

# John Diggs Copper Mine

## (Carroll County)

In western Carroll County just south of Middleburg along Little Pipe Creek lies the John Diggs Copper Mine.

The mine has its beginnings on the tract Clarks Discovery (100 acres) patented to John Diggs in 1737 (PG Co. Patent# 516). In the Archives of Maryland Online Volume 42 page 430 in the year 1742. John Diggs request from the Lord Proprietary that workers involved with the copper works be exempt from paying taxes

In a letter located at the Historical Society of Carroll County Maryland dated 1952. Dr. Arthur Tracey notifies a Mrs. Barnes that the John Diggs Mine has been discovered. He states "We drove to Middleburg and then went south on the road to Woodsboro and parked our car at the Pennsylvania Railroad crossing.

We proceeded up Little Pipe Creek along the railroad. We went only a very short distance when we discovered a test hole dug in the bank, a short distance further when we saw plenty evidence of copper seeping out of the rocks which rose on the north bank. A little further on we came to the actual workings.

The letter then states we proceeded to visit with Mr. Diehl, who told me several years ago you could go into the mine and walk in the tunnels some of which went back two hundred yards. The building of the railroad destroyed the entrance and someone went in with a bulldozer and messed things up considerably.

Two other pieces of information were located that give evidence of the mines location and existence. In the land records for the Quaker Church in Union Bridge about 3 miles southeast of the mine. The first deed for the church in 1772 (Fr Co. P-40) states land on the Great Road and the last three deeds for 1797-1800 state on the Great Road formerly called Diggs Mine Road. (Fr Co. Deeds WR 15-126, WR 20-134 & WR 20-198).

The second is in 1971 Carroll County Deed (CCC 486-164) which in one of the deed courses at the mine location states to a pine tree on Mine Hill.

Pennsylvania Railroad began as the Central Railroad of Maryland (1913 Carroll County Deed 122-270).

When operations at the mine commenced or ceased operation is unknown.



Blue Outline-Clarks Discovery

Red Outline-Daniel S. Repp Property (Carroll County Deed 66-283)

Star-Diggs Copper Mine



1943 Aerial Photo-Middleburg Area



1877 Middleburg District No. 10