

The Hollingsworths of Cecil County Maryland

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Findings

Genealogy

A thorough genealogy of the Hollingsworth family in the United States was compiled under the title *Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr.* in 1925. Although a comprehensive work, this genealogy has little pertinent information to the Hollingsworths of Cecil County and, at times, makes incorrect citations. Therefore, all the subsequent material in this study is based on primary sources. The information from [Figure 2](#) in the Appendix was compiled from Federal Census Records from 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840; the *Register of St. Mary Anne's*, the official records of Saint Mary Anne's Episcopal Church in North East, Maryland, and inscriptions of tombstones bearing the surname Hollingsworth in the Elkton Cemetery, Howard Street, Elkton, Maryland. The individuals of utmost concern are Zebulon, Sr. and his sons Zebulon, Jr., Henry, and Jacob as they were residents of Cecil County. Unfortunately, the records for Saint Mary Anne's were unavailable from approximately 1760 to 1824. As a result, a complete genealogy based solely on primary documentation is unavailable. However, a fairly complete understanding of the Hollingsworths residing in Cecil County is discernible from census data, wills, and tombstone inscriptions.

According to the records of Saint Mary Anne's, Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. was born May 17, 1735. The inscription on his tombstone reads, "Died March 24, 1812. 78 years of age." Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. appears on the census for Cecil County in the years 1790, 1800, and 1810. In his will, dated March 27, 1812, Zebulon, Jr. mentions his wife, Mary Hollingsworth and his children Levi, Robert, William, John, and Margaret. Of those sons, only William remains as a resident of Cecil County, appearing on the Federal Census in 1810 and 1840. In 1820 and 1830 William either was not a resident of Cecil County or he was overlooked by the census taker. Even though Mary Hollingsworth's

will (the wife of Zebulon, Jr.) is largely illegible, enough pertinent information can be gleaned from it, including the Executors of her will, her sons Robert and William. Mary's will is dated April 27, 1814 and mentions her daughter Margaret Cooch who had married William Cooch; subsequently, Mary bequeathed to Margaret "two lots of land near Elk Landing known as lots n[umbers] fifteen and sixteen." After Mary's death, William is the only male heir of Zebulon, Jr.'s strain bearing the name Hollingsworth in Cecil County. Dated August 28, 1844, William's will names his brother Robert as his Executor and his wife, Mary E. Hollingsworth as his sole heiress. Mary E., whose will was not found, appears on the United States Census in 1850, 1860, and 1870. A local newspaper called *The Cecil Whig* dated Saturday, March 25, 1871 relates this account: "Sudden Death--Mrs. Mary E. Hollingsworth...relict of the late W[illia]m Hollingsworth, died with a sudden and violent attack, on Sunday evening last." The Probate Records office of the Cecil County Courthouse has a bond dated March 31, 1871 for Mary E. Hollingsworth and signed by her relations, one of whom is Mary Hollingsworth. According to the 1870 census, Mary Hollingsworth is the daughter of Mary E. Hollingsworth. In 1880, Mary resides with her brother-in-law John Jamar. The 1890 census for Cecil County was lost and no individuals bearing the name Hollingsworth reside in Cecil County in 1900. Consequently, the male heirs of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. residing in Cecil County effectively end with the death of his son William in 1844.

Colonel Henry Hollingsworth, brother to Zebulon, Jr., died September 29, 1803 at 66 years of age. The records of Saint Mary Anne's Parish affirm his birth on September 17, 1737. His name appears on the census in 1790 and 1800 and his will, dated October 7th 1803, mentions his wife Jane as well as his two children Mary and William. Jane's tombstone notes her death date as September 22, 1835 at the age of 75 years; unfortunately, a will does not exist for Jane Hollingsworth. As confirmation, she appears as a resident on the United States census in 1810, 1820, and 1830. Most importantly, Jane is the only Hollingsworth listed as a resident of Cecil County in the 1820 census. Of the names that appear on the 1810 Census (Stephen, Zebulon, William and Jane Hollingsworths), Jane is the only name that appears on the 1820 and 1830 census (the aforementioned names are no longer noted). Presumably, Colonel Henry's lineage in Cecil County concludes with Jane's death in 1835. One other tombstone inscription is worthy of note: "Sarah, wife of Henry Hollingsworth. She departed this life with her infant December 27, 1775. Aged 27 Years." Evidence suggests Jane was Colonel Henry's second wife, whether Sarah or Jane bore his children is unresolved.

Jacob Hollingsworth, brother to Zebulon, Jr. and Colonel Henry, is listed as a resident of Cecil County, Maryland by the United States Census in 1790 and 1800--his tombstone bears a death date of March 1, 1803 at 69 years of age. According to the *Register of St. Mary Anne's*, Jacob was born the 30th of July, 1742. Jacob's will, dated March 22nd 1803, does not mention his children and bequeaths a substantial amount of his property to nieces and nephews, indicating he survived any children he may have conceived. Ruth, the wife of Jacob, is made his Executor and receives the largest portion of his estate. From the Elkton Cemetery, Ruth's tombstone is dated April 13, 1817; Ruth does not appear on the U.S. Census for Cecil County nor does she leave a will.

The remaining offspring of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. residing in Cecil County were Steven, born February 21, 1749/50, and Samuel, born January 17, 1757. Absence of a tombstone for Steven in Elkton Cemetery prevents establishment of a death date. Although a tombstone for a Samuel Hollingsworth showed a death date 30th of May, 1853 at 62 years of age, data confirmed by the census, it is certainly not the Samuel in question. A Stephen is mentioned on the U.S. census in 1800 and 1810 but not 1820. If his death fell between 1810 and 1820 he would have been between fifty and sixty years old--a reasonable age for the time. Samuel, the youngest child of Zebulon, Sr., is mentioned in the will of Jacob Hollingsworth; perhaps Samuel emigrated to Delaware or another part of Maryland. Regardless, the Hollingsworths of concern are the proprietors of the plantation at Elk Landing, calling for an examination of Land Records.

Findings

Land Ownership

The land records available at the Cecil County Courthouse bearing the surname Hollingsworth were too numerous to photocopy and transcribe. As a result, the indexes were methodically searched from 1674 (the first year indexed) until 1871 (when individuals with the surname Hollingsworth no longer resided in Cecil County, save Mary Hollingsworth who lived with her brother-in-law). All deeds involving a purchase by a Hollingsworth family member were photocopied, especially those dating to the time of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. because, according to previous scholarship, he was original proprietor of Elk Landing. Additionally, any deeds made between a member of the Hollingsworth family and a private or public organization (St. Mary Anne's Parish for example) were also photocopied and transcribed. Finally, all indentures involving the manumission of slaves were photocopied and transcribed.

Based on the findings, the property at Elk Landing was purchased in a series of four deeds made by Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. from 1735 to 1752. Court copies of each of the deeds were available from the Cecil County Courthouse; transcriptions of each deed provided near complete information pertaining to purchase dates, purchase price, and amount of acreage. The first deed, dated the 20th of November, 1735 involved a purchase made from John Campbell of "a tract of land called Prices Venture which lies on the north side of Elk River and in a fork of the same river containing by estimation seventy five acres of land or thereabouts" for the price of 50 pounds, modern currency in the state of Maryland at the time. Importantly, this property bordered the Elk River, a navigable waterway at the northern edge of the Chesapeake Bay (see [Figure 1](#) in the Appendix). William Price acquired the land as early as 1623, thus it became known as *Price's Venture (or Price's Adventure)*; more importantly, the tract was the nucleus of the Hollingsworth plantation and the site of a stone house and a late eighteenth century mansion (*Archaeological Testing in Advance 1*). The deed between John Campbell and Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. makes no mention of a structure on the property. Additionally, Zebulon, Sr.'s occupation is simply noted as "Gentleman." In the deed for *Clements' Venture*, the second purchase by Zebulon, Sr. on April 19, 1742, his occupation is "Innholder." Based on the legal evidence, Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. must

have constructed the now dilapidated stone house between purchasing *Price's Venture* and *Clements' Venture* and operated an inn on the site. Unfortunately, no other evidence, personal business records or assessments, were found to support this hypothesis. All personal business records and assessments available were dated after Zebulon, Sr.'s death in 1763.

The purchase of *Clements' Venture* was made from Thomas and Rebecca Phillips, the couple acquired the property from Michael Clements, Rebecca's father. It was situated "at the head of Elk River in Cecil County" and included 100 acres of land. Whereas *Price's Adventure* was a 75 acre tract purchased for 50 pounds, *Clement's Venture* was a larger tract purchased for only 35 pounds. Likewise, Zebulon Hollingsworth Sr.'s next purchase, *Jacob's Chance*, was a thirty-five acre property bounded along the Elk River. While modern mapping of the property has yet to be undertaken, it seems Zebulon, Sr. purchased contiguous parcels of land close to the Elk River. The contract, made the "twenty sixth day of March in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty two between Thomas Jacobs of the County of Cecil in the Province of Maryland Yeo.[man] and Martha his Wife of the one part and Zebulon Hollingsworth of the same County and Province Innholder of the other Part," does not include a sum of money. The portion of the indenture pertaining to the sum due to Thomas Jacobs is as follows: "Now this indenture witnesses that they the said Thomas Jacobs and Martha his wife for and in consideration of the sum of ----- pounds of lawful money of the said Province to them in hand Paid by the said Zebulon Hollingsworth." As previously stated, the deeds consulted were official court copies, the original deed might provide the value of the sum were the documents available. Presumably, the sum was comparable to the preceding purchases.

The final deed made by Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. is dated May 5, 1753; contracted with Simon Johnson. Again, Zebulon, Sr. was noted as an "Innholder." For 105 pounds Zebulon, Sr. purchased a 50 acre tract known as *Friendship* situated on the north side of the Elk River. The deeds for *Jacob's Chance* and *Friendship* mention a marsh as a landmark for basing the boundaries of the tract, further indication that Zebulon Sr.'s purchases were contiguous. The indenture for pertaining to *Friendship* mentions "pastures, houses, gardens orchards, property, commodities [and] advantages" on the lot but does not specifically name their location nor give a value of the buildings. No other deeds at the Cecil County Courthouse record a land purchase made by Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. Based on these four deeds, Zebulon purchased a total of 260 acres of land in the present day Elkton area. Upon his death, Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. naturally divided his property among his heirs.

Findings

Inheritances

From the Probate Records at the Cecil County Courthouse, wills were available for Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. and his sons Colonel Henry, Jacob, and Zebulon, Jr., as well as the remaining Hollingsworths who resided in Cecil County. Based on Zebulon, Sr.'s will, and other wills left by subsequent generations, ownership of the Elk Landing tract is documented until the death of Mary E. Hollingsworth in 1871. In his last will and

testament, dated June 27, 1763, Zebulon, Sr. leaves to "my two sons Zebulon and Levi Hollingsworth...part of the tract of land cauld [sic] Prices Adventure and part of Successor" and to his son Henry he left the *Friendship* tract. Jacob Hollingsworth received "[Zebulon Sr.'s] now dwelling house the remaining part of my now dwelling plantation also the remaining part of the wood land below Dogwood from that is not already willed away out of the tract of land called Friendship." Zebulon Sr.'s will is revealing in that it places his home away from the Elk Landing property, which was jointly left to Levi and Zebulon, Jr. As earlier proposed, the dilapidated stone structure may have been the inn belonging to Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. As was customary for the time, he may have inhabited that structure. However, based on his last will and testament, upon his death Zebulon, Sr. resided in another dwelling, perhaps on the *Friendship* tract. Whatever the case, after Zebulon, Sr.'s death, both Levi Hollingsworth and Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. came into possession of the Elk Landing property.

Based on the Federal census, Levi Hollingsworth was not a resident of Cecil County, Maryland; a fact confirmed by an indenture dated April 4, 1767, found at the Cecil County Courthouse. In this indenture "Levi Hollingsworth of the city of Philadelphia, merchant" sold his inheritance to "Zebulon Hollingsworth of Cecil County in the province of Maryland, yeoman [farmer]." Zebulon, Jr. receives approximately 35 acres of land along Elk River for the sum of 550 pounds. Additionally, Zebulon, Jr. was required to pay seven pounds, ten shillings annually to his younger brother, David Hollingsworth. Consequently, Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. possessed the Elk Landing site after the death of his father. After acquiring the Elk Landing property, Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. most likely constructed the white mansion on the site. Early historians date the construction of the mansion around 1735. However, the indentures obtained at the Cecil County Courthouse, including the deed made between Levi Hollingsworth and Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr., do not refer to a large dwelling on the property. Moreover, archaeological testing dates the construction of the house in late eighteenth or early nineteenth century (*Archaeological Testing in Advance* 15). Therefore, the large white mansion was built by Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. and not his father, who initially purchased the land.

In the last will and testament of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr., effected the 27th of March, 1812, he bequeathed the majority of his real estate to his sons Robert and William upon the death of their mother; an instruction included in the final line of the will states, "Nothing herein combined is to deprive my wife of her dower." Likewise, the will ordained by Mary Hollingsworth, dated April 27, 1814 after her death, effects the last will and testament of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr., except in one point. While Robert and William inherit the property at Elk Landing, Mary Hollingsworth requests that her son "Levi [have] a more ample provision made for him than my other children to give unto those other children the whole of my personal estate herein before directed to be equally divided between the whole of them, to them their heirs and assigns share and share alike." Apparently an occurrence during Mary's life compelled her to show greater favor on Levi after her death.

Regardless, the executors of Mary's will are her sons Robert and William Hollingsworth; only William appears on the United States Census as a resident of Cecil County (1810

and 1840). William appears on the Cecil County Assessments in 1810; both William and Robert are assessed in 1815 and 1820. In 1820 William and Robert were both assessed for 314 acres of property, valued at \$3,708 in the second district. At the time, the second district encompassed the Elk Landing site (<http://cchistory.org/elecldist.html>). Robert's will was unavailable since he was not a resident of Cecil County; moreover, William's will seems hastily made. Dated August 28, 1844, the only point of interest concerning William Hollingsworth's will is the manumission of his slaves. Subsequently, Mary E. Hollingsworth inherited the remainder of William's property, unfortunately, her will was unavailable.

According to an 1860 assessment of Mary E. Hollingsworth's property, she possesses "5 acres of land[,] houses and lots at [Elk] Landing" at a value of \$300. This nominal quantity might have reflected a personal relationship with the local tax collector or his tendency to generalize the worth of property. Whatever the case, Mary E. Hollingsworth's house was worth more than \$300 in 1860. According to a *Cecil Whig* article dated February 19, 1848, a fire at Elk Landing had resulted in \$950 worth of damage; a sum assigned by her insurance company that was "much less than was expected." However, in 1850 Mary E. Hollingsworth's entire estate was assessed for \$570, of which, only \$200 constituted the house and lots at Elk Landing. However, her house had to be worth more than \$950 since the insurance company gave her that amount for repairs.

A separate assessment was made for the heirs of William Hollingsworth (Mary E.'s deceased husband), but no significant quantity of land is mentioned in 1850 or 1855. In 1845 his heirs were assessed for 411 acres of land at a value of \$11,178. This land is located in the third district of Cecil County--the Elkton area (<http://cchistory.org/elecldist.html>). The 1860 assessment places a value of \$18,450 on 671 acres of land, also in the third district. The tax collectors were inconsistent--Elk Landing was assessed as a part of the third district (the entries pertaining to William's heirs in 1845, for example) and a part of Elkton (those entries pertaining to Mary E. Hollingsworth) during the same year. Mary E. was not taxed twice, but the land was included as part of the third district, and the house and lots surrounding it as a part of Elkton. Therefore, when Mary E. Hollingsworth's assessment reflected a value of \$300, she was only responsible for paying a minimal amount of taxes to the town of Elkton. Regardless, in 1860, Mary E. Hollingsworth's taxable income was \$15,242, revealing that her assets extended well beyond property ownership. With her death in 1871, the Elk Landing property most assuredly fell under ownership of relations who bore surnames other than Hollingsworth. Figure 3 is a transcription of more information pertaining to the Cecil County Assessments of Elk Landing.

Findings

Business

In 1807, Joseph Scott compiled his *Geographical Description of the States of Maryland and Delaware*--a comprehensive study of the geographic, agricultural, environmental, and economic characteristics of each county in Maryland and Delaware at the time.

Concerning Cecil County, Scott writes, "There are in the county 53 grist, and merchant mills, 50 saw mills, three fulling mills, and two oil mills; besides the fulling mill belonging to the woolen factory" (114). George Johnston devotes a significant portion of his 1881 work describing the history of Cecil County mills. Indeed, the milling industry was an important economic facet for the time: the Hollingsworths owned mills at least as early as 1721, around the time the first Henry Hollingsworth migrated to Cecil County. In an indenture dated June 16th of that year, Henry and Lydia Hollingsworth conveyed onto their son Stephen Hollingsworth half of their mill located on the west branch of the Elk River, referred to as the *Hollingsworth Mill*. The Stephen Hollingsworth mentioned must have been brother to Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr.; in fact, Zebulon Hollingsworth signed the indenture as a witness. No other deeds concerning mills owned by Hollingsworths were discovered at the Cecil County Courthouse, however, others may be available at this location. Also, the will of Colonel Henry Hollingsworth refers to his association with a manufacturing company. The terms of their relationship were not specified but may refer to the Cecil Manufacturing Company.

In 1967, John W. McGrain, member of the Historical Society of Cecil County, wrote a comprehensive history of the mills of Cecil County with a synopsis addressing each mill separately. While some of McGrain's work is based on unreliable resources, he religiously made citations, much of which was primary research. Of these, two are associated with the Hollingsworths. The first mentioned, bearing the name *Hollingsworths Mill*, founded by William Hollingsworth (son of Zebulon, Jr.) was referenced with an act of the General Assembly of Maryland in 1813. The second mill, called *Hollingsworth Mill* (a subtle difference), was owned by Stephen Hollingsworth (the aforementioned son of the elder Henry Hollingsworth) and was eventually owned by a Levi Hollingsworth, presumably of Philadelphia since the reference is the Philadelphia newspaper *Aurora*, dated April 19, 1813. Therefore, this Levi Hollingsworth was the brother of Zebulon, Jr.

Scott claims the woolen and cotton manufactory, at the time located four miles outside of Elkton, was "established in 1794, by a company of gentlemen, who, induced by patriotic motives, entered into co-partnership, for the purpose of manufacturing supersme[?], and other woolen and cotton cloths" (114). Scott's assertion is affirmed by a reminiscent article in the September 8th, 1849 edition of *The Cecil Democrat*. Reportedly, the first cotton mill "in this section of the country" was built by William Cooch and Levi Hollingsworth, of Baltimore, along the Elk River. *The Cecil Democrat* cites the *Wilmington Republican* as their source and further claims the mill began operation in 1775. Therefore, Scott's claim that two patriotic gentlemen founded the mill is substantiated. A search of the records at the Elk Landing property produced a ledger dated from March 11, 1803 until July 3, 1810 bearing the names of Mrs. Cooch and Levi Hollingsworth. Most of the entries concern cash payments made by Mrs. Cooch and Levi Hollingsworth; April 11, 1803 is a typical entry, "To Cash sent [by] mail to Fountain Murray N. York [\$]250." While the Hollingsworths owned extensive interests in Cecil County mills, no mills were constructed at the Elk Landing property. At this premises, maritime activity was essential.

Prior to the completion of the C&D Canal in 1829, Elk Landing offered a convenient connection between the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River (Blumgart 81). An examination of newspaper records produced an advertisement commissioned by Zebulon Hollingsworth in the April 2, 1767 edition of *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. The advertisement was as follows:

The subscribers, having erected Stages for the transportation of passengers and goods from Philadelphia to Baltimore Town, take this method of acquainting the public, that they have two shallops which ply from Hollingsworth and Rudolphstore, in Philadelphia, the south side of Mr. John Stamperwharff, below the drawbridge, every Wednesday and Saturday, for Christiana Bridge, where goods, &c. will be received by George Adams, and James Partridge, who have for good and convenient stores for the purpose. From thence Tobias Rudolph and Zebulon Hollingsworth waggons [sic] immediately carry them to the Head of Elk, where they have good stores for their reception. From thence Issac Greiststage vessel sets out for Baltimore town every Saturday; and as the cartage is as short a distance, if not shorter, than any now made use of from Delaware to Chesapeak Bay, we flatter ourselves we shall be able to give quick dispatch, and general satisfaction, to all gentlemen that will please to favour us with their custom. HOLLINGSWORTH and RUDOLPH, in Philadelphia; GEORGE ADAMS, and JAMES PARTRIDGE at Christiana Bridge; TOBIAS RUDOLPH, and ZEBULON HOLLINGSWORTH at the Head of Elk, ISAAC GRIEST, in Baltimore Town.

N.B. There are good houses of entertainment at Christian Bridge, and the Head of Elk.

At the time, the most logical route from Philadelphia to Baltimore, indeed from New York to Baltimore as well, would have passed through Elk Landing (see Table 1). The Hollingsworth residing in Philadelphia was likely Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr.'s brother Levi Hollingsworth. Based on a separate newspaper advertisement found in *The Pennsylvania Mercury and Universal Advertiser* on July 19, 1788, Levi Hollingsworth was a resident of Philadelphia offering Russian sail-cloth, blubber, beef, salmon, grindstones, and a number of other sundry products for sale. Levi's business partner of 1767, Rudolph, is not mentioned in the advertisement.

The citation from *The Pennsylvania Gazette* clearly defines the nature of the business conducted at Elk Landing. Being a favorable route between Philadelphia and Baltimore, the business surely was busily engaged throughout much of the year. A search of the documents at the Elk Landing property produced ledgers signed by Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. dating around the early nineteenth century. While documents from the eighteenth century were unavailable, presumably business transactions remained consistent. Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. employed the services of several different schooners--*Nancy* and *Two Sisters* seem to be the most frequent names. The inventory taken after the death of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. made note of ownership of half of the

schooner *Two Sisters*. The freight transported on these ships was divided in two categories: up freight and down freight. Assumedly, up freight was carried from Baltimore to Philadelphia and down freight was carried from Philadelphia to Baltimore. As previously established, Levi Hollingsworth (brother to Zebulon, Jr.) was a resident of Philadelphia. Based on another newspaper advertisement, dated January 4, 1811, in the *American & Commercial Daily Advertiser*, a Baltimore newspaper, Thomas and Stephen Hollingsworth (brothers to Zebulon, Jr. and Levi Hollingsworth) were residing within Baltimore. The ledger containing a list of the freight for the *Two Sisters* schooner in the same year has records of shipments to Levi Hollingsworth in the down freight portion and references to Stephen Hollingsworth in the up freight portion. For instance, a down freight entry marked the 6th of February, 1811 reads, "Levi Hollingsworth hoops & rods Ton 13..6..3..19" and is initialed ZH (Zebulon Hollingsworth). Zebulon, Jr. had received the merchandise from Levi in Philadelphia. Apparently, Levi Hollingsworth had shipped iron hoops and rods for the construction of barrels down the Delaware River to Elk Landing and then on to Baltimore. Similarly, an up freight entry in 1811 on the 1st of March states, "Stephen Hollingsworth 4 tons of plaster. . . 1..10," this entry is marked with the initials LH (Levi Hollingsworth) indicating the plaster had been received by him in Philadelphia.

During the time of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr., the Elk Landing site was surely consumed with mercantilism. Among the articles mentioned in the ledger are nails, hoops, steel, wood, and oats. Some of the articles shipped by Zebulon Hollingsworth might have been produced locally: "In Cecil County are mines of iron ore, which is manufactured into pigs, hollow ware, bar iron, and nails" (Scott 113). Scott also makes note of the variety of trees available for lumbering in Cecil County. Likewise, cereal crops, such as wheat, were an agricultural staple (Brugger 64). Transportation of these materials must have been a taxing process, since the items were removed from a boat on the Delaware River, taken overland to Elk Landing, and loaded onto another boat (see Figure 1, Appendix). The *Cecil Whig* published an account of the daily life at Elk Landing on Saturday, July 19, 1851, an excerpt follows:

...the several fine dwellings and warehouses give it [Elk Landing] quite a village-like appearance, while the fertile and well cultivated fields and lots which crowd in around it, still make it "in the country." Such is a tame picture of Elk Landing in these quiet day; once, before the digging of the canal or the building of the rail roads, it was a busy bustling place. Hundreds of heavy teams were there daily to transport merchandize [sic] across to the Delaware, and all was stir and activity.

Based on the ledgers found at the site, the freight transported through Elk Landing was numerous and diversified. Whatever the cargo, newspaper advertisements and original ledgers kept by Zebulon and Levi Hollingsworth substantiate that a significant amount of merchandise funneled through Elk Landing during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Findings

Slaves and Indentured Servants

From the findings of Scott, in 1800 Cecil County, Maryland was home to 9,018 persons, 2,103 of which were slaves. Among the slave owners in Cecil County were the Hollingsworths: the number of slaves they owned was gleaned from federal census data and inventories taken after a person's decease (see [Figure 4](#) in the Appendix). For example, federal census data from 1810, two years before the death of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr., indicated he owned 14 slaves. However, his inventory lists ownership of five slaves.

Upon his death, Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. left his slaves Jen and Pegg to his wife, Mary Hollingsworth. While his will makes no other mention of slaves, he ordains that his "movable estate be equally divided amongst [his] children" which would have included the remainder of his slaves. After his death, Colonel Henry Hollingsworth: "bequeath[ed] unto [his] dear daughter Mary Hollingsworth her choice of [his] negro girls Rachel or Phillis" and the remainder of his slaves were divided amongst his children as was the personal property of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. Jacob Hollingsworth, in his will, left a slave named Rachel to his niece Ruth Tobin; his wife, Ruth Hollingsworth was given "two of the Negroes of her own choice"; he bequeathed the remainder of his estate to Ruth Hollingsworth and his brother Stephen Hollingsworth. In the last will and testament of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. two slaves, Jacob and Maria, were left to Mary Hollingsworth and the remainder of his property divided amongst his children. Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr.'s son, William Hollingsworth, manumitted his slaves upon his death.

During the perusal of land records, all manumissions were photocopied and transcribed; while other examples of manumission may exist, four were found. The first two, dated September 6, 1803 and February 8, 1806 respectively, freed two of Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr.'s adolescent slaves, Dick and Jane, when they reached the ages of 25 and 28. Each of them was required to complete a period of servitude prior to their freedom. On the 1st of July, 1813 Jane Hollingsworth, wife of Colonel Henry Hollingsworth, manumitted her servant named Joseph Clarkson. At the time, Clarkson was under 45 year of age and "of a healthy constitution, and sound in mind and body"; other details about the man were undisclosed by the indenture. The final indenture involves the manumission of Rachel Clark and her children by Ann B. Hollingsworth (genealogical relationship unknown) on August 1, 1828. Rachel Clark was the wife of Jacob Clark, who paid one dollar for her manumission; her children were Jacob, Doreas, and Margaret.

The previous evidence highlighted the arbitrary fate of enslaved individuals; they were freed, sold, or transferred according to the whims of their owners. Perhaps in an effort to regain autonomy, some slaves chose to flee captivity. Resultantly, their owners advertised in local papers in an effort to retrieve them. One such advertisement, dated October 19, 1774 in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* offered eight dollars as a reward for the young man's capture and return. Additionally, three advertisements from *The Pennsylvania Gazette* were secured asking for the return of indentured servants. Colonel Henry Hollingsworth advertised on June 13, 1765 and August 7, 1766 for two separate individuals. On the 6th

of February, 1766 Jesse Hollingsworth advertised to reclaim his "Servant Man"; all three men ran from the Head of Elk. An example is as follows: "Made his escape last night from Way Tavern...an Irish Servant Man, named Charles Farran, a thick well set fellow, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high...a great snuffer, and very quarrelsome." Evidently, the Hollingsworths employed indentured servants from the British Isles to supplement their work force. As confirmation, the Federal Census included a category "all other free persons." For example, in 1800, Zebulon Hollingsworth had 2 "other free persons" residing with him besides his family, possibly indentured servants.

Findings

Military Service

Several sources, the vestry minutes of St. Mary Anne's, land records, and his personal will, indicate that Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. was a Captain, presumably of the local militia. The Colonial Wars took place during his lifetime, however, no records exist confirming or denying his participation.

Colonel Henry Hollingsworth's service as a quartermaster during the Revolutionary War was well-documented by the Library of Congress on its website under a section entitled the *Washington Papers* (<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin>). One letter, written by General George Washington to Colonel Henry Hollingsworth from Valley Forge on the 16th of February, 1778 reads:

Sir: I am under the painful necessity of informing you, that the situation of the Army is most critical and alarming for want of Provision, especially of the Meat kind. The troops have not had supplies of the latter for four days and many of them have been much longer without. I have sent Captn. ("Lighthorse Harry") Lee to forward from the Head of Elk...all the provisions...as expeditiously as possible, and I must entreat you, Sir, to give all the assistance, in your power, to promote this very important and interesting work...

Washington's correspondence, one example of many, testified to Henry Hollingsworth's importance as a quartermaster during the Revolutionary War and the crucial location of Elk Landing to the Revolutionary War effort. Another letter penned by Washington thanks Colonel Hollingsworth for "a piece of cloth of your own manufacture," possibly produced at the Cecil Manufacturing Company, in which Henry Hollingsworth had an interest. Later in the same letter, dated April 4, 1798, Washington writes, "it has always been my opinion that the United States will be independent in name only until essential arts and manufacturies are so established in them."

In spite of his conspicuous service and his continued correspondence with General Washington, Colonel Henry was charged with wrongdoing in his position as quartermaster. In an advertisement in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* dated July 28, 1779, Colonel Henry makes the following public statement:

Whereas various reports have been raised and propagated to prejudice my character as Deputy Quarter Master, and Deputy Forage Master General to the Eastern shore of the State of Maryland, by some person or persons unknown; let this serve to inform such persons, that if they will declare their allegations to the Quarter Master General, Forage Master General, or any Public Body, properly authorised [sic] to take notice of the same, that though their charges should prove groundless (which I trust will be the case) I will thank and freely forgive them, as they have been imposed on, or have intended if for a public good.

The charges purportedly were brought before the Continental Congress; however, a search of the *Continental Congress Papers* on the Library of Congress website (<http://www.loc.gov>) proved fruitless. The outcome of the allegations seems not to have affected Colonel Hollingsworth's public life since he was elected as a member to the Maryland House of Representatives in 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794 and the Maryland State Senate in 1801, 1802, 1803. Nonetheless, no evidence of a hearing, trial, or punishment surfaced; therefore, no statement as to an outcome is permissible.

Findings

St. Mary Anne's Parish

Several generations of Hollingsworths were vestryman of St. Mary Anne's Parish, located in North East, Maryland. See the Appendix, [Figure 5](#) for an interpretation of St. Mary Anne's records.

Findings

Maryland Politics

A number of Hollingsworths of Cecil County were politically active in Maryland government during their lifetimes. Refer to [Figure 6](#) for findings obtained at the Maryland State Archives.

Findings

Head of Elk School

In an indenture dated 12th of May, 1787 Colonel Henry Hollingsworth donated a small portion of his estate, "in consideration of promoting and encouraging a good school and place of divine worship," to the Head of Elk School, later renamed the Elkton Academy. Among the trustees of the academy was Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr.--evidence indicating both men influenced the development of education in Cecil County. According to *The Cecil Whig* the building constructed on the site donated by Henry Hollingsworth served as a hospital during the War of 1812 and, for more than 100 years, educated pupils (August 31, 1966).

Discussion

The findings obtained from research of the Hollingsworths of Cecil County, Maryland indicate the breadth of their affluence, stature, and wealth in early America. Of the Hollingsworths studied, Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. is of paramount importance to a study of the Elk Landing site. Additionally, his brother Jacob Hollingsworth and Colonel Henry Hollingsworth were instrumental in the growth of Cecil County. From the findings, information pertaining to the wealth of the Hollingsworth family, specifically these three brothers, was readily available. More importantly, the significance of their wealth was ascertained using a standard compiled by economic historians.

Calculators, provided online by Economic History Services, were used for determining the "purchasing power" of various values from certain time periods. Given a value and a date the approximate equivalent of that value was computed using 2001 standards of money. "Purchasing power" refers not to a direct equivalent but a rough estimate that accounts for inflation. For instance, the inventory of Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr.'s personal property in 1812 reflected a value of \$5,162.02. Using the online calculator provided by the Economic History Services (EHS) website, a conglomeration of academics concerned with economic history, \$5,162.02 in 1812 would have the same "purchasing power" as \$68,565.50 in 2001 (<http://www.eh.net/ehresources/howmuch/testdollarr.php>).

Likewise, Jacob Hollingsworth's inventory, taken in 1803, valued his property at \$4,331.52; currently this value would have the "purchasing power" of \$67,687.33 (<http://www.eh.net/ehresources/howmuch/testdollarr.php>). Finally, Colonel Henry Hollingsworth's 1804 inventory of \$9,328.01 would have a "purchasing power" of \$138,259.83 (<http://www.eh.net/ehresources/howmuch/testdollarr.php>). While these inventories suggest a reasonable figure for the amount of personal property each man owned, they do not suggest the extent of their assets, real estate, or value of their dwellings. Additionally, the inventories do not offer a method of comparison between the three brothers since some inventories were recorded nearly one year after the death of the named individual. Even though Colonel Henry's property seems more extensive, his inventory is complete and lengthy. Jacob and Zebulon Jr.'s inventories, on the other hand, are shorter and are almost an afterthought; as though the clerk of the court was in a hurry as he wrote them. Nevertheless, these inventories were the most reliable source for analysis of the Hollingsworths' income, since tax records varied and the wills left by each individual do not itemize their personal property. Based on the inventories of the Hollingsworth brothers, they each had upwards of \$60,000 in personal property upon their deaths. Colonel Henry, whose inventory is extremely detailed, may have had upwards of \$130,000. These values suggest a value of a portion of the Hollingsworths' wealth. The evidence in this study confirms the Hollingsworths of Cecil County were important entrepreneurs, military leaders, politicians, and philanthropists during early American history.

Suggestions for Further Research

Pertaining to the Hollingsworths of Cecil County, many venues remain for continued research. For example, it is necessary to determine whether any Hollingsworths owned mills in Cecil County. Likewise, an economic study of the Hollingsworth ledgers found at the Elk Landing site, the Cecil County Assessments, and Probate Records is necessary to ascertain the extent of the Hollingsworths' wealth. Furthermore, the Register of St. Mary Anne's for the years from 1800 to 1824 must be searched, if these records exist. Colonel Henry Hollingsworth's service in the Revolutionary War and entrepreneurial activities deserve a separate study. Such a study necessitates a comprehensive review of the records available at the Maryland Archives, which are numerous. Finally, no evidence pertaining to Elk Landing during the War of 1812 was recovered, although some documents may exist. This study intended to provide a comprehensive survey of the Hollingsworths who resided in Cecil County, Maryland.

Research Methods

Material for the study was obtained during a period of seven weeks involving the comprehensive review of primary documents. Initially, a literature review of Cecil County history and Hollingsworth genealogy was undertaken using the resources at the Historical Society of Cecil County (HSCC) located at 135 E. Main Street, Elkton, Maryland. Afterwards, photocopies of federal census records were made using the resources at the HSCC. Each year, beginning with the first census in 1790, was methodically searched until Hollingsworths no longer appeared on the census. The public records at the Cecil County Courthouse, located on E. Main Street, Elkton, Maryland provided a plethora of primary sources. All wills, inventories, and some bonds pertaining to deceased Hollingsworths indexed by the Register of Wills office were photocopied from microfilm files. (Bonds were only copied when wills were unavailable.) Additionally, the land records found at the Courthouse were searched; since these records were too numerous to reproduce, only deeds pertaining to a land purchase or transaction with a public or private corporation (i.e. a railroad company or a church) made by a member of the Hollingsworth family were photocopied. Additionally, land transactions between Hollingsworth family members were examined and only photocopied and transcribed if the indenture pertained to the sale of inherited property.

Afterwards, assessments of the property owned by Hollingsworths were transcribed from the Cecil County Assessments, housed at the HSCC. Assessments from every year are unavailable; therefore, records from every five years were copied starting with the first available year and making exceptions for those years unavailable. The dates obtained were: 1786, 1790, 1795, 1800, 1805, 1810, 1815, 1820, 1833, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, 1860. Next, Church records were copied because prior evidence showed an association between the Hollingsworths and St. Mary Anne's Church located in North East, Maryland. Consequently, the vestry minutes of St. Mary Anne's were examined and transcribed. Afterwards, an online newspaper search using the resources of the Goucher College Julia Rogers Library, the University of Delaware Library, and the Library of Congress Website produced a number of transcribed copies of relevant newspaper articles and advertisements. Likewise, the *Washington Papers*, archived online by the Library of Congress, yielded transcriptions of correspondence between members of the

Hollingsworth family and General George Washington circa the Revolutionary War. Also, local newspapers, microfilmed copies of which are housed at the HSCC and the Cecil County Public Library, were searched for obituaries and marriage announcements.

The Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, Maryland was searched for relevant material regarding the Hollingsworths of Cecil County. This research was necessary to find wills unavailable at the Register of Wills Office in the Cecil County Courthouse. Also, a number of primary records were discovered by volunteers working at the Elk Landing site. All the material found dated prior to 1900 was searched; these included approximately 200 deeds, newspapers, wills, letters, etc. Finally, all photocopied primary documents--deeds, wills, church records, etc. --were transcribed and interpreted as necessary.

Literature Review

Maryland was chartered by King James I of England to Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, on June 20, 1632 (Johnston 13). In 1674, Charles Lord Baltimore, the heir of Cecil Calvert, attempted to create a buffer between colonized portions of Maryland and Pennsylvania, where William Penn was establishing settlements. As a result, Cecil County was chartered, ensuing the infamous border dispute between William Penn and Lord Baltimore (Blumgart 31). The boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland was not firmly established until the 1760s when Jeremiah Dixon and Charles Mason conducted surveys to settle the discrepancy (34). Meanwhile, colonists inhabited the contested region at the origin of the Chesapeake Bay.

Among these colonists, Valentine Hollingsworth, Senior, a Quaker, immigrated in 1682 from Ireland to present day New Castle County, Delaware (*Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr.* 1). According to the genealogy compiled and published by his descendants, Valentine founded the Hollingsworth family in America. Moreover, family tradition asserts that Henry Hollingsworth, Valentine's eldest son, was a successful surveyor who assisted in planning Philadelphia. While he spent the majority of his life in Pennsylvania, Henry retired to Cecil County, Maryland before his death in March, 1721 (2-A). Thus, Henry established the Hollingsworth family in Cecil County. Henry Hollingsworth's son, Zebulon, and his direct descendants are the primary concern of this study. Resultantly, genealogical information pertaining to the Hollingsworths of Cecil County, Maryland was compiled from primary resources.

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Appendix

Figure 1

The map on the next page was taken from:
Papenfuse, Edward C. and Joseph M. Coale III. The Hammond-Harwood House Atlas of

Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908. Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, 1982. (50-1).

Papenfuse and Coale acknowledge:

Griffith, Dennis. Map of the State of Maryland, 1794. Maryland State Law Library, MdHR G 1213-356

The two points marked on the diagram show the location Elk Landing in Cecil County, Maryland and the site of Christiana Bridge in New Castle County, Delaware.

The Hollingsworths of Elk Landing

Figure 2

Name	Married	Issue	Resided in Cecil County
(Captain) Zebulon Hollingsworth, Senior. 1696 to August 8, 1763	Married Ann Mauldin April 18, 1727. She was buried November 13, 1740.		Yes
		Elizabeth, born February 6, 1727/8.	Unknown
		Steven, born May 13, 1730. Buried November 8, 1740.	Yes
		Jesse, born March 12, 1732/3.	No
		Zebulon, Junior, born May 17, 1735. Died March 24, 1812.	Yes
		(Colonel) Henry, born September 17, 1737. Died September 29, 1803.	Yes
		Levi, born November 8, 1740.	No
	Married Mary Jacob July 1 (or 21), 1741. She died August 4, 1807.		Yes
		Jacob, born July 30, 1742. Died March 1, 1803.	Yes
		Thomas, born August 2, 1747.	No
		Steven, born February 21, 1749/50.	Yes
		John, born May 12, 1752.	No
		David, born August 12, 1754.	No
		Samuel, born January 17, 1757.	Unknown

Compiled from Federal Census Records from 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840; the *Register of St. Mary Anne's*, the official records of Saint Mary Anne's Episcopal Church in North East, Maryland, and inscriptions of tombstones bearing the surname Hollingsworth in the Elkton Cemetery, Howard Street, Elkton, Maryland.

Slaves Hollingsworths Owned

Figure 4

Date of Inventory	Name of slave owner	Names and ages of slaves	Their value
September 1, 1763	(Captain) Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr.	Jen 24 Pegg 9 Janet 36 Ned 10 Terry 12 Will 15 Cisso[?] 30 (unfirm)	Approx. 301 pounds
April 4, 1803	Jacob Hollingsworth	Jeremy 50 Will 48 Bob 30 Caleb 25 Bill [?] 23 Isaac 14 Ben 10 Jim 2 Rachel 14 Dinah 16 Rachel 6	\$1110
October 7, 1803	(Colonel) Henry Hollingsworth	Frank 70 [?] 60 Will 55 Jane 45 Tom 30 Sam 21 Cyrus 19 Ned 19 Cook 14 Sam 10 Hannah 35 Nelly 21 Clara 15 Rachel 14	\$1870.50

		Phillis 12	
June 5, 1812	Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr.	Pat Jack Hannah Sam Dick	\$910

The preceding chart was based on the inventories taken by Cecil County officials after the death of the named individual.

The Vestry Proceedings of St. Mary Anne's Parish (circa 1740 to 1790)

Figure 5

Inscription on the Cornerstone of St. Mary Anne's Church contains the initials of the following individuals:

Reverend W. Wye
Henry Baker
Nicholas Hyland
Edward Johnson
Zebulon Hollingsworth
Thomas Ricketts
John Currer

The following names and dates were taken from the abovementioned proceedings.

Vestryman -- Captain Zebulon Hollingsworth [Senior]. Served from March 1, 1742/3 to March 27, 1749.

Church Warden -- Henry Hollingsworth. Served from June 5, 1764 to April 8, 1765.

Vestryman -- Zebulon Hollingsworth, Junior. Served from September 4, 1770 to November 12, 1771.

Vestryman -- Colonel Henry Hollingsworth [same as previously mentioned]. Served from November 13, 1780 to June 5, 1786.

Vestryman -- Zebulon Hollingsworth, Junior. Served from September 4, 1786 to November 18, 1799.

[Vestry records from 1800 until 1824 are missing.]

Vestryman -- Henry Hollingsworth [the son of the abovementioned Colonel Henry]. Served from March 27, 1826 to [?]1839

[After 1839 the Vestry Proceedings show no record of a Hollingsworth serving as a church official.]

Hollingsworths in the Maryland General Assembly

Figure 6

Colonel Henry, 1737-1803

House CE 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794
House, Special Session, CE, 1792
Senate, ES, 1801, 1802, 1803

Levi

House, CE, 1795, 1796

Levi, Jr.

House, CE, 1797

Levi

House, CE, 1798
Senate, WS, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815
Senate, Special Session, WS, 1812, 1813

William

Senate, ES, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815
Senate, Special Session, ES, 1812, 1813

Zebulon, Jr.

U.S. Attorney, 1792

The underlined names are those relevant to a study of Elk Landing. Found at the Archives of Maryland, Annapolis, Maryland; taken from:

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Cecil County Election Districts.

by Michael L. Dixon

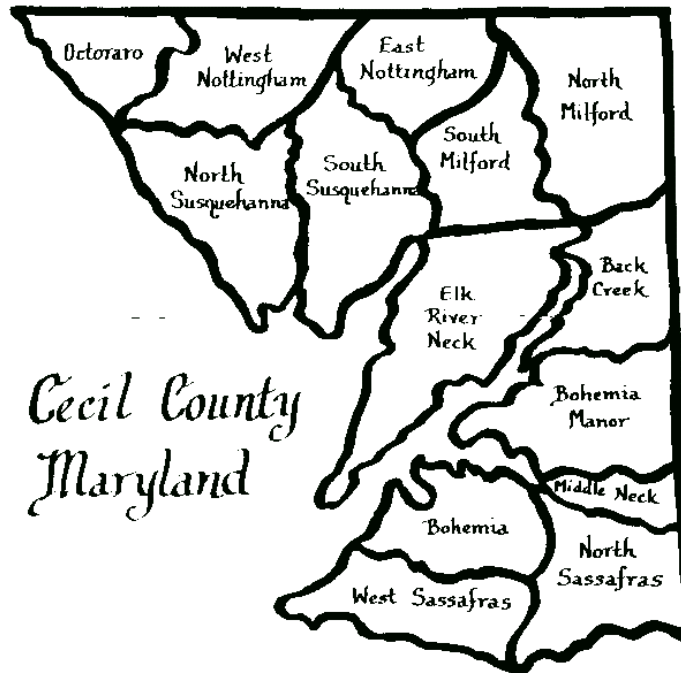
The Society often receives questions on how to locate an election district (ED) or hundred, Cecil's minor political subdivisions. For example, someone recently inquired by e-mail: "Where was the 4th election district in 1820?" You might think Fair Hill, but that is not the case! The County then only had four election districts (EDs) so it was western Cecil along the Susquehanna River. Another question: "Where was South Milford Hundred?" Answer: Land between Elkton and North East.

In this article, we will offer guidance on locating and using the minor political subdivisions in your research. The political ideas which early colonists brought to Maryland were those they were familiar with in England, and government by counties was the system existing there. In England the county was subdivided into units called hundreds so Maryland counties were also subdivided into hundreds. The name arose from the fact that in early times in England the hundred was an area which was expected to furnish 100 men for military service.

As for the development of hundreds in Cecil, Johnston's *History of Cecil County* (1881) says the County was first divided into five hundreds — South Sassafras, North Sassafras, Worten Creek, Bohemia and Elk. In the

time, when more of the land was taken up and the population had increased

Map of Hundreds



it became necessary to subdivide these hundreds for the convenience of inhabitants.

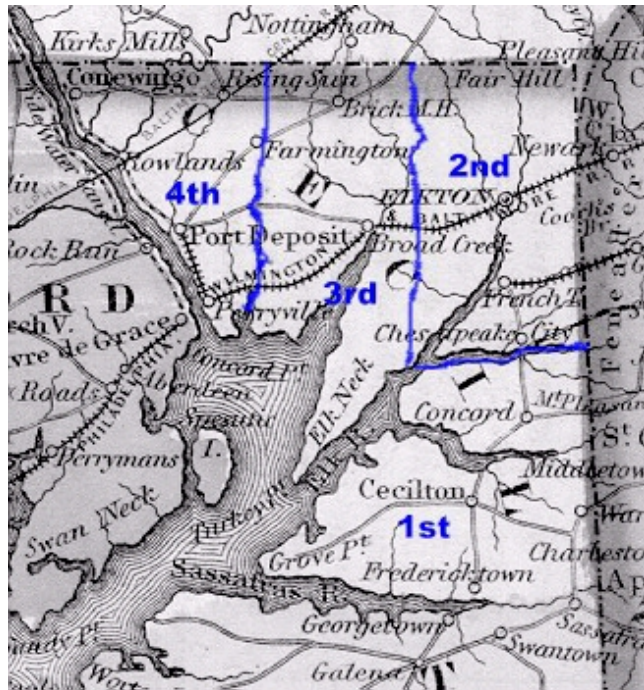
Johnston further states that in 1770 there were thirteen hundreds in the county. These were North Sassafras, West Sassafras, Bohemia, Middle Neck, Bohemia Manor, Back Creek, North Milford, South Milford, North Susquehanna, South Susquehanna, Elk, Charlestown, and Octorara.

Perhaps the best official list of hundreds as they existed in the last decade of the eighteenth century is found in the report of the first census taken in 1790. In this census, the inhabitants were listed in fifteen hundreds -- all the old names were retained except Elk. Three new names were added, so that the fifteen hundreds were now: East Nottingham, West Nottingham, Back Creek, Bohemia, Bohemia Manor, Charlestown, East Nottingham, Middle Neck, North Milford, North Sassafras, North Susquehanna, Octoraro, South Milford, South Susquehanna, and West Sassafras (*Decennial Census, 1790*).

But, with the counting of the first federal census the days of the hundred as a political unit in the County were numbered. During this period, in order to vote, one had to go to the county seat. With Maryland's interior developing, it was becoming impossible for voters throughout the state to meet in one place in each county on days of election. So in 1798 the General Assembly enacted a law requiring the division of the then nineteen counties of Maryland into EDs in place of hundreds. The act noted the

inconvenience of holding elections in only once place in a county, depriving many of their right of suffrage and declared that: "for the purpose of holding all future elections for delegates, electors of the senate and sheriffs . . . the counties shall be divided into separate districts." (*Laws of Maryland, 1798*) Cecil County was divided into four districts in 1800.

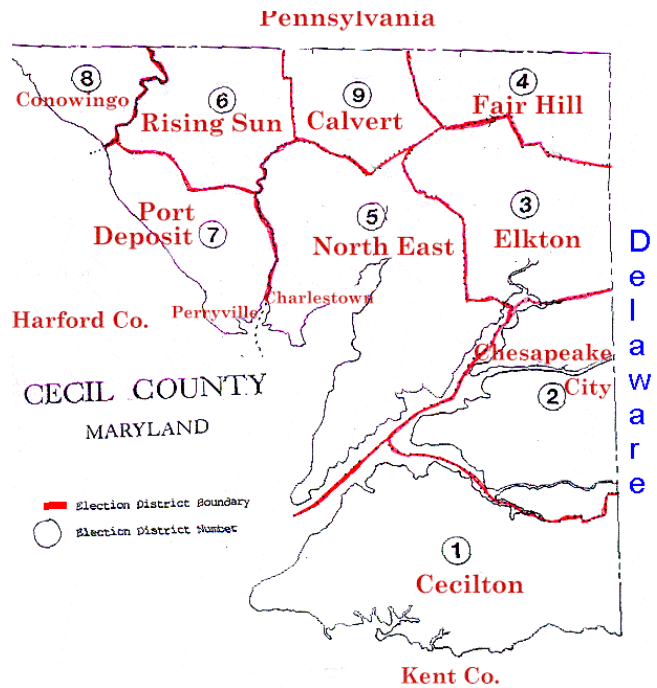
EDs did not have any particular powers or functions of government except to serve as local polling places and localities for tabulation of votes. The first district was the southern part of Cecil County, south of Back Creek. The second district included that part of the county north of Back Creek and east of a line between North East and Elkton (see map). Western Cecil County along the Susquehanna River made up the fourth district and the third district was the central part of the County (*History of Cecil County, 1881*) Cecil got along nicely with four election districts during the early part of the nineteenth century, but by the 1830s a demand arose for more districts. Accordingly, in 1835, the legislature appointed a commission of seven citizens to divide the county into seven districts. The commissioners were Joseph Bryan, Henry C. Chamberlain, George Kidd, Patrick Ewing, William Mackey, Thomas S. Thomas and Edward Wilson. In 1836 the commissioners first met and, since Patrick Ewing did not wish to serve, the remaining commissioners appointed Thomas Richards in his place.



An approximation of the election districts created by an act of the Legislature in 1800

On June 21, 1837, their work was completed and the county was divided into seven districts, Cecilton, Chesapeake City, Elkton, Fair Hill, Charlestown, Port Deposit, and Rising Sun (*History of Cecil County, 1881*). The First District (Cecilton), the Second (Chesapeake City), and

Third (Elkton) have remained exacty as they were. (*History of Cecil County, 1881*), Voters in the northwest corner of the county petitioned the legislature for a new election district "on account of their distance from Port Deposit and Rising Sun," in 1852 so the eighth district (Conowingo area) was born (Laws of Maryland, 1852). Parts of districts six (Rising Sun) and seven (Port Deposit) were apportioned to a new district, the 8th. In 1856, the subject of new EDs came up for the last time, according to the records we have been able to locate. Voters in the Calvert area petitioned for a district and accordingly the Legislature authorized the 9th district. It



was taken from parts of the fourth (Fair Hill), fifth (North East) and sixth districts (Rising Sun) (Laws of Maryland, 1856).

The nine EDs of Cecil County are the minor political subdivisions of the County. Their evolution from the original four districts created in 1800 to the present nine was legislated as follows:

- 1800 — Four Election Districts established
- 1835 — Seven election districts laid out
- 1852 — An eighth district, Conowingo, created
- 1857 — A ninth district (Calvert), the last district, created.

For some 140 years now, the nine districts have remained unchanged. With this data as a reference, it is possible to locate the general area where a person lived if the hundred or election district is known. One word of caution, though - there is sometimes a lag of a few years between the official designation of the districts and implementation by the official scribes.

[Go to larger images of the minor political subdivisions](#)
