

Antietam Church (Beards)

Washington County Maryland

Antietam Church (Beards) may be the earliest Lutheran Church in Washington County. In Thomas J. C. Williams "History of Washington County Maryland" much information is provided about the early church. The first evidence of the church is in the will of Robert Downey/Downing (Fr. Co. A 1-49 March 19, 1755). "I bequeath to daughter Esther 113 of land acres of land part of Resurvey on Downeys Lot, excepting ten acres, to be laid out for and convenient to the meeting house, provided the people that resort to the said meeting house pay for it."

In 1784 the Robert Downey (Heirs) deed to Martin Ridenour & John Beard 10 acres of land (Wa. Co. D-1). All that tract called God Save the Church which was part of Resurvey on Downeys Lott. Martin Ridenour & John Beard assign forever to the Lutheran Church called Antietam Church for no other purpose.

1787 Martin Ridenour & John Beard "In trust to the Lutheran Congregation belonging to Antietam Church of Washington County State of Maryland". Deed over 9.5 acres to William Shanefelt (Wa. Co. E-452) part of tract called God Save the Church whereon stands a church and church yard of ½ acre.

Antietam Church (Beards) then moves to a new location nearby in 1787.

William Shanefelt/Shanefield has this land along with other property resurveyed to make the tract Rock Hall (Wa. Co. Patent # 832 for 302.75 acres) in 1813. William Shanefelt/Shanefield dies in 1813 (Wa. Co. Will B-254) and bequeaths to son Henry Shanefield the tract Rock Hall. Henry Shanefield also dies in 1813 (Wa Co. Inventory D-415).

On 1 April 1832 Henry Shanefield (Heirs) convey to Jacob Snider (Wa Co. OO-84) 175 acres for part of the tract Rock Hall including two grave yards which are now excepted. The two grave yards are Antietam Church (Beards) & the Shanefield Family.

Williams "History of Washington County Maryland". In 1887 when Rev. V. Miller, pastor of Beard's congregation was preparing a memorial sermon he visited the spot and found in an open field, unenclosed, the old burial ground about 12 by 35 feet; half dozen old sand gravestones lying on ground.

The information states many of the grave stones were used to build a culvert and stone wall. The grave stone of George Hertel (Died 1776) was the only one saved and is now in the Saint James Reformed Church Cemetery.

The property is now owned by a cement company.

Rock Hall & Antietam Lutheran Church Cemetery

www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2451811/rock-hall-&-antietam-lutheran-church-cemetery

Saint James Reformed Church Cemetery

www.findagrave.com/memorial/11336824/george-hertel

Antietam Church (Beards) Deeds	
Robert Downey/Downing	Fr. Co. Will A 1-49 March 19, 1755 (10 acres)
Robert Downey (Heirs) to Martin Ridenour & John Beard	Wa. Co. D-1 10 acres (God Save the Church) 1784
Martin Ridenour & John Beard (In trust to the Lutheran Congregation belonging to Antietam Church of Washington County State of Maryland) to William Shanefield	Wa. Co. E-452 for 9.5 (God Save the Church) Church and church yard of ½ acre. 1787
This land along with other land bought by William Shanefelt/Shanefield was resurveyed into the tract Rock Hall.	Rock Hall 1813 (Wa. Co. Patent # 832 for 302.75 acres)
William Shanefelt/Shanefield bequeaths to son Henry Shanefield the tract Rock Hall.	Wa. Co. Will B-254 (1813)
Henry Shanefield also dies in 1813	Wa. Co. Inventory D-415 (1813)
1 April 1832 Henry Shanefield (Heirs) to Jacob Snider	Wa. Co. OO-84) 175 acres for part of the tract Rock Hall including two grave yards. The two grave yards are Antietam Church (Beards) & the Shanefield Family.
Antietam Church (Beards) 39.653313° -77.668881°	

Antietam (Beards) Church



1977 Washington County Property Tax Map

