Looking east
Jennifer K. Cosham
April 21, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-163

Miller Cemetery at site of Tierney Gambrel Roofed House

Denton Miller gravestone

Jennifer K. Cosham

April 21, 2004

Digital color photo on file at MHT





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Tierney Gambrel Roof House
SW Corner Rt. 108 & Rt. 32
Clarksville

c.1949

from M. Trostel