

SAMUEL STERLING FAMILY HISTORY

Including the Research of
Dick Ebersole
Helen Jayne Fernsner Sterling
John Sterling
Lee Sterling

Written by
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Revised OCTOBER 2015

PREFACE

At the 2009 Canal Family Reunion event in Williamsport, MD, Mr. Ebersole asked me if I was interested in writing a history of his wife's family, the Sterling's. Once I confirmed that he was talking about the Sterling family from Dam No. 5 on the canal, I said that I was interested. I told him about the things I needed to get started and we went our separate ways. During the subsequent year we met at various Association events and he would assure me that he was working on collecting the basic information.

At the 2010 Canal Family Reunion event in Williamsport, MD, Mr. Ebersole gave me an envelope of containing his notes of the family history and other information; then he introduced me to John Sterling, who in turn introduced me to Jayne Sterling. John and I met and then went to Jayne Sterling's house where she had a lot of historical family information ready for me.

One of the instrumental pieces of information provided by Mr. Ebersole was a 20 pages listing the descendants of Samuel Sterling and 4 pages listing the descendants of Wilber Lee Sterling. Those two listings form the basis for the Table of Sterling Family Statistics at the back of this report. The reports also included notes about the family members; the notes have been included in this history.

The following story places heavy reliance on the family notes written by Mr. Ebersole and was supplemented with the information provided by John Sterling, Jayne Sterling and what I could find. We hope it is interesting reading.

In 2015 Melody Sterling contacted the author regarding her Sterling ancestors. Based on her research, Appendix A was revised as shown to include two earlier generations and her ancestors. Readers are encouraged to contact the author with additions and corrections. There are still some dates missing and nothing about the William Sterling (b. 12/22/1827) branch of the family.

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Chapter 1. Early Years - Until 1888 - The Independent Operating Period of the C. & O. Canal

On Oct. 20, 1804 William Sterling co-signed a Supervisors Bond for the road from Williamsport to Booth's Mill.¹ On April 15, 1822 Joseph Weltz, in consideration of \$500, sold the unexpired term or lease of Lot 111 in Williamsport to Abraham Sterling.² On July 22, 1824 Edward G. Williams, in consideration of \$36, sold the house, out house, building, improvements and advantages on Lot 111 in Williamsport to Abraham Sterling.³ It appears that this William Sterling and Abraham Sterling were brothers; and they had two sisters whose lives remain to be developed.

Samuel Sterling was born in Williamsport, Maryland on July 13, 1810 to William and Margaret Adkinson Sterling. There is no evidence that Samuel ever worked on the canal or for the Canal Company. But we do know that in 1833 he purchased from William Sterling six negroes, seven horses, four cows, a steer, two bulls, two heifers, three sows and thirty one shoats, a farm wagon, four sets of wagon gear and five ploughs.⁴ So he was farming in Washington County when the Canal was under construction in the 1830's.

On Saturday, March 8, 1837, the Reverend D. Miller married Mr. Samuel Sterling to Miss Ellen Elizabeth Williams, both of Washington County. Then on March 26, 1838 in consideration of \$22.62, Kinsey Sparrow sold to Samuel Sterling household goods and furniture sufficient to set up housekeeping.⁵ Apparently Samuel Sterling had an affair with Amelia Monninger on or about January 1837 which resulted in a male illegitimate child on September 16, 1837. In consideration of \$5.00 and two negro slaves from Samuel Sterling, Abraham Sterling indemnified Washington County from all charges that might arise in the maintenance of the male illegitimate child.⁶

The 1850 census reported that Samuel Sterling, age 39, Farmer was living in Washington County, Md. Subdivision No. 2.⁷ Living with him were: Ellen, age 32, wife; John, age 12, son; Margaret E., age 10, daughter; George, age 8, son; Samuel, age 6, son; Henrietta, age 5, daughter; Henry, age 4, son; [Mary] Catherine, age 3, daughter; and Benjamin, age 1, son. All were born in Maryland and the three oldest children had attended school within the past year.

Samuel and Ellen Sterling's oldest daughter Margaret married John W. Snyder on March 27, 1855.

By 1860 the Samuel Sterling family was living in Clear Spring District of Maryland and Samuel served on the Grand Jury for the March Term of the Washington County Circuit Court,⁸ for which service he was paid \$34.00. The census of that year does not list an occupation for any member of the family.⁹ Samuel was reported as 50 years old, Ellen as 45, John [W.] as 22, George as 19, Samuel as 18, Henrietta as 16, Henry as 14, Mary as 13, Benjamin as 10, Daniel as 9, and Joseph as

¹ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Land Records Liber P, Folio 889, recorded 10/20/1804. See transcription in APPENDIX B

² Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Land Records Liber FF, Folio 695, recorded 4/25/1822.

³ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Land Records Liber GG, Folio 1006, recorded 11/8/1824.

⁴ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Land Records Liber NN, Folio 839, recorded 3/11/1833.

⁵ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Land Records Liber TT, Folio 320, recorded 4/9/1838.

⁶ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Land Records Liber TT, Folio 516, recorded 7/6/1838.

⁷ 1850 census, Maryland, Washington County, Subdivision No. 2, enumerated on 7/31/1850, p. 26.

⁸ *Republican Banner*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, 3/7/1860

⁹ 1860 census, Maryland, Washington County, Clear Spring District, enumerated on 8/31/1860, p. 104.

7 years old. With eleven in the household, someone must have been employed. Samuel's personal estate was valued at \$100.

The 1860 census reported William Sterling, age 31, Journeyman Saddler, with real estate valued at \$300 and a personal estate valued at \$30, living in Williamsport.¹⁰ Living with him were: Matilda, age 24, wife; and John [W.], age 5, son. Living in the same dwelling but a separate family was Catherine Sterling, age 60, with real estate valued at \$400 and a personal estate valued at \$30 [she would be William Sterling's step-mother]; William Sterling, age 34, Journeyman Saddler; and John [F.] Sterling, age 23, Boatman.

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861. There was considerable political unrest in the Nation, State and County. The Grand Union Party held a Mass Meeting on Tuesday, Sep. 24th 1861, in Hagerstown, Md. The Central Committee reported Samuel Sterling, and others, as members to the County Convention.¹¹ Samuel Sterling's subsequent political activities remain to be documented.

The C & O Canal was a boundary between the two opposing forces and the war came to the Clear Spring District on December 7-9, 1861; the Confederates were on the south side of the Potomac River near Dam No. 5 and the 13th Massachusetts Infantry regiment was sent from Williamsport to defend the canal. The engagement was documented as follows:

"Confederate canister and shells continued their routine from the day before, but this time the Federal reply was a bit livelier. As soon as their gunners detected the direction of the returned fire, they simply elevated their guns with good effect. Their second shell crashed into a large barn owned by farmer John Sterling, at Two Locks, where boats were launched into the river. It immediately caught fire and burned to the ground, scattering the troops using it as shelter.

"This occurred moments after several of the Massachusetts troops had awakened from a nap in the Sterling barn's hay bin. Shaken, they assisted farmer Sterling in getting his livestock out of the flaming building, but could not save the entire crop of grain.

"The Denton Jacques' barn survived a blast that went smashing through it and exploded on the other side.

"Captain Robinson sent another squad of six men to the river armed with the famous Enfield rifle, a sound the Rebels seemed to fear. They reported seeing three of four fall with their first volley. At 9:00 a.m. all guns became silent.

"During the lull a woman, paddling a small boat, crossed over from the Virginia side, and reported four dead and seven or eight more wounded. Only one was injured on the Maryland side in the last exchange. At 4:00 p.m., the guns opened fire again and this time they seemed to be aimed at the Sterling house, a short distance from the gutted barn. They stopped after several salvos kicked up only dirt and rocks."¹²

We are quite certain this John W. Sterling did not enlist in Civil War. He had removed to Lexington, Washington County, Iowa, met and married Mary Elizabeth Bear and they had their first child,

¹⁰ 1860 census, Maryland, Washington County, Williamsport, enumerated on 7/5/1860, p. 92.

¹¹ *Republican Banner*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, 9/18/1861.

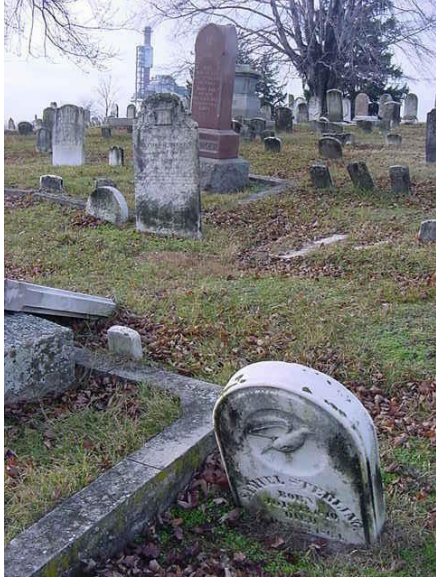
¹² Events of the Civil War, page 40.

William Sterling, in 1862, after the Civil War had started. Their second child, Rhea Sterling, arrived in 1864, while the Civil War was still ongoing.

George M. Sterling enlisted as a private in Company I, 1st Regiment, 1st Maryland Cavalry, at Williamsport, Md. on Oct. 13, 1862, for a period of 3 years. He was 21 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, fair complexion, gray eyes, brown hair, born in Washington County, Md. and he was a farmer. He was placed on detached service until the official muster-in date of Dec. 17, 1862. The 1st Regiment, Maryland Cavalry was organized at Baltimore and Williamsport, Md. Pittsburg, Pa., and Washington, D.C., August 1861 to June 1862. Companies "H" and "I" were organized in Washington and Allegheny Counties. The Regiment was involved in skirmishes throughout Northern Virginia and the following: **Battle of Bull Run**, Aug. 30 1862; **Battle of Fredericksburg**, Dec. 12 - 15, 1862; **Battle of Gettysburg**, July 1 - 3, 1863; **Battle of Chaffin's Farm**, Sep. 28 - 30, 1864; and the surrender of General Lee and his army at Appomattox Court House.

The Company Muster Roll lists George M. Sterling as present until Aug. 12, 1864. His pay had been deducted \$1.01 for loss of a curry comb and brush during May or June, 1864. The Regiment had been at New Market Heights, July 27 - 28 and proceeded to Strawberry Plains, north of the James River arriving at Flusser's Mill on Aug. 14. He was wounded and spent Sep. and Oct. 1864 at the U. S. A. General Hospital, Fort Monroe, Va. He returned to the Regiment for Nov. & Dec. 1864. During Jan. & Feb. 1865 he was absent on detached duty. He returned to duty and was wounded again at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865; which was just days before General Lee surrendered. He was transported to Jarvis U. S. A. General Hospital, Baltimore, Md. where he was discharged for disability on June 11, 1865. On the Company Muster-out Roll, Richmond, VA., dated Aug. 1865, George M. Sterling was 23 years old, joined the Co. as a private, been promoted to Corporal on Oct. 28, 1863, promoted to Sergeant Sep. 14, 1864, and discharged June 11, 1865 from Jarvis U. S. A. Hospital, Baltimore, Md., for disability. His Certificate of Disability for Discharge, dated June 28, 1865, states he suffered a gunshot wound to the right knee joint.

Samuel B. Sterling enlisted as a private in Company H, 6th Regiment, Maryland Infantry at Hagerstown, Md. on Aug. 20, 1862, for a period of 3 years. He was 20 years old. He was placed on detached duty until the official Company Muster-in date of Sept. 5, 1862 at Baltimore, Md. The 6th Regiment, Maryland Infantry, was organized at Baltimore, Md. Aug. 12 to Sep. 3, 1862. It moved to join the Army of the Potomac in Western Maryland defending Williamsport, Md. Sep. 20 - 21, 1862. The Regiment saw duty between Williamsport and Hagerstown, Md. until Dec. 11; on Dec. 4, 1862 Samuel B. Sterling was promoted to Corporal at Williamsport. The Regiment then moved to Maryland Heights and remained there until March 28, 1863; on April 10, 1863 Samuel B. Sterling was absent, sick with leave near Clear Spring, Washington County, Md. He returned to duty for Mar. through Aug. 1863. During that time the Regiment was in Skirmishes in Northern Virginia and the **Battle of Winchester, June 14 - 15**. Sometime during July or August, 1863 Samuel was called before a Regimental Court Martial and fined \$8.00. The Regiment continued to be involved in skirmishes and the **Battle of the Wilderness**, May 5 - 7, 1864; **Battle of Spotsylvania**, May 8 - 12; **Battle of Monocacy**, July 9; **Battle of Winchester**, Sep. 19; **Battle of Cedar Creek**, Oct. 19 and then took up duty in Kernstown until Dec. 1864. On Nov. 12, 1864, Samuel B. Sterling deserted at Martinsburg, Va.



Samuel Sterling died on Dec. 23, 1864; presumably he was sick or incapacitated for some time prior to his death. He was subsequently buried in the Riverview Cemetery, Williamsport, Md. The left hand photograph is a view of the general area in the cemetery, with Samuel Sterling's tombstone in the lower right corner. The right hand photograph is a close up view of his headstone.¹³



The family doctor wrote the following two letters:

Private

Clear Spring May 2, 1865

H. Clay Naill
Capt. & Prov. Marshal

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will please find such information as can be relied upon relative to the circumstances of Samuel B. Sterling. I believe the case is a meritorious one & deserves consideration on the part of the government.

With Kind Regards to Mr. Thomas D. Bear & others in your Office, I remain

Very Respectfully &c.
H. F. Perry

To: H. Clay Naill
Capt. & Prov. Marshal
Frederick, Md.

P. S. My kind regards to Mrs. Naill

The following document was enclosed:

Clear Spring, Washington County, Maryland, May 2, 1865

Respectfully returned to H. Clay Naill, Capt. & Prov. Marshall 4th Dist. Md. with the following information "relative to the circumstances of the family of Samuel B. Sterling, Co. "H," 6th Reg't, Md. Infantry volunteers." Samuel B. Sterling is a son of the late Samuel

¹³ From the Richard F. Ebersole Collection, Hagerstown, MD, 2011.

Sterling who died Dec. 23, 1864. The family now consists of a widowed mother and eight children - five sons and three daughters. Four sons, of which Samuel B. Sterling is one - are now in the federal army. One son nearly twelve years of age and three daughters remain at home. The property belonging to the family cannot, I think, exceed in value eight hundred dollars. The family, since the death of the father has been supported mainly by contributions from the sons now in the army, aided by the liberality and charity of the landlord. The daughters and son remaining at home are not old enough to contribute much to their support. They greatly need the assistance of one of the older brothers to exercise a general supervision over the interests of the family. I believe the application that has been made to the Secretary of War for the discharge of Samuel B. Sterling from military service is just and that his assistance at home would contribute largely to the interest and welfare of his mother, sisters and brother.

I remain, Very Respectfully Yours &c.
H. F. Perry, M.D.

Samuel returned from desertion under the President's proclamation dated May 4, 1865. He returned near Washington, D. C. June 20, 1865. On July 2, 1865 he was transferred to 1st Maryland Volunteer Infantry Regiment and subsequently discharged on July 2, 1865.

The above letter states that four sons were in the federal army; they would be John W.; George M.; Samuel B. and Henry A. Sterling. We found records for the latter three sons and think the first son, John W. Sterling, had already removed to Iowa, married and started a family there. There was a record of a John W. Sterling, who enlisted as a private in Company D, Purnell Legion, Maryland Infantry, Union. However the inconsistency in dates is noted.

At the start of the Civil War, Henry A. Sterling was too young to enlist. However he did enlist as a private in Company S, 1st Regiment, Potomac Home Brigade, Maryland Cavalry at Frederick, Md. on Feb. 26, 1864, for a period of 3 years. He was 18 years old, 5 feet, 6-¾ inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, born in Washington County, Md. and he was a laborer. The 1st Regiment, Maryland Cavalry, Potomac Home Brigade was organized at Frederick, Md. Aug. 10 to Nov. 27, 1861. The Regiment saw action throughout Northern Virginia and up into Pennsylvania, including **Battle of Gettysburg**, July 1 - 3, 1863. The Regiment re-enlisted Feb. 13, 1864, about the time Henry A. Sterling was recruited. The Company Muster Roll shows him present, except for July 27, 1864 when he was absent without leave. Then in Sept. or Oct. 1864 he lost his Enfield rifle musket for which his monthly pay was docked \$22.15 until the cost was paid off; the Company Muster Roll through Jan. & Feb. 1865 show him present and making the last payment. The Regiment continued to participate in many skirmishes throughout Northern Virginia, the Winchester to Front Royal area. Henry A. Sterling was mustered out June 28, 1865 at Harpers Ferry, Va. He had not been paid since Dec. 31, 1864 and so he was paid \$66.34 on his clothing account and \$140.00 bounty; he owed the Sutter \$2.00 for the loss of one cap pouch and 40¢ for one pick.

In 1865 Dan Sterling, age 14, and Benjamin Sterling, age 16, walked to Frederick, Md. to enlist in the Union Army, but were denied because of their ages.

During the Civil War, trespassing was a problem; so much so that 23 men ran a "Notice to Trespassers" in the newspaper, Samuel Sterling was one of the subscribers.¹⁴

Sometime after Samuel died in 1864, Ellen obtained Letters of Administration from the Orphan's Court of Washington County on the personal estate of Samuel Sterling.¹⁵ Samuel Sterling was buried in River View Cemetery, Williamsport, Md. She subsequently moved with her three youngest sons, Benjamin, Daniel and Joseph, to Falling Waters, W. Va.

The Civil War ended on April 9, 1865.

We saw a newspaper advertisement:

"LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN

A Muley Cow, nearly white, red specks on each side, red ears. This Cow disappeared from my premises in Williamsport, Md., on the 25th day of April last. I will pay a liberal reward to any person giving me such information as will enable me to recover her.

GEORGE STERLING"¹⁶

On Apr. 12, 1868 Henry A. Sterling married Sarah Jane Brandas by the Rev. Wheeler in the AMF Church, Alexandria, Va.

The 1870 census reported that Ellen Sterling, age 55, [widowed] was living in Falling Waters, W. Va.¹⁷ Living with her were: Benjamin, age 21, her son, who was a day laborer; Daniel, age 18, her son, a day laborer; and Joseph, age 16, her son, he could read and write.

The 1870 census reported John [W.] Sterling, age 34, a farmer with a personal estate valued at \$2,400, was living in Lexington, Iowa.¹⁸ Living with him were Elizabeth, age 26, wife; William, age 8, son; Rhea, age 6, daughter; Gideon, age 4, son; and Mary, age 1, daughter.

The 1870 census reported John [W.] Snyder, age 38, a Farm Laborer, living in Williamsport, Md.¹⁹ Living with him were: Margaret E. [Sterling], age 30, wife; Samuel, age 13, son; and Ellie, age 7, daughter.

The same 1870 census reported that George [M.] Sterling, age 28, was living in Williamsport, Md. and was a farm laborer.²⁰ Living with him was: Annie, age 21, his wife; Harry, age 1, his son; and Elizabeth, age 4 months, his daughter.

No record has been found of any canal boat mortgage by any Sterling. However, in 1876 the Lillie & Nannie with Capt. Sterling departed Cumberland with a load of coal on 5/18, 5/22, 6/2, 7/6, 7/26, 8/21 and 10/13/1876. The J. A. Ensminger with Capt. Sterling departed Cumberland with a load of

¹⁴ *Herald of Freedom and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, 10/28/1863.

¹⁵ *Herald of Freedom and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, 3/8/1865.

¹⁶ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, 5/20/1868, p. 3.

¹⁷ 1870 census, West Virginia, Berkeley County, Falling Waters District, enumerated on 9/8/1870, p. 17.

¹⁸ 1870 census, Iowa, Washington County, Cedar Township, enumerated on 6/14/1870, p. 16.

¹⁹ 1870 census, Maryland, Washington County, Williamsport, enumerated on 7/14/1870, p. 8.

²⁰ 1870 census, Maryland, Washington County, Williamsport, enumerated on 7/13/1870, p. 6.

coal on 6/13, 7/14, 8/4, 9/6 and 12/6/1876. The two schedules interleave quite well, allowing for some short trips to Williamsport, vice Georgetown.

The next year the Lillie & Annie with Capt. Sterling departed Cumberland with a load of coal on 4/6, 4/30, 6/1, 8/28, 9/11, 9/21, 10/3, 10/14, 10/22, 11/6 and 11/18/1877. And the Robert B. Cropley with Capt. Sterling departed Cumberland on 4/13/1877. We suspect the Lillie & Nannie of 1876 was the Lillie & Annie of 1877 and subsequent years, a transcription error.

On Oct. 16, 1877 George M. Sterling applied for a pension based on his disability; his application #243363, for his wife application #775948 and for his minor child application #825985.

The next year the Abraham Kuhn with Capt. Sterling departed Cumberland with a load of coal on 4/23, 5/1, 5/13, 5/23, 6/4, 6/16, 6/26, 7/8, 7/19, 8/20, 8/30, 9/12, 9/29, 10/30 and 12/2/1878. Capt. Sterling was routinely making the round trip in ten to twelve days; which Sterling?

In March, 1878, we read: "**Proceedings of Circuit Court.** - We copy from the *Mail* of last Friday, the following report of Court proceedings:

"11th day - Friday, February 22.

"No. 148. Alex M. Flora vs. Henry Teidrick.

"This was an action brought by the plaintiff against defendant to recover the price of a canal boat, called the Edward Ringer, 2 mules, harness, and rig sold to the defendant in May, 1875, for \$900.

"Alexander M. Flory testified to having sold the said boat, &c., to defendant in May, 1875, for \$900, and that at the time of sale nothing was said, to his recollection, about time or terms of payment, and that he did not promise to line the boat in the Md. Coal Co.

"Henry Teidrick testified to having bought said boat, mules, &c., upon the condition that it was lined, or was to be lined, in the Md. Coal Co., and that it was to be paid for in trippages.

"Mr. Sterling, for defendant, testified to having bought the boat in company with Mr. Teidrick, and that it was to be lined in the Md. Coal Co., or was to get boating.

"It was proved by other witnesses that the boat did get loading through the boating season of 1875, and for every load it had to pay \$10 to the company. There was also proof that lined boats had to pay the same that season in that company. In the Fall of 1875, Mr. Teidrick parted with the boat to a Mr. Renner, Mr. Teidrick being paid \$175 of the purchase money.

"The case occupied part of Friday and all of Saturday and Monday. The jury retired at 3 o'clock P.M., Monday, and after being out 2 or 3 hours gave a verdict for \$600 for the plaintiff. George Schley and Buchanan Schley for plaintiff; Syester & Frenner for defendant.²¹

In 1879 the C&O Canal installed a telephone line from Georgetown to Cumberland along the path of the canal. They installed 46 telephones at various locations: one of these was at "Sterling's Shanty." Samuel Sterling worked out of this shed doing maintenance along the canal. He may have been the first Sterling to use a telephone.²²

²¹ *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Wednesday, 3/6/1878, p. 2.

²² Unrau, Harlan D., *History of the C & O Canal*, published by C & O Canal NHP, Hagerstown, MD, 2007, p. 593.

By 1880 Ellen Sterling, age 62, widowed, had moved back to Clear Spring District.²³ Daniel, age 29, her son, and Joseph, age 26, her son, were living with her and their occupation was boatman. Her widowed daughter, Kate Small, 33 years old, and her grandson, Harry Small, were also living with her. She had taken in a boarder, Philip Feister, who was also a boatman. In the adjacent house lived the Andrew Snyder family of 7 people; Andrew was a boatman. Rudolph Herr, a Lock Keeper, lived only three houses away and several other residents were boatmen.

In Iowa, the 1880 census reported J. W. Sterling, age 43, a farmer, was still living in Lexington.²⁴ Living with him were: Lizzie E., age 36, wife; William, age 18, son, working on the farm; Rhea, age 16, daughter; Gideon, age 13, son; Nellie, age 11, daughter; Wilhelmina, age 9, daughter; and Joseph, age 7, son. There does not seem to have been any interaction with the Maryland branch of the family, so we leave development of their history to others.

Remember that oldest daughter, Margaret Sterling, had already married John W. Snyder and the census reported John W. Snyder, age 47, a Laborer, living in the Downsville District.²⁵ Living with him were: Margaret E., age 39, wife; Samuel C., age 22, son, a Laborer; Emma S., age 20, daughter; Margaret E., age 14, daughter; and Katie M., age 4, daughter. Sometime after 1880 they moved to Springfield, Ohio.

The 1880 census reported George M. Sterling, age 39; a Boatman, was living in Indian Springs.²⁶ Living with him were: Annie, age 33, wife; Harry, age 11, son; Elizabeth, age 10, daughter; Lucy, age 7, daughter; Katie, age 6, daughter; Nannie, age 1; daughter; Meta, age 3, daughter; and Vernor [George], age 3/12, son. George had been out of work for 5 months during the previous year.

In 1880 the Steamer "Regulus" was registered with Capt. George M. Sterling, owned by William T. Hassett & Bro. The newspaper reported Regulus departing Cumberland with a load of coal on 5/29, 5/30, 6/5 and 6/6/1880. We suspect the newspaper double counted the departures, the Regulus only taking two trips with Capt. George M. Sterling. The Regulus made several more trips in 1880 with Capt. Hassett.

The 1880 census reported Samuel [B.] Sterling, age 36, a Carpenter, unemployed for 5 months, was living in Indian Springs.²⁷ Living with him were: Mary E., age 31, wife; Kate, age 12, daughter; Ellie E., age 9, daughter; Samuel, age 6, son; Gracie, age 3, daughter; and Harry, age 1, son.

The 1880 census reported Henry Teedrick [Tedrick], age 50, a Boatman, living in Clear Spring, Md.²⁸ Living with him were: Henrietta, age 36, wife; Mary C., age 16, daughter; and Eva, age 11, daughter. Daughter Nellie E. Tedrick was born 1/17/1880 but was not listed.

The 1880 census reported Matilda Sterling, age 46, widowed, was living in Williamsport, Md.²⁹ Living with her was: Sallie [Sarah Ellen], age 18, daughter, unemployed. In the adjacent dwelling

²³ 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Clear Spring District, enumerated on 6/7/1880, p. 15.

²⁴ 1880 census, Iowa, Washington County, Cedar Township, enumerated on 6/16/1880, p. 14B.

²⁵ 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Downsville District, enumerated on 6/11/1880, p. 8.

²⁶ 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Indian Spring District, enumerated on 6/1/1880, p. 1.

²⁷ 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Indian Spring District, enumerated on 6/8/1880, p. 13.

²⁸ 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Clear Spring District, enumerated on 6/7/1880, p. 16.

²⁹ 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Williamsport, enumerated on 6/24/1880, p. 52.

lived John F. Sterling, age 44, widowed, a Boss on Canal. Living with him were: [William] Edward, age 18, son, a Boatman, unemployed 4 months; Bertrand, age 15, son, a Boatman, unemployed 4 months; Charlotte, age 3, daughter; Owen A. McClain, age 38, unrelated, a Clerk in a Store; Alice McClain, age 34, wife; Andrew McClain, age 7, son; and Elizabeth Mendenhall, age 65, widowed, Mother-in-Law. Note that daughter Charlotte was three years old and Anna E. Sterling had died on 4/26/1877, suggesting she had died in child birth. Then John F. Sterling brought in the McClain family to mind the house, his infant daughter and his Mother-in-law while he was a Boss on the Canal and his two sons boated.

The same census reported Samuel Sterling, age 36; a carpenter was also living in Indian Spring.³⁰ Living with him were: Mary E., age 31, his wife; Kate, age 12, their daughter; Ellen E., age 9, their daughter; Samuel, age 6, their son; Gracie, age 3, their daughter; and Harry, age 1, their son. Samuel had been out of work for 5 months during the previous year.

Following in family sequence, the same census, Henry Teedrick (Tedrick), age 50, a boatman was living in Clear Spring.³¹ Living with him were: Henrietta (Sterling), age 36, his wife; Mary C. age 16, their daughter; and Eva D. age 11, their daughter.

Still with the same census, Benjamin Sterling, age 30, who works on a canal boat, was living in Clear Spring.³² Living with him were: Fanny, age 29, his wife; Irene, age 5, their daughter, Ermy Ellis, age 14, a boarder, working as a seamstress, unemployed for 4 months; and Lula Ellis, age 12, a boarder, working as a servant, unemployed for 2 months during the previous year.

Henry A. Sterling died on Jan. 31, 1884; his wife subsequently received a Civil War widow's pension, #336523.

On September 24, 1884 Daniel Sterling of Washington County, Md. and Virginia [Augusta] Sanders of Berkeley County, W. Va. were wed at Martinsburg, W. Va. by R. C. Holland, Pastor of the St. John's Lutheran Church in Martinsburg, W. Va.³³

On Friday, September 11, 1885 - Last will and testament of Harry D. Small was admitted to probate, before the Orphans' Court.³⁴

"Three freshets within a period of six weeks in April and May of 1886 left the canal in a fearful state of disrepair and the company finances in a precarious position bordering on bankruptcy. On April 1, a flood swept down the entire length of the Potomac Valley, tearing a great hole in Dam No. 6, and generally wrecking havoc along the waterway. Four days later, another freshet widened the gap in the dam and added to the destruction of the canal proper.

"On the Two-Mile Level below Four Locks the towpath was damaged greatly and there were several leaks. Forty-three men and eighteen carts under Mr. Masters were at work on these repairs. Damages to the Fourteen-Mile Level above Four Locks included heavy washes along the towpath at

³⁰ 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Indian Spring District enumerated on 6/8/1880, p. 15.

³¹ 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Clear Spring District enumerated on 6/7/1880, p. 16.

³² 1880 census, Maryland, Washington County, Clear Spring District enumerated on 6/9/1880, p. 19.

³³ Marriage Certificate from the Dick Ebersole Collection.

³⁴ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 9/17/1885, p. 3.

Little Pool and two breaks at that point, one 40 feet in length at its foot and one of smaller extent at its head. . . . A crew of 62 men and 22 carts under the superintendence of Mr. Sterling was handling the repairs from Little Pool to Sir Johns Run."³⁵

In July of 1886 a newspaper reported: "**Presentation.** - The bosses engaged in the rebuilding of dam N. 6, Chesapeake and Ohio canal, yesterday presented to Samuel D. Young, of Cumberland, who had general charge of the work, a handsome silver tea service. The urn bears this inscription: 'Presented to Samuel D. Young by bosses associated with him at dam No. 6, on the 30th day of July, 1886.' The names of the subscribers are also on the inscription as follows: J. W. Burgess, Lewis C. Hettenhouser, James E. Hughes, J. R. Cruzen, Samuel Sterling, John F. Sterling, W. H. Riley, Samuel A. Kelly, Jacob A. Wolf, C. H. Eckstein and T. C. Landerkin of this city."³⁶

In March 1887 a newspaper reported: "**Canal Matters.** - The *Sun* in its report of the meeting of the C. & O. Canal Company at Washington yesterday states that there was a general discussion regarding the rights of the canal company to the Potomac flats, and other valuable rights along the line. . . The president has appointed the bosses along the line, numbering about eleven men. . . The appointment of bosses made by Col. Baughman is as follows: Cumberland division, Samuel Young, Peter Kelly, Randolph Sprigg, L. C. Hottenhouser, Samuel Sterling, James H. Anderson and Jas. Hughes."³⁷

In August, 1887 the canal experienced a flood and the newspaper reported: "**Repairing the Canal Breaks** - A Cherry Run correspondent of the Baltimore Sun gives the following information concerning the recent damages to the canal and their repair. The correspondence is dated August 3. 'The flood here on the 25th ultimo, was unprecedented, and great damage was done to fencing and roads throughout this section. The sawmill below Green Spring Furnace was completely destroyed, and the road leading to the culvert was made impassable. The break at Ernstville was seventy five feet long and ten feet below the bottom of the canal. Work was commenced on Wednesday of last week, Mr. Samuel Sterling being in charge. Picks, shovels and carts had to be secured. Over fifty men with fifteen carts were put to work, and as much as fifteen hundred cart-loads of dirt were placed in the breach each day. Although the weather was excessively warm, the men drove along without a murmur, and by Tuesday morning the work was finished. . . "³⁸

George M. Sterling was active in the Republican Party as evidenced by his election to the Republican County Convention, County Central Committee, for Election District 15.³⁹

Benjamin Sterling was selected to serve as a Juror to February Term of the Circuit Court for Washington County, Election District 2.⁴⁰

Chapter 2. 1889 Until 1924 - The Receivership Period of the C. & O. Canal

³⁵ Unrau, Harlan D., *History of the C & O Canal*, published by C & O Canal NHP, Hagerstown, MD, 2007, pp. 309, 310.

³⁶ *The News*, Frederick, Maryland, newspaper, Saturday, 7/31/1886, p. 4.

³⁷ *The News*, Frederick, Maryland, newspaper, Saturday, 3/5/1887, p. 4.

³⁸ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 8/4/1887, p. 3.

³⁹ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 10/6/1887, p. 2.

⁴⁰ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, 1/31/1889, p. 2.

"Between May 30 and June 1, 1889, a titanic flood swept the Potomac, the crest of which was higher than any before recorded in the history of the valley. On the upper Potomac in Maryland, there were 50 lives lost and more than \$2,000,000 worth of property was destroyed. . . . Between Four Locks and Hancock the towpath was washed to depths up to 4 feet for the distance of several miles."⁴¹

After the flood of June 1889, "The canal company was unable to raise sufficient funds to repair the canal and found it necessary to declare bankruptcy. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (as the major bondholder) offered to restore the canal, knowing that a railroad competitor was likely to buy the canal if there was a forced sale. The Maryland Circuit Court of Washington County at Hagerstown, Maryland, authorized the B. & O. Railroad to complete repairs and to operate the canal as a 'last ditch' effort."⁴² On March 3, 1890 Judge R. H. Alvey ordered the consolidation of two cases regarding the deposition of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company assets in its bankruptcy and appointed Robert Bridges, Richard D. Johnson and Joseph D. Baker as joint Receivers of all and singular the property, estate and franchises of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. Their first task was to inventory all the real and personal property and effects of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

The *First Report of Receivers* was filed in Hagerstown, Md. on May 13, 1890. *Exhibit A. Real Estate, Improved and Unimproved*, listed the several lots owned by the Company. Of interest is: Lot No. 115, dwelling and stable owned by Geo. Sterling; rent unknown, Lot No. 116, dwelling occupied by Geo. Snyder; rent unknown and Lot No. 117, between stop lock and four locks, 2 houses, W. Ryan; rent unknown. The mentioned stop lock would be the one at mile post 119.71 near the lower end of Little Pool.⁴³

Exhibit B. Personal Property, listed the following in the *Hancock Division, Samuel Sterling Reports*: One house boat, 2 dozen dinner plates, 10 vegetable dishes, 1 large scow, 2 flour sifters, 3 old stools, 3 auger bowls, 1 large cook stove, 1 grindstone, 2 butcher knives, 3 heating stoves and pipes, 1 hanging lamp, 1 long handle shovel, 3 small hammers, 3 mowing scythes, 1 large kettle, 2 pr. gum boots, 1 old wash tub, 13 sheets, 18 pillow slips, 3 old jugs, 6 straw ticks, 2 small tin buckets, 1 small scow, 5 old chairs, 3 small portable houses, 1 doz. tablespoons, 8 table knives, 8 forks, 2 axes, 2 cant hooks, 5 picks, 4 short handle shovels, 1 bow lamp, 3 large sledges, 2 lanterns, 2 stand lamps, 3 hand drills, 3 do, 1 meat saw, 8 mattresses, 2 wash boilers, 2 large dish pans, 13 blankets, 1 large stone jar, 6 straw bolsters, 4 large iron pans, 1 old oil can, 2 paper buckets, 3 dinner pots, 2 coal hods, 3 hand irons, 1 tin bucket, 1 coffee pot, 1 coffee mill, 5 milk crocks, 6 pillows, 5 small pans, 6 comforts, 3 wooden buckets, 30 cups, 30 saucers, 9 pie plates, 1½ doz. teaspoons, 6 tin cups, 2 wash basins, 1 skillet, 3 dishes.

Samuel Sterling did not list the personal property in his charge segregated by whether it was on the house boat, large scow or small scow. Some of the scows did have quarters at the rear of the vessel; certainly suitable for cooking and dining, existence of living facilities on scows remains to be determined.

⁴¹ Unrau, Harlan D., *History of the C & O Canal*, published by C & O Canal NHP, Hagerstown, MD, 2007, pp. 311-314.

⁴² Hahn, Thomas F., *THE C. & O. CANAL BOATMEN - 1892-1924*, p. 9.

⁴³ Hahn, Thomas F., *TOWPATH GUIDE to the C & O CANAL*, Tenth Edition, October 1992, p. 168.

During the August Term of the Washington County Circuit Court, Justice Alvey on the bench, Case No. 45 was "Daniel Sterling vs. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company; assumpsit; judgment on rule, for \$361.09 and costs, J. M. Keedy for plaintiff; Keedy and Armstrong for defendant." ⁴⁴

Ellen Sterling died March 28, 1890 and was buried in River View Cemetery, Williamsport, Md.

Tragedy struck the family as reported:

"Letter From Green Spring Furnace.

Green Spring Furnace, Md., December 20, 1890.

Editor Herald and Torch Light: - We are pained to report the untimely death of one of our young neighbors, a Mr. Harry Sterling, who was killed while attempting to board a moving freight train on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad near North Mountain. The deceased was an employee of the railroad but had been off duty on account of sickness for several weeks and had been home at the residence of his parents for some days. He was on his return to his own home in Martinsburg when the accident occurred. He was about 23 years of age and only lately married. His father, Mr. George Sterling, is in the employ of the Potomac Pulp Company at Dam No. 5. "⁴⁵

Then it was reported in March, 1892:

"GREEN SPRING FURNACE NEWS

The canal is again full of water, and on Saturday morning last the first loaded boat of the season passed down requiring the services of the ice breaker through Big Pool, which was covered with ice. "⁴⁶

In the same newspaper we read: "Mr. Chas. Weaver, of our neighborhood, and Miss Nellie Sterling, of Indian Spring, were married about two weeks hence. Our young maids and maidens, it seems, failed to captivate Charles, who by the way is quite a worthy and industrious young man." ⁴⁷

Later that same year typhoid fever struck:

"Typhoid Fever at Clearspring

The community in the vicinity of Clearspring is becoming very much alarmed at the rapid progress being made by typhoid fever in that section. Within a radius of two miles of Clearspring there are eight cases of the fever reported raging at this time. . . . Four deaths have occurred in the last week. Mr. John Grosh, of near Ash, was buried in Clearspring on Sunday, Samuel [Thomas] Sterling, a young man, aged eighteen years, of Indian Spring, and the mother of David L. Houck, of Clearspring, were buried at Clearspring yesterday. They are reported as all dying from typhoid fever. The majority of the cases at present are located about two miles south of Clearspring, on the Williamsport road. Just why the disease should infect this particular section, cannot be accounted for by the residents who are growing alarmed at its rapid progress. "⁴⁸

⁴⁴ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 8/7/1890, p. 7.

⁴⁵ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 12/25/1890, p. 3.

⁴⁶ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 3/24/1892, p. 2.

⁴⁷ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 3/24/1892, p. 2.

⁴⁸ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 9/8/1892, p. 2.

Henry and Henrietta (Sterling) Tedrick gave their daughter Eva D. Tedrick in marriage to Joseph E. Hazard of Highland Mills, N.Y. on October 5, 1892.⁴⁹

The Indian Spring Sunday school was reorganized by the election of new officers; secretary, Miss Grace Sterling.⁵⁰

George M. Sterling was selected to serve as a Juror to May term of the County Court, from Election District 15.⁵¹

Samuel B. Sterling remained busy maintaining the canal as evidenced by the following:

"Much Activity on the Canal.

"Yesterday evening the Washington Star said: Activity in canal circles is unabated. The great discharging derricks and hoppers are being worked for all they are worth. It has been many seasons since the canal has been so much like the canal. Last season was not a bad one by any means, but this is to be a greater one. It was stated by one in a position to know that after paying all employees, repairing breaks and making improvements, the Chesapeake and Ohio canal coffers had \$18,000 poured into them last year.

"Mr. Samuel B. Sterling, of Indian Spring, who is employed in Montgomery County as a canal superintendent, also says there is an unusual degree of activity seen now on the canal. A wonderful improvement has sprung up since last week."⁵²

Then we read: **"Downsville Will be Wet Again.**

Geo. M. Sterling & Co. of Four Locks, purchased of C. L. Shank on Tuesday his store, saloon and fixtures situate on the Trout property in Downsville. Mr. Shank has been conducting a saloon on this stand for fifteen years but refused to take out a license on the first of May last.

"Messrs. Sterling and Co., will procure license June 1. Mr. Shank will erect a dwelling for himself during the present summer and give up his present residence to Mr. Sterling."⁵³

The next month we read: "George M. Sterling has assumed charge of the saloon which he recently purchased from C. L. Shank in Downsville."⁵⁴ We suspect that he went into a partnership with a V. L. Woltz for operating the saloon, but the partnership did not survive even six months, as reported:

"NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

The partnership heretofore existing between George M. Sterling and V. L. Woltz, under the firm name of Sterling & Woltz, has been dissolved, George M. Sterling assuming the entire business. All bills against the firm will please be presented to him for payment.

**GEORGE M. STERLING
V. L. WOLTZ.**

⁴⁹ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 10/13/1892, p. 2.

⁵⁰ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 4/20/1893, p. 2.

⁵¹ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 4/27/1893, p. 3.

⁵² *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 5/25/1893, p. 6.

⁵³ *Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Wednesday, 5/24/1893.

⁵⁴ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 6/8/1893, p. 3.

Downsville, Md., Nov. 27, 1893"⁵⁵

A newspaper announced that: "Henry Tedrick will occupy a new store building at Two Locks on April 1, [1894]."⁵⁶ During 1894 Dan Sterling began his duties as lockkeeper on the Canal at the Guard Lock at Dam No. 5; which duties he continued until 1919.

Meanwhile the Samuel Sterling family was celebrating as reported:

"MARRIED

HULL – STERLING – On May 13, at the residence of the bride's aunt, Mrs. David Yeakle, Indian Spring district, by Rev. J. C. Koon, Mr. Wm. B. Hull, proprietor of the Indian Spring hotel, and Miss Grace M. Sterling, daughter of Samuel Sterling."⁵⁷

Then we read: "George M. Sterling and Henry Davis bagged 220 blackbirds on the farm of Andrew Snavely, Downsville."⁵⁸ George Sterling must have put an emphasis on his children's education because we read that Susie Sterling had perfect attendance while Mazie Sterling and Nellie Sterling were absent only one day at their Downsville School, Primary Department during the fall 1894 term.⁵⁹ Shortly thereafter: "Mr. George Sterling is on the sick list."⁶⁰

In 1894 John W. Snyder died and was buried in Emory Chapel Cemetery, Beattytown, Ohio. Also that year, Daniel Lee and Virginia Augusta Sterling became lockkeepers at Guard Lock, Dam No. 5.

The winter of 1895 was really brutal and yet George Sterling's children kept up their schooling:

"THE DOWNSVILLE TUNNEL

A Unique Reminder of the Blizzard - Scholars Braved the Storm

(Special to the Herald)

Downsville, Md., Feb. 13 - The blizzard of last week completely blocked the roads in this vicinity. A force of twenty men was placed on the Downsville pike for a distance of two miles. Two days were consumed in opening the thoroughfare. A short distance from the village on the Williamsport road the snow drifted to the height of fifteen feet. At that place the snow was excavated so as to form a tunnel, through which sleighs can pass with safety. . . . All the schools in the district were closed Friday and Monday except our village school. Twenty two pupils were present in each room on Friday notwithstanding the terrific snow storm.

The following pupils were regular in their attendance during the winter term in the assistant's room. Present every day: Mazie Sterling, . . . Susie Sterling, . . . Scott Sterling."⁶¹

Older sister, Meta Sterling, attended a quilting party given by Miss Myrtle Downs, of Downsville, later in that same year.⁶²

⁵⁵ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 12/7/1893, p. 4.

⁵⁶ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 3/8/1894, p. 7.

⁵⁷ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 5/24/1894, p. 5.

⁵⁸ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 9/20/1894, p. 5.

⁵⁹ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 11/29/1894, p. 7.

⁶⁰ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 12/20/1894, p. 6.

⁶¹ *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 2/21/1895, p. 7.

⁶² *Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, MD, newspaper, Thursday, 3/21/1895, p. 5.

In May, 1897 a newspaper reported: "Daniel Sterling caught in a net in the Potomac river at Dam No. 5, C. & O. Canal, a carp weighing thirty-four pounds."⁶³

Later that month we find: "The following were named game wardens for this county: . . . Dan Sterling."⁶⁴

The 1900 census reported that George M. Sterling, age 60, was living in Hagerstown, on W. Antietam Street in a rented house and he was a saloon keeper.⁶⁵ Living with him were: Annie R., age 52, his wife, who had 14 children, 11 of whom were still living; Mary K. Hays, age 26, their married daughter, who had 2 children, 1 of whom was still living; Meta F. Sterling, age 23, their daughter; Annie L. Rohrer, age 21, their daughter, married 3 years with no children; George V. Sterling, age 20, their son; Mazie V. Sterling, age 17, their daughter, working as a knitter in a stocking factory; Scott G. Sterling, age 15, their son, working as a nickel polisher; Susie T. Sterling, age 13, their daughter, also working as a knitter in a stocking factory; Nellie V. Sterling, age 11, their daughter; Orpha N. Sterling, age 10, their daughter; John C. Rohrer, age 25, their son-in-law, married 3 years, working as a bartender; and Annie P. Hays, age 7, their granddaughter.

The same census reported that Samuel Sterling, age 51[sic], was living in Indian Spring where he lived in a farm house that he owned on his farm and he was a Supervisor of Repairs on the C. & O. Canal.⁶⁶ Living with him were: Mary, age 50, his wife, who had 8 children, 7 of whom were still living; Fannie Sterling, age 18, their daughter, who was a school teacher; Bessie Sterling, age 15, their daughter; and Jennette Sterling, age 9, their daughter. Our records, Appendix A, indicate that it was son, Samuel Sterling, who had already died, in Sept. 1892.

And that census reported that Daniel L. Sterling, age 49, was living in a rented house where he was a lock tender on the C. & O. Canal.⁶⁷ Living with him were: Virginia A., age 47, his wife, who had 5 children, 4 of whom were still living; Bessie Sterling, age 15, their daughter; Mary Sterling, age 13, their daughter; Norman Sterling, age 9, their son; and Daniel Sterling, age 2, their son. Our records, Appendix A, indicate that it was their son, William Sterling, who had already died, in 1889 as an infant.

In 1901 George Sterling died; it was front page news:

"CARRIED BULLET TO THE GRAVE

"George M. Sterling, a Union Veteran, Wounded During the War,
"Dies at His Home in This City.

"George M. Sterling, a well-known resident, died at 2:30 o'clock this morning at his home, 232 Summit Ave., of heart trouble, after a serious illness covering a period of several weeks, aged 62 years. His death was heard with surprise in the city and produced a shock among a large circle of friends.

⁶³ *The News*, Frederick, Maryland, Tuesday, 5/18/1897, p. 3.

⁶⁴ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Thursday, 5/26/1927, p. 9. **30 Years Ago Today.**

⁶⁵ 1900 census, Maryland, Washington County, Hagerstown City, enumerated on 6/2/1900, p. 2A.

⁶⁶ 1900 census, Maryland, Washington County, Indian Spring District, enumerated on 6/19/1900, p. 13B.

⁶⁷ 1900 census, Maryland, Washington County, District No. 4, enumerated on 6/26/1900, p. 25B.

"Deceased was born in the "Neck," near Falling Waters, and was engaged in farming. He moved to Hagerstown about 7 years ago and was engaged in the saloon business first on Corgett's addition and later in Antietam St., and at the time of his death in Summit Ave., opposite the B. & O. depot. He was an ex-Union veteran having served through the Civil War as a member of the First Maryland Cavalry under Captain Russell. He was in different engagements and wounded once carrying a bullet in his body to the grave. He was a member of Reno Post G. A. R. and a republican.

"He is survived by his wife and the following children: Mrs. Bettie Sunner, Illinois; Mrs. Lucy Tyler, Ia.; Mrs. Katie Hays and Mrs. Annie Rohrer, this city; Mrs. Mazie Garlock, Bisell; Bernard, Chicago; Meta, Susie, Orphie, Nellie, Scott, at home; sisters, Mrs. Kate Gardner, Dam No. 5; Mrs. Mary Snyder, Springfield, O; brothers, Daniel, Dam No. 5; Samuel, Indian Spring; John, Iowa; Benjamin, Washington.

"Funeral Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, services at the house by Rev. Dr. S. W. Owen, interment in Rose Hill Cemetery. The G. A. R. will have charge of the funeral.

"He will be buried in the uniform of the cause he loved so well and under the flag of his country. A neighbor said, 'I never knew a squarer man than George Sterling - sterling in all that his name implies. He was liberal in his views, religion and social and he had no hard word for any man and generous hand and a kindly greeting for everyone, friend or stranger.'"⁶⁸

Annie had 14 children, 11 of which were still living in 1900. George had an Industrial Policy with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which paid his widow \$20.75 upon his death.⁶⁹

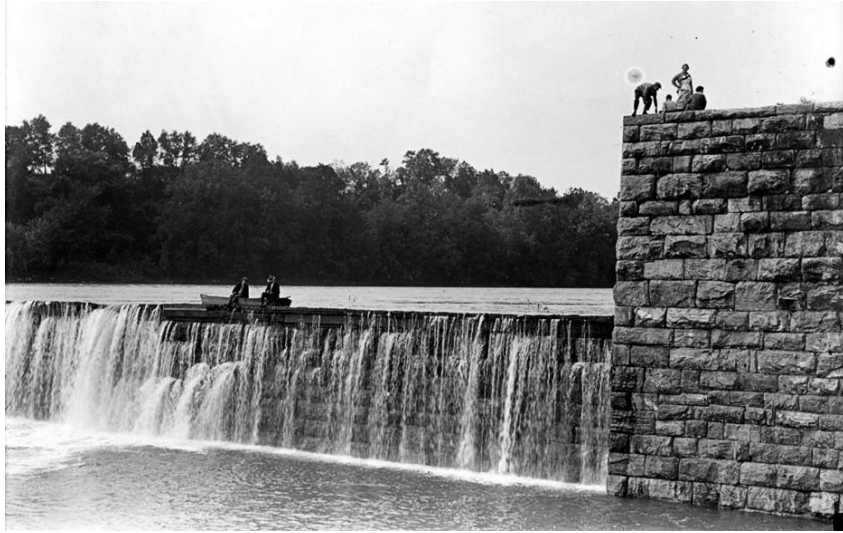


For the story we are about to relate, the scene at Guard Lock 5 and Dam No. 5 needs to be set. In the adjacent, undated photograph the towpath was visible on the left, the mule crossover bridge was visible on the far side of Guard Lock 5, the watch shanty was the small white structure in the middle, and the stairs lead across the by-pass flume and up the hill to the dirt road just below the lockhouse where the Dan Sterling family lived while tending the lock.

In the photo below, also undated, Dam No. 5 is shown on a calm day with visitors on the Maryland abutment and fishermen in a small boat right at the dam. Of note is the fall or drop should the fishermen be carried over the dam.

⁶⁸ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, 11/22/1901, p. 1.

⁶⁹ Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, letter dated 4/21/1903, found in Richard Ebersole Collection.



Now, in the below photograph, also undated, the overall layout of the exit from Guard Lock 5 is shown. The light canal boat would have gone under the mule cross-over bridge, the mule team would have proceeded up the towpath on the right, and the light boat would take the inland passage between the island and the towpath, which was available depending on the level of the river, the recent dredging of the passage, the draft of the canal boat, &c. Loaded boats, with deeper draft, would arrive via the Potomac River, outside the island, and then make an "S" turn to get lined up with the lock.



In the photograph below, also undated, a light canal boat had just cleared the mule cross-over bridge, the mule team had gone on up the towpath to the right, (notice the absence of trees which dates the photograph as taken during the operational period of the canal), and the boat captain was about to steer to the left, out into the Potomac River. On a calm day, it was not much of a problem. If the inland passage was dredged, the boat captain would steer straight ahead, reserving the river route for descending, loaded boats.



In May of 1973, Mary Mouse and Harry Newkirk told the following story to Ora Ann Ernst, a reporter for the *Daily-Mail*, a newspaper in Hagerstown, Md.:

The month of May marks the 70th anniversary of an unusual, nearly unbelievable event, shared by two elderly residents of Washington County.

"On May 1, 1903, Harry E. Newkirk, at the age of 18, was swept over Dam No. 5 in a canal boat while Mrs. Tom Mouse, then the 15-year-old Mary Sterling, watched the horrifying incident from the porch of her childhood home.

"It was shocking," she said as she reminisced last week in her present home in Williamsport, "and I hope I never see anything like it again. My mother fainted when it happened."

Newkirk of Big Spring, but now at Avalon Manor, also has vivid memories of his violent, near-fatal, ride over the falls.

"He and his 16-year-old brother Ralph had taken a horse from their home at Two Locks to plow a lot for the Sterling's at Dam No. 5. As a "light" (empty) canal boat came west through the locks at the dam, a windstorm started to rise. Harry, giving his younger brother quick instructions to finish plowing the lot, ran down from behind the Sterling house that overlooked the dam and jumped on the boat to ride back to his father's store at Two Locks. Mary Sterling Mouse recalls that Harry did so to help the "old man," the captain of the boat, handle the ropes in the wind, but Harry can't remember such altruistic motives.

"I do remember that I almost missed the boat when I jumped," he says. Ten seconds later I wouldn't have made it.

"Then things happened.

"At Dam No. 5, the canal boats had to go into slack water in the river to get to Two Locks. Because the cut at that time was somewhat overgrown, the route was father offshore, making an extra strain on the ropes and the mules pulling them. Harry's recollection is that the new mule boy, too excited, whipped the mules who jumped and snapped the ropes.

"But Mary remembers her father's story that the boy, fearing that the wind would drag the mules into the water, cut the lines himself. Neither story could be verified because the frightened lad ran off and never returned.

"In the meantime Ralph Newkirk and Dan Sterling, Mary's father, had jumped into a skiff and grabbed the ropes.

"They tried to get to the bank to pull the canal boat in, but the wind was so great and it was out in the river too far, the line wouldn't reach. They thought they could get it to the bank and snub it but they couldn't," Mrs. Mouse recalls.

"So the wind drove the helpless, unweighted boat over the dam.

"Harry remembers that it landed on its side, paused in that position, and then righted itself. He also recalls being knocked into the river and hanging onto the rudder blade. He can still see the "old woman," the wife of the boatman, Capt. Kime, as "she stuck her head out of a hole in the cabin and asked (Harry) if he saw anything of the girls."

"The "girls" were the two little daughters of Capt. And Mrs. Kime. They had been in the cabin with their mother. One was swept away with a table into the rough water; her body was found some days later. The other little girl had her leg broken when the cabin stove fell on it.

"Capt. Kime, who "had hold of the steer stick," trying to guide the boat, suffered many broken ribs and possible lung punctures.

"Dan Sterling and Ralph Newkirk had abandoned their skiff above the dam and rushed to get into another one below the falls. They pulled Harry out of the water and hauled him ashore, taking him to the Sterling home where Mrs. Sterling put dry clothes on him and put him to bed. She and the others were alarmed by bleeding from Harry's mouth, but time proved that it was caused only by broken front teeth.

"Capt. Kime and his wife and remaining daughter were also put to bed in the Sterling house. Dr. Richardson from Williamsport came to minister to them and, in about a week, decided to move them to Ashton Station to board a train for their home in Cumberland.

"Will Frantz came from Clear Spring in his spring wagon to haul them to the station. Mrs. Mouse relates that Mrs. Kime sat on the front seat while her daughter was tied on a cot for the ride.

"Jimmy Ritchey, superintendent of that section of the canal, transported the injured boatman in his wagon, but Capt. Kime, with more internal punctures than first suspected, died at Ashton Station.

"The canal boat itself was not hurt. Company men came up and took it to Dam No. 4, where there was "big slack water," and put it back into the canal.

A barrel of oats that was in the middle cabin (where hay and other supplies were kept) never upset, Mr. Newkirk remembers.

"Two mules were in the third cabin, the "mule cabin." They were thrown into the river. Mrs. Mouse recalls that the "blind one swam to Maryland and the other one went to West Virginia."

"A canal boat usually had a complement of four mules—two on the towpath, working, and two in the cabin, resting. Harry remembers that his father, Tunis (Bud) Newkirk, owned a "dozen or more mules" which he rented or sold. The mule business was big because there were around 150 boats going up and down the canal at the beginning of this century, mostly hauling coal from Cumberland to Georgetown, and then returning "light" with some grocery supplies for stores along the river.

"Harry says that his father, who owned a grocery and feed store at Two Locks, received stables from wholesalers who shipped to Cushwa's at Williamsport where they were loaded on the boats. Along with sugar, flour and salt there were also barrels of coal oil, buckwheat and molasses.

"Wholesalers that Harry remembers are Bloom's, J. W. Myers and a firm called Wolfinger, Allen and Brown. He fondly talked of "Old man Tommy Allen as the nicest man in the country," because he always had little treats for the children of his customers.

"Harry recollects, too, that he had to sleep in his father's store at night. "Someone had to be there all night, because the boats came at any time. Andy Snyder was the lock tender and he slept in the shanty on the lock."

"Harry also has remembrances of driving mules on the canal, especially on the long, eight-day trip from Cumberland to Georgetown, a towpath trek of 184 miles.

"Mary Mouse verifies his memories and adds some of her own. Vivid yet to her are the sunsets of the dam as seen from the porch of her home and dramatic is her mind's picture of the breakup of ice on the river, with huge pieces going over the falls. She is still amazed by the remembered phenomenon of large trees going over the dam, being caught in the powerful undertow that threw them back to the falls again and again for as long as four days, and left them denuded of all limbs and branches.

"But the most outstanding recollection for both is that of May 1, 1903, when Harry unintentionally rode over the dam and Mary, horrified watched from her porch."⁷⁰

Later that month a newspaper reported: "The body of an eight-year old child, supposed to be that of the daughter of Capt. J. Kime, who was drowned in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, was recovered at Falling Waters."⁷¹

In July 1904, a newspaper reported: "STERLING - MAGAHA

"Harry F. Sterling and Minnie E. Magaha, both of this county, were married yesterday at the Evangelical Reformed parsonage, this city, by Rev. Dr. E. R. Eschbach."⁷²

The next year, the same newspaper noted under "PROPERTY DEEDED.

"Amelia J. Spittle et. al., to Harry F. Sterling, real estate at Point of Rocks, \$1,059."⁷³



⁷⁰ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 5/19/1973, Family Section, p. 8. Also see *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Monday, 5/26/1973, Family Section, p. 9.

⁷¹ *The News*, Frederick, Md., newspaper, Monday, 5/11/1903, p. 4.

⁷² *The News*, Frederick, Md., newspaper, Tuesday, 7/12/1904, p. 3.

⁷³ *The News*, Frederick, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, 10/11/1905, p. 3.

One of the highlights of a day at Four Locks, for the children, was the arrival of the horse-drawn library bookmobile, seen in the photograph above between the telephone poles and the low stone wall.

In the time frame 1903 - 1909, from a 2009 magazine article, we learn that: "Fishing parties from the Blue Mountain House [at Pen Mar, 15 miles east of Hagerstown on the Western Maryland Railroad mainline] can take the fast mail train after an early breakfast and in less than two hours will be getting 'bites' from the Big Pool (lake), the Potomac near Williamsport, or Dam #5 on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal between the two."⁷⁴ Dan Sterling was the lockkeeper at Guard Lock 5, Dam # 5, during that time.



The adjacent family photograph was taken in 1908/09: They are identified from left to right: Bessie Ellen Sterling Hull, Virginia Augusta Sterling holding granddaughter Hilda Adeline Hull, Daniel Lee Sterling, Daniel Barton Sterling sitting, and Norman Benjamin Sterling. The photograph was taken at Guard Lock Dam No.5 based on the lock gate balance beam to the left,

the lock key Norman is leaning on and the lock gate walkway Daniel is sitting on.

In June, 1908, a newspaper had the following obituary: "**JNO. F. STERLING DEAD. - A Well Known Canal Official Dies in Washington.** - Williamsport, Md., June 9, - John F. Sterling, a former resident of this place and at one time an official of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, died at his home in Washington, of apoplexy, aged 70 years. Mr. Sterling was supervisor of the middle division of the canal for a number of years previous to the flood of 1889. He was twice married, and is survived by his second wife, a daughter (Mrs. Louis A. Weisberg, of Pittsburg) and two sons (B. A. Sterling, of Ottumwa, Ia., and W. E. Sterling, of Pennsylvania) and one brother (Richard N. Sterling, of Mount Sterling, Ky.). His body was brought here yesterday and buried in Riverview cemetery."⁷⁵

On Sep. 27, 1908, Mazie V. [Sterling] Garlock was baptized in the Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, Pa.

By the time of the 1910 census, Margaret E. (Sterling) Snyder, age 70, widowed, was living with her son-in-law William H. Melvin, age 43, who was working as a Blacksmith.⁷⁶ Also living with William Melvin were: Myrtle C. (Snyder), age 33, his wife; John W., age 15, their son; Samuel E.,

⁷⁴ *Maryland Cracker Barrel*, Boonsboro, MD, magazine, August/September 2009, p. 28.

⁷⁵ *Cumberland Evening Times*, Cumberland, Maryland, newspaper, Tuesday, 6/9/1908, p. 1.

⁷⁶ 1910 census, Ohio, Clark County, Springfield Township, enumerated on 4/28/1910, p. 4B.

age 13, their son; Harry A., age 11 their son; and Marjorie L., age 2, their daughter. William and Myrtle had been married 17 years; she had 4 children, all of whom were then still living. Son Samuel was working as a News Boy on the street. John and Nellie (Snyder) Dellinger, with their 2 daughters and a boarder, were living in Springfield City.⁷⁷

The 1910 census reported Samuel Sterling, age 67, was still a Foreman on the C. & O. Canal, living in Election District 18.⁷⁸ Living with him was: Mary E., age 61, his wife; Bessie W., age 25, their daughter, who was teaching school; and Jennette J., age 19, their daughter.



The same census reported Daniel L. Sterling, age 59, was a Lock Tender on the C & O Canal, living in Election District No. 4.⁷⁹ Living with him were: Jennie A., age 56, his wife, who had 5 children 4 of whom were then still living; Mary J., age 22, their youngest daughter; Norman B., age 18, their son, a laborer on the Canal; Daniel B., age 11, their son, and Hilda A. Hull, age 3, their granddaughter. In the adjacent photograph, taken about 1910, on the left was Bessie Ellen Sterling Hull, the oldest daughter; then Virginia "Jennie" A. Sterling with the granddaughter Hilda A. Hull at her feet; and Daniel Lee Sterling with their youngest son, Daniel B. Sterling at his feet. There were feet of two other individuals at the top of the photograph, but their identity remains unknown; the feet on the right could have belonged to Norman B. Sterling, age 18. In the C&O Canal NHP photograph below we see the same lockhouse, same steps, from the towpath.

On or about August 25, 1910, Aloysius Flynn, lock tender at Four Locks, was killed when run over by a Western Maryland freight train near Clear Spring station.⁸⁰

In early 1914 Catherine Warrone Sterling Yeakle had a tooth pulled; it abscessed and she died three weeks later on Feb. 20, 1914.

A newspaper recorded: "Miss Jeannette [Josephine] Sterling and



⁷⁷ 1910 census, Ohio, Clark County, Springfield City, enumerated on 4/15/1910, p. 1B.

⁷⁸ 1910 census, Maryland, Washington County, Election District 18, enumerated on 4/22/1910, p. 6A.

⁷⁹ 1910 census, Maryland, Washington County, Election District 4, enumerated on 4/22/1910, p. 8B.

⁸⁰ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 8/25/1960, p. 18. "50 Years Ago"

Milton A. Dorsey, this city, were among the newlyweds."⁸¹

World War I came along and men had to register for the draft, in this family:

Norman Benjamin Sterling, age 25, of Williamsport, Md.⁸² No street address was given, he was born Aug. 30, 1891, a laborer at Keystone Limestone Co., Pinesburg, Md., tall of height, medium build, brown eyes and dark hair, not bald. At the time he reported having a wife and 3 children.

Daniel Barton Sterling, age 20, of 210 Bryan St., Hagerstown, Md.⁸³ His address was 210 Bryant St., Hagerstown, Md. He was born July 25th 1898, a machinist with the Western Maryland Railroad, tall of height, slender of build, blue eyes and dark hair. His nearest relative was his wife, Viola Mae Sterling of the same address.

William L. Sterling, age 24, of Williamsport, Md.⁸⁴ No street address was given, he was born Sep. 19, 1892, a automobile driver at Barnehost Overhall Factory, Williamsport. He was medium height, slender of build, brown eyes and dark hair. He had a wife and two children.

Harry William Sterling, age 26, of Auburndale, Martinsburg, W. Va.⁸⁵ He was born June 5, 1891. an automobile mechanic at Norwalk Motor Car Co., Martinsville, W. Va. He was tall of height, stout of build, brown eyes, and black hair. He had a wife and three children.

Clifford Stanley Garlock, age 38, of 125 McPhail St., Baltimore, Md.⁸⁶ He was born July 19, 1880, a chauffeur, self-employed. He was 5'-10" tall, stout of build, blue eyes, and black hair. His nearest relative was his wife, Mazie Viola [Starling] Garlock.

Rankin Ames Stouffer, age 34, of 931 S. Potomac St., Hagerstown, Md.⁸⁷ He was born Feb. 17, 1884, a sheet metal worker at Pauyvora Corporation, Hagerstown, Md. He was medium in height, medium in build, brown eyes, and brown hair. His nearest relative was his wife, Susan T. [Sterling] Stouffer of the same address.



Dan and Virginia (Jennie) Sterling left Guard Lock 5, after Joe Higgins died on Oct. 12, 1918. The adjacent photograph, from the Western Maryland Regional Library, was taken about that time; Dan and Jennie are in the lower right hand portion. Dan took over as Superintendent on the Canal from Dam No. 6 to Cumberland. Apparently they then lived with their daughter Bessie Wooden and her husband William Wooden at 831 West Franklin Street in Hagerstown, Md. William Wooden worked as a brakeman on the Western Maryland Railroad.

⁸¹ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Tuesday, 9/30/1930, p. 16, **15 Years Ago Today**.

⁸² WW I DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. 79, Williamsport, Md., dated 6/15/1917.

⁸³ WW I DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. 335-2, Hagerstown, Md., dated 9/12/1918.

⁸⁴ WW I DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. 83, Washington Cty., Md., dated 6/5/1917.

⁸⁵ WW I DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. 20, Berkeley Cty., W. Va., dated 6/5/1917.

⁸⁶ WW I DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. 3304, Baltimore, Md., dated 9/12/1918.

⁸⁷ WW I DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. 271, Hagerstown., Md., dated 9/12/1918.

Later that same year Mary Elizabeth Sterling died; the newspaper reported:

"DEATHS

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Sterling, wife of Samuel B. Sterling, died on Thursday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock at her home, 604 West Church Street, of general disability, after an illness of five weeks, aged 70 years, 10 months and 1 day. She was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church. Mrs. Sterling is survived by her husband; daughters, Mrs. Charles Weaver and Mrs. M. A. Dorsey, both of this city; Mrs. Fred Martin, Indian Spring and Miss Bess, at home; son Harry F. Sterling, Point of Rocks and brother, Thomas Ford, Grand Rapids, Mich. Funeral Saturday; service at the home at 2 p.m. by Rev. S. Hilton Orrick; interment in St. Paul's Cemetery along the Western Pike."⁸⁸

An Ohio newspaper reported the death of Margaret E. (Sterling) Snyder:

"**SNYDER** - Mrs. Margaret E. Snyder, 82, died of pneumonia Saturday evening, October 1, 1921 at 8:45 o'clock at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Melvin of Bealysville. Funeral services will be held in Emery Chapel in Bealysville at a time to be announced later. Burial will be in Emery Chapel cemetery."⁸⁹

That was the same burial place as for her husband, John W. Snyder who died in 1894.

In 1922 the Daniel L. Sterling family were living in Hagerstown, Md. Daniel L. was retired and living at 831 W. Franklin St., with his wife, Jennie A., and daughter, Bessie W., who was a clerk at C. H. Eyerly Co.⁹⁰ Daniel B. Sterling was a machinist living at 11 Garmong Ave.

Chapter 3 Between Floods - 1924 to 1936

By 1923 Clifford S. and Mazie [Sterling] Garlock were living on Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore and he was a foreman.⁹¹ Their son, Max S. Garlock lived at 128 Wilkins St. and worked in a lab. Their son, Daniel Garlock also lived at 128 Wilkins St. and was a machinist.

In August 1923, Harry F. Sterling was re-elected as a Clerk of Election, District No. 1 Buckeystown, Precinct 2.⁹² He had previously been elected to that position in 1916.⁹³

"On March 29, 1924, the first major flood in 35 years swept down the Potomac Valley and wrecked the canal. Melting snow and heavy rains caused the Potomac and its tributaries, especially the Shenandoah, to rise and overflow their banks. . . . The flood of 1924 provided the opportunity for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad to relieve itself of the expense of operating the canal."⁹⁴

Norman B. Sterling registered as a new voter, District 2, Precinct 2, Republican, in Williamsport, Md. in October 1924.⁹⁵

⁸⁸ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 8/7/1920.

⁸⁹ *The News*, Springfield, Ohio, newspaper, Sunday, October 2, 1921. See also State of Ohio Certificate of Death, Clark County, File No. 54524, filed 10/5/1921, Richard F. Ebersole Collection.

⁹⁰ *Hagerstown City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1922-23, p. 704.

⁹¹ *Baltimore City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1923, p. 754.

⁹² *The News*, Frederick, Md., newspaper, Tuesday, 8/7/1923, p. 8.

⁹³ *The News*, Frederick, Md., newspaper, Monday, 7/31/1916, p. 7.

⁹⁴ Unrau, Harlan D., *History of the C & O Canal*, published by C & O Canal NHP, Hagerstown, MD, 2007, pp. 317-319.

⁹⁵ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 10/18/1924, p. 2.

The Norman B. Sterling family lived on Roessner Ave, Halfway, Md. in a frame house with a front porch. The family is shown in the adjacent photograph, taken circa 1928, based on the youngest daughter, Betty Zane, being about 3 years old and Pearl A. Sterling being still alive. The family identification is, across the porch from left to right: Anna Marie (11 years); Ralph (5); Jane Eleanor (14); and Alice Marie (9); then in front of the porch, also from left to right: Mary Virginia (15); Nora Catherine (7); Norman B. Sterling; Betty Zane (3); Pearl E. Sterling; Norman James (7); and Wilbur Lee (16 years old).



On July 9, 1925 Samuel B. Sterling applied for a pension under the provisions of the act of Congress approved May 1, 1920.⁹⁶ At the time of application he was 82 years old, had been born on September 13th 1842, enlisted August 20th 1862 in Company H, 6th Regiment, Maryland Infantry, and was discharged on July 2nd 1865. On August 20th 1862 he was 5 ft 8 inches in height, dark complexion, blue eyes, light colored hair and he had been a farmer. He had been employed on the C. & O. Canal for 35 years and subsequently incapacitated. Since Oct. 1924 he had required the regular personal aid and attendance of another person; he was totally disabled in every respect. He was living at 237 Elizabeth Street, Hagerstown, Md.; Mrs. Chas Weaver and Dersua Weaver, of the same address, were his two witnesses. As far as we know the pension was granted.

Unfortunately, Samuel B. Sterling died March 30, 1926; the newspaper obituary reported:

"Samuel D. Sterling died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Weaver, 237 Elizabeth Street, last night from pneumonia, aged 84 years. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church and of Reno Post, Grand Army of the Republic. He was born and reared in the Downsville District and was the son of Samuel and Ellen Williams Sterling.

"He is survived by the following children: Mrs. Nellie Weaver, this city; Mrs. Frederick Martin, Clearspring; Mrs. Milton Dorsey and Miss Bessie Sterling, Hagerstown, and Harry Sterling, Washington Junction. A brother Daniel Sterling also survives.

"Funeral Friday Afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, services at the house, 237 Elizabeth Street, Rev. Conrad Clever officiating. Interment at St. Paul's along Western Pike."⁹⁷

In 1926 Clifford S. and Mazie [Sterling] Garlock were living at 40 S. Garrison Lane, Baltimore and he was a foreman.⁹⁸ Their son, Daniel and Clara M. Garlock lived at 6 S. Garrison St. and he was a boilermaker.

⁹⁶ *DECLARATION FOR PENSION*, Act of May 1, 1920, in the name of Samuel B. Sterling, dated 7/9/1925, Richard Ebersole Collection.

⁹⁷ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 3/31/1926.

⁹⁸ *Baltimore City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1923, p. 754.

In February 1929, a newspaper reported: "Miss Sarah M. Sterling and Charles J. Murray were married Monday evening in the parsonage of the Williamsport Methodist church by Rev. G. A. Luttrell."⁹⁹

In 1929 Clifford S. and Mazie [Sterling] Garlock were living at 40 S. Franklinton Road, Baltimore and he was a foreman.¹⁰⁰ Their son, Max and Louise J. Garlock lived at 1821 Arunah Ave. and he worked as a tender repairman. Their son, Daniel and Clara Garlock lived at 6 S. Franklinton Rd. and was a boilermaker. Daughter Viola S. Garlock was a student and lived with her parents.

Pearl Elizabeth Sterling died on Nov. 21, 1929 as reported in the newspaper:

"Mrs. Pearl Sterling

Mrs. Pearl E. Sterling died at her home Roessner Avenue extended, late Wednesday night, aged 40 years. She is survived by her husband, N. B. Sterling, and the following: children, Lee, Mary, Jane, Anna, May, Nora, Norman, Ralph and Betty; father Omer Anderson, Falling Waters; brothers, David Anderson and Milton, Williamsport; Norman, Falling Waters; Isaac, Halfway; Harry, Sharon, Pa.; Richard, Falling Waters; sister, Mrs. Guy Hoffman, Williamsport. Funeral Sunday afternoon, meeting at the house at 2 o'clock; services at 2:30 o'clock in U. B. Church, Williamsport; Rev. N. B. S. Thomas officiating. Interment in River View Cemetery."¹⁰¹

In 1929 Daniel L. and Jennie A. Sterling were living at 831 W. Franklin St., Hagerstown.¹⁰² Mrs. Bessie Sterling, a clerk, was living at 25½ W. Franklin St., with her daughter, Helen. Daniel B. and Viola M. Sterling were living at 726 George St; he was a salesman with The Manbeck Bread Co.

The next year was a census year and from that census report we see that Norman B. Sterling was a widower with nine (9) children living on Roessner Ave, Halfway, Md.¹⁰³ All the children were still single. He did own the home, valued at \$4,500, and he had a radio set. He was a butcher and his oldest son, Wilbur, was a Clerk, probably at the same Grocery Store.



He owned and operated the **N. B. Sterling Meats - Groceries** store shown in the above photograph. He ran the store with the help of his daughter and two of his sons.

⁹⁹ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 2/16/1929, p. 5.

¹⁰⁰ *Baltimore City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1923, p. 754.

¹⁰¹ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 11/23/1929, p. 20.

¹⁰² *Hagerstown City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1929, p. 448.

¹⁰³ 1930 census, Maryland, Washington County, Election District No. 26, enumerated on 4/12/1930, p. 10A.

In the next photograph, that was Anna Marie Sterling Martin on the left, then Norman B. Sterling, then Wilbur Lee Sterling and finally his youngest son, Ralph E. Sterling on the far right. Note these three children are older than in the previous family photograph taken on their front porch.



In September 1930, a newspaper reported: "**MISS STERLING IS GIVEN PARTY - Event is a Surprise Affair Last Evening at Roessner Avenue Home.** - Misses Jane and Dolly Billmeyer were charming hostesses on Monday evening at a surprise party, given in honor of Miss Mary [Virginia] Sterling's 17th birthday. The party was given at their home on Roessner avenue, extended.

"Miss Sterling received many useful presents.

"Dancing and games furnished amusement for the

evening.

"The following guests were present: Misses Mary Sterling, Madeline Jacobs, Mary Jacobs, LaRue Bond, Anna Sterling, June Sterling, Dolly Billmeyer, Nora Sterling and Earl Browning, Elmo Bond, John Halback, Morris Snooks, Earl Anderson, Harold Miner, Lee Sterling, Robert Wilman, Banner Browning, Elwood Browning, Junior and Edgar Jacobs, Norman and Ralph Sterling and Mr. Sterling."¹⁰⁴

1931 was a particularly bad year for the family, first Daniel Lee Sterling died as reported: "**Daniel L. Sterling**, retired lock-keeper for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company at Dam No. 5, died at 4:45 o'clock this morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Bessie E. Wooden, 831 West Franklin Street. He was aged 79 years, 9 months and 19 days. Death was due to pneumonia and followed an illness of thirteen weeks. Surviving are his widow, Jennie Sterling, and four children, Mrs. Wooden; Mrs. Mary Mouse, Williamsport; Norman B. Sterling, Halfway and Daniel B., Maugansville; fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild also survive. Funeral services will be held at the home Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock the Rev. W. K. Diehl, of the Lutheran Church, of Clear Spring officiating. Burial will be at Rose Hill Cemetery."¹⁰⁵

Later that month we read: "Mr. and Mrs. Harry Small and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Moore attended the funeral of their uncle, Daniel Sterling, in Hagerstown, on Wednesday."¹⁰⁶

Norman B. and Pearl E. Sterling with Robert S. and Dorothy E. Martin experienced some financial difficulties. They had bought a 4 acre tract of land in Halfway, Md. improved with a single frame

¹⁰⁴ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Wednesday, 9/24/1930, p. 7.

¹⁰⁵ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Monday, 1/12/1931

¹⁰⁶ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Maryland, Tuesday, 1/20/1931, p. 7.

dwelling containing six rooms and lighted by electricity, deed recorded on September 27, 1928.¹⁰⁷ For some reason they defaulted on the mortgage and the property was sold at public sale in front of the Courthouse in Hagerstown, Md. on March 24, 1931.¹⁰⁸

And before the year was out Virginia Sterling died, as reported:

"**Mrs. Jennie A. Sterling** died at 5:15 a.m. today at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William A. Wooden, 831 West Franklin Street, of complications, aged 78 years. She was a member of the Lutheran Church, Clear Spring. The following survive: Children, Daniel B., Norman B. and Mrs. Wooden, all of Hagerstown; Mrs. Thomas Mouse, Williamsport; brothers and sisters, Andrew Sanders, Mrs. Clarence Cage and Mrs. Hester Leasure, all of Martinsburg, and James, Marlowe, W. Va. Funeral services at the house Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Internment at Rose Hill Cemetery."¹⁰⁹

In Nov. 1932, we read: "Bessie Sterling and John Byers, Williamsport, were licensed to wed."¹¹⁰

A newspaper reported: "Daniel Garlock butchered three fine porkers Wednesday, the combined weight being 1,400 pounds. Mr. Caleb Dayhoff was head butcher. Other helpers were: Clifford Garlock and wife [Mazie V. Sterling], Max and Daniel Garlock, Mrs. Susie [Sterling] Stouffer, Mrs. Bessie Cruse, Miss Irene Kerr, Baltimore and Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Dayhoff and family."¹¹¹

In Apr. 1933, we read: "A marriage license was issued Monday afternoon at Gettysburg, Pa., to Lloyd C. Mills and Mary V. Sterling, Frederick."¹¹²

A newspaper reported: "Daniel Garlock returned to his home after spending the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Garlock and family, Baltimore."¹¹³

Chapter 4 - After 1936 Flood - Decline and Resurrection of C. & O. Canal Period

"A sudden thaw in the wintery temperatures throughout the eastern United States from Maryland to the Canadian border in mid-March 1936 led to the heaviest flood in recorded history of the Potomac Valley. While the loss of life was comparatively slight, numerous buildings, roads and bridges were destroyed. The Potomac not only flooded its upper reaches to epic proportions, but for the first time in living memory, it went out of its banks along the southern border and caused extensive damage almost down to the Atlantic. . . . In the vicinity of Four Locks, the river rose 10 feet above its 1889 crest. . . . At Lock 47 the lockhouse, which had withstood the 1889 freshet, was destroyed."¹¹⁴

By October 1936, Norman B. Sterling had moved to Hagerstown where he registered as a new voter, District No. 17, Precinct 2, Republican, residence at 338 S. Potomac St.¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁷ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Land Records Liber 181, Folio 178, recorded 9/27/1928.

¹⁰⁸ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Maryland., newspaper, Saturday, 3/7/1931, p. 15.

¹⁰⁹ newspaper, 12/11/1931.

¹¹⁰ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland., newspaper, Friday, 11/25/1932, p. 14.

¹¹¹ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Friday, 12/9/1932, p. 5.

¹¹² *The News*, Frederick, Maryland., newspaper, Wednesday, 4/12/1933, p. 1.

¹¹³ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland., newspaper, Friday, 1/11/1935, p. 3.

¹¹⁴ Unrau, Harlan D., *History of the C & O Canal*, published by C & O Canal NHP, Hagerstown, MD, 2007, pp. 319-320.

¹¹⁵ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Tuesday, 10/20/1936, p. 17.

In 1937 Bessie M. Sterling was living at 25½ W. Franklin St., Hagerstown; she was a buyer for Eyerly's.¹¹⁶ Daniel & Viola M. Sterling were living at 508 Chestnut St. and he was working as a machinist for Superior Dairy. Their son, Elwood B. Sterling, was living with them and he made special deliveries for Superior Dairy. Their son, Nelson Sterling, worked in a laboratory while still living at home. Norman B. Sterling had opened "Sterling Market," a grocery store at 219 S. Potomac St. His son Norman; daughter Anna; and daughter Nora all clerked at the grocery store and lived at home at 358 S. Potomac St. Oldest son, Wilbur Lee Sterling had married Carrie, and he was working as a driver for Sterling Market while they lived at 15 Coffman Ave.

A newspaper reported that: "Samuel S. Taylor, who had been lock tender for the canal at Four Locks for 44 years, died at his Big Spring home, aged 89 years."¹¹⁷

On Oct. 17, 1941 Harry S. Small fell from a ladder while preparing to paint the roof of his small barn and died.

In 1942 Bessie M. Sterling was still living at 25½ W. Franklin St., Hagerstown; and she was still a buyer for Eyerly's.¹¹⁸ Daniel B. and Viola M. Sterling were still living at 508 Chestnut St. and he was still working as a machinist. Their son, Elwood B. Sterling, was listed as living with them although it appears he was actually in the U. S. Army. Their son, Nelson Sterling, had married Dotty M. and he was working as a machinist's helper at Superior Dairy while still living at home. Their third son, Conway G. Sterling, was working as a machinist apprentice, while living at home. Norman B. Sterling had married Grace and still owned "Sterling Market," a grocery store at 219 S. Potomac St, although their residence was at 31 Lee St. Son, Norman, jr., was a clerk at McEwen's Market and lived at 2405 Virginia Ave. along with Ralph E. Sterling, who was a wood worker. Oldest son, Wilbur Lee and Carrie E. Sterling, still lived at 15 Coffman Ave. and he was working at McEwen's Market.

In April 1942 a newspaper reported:

"DEATHS:

"Charles A. Weaver died at his home, 351 Elizabeth street, on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock of complications after an illness of one year, aged 75 years. He was born and reared at Shankstown, the son of John and Mary (Myers) Weaver. He was connected with the Hagerstown Table Works, member of the Christ Reformed Church and Clever-Smith Bible Class. Besides his wife, Nellie E. [Sterling], surviving are: Daughters, Hazel Weaver and Mrs. William Seibert, this city; Charles H., Washington; Roy S. and Earl G., this city; sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Sprecher, Mrs. John McAllister and Mrs. Homer Cavanaugh. Five grandchildren also survive.

"The body was taken to the A. K. Coffman Funeral Home and will be removed to his home this evening where services will be held on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock by the Rev. Dr. H. A. Fesperman. Interment in Rose Hill cemetery."¹¹⁹

¹¹⁶ *Hagerstown City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1937-38, p. 383.

¹¹⁷ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 11/19/1955, p. 12. "15 Year Ago"

¹¹⁸ *Hagerstown City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1934-43, p. 339..

¹¹⁹ *The Daily Mail*. Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Thursday, 4/16/1942, p. 20.

World War II came along and men had to register for the draft, in this family:

Norman Benjamin Sterling was then living at 31 East Lee St., Hagerstown, Md.¹²⁰ He was born Aug. 30, 1890 [sic], he was self-employed as the owner of Sterling Grocery, 219 S. Potomac St., Hagerstown, Md. He was 5'-7" in height, 155 lbs. in weight, gray eyes and red hair and ruddy complexion. He reported Mrs. W. A. Wooden, Angle Wood Rd., Hagerstown, Md. as the person who would always know his address.

William Luther Sterling, age 49, was then living at 614 E. Chestnut St., Lancaster, Pa.¹²¹ He was born Sept. 19, 1892, he was self-employed with his business at 108 W. Lamoss St., Lancaster, Pa. The 2nd side of the Draft Registration card was stamped Chester County, Pa, not Lancaster County, Pa. and is thus suspect, although the date was probably very close. He reported Mamie E. [Rockwell] Sterling of the home address as the person who would always know his address.

Clifford Stanley Garlock, age 61, was then living at 2313 Laurette Ave., Baltimore, Md.¹²² He was born July 19, 1880, he worked in the Riverside Shops of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co., Baltimore, Md. The 2nd side of the Draft Registration card was stamped Chevy Chase, Md. not Baltimore, Md. and is thus suspect, although the date was probably very close. He reported Mazie Viola [Sterling] Garlock, (Wife) of the home address as the person who would always know his address.

Rankin Ames Stouffer, age 58, was then living at 33 West Wilson Blvd., Hagerstown, Md.¹²³ He was born Feb. 17, 1884, he worked as a metal worker at Pangborn Corporation, Hagerstown, Md. He was 5'-3" in height, 148 lbs. in weight, blue eyes, brown and gray hair, light complexion. His son, Richard Ames Stouffer of 35 Wilson Blvd., Hagerstown, Md. was reported as the person who would always know his address; not his wife, Susan Tice Sterling Stouffer.

A newspaper reported:

"Clifford Garlock

"Clifford Garlock, formerly of Hagerstown, died suddenly yesterday afternoon at his home in Baltimore of a heart attack.

"Mrs. Elmer Byurm, West Washington street, is a surviving sister.

"Funeral services in Baltimore at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon with interment in Loudon Park cemetery."¹²⁴

In 1945 Mrs. Bessie Sterling was then living at 1005 Woodland Way, Hagerstown, and she was still a buyer for Eyerly's.¹²⁵ Daniel B. and Viola M. Sterling were still living at 508 Chestnut St. and he was working as a machinist-electrician at Ringer Co. Their son, Elwood B., was listed as living with them. Nelson L. and Dottie M. Sterling were still living with his parents and he was then working in a laboratory. Conway G. Sterling was still working as a machinist apprentice while living at home. Norman B. and Grace Sterling still lived at 31 E. Lee St., but he was then working as a locomotive firemen. Wilbur Lee and Carrie E. Sterling had moved to Rt. 2, Williamsport although he still worked at McEwen's Market.

¹²⁰ WW II DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. U-2607, Princess Anne, Md., dated April 25th 1942.

¹²¹ WW II DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. U-1578, Lancaster, Pa., dated April 27th 1942.

¹²² WW II DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. U-2816, Baltimore, Md., dated April 26th 1942.

¹²³ WW II DRAFT REGISTRATION CARD, No. U-3424, Hagerstown, Md., dated April 20th 1942

¹²⁴ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Tuesday, 11/17/1942, p. 22.

¹²⁵ *Hagerstown City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1945, p. 406.

In April 1947 a newspaper reported:

"Rankin A. Stouffer.

"Funeral services for Rankin Ames Stouffer will be held Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. from the Woodford T. Norment funeral home, with Rev. Dr. William B. Norment officiating. Burial in Rose Hill Cemetery."¹²⁶

Helen Jayne Fernsner was wed to Elwood Barton Sterling on September 12, 1947 by Rev. J. Edward Harms at St. John's Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, Md. The following photograph shows Mr. & Mrs. Elwood B. Sterling cutting their wedding cake for their guests.

In 1950 Daniel B. and Viola M. Sterling were living at 508 Chestnut St. and he was working as an auto mechanic.¹²⁷ Their son, Elwood B. Sterling, had married H. Jayne [Fernsner, as cited above]; they lived at 2411 Virginia Ave. and he owned Sterling's Texaco Station at 736 Virginia Ave. Nelson L. Sterling was working as an electrician at Ringer Electric Service while still living at Rt. 2, Williamsport. Conway G. Sterling was working as a clerk at the Western



Maryland Railway Co., while living at home. Norman B. and Grace Sterling still lived at 31 E. Lee St., and he was still working as a locomotive fireman. Wilbur Lee and Carrie E. Sterling had moved to Rt. 2, Williamsport although he was still working at McEwen's Market. Ralph E. and Grace L. Sterling were living at 124 Elm St. and he was a clerk at McEwen's Market.

In February 1950 a newspaper reported:

"Mrs. Nellie E. Weaver.

"Mrs. Nellie E. [Sterling] Weaver, widow of Charles A. Weaver, 351 Elizabeth Street, died at the Washington County Hospital Tuesday morning following an illness of two weeks, aged 79 years.

"The daughter of the late Samuel B. and Mary Ford Sterling, she was born and raised in the Clear Spring district. She had lived in Hagerstown for the past 35 years, and was a member of Christ's Reformed Church.

"She is survived by daughters, Miss Hazel Weaver, at home; Mrs. William Seibert, Hagerstown; sons, Charles H., Laurel; and Roy F., Hagerstown; sisters Mrs. Frederick Martin, Indian Springs; Mrs. Milton Dorsey, Hagerstown; Miss Bess Sterling, Chicago; brother, Harry S. Sterling, Point of Rocks; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

¹²⁶ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Tuesday, 4/8/1947, p. 10.

¹²⁷ *Hagerstown City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1950, p. 457..

"The body has been removed to the A. K. Coffman funeral home where services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday by the Rev. Frederick C. Eyster. Interment in Rose Hill Cemetery."¹²⁸

On March 31, 1953, Mrs. Susan T. [Sterling] Stouffer, 33 West Wilson Boulevard, was released from the Washington County Hospital.¹²⁹

In 1956 Daniel B. Sterling had moved to RD 2, Smithsburg; he was working in the City Water Dept. lab.¹³⁰ Their son, Elwood B. and H. Jayne Sterling, still lived at 2411 Virginia Ave. and he clerked at Texaco Co. Nelson L. and Dottie M. Sterling were still living in Williamsport and he was an electrician's helper at Keller Electric Service. Conway G. Sterling was working as a driver-salesman for The Eldridge Dairy Co., while living at Smithsburg. Norman B. and Grace Sterling still lived at 31 E. Lee St. and he was then working as a janitor for Washington County Board of Education. Wilbur Lee and Carrie E. Sterling still lived in Williamsport and he was still working at McEwen's Market. Ralph E. and Grace L. Sterling were then living at 19 Clinton Ave., Hagerstown, and he was a contractor for Hornbaker & Sterling, 19 Clinton Ave.

In Sep. 1960, we read: "**MAGAHA REUNION.** - The eleventh annual reunion of Magaha clan (descendants of David and Doris Chaney Magaha) was held recently at Gathland State Park, near Burkittsville. Each family brought its own picnic lunch. . .

"Prizes were given to the following: Carl Sterling, Silver Spring, coming the longest distance; Harry Sterling, Point of Rocks, for largest family; Mrs. Minnie [Magaha] Sterling, Point of Rocks, oldest lady; . . . and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sterling, Point of Rocks, the couple married the longest."¹³¹

The next year produced another death in the family; we read:

"Milton A. Dorsey

"Milton A. Dorsey, 700 Ravenswood Drive, died at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore on Thursday evening after an illness of three months, aged 69 years.

"Born in Woodsboro, Md., he was the son of Claggett and Laura Harne Dorsey. He was a member of Lappan's St. Mark's Episcopal Church and had been a vestryman and senior warden for the past 25 years.

"In 1941 he quit farming and went into the real estate business.

"Surviving are wife, Jeanette (Sterling) Dorsey; sons, Sterling C. and Paul W. Dorsey, Hagerstown; daughter, Mrs. Mildred J. Mertes, Portland, Ore.; brothers Harry, Buffalo, N. Y.; Hallard, Oneonta, N. Y.; sister, Mrs. Margaret Brown, Emmitsburg; and one grandchild.

"Funeral services will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Sunday at 2 p.m. with the Rev. C. Robert Sutton officiating. Interment in Rose Hill Cemetery.

"The family will receive friends at the Minnich Funeral Home, Wilson Blvd., on Saturday evening."¹³²

Late in 1963 Norman Sterling died as reported in the newspaper:

¹²⁸ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Wednesday, 2/8/1950, p. 16.

¹²⁹ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Wednesday, 4/1/1953, p. 5.

¹³⁰ *Hagerstown City Directory*, R. L. Polk & Co., 1956, p. 528.

¹³¹ *The News*, Frederick, Maryland, newspaper, Saturday, 9/24/1960, p. 11.

¹³² *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 2/24/1961, p. 32.

"Norman B. Sterling

"Norman B. (Jack) Sterling, 72, of 31 E. Lee St., husband of Grace M. (Bitner) Sterling, died suddenly at Washington County Hospital at 10:30 p.m.

"He was born at Dam No. 5, Clear Spring District, and has resided in Hagerstown for the past 35 years.

"He was the son of the late Daniel L. and Jennie A. (Sanders) Sterling. Sterling was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the Old Bible Class. He was a retired grocer. Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Mrs. Mary Mills, Reading, Pa.; Mrs. Jane Springer, Mrs. Anna Martin, Mrs. Mae Baker, Mrs. Nora Moser, and Miss Betty Sterling, all of Hagerstown; sons W. Lee, Williamsport; Norman J. Dallas, TX.; and Ralph E., Smithsburg; step-son, Harold E. Bitner, Hagerstown; sisters, Mrs. Bessie Wooden, Hagerstown; Mrs. Mary Mouse, Williamsport; brother, Daniel B., Smithsburg; 24 grandchildren; and 13 great grandchildren; a number of nieces and nephews. [Pearl Elizabeth Anderson Sterling, Norman B. Sterling's first wife, was the mother of the first nine (9) children listed above.]

"The funeral will be at the Norman Funeral Home, Potomac Ave. Ext. (Leitersburg Pike) Saturday at 2:30 p.m., the Rev. Edward P. Heinz officiating. Burial will be in River View Cemetery, Williamsport."¹³³

Happy news in Dec. 1963, we read: "Mr. and Mrs. William A. Wooden, 102 Englewood Rd., quietly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday. Mrs. Wooden is the former Miss Bessie E. Sterling. The couple are both 78 years old. Mr. Wooden recalls he was born on the 13th and married on the 13th in 1913."¹³⁴

In Sept. 1965, William L. Sterling died as was reported:

"William L. Sterling

"LANCASTER, Pa. - William LeRoy Sterling, 73, 614 East Chestnut St., died Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Lancaster General Hospital after an illness of three months. He was born in Williamsport, the son of the late John and Mary (Carbaugh) Sterling.

"He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church; the Free Accepted Mason Lodge 43, of Lancaster; the Lancaster Lodge of Perfection; The Harrisburg Consistory 32 degree; and The Artisans Mutual Order of Protection 27.

"He is survived by his wife, Mamie (Ardinger) Sterling; sons, Arnold and Ned, both of Lancaster, Pa.; sister, Mrs. Charles Murray of Williamsport; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews also survive.

"Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. from the Snyder and Riedale Funeral Home, 141 East Orange St., Lancaster, with burial in the Lancaster Conestoga Memorial Park Cemetery."¹³⁵

In the fall of 1970, Harry F. Sterling died as was reported:

"HARRY F. STERLING

¹³³ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 11/15/1963, p. 3.

¹³⁴ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Saturday, 12/14/1963, p. 6.

¹³⁵ *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, Monday, 9/27/1965, p. 2.

"Mr. Harry Ford Sterling, husband of Mrs. Minnie Magaha Sterling, who resided at Point of Rocks, died Tuesday morning at his residence. He was born in Clear Springs, March 22, 1879, the son of the late Samuel B. and Mary Ford Sterling. He was the last of his immediate family.

"Mr. Sterling retired from the B&O Railroad and prior to that was Superintendent of the C&O Canal until its closing.

"Surviving him besides his wife are the following children; Harry A. Sterling, Silver Spring; Harold H. Sterling, Riverdale; Earl W. Sterling, York, Pa.; Carl L. Sterling, Silver Spring; Paul H. Sterling, Wheaton; Mrs. Viola S. Randag, Ft. Myers, Fla.; Mrs. Helen S. Kimble, Williamstown, N.J.; and Mrs. Loretta Mohler, Frederick. Nineteen grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren also survive.

"Friends may call at the M. R. Etchison and Son Funeral Home, 106 E. Church St. today from 7-9 p.m. and Thursday from 7-9 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the funeral home, Friday at 2 p.m. The Rev. David F. Kolda, pastor of Pt. of Rocks United Methodist Church, will officiate. Interment will be in St. Paul's Cemetery, Pt. of Rocks, Md."¹³⁶

We close out this family history with the following photograph of the nine children of Norman Benjamin and Pearl Elizabeth Sterling, taken July 15, 1973:



From left to right: Wilbur Lee Sterling, Mary Virginia Sterling Mills, Jane Eleanor Sterling Grossnickle Springer, Anna Marie Sterling Martin, Alice Mae Sterling Baker, Nora Catherine Sterling Moser, Norman James Sterling, Ralph Elmer Sterling and Betty Zane Sterling Shilling Barger; also oldest to youngest.

¹³⁶ *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, 10/27/1970.

APPENDIX A - TABLE OF STERLING FAMILY STATISTICS

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
Unknown Sterling	hus				
Unknown	wife				
William Sterling	son	1775	1/28/1807	1834+	
Abraham Sterling	son	1/1/1782	5/25/1813	2/15/1846	
Sarah Sterling (Drumon)	dau		11/19/1798		
Henrietta Sterling (Watkins)	dau	1785	8/7/1805		Maryland
Start of Generation 2					
William Sterling	hus	1775	1/28/1807	1834+	
Margaret Adkinson	wife				
Samuel Sterling	son	7/13/1810	3/8/1837	12/23/1864	Maryland
Abraham Sterling	hus	1/1/1782	5/25/1813	2/15/1846	
Margaret Hammond (1 st)	wife				
Horace Sterling	son				
William Sterling [Saddler]	son	12/22/1827	9/3/1853	2/25/1873	Maryland
Abraham Sterling	hus	1/1/1782		2/15/1846	
Catherine Stake Hawkin (2 nd)	wife	1800		8/2/1870	Maryland
John F. Sterling [Boatman]	son	1837		8/6/1908	Maryland
Richard William Sterling	son	1/11/1841		6/7/1876	Maryland
James Drumon	hus		11/19/1798		
Sarah Sterling	wife				
Horatio Watkins	hus	1777	8/7/1805	3/20/1838	Maryland
Henrietta Sterling	wife	1785			Maryland
Start of Generation 3					
Samuel Sterling		7/13/1810	Never	12/23/1864	Maryland
Amelia Monninger		1823			1/15/1874
Monninger	son	9/16/1837			Maryland
Samuel Sterling	hus.	7/13/1810	3/8/1837	12/23/1864	Maryland
Ellen Elizabeth Williams	wife	1818			3/28/1890
John W. Sterling	son	12/9/1837	11/8/___	1902+	Maryland
Margaret E. Sterling (Snyder)	dau.	8/4/1839	3/27/1855	10/1/1921	Maryland
George Martin Sterling	son	4/6/1840	2/12/1868	11/21/1902	Maryland
Samuel Baker Sterling	son	9/13/1842	11/20/1867	3/30/1926	Maryland
Henrietta M. Sterling (Tedrick)	dau.	8/8/1844	2/25/1864	2/8/1890	Maryland
Henry Albertus Sterling	son	5/16/1846	4/12/1868	1/31/1884	Maryland
Mary Catherine Sterling	dau.	6/2/1847	twice	5/12/1907	Maryland
Benjamin F. Sterling	son	5/15/1849		1923	Maryland
Daniel Lee Sterling [Boatman]	son	3/23/1851	9/24/1884	1/12/1931	Maryland
Joseph C. Sterling [Boatman]	son	7/4/1853	never	10/27/1881	Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
William Sterling [Saddler]	hus	12/21/1827	9/3/1853	2/24/1873	Maryland
Matilda A. Murray	wife	6/16/1833		9/10/1899	Maryland
John William Sterling	son	10/19/1857	1884	9/9/1912	Maryland
Laura Sterling	dau				Maryland
Sarah Ellen Sterling	dau	10/1/1861		10/13/1883	Maryland
John F. Sterling [Boatman]	hus	1836		8/6/1908	Maryland
Anna E. Mendenhall	wife	8/1/1841		4/26/1877	Virginia
William Edward Sterling [Boatman]	son	1862	1884		Maryland
Bertrand Albert Sterling [Boatman]	son	12/1865	1890		Maryland
Charlotte Sterling	dau	1877			Maryland
Start of Generation 4					
John W. Sterling	hus	12/9/1837	11/8/___	1902+	Maryland
Mary Elizabeth Bear	wife	6/6/1844		8/30/1895	Iowa
William Sterling	son	6/1862	1884		Iowa
Rhea Sterling	dau	1864			Iowa
Gideon Sterling	son	1867			Iowa
Nellie Mary Sterling	dau	3/27/1869	1888	9/6/1936	Iowa
Wilhelmina Sterling	dau	11/1871	thrice	4/4/1923	Iowa
Joseph Porter Sterling	son	12/8/1873	6/24/1908	9/1/1944	Iowa
John W. Snyder	hus.	1833	3/27/1855	6/24/1894	Maryland
Margaret E. Sterling	wife	8/4/1839		10/1/1921	Maryland
Samuel C. Snyder	son	8/13/1857		+1880	Maryland
Emma S. Snyder	dau.	1860			Maryland
Margaret Ellen Snyder (Dellinger)	dau.	9/17/1863	1887	12/5/1942	Maryland
Katherine Myrtle Snyder (Melvin)	dau.	1/7/1876	1893	2/16/1924	Maryland
George Martin Sterling	hus	4/6/1841	2/12/1868	11/21/1902	Maryland
Annie Rebecca Newcomer	wife	9/1849		1/1905	Maryland
Harry William Sterling	son	2/5/1868	9/23/1890	12/13/1890	Maryland
Ellen Elizabeth Sterling (Sumner)	dau.	2/22/1870		6/12/1941	Maryland
Mary C. Sterling	dau.	11/12/1871	infant	11/15/1871	Maryland
Lucy B. Sterling (Tyler)	dau.	11/14/1872		8/22/1955	Maryland
Mary Katherine Sterling (Hays)	dau.	3/8/1874	8/3/1892	5/31/1918	W. Virginia
Laura M. Sterling	dau.	8/23/1875	infant	10/26/1875	Maryland
Meta Femura Sterling (King)	dau.	11/29/1876	11/19/1909	4/10/1939	Maryland
Annie L. Sterling	dau.	10/4/1878	1897		Maryland
George Vernor Sterling	son	3/4/1880		3/25/1932	Maryland
Mazie Viola Sterling (Garlock)	dau.	8/12/1882	1900	6/29/1958	Maryland
Scott G. Sterling	son	2/17/1885	7/5/1912	5/20/1957	Maryland
Susan Tice Sterling (Stouffer)	dau.	10/23/1886		4/5/1966	Maryland
Nellie Virginia Sterling	dau	9/9/1888		5/5/1935	Maryland
Orpha Olive Sterling (Sellers)	dau.	10/29/1889		4/19/1974	Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
Samuel Baker Sterling	hus.	9/13/1842	11/14/1867	3/30/1926	Maryland
Mary Elizabeth Ford	wife	10/3/1849		8/5/1920	Maryland
<i>Catharine W. Sterling</i> (Yeakle)	dau.	2/29/1868	12/31/1886	2/20/1914	Maryland
<i>Ellen Elizabeth Sterling</i> (Weaver)	dau.	3/29/1871	3/10/1892	2/7/1950	Maryland
<i>Samuel Thomas Sterling</i>	son	11/25/1873		9/1892	Maryland
<i>Grace Myrtle Sterling</i> (Hull)	dau.	10/21/1876	5/13/1894	5/28/1919	Maryland
<i>Harry Ford Sterling</i>	son	3/22/1879	1904	10/27/1970	Maryland
<i>Fannie Stanhope Sterling</i> (Martin)	dau.	9/6/1881		4/9/1963	Maryland
<i>Bessie Worthington Sterling</i> (Koon)	dau.	3/21/1885		5/27/1959	Maryland
<i>Jeanette Josephine Sterling</i> (Dorsey)	dau.	3/31/1891	9/30/1915	10/26/1967	Maryland
Henry Tedrick	hus.	1828	2/25/1864		Virginia
Henrietta M. Sterling	wife	8/8/1844		2/8/1890	Maryland
Mary C. Tedrick	dau.	1864			Maryland
<i>Eva Doyle Tedrick</i> (Hazard)	dau.	11/4/1869	10/5/1892		Maryland
<i>Nellie Elizabeth Tedrick</i> (Kreps)	dau	1/17/1880	1898	6/9/1950	Maryland
Henry Albertus Sterling	his.	5/16/1846	4/12/1868	1/31/1884	Maryland
Sarah Jane Brandas	wife	1847		2/22/1916	Virginia
<i>Berta Cetrilia Sterling</i>	dau.	1/13/1878			
<i>Samuel Edward Sterling</i>	son	7/11/1880			
Harry D. Small (1)	hus.		2/7/1867	-1880	
Mary Catherine Sterling	wife	6/2/1847		5/12/1907	Maryland
Harry S. Small	son	12/17/1868		10/17/1941	Maryland
Scott H. Gardner (2)	hus	4/27/1850	5/5/1884	3/27/1889	
Mary Catherine Sterling Small	wife	6/2/1847		5/12/1907	Maryland
Benjamin F. Sterling	hus.	5/15/1849		1902	Maryland
Fannie	wife	1859			Virginia
Irene Sterling	dau.	1875			Maryland
Daniel Lee Sterling [Boatman]	hus.	3/23/1851	9/24/1884	1/12/1931	Maryland
Virginia Augusta Sanders	wife	9/24/1853		12/11/1931	Pennsylvania
<i>Bessie Ellen Sterling</i> (Hull/Wooden)	dau.	4/1/1886	Twice	1/26/1966	Maryland
<i>Mary Jane Sterling</i> (Mouse)	dau.	7/12/1887	11/2/1910	8/30/1974	Maryland
William Sterling	son	1889	infant	1889	Maryland
<i>Norman Benjamin Sterling</i>	son	8/30/1891	1911	11/13/1963	Maryland
<i>Daniel Baker Sterling</i>	son	7/25/1898	1918	10/25/1977	Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
John William Sterling	hus	10/19/1857	1884	5/9/1912	Maryland
Mary Elizabeth Carbaugh	wife	9/25/1865		7/9/1910	Pennsylvania
Bessie Viola Sterling (Byers)	dau	4/4/1884	1932		Maryland
Bertha Sterling (Castle)	dau	7/9/1886			Maryland
Sarah Matilda Sterling (Murry)	dau	10/4/1890	2/11/1929	6/1968	Maryland
William Luther Sterling	son	9/19/1892		9/26/1965	Maryland
Start of Generation 5					
Harry William Sterling	hus	2/5/1868	9/23/1890	12/13/1890	Maryland
Minnie May Rockwell	wife	1/20/1873		4/28/1950	W. Virginia
Harry William Sterling	son	6/5/1891	12/21/1911	3/13/1942	W. Virginia
Pearl Jessie Sterling (Bush)	dau	3/4/1895		6/29/1980	W. Virginia
Franklin Sterling	son	1898			W. Virginia
Mary Sterling	dau	1900			W. Virginia
Charles Sterling	dau	2/9/1902		3/1972	W. Virginia
Grace Sterling	dau	1906			W. Virginia
Harry Sterling	son	1907			W. Virginia
Edward E. Hays	hus	1871	8/3/1892		W. Virginia
Mary Katherine Sterling	wife	3/8/1874		5/31/1918	W. Virginia
Annie Pauline Hays (Davis)	dau	11/4/1892		4/24/1927	W. Virginia
John C. Rohrer	hus	12/1874	1897		Maryland
Annie L. Sterling	wife	10/4/1878			Maryland
Clifford Stanley Garlock	hus	7/19/1880	1900	11/16/1942	Maryland
Mazie Viola Sterling	wife	8/12/1882		6/29/1958	Maryland
Goldie Irene Garlock (James Kerr)	dau.	5/1/1901	1918		Maryland
Max Sterling Garlock	son	1/13/1903	1924	1962	Maryland
Daniel Percival Garlock	son	6/17/1904	6/17/1924	6/7/1992	Maryland
Viola Sterling Garlock	dau.	11/17/1915		4/22/1993	Maryland
Rankin Ames Stouffer	hus	2/17/1884	1905	4/6/1947	Maryland
Susan Tice Sterling	wife	10/23/1886		4/5/1966	Maryland
Ellen R. Stouffer (Remsburg)	dau.	8/22/1901		1/18/1978	Maryland
Joseph R. Stouffer	son	1909		2/25/1936	Maryland
James R. Stouffer	son	1913			Maryland
Richard Ames Stouffer	son	1/14/1915		5/14/1970	Maryland
David Clinton Yeakle	hus	1856	12/31/1886	7/15/1926	Maryland
Catherine Warrone Sterling	wife	2/29/1868		2/20/1914	Maryland
Earl Leland Yeakle	son	2/10/1888		6/6/1947	Maryland
Blanche V. Yeakle	dau.	1890			Maryland
Nellie M. Yeakle	dau.				Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
Charles A. Weaver	hus	1866	3/10/1892	4/15/1942	Maryland
Ellen Elizabeth "Nellie" Sterling	wife	3/29/1871		2/7/1950	Maryland
<i>Hazel J. Weaver</i>	dau.	1893		11/3/1962	Maryland
<i>Harry R. Weaver</i>	son	1894			Maryland
<i>Mary D. Weaver</i> (Seibert)	dau.	3/1896			Maryland
<i>Charles H. Weaver</i>	son	1901			Maryland
<i>Roy Sterling Weaver</i>	son	10/12/1905		2/26/1970	Maryland
<i>Earl Glenwood Weaver</i>	son	1908		11/27/1946	Maryland
William Bell Hull	hus	1862	5/13/1894	3/21/1918	Maryland
Grace Myrtle Sterling	wife	10/21/1876		5/28/1919	Maryland
Zelma Hull	dau.	1894			Maryland
Bernice Hull	dau.	1896			Maryland
<i>Mary E. Hull</i>	dau.	1901			Maryland
<i>Walter H. Hull</i>	son	1903			Maryland
<i>Virgil C. Hull</i>	son	1905			Maryland
<i>Helen B. Hull</i>	dau.	1910			Maryland
Harry Ford Sterling	hus	3/22/1879	7/11/1904	10/27/1970	Maryland
Minnie Florence Magaha	wife	3/16/1884		7/29/1986	Maryland
Harry A. Sterling	son	12/25/1905		6/8/1990	Maryland
Viola S. Sterling	dau.	12/23/1907		3/29/1997	Maryland
Helen Alberta Sterling (Kimble)	dau.	11/13/1909	10/28/1933	1/8/1988	Maryland
Harold H. Sterling	son	1911			Maryland
Loretta Sterling	dau.	3/13/1914		10/30/1999	Maryland
Earl W. Sterling	son	1916			Maryland
Carl Leon Sterling	son	6/25/1918	1947	7/24/2007	Maryland
Paul Hume Sterling	son	11/12/1921		6/18/2003	Maryland
Frederick Doyle Martin	hus	1873		6/22/1958	Maryland
Fannie Stanhope Sterling	wife	9/6/1881		4/9/1963	Maryland
Enola Merle Martin	son				
Eileen Martin	dau.				
Frederick Harold Martin	son	1920		9/5/1992	Maryland
Koon	hus				
Bessie Worthington Sterling	wife	3/21/1885		5/27/1959	Maryland
Helen Josephine Koon	dau.	8/22/1912		1/28/1990	Maryland
Milton Abner Dorsey	hus	3/27/1891	9/30/1915	2/23/1961	Maryland
Jeanette Josephine Sterling	wife	3/31/1891		10/26/1967	Maryland
Paul W. Dorsey	son		1946		Maryland
Sterling Claggett Dorsey	son	8/27/1916		8/17/1995	Maryland
Mildred Dorsey (Mertes)	dau.				Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
<i>Roger M. Dorsey</i>	son	12/12/1917		5/10/1945	Maryland
<i>Katherine M. Dorsey</i>	dau.	4/8/1919		4/29/1919	Maryland
Frederick Doyle Kreps	hus	1870	1898		Maryland
Nellie Louise Tedrick	wife	1886			
<i>Henry S. Kreps</i>	son	1898			Maryland
<i>Roscoe Thaddeus Kreps</i>	son	7/5/1900		7/8/1985	Maryland
<i>Frederick G. Kreps</i>	son	1902			Maryland
<i>George G. Kreps</i>	son	1905			Maryland
<i>Joseph Carl Kreps</i>	son	12/23/1910		5/1/1986	Maryland
<i>Louise Kreps</i>	dau.	8/17/1913		3/3/1992	Maryland
Harry S. Small	hus	12/17/1868		10/17/1941	Maryland
Annie E. Shupp	wife	11/20/1868		8/25/1950	Maryland
<i>Devon Ellen Small</i> (Moore)	dau.	9/18/1891		4/17/1990	Maryland
Anna Small	dau				Maryland
<i>Esther Small</i>	dau.	10/25/1898		11/1/1991	Maryland
<i>Helen Elizabeth Small</i>	dau.	1913		10/6/1952	Maryland
<i>Robert Lester Small</i>	son	3/18/1896		3/31/1979	Maryland
<i>Earl Leon Small</i>	son	10/25/1898		3/18/1948	Maryland
Harry Small	son				Maryland
Harry L. Hull (1 st)	hus.	4/28/1885		3/1969	Maryland
Bessie Ellen Sterling	wife	4/1/1886		1/26/1966	Maryland
<i>Hilda Adeline Hull</i> (Carter)	dau.	1/20/1907		6/31/1982	Maryland
William A. Wooden (2 nd)	hus	11/13/1885	12/13/1913	8/17/1965	Maryland
Bessie Ellen Sterling Hull	wife	4/1/1885		1/26/1966	Maryland
Thomas Ellsworth Mouse	hus	11/18/1882	11/2/1910	12/25/1966	Maryland
Mary Jane Sterling	wife	7/12/1887		8/30/1974	Maryland
<i>Virginia Grant Mouse</i>	dau.	5/23/1916		5/16/2001	Maryland
Norman Benjamin Sterling	hus.	8/30/1891	1911	11/13/1963	Maryland
Pearl Elizabeth Brubaker (1 st)	wife	7/11/1889		11/20/1929	Maryland
<i>Wilbur Lee Sterling</i>	son	4/1/1912	9/19/1933	2/20/1994	Maryland
<i>Mary Virginia Sterling</i> (Mills)	dau.	9/23/1913	1933	12/4/2009	Maryland
<i>Jane Eleanor Sterling</i> (Springer)	dau.	10/23/1914	8/9/1952	10/16/2006	Maryland
<i>Anna Marie Sterling</i> (Martin)	dau.	8/5/1917		3/26/1999	Maryland
<i>Mae Alice Sterling</i> (Baker)	dau.	2/1/1919		9/3/1982	Maryland
<i>Nora Katherine Sterling</i> (Moser)	dau.	7/28/1921		11/9/2008	Maryland
Norman James Sterling	son	7/28/1921		12/22/1991	Maryland
Ralph Elmer Sterling	son	5/30/1923	1947	7/29/1995	Maryland
<i>Betty Zane Sterling</i> (Shilling/Burger)	dau.	3/23/1925	1946	7/2/2015	Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
Norman Benjamin Sterling	hus.	8/30/1891		11/13/1963	Maryland
Grace L. Bitner (2 nd)	wife	2/9/1902		4/26/1991	Pennsylvania
Daniel Baker Sterling	hus.	7/25/1898	3/1/1918	10/25/1977	Maryland
Viola May Stickley	wife	1/15/1898		4/29/1973	Maryland
<i>Elwood Barton Sterling</i>	son	4/21/1919	9/12/1947	7/31/1971	Maryland
<i>Nelson Lee Sterling</i>	son	5/8/1921	12/24/1941	5/24/1982	Maryland
<i>Conway Grafton Sterling</i>	son	10/3/1923	Never	6/5/1992	Maryland
William Luther Sterling	hus	9/19/1892	1910	9/26/1965	Maryland
Mamie E. Ardinger	wife	1894		1970	Maryland
<i>William Arnold Sterling</i>	son	1911		3/26/1996	Maryland
<i>Paul A. Sterling</i>	son	11/3/1914		2/7/1938	Maryland
<i>Ned. Edmond Sterling</i>	son	8/29/1918		10/13/1990	Maryland
Start of Generation 6					
Wilbur Lee Sterling, Sr.	hus.	4/1/1912	9/19/1933	2/20/1994	Maryland
Carrie Elizabeth Smith	wife	8/15/1914		5/24/1997	Pennsylvania
<i>Wilbur Lee Sterling, Jr.</i>	son	2/25/1935	4/30/1955	4/2/2012	Maryland
<i>John Norman Sterling</i>	son	8/23/1936	12/14/1958		Maryland
<i>Elizabeth Mae Sterling</i> (Myers)	dau.	5/4/1939	3/20/1957		Maryland
<i>Carolyn Marie Sterling</i> (Suman)	dau.	8/6/1941	7/7/1963		Maryland
<i>Ralph Edwin Sterling</i>	son	7/10/1944	2/9/1969		Maryland
<i>Sheryl Kay Sterling</i> (Ebersole)	dau.	6/8/1946	12/7/1963		Maryland
<i>Christine Elaine Sterling</i> (Banzhoff)	dau.	1/23/1950	9/10/1972		Maryland
Elwood Barton Sterling	hus.	4/21/1919	9/12/1947	7/31/1971	Maryland
Helen Jayne Fernsner	wife	6/4/1922			Maryland

Color Index for cemeteries.

River View Cemetery, Williamsport, Md.

Rose Hill Cemetery, Hagerstown, Md.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clear Spring, Md.

Green Lawn Cemetery, Williamsport, Md.

Ringgold Cemetery, Ringgold, Md.

Rest Haven Cemetery, Hagerstown, Md.

Cedar Lawn Memorial Park, Hagerstown, Md.

Dates surrounded by three (3) lines indicates the date came from a Draft Registration card.

Appendix B - Historic Land Records from Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md.

Each of the following records has been transcribed from the referenced document. Many were hand-written and thus subject to interpretation; readers are free to compare the following transcriptions with the originals. If errors are found or questions arise, please do contact the author.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book P, p. 889, recorded 10/20/1804.

At the request of the State of Maryland the following Supervisors Bond was recorded 20th day of October 1804 - to wit:

Know all men by these presents that we William Sterling & Thomas Compton of Washington County, are hereto and firmly bound unto the State of Maryland, in the just and full sum of Two hundred pounds, current money of Maryland, to the which payment well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 20th day of October, in the Year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and four.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that if the above bound William Sterling do, and shall well and truly execute and perform the duties required of him as Supervisor of the road from Williamsport to Booth's Mill, for one year, and in all things conduct himself as Supervisor of the road aforesaid agreeable to Law, then the above obligation to be void, and no effect, else to be and remain in full force and virtue in Law.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of -
J. Schnebly, Sam Ringgold.

William Sterling {Seal}
Thomas Compton {Seal}

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book FF, p. 695, recorded 4/25/1822.

At the request of Abraham Sterling the following deed was recorded April 25th 1822.

This indenture made the fifteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and twenty two between Joseph Weltz of the Town of Williamsport, County of Washington and State of Maryland & Abraham Sterling of the same place. Witnesseth, whereas Michael Morris did on the twenty second day of April one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven did obtain of Eli Williams, William Smith and Philip Thomas executors of the last will and testament of Otho Holland Williams a deed for a lot or parcel of ground in the Town of Williamsport, County and State aforesaid, known and distinguished in plot of said Town of Williamsport by number one hundred eleven, conveying and confirming unto him the said Morris the same with all its appurtenances in full and undisputed title and possession thereof for the term of ninety nine years from the first day of May one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven which lease was duly executed and recorded according to law and to the intent that a good and sufficient assignment & conveyance of said leased lot should be effected to the said Joseph Weltz he having paid the purchase money thereof this indenture Witnesseth that the Michael Morris on his own authority and for and in consideration of a large sum of money to him in hand paid by the said Joseph Weltz before the sealing and conveying of these presents hath bargained, sold, granted and assigned and by these presents doth hereby grant, sell and assign unto the said Joseph Weltz, his heirs and assigns all the right, title and estate and unexpired term or lease of Lot No. 111 on the plot of the said Town of Williamsport as above described and distinguished and will fully and at large appear reference being had to said Deed or lease as recorded on the said land records of Washington County aforesaid to have and to hold the said Lot of Ground No. 111 on the plan of Williamsport and the right interest and estate of the unexpired lease thereof originally for ninety nine years which the said Michael Morris had be virtue of his Deed from Eli Williams before referred to, subject to the charger rents and reservations mentioned in said Deed and with all the benefits, advantages, rights, covenants contained and expressed in said Deed in as full and ample meaning the said Michael Morris held from the said Eli Williams , to the said Joseph Weltz, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever and to the intent that a good and sufficient assignment and conveyance of said leased Lot should be effected to the said Abraham Sterling, he having paid the purchase money therefore. This Indenture Witnesseth that the said Joseph Weltz of his own authority and for and in consideration of five hundred dollars to him in hand paid by the same Abraham Sterling before the sealing and delivery of these presents hath granted, bargained, sold & assigns and by these presents doth bargain, sell and assign unto the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs & assigns all the rights, title, interest and estate and unexpired term or lease of Lot. 111 on the plot of the Town of Williamsport as above described and distinguished and will fully and at large appear to have and to hold the said Lot of Ground No. 111 on the plot of Williamsport and the right, interest and estate of the unexpired lease thereof originally for ninety nine years which he Joseph Weltz had by virtue of a Deed from Michael Morris before referred to subject to the charge rents and reservations mentioned in said Deed and with all the benefits, advantages, rights, contained and expressed in said Deed in as full and ample manner as the said Joseph Weltz held from the said Michael Morris to the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever to the only use purpose and advantage of the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever. In Witness whereof the said Joseph Weltz hath herewith set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year first written.

Joseph Weltz {Seal}

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of
The words unto the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs & assigns interlined before signing, the fifty
fifth line. M. H. Sackett, James Hemphill

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: On this fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and twenty two personally appeared Joseph Weltz of the County
aforesaid party grantor mentioned in the within Deed or Instrument of writing before us, two of the
Justices of the Peace for the State and County aforesaid and acknowledged the said written Deed or
instrument of writing to be his act and deed and the Lot of Ground and premises therein mentioned
and thereby bargained and sold to be the right and estate of Abraham Sterling party granted also
therein mentioned, his heirs and assigns forever according to the purport, true intent and meaning of
the said Deed or instrument of writing and the Acts of Assembly in which case made and provided.
Acknowledged before

M. H. Sackett, James Hemphill

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book GG, p. 1006, recorded 11/8/1824.

At the request of Abraham Sterling the following Deed was recorded November 8th 1824.

This Indenture made this twenty second day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four between Edward G. Williams of Washington County, and State of Maryland of the one part, and Abraham Sterling of the same County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that the said Edward G. Williams for and in consideration of the sum of thirty six dollars current money to him in hand paid by the said Abraham Sterling at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof the said Edward G. Williams doth hereby acknowledge, and of the same doeth hereby acquit and forever discharge the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs, executors and administrators, by these presents, he the said Edward G. Williams hath granted, bargained and sold aliened, released and confirmed, and doeth by these presents grant, bargain and sell, alien, release and confirm unto him the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs and assigns, all that Lot or portion of Ground situate in the Town of Williamsport in said County and State, and distinguished on the plot of said Town by the Number 111 together with all and singular the houses, out houses, buildings, improvements, profits and advantages thereon or thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining to the said lot or portion of ground and premises hereinbefore granted. To have and to hold unto him the said Abraham Starling, his heirs and assigns forever, the said lot or portion of ground and premises, to the only purpose, use and behoof of him the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs and assigns forever, and to and for no other use, interest or purpose whatsoever. And the said Edward G. Williams for himself and his heirs, doth hereby covenant, grant, promise and agree to and with the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs and assigns, that the said Abraham Starling and his heirs, the said lot or portion of ground and premises hereby granted, bargained and sold, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging to him the said Abraham Sterling heirs and assigns, against him the said Edward G. Williams and his heirs, and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever shall and will warrant and forever defend. In Witness whereof the said Edward G. Williams hath hereunto subscribed his name and affixed his seal, the day and year first above written. E. G. Williams {Seal}

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence
of Ch. Heseltine, M. H. Sackett

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: Be it remembered, that on this twenty second day of July in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and twenty four, personally appeared Edward G. Williams party, grantor in the above deed or instrument of writing named, before us the subscribers, two Justices of the Peace, legally qualified, in and for the County aforesaid, and acknowledges the above deed or instrument of writing to be his act and deed, and the Lot and premises therein mentioned, and thereby bargained and sold, to the right and estate of the above named Abraham Sterling party grantee also therein named, his heirs and assigns forever, according to the purpose, true intent and meaning of the said deed or instrument of writing, and the Acts of Assembly in such case made and provided.

Taken and certified the day and year above written: Ch. Heseltine, M. H. Sackett.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book HH, p. 73, recorded 1/11/1825.

At the request of William Sterling the following Certificate was recorded January 11th 1825.

Washington County, State of Maryland, I hereby certify that I have purchased and caused to be removed from the State of Virginia into this State or negro woman called Hannah aged about 22 years and her female child aged about one year or thereabouts which negros I purchased for my own exclusive use at the sale of the late A. S. Dandridge, Esquire, deceased. Given under my hand this third day of January One Thousand Eight hundred & twenty four.

William Starling

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book NN, P. 839, recorded 3/11/1833.

At the request of Samuel Sterling, the following Bill of Sale was recorded March 11th 1833.

Know all men by these presents that William Sterling of Washington County and State of Maryland for and in consideration of the sum of fifteen hundred dollars current money to me in hand paid by Samuel Sterling of the County and State aforesaid at and before the sealing and delivery hereof the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge have granted bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said Samuel Sterling his executors, administrators and assigns one negro woman named Mayerry about thirty five years old, one negro girl Soph about seven years old, one girl Margaret about four years old, one negro boy Washington about twelve, one negro boy Stephen about nine years old, one negro girl Aile about thirteen years old, also one bay horse about seven years old, one bay mare about thirteen years old, one black mare about nine years old, one gray mare about ten years old, two gray colts one year old, one brown colt one year old, one white cow, one black and white cow, one red brindle cow, and one red and white cow, one red steer with white face, one white bull, one red and white heifer, one black and white heifer, one black bull, three breeding sows and thirty one shoats, one farm wagon, four sets of wagon gear, two ploughs, three shovel ploughs, all of which property is now in my possession. To have and to hold the same described property above bargained and sold to the said Samuel [Sterling] his executors, administrators and assigns forever to his and their only proper use and benefit and I the said William Sterling for myself, my executors and administrators shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents to the said Samuel Sterling his executors, administrators and assigns all and every person or persons claiming the same or any part thereof. In testimony whereof the said William Sterling hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal this twenty second of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of
John Baker.

William Sterling {Seal}

Maryland, Washington County, to wit: Be it remembered that on this 22 of February 1833 personally appeared William Sterling before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and acknowledged the foregoing writing to be his act and deed and the property therein described to be the property of Samuel Sterling according to the true intent and meaning thereof. Taken and Acknowledged before

John Baker
A. Sterling

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book TT, p. 320, recorded 4/9/1838.

At the request of Samuel Sterling the following Bill of Sale was recorded April 9, 1838.

Know all men by these presents that I, Kinsey Sparrow, of Washington County, in the State of Maryland, for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty Two Dollars and Sixty two cents current money to me in hand paid by Samuel Starling of the County and State aforesaid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof I the said Kinsey Sparrow do hereby acknowledge, have granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain and sell, unto the said Samuel Sterling, his executors, administrators and assigns, all the good, household stuff, implements and furniture, hereinafter particularly mentioned, that is to say, two feather beds and furniture, one bureau, one lining wheel, one cupboard, one Wolling wheel, two tables, seven chairs, two chests, three buckets, two iron poles, one Dutch oven and lid, two skillets and lids, one teakettle, one lot of crockery ware, and one shoat. All and singular which said goods and chattels, are now remaining, standing and being in a certain message or tenement situate in Washington County and now in the occupation of the said Kinsey Sparrow. To have and to hold all and singular the said goods, household stuff and furniture and other the premises above bargained and sold, or meant, mentioned and intended so to be, to the said Samuel Sterling, his execution, administrators and assigns forever. And I the said Kinsey Sparrow for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, all and singular the said goods, household stuff and furniture and other the premises, unto the said Samuel Sterling, his executors, administrators and assigns, against the said Kinsey Sparrow, my executors and administrators, and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents, of all and singular which said goods household stuff and furniture, and other the premises, I the said Kinsey Sparrow have put the said Samuel Sterling in full possession, be delivering to him the said Samuel Sterling one chair at the sealing and delivery of these presents, in the name of the whole premises hereby bargained and sold, or mentioned, and intended to be so unto him the said Samuel Sterling as aforesaid. In witness whereof my hand and seal this 26th day of March 1838.

Kinsey Sparrow {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: Be it remembered that on this twenty sixth day of March 1838, before the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace of the said State, in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Kinsey Sparrow party of the within indenture, and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed.

Witness - Wm. Poullt

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book TT, p. 516 recorded 7/6/1838.

At the request of Abraham Sterling the following Bill of Sale was recorded July 6, 1838.

This indenture, made this seventeenth day of June Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Eight, between Samuel Sterling of Washington County and State of Maryland, of the one part, and Abraham Sterling of the other part. Whereas Abraham Sterling hath entered into a recognizance with said Samuel Sterling, to indemnify Washington County from all charges that may arise for the maintenance of a male illegitimate child of which Amelia Monninger was delivered on the 16th day of September 1837, a reference to said recognizance being had will more fully and at large appear, and to secure and indemnify said Abraham Sterling from all loss that may accrue on said security ship, the said Samuel Sterling is willing to execute these presents. Now this Indenture Witnesseth, that the said Samuel Sterling for and in consideration of the premises and for and in consideration of the sum of Five Dollars, current money to him in hand paid by the said Abraham Starling, at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt of which the said Samuel Sterling doth hereby and thereof and therefrom doth acquit, release, exonerate and forever discharge the said Abraham Sterling, his heirs, executors and administrators by these presents, hath granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents doth grant, bargain and sell, unto the said Abraham Sterling, his executors, administrators, and assigns, my two Negro Slaves to wit: Washington aged about thirteen, and Stephen aged about twelve years. To have and to hold the said Negro Slaves hereinbefore exonerated, bargained and sold, or intended so to be unto the said Abraham Sterling, his executors, administrators and assigns. To the only proper use and behoof of the said Abraham Sterling, his executors, administrators and assigns, forever. Provided always and by these presents are upon this condition, that if the said Samuel Sterling, his executors or administrators, shall and do well and truly from time to time and at all times hereafter, save harmless and keep indemnified the said Abraham Sterling, his executor and administrator, and his and their goods and chattels, lands and tenements of and from all damages, sum and sums of money, costs and charges whatsoever which he or they or any of them shall or may at any time or times hereafter sustain or be put to by reason of the said Abraham Sterling being bound as security in the aforementioned recognizance, then and in such case these presents and every matter and thing herein contained, shall cease, determine, and be utterly void to all interests and purposes, anything herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And the said Samuel Sterling for himself, his executors and administrators, the aforesaid Negro Slaves by these presents granted, bargained and sold, unto the said Abraham Sterling, his executors and administrators and assigns and against all and every person and persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents. In Testimony whereof I the said Samuel Sterling have put my hand and affixed my seal the day and year above written.

Samuel Sterling {Seal}

Signed, sealed & Delivered in the presence of
Geo. O. Heseltine & Chs. Heseltine.

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: On this 27th day of June 1838, before me the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County, personally appeared Samuel Sterling above named and acknowledged the foregoing Instrument of Writing to be his act and deed, according to the true intent and meaning thereof and the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided.

Witness my hand:

Chas. Heseltine.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book IN 1, p. 312, recorded 8/30/1845.

At the request of Abraham Sterling the following Bill of Sale was recorded August 30th, 1845.

Know all men by these presents that I Samuel Sterling of Washington County in the State of Maryland for and in consideration of the sum of eighty dollars current money of the State of Maryland to me in hand paid by Abraham Sterling of the County and State aforesaid, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof I the said Samuel Sterling, do hereby acknowledge, have granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain, and sell unto the said Abraham Sterling his executors, administrators and assigns, all the goods household stuff and furniture hereinafter particularly mentioned, that is to say, seven Hogs, three Beds, bedding and bedsteads, one Secretary, one Safe, one Cradle, one dozen Chairs, one tin plate Stove, four iron pots, three Dutch ovens, one kitchen cupboard, one large chest and singular which said goods and chattels are now remaining standing and being in a certain message or tenement situate in Washington County and now in the occupancy of the said Samuel Sterling. To have and to hold all and singular the said goods, household stuff and furniture and other the premises above bargained and sold or mentioned and intended so to be to the said Abraham Sterling, his executors, administrators and assigns forever; and the said Samuel Sterling, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, all and singular the said goods, household stuff and furniture and other the premises unto the said Abraham Sterling, his executors, administrators and assigns against me the said Samuel Sterling, my executors and administrators and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever shall and will warrant and forever defend these presents of all and singular which said goods, household stuff and furniture and other the premises I the said Samuel Sterling have put the said Abraham Sterling in full possession by delivering to him the said Abraham Sterling one Chair at the sealing and delivering of these presents in the name of the whole premises thereby bargained and sold or mentioned and intended so to be unto the said Abraham Sterling as aforesaid. In faith whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix my seal this 30th day of August, 1845.

Samuel Sterling {Seal}

Signed, sealed & delivered in the presence of,
S. L. Detwiler

State of Maryland, Washington County, On this 30th day of August A.D. 1845, before me the subscribers, one of the Justices of the Peace, in and for the said county, personally appeared Samuel Sterling, and acknowledged the foregoing Bill of Sale, to be his act and deed for the purposes therein mentioned.

Acknowledged before,

S. L. Detwiler

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book IN 8, p. 181, recorded 10/15/1853.

At the request of Catherine Sterling the following deed was recorded Oct. 15th 1853.

This indenture made this 28th day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and fifty three, between Horace Sterling one of the heirs of Abraham Sterling, deceased, of Washington County and State of Maryland, of the one part, and Catherine Sterling of the county and State aforesaid, of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Horace Sterling for and in consideration of the sum of Forty dollars current money, by the said Catherine Sterling in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said Horace Sterling hath bargained and sold, aliened, enfeoffed, and by these presents doth give, grant, bargain and sell, alien, enfeoff, release convey, and confirm, unto the said Catherine Sterling, her heirs and assigns, all of the estate, title and interest, trust, property claim and demand, whatsoever, at law and in equity, of him, the said Horace Sterling, of, in, and to the following property, to wit: two houses and lot situate in the town of Williamsport, on Conococheague Street, numbered one hundred and eleven (111) on the plot of said town and known as the property of Abraham Sterling, late of Washington County, deceased. To have and to hold the said interest in the above described premises unto the said Catherine Sterling, her heirs and assigns, to the only proper use of the said Catherine Sterling, her heirs and assigns forever. In testimony whereof the said Horace Sterling has hereunto set his hand and seal, on the day and year first above written. Horace Sterling {Seal}

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us,
John Corby, Geo. T. Hawken

Received May 28th of Catherine Sterling the sum of forty dollars, being the consideration supposed to be paid in the foregoing indenture. - Witness John Corby Horace Sterling

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: On this 28th day of May A.D. 1853, before the subscribers, two Justices of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for the said County, personally appeared Horace Sterling, he being known to us to be the person who is named and described, as, and professing to be, a party to the foregoing deed or indenture, and doth acknowledge the said indenture or instrument of writing, to be his act and deed. In testimony whereof, we hereunto subscribe our names on the day and year aforesaid.

John Corby, J. P. Geo. T. Hawken, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book IN 18, p. 616, recorded 7/6/1854.

At the request of Mary S. Hawken the following deed was recorded July 6th 1854.

This deed made this sixteenth day of March in the year of our Lord, 1854, by Catherine Sterling of Williamsport, in the County of Washington County and State of Maryland, Witnesseth that in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars the said Catherine Sterling, doth hereby give, grant, bargain and sell unto Mary Susan Hawken, wife [of] James Hawken of Williamsport, Washington County and State of Maryland, all my right, title, interest, claim and demand, at law or Equity, in and to the undivided one fourth part of [a] parcel of ground, situated on Conococheague Street, in the Town of Williamsport, County and State aforesaid, with the improvements thereon, and known on the plan of said town as and by Lot No. 48, it being the South half of said Lot No. 48, and being the same conveyed to Catherine Sterling by James E. Hawken, reference thereto will more fully show, together with all and regular the improvements thereon or in otherwise appertaining, the said Mary Susan Hawken, yielding and paying to the proprietors or successors, the accrual ground rents or her proportional part thereof each and every year. Witness my hand: Catherine Sterling

Witness: Peter Ardinger

Received of Mary S. Hawken one hundred and fifty dollars being the consideration aforesaid to be paid in the foregoing indenture.

Catherine Sterling

Witness: Peter Ardinger

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify on this nineteenth day of March 1854 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid personally appeared Catherine Sterling, and acknowledged the foregoing to be her act and deed.

Peter Ardinger, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book IN 15, P. 125, recorded 7/17/1860.

At the request of Catherine Sterling, the following Bill of Sale was recorded July 17th 1860.

I, Henry Artz of Williamsport, Washington County, State of Maryland, in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and twenty five dollars paid me by Catherine Sterling, of the same County and State, do hereby bargain and sell to the said Catherine Sterling the following property, that is to say, one iron gray horse mule, which mule is now on the Ches. & O. Canal. Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of June 1860.

Henry Artz {Seal}

Taken and acknowledged before

J. Rhode

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: On this 28th day of June A.D. 1860, before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally appeared Henry Artz and did acknowledge the foregoing instrument of writing to be his act and deed; and at the same time also came Catherine Sterling and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God the consideration mentioned in the foregoing instrument of writing is true and bona fide as therein set forth.

Taken and acknowledged & sworn before

J. Rhode

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book IN 15, P. 125, recorded 7/17/1860.

At the request of Wm. H. Hawken et. al. the following Bill of Sale was recorded July 17th 1860.

I, Henry Artz of Williamsport, Washington County, State of Maryland in consideration of the sum of One hundred and twenty five dollars paid me by Wm. H. Hawken and John F. Sterling of the same town, county and state, do hereby bargain and sell to the said Wm. H. Hawken & John F. Sterling, the following property that is to say, one dark mare mule; also two sets of harness, three boat stools, three boat beds, one boat lamp, lot of dishes, one stove all and singular which said property is now on board the Canal boat *John F. Sterling*. Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of June 1860.

Taken and acknowledged before

Henry Artz {Seal}

J. Rhode

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: On this 28th day of June A.D. 1860 before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally appeared Henry Artz and did acknowledge the foregoing instrument of writing to be his act and deed. And at the same time also came Wm. H. Hawken & J. F. Sterling and did severally make oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, the consideration as mentioned in the foregoing instrument is true and bona fide as therein set forth. Taken and acknowledged & sworn before,

J. Rhode.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book IN 18, P. 616, recorded 7/6/1864.

At the request of Mary S. Hawken, the following deed was recorded July 6th 1864.

This deed, made this nineteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord 1864 by Catherine Sterling of Williamsport, in the County of Washington County and State of Maryland, Witnesseth that in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars the said Catherine Sterling, doth hereby give, grant, bargain and sell unto Mary Susan Hawken, wife [of] James Hawken of Williamsport, Washington County and State of Maryland, all my right, title, interest, claim and demand, at law or in Equity, in and to the undivided one fourth part or parcel of ground, situated on Conococheague Street, in the town of Williamsport, County and State aforesaid, with the improvements thereon, and known on the plat of said town as and by lot No. 48, it being the south half of said lot No. 48, and being the same conveyed to Catherine Sterling by James E. Hawkins, reference thereto will more fully show, together with all and singular the improvements thereon or in anywise appertaining, the said Mary Susan Hawkins, yielding and paying to the proprietors, or successors, the several ground rents or her proportionate part thereof each and every year. Witness my hand.

Witness: Peter Ardinger

Catherine Sterling {Seal}

Received of Mary S. Hawken, one hundred and fifty dollars being the consideration aforesaid to be paid in the foregoing indenture.

Catherine Sterling

Witness: Peter Ardinger

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this nineteenth day of March 1864 before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid personally appeared Catherine Sterling, and acknowledged the foregoing to be her act and deed.

Peter Ardinger, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book IN 19, p. 311, recorded 3/24/1866.

At the request of William Sterling the following deed was recorded March 24th 1866.

This deed made this twenty second day of March in the year one thousand, eight hundred and sixty six, by Catherine Sterling, John F. Sterling and Anna Sterling, his wife, and Richard W. Sterling, of Washington County, in the State of Maryland, of the one part, and William Sterling, of the County and State aforesaid, of the other part. Whereas Abraham Sterling, late of the County and State aforesaid, deceased, possessed of a certain lot or portion of ground, with improvements thereon, situated on Conococheague Street, in the Town of Williamsport, state and county aforesaid, and known on the Plat of said Town, as and be lot number one hundred and eleven (111) and whereas the said Abraham Sterling died leaving Catherine Sterling, his wife (or widow), William Sterling, John F. Sterling and Richard W. Sterling, now living as his lawful heirs. Now this indenture Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred dollars current money of the United States, in hand paid us by William Sterling, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said Catherine Sterling, John F. Sterling and Anna Sterling, his wife, and Richard W. Sterling, doeth hereby, give, grant, bargain and sell unto William Sterling, his heirs and assigns, all of our undivided right, title, interest, claim and demand at law or in Equity, in and to the north part or portion of Lot 111 as aforesaid and described as follows: commencing on Conococheague Street in said town, at the corner of the Lot number (112), then running East ninety six feet (96) to an alley, then South with said alley thirty four and a half feet ($34\frac{1}{2}$), then West seventy three and one third feet ($73\frac{1}{3}$), then North nine feet (9), then West twenty two and two thirds feet ($22\frac{2}{3}$) to the said Conococheague Street, then North twenty five and a half feet ($25\frac{1}{2}$) to the place of the beginning, together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon or thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining, excepting and reserving the privilege of going to and taking from a well thereon, as much water as may be necessary for the use and benefit of our families or those that may come after us and occupy the property and premises and the South portion of said Lot number 111 in fee simple. Witness our hands and seals (be in 1st line inserted before signatures).

Test: O. M. Kraus	Catherine Sterling {Seal}	Annie Sterling {Seal}
Peter Ardinger	John F. Sterling {Seal}	R. W. Sterling {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify on this twenty second day of March in the year A.D. 1866 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid personally appeared Catherine Sterling, John F. Sterling and Anna Sterling, his wife, and Richard W. Sterling and acknowledged the foregoing deed to be their respective act.

Peter Ardinger, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book IN 19, p. 312, recorded 3/24/1866.

At the request of Catherine Sterling the following deed was recorded March 24th 1866.

This deed made this twenty second day of March in the year one thousand, eight hundred and sixty six, by William Sterling and Matilda A. Sterling, his wife, of Washington County, in the State of Maryland, of the one part, and Catherine Sterling, John F. Sterling, and Anna Sterling, his wife, and Richard W. Sterling of the State and County aforesaid, of the other part. Whereas Abraham Sterling, late of the County and State aforesaid, deceased, possessed of a certain lot or portion of ground, with improvements thereon, situated on Conococheague Street, in the Town of Williamsport, state and county aforesaid, and known on the Plat of said Town, as and be lot number one hundred and eleven (111) and whereas the said Abraham Sterling died leaving Catherine Sterling, his wife (or widow), William Sterling, John F. Sterling and Richard W. Sterling, now living as his lawful heirs. Now this indenture Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and sixteen dollars current money of the United States, in hand paid me by William Sterling and Matilda A. Sterling, his wife, doeth hereby, give, grant, bargain and sell unto Catherine Sterling, John F. Sterling and Richard W. Sterling, their heirs and assigns, all of our undivided right, title, interest, claim and demand at law or in Equity, in and to the South part or portion of Lot 111 as aforesaid and described as follows: commencing on Conococheague Street in said town, at the corner of the Lot number (114), then running East ninety six feet (96) to an alley, then North with said alley thirty one and a half feet (31½), then West seventy three and one third feet (73⅓), then North nine feet (9), then West twenty two and two thirds feet (22⅔) to the said Conococheague Street, then South forty and one half feet (40½) to the place of the beginning, together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon or thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining, with the privilege of coming to and from a certain well of water on the North part or portion of said Lot number (111) aforesaid and taking therefrom, as much water as may be necessary for the use and benefit of our families or whomsoever may become occupants of said property or premises hereafter, in fee simple. Witness our hands and seals ("as" in 44th line before signing).

Test: O. M. Law	William Sterling {Seal}	her
Peter Ardinger		Matilda x Sterling {Seal}
		mark

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify on this twenty second day of March in the year A.D. 1866 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid personally appeared William Sterling, and Anna Sterling, [sic] his wife, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act.

Peter Ardinger, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book LBN 1, p. 611, recorded 3/2/1867.

At the request of Catherine Sterling the following deed was recorded March 2nd 1867.

This deed made this sixth day of February, A. D. 1864, by James E. Hawken of Williamsport in Washington County, State of Maryland, Witnesseth that whereas on the 20th day of June A. D. 1853 and for many years prior thereto a certain Mary Lauver was seized and possessed of the premises hereinafter more particularly described, situate in the town of Williamsport, and on the said 20th day of June A. D. 1853 the said Mary Lauver in due form of law for passing and disposing of real estate, did make execute did make execute and publish her Last Will and Testament, whereby she devised all her property, real and personal, that should remain after payment of debts and personal expenses, unto her niece, Mary E. Hawken and eschew afterwards, to wit: sometime about the seventh of November A. D. 1859 the said Mary Lauver not having in anywise altered her said Will departed this life, seized and possessed of the property and premises hereinafter mentioned, whereupon the aforesaid Last Will and Testament, was duly presented and was by the Orphans Court of Washington County, duly admitted to probate, whereby the said Mary E. Hawken who remained the said Testatrix became entitled to the property and estate hereinafter mentioned and described as by reference to the said Last Will and Testament, now of Record in Liber E, folio 494 and 495, one of the record Books of Wills in the office of the Register of Wills, of Washington County, will more fully appear and whereas also the said Mary E. Hawken, the devisee in the said Will named, remained the said Testatrix until sometime in or about the month of December, in the year 1854, when she the said Mary E. Hawken departed this life intestate, without issue and leaving two brothers, the said James E. Hawken and William H. Hawken Catherine Hawken and Theresa R. Hawken the only children and descendents of Wilfred E. Hawken, a deceased brother of the said Mary E. Hawken, and Samuel, the only child and descendent of George F. Hawken, also a deceased brother of the said Mary E. Hawken, upon whose decended, all the right, title, interest and estate, in and to the said property hereinafter described as tenants in common and whereas the said James E. Hawken hath sold and disposed of all his tight, title, interest and estate, in and to the aforementioned premises to Catherine Sterling, now therefore this deed, Witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, the said James E. Hawken doth hereby grant unto the said Catherine Sterling, the one undivided fourth or share, and all the right, title and estate of him the said James E. Hawken, in and to that certain lot or parcel of ground situated on Conococheague Street, in the said town of Williamsport, known and designated on the plat of said town as Lot No. 48 together with all the improvements thereon, the said lot or parcel of ground and the estate therein, being the same property and estate described in a certain deed bearing date the 3rd day of July 1841 and executed by A. M. C. Cramer and William Stake, executors of George Stake, late of Washington County, deceased, and recorded in Liber GG, folio 473 one of the land records of Washington County to which deed reference is hereby made. Witness my hand and seal.

Witness: Peter Ardinger

James E. Hawken {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this sixth day of February, A. D. 1857, before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally appeared James E. Hawken and acknowledged the foregoing to be his act and deed.

Peter Ardinger, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book WMcKK 3, p. 662, recorded 8/8/1871.

At the request of Wm. C. Ernst, the following Bill of Sale was recorded Aug. 8, 1871.

I, Samuel B. Sterling, of Indian Spring district Washington County Maryland, in consideration of Four Hundred and forty dollars paid me by William C. Ernst of Clearspring, Washington County Maryland, do hereby bargain and sell to the aforesaid William C. Ernst the following personal property, viz: two black mules, eight years old, named Dick and Pet, one bay mule, branded with the letter "S," one sorrel mule, white face, branded "S," and saddle marked, 1 cook stove, 1 bow lamp, 1 pump, 2 bow lines, 1 long fall board and one short fall board, 1 tow line, 1 lot of cooking furniture, 2 sets of hind harness and 2 sets of front harness, 1 awning. Witness my hand and seal this 26th day of July 1871.

Samuel B. Sterling {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 26th day of July in the year 1871 before me, the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace of the said State in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared Samuel B. Sterling and acknowledged the foregoing bill of sale to be his act, and at the same time before me also appeared William C. Ernst and made oath in due form of law that the consideration in the said mortgage is true and bona fide as therein set forth.

H. F. Perry, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book WMcKK 5, p. 377, recorded 1/1/1873.

At the insistence of Jonathan Spielman, the following deed is recorded January 18th 1873.

Know all men by these presents, That I Catherine Sterling of Williamsport Washington County State of Maryland for and in consideration of the sum of sixty dollars to me in hand paid , the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant, bargain, convey and release unto Jonathan Spielman of the same town, County and State, all the rights, title, interest, claim or demand I may have acquired in or by a certain indenture or deed bearing date A.D. 1853 and recorded in Liber 8, folio 86, one of the Land records of Washington County, State of Maryland to the premises therein described it being the North half portion or lot on plat of said town as Lot No. 48 the same lot as conveyed to William Stake and his wife Marie Stake in trust for George F. Stake only heir of the said William Stake and Marie Stake. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this 16th day of January A.D. 1873.

Catherine Sterling {Seal}

Washington County, State of Maryland, On this 16th day of January A.D. 1873 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for Washington County, State of Maryland came Catherine Sterling and did acknowledge the foregoing deed to be her act, taken and acknowledged before me.
Wm. H. Hawken, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book WMcKK 6, p. 649, recorded 7/14/1874.

At the request of Wm. H. Hawken, the following deed is recorded July 14th 1874.

This deed, made this first day of July, in the year eighteen hundred and seventy four, by me Catherine Sterling of the town of Williamsport, Washington County, in the State of Maryland, to Wm. H. Hawken, of the same town, County and State. Witnesseth, that in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have for and bear to the said William H. Hawken, my son, and of the further consideration of the sum of ten dollars in hand paid to me by the said William H. Hawken, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, Catherine Sterling do hereby grant, bargain, and sell unto said son Wm. H. Hawken, all my rights, title and interest and estate, both at law and in Equity, in and to a certain tract or lot of ground, in the town of Williamsport, my said interest consisting of one undivided third, held by me, as tenant in common with John F. Sterling and R. W. Sterling, in and to a certain lot or parcel of ground numbering one hundred and eleven (111) on the plat of said town, fronting on Conococheague Street and running back to an alley, the same being conveyed to me by deed given by Horace Sterling and being another deed given by William Sterling and wife to have and to hold the same to him the said Wm. H. Hawken, his heirs and assigns forever, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto belonging, witness my hand and seal this first day of July, in the year eighteen hundred and seventy four.

Witness: John Long

Catherine Sterling {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 1st day of July A.D. 1874, before me the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for said County personally appeared Catherine Sterling and did acknowledge the foregoing deed to be her act, taken and acknowledged before me.

John Long, J.P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 73, p. 65, recorded 1/2/1875.

At the request of James A. Flynn the following agreement was recorded January 2nd 1875.

This Indenture, made this twelfth day of November eighteen hundred and seventy four between the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company of the one part, and James A. Flynn of Washington County in the State of Maryland of the other part. Witnesseth; That the said Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company in consideration of the payment of the act and performance of the covenants hereinafter mentioned to be paid and performed by the said James A. Flynn hath granted, devised and to farm-letted, and by these presents doth grant, devise and to farm-let, unto the said James A. Flynn a "lot or parcel of ground on the Berm side of Lock No. 48, fronting on said lock forty feet and running back across the flume to the county road." Provided that the building shall be so constructed as in no way to interfere with the face and unobstructed use of the Lock and Flume, as shall be determined by the proper Officer of the Company, for the purpose of erecting thereon, a Feed Store. To Have and to Hold the said premises, above described, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, to the said James A. Flynn from the first day of January Eighteen Hundred and Seventy Five, to the First day of January, Eighteen Hundred and Eighty Five, yielding and paying therefore to the said Company, a rent at the rate of Thirty Six (\$36.) Dollars per year, on the thirty first day of December, in each and every year during the continuance of this lease. And the said James A. Flynn, for himself, his executors, and administrators, doeth hereby covenant and agree to pay to the said party of the first part of the sum of Thirty Six Dollars, yearly as rent, during the continuance of this lease, and to erect said building or buildings upon such place, and locate the same upon such part of said land as shall be designated and approved by some Officer of said Company charged with that duty; and to preserve and keep the said premises in such condition as will in no way interfere with or intercept the business of the Canal, that he will not commit or permit any waste thereon; that he will not underlet the same, either in whole or in part, or assign said lease to any person or persons without the consent of the said Canal Company being first had, and then any to such person or persons as shall be approved by said Company, and that he will deliver the said premises up peaceably to the said party of the first part, when the lease shall be declared by said Company as is hereinafter provided. And it is hereby further covenanted and agreed by and between the parties to these presents that the said party of the first part shall be at liberty to put an end to this lease at any time, by giving to the other party at least three months previous notice, in writing, of the intention to do so. And the said party of the first part shall have the right, at the termination of said three months, to take the said building or buildings and land, and hold the same as its property, upon paying to the said party of the second part such proportion of the actual cost of the said building or buildings as the unexpired time of said lease subsequent to the termination of the three months, after said notice as aforesaid shall have been given, leave to the whole term of Ten years; which actual cost if said parties cannot agree upon the same shall be determined by arbitration. One person to be appointed by each of the parties hereunto, and an umpire to be selected by the two thus decided, and the decision of any two of three shall be final, and the expense of said arbitration to be paid equally by the parties hereto, and it is hereby further covenanted by the party of the second part, that upon his failure to remove from said premises, and to surrender quiet and peaceful possession thereof to the party of the first part at the expiration of said notice the improvements thereon erected, shall immediately become the absolute property of the party hereto of the first part; and it shall and may be lawful for the party of the first part, without legal proceedings of any sort, and without liability to any action for damages, or otherwise to enter upon and take possession of the devised property, with the improvements thereon

and therefore, this lease and all rights, thereunto, of the party of the second part shall cease and become nothing, null and void. And it is hereby further covenanted and agreed by and between the parties to these presents that said land herein devised, and any and all buildings, that may be or which have been erected thereon shall be used for no other purpose or business than is hereinbefore specified and set forth, and that the said party of the second part will neither directly or indirectly sell, nor permit any person to sell directly or indirectly, upon the land herein devised, or in any building upon the same, addictive spirits either wholesale or retail. It is further mutually covenanted and agreed, that the privileges herein granted shall not take effect unless the said building or buildings be erected and finished by the first day of April eighteen hundred and seventy five and that said land and building or buildings shall be so used as in no manner to interfere with the navigation of the Canal or cause injury to the Canal or any of its works. And it is hereby further covenanted by deed between the parties hereto, that if the rent hereinbefore covenanted to be paid or any part thereof, shall at any time be overdue or in arrears, it shall be accepted for the said party hereto of the first part to make distress therefore. And if the said rent, or any part thereof, shall at any time be in arrear and unpaid for the space of thirty days, it shall and may be lawful for the said party of the first part to come upon and hold the property hereby devised, with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto belonging until the said rent shall be fully paid. And if at any time the said rent or any part thereof shall be overdue, unpaid, and in arrears for the space of sixty days, then it shall be lawful for the party of the first part to enter upon and hold the said premises, with the improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, with or without legal proceedings, at its absolute option, and thereupon this lease and all rights of every description there under of the party of the said part shall cease and become utterly null and void. And this Indenture further Witnesseth that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company has constituted and appointed and hereby constitutes and appoints Benjamin Fawcett to be its attorney, and in its name, and as its act and deed, to acknowledge this indenture before any person or persons having authority by law to take the said acknowledgement, in order that this indenture may be duly recorded. In witness whereof, the President, by order of the President and Directors, and in behalf of said Company, hath hereunto signed his name and caused the common Seal of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company to be hereunto affixed, and the said James A. Flynn hath hereunto, on his part, affixed his hand and seal, on the day and year first hereinbefore mentioned. Done in duplicate.

Signed, Sealed and delivered in
presence of Louis G. Stanhope

A. P. Gorman, President of the
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company
James A. Flynn {Seal}

State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel, Sct: Be it remembered that on this 25th day of November, eighteen hundred and seventy four, before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Anne Arundel County, aforesaid, personally appeared Benjamin Fawcett, he being known to me of my own knowledge to be the person who is named and described in the letter of Power of Attorney contained in the foregoing indenture, and by virtue and in perseverance of the Power and Authority thereby granted, doth acknowledge the said indenture or instrument of writing to be the act and deed of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, the party of the first part hereunto.

In testimony whereof, I herewith subscribe my name on the day and year aforesaid.

W. H. Gassaway, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 74, p. 438, recorded 6/7/1876.

At the request of J. W. & Wm. Smith the following deed was recorded June 7th 1876.

This indenture, made this seventh day of June in the year eighteen hundred and seventy six, between James A. Flynn of the one part, and Joseph W. Smith and William Smith, partners under the name and style of Smith and Brother, of the other part, all of Washington County, in the State of Maryland. Witnesseth, that the said James A. Flynn, in consideration of the sum of Thirty Two Hundred Dollars, to be paid by the said Smith & Brother two months after the date hereof, for the stock in trade, fixtures and good will of the general merchandise and feed store of the said James A. Flynn, situate at Lock 48, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, in the County aforesaid, hath granted, devised, assigned, transferred and to farm letter, by these presents doth grant, devise, and to farm letter to the said Joseph W. Smith and William Smith, partners aforesaid, the lot or parcel of ground, in the Bermside of Lock No. 48, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, fronting on said Lock, forty feet and running back across the Flume to the County road, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, for the unopened part of the lease of ten years, commencing on the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy five and ending on the thirty first day of December eighteen hundred and eighty four, subject to the consent and approval of the original lessor, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, the lot or parcel hereby leased and assigned, being the same property mentioned and described in a lease of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company to the said James A. Flynn, dated on the twelfth day of November, eighteen hundred and seventy four, and recorded in Liber No. 73, folio 65, 66 and 67 of the Land Records of Washington County. And it is hereby provided and agreed by the parties hereto that the said Joseph W. Smith and William Smith shall abide by and perform all the covenants, agreements and stipulations contained in the said lease of the said Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company to the said James A. Flynn _____ performance of each and every stipulation contained in said lease.

Witness my hand and seal,
Witness Otho Oliver, J.P.

James A. Flynn {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on the seventh day of June, A.D. 1876, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally appeared James A. Flynn and acknowledged the foregoing lease or deed to be his act.

Otho Oliver, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 74, p. 645, recorded 9/14/1876.

At the request of A. J. McAllister the following deed was recorded Sept. 14th 1876.

This mortgage, made this 9th day of September, eighteen hundred and seventy six, by us Samuel Sterling and Mary E. Sterling, his wife, of Washington County in the State of Maryland, to A. J. McAllister of the same County and State. Witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Seventy Five Dollars, due and owing by us the said Samuel Sterling and Mary E. Sterling to the said A. J. McAllister for the purchase of lands, conveyed to us by deed of even date herewith, we the said Samuel Sterling and Mary E. Sterling do grant unto the said A. J. McAllister, all the following described lands, lying and being in Washington County, aforesaid, commencing at a stone planted along the South Margin of the National Turnpike, near the "Indian Spring" marked with a "6" and running back in a Southerly direction with the West line of the lands conveyed by the said A. J. McAllister and wife, to Nancy S. Cline, Two Hundred and thirty five feet to a stone marked "3" thence in a Westwardly direction two hundred and twenty feet to a stone marked "4" thence in a northwardly direction two hundred and ten feet to a stone marked "5" thence along the South margin of the said turnpike Three hundred and twenty five feet to the said stone marked "6" containing one acre of land, more or less, provided nevertheless, that if we the said Samuel Sterling and Mary E. Sterling, shall pay to the said A. J. McAllister the said sum of Two Hundred and seventy five dollars with the interest thereon on or before the first day of September A.D. 1877 then this mortgage to be void.

Witness our hands and seals:

Samuel Sterling {Seal}

Teste H. H. Perry

Mary E. Sterling {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this ninth day of September A.D. 1876, before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally appeared Samuel Sterling and Mary E. Sterling, and did each acknowledge the foregoing mortgage to be their respective act, and at the same time appeared A. J. McAllister and made oath that the consideration in said mortgage is true and bona fide as therein set forth.

H. H. Perry, J. P. {Seal}

For value received, I hereby assign the within Mortgage, the same amounting at this date to Two Hundred and Thirty Five Dollars and eighty five cents, to Lewis G. Stanhope. Witness my hand and seal this second day of August A.D. 1880.

A. J. McAllister {Seal}

Witness: Lewis C. Smith

(Recorded Aug. 2nd 1880)

1880	Oct. 20,	Cr. \$50.00
1881	May 21	Cr. \$50.00
1881	July 15	Cr. \$50.00
1881	Nov. 18	Cr. \$25.00
1883	Aug. 8	Cr. \$25.00
1883	Sept. 20	Cr. \$25.00

For value received, I hereby assign the within mortgage to Samuel Sterling. Witness my hand and seal this 22nd day of October A.D. 1886 (Recorded May 3, 1892) Lewis G. Stanhope {Seal}

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 75, p. 329, recorded 3/27/1877.

At the request of John F. Sterling the following deed was recorded March 27, 1877.

This deed made this twenty eighth day of July in the year eighteen hundred and seventy six by me George Wasson, Constable of the third election district of Washington County, Witnesseth that by virtue of a Writ of Venditioni Exponas issued by Thomas Taggart, Esquire, Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, dated on the twenty third day of May eighteen hundred and seventy six, in the case of George M. Walker against Richard W. Sterling, the proceedings in said cause being No. 145 constables sales docket in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Washington County. I the said George Wasson as constable as aforesaid have sold to John F. Sterling the following property that is to say, a certain lot or parcel of ground lying in the Town of Williamsport, in Washington County, aforesaid, being lot number One hundred and eleven on the general plat of said Town, situate on the east side of Conococheague Street fronting on said street thirty three feet and running back ninety-six feet to an alley, adjoining the property of Samuel Culbertson on the South and Mrs. Matilda Sterling on the North. Now therefore I the said George Wasson, do grant unto the said John F. Sterling all the right and title of the said Richard W. Sterling in and to the hereinbefore described property. Witness my hand and seal.

Witness: Thomas Taggart.

George Wasson {Seal}, Constable of the third election district of Washington County.

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this twenty eighth day of July A. D. 1876, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Washington County, personally appeared George Wasson, Constable of the Third Election District of Washington County and did acknowledge the foregoing deed to be his act.

Thomas Taggart, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 75, p. 153, recorded 10/19/1877.

At the request of Geo. W. Valentine the following deed was recorded Oct. 19th 1877.

This deed, made this 18th day of October, A.D. 1877, by us J. N. Sterling and Catherine M. Sterling, his wife, of Washington County, State of Maryland, Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and Fifty dollars, we the said J. N. Sterling and Catherine M. Sterling, his wife, do grant unto George W. Valentine, of said County and State, aforesaid, part of a lot of ground containing forty one feet front and eighty feet deep, the same is situate in Mary Ann's Town, commonly called Hager's Town in the County aforesaid, being lot No. sixty eight, being part of the aforesaid lot that was conveyed by Conrad Boward and Catherine Boward, his wife, to Thomas Heubner by deed bearing date 29th day of September, A.D. 1863, and recorded in Liber J.A. No. 17, folio 352, one of the Land Records of Washington County aforesaid, as be reference thereto, will appear and the said J. N. Sterling further covenants that he will warrant generally the property being conveyed, and the said J. N. Sterling further warrants that he will execute such further assurances as may be required. Witness our hands and seals,

Test: C. G. Brezler

J. N. Sterling {Seal} Catherine M. Sterling {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 18th day of October, A.D. 1877, before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace, in and for Washington County aforesaid personally appeared J. N. Sterling and Catherine M. Sterling, his wife, and did severally acknowledge the written deed to be their respective act, acknowledged before: C. G. Brezler, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 77, p. 238, recorded 10/18/1878.

At the request of John F. Sterling the following deed was recorded Oct. 18th 1878.

This deed made this twenty third day of March in the year eighteen hundred and seventy eight by us, Edward Stake and Lewis C. Smith, Trustee, Witnesseth, whereas, by a decree of the Circuit Court for Washington County, sitting as a Court of Equity, passed on the twentieth day of October in the year eighteen hundred and seventy seven, in the case of Richard W. Sterling and others versus William H. Hawken and wife, which cause is known before the docket of said Court as No. 2721, we, the said Edward Stake and Lewis C. Smith, were appointed Trustees to sell the land decreed to be sold, and have sold the same to John F. Sterling at and for the sum of three hundred dollars, who has fully paid the purchase money therefore, Now therefore in consideration of the premises, we the said Edward Stake and Lewis C. Smith, Trustees as aforesaid, do grant unto the said John F. Sterling all the right, title and interest

Equity of all the parties to the aforesaid cause and of every person claiming by from or therein and to that parcel of real estate, lying and being in the Town of Williamsport, in the County of Washington, State of Maryland and known on the plat of said Town as the Southern portion of lot No. 111, said premises fronting on Conococheague Street, and contained within the following metes and bounds, courses and distances, commencing on said Conococheague Street at the Northwest corner of lot No. 110, and running east ninety six feet to an alley, then North with said alley thirty one and one-half feet , then West seventy three and one-third feet, thence North nine feet, then West twenty two and two-thirds feet to said Conococheague Street, then South forty and one-half feet, to the place of the beginning, the improvements thereon consisting of a two story weather boarded dwelling and a one story building now used as a shoemaker shop, both of said buildings fronting on Conococheague Street, the premises hereby conveyed being the same lot (No. 111) of which Abraham Sterling died seized and possessed, less that portion conveyed to William Sterling by Catherine Sterling and others by deed dated the twenty second day of March A.D. 1866 and recorded in Liber J. A. No. 19, folio 311 & 312, one of the Land Records of said County. Witness our hands and seals.

Teste: Thomas Taggart

Louis C. Smith {Seal}

Edward Stake {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this twenty third day of March in the year eighteen hundred and seventy eight, before me, the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for the County of Washington, personally appeared Edward Stake and Louis C. Smith, Trustees, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act.

Thomas Taggart, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 78, p. 503, recorded 12/30/1879.

At the request of Mary E. Sterling the following deed was recorded December 30th 1879.

This deed, made this 29th day of Sept. in the year eighteen hundred and seventy six, by us A. J. McAllister and Susanna, his wife, of Washington County, in the State of Maryland, to Mary E. Sterling of the said County and State. Witnesseth; that for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Seventy Five Dollars the payment of which is to be secured by a mortgage of even date herewith on the hereinafter described lands, we, the said A. J. McAllister and Susanna, his wife, do grant unto the said Mary E. Sterling, all the following described lands, lying and being in Washington County aforesaid commencing at a stone planted along the South margin of the National Turnpike near the "Indian Spring" marked number "6," and running back in a Southerly direction with the West line of the lands conveyed by the said A. J. McAllister and wife to Nancy S. Cline, Two Hundred and Thirty Five feet to a stone marked Number "3," thence in a westwardly direction Two Hundred and Twenty feet to a stone marked Number "4," thence in a Northerly direction Two Hundred and Ten feet to a stone marked "5," thence along the South margin of the said Turnpike Three hundred and Twenty five feet to said stone "6," containing one acre of land, more or less.

Witness our hands and seals.

A. J. McAllister {Seal}

her

Witness: Robert Stines

Susan x McAllister {Seal}

Otho Stines

mark

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 29th day of August A.D. 1876, before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally [appeared] A. J. McAllister and Susanna, his wife, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed to be their respective act.

Robert Stines

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 80, p. 356, recorded 3/1/1881.

At the request of Lewis F. Fernsner the following mortgage was recorded March 1st 1881.

We, Anna R. Sterling and George M. Sterling being now indebted to Lewis F. Fernsner, of Washington County Maryland in the sum of Two Hundred and twenty five dollars, with interest from date, in consideration thereof, bargain and sell to the said Lewis F. Fernsner the following lease hold property, consisting of 5 acres of land improved with a two story frame dwelling house and a frame stable, situated between the Potomac River and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal about one mile west of the 4 Locks, Washington County, Maryland. Provided, that [if] the said Anna R. Sterling and George M. Sterling shall pay to the said Lewis F. Fernsner the said sum of two hundred and twenty five dollars with interest thereon, on or before the 1st day of January 1884, then these presents shall be void. Witness our hands and seals February 10th 1881.

Annie R. Sterling {Seal}

George M. Sterling {Seal}

Test: Allen A. Nesbitt

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this tenth day of February 1881 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Washington County the aforesaid Anna R. Sterling and George M. Sterling and acknowledged the foregoing Mortgage to be their respective act, and on the 10th day of February 1881 also personally appeared Lewis F. Fernsner and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that the consideration mentioned in the foregoing mortgage is true and bona fide as therein set forth.

Allen A. Nesbitt, J.P.

I hereby solve (\$90.00) of the within mortgage. Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of February 1900.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 87, p. 339, recorded 4/20/1885.

At the request of Lavina Keyser the following Mortgage was recorded April 20th, 1885.

This mortgage made this 6th day of April 1885 by me John F. Sterling of Washington County, Maryland. Witnesseth that in consideration of the sum of two hundred and thirty five dollars (\$235.00) now due from me the said John F. Sterling to Lavina Keyser. I the said John F. Sterling do grant unto the said Lavina Keyser all that parcel of real estate lying and being in the Town of Williamsport, in the County of Washington and State of Maryland, and known on the plat of said town as the Southern portion of Lot No. 111, said premises fronting on Conococheague Street and contained within the following metes and bounds, courses and distances, commencing on said Conococheague Street at the Northwest corner of lot No. 110, and running East ninety six feet to an alley, then North with said alley thirty one and one-half feet, then West seventy three and one-third feet, thence North nine feet, then West twenty two and two-thirds feet to said Conococheague Street, then South forty and one-half feet, to the place of the beginning, together with the improvements therein consisting of a two story weather boarded dwelling and a Shoemaker Shop, both of said buildings fronting on Conococheague Street, the premises hereby conveyed being the same which were conveyed to the grantor herein, by L. C. Smith and Edward Stake, Trustees, by deed dated the 23rd day of March 1878 and recorded in Liber No. 77, folio 238 and 239, of the Land Records of Washington County.

Provided that if the said John F. Sterling pay the said sum together with the interest thereon annually on the first day of April 1886, then this mortgage shall be void, and I the said John F. Sterling covenant, promise and agree to and with the said Lavina Keyser to pay the said sum of money according to the terms of the foregoing mortgage and to keep the buildings on the said property insured against loss by fire in some good Insurance Company to the amount of said sum of money and to have the Policy assigned to the mortgagee herein as her mortgage interest may appear.
Witness my hand and seal. J. F. Sterling {Seal}

Teste: J. Irwin Bitner

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify this sixth day of April 1885 that before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace for the said State, in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared John F. Sterling, and acknowledged the foregoing mortgage to be his act and deed.

J. Irwin Bitner, J. P.

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: Be it remembered that on this 16th day of April 1885 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the said State, in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Lavina Keyser, the Mortgagee in the foregoing mortgage and made oath in due form of law that the consideration set forth therein is true and bona fide as stated.

T. Belt Johnson, J. P.

Ex and deleted to Lavina Keyser Mar. 8, 1887.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md. Deed Book 99, p. 409, recorded 11/16/1892.

At the request of Frank J. Gabriel the following Mortgage was recorded November 16th 1892.

This Mortgage, made this sixteenth day of November, A.D. 1892, by us Daniel H. Carty and Addie Carty, his wife, and Josiah Sterling and Catherine M. Sterling, his wife, Emory H. Carty and Alice Carty, his wife, and Laura L. Carty, all legal heirs of Amelia Carty, deceased, who was the late wife of George W. Carty. Witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars now due and owing from us the said Daniel H. Carty and Addie Carty, his wife, and Josiah Sterling and Catherine M. Sterling, his wife, Emory H. Carty and Alice Carty, his wife, and Laura L. Carty to Frank J. Gabriel, of Hagerstown, Maryland, we the said Mortgagors do grant and convey in fee simple unto the said Frank J. Gabriel all that piece or parcel of ground situate and lying on Mary Ann Street in Mary Ann's Addition to Hagerstown, and is designated on the plot of Mary Ann's Town as lot No. 67 and has a frontage of 82 feet on said Mary Ann Street and running back with a uniform width a distance of 240 feet to Valentine Street. Being the same property which was conveyed to George W. Carty by John E. Ritenour, Trustee, be deed dated the 22nd day of February A.D. 1858, and recorded in Liber J. T. No. 13, folio 175 one of the Land Records of Washington County, Md. being the same property which was conveyed to Amelia Carty, by the said George W. Carty by deed dated the 17th day of January, A.D. 1878, and recorded in Liber 76, folio 301, one of the Land Records of Washington County, Maryland, to which reference is here made. Provided that if we the said Mortgagors shall keep all the covenants herein contained then this Mortgage shall be void, other wise to remain in full force of law. We the said Daniel H. Carty and Addie Carty, his wife, and Josiah Sterling and Catherine M. Sterling, his wife, Emory H. Carty and Alice Carty, his wife, and Laura L. Carty covenant to pay or cause to be paid to the said Frank J. Gabriel the sum of One Hundred Dollars together with the interest thereon at six percent one year from the date of this Mortgage. We covenant to pay all taxes and public dues which may from time to time be rightfully levied or assessed upon the property herein conveyed as the same becomes due and payable. We covenant to insure and keep insured the improvements on the within Mortgaged property to the amount of at least One Hundred Dollars and cause the Policy to be so framed and endorsed as in case of fire the Insurance to inure to the benefit of the within named Mortgagee or his assigns. Provided that if default is made in the payment of the aforesaid Mortgage debt or of the interest thereon when due and payable or if any covenant or condition of the within Mortgage, then it shall be lawful for O. V. Middlekauff who is hereby appointed Trustee to sell the property herein conveyed with full power to convey the same to the purchaser after giving at least Twenty days notice of the time, place, manner and terms of the sale in some newspaper published in Hagerstown, Md. on such terms as the said Trustee may determine, and to apply the proceeds arising from such sale first to the payment of the expenses incident to said sale, including counsel fees and the usual Equity Commissions, then to the payment of this Mortgage debt together with the accrued interest thereon and the balance to the within named Mortgagors. Witness our hands and seals:

Witness as to signature of Daniel H. and Annie Carty

John Schofield Notary Public Daniel H. Carty {Seal} Annie Carty {Seal}

Witness to the signature of Josiah and Catherine M. Sterling

Winfield S. Davis Notary Public Josiah Sterling {Seal} Catherine M. Sterling {Seal}

Witness to the signature of Emory H. and Alice and Laura Carty

Test: James B. Manser Emory H. Carty {Seal} Alice Carty

{Seal}

Laura L. Carty {Seal}

State of Illinois, Peoria County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 8th day of November, A.D. 1892 before the subscriber a Notary Public of the State of Illinois in and for Peoria County, personally appeared Daniel H. Carty and Annie Carty, his wife, and acknowledged the foregoing Mortgage as their respective act. Witness my hand and Notarial Seal this 8th day of November, A.D. 1892.

{Seal} John Schofield, Notary Public {Seal}

State of Illinois, County of Peoria, to wit: I James E. Walsh, Clerk of the County Court in and for the said County of Peoria which is a Court of Record, having a seal, do hereby certify that John Schofield, whose name is subscribed to the Certificate of proof of acknowledgement of the annexed Instrument and therein written, was at the time of taking such proof of acknowledgement a Notary Public in and for said County, duly Commissioned and qualified, and duly authorized to take the same. And further, that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of such Notary Public and [illegible] believe that the signature to the said Certificate of proof of acknowledgement is genuine. I further certify that said Instrument is executed and acknowledged according to the laws of this State. In testimony whereof I have hereinto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at Peoria this 8th day of November, A.D. 1872.

{Seal}

James E. Walsh, Clerk.

State of Pennsylvania, Wyoming County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 14th day of November, A.D. 1892 before the subscriber a Notary Public of the State of Pennsylvania in and for Wyoming County, personally appeared Josiah Sterling and Catherine M. Sterling, his wife, and acknowledged the foregoing Mortgage to be their respective act. Witness my hand and Notarial Seal this 14th day of November, A.D. 1892.

Winfield S. Davis, Notary Public. {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 16th day of November, A.D. 1892, before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Washington County personally appeared Emory H. Carty and Alice Carty, his wife, and Laura L. Carty, and acknowledged the foregoing Mortgage to be their respective act, and at the same time before me personally appeared Frank J. Gabriel, the within named Mortgager and made oath in due form of law that the consideration set forth in the foregoing Mortgage is true and bona fide.

James B. Manser, J. P.

I hereby release the within Mortgage this 15th day of May, A.D. 1894.
Witness my hand and seal

Town of Four Locks Springs from Canal Construction¹³⁷

By Frank Woodring

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In the spring of 1839, the section of the C & O Canal in Washington County known as Four Locks opened to boat traffic. Located at Mile 109 along the 184.5 mile navigational route from Georgetown to the western Terminus at Cumberland, the one-mile section of canal through Prather's Neck allowed canallers to avoid the four-mile path that the Potomac River follows around the Neck.

In order to allow for the shortcut, the engineers designed a series of four locks (47, 48, 49 and 50) to accommodate a 32-foot rise in elevation. It was here along the locks that a community known as Four Locks slowly ebbed forth from the waters of the canal.

Just as the C & O Canal thrived for nearly 100 years, so did the town of Four Locks. In 1873 a Williamsport newspaper noted that the canal "employs 400 boats constantly during the boating season. These boats require 2,000 head of mules, give employment to 2,000 persons directly and 2,000 indirectly. The mules consume at least 25,000 barrels of corn, 3,840 bushels of oats, and 500 tons of hay. This provender, which is mainly purchased along the line of the canal, costs in the aggregate \$60,000." In 1875 canal boats hauled 904,898 tons of coal alone.

Over the years of its existence, canal operations were constantly hindered by flooding, and with the Flood of 1924 the canal finally shut down. Four Locks had ridden the tide of prosperity for more than three quarters of a century, but with the C & O Canal now a page from the past, the history of Four Locks as a community was likewise beginning to fade.

Today, the small white shed at Lock 50 is the lone remaining watch shanty left along the entire length of the C & O Canal. It was here that Four Locks resident George Bowers housed his chickens. His father Harry Bowers at one time repaired canal boats at the drydock at Lock 47.

It was at the mule barn across from Lock 50 where mules were stabled during the winters and feed and harness were kept. It was here that 81-year-old Leroy Mellott remembers keeping the family cow. From here he led the cow across the canal to the nearby Potomac for water.

It was on the berm along the canal at Four Locks where Mellott would pull his little red express wagon piled high with laundry from his grandparent's cabin upstream to his home in what is known as the Flory House across from Lock 49. It was in the canal between locks 49 and 50 where he remembers upsetting his wagon and its valuable cargo.

It was in the large stone house overlooking Four Locks where 80-year-old Hazel Starliper once worked when Thomas and Kate Hassett were entertaining guests. Hassett at one time served as a purchasing agent for the C & O Canal and served two terms as a Washington County Commissioner.

¹³⁷ *Maryland Cracker Barrel*, newsmagazine, Boonsboro, MD, April/May 2003, pp. 4 - 24. The article text was transcribed in its entirety because many readers would not have access to the newsmagazine back issues.

Later, Hazel and her husband bought the home with the date 1868 on the keystone on the south side of the house.

It was at Four Locks School, known earlier as Cedar Grove, where 73-year-old Charles Mellott attended school after getting up early in the morning to milk cows. Gone are the rail fences once covered with winter snows that Mellott walked over en route to the school.

It was in Lockhouse 49 where 72-year-old Fonrose Taylor, jr., grew up and lived most of his life until he moved to Big Spring in 1971. It was Taylor's grandfather Samuel Taylor who served as Four Locks' last lockkeeper.

Today, visitors can still see the structures mentioned, but gone are the numerous homes that once comprised the community of Four Locks. Gone is the drydock at Lock 47, the store that sat over the by-pass flume on the berm side of Lock 48, the large combination feed and supply store and warehouse over the flume at Lock 49, and the feed store/warehouse over the flume at Lock 50.

Remaining, however, are the memories of some of the individuals who called Four Locks home. Their stories follow.

Mellott Brothers Recall Four Locks 'As A Good Place To Grow Up'

Perhaps Charles Mellott best characterized growing up in the Four Locks area when he reflected, 'It was a good time back then - we didn't have much money to do anything with, but you still had good times!'

"Mellott's roots in Four Locks run extremely deep. His mother Martha Moser Mellott was born in a log house that predated the Civil War west of Lock 50 in 1901, and his brother Philbert Leroy Mellott was born in a log cabin near his mother's birthplace. Charles himself was born in what is known as the Flory House, one of the few remaining houses in Four Locks.

The daughter of Louis (Dickie) and Sarah Moser, Martha recall her father working on the Western Maryland Railway before switching to the C & O Canal where he was captain of Boat No. 88. "He hauled coal from Cumberland to Georgetown. He kept two mules in the boat and two on the path. Sometimes he used all four."

She laughed as she recalled on one occasion that her family took 'a yellow cat to Georgetown' where he was left. Some time later the cat returned home, but this time it was a 'black' cat due to the coal dust it had collected while following the railroad home.

Before she passed away several years ago, Mrs. Mellott recalled that she "walked one mile to Four Locks School (also known as Cedar Grove School) for seven years from the age of 6 to 13."

Leroy, 81, recalls Four Locks "as a good place to grow up. It's a wonder a lot of children didn't drown in that canal. I always think of that! I can remember the canal; I remember the water coming through the flume."

When Leroy was about eight years old, the family moved into the Flory House situated across from Lock 49 and Lockhouse 49, originally the only designated lockhouse at Four Locks. The two-story brick house is still standing today.

The date of "August 10, 1883" is engraved in stone on the north side of the Flory House. Reportedly, Alexander Flory was a major in the 1st Potomac Home Brigade, Maryland Cavalry. Following the Civil War, Flory operated a store and post office in Four Locks either in the house or adjacent to it.

When Mellott started school at Four Locks, he followed the same path his mother took when she walked the mile to the one-room brick school, which is still there today. When his family moved into the Flory House in 1929, Leroy's walk was a bit shorter, but about 1931 the Mellotts moved to a farm owned by Tommy Hassett northwest of Big Spring. Now the walk was 2.2 miles if you took the road but a bit shorter when crossing fields.

"I used to walk over the snow, over the fence posts. We never had no delays like they got now. I had to milk a couple of cows when I got home. I got tired. I didn't have time to do the lessons sometimes. It was too much work for me - feeding the chickens and hogs."

Leroy's teacher for his eight years at Four Locks School was "Donald Haugh for all but about six months. I used to come down the road sometimes and catch a ride with him." Mellott remembers "the school had a pot-bellied stove in it, and the pipe run out the back end. We carried water from down at the Thomas Hassett house (large stone house overlooking Four Locks). With a stick two of us would go down. One time I stumped my toe and spilled the water and had to go back and get another bucket."

"Coal heated the stove. Some of us would go out and get a bucket and bring it in - a little shed there - got coal from Angle's (Store and Elevator in Big Spring)."

"Wasn't over 18 or 20 student at one time - wasn't any more than that; there was only three of 'em in our eighth grade class: me and Robert Haines and Hazel Hart."

"We used to play soccer ball - had one fellow, Kenneth Suffecool. Boy, he could run fast. I liked to be on his side."

Living on the Hassett farm involved plenty of work for Leroy, who stated, "I was plowing at 10 or 12 years old - two head of horses. Dad had three head, and I had two head. I had an Oliver plow; it wasn't quite as big (as his father's plow). Sometimes I'd hit a rock and the plow would jump out - Dad, he was giving the dickens about it falling out, and I'd get back and get in the furrow again."

"I've cut many a shock of corn, husk it too - boy, oh boy - had to saw wood with a crosscut saw. I hated that thing, though; it was tiresome."

While living on the Hassett farm, Leroy recalls some of the deep snows that shut them off from the rest of the world. On one occasion he remembers, "It took us a week and a half to shovel out; Dad would shovel snow to me, and I'd shovel it over the top (of the drifts)."

"I remember when they used to pull ice off the Potomac with a horse. They'd take the chunks in carts to the caves. There were two caves up at the Hassett place - had straw in there. It would keep for a long time."

One of the stories Mellott's father shared with him involved a man skating down the Potomac and coming upon an opening in the ice. 'Dad said he just lifted up and jumped over top that hole - about eight feet. He had his hands on his back and leaped over that and went over on the other side."

To get extra money, Leroy said, "I used to catch squab - pigeons - and take 'em out to Four Locks, and Harry Snook from Hagerstown - used to come from Hagerstown on Sunday - come up to see Wes Mann. I'd go up there and take maybe three or four pigeons - get a quarter apiece for them. I'll never forget that!"

In Mellott's lifetime "there was only one store at Four Locks - the Sam Fernsner Store. They had a pot-bellied stove in there. They (men) sat on old benches and talked. I'll never forget that. I remember seeing that store - sat next to the lock. They used to play checkers and gamble some. I didn't know nothing about gambling."

"I'll never forget one time they had cheese in the round block. Mr. Snyder lived at Big Spring and used to come up and help Sam Fernsner to run the store. I bought a pound of cheese to take over to the house, and I told Dad, "He cut a piece off of my cheese and ate it. I seen him do it." Dad went and told him about it."

"They had candy in jars. I'll never forget that. They had sugar - it didn't come packaged. They dipped it out and put it in brown pokes - came in kegs. Nails was in kegs, too. You'd buy so many, and they weigh 'em."

"The store had molasses by the barrel. It had an old crank on it, and in the wintertime, it was pretty hard winding that."

"My uncle Harry Hull lived back on a farm way up past where I was born. He used to sell milk - used to bring it out on a cart and horse - had two 10-gallon cans to come in and pick it up in an International truck."

Mellott laughed as he related the story of how "Harry Bowers used to come out and call the chickens in the morning. We was living way back in the Neck (Prather's). He'd go out and call, 'peep, peep, peep!' My uncle said one time, 'I think he called a couple of our chickens.' I'll never forget that!"

The Big Pool resident also remembers "driving about 35 head of cattle over through Williamsport clear down below Downsville. I might have been nine at the time - about five or six of us. Cows after you get them started, they go right behind each other. You can drive them any place."

At 81 Mellott still raises beef cattle as does his brother Charles. Leroy remembers that when his family lived in the Flory house "there was a little barn there (across from Lock 50). We had a cow - called her Daise - and I was only eight years old. I used to take her for water - take her clear down

to the river and bring her back up - used to stop down there by the house, and Mother would milk her. Old Guernsey cow she was!"

As far as recreation, "We went to the Blair's Valley Picnic. We used to go to Conomac Park at Williamsport - any place you could get now and then. You didn't get many times."

Mellott lovingly looked at his wife Crystal (Bartles) and commented, "I seen her up there (Blair's Valley). She stumbled for me. Me and Ralph Gehr and three or four of us fellows was talking there, and she came up. I think she stumbled on purpose. She got up all right and laughed. That's where we started talking."

Many of Charles Mellott's most vivid memories of growing up in the Four Locks area pivoted around the school and the Hassett farm near Big Spring.

Charles, 73, noted, "We had to get up and milk cows in the morning before we went to school. Then you had to walk from there clear to school, and you had to be there at 9 o'clock. We'd go to school no matter if it was raining or snowing or what it was. The snow used to get so deep back in them back roads - had a lot of fence rail up then. You'd walk over top of the rail fence and didn't know you were walking over top of it because the snow had blowed in and drifted, you know. It took us pretty close to an hour. We had to leave at 8 o'clock in the morning to get there at 9. I went there for seven years.

"Wint Murray used to run the store at Big Spring, and we would cross the fields, and he had a big, old police dog, and that police dog would come out there, and boy he would charge you. We was scared to death of that dog. We'd always try to get past him without him knowing we was there. He'd come out and bark - you'd think he was going to tear you up."

On another adventure that occurred en route to school, Charles said, "I had trouble with hogs one time back on the farm there. I left that morning to go to school, and Harry Newkirk down below us there he had some hogs, and we had hogs, so I got down to the barn that morning, and I got between these hogs that were fighting, and I climbed the fence up against the barn, and I hung there. Later on my Dad came down, and he found me - asked me, 'What are you doing?' I was scared to death. I didn't get to school that day. I'll never forget that!

"Had Mr. Donald Haugh, and then at last Mr. Creek - Peter Creek. We had a substitute - Mrs. Ada Smith. She was a strict teacher. I mean you couldn't drop a pin on the floor that she didn't hear it. We'd go to school in the morning, and we'd see her there, and we'd say, 'Oh boy, it's going to be a good day.'

"She'd say, 'Now you boys go out there and cut me a stick behind the school, and I want a big one. If you come back here with a little one, you're going to get it.' She would! We'd go out and cut her a big, long stick, 'That's fine,' she'd say.

"And she'd lay it right across the desk. Boy if you made a little move or dropped something, she's say, 'If you do it one more time, you're going to get it.' She was strict, she was, but she was a nice woman. You could learn off of her.

"What I liked about it, you could learn going to school like that - you had eight grades in there, see. If you paid any attention to any thing, you could take and hear the other classes on up higher. You could learn from one grade to the other, and when you got to the other grades, you knowed pretty much what you was doing.

"We used to go out in the yard at dinner time and eat along the road - sit along the rocks and eat, you know. It was really nice - enjoyable. The Hart boys and the Tosten boys would go down to their house and eat - weren't too far away.

"We played soccer ball and went out and would shoot marbles. I used to take marbles to school, and my (future) brother-in-law (Boots Hart), he was good. He was left-handed. He was a good marble shooter; he'd take all your marbles. Take a crayon and go out there and mark the ground, you know!

"We walked to school many a time - we'd be soaking wet when we got there. Very seldom got sick. We always had to take and bundle up good, you know, and had our little artics we'd put over our shoes.

"It didn't get too hot in there (school) because the heat went up in the air. That old school was high on the inside, you know, but we survived all right!

"When we used to go to school, Mon sometimes wouldn't have lunch for all of us, so we'd stop there at the Big Spring store, and I'd go in and get smoked bologna - of course, for 10 or 15 cents worth you had a lot of bologna, and we'd get that and fix our sandwiches and out on the road we'd go."

We'd take some potato chips and some pickles or something like that. We'd take some cake or cookies sometimes - carried lunches in pokes.

"I'll never forget one time my brother-in-law and I sat together (in double desks). This girl Vera McCallister sat right across the aisle. I got to talking to her now and then, and Mr. Creek said, 'If you don't quit talking, you're going to sit with her.' I put my head down, and then I went back to work, and after a bit I started talking to her again.

"Boy, I seen him jump up, and his face turned red. I though uh oh, here he comes. He come down, and the desks was bolted to the floor, and he came around the corner by the stove, and he grabbed me by the shoulder, and when he did, I reached over and grabbed the other side of the desk, and he jerked and he jerked and after a bit he jerked the screws out of the floor, upset the desk, and Chip he jumped out in the hallway.

"He got me loose from that desk, and he throwed me up in the air, and he grabbed me and put me in the seat where the girl was over there. I laughed about that when it was all over, but boy I seen he was coming. That was something. I'll never forget that!

"Mr. Creek smoked - I'll never forget it - had outside toilets, you know, so he went down there, and he got in this toilet. Us boys got a hold of that toilet, rocked her, and upset her with him in there. We run, but he didn't know who done it!"

Just as there was no electricity at Four Locks School, there was no electricity at the Mellott home on the Hassett farm. As Charles remembers, "No electricity in the house - coal oil lamps and wood stoves is all we had - go to bed at night, and you'd freeze to death in bed. Back then the mattresses we took down to the straw stack and had good clean straw when they thrashed - put the mattress full, and Mom would sew 'em tight. It was nice. You would dig down in that there mattress, especially after you rolled around in it a couple of days - it would be nice to lay in.

"We had an old battery radio. Sometimes on Saturday night we'd stay up and listen to Nashville, Tennessee - the Grand Ole Opray. You'd have to get up close to it though because sometimes the batteries would get weak. It wouldn't come in too good."

When the brothers milked in the evenings in the winter "we had a nail in the log, and we'd take the lantern and hang it up on the log. The last thing we had to do is go - me and Leroy would saw wood - had a sawbuck there, and we'd get our wood, and that was every evening we had to saw wood - take a crosscut saw and saw it. Them was rough days, but they was good days. I enjoyed 'em.

"I plowed with horses when I wasn't big enough to even look over the plow handles - had to walk with the plow handles up above my head. Instead of walking in the furrow, I had to get up the side and walk on the ground.

"We'd go night hunting with a flashlight and hunt polecats and possums. We had a dog that like to hunt that kind of stuff. Old Mr. Burnett in Clear Spring used to buy 'em. He'd get about \$2 or \$3 for a polecat, but it was a job getting them.

"Leroy would catch 'em alive. Somebody had to hold the dog, and Leroy would hold the flashlight in his (polecat's) eyes and reach back and get his tail. If you get the tail off the ground, they won't do nothin' to you. They can't spray you. I had to hold the sack then drop 'em in the sack. He was alright once he was in the sack.

"Then we'd take 'em to our house - had an old chicken house there, and we'd take and put the polecats in there. They'd fight, you know. You get a bunch of 'em in there - keep 'em in there for a few days and kill 'em you know and take 'em in to him. Sometimes he'd come and get them.

"We'd catch mice and throw 'em in there, and they'd get these mice and eat 'em, you know. They got tame though; you could put your hand on 'em. They wouldn't bother you. They'd come right to the door the same as a cat would."

Mellott remembers when "you had to carry all the water from the springhouse down over the hill. At Easter time I would take and go hide eggs. Of course, they always sold the eggs, you know. Chickens would lay all around through the barn, and I'd go and take a couple out of this nest and a couple out of that nest.

"I had a big sack with straw in to keep them from freezing, and I'd keep them for Easter morning. On Easter morning I'd take and bring these eggs in. Dad said, 'I knew you was stealing eggs.' I'd give 'em to Mom, and she would take and fry our eggs for us then. Back then you had to sell that

kind of stuff to make any money. Mostly Dad would take 'em in to Clear Spring to old Albert Houck - used to have a store in Clear Spring - and he bought all of his eggs."

Years later the Mellott family moved to what is known as the John C. Hassett House west of the mule barn where Daise was kept. It was while living here that Charles noted, "I used to put hay up there, and we kept horses in the old barn."

The John C. Hassett House can still be seen today in Four Locks. The 1900 Census listed Hassett as a mail carrier, and the 1910 Census referred to him as a storekeeper on the canal along with his brother William. The store, which sat over the flume at Lock 50, was referred to as the W. T. Hassett and Bro. Store according to the 1887 *Washington County Atlas*.

Following the close of the C & O Canal in 1924, the community that had sprung up due to the emergence of the canal slowly began to fade away into time. Both Leroy and Charles remember the Flood of 1936 that took away various buildings in Four Locks. As Charles recalls, "Everything was covered down at Four Locks!"

Just as the flood waters of '36 helped to vanquish the once-vibrant town, time likewise has pretty much erased all but memories of Four Locks' history that dates back to a plan submitted by Assistant Engineer Alfred Cruger for the construction of the canal above Dam #5 in 1833.

Big Spring Resident Vividly Recall Four Locks Last Lockkeeper

One of the few remaining structures in the once bustling community of Four Locks is Lockhouse 49, which was completed in March of 1839 at a cost of \$1,447.50.

For 72-year-old Fonrose Taylor, Jr., the lockhouse holds a lifetime of memories for it was here that the Big Spring resident was born in 1930, six years after the C & O Canal ceased operations.

The two-story brick house was also the birthplace of Taylor's father, Fonrose Taylor, Sr., and the home of Taylor's grandparents, Sam and Ida Taylor. When Taylor and his daughter moved out of the lockhouse in 1971, it marked the end of four generations of Taylors who lived in the home.

Taylor's grandfather served as lockkeeper at Four Locks from 1889 until 1924. As Fonrose recalled his grandfather, he stated, "We lived there with them (grandparents). He started to work for the canal when the canal opened up. He was the last locktender that lived there, and his one son William lived in a small house near the lockhouse." William was the owner of boat #41.

Taylor remembers his grandfather as "short. He didn't weigh too much. He was a lot of fun - had a little mustache. He was a small man, but he was feisty. My grandfather Hart said he would do anything for anybody, but he would never take much off of anyone, you know.

"He said he remembers one time he went to a dance up there at Indian Springs, and he said the dance had been going on for quite awhile. Of course, some of them was getting too much to drink, you know, and he said Sammy Taylor walked in, and one of the bigger guys went up and said something to him that he didn't like.

"He said he can still see him - said he just made a leap - said he had to jump to hit him, and he hit that guy and down he went. He said after that no one ever fooled with him.

"We had a nice sized garden. I remember one year my grandfather and grandmother had a beautiful garden, and my cousin and I, we got out there in the garden. I guess we were about 8 or 9. We went out, and we were going to weed the garden.

"We weeded the garden. We pulled all the onions up, and all the radishes and beets. We pulled everything up and piled 'em up on a big pile in the middle of the garden. I can remember that. I remember what happened (afterwards).

"I can remember the hay shed that set right in front of the old house at the lock where my uncle had lived. I remember when we were kids; we'd go up there and play. There was a rope and all kinds of stuff that they had used on the canal.

"Then down by Lockhouse 49 at that lock there was a storage shed there, and they stored hay for the mules. There was water come underneath of 'em - underneath the building. Well, it was like what they called a flume where the water would come under the sheds. The barns set right along the locks. They could throw the hay down out of the shed at the edge of the lock and throw it right onto the boats.

"I can remember next to Lockhouse 49 was a house - the government tore that down (in the early 1960's) - that was the old Fernsner property. Samuel Fernsner run the store there at Four Locks. That's where he and his wife lived.

"The store was located at the next lock down from 49, and it set right along the edge of the lock. I just remember when it was still open before the flood (1936). I remember going down there when I was young and getting candy. They sold canned goods and all kinds of staples, you know.

"I can remember the old chocolate bolsters like a Clark Bar - they called them bolsters. I think you'd get about three or four of them for a penny, you know. They had strips of coconut (candy) like black and green - different flavors. It looked like a slice of bacon - only thing it had streaks of different flavors through it. I do remember those."

A fire in 1862 destroyed the original home occupied by Lewis Fernsner. Fernsner, a carpenter, immediately rebuilt the home, which his son Samuel occupied while operating the store in partnership with Jacob Snyder, who had married Samuel's sister Lela.

With his skill as a carpenter, Lewis Fernsner also repaired canal boats at the drydock at Lock 47 and apparently owned a canal boat according to tax records from 1879 to 1881.

Records also indicate that Fernsner was paid \$254 for boat repairs that covered a period of 127 days.

An inventory of the Snyder-Fernsner Store included items such as knitting needles, kerosene, eggs, bread, cigarettes, lye, grain, black powder, scissors, molasses, sugar, coffee, wicks, coal oil, stove polish, baled hay, canned goods and candy.

In the late 1800's the store operated under the name of Smith and Brother. Nora Snyder's *History of Clear Spring* denotes the store as a "Dealer in Dry Goods, Hats, Caps, boots, shoes, and everything usually kept in a first-class country store."

Taylor added, "I didn't know Mr. Snyder. The only way I can remember Mr. Fernsner was by him living next door, and I remember watching him go down the road to the store to open it. The only time I went down, my father would take me. I never went by myself.

"I don't remember the post office. There was a post office out there at one time. I don't remember that, but I do remember them showing me where the foundation was (next to the Flory House). The old Flory House, there was a cobbler that lived over there - made my father a little pair of shoes - first pair of shoes that he ever wore. I always kept 'em. About once a year I put some Vaseline on them to keep that leather."

Research by Mike Mastrangelo, former ranger for the C & O Canal National Historical Park, indicates that a post office was opened in Four Locks in 1858 and operated until 1865 when it was moved to Clear Spring. In 1878 a post office was re-established in Four Locks and served the community until 1903 when it was moved to Big Spring.

Among the postmasters who served at Four Locks according to Mastrangelo were John D. Prather, James A. Flynn, Edward Smith, Joseph Edward Smith, Allen Brewer, Edward Brewer, Alexander Flory, and Mary Flory.

Another vivid memory of the Four Locks area for Taylor is the Flood of 1936. "I can remember our house (Lockhouse 49) was completely surrounded by water, and we had a boat that we would get in and ride it down to just about the top of the hill at the old Hassett (Thomas) House. My father left his car sit down there.

"There was a wall in front of the old lockhouse. The water was just about two inches from coming up over that wall. Then it would have come into the basement and the kitchen. I remember my father sat up all night. It got up to within two inches, and it started going down. The whole house was surrounded with water.

"I can remember seeing barns and everything - cows, I remember seeing a live cow come down - standing on part of a shed. The old Flynn property - that house set right down along the canal below the Hassett property right across from the Fernsner store. I remember seeing it go. It set there, and it bobbed up and down, and finally it just shot right up in the air and down the river it went.

"The old Flory House - I remember after the flood going over there and helping. I guess I was more a hindrance than I was a help shoveling mud out of the first floor. The water had never gotten up to the second floor. Of course they had a basement under it, and that was all submerged in water and halfway up the kitchen walls. They would shovel the mud out, you know."

When Taylor left Four Locks in 1971, he was one of the last residents living there. "I was pretty near the last one out of there. I guess Clarence Baker was the last one out. His mother-in-law and father-in-law - Louis and Mary Meyers - had the furniture store in Hagerstown. They had that (John Hassett House) for a summer home for years." The Hassett home still stands today along the canal northwest of Lock 50.

"Donald Ankeney was also one of the last to leave Four Locks. He lived back in what they called the Neck - the two farms that were surrounded by the river."

It was at Four Locks School, also known as Cedar Grove School, where Taylor went to school for six years. He still has in his possession copies of the *Four Locks School News*, which was published by the students and edited by Bruce Mason. Appropriately, on the cover of the newspaper is a sketch of the C & O Canal, the catalyst for the birth and demise of the little town of Four Locks.

Snow At Four Locks School Guarantees Bounteous Feast

As an infant Hazel Hart Starliper moved with her family to Four Locks shortly before the C & O ceased operations in 1924.

The daughter of Rudolph and Virgie Hart recalls her father working for the C & O Canal when they moved to a home near Lockhouse 49. "Dad walked to check the canal. He would leave Four Locks and walk to Licking Creek - that was nine miles up and back. He did that every day."

After the canal closed, Hart went to work for Thomas Hassett who lived in a large two-story house at Four Locks, and the Hart family moved into a weatherboard house near the Hassett residence.

Mrs. Starliper attended Four Locks School for eight years whenever she could. "I like to go to school!" she stated emphatically. "I had to stay home so much because my mother was sick. That about killed me because I enjoyed going to school. I really did, and I would have loved to have went to high school!"

She fondly remembers her teacher - Donald Haugh. "When it snowed, he walked from Clear Spring three miles out to Four Locks and taught. There were only six kids that went. My Mother would fix our dinner, and my brother Albert would bring it up. She would fix for all six kids and for Mr. Haugh when it snowed.

"He'd eat butchering dinner every year with us. Mom and them would invite him to dinner, and he would go down there at dinner time" as the Hart home was near the school.

The Garrison Hollow Road resident fondly remembers Christmas at Four Locks School. "The Christmas plays we had - we couldn't stand up there and read off a paper. You memorized every word of it. One year at Christmas we had three different plays. It was a one-room school, and they had like a stage thing up in front. The blackboards went clear across the front and down along (one) side."

As far as recess, "You played whatever the boys played most of the time. We used to get on the chinning bar a lot, and it would tear the skin on your hands."

Mrs. Starliper added, "I done everything at home. I washed, and I ironed, and we washed on a washboard - scrubbed - had to cook. When I was eight years old, I was doing things that grown women done. I was the last girl at home. Mom was sick a lot. We cooked for the men that worked there when they harvested. I had to help do the milking.

"We baked our own bread - we baked twice a week. All 10 of us kids were born at home, and they (mothers) stayed in bed 10 days. They weren't allowed to get up and do nothing. It about killed me that my mother wouldn't let me mix the bread.

"You had a dish pan about this big around (approximately two feet), and you filled it with flour, and then you pulled it back - made a hole in the center of it, and then you made your yeast, and you poured that in the center - in the hole.

"Then you'd just take your hands and keep pulling the flour in, and when you got done, it was a wad of dough. Well, I wanted to do that, and Mom never let me do it. Katherine let me do that (while her mother was sick). Once I did it, I had it do.

"You'd make a pan of hot rolls - you got up early in the morning and make it, and you'd make a pan. Our pan, I'll never forget, made 24 rolls. You'd make a pan full of rolls for dinner, and the rest of it you made into loaves.

"We'd start to wash in the morning. We always washed on a Monday, and we would start early, and sometimes it would be 3 or 4 o'clock before we'd be done washing. In the dead of winter, you went out and hung them clothes up. Mom wouldn't let me do that - it froze my hands.

"You ironed with irons that you sit on top of the cook stove. We had six irons that you put on there 'cause you ironed until it cooled down. Then you had to sit it back and get another one."

She remembers the Snyder-Fernsner store that sat down the hill from their home. "We bought all of our groceries there until the Flood of 1936. He (Sam Fernsner) had anything you needed. It's the only place they had to go.

"He had molasses in a barrel. We used to buy molasses by the quart jar. He wasn't any bigger than me, and he was old. We'd go down there with two or three quart jars to get molasses. Well, in the winter time all he had was this one old stove in there. That stuff would be so cold. Well, he would turn, and then he'd grunt, and he'd turn. Us kids would stand back and instead of trying to help the old man, we'd stand back and make fun.

"He (Hassett) would give my Daddy four pigs in the early spring. My Daddy got \$35 a month, and we had nine children. My Daddy bought feed, and of course, you had to stretch it. You couldn't go out there and give them pigs all they wanted. We would feed 'em corn and fatten 'em. Most of the time they weighed around 400 pounds when we got ready to kill 'em. You didn't go to the store and buy beef. It was long years before us kids ever knowed what beef was."

She remember Hassett "as a nice man. She (Katherine [Hoge] Hassett) was a fantastic woman. She really was. She was pretty, too. Neat! She was tall. She always was neat and clean, and her hair was white as a drippin' snow."

Mrs. Starliper added that Hassett at one time served as a Washington County Commissioner. "I used to go over there and work for Mrs. Hassett besides what I did at home. When he was a County Commissioner, I can remember there was a Charles Wagaman - there was a Judge Wagaman and there was two lawyers. Well, he would have them there for a meal. That's when I'd go over there and help."

At the time she was working for the Hassetts, she regaled in the elegant charm of the old stone house, and ironically, years later she and her husband bought the estate from Mrs. Hassett and lived there - across the road from the five-room weatherboard house where she grew up.

Visits To Four Locks Filled With Wonderful Memories¹³⁸

By Frank Woodring

As 80-year-old Helen Jayne Sterling reminisces about her trips to Four Locks to visit her grandparents Samuel and Mary Elizabeth (Brewer) Fernsner, she reflected, "I just loved to go up and be with them."

The Hagerstown area resident's grandfather operated the general store at Lock 48 in partnership with Jake Snyder. "I remember going into the store." Mrs. Sterling stated. She recalls that the store had two doors: "One from the road and one that came in from the lock.

"On the right hand side were these Necco jars with candy in them. The white was peppermint, the pink was the wintergreen, and the brown, of course, was the chocolate, and I loved the chocolate.

"Then on the left hand side they had dry goods and needles and things like that. They had kerosene and coal out in another building."

As she pondered those early visits to Four Locks, Mrs. Sterling added, "I loved the plum pudding that my Grandmother made - it was like a cake. I can remember eating it, usually around Christmas."

Mrs. Sterling remembers her grandfather as "very interested in bookkeeping and reading and things like that. He was pretty well learned. He wasn't too sociable, so to speak. I don't know - Granddad seemed to be somewhat reserved. He was short - had a mustache."

As far as her grandmother, the daughter of Paul Richard and Irene E. Fernsner said, "She was a dear! She was just a very nice person. She was nice to everybody. I can remember Grandmother on Faschnut Day would always make German faschnuts. They were square, and they had two slits in them. They weren't a doughnut; they were a square - supposed to be the German faschnut. She would bake them and put them in a big roaster and put them in the cupboard."

The waters of the Potomac River offered additional motivation for the young lass to visit Four Locks. "I do remember my Grandfather would tie a rope around my waist and let me swim out into the Potomac. He'd be on the shore and wouldn't let me go out too far, of course."

In the winter it was ice skating on the river. "My Dad had skates. I had his skates for a long time. He would take me out on the river and proceed to teach me how to stay up and not fall down. He was a pretty good skater."

She recalls that her grandparents "did have a cow, chickens, and a horse, of course. I think they might have had some turkeys at one time. My Dad loved horses; he did until he died. He had a

¹³⁸ *Maryland Cracker Barrel*, newsmagazine, Boonsboro, MD, June/July 2003, pp. 24 - 28. The article text was transcribed in its entirety because many readers would not have access to the newsmagazine back issues.

horse up there. There was a little stable back behind the house, the chicken yard, and the raspberry patch alongside the house. I liked the raspberries. My grandmother had some red raspberries. I liked the red ones because they didn't have the seeds in them."

Mrs. Sterling remembers the Fernsner house, which was rebuilt in 1872 after the original structure burned, as "a big house. They had eight rooms. I can remember going upstairs (in the winter). It was warm downstairs, but when you went upstairs, it was cold! Then they had the feather tick beds, which you'd snuggle down into, but boy when you got out, it was cold!"

She recalled that her great-grandfather Lewis Fernsner "had two canal boats," one being the Warren Delano. In addition to being a boat owner, Lewis Fernsner worked as a carpenter at the drydock located at Lock 47.

As far as the community of Four Locks, Mrs. Sterling remembers it as "a small place - a lot of people kind of stayed to themselves. The store and everything kept going up until the 30's. After Granddad died, Dad ran the store for a little while - tried to keep it going.

"Of course, my Grandfather was killed by one of Tom Hassett's buck sheep - he was gored. Granddad died in '34."

Being the last of the Fernsner's, Mrs. Sterling still possesses a wealth of family relics relating to Four Locks, which itself stands today as a monument to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal era, which ended when the canal closed in 1924.