

Depositions & Commissions

Located in deed records are Depositions & Commissions. Both can provide ages of ancestors, boundary lines, land transfer and a record if local history about a person or event is true.

Deposition

Washington County Deed D-90 October 18th 1784. Requested by John Read concerning ownership of the tract of land called Leeds.

Background on the people involved. John Read/Reid was married to Charity the widow of George Brent. Charity was the daughter of Thomas Cresap Jr. and Drusilla Cresap. Thomas Cresap Jr. was the son of Colonel Thomas Cresap and was reported killed by the Indians in 1756 during the French & Indian War.

Colonel Cresap (Age 100 years) Deposition

On or about the year 1752 made several applications to the Land Office for warrants which were surveyed and patented within the Manor of Conococheague for 160 acres. Certificate was returned to the Land Office which he soon after assigned the certificate to his son Thomas Cresap who was soon after killed by the Indians.

Colonel Cresap then became the administrator of his son's estate and applied on behalf of his orphan Grand Child to Governor Sharp for a patent upon the survey.

Colonel Cresap further stated in the year 1738 or 1739 he built a storehouse on the northwest side of the road leading to the ferry. It was eastward of a house built over a cellar by a certain Joseph Williams. Colonel Cresap further states there was a house or cabin and some land cleared before the year 1738.

Short time before the death of Thomas Ringgold (Proprietor of the Manor). Colonel Cresap received a letter from Ringgold begging him use of his influence with George Brent who then possessed the land. Ringgold wished to purchase the land.

On 7 September 1786 Washington County Deed E-114 transfer of the tract called Leeds was made to Otho H. Williams of Baltimore County by John & Charity Reed.

Commission

Frederick County Deed WR 16-127 December 6 1797. At the request of Charles Carroll court was convened at the Courthouse in Frederick Town to determine the beginning tree of the tract of land called Carrollton. Marked tree is now decayed and washed down. Tree was located at the mouth of the Monocacy River at the Potomac River.

Shall declare in writing in the presence of all parties concerned that you make notice by affixing a note to the church door of the parish where the land is located three Sunday's at least before your meeting. If said persons live outside the county then forty days' notice shall posted on the on the church door where they reside.

Deponents

Roger Brooke 6 July 1796 Age 41

Orlando Griffith 6 July 1796 Age 74

Samuel Compton 21 July 1796 Age 56-In the year 1758 or 1759 went fishing one night with John Stanton (now deceased). John Stanton stated the large tree that was down was the beginning of Carroll's land.

Thomas Noland 21 July 1796 Age 46

Nicholas Dawson 21 July 1796 Age 46

John Jacobs 21 July 1796 Age 42

Thomas Compton 21 July 1796 Age 61- Stated in the spring of 1756 he came down to the mouth of the Monocacy to attend a muster of militia under old Captain William Griffith. When I arrived there old Mr. Luckett's boat was engaged in carrying some people across the Potomac who had run from the Indians and were going to Carolina.

Garah Harding 21 July 1796 Age 45

Joseph Smith 21 July 1796 Age 37

Charles Beatty 21 July 1796 Age 59-Before Braddock's War about the year 1750 1-2-3. I was at the mouth of the Monocacy River and old Captain Griffith (now dead) and many others showed me the beginning boundary of Carrollton

Nicholas Dawson 21 July 1796 Age 46

Samuel Skinner Thomas 28 July 1796 Age 46

Joseph Swearingin 12 Sep 1796 (Lawful Age)

Nathan Veatch 12 Sep 1796 Age 75

William Norris (of Wm.) 24 Oct 1796 Age 66

William Lockett 24 Oct 1796 Age 55

James Hook 25 Oct 1796 Age 79-Many years ago frequently brought tobacco down the Potomac River passing by a white tree which he was informed was the beginning of Mr. Carroll's land.