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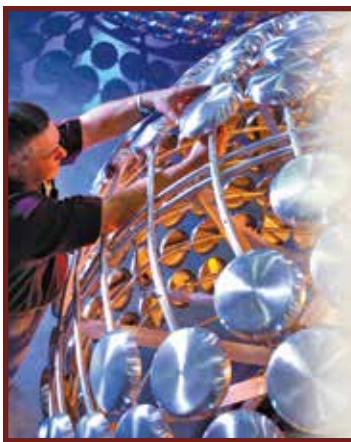


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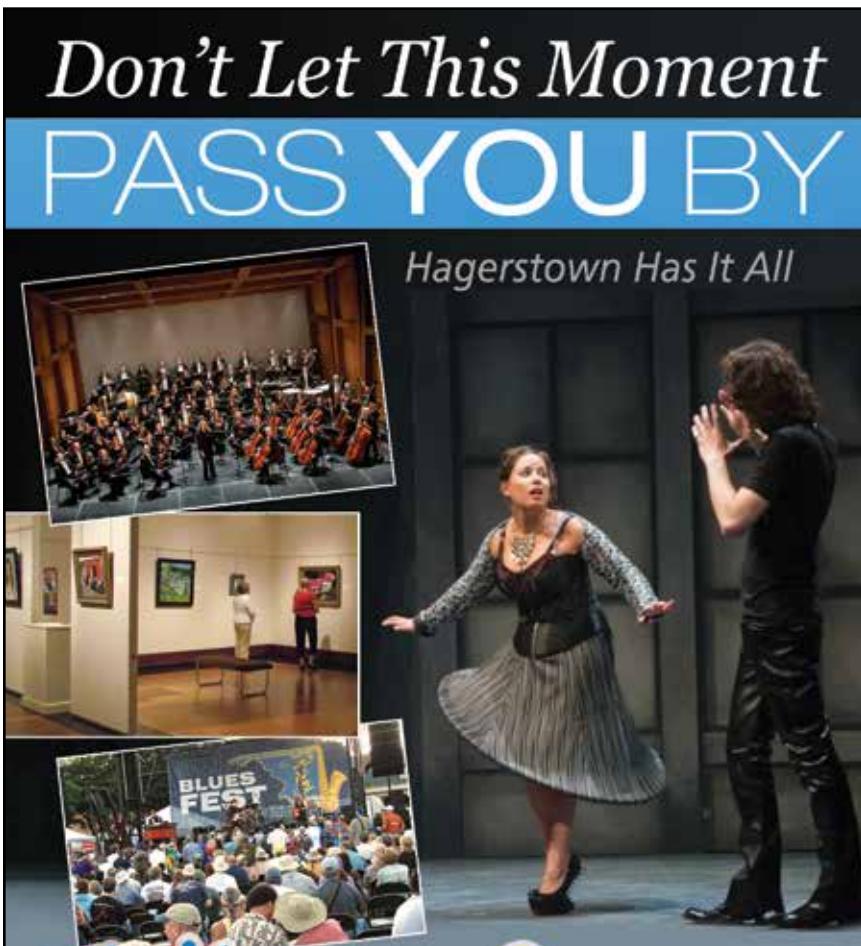
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# Mountain Discoveries®

**Mountain Discoveries** is a FREE publication printed twice yearly—Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. *Mountain Discoveries* is focused on the Western Maryland region including neighboring Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. The magazine features people, activities, places and articles of interest, and is written and produced by people in this area.

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*Cover: Summer friends at Deep Creek Lake, Maryland: Natalie Bell, Sophie Gibson and Molly Bell (left to right).*



As a free publication, *Mountain Discoveries* magazines are available at our advertiser's places of business as well as many of Maryland's Visitor's Centers along I-68, I-70, and I-95. They are also available at the C&O Canal Visitor Center in Cumberland, Maryland and McDonald's restaurants along the I-81 corridor, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. The Washington, Allegany and Garrett County, Maryland and Mineral and Hampshire County, West Virginia Chambers of Commerce also make *Mountain Discoveries* available to the public.

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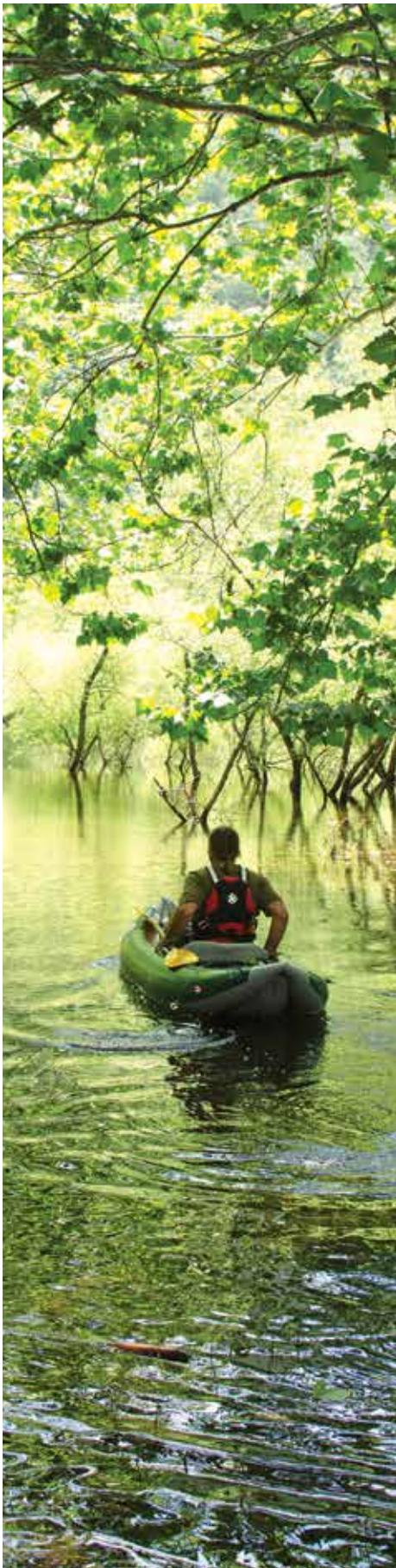
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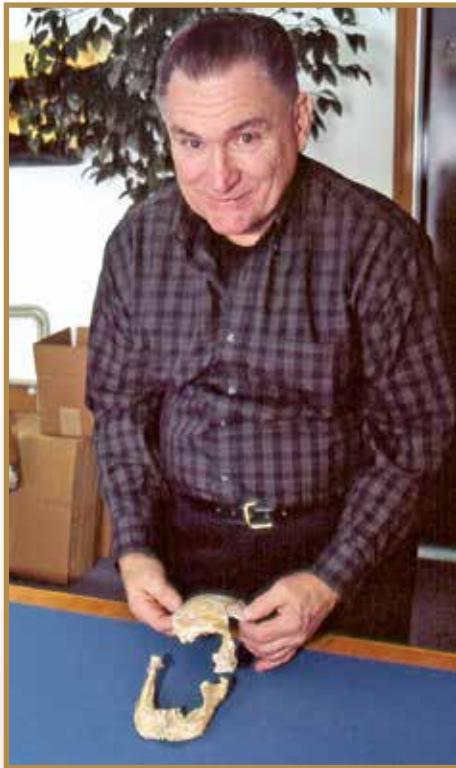
Robert L. "Bob" Pyle passed peacefully at his home in Morgantown, West Virginia, on December 5, 2017. Bob was a contributor and resource to *Mountain Discoveries* magazine since its inception, and a personal friend to the staff.

Bob experienced his early years in Kitzmiller, Maryland, where the natural world became a playground and mentor, as it lead him to discoveries of flora, fauna, and fossils that abounded along the Upper Potomac River valley. The excitement of exploring became central to Bob's formative years and never diminished with the passing of time. His inquisitive spirit caught the attention of a West Virginia University instructor who provided resources, tutoring, and formal collegiate course

work before Bob entered high school. Over the years Bob's curiosity lead to discoveries and acclaim in a variety of academic fields.

Formal work experiences included assignments with the state of West Virginia as a chemist and archaeologist. Private sector employment with natural gas companies added geology to his resume. But it was Bob's work with petroglyphs in southern West Virginia that caught the attention of *Mountain Discoveries* staff. *All That Remains*, his well known book, summarized the sites and tentative conclusions about the markings. Studies in Ireland and a subsequent television documentary, *Brendan the Navigator*, made Bob a central figure in discussions on the subject.

Bob's real passion was sharing knowledge of the natural world, archaeology, geology, paleontology



## *In Memoriam*

### Robert L. Pyle (1943–2017)

and local history with students. An ever present smile and caring attitude captured their attention and made the hands-on activities a memorable experience. His collection of artifacts that were made available for display and discussion seemed inexhaustible—old bottles, glassware, fossils, brachiopods, arrowheads—whatever the lesson, Bob always provided an appropriate collection.

Federal and state sponsored workshops conducted under Bob's direction trained hundreds of teachers from Maryland, West Virginia, and other states in teaching strategies that remain in use. When asked why he traveled so many miles to serve students and teachers, Bob responded, "I know there

are a lot of little Bob Pyle's out there who will benefit and enjoy the lessons."

Bob's commitment to country was also exemplified by honorable service during the Vietnam War, serving in the Army's First Cavalry Division.

Caring for family was a commitment that quickly became apparent to anyone who knew Bob. Over the past decade he provided support to several family members who struggled with health issues.

Bob leaves behind two daughters, a sister, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The family may be comforted in the knowledge that Bob was admired, respected, and sought after as a friend and teacher. His influence will continue for decades.

Everyone who knew Bob would endorse our parting words, "Well done, my friend."

## Displays of Fossils and Artifacts Remain for Public Viewing

Bob Pyle's passion for work was reflected in the collections of artifacts and fossils he assembled over the years. Ray Garton, longtime friend and colleague, worked with Bob for more than three decades and shared in the excitement of making discoveries. Ray and Bob actively pursued partnerships and venues where they could display their collections and knowledge with interested groups.

One of their displays of fossils and artifacts may be viewed at the West Virginia I-68 Welcome Center at mile marker 31 near Hazelton. According to Ray, "Bob and I stopped at the visitor's center about 8 years ago and noticed there was room for a display case. We discussed the possibilities with the Welcome Center manager and she made it happen. The show case features artifacts and fossils that are in some way related to West Virginia."

A second public display featuring Bob's fossils may be found in the lobby of the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey Museum of Geology and Natural History at Cheat Lake. The facility is closed on weekends.

Articles in *Mountain Discoveries* can be viewed on the website ([www.MountainDiscoveries.com](http://www.MountainDiscoveries.com)) in Past Issues: Spring/Summer 2002, Fall/Winter 2008, Spring/Summer & Fall/Winter 2014, and Fall/Winter 2015.



**Bob & Ernie "Turtleman" Brown discuss artifacts; Bob with Dimetrodon dinosaur at WV I-68 Welcome Center; Bob showing some of his marble collection.**

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# Monkey Business

## Adventure Park



970 Deep Creek Drive, McHenry, MD 21541

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Do you have some energy to burn? There's a new place to climb, jump, and hang out overlooking Deep Creek Lake. The location is nestled between Route 219 and the lake at 970 Deep Creek Drive in McHenry, Maryland.

Jordan Smith, operational manager, grew up in the area, works at a local marina, and helped create this new business. She's proud of coming up with the name: Monkey Business.

Monkey Business, an outdoor activity park, offers three tiers of activities, with two courses on each tier for varying levels of challenge.

The courses include bridges, elements and zip lines—and Jordan says that the goal is to add "a new feature each year." There's even an opportunity to leap off a tower—and don't worry, there's a magnetic system to control your descent.

Levels	Recommended Minimum Age	Estimated Time to Complete	Cost
Tier 1	7	45 to 90 minutes	\$49.95
Tier 2	12	90 minutes to 2 hours	\$59.95
Tier 3	15	2.5 to 3 hours	\$74.95

Neophytes should plan on taking a quick run-through on a ground level practice course first. Employees will help you choose the right level, explain the safety harness, and demonstrate the special attachment you will use at the zip lines. The courses use a continuous belay system, and when necessary, attendants can assist people back to terra firma.

Jordan notes that the course was designed to be suitable for team-building outings, which can be arranged to suit the organization's needs.

It's also fun recreation for almost anyone.

Younger children can play on appropriate equipment while older members of the group are trying out the courses. Drinks and snacks are available, and a building with arcade games is near completion. Parents—make a mental note of a great place to plan a birthday party!

The next time you find yourself sitting around wondering what you can get up to, try some Monkey Business. The park opened for the fall in September 2017. Look for the new season to start in March, or as soon as weather permits. Pre-summer hours are Fridays and Saturdays, 11-dusk, and Sundays, 11-6. During the summer season, Monkey Business is open every day.

Check for hours and opening on [facebook.com/dclmonkeybusiness](https://facebook.com/dclmonkeybusiness) or by calling 1-866-DCL-SOAR (325-7627).



**Bridges, elements and zip lines are all part of the Monkey Business Adventure Park, offering three tiers of activities with varying levels of challenge. Safety is a priority with instruction on the equipment before attempting the course.**

# Gabi Loves to Bake



Gabi shows off her final creation with baking instructor, Deb Swope.

Written by: **Sara Mullins**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Gabi Robertson, age 10, loves to cook – and, especially, to bake. So she was thrilled when offered a chance to decorate a cake like the pros at the Culinaire Café, operated by Allegany College of Maryland in downtown Cumberland.

Gabi, a student at Bel Air Elementary School, lives in Rawlings, Maryland, with her parents and her older sister Alex. When she's not baking or watching cooking shows at home, she enjoys spending time with friends and her family.

"It was awesome!" she said. "I learned how to work with fondant!" Deb Swope, an instructor in the Allegany College's Culinary Arts Program, had a two-layer chocolate cake with butter cream icing, ready and waiting for Gabi's special touch. Gabi worked with rolled-out fondant and used molds, traced patterns, and created three-dimensional shapes designed to catch the eye. Deb had several edible butterflies reserved for Gabi to place as she wished, resulting in a

cake featuring happy spring colors and whimsical shapes.

"Gabi has always taken to the kitchen," says Lisa Robertson, Gabi's mom. "She follows directions but then she puts in her own spin. She especially loves to bake. It's totally fun, a labor of love." "Gabi did a great job decorating her cake," Deb says. "I've noticed a big interest in baking among 10 to 12-year-olds. It's good interest for kids that age. They can build on their skills and decide whether or not they want to develop them in high school and beyond."

Those interested in a culinary career can earn an Associate of Applied Science degree through Allegany College's Culinary Arts Program. Through hands-on experience, such as work performed at the Café, they can prepare for a range of career options ranging from cooking to management.

Next fall, the College plans to offer one-year, non-degree certificate programs in baking, event management, and a culinary option. The certificates are designed for those wishing to quickly develop their skill through hands-on practice in a real life restaurant. If they wish, participants can transfer all certificate coursework toward an associate's degree.

"Allegany College may offer baking classes for kids, possibly next year," says Deb. If this plan comes to fruition, one of their first enrollees just might be Gabi Robertson.



**Gabi working with fondant with some help from faculty/baking instructor, Deb Swope at Allegany College's Culinary Arts Program.**

**Gabi builds her muscles while rolling fondant.**

**Gabi and sister, Alex, displaying the finished cake — Alex, Mom and Dad (Lisa & Guy) enjoyed helping Gabi eat her creation.**



# Celebrating Its 30th Anniversary!

Written by: **Tyler Clayton**



PHOTO BY LANCE C. BELL

After years of steam operations, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad has had to change their way of thinking. While still focusing on the restoration of 1309 and the eventual repairing of Mountain Thunder 734, WMSR has done some re-strategizing to keep money flowing in and the dream alive...

With their 501 Diesel Engine being repainted into the Circus Colors, WMSR has been focusing their efforts on unique events along their historic rails. From Mountain Moonshine Tastings with Dinner, to a Calm Narrated Tour through the Allegheny Mountains, or a Christmas Storybook Experience, there is literally something for everyone.

The schedule of specialty trains includes Murder Mysteries, Mountain Moonshine Tastings, Craft Beer Trains, Allegany County Wines Train, Christmas City Express and more!

## *Murder Mystery*

April 21 • May 26  
June 23 • July 14 & 28 • August 11 & 18  
September 15 & 29 • October 6 & 20  
November 3 & 17 • December 31

## *Mountain Moonshine*

April 28 • November 10

## *Craft Beer Train Series*

Dogfish Head – May 5  
Heavy Seas – June 2  
Sam Adams – August 25  
Evolution – September 22

## *Wines of Allegany County Train*

May 12

## *Train Robbery Fundraiser*

June 30

## *River & Rails Festival*

September 7 – 9

## *Christmas City Express*

November 23 – December 23



In addition, General Excursions with narration are running every weekend from now until mid November!

Reviews rave of “great food,” that “everyone was friendly and the trip was really enjoyable” and “would highly recommend it to everyone.”

In regards to the progress of the restoration of 1309 and 734, the dream of steam is alive but, unfortunately, until money can be obtained for those purposes, WMSR is unable to invest its own profits without sacrificing its standards.

Donations are being accepted by mail or online (13 Canal Street, Cumberland, MD 21502 or WMSR.com) and have been coming in. The money is in its own account at a local Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and most recently, because of the donations, WMSR was able to pay for the restoration work to continue on the locomotive’s driving wheels in Tennessee.

As Executive Director of WMSR, John Garner is proud of his team and optimistic for the future of WMSR. This year in particular is a special year as it is **WMSR's 30th Anniversary!**

“The Mountains of Allegany County are open year-round, and so is the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. See you on board!”

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PHOTOS COURTESY WESTERN MARYLAND SCENIC RAILROAD

# Remembering...

## 1964 B-52 Military Crash in Western Maryland

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**

In 1964, Western Maryland and nearby Pennsylvania became datelines for international news stories. Radio bulletins, network television coverage, and on site military personnel created a sense of urgency the rural areas had never experienced. The cause of excitement was the crash of a nuclear-laden B-52D Strato-Fortress bomber. Multiple news stories also confirmed crew members were missing and that volunteers were needed for search and rescue missions, official requests that older residents vividly recall. Over the decades memorials were erected to commemorate events surrounding the B-52 crash, rescue and recovery efforts. More recently, additional commemorative work has been completed that once again brings the historical event to the attention of interested citizens. The tragic incident made an indelible mark on the communities it affected and deserves additional consideration and review.

Following the January 13, 1964 crash, residents learned the B-52 crew was following a flight course from Westover, Massachusetts Air Force base to Turner Air Force Base in Albany, Georgia, when it encountered a convergence of two strong storm systems. The turbulence was so severe it removed the vertical stabilizer and damaged other sections in the rear one-third of the aircraft. Major Thomas McCormick,



PHOTO BY LANCE C. BELL

**This memorial at Grantsville, Maryland (#3 on map) at Route 40 and River Road was the first memorial to be dedicated to the B-52 crew and citizen volunteers. Since July 1964, thousands of people have visited the site.**

pilot, issued a Mayday call before ordering the crew to bail out of the doomed B-52 that quickly spiraled out of control.

Major McCormick safely parachuted into a field where he struggled through waist deep snow for a distance of two miles before encountering the Warnick family house along US Route 40, not far from Grantsville, Maryland. Co-pilot, Captain Peedin also successfully ejected into the frigid air and landed on farmland approximately two miles from Grantsville where first responders came to his rescue. The tail gunner and navigator parachuted from the plane but later succumbed to injuries and exposure to frigid

temperatures. Major Robert Townley, radar navigator, could not eject and perished in the crash.

Search and rescue efforts mobilized hundreds of local citizens who answered the calls for assistance. Churches and service organizations provided meals and rest areas for personnel engaged in around-the-clock efforts during dangerous weather conditions—the nearly week long mission was quickly embraced by local communities.

In July 1964, the first memorial to the crew and citizen volunteers was dedicated along US Route 40, near Grantsville, Maryland. Major McCormick and Captain Peedin, family members, and nearly two thousand guests attended

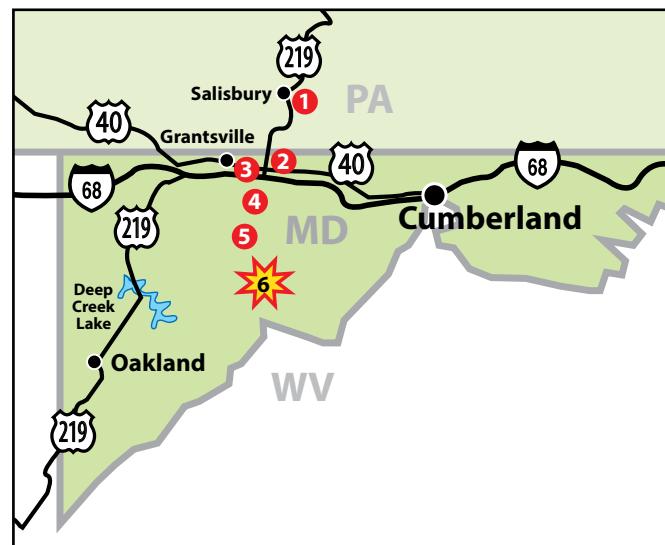
**Robert Payne's memorial cross (#5 on map)**  
located at the site where he perished; Poplar Lick ATV  
Trail in Savage River State Forest. These photos show  
before and after professional restoration.



the dedication. Thousands of visitors have visited the site over the years, particularly during dates relating to the anniversary of the crash. In 2014, the Grantsville Memorial once again drew a large assembly for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration that was attended by several of the crews' family members, Air Force personnel, elected officials, and interested citizens. While the Grantsville Memorial is the most visited and visible, additional markers have been dedicated.

Major Robert Payne's memorial cross, located along Poplar Lick Trail in Savage River State Forest, provides visitors with an appreciation of the difficulties he faced in trying to survive the blizzard conditions of January 13th; a more remote location in western Maryland would be difficult to find. The original cross, dedicated in 1964 and donated by Frostburg Memorials, suffered deterioration over the decades caused by weather and weapons fire. Bucky Schriver, Midland resident with an interest in the B-52 event, recently decided to address the issue by contacting Howard Wellman, a specialist in monument conservation. Through Mr. Wellman's expertise, and financial support from the Governor's Commission on Military Monuments and the Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore, the Major Payne Memorial has been professionally restored and placed at the site where he perished.

Tech Sergeant Melvin D. Wooten's Memorial may be found on West Salisbury Avenue, West Salisbury, Pennsylvania.



#### 1964 B-52 Crash and Memorials:

- 1 - **Tech Sergeant Melvin D. Wooten Memorial**  
West Salisbury, PA (N39 45.517 W79 05.437)
- 2 - **Major Thomas McCormick**  
Rescue Site - no Memorial (N39 41.619 W79 05.775)
- 3 - **Grantsville Memorial**  
Route 40 & River Road (N39 41.787 W79 08.197)
- 4 - **Captain Parker Peedin**  
Rescue Site (N39 39.229 W79 07.393)
- 5 - **Major Robert Payne Memorial**  
Poplar Lick ATV Trail (N39 37.085 W79 09.012)
- 6 - **Crash Site / Major Robert Townley Memorial**  
Westernport Road near Pine Swamp Road – located on private property, no trespassing without owner permission. (N39 34.066 W79 04.241)

While successfully parachuting from the aircraft, Sergeant Wooten suffered a severe leg injury and was unable to make his way to safety, even though he probably saw the lights of Salisbury a short distance away. His body was recovered on the bank of the Casselman River. The memorial site, which is open to the public, was recently enhanced by Eagle Scout Anthony Hillegas.

Major Townley's memorial cross was placed at the crash site in 1965. The quiet location along Westernport and Pine Swamp Roads remains much the same as it did when the spiraling aircraft struck the earth with tremendous force. Townley's memorial showed considerable deterioration by 2014 when Bucky Schriver and friends decided to act.

Bucky Schriver, Buck Burkett, Eric Alexander and Mark Alexander, restored the area and built protective fencing while Mike Beal constructed a 12 x 16 foot stone memorial that captures the final flight of the doomed B-52. The flat stone surface provides a serene field for the outlined aircraft that is depicted with stabilizers intact. Major Townley's cross is placed slightly behind the aircraft, while a United States flag is displayed as a backdrop to the memorial. The peaceful setting, amid still visible artifacts from the crash, is an emotionally moving and appropriate reminder of the terrible events of January 1964. The volunteers expressed gratitude to the Governor's Commission on Military Monuments and the Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore for their support of the project.

The crash site and memorial are located on private property and may not be viewed without permission of the owner; however, a small memorial sign has been placed in an accessible area on Westernport Road at the head of the Savage Mountain hiking trail.

The enhanced and conserved memorials are testimony not only to the B-52 crew members, but also to the volunteers and their overwhelming response to the incident. The tragic crash continues to make news worthy stories and memories more than five decades after it occurred.

*For additional information on the B-52 crash, see "A Night to Remember," Fall/Winter 2007 issue of **Mountain Discoveries** magazine (available online at [www.mountaindiscoveries.com](http://www.mountaindiscoveries.com)) and **buzzonefour.org** where a list of donors to the 50th anniversary commemoration is available.*

**Top:** Major Townley's memorial cross (#6 on map) was placed at the crash site in 1965.

**Middle and Bottom:** Bucky Schriver, Buck Burkett, Eric Alexander (left to right), along with Mark Alexander, collaborated on restoring the monument and erecting protective fencing. Mike Beal was solely responsible for all of the stonework including a representation of the aircraft.



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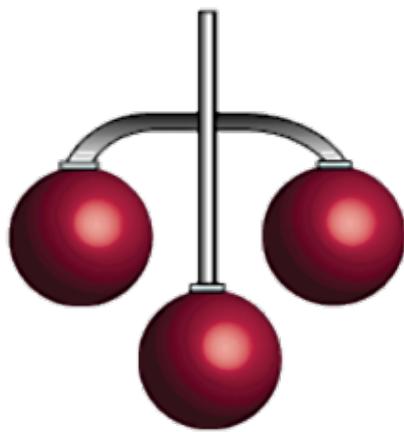
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- May 26** – 5:00 – 9:00 pm  
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Industrial Blvd., Rt. 51, Cumberland, MD
- June 9** – 10:00 – 4:00 pm  
**Heritage Days & Whiskey Rebellion Antique Car, Motorcycle & Truck Show – Queen City Region AACA**  
Western Maryland Station (Canal Place) Cumberland, MD
- June 9** – 5:30 – 9:00 pm  
**Chat-N-Chew Cruise In – Tri-State Cruzers**, McCoole, MD (Relay for Life)
- June 16** – 10:00 – 4:00 pm  
**10th Annual Shaffer All Ford and Mustang Show – Mt. Mustang Club**, 10335 Mt. Savage Road, Motor City, Cumberland, MD
- August 3** – 5:30 – 9:00 pm  
**Hill Climb Cruise**  
Flintstone Fire Hall; I-68, Flintstone, MD
- August 11** – 5:30 – 9:00 pm  
**Chat-N-Chew Cruise In – Tri-State Cruzers**, McCoole, MD
- August 30** – 5:00 – 10:00 pm  
**Main Street Cruise – Classy Chassis**  
Main Street, Frostburg, MD
- August 31 – September 2**  
**Western Maryland Street Rod Round-Up**  
**Western MD Street Rod Assoc.**  
Allegany County Fairgrounds, Cumb., MD
- September 1** – 5:00 – 9:00 pm  
**18th Labor Day Weekend Super Cruise**  
Industrial Blvd., Rt. 51, Cumberland, MD
- September 15** – 10:00 – 4:00 pm  
**18th Annual Ford Model T & Model A Car & Truck Show Queen City Region AACA**  
Downtown Cumberland Mall, Cumb., MD
-



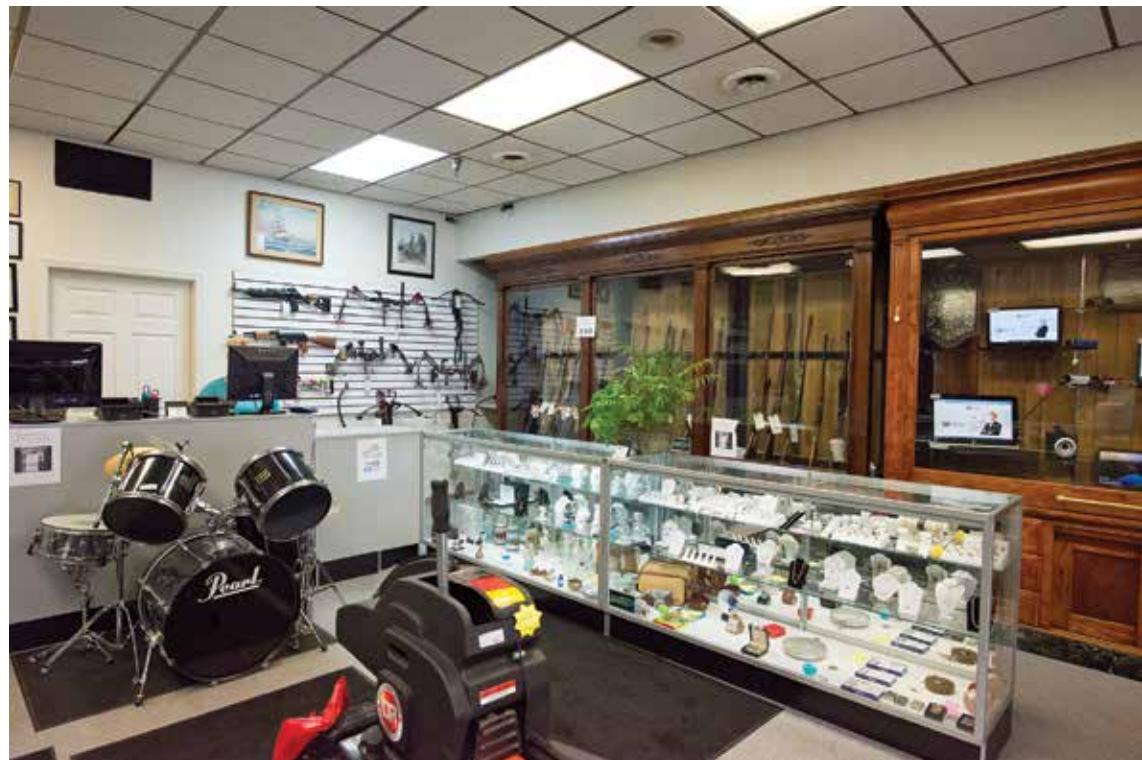
Written by: **Mary Reisinger**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

**Ridgeley, WV**  
**Frostburg, MD**  
**Oakland, MD**  
**Keyser, WV**

Jason Shook decided to start a pawn and gun shop to avoid a long commute.

Twenty-three years ago, after working in a pawn shop some distance from his home, he opened J&S Pawn and Gun in a small storefront (now moved to a larger building two blocks down the street) in the town where he lived, Ridgeley, West Virginia. Two years later, he added a location in Frostburg, Maryland. In 2016 and 2017, he added two more shops, which his son Cameron oversees, in Keyser, West Virginia, and Oakland, Maryland.

Many of us have an image of pawn shops as dark and shabby places in gritty urban settings where people pawn belongings that they then usually lose because they are unable to pay back the amount borrowed. Jason and Cameron aim for a completely different sort of business, one that offers a vital service to the community. Their stores and merchandise are clean and neat; their staff members are presentable and courteous. J&S handles transactions from small sums to large loans of “several thousand dollars”



**Newly remodeled Oakland, Maryland, store — come in for a visit and see the wide variety of available items.**

and does not limit the number of loans an individual can acquire. While the industry norm for success is that 50% of the people who have brought in collateral for loans are able to redeem their belongings, J&S has a reclaim rate of about 70%. They allow customers thirty days plus a grace period to repay a loan and retrieve their property or to pay the interest and extend the loan another thirty days. For buyers, J&S offers a layaway program so people can pay in installments in store and online.

J&S Pawn and Gun shops carry a wide variety of goods. Major categories include firearms, gold, diamonds, electronics, musical instruments, sports equipment, and tools. Where space allows, J&S will even provide loans secured by vehicles and boats. Employees receive significant training in order to keep up with laws governing the sale of firearms (J&S will help with the paperwork on private sales for a reasonable fee), and to deal knowledgeably with all types of merchandise. Some sales associates, such as music man Jimmy in Frostburg, develop special areas of expertise.

Employees say that among the treasures available, buyers might find original Nintendo equipment, older cell phones (good for workers whose phones have a high likelihood of being damaged on the job), acoustic guitars, jewelry, rifles, log-splitters, or ATVs. In addition to four brick and mortar locations, J&S maintains a website with online access to the goods available in their shops, and to additional

merchandise that can be ordered. Items can be picked up at stores or shipped.

The newest location of J&S, opened in September 2017, occupies a former jewelry store at 223 E. Alder Street in Oakland, Maryland. Glass cases line the walls and merchandise is attractively displayed. Mindy Wade (Manager), Luci Elsey, Curtis Davis, and John Brunson will be happy to answer questions and demonstrate the J&S model for a modern pawn shop.

### **J&S Pawn and Gun Shop**

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**[www.jspawnguns.com](http://www.jspawnguns.com)**

**facebook/J&S Pawn and Guns Oakland**

**Hours for all locations:**

**Mon - Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 3**

**The Ridgeley, WV, store is very spacious with attractively displayed merchandise and plenty of easy parking.**



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# Meshach Browning –

## *Great Hunter and Chronicler of Pioneer Life in Mountain Maryland*

GCHS Historical Museum, Oakland, Maryland

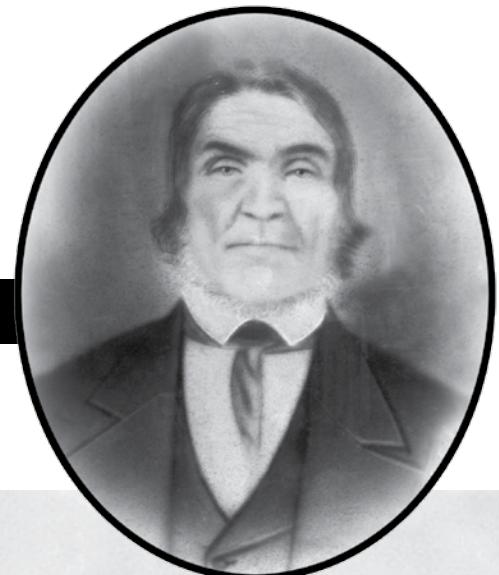
Written by: **Mary (Mattingly) Reisinger**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

One of the local figures showcased at Garrett County's Historical Museum in Oakland, Maryland, is Meshach Browning, one of the most renowned residents of Garrett County, who overcame many challenges to live a life of impressive accomplishments.

Meshach was born in 1781, the last of four children, near Frederick, Maryland. Meshach's father Joshua, fifth generation of an English family that had settled in Virginia in 1622, died two weeks after Meshach was born leaving his mother, Nancy, with little means to support her children. She moved to be close to relatives near Cumberland, Maryland. At age nine, young Meshach became part of his aunt and uncle's household, and they took him with them to the area that is now Garrett County, settling near McHenry, Maryland.

In those days, families had to gather enough children together to hire a teacher and arrange for a term of school. Meshach participated in only one term of about three months; even with this limited education, he ran businesses, corresponded with others over property matters, was active in political affairs, composed poetry, and wrote an autobiography, originally titled *Forty-four Years of a Hunter's Life* and later called *Forty-four Years of the Life of a Hunter*, first published in 1859 and still available.

Meshach ascribes his rapid progress in school to a competitive spirit. He particularly wanted to avoid being outdone



Above: One of Meshach Browning's homes in Garrett County, MD.

Left: An early copy of Meshach Browning's autobiography, *Forty-Four Years of a Hunter's Life*.

by his neighbor's daughter, who had had a previous term of school. Meshach married this former classmate, Mary McMullen, when they were both eighteen; together they had eleven children, and they worked hard to support their growing family.

Meshach describes their joint efforts:

[While I furnished meat and bread, she made as sweet butter as ever was eaten, and laid away enough for winter use. There were thousands of wild bees, and from each hive I discovered I got from two to ten gallons of honey. I could sell deer skins at any time in the old settlement; for in those days many men, and almost all the boys, wore buckskin pants and hunting shirts. I used to take my skins to the mill, and leave them there, and the farmers would leave me their value in grain; and for bear meat I received four dollars a hundred. In that way I bought flax and wool, and Mary carded it by hand, spun, wove, and made it into clothing. She done washing, knitting, housework, milking and churning, besides keeping herself, her children, and myself always cleanly and nicely dressed.]

Meshach is remembered most for his hunting. "I tilled my farm industriously until the leaves had fallen; when I would go into the woods and hunt 'til a little before Christmas and then set off to market with all that I could take." By his own account, he killed "from 1,800 to 2,000 deer, from 300 to 400 bears, and about 50 panthers and catamounts, with scores of wolves and wildcats." The mighty hunter has been accused by modern biologists of decimating the game animals in the area, but historian Charles E. Hoye notes in 1935 that when Meshach died, game and fish were still plentiful. "It was the next generation that almost exterminated the wild life of Garrett County."

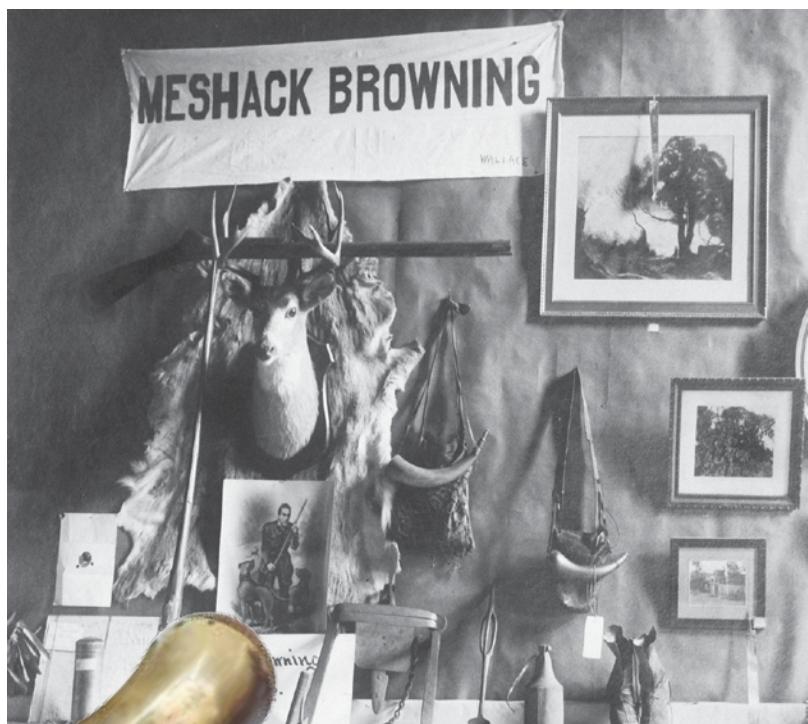
The couple lived in many places around what is now Garrett County. They sometimes moved into old cabins without floors or doors, where they had to flush out rattlesnakes, and they sometimes had to build housing.

They suffered some serious financial setbacks, and Meshach's hunting was a necessity rather than a luxury. Once, when they were "completely ruined" by a streak of bad luck, Mary bought powder and lead on credit and convinced Meshach to go hunting. That fall he killed seventeen bears — the beginning of their return to solvency.

In addition to farming and hunting, Meshach also served (briefly and reluctantly) in the military during the War of 1812, built and ran a sawmill, took on the

duties of Justice of the Peace at Sang Run where he lived, ran for political office (losing by 199 votes), raised money for construction of a Catholic church (Mary and he had converted to Catholicism), patented tracts of land that helped to establish Allegany County, and worked as an assessor in Cumberland.

Meshach enjoyed music and literature. He was a singer and fiddler, who often entertained friends and family. He taught his six sons to fiddle, and they were popular performers. A story was recounted in the local paper of a German violin professor who



**Top:** A photo of an exhibit at the first Garrett County Agricultural Fair in 1917 featuring Meshach Browning items, including his hunting gun that now resides in the Smithsonian.

Other items can be viewed at the Historical Museum — powder horn, bear trap, and bear skin typical of Meshach Browning's time period. The Browning Company rifle is an antique cap lock.

asked to visit them to learn about their technique. This visit turned into a test of hospitality as the professor stayed for four months.

A horseback riding accident in 1835 or 1836 left Mary an invalid until her death in January 1839. Meshach wrote a poem as a tribute to his wife. The first verse describes his sorrow. *"I've heard that first and early love / outlives all after dreams; / But memory of my first great grief / To me more lasting seems."* Nevertheless, Meshach decided to follow Mary's advice and "seek some good woman as a companion." His work in Cumberland required him to stay in lodgings, and there he met his landlady's mother, Mary M. Smith, a widow. Meshach and Mary Smith were married in April 1841 and had a happy union until her death in 1857. Two years later, Meshach died of pneumonia while on a visit to his daughter Nancy.

Without Meshach Browning's account of his years in Western Maryland, we would know far less about pioneer culture in this area. He had the good fortune to live a long and vigorous life, and fortunately for us, he had the talent to leave us a record of his experience.

The Garrett County Historical Society's Historical Museum in Oakland houses many artifacts related to Meshach Browning. Visitors can see an intricately stitched quilt that his mother made for him; daguerreotypes and paintings of Meshach, his family members, and some of his homes, including three glass plate photographs made by another famous Garrett Countian, Leo Beachy; a picture of an exhibit at the first Garrett County Agricultural Fair in 1917 featuring Meshach's hunting gun that now resides in the Smithsonian; an elderly copy of his autobiography; and many other items. The museum collection also includes a great deal of written material such as genealogical research, articles and historic accounts.

For those who are interested, Meshach Browning's gravestone (which spells his first name Meshack), along with the burial sites of his two wives, can be found in a small cemetery on Friendsville Road (Route 42).

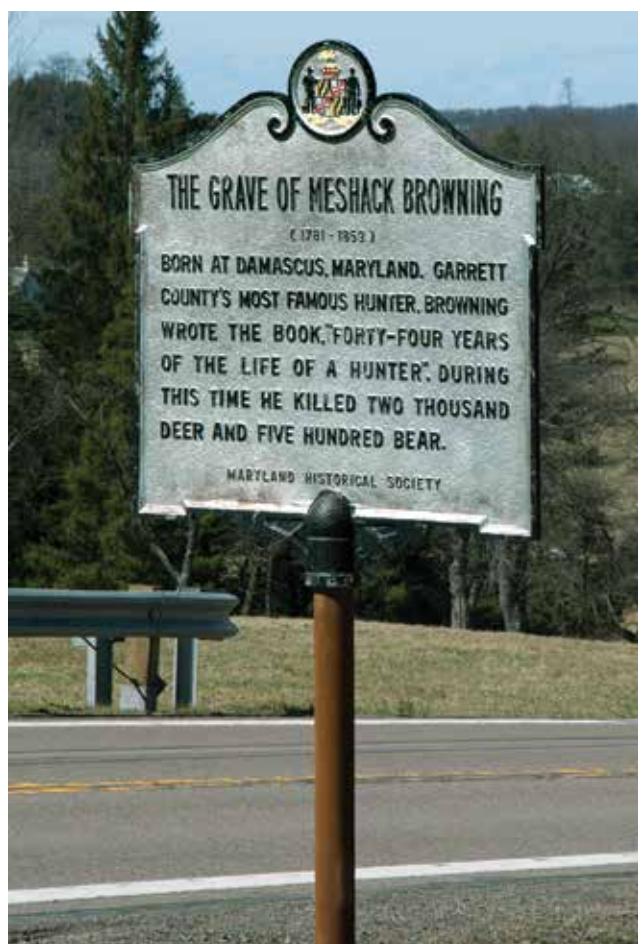
**Author's Note:** By the time Meshach Browning died in 1859, he had 122 descendants. Today there are many more twigs in his family tree. I am one of them, through his sixth child Nancy Ann; Alice Feather Eary, who kindly assisted me in finding materials at the museum and gave me access to her own research on Meshach Browning, is another, through his first child Dorcas.

**Garrett County Historical Museum  
107 S. Second St., Oakland, MD 21550**

**Museum Summer Hours: May 1st,  
Monday through Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.**

**Museum Winter Hours: January through May 1st,  
Open Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10 am – 3 pm.**

**Closed Major Holidays. Please call first: 301-334-3226.**



Top: The intricately stitched quilt that Mechach's mother made for him can be viewed at the Historical Museum in Oakland, MD.

Above: Maryland State Historical marker at the entrance of the small cemetery on Friendsville Road (Route 42). Meshach Browning's gravestone (which spells his first name Meshack), can be found there along with the burial sites of his two wives.

# RIVER & RAILS

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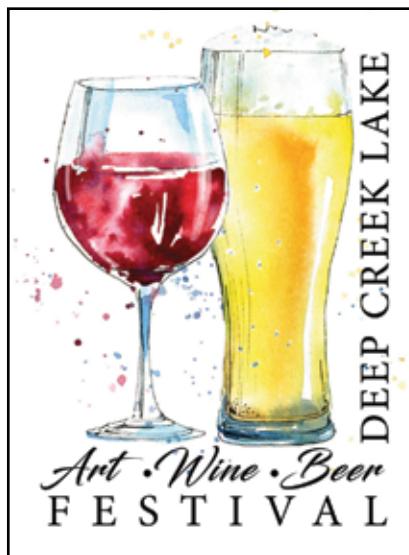


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Where: Canal Place / Western Maryland Scenic Railroad in Cumberland, Maryland  
What: Educational Event & Fundraiser for the Cumberland River Park Project  
and the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad





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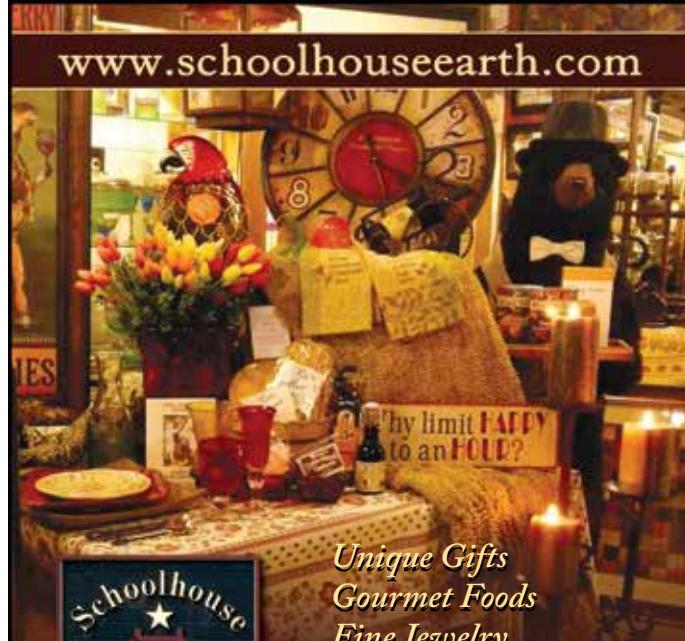


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# BICYCLING ADVENTURES

## *Await in Western Maryland*

Riding a bicycle, especially one of the original models that came out in the early 1800s, was considered a very risky business best suited to adventurous young men. The safety bicycle of the 1880s, such as the 1880 Pony Star High Wheel model, was a big step forward toward transforming the bicycle into a common and popular mode of transportation popular with men and even women of all ages. The roadster design that later supplanted the high wheel models featured wheels equal in size, a characteristic that most bicycles retain today.

In recent years, bicycling has become an increasingly popular activity in many parts of the United States. Maryland is no exception, and state officials have taken note. According to the Maryland Department of

Written by: **Sara Mullins**

Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**  
*unless otherwise noted*



Larry Black, owner of Mt. Airy Bicycle, demonstrates an 1880 Pony Star High Wheel model. This bicycle and other vintage bikes are on display at the Oakland, Maryland, Transportation Museum on Liberty Street.

Transportation's 2014 *Twenty Year Bicycle & Pedestrian Access Master Plan*, "Walking and bicycling are fundamental to life in Maryland. One of the most densely populated states in the country, Maryland is poised to become the best state for walking and bicycling in the nation."

While other states might take issue with this assertion, Maryland does indeed offer a wide range of bicycling opportunities, from road rides to mountain biking to competitive events. Cyclists will find some of their most challenging and scenic terrain in Western Maryland, the state's three westernmost counties – Washington, Allegany and Garrett. Known for its mostly rural character and mountainous terrain, Western Maryland represents Maryland's segment of Appalachia. The topography is well suited to competitive events attracting cycling athletes who live for the thrill and challenge of pushing themselves to the limit. But fortunately, where there are mountains, there are valleys. So cyclists looking for less elevation and more relaxation will find plenty of rides in the region to enjoy.

## Washington County

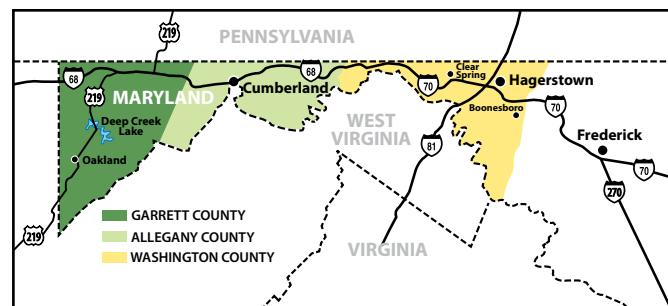
As the Western Maryland County located farthest to the east, Washington County features fewer steep grades and gentler rides than its western neighbors. Cyclists will find an abundance of scenic rides through its lush countryside, farmland, orchards, parks, and historic sites. One of the County's most popular cycling routes is a portion of the 184.5-mile C&O Canal Towpath that extends from Cumberland, Md., to Washington, D.C. Along the way, cyclists may spot some of the 74 lift locks once used for canal boat traffic, while lock houses along the Towpath evoke memories of earlier times. The Towpath's Washington County portion travels alongside the North Branch of the Potomac River from Sideling Hill to Maryland's location across from Harper's Ferry, W.V. Its unpaved surface of hard-packed dirt or crushed stone is generally level. Free campsites located every 6 to 8 miles along the Towpath include a picnic table, grill, chemical toilet and non-potable water. Cyclists can stop in the Canal Partnership towns of Hancock, Sharpsburg and Williamsport for assistance finding food, lodging, bike repairs and other services.

For those who prefer a smoother ride on pavement, the Western Maryland Rail Trail (WMRT) runs parallel to the Towpath for 23 miles. The WMRT runs from Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct to Big Pool along an abandoned section of the Western Maryland Railroad Line. Interpretative signage along the trail provides information about the repurposed railroad line's history and natural environment.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VISIT HAGERSTOWN & WASHINGTON COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

**Washington County is hosting the USA Cycling Amateur Road National Championships set for July 26 – 29, 2018. It features athletes from ages 11 – 22; time trials will be held in Boonsboro with road races in Clear Spring. The grand finale is in Hagerstown on July 29.**



Before its demise, the Railroad served as a lifeline for residents of Western Maryland, Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Washington County offers cyclists the opportunity to explore two significant historic sites. A bicycle tour through the iconic Antietam Battlefield provides cyclists with a ride steeped in Civil War history along 8½ miles of paved road. Fort Frederick, located near Big Pool, harkens back

to the French and Indian War years when it served as a bulwark of Maryland's frontier defense. Cyclists can easily access Fort Frederick State Park and its grounds via the C&O Canal. Antietam is also accessible from the Towpath, for riders who don't mind a longer trip involving some hills and vehicle traffic.

Some of the country's best young cyclists will take on the challenge of Washington County roads this summer at the USA Cycling Amateur Road National Championships, set for July 26 – 29. The county seat of Hagerstown is the first city in Maryland to be selected as a host site for the prestigious cycling event featuring athletes from age 11-22.

"Our area has a strong culture of cycling, and we're within driving distance of some of the country's biggest metro areas," says Dan Spedden, president of the Visit Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

A time trial is set for July 26 in Boonsboro, followed by road races July 27 and 28 in Clear Spring. The event's grand finale on July 29 will feature a criterium – a closed circuit race – in Hagerstown. Vendors will be on hand with wares to enhance the festivities.

"We expect close to 1200 athletes and their families to be here for almost a week," Dan says. "The residual effect of this event could be massive. It will be like a first date for them with our community. Who knows where that could go?"

## Allegany County

Travelers heading west on I-68 from Washington County to Allegany County can't help but notice a significant change in elevation as they travel up Sideling Hill. On the westward side lies an expanse of ridges and valleys within Maryland's Green Ridge State Forest. Its almost 48,000 acres feature some rugged terrain with elevations averaging about 925 feet. Mountain bikers can ride all open forest roads. The 12-mile, single track Green Ridge State Forest Mountain Bike Trail is best suited to riders willing and able to negotiate fallen trees, stream crossings, steep rides up and fast rides down. For a less challenging ride, mountain bikers can head west to Rocky Gap State Park to check out the single track, 5-mile Rocky Gap Lakeside Loop.

To the south of Green Ridge and Rocky Gap, the C&O Canal Towpath continues its journey west from Washington County. Soon after entering Allegany County, cyclists will find themselves riding a series of loops as the Towpath follows a circuitous section of the Potomac River until reaching Paw Paw, WV, just across the river. Because the Paw Paw Tunnel is closed for repairs, cyclists are temporarily



**Top:** Biking along the C&O Canal towpath is a great family activity.

**Middle:** The Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) trail connects to the C&O Canal towpath at Cumberland, Maryland, at the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Station and Canal Place.

**Bottom:** Travelers on tour by way of the GAP pause for a break in Frostburg, Maryland, near the depot. These bikers are from New Zealand.



**Riding for fun and exercise along the Great Allegany Passage (GAP) near Cumberland, Maryland.**

directed to use the 1.5 mile Tunnel Hill Detour. It's pretty smooth riding during the final leg of the Towpath, which includes several scenic, re-watered sections of the Canal. During warm weather, cyclists should be on the lookout for an abundance of turtles sunning themselves on the trail.

The Towpath reaches its terminus in downtown Cumberland, not far from the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Station. This is where the journey may come to an end – or not. Cyclists can continue west on the Great Allegheny Passage, known as the GAP, a rail trail that follows former railroad routes for 150 miles until ending in Pittsburgh, Pa. Although it's an uphill ride through the Cumberland Narrows to Frostburg, the next town easily accessible from the GAP, it's a fairly gentle climb along an abandoned railroad bed of packed crushed limestone. On the way to Frostburg, cyclists may notice the entrance to Bone Cave and will be cycling a section alongside the route traveled by the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. When a train rolls by, cyclists may want to get themselves and their bikes as far away as possible from the tracks, and cover their ears.

Once past Frostburg, cyclists will pass through the Borden Tunnel until they reach the Mason Dixon line at the Maryland/Pennsylvania border.

"The GAP trail is phenomenal not only as an economic engine, but it's safe and well done – and the views are gorgeous," says Amy Owens, an avid cyclist and owner of Life Management Fitness in LaVale. Numerous businesses in Cumberland and Frostburg cater to GAP cyclists looking for food, lodging and other services.

For cyclists looking for road rides, Allegany County offers an abundance of choices. "We're blessed to live in an area where you can find roads with little traffic and beautiful views," Amy says. She recommends a popular ride that departs from Cycles & Things, a bike shop located in downtown Cumberland. This route heads north through Cumberland on Frederick Street and continues on a series of roads that become increasingly rural in character until reaching Lakes Gordon and Koon, just over the border in Pennsylvania. Another favorite is a ride south of Cumberland that follows Irons Mountain.

"The only way you won't climb in Allegany County is by heading north," says Mike Hutt, owner of Cycles & Things. Mike should know; he's been in the bike business since 1971.

"People coming here from the D.C. Metro area are surprised to find that the hills here can prepare you for more ambitious hill riding, such as in the Rockies," Amy says, noting lots of options for advanced beginning riders. Recommended rides described on the Maryland Mountaininside website include the Rocky Gap Short Ride (10.8 miles), Gordon Lake Short Ride (14.5 miles) and the more ambitious Brice Hollow Ride (34.8 miles). More can be found at [www.mdmountaininside.com/category/cycling\\_routes](http://www.mdmountaininside.com/category/cycling_routes).

Allegany County offers several notable events at Rocky Gap State Park for on-and-off road cyclists who enjoy triathlon and biathlon competitions. On June 3, 2018, the 31st Annual Rocky Gap Sprint Triathlon and 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Biathlon cater to athletes who prefer road rides. Sponsored by the YMCA of Cumberland, the cycling segment for both events features a rolling eight-mile round-trip out Pleasant Valley Road and back. Triathletes and biathletes who prefer off-road cycling will meet July 15 at the Park for the Annual Xterra EX2 Off-Road Triathlon and Duathlon. The two-lap mountain bike course includes a twisty single-track along the shores of Lake Habeeb, wide fire roads, grassy sections, and a few rock gardens for an extra challenge.

## Garrett County

Like its eastern neighbors in Western Maryland, Garrett County has it all – road biking, mountain biking and trail biking – along with Maryland’s highest elevations thanks to its location entirely within the highlands of the Appalachian Mountain range. At 3,360 feet, Backbone Mountain is the highest point in Maryland. Garrett’s rugged terrain ranges from high points featuring flat ridgetops adjacent to narrow and steep ravines, along with broad, high plateaus.

Given the county’s topography, it’s not surprising that Garrett County is known for some of the best mountain biking in Maryland. Deep Creek Lake State Park offers about 10 miles of moderate to difficult riding along the Meadow Mountain Trail. A ride up the Fire Tower Trail is rated expert only. Herrington Manor State Park’s 20 miles of trails feature easy to moderate riding along varied terrain. At New Germany State Park, 10 miles of trail range from beginner to intermediate to advanced levels of difficulty. Riders can enjoy easy to moderate rides in the Garrett State Forest Trail system, with 20 miles of trails, plus a 5.5 mile trail through the Garrett State Forest that links Herrington Manor with Swallow Falls State Park. For more suggestions, check out Bikekinetix suggestions for Garrett County mountain biking trails at [http://www.bikekinetix.com/t\\_md/md\\_western.php](http://www.bikekinetix.com/t_md/md_western.php).

“Garrett cycling offers paved roads in good condition, a variety of hills and great views,” says Ryan Haley of High Mountain Sports in Oakland. Cyclists looking for road rides in Garrett County will find plenty of options, especially if they’re comfortable with hills. A popular choice is a 10-mile loop around Deep Creek Lake featuring beautiful scenery and lake views for most of the ride. Rail-trail fans will find easy to moderate riding on the 14-mile Meadow Mountain Trail that occasionally follows the Eastern Continental Divide. Cyclists can find maps and specific directions for this and other routes at <http://www.highmountainsports.com/bike-routes.html>.

Garrett County is host to one of the premier Gran Fondo cycling competitions in North America. The Gran Fondo, an Italian term that translates as “Big Ride” in English, made its debut in Italy during the early 1970s. In the U.S., the Gran Fondo has exploded in popularity.

Set for June 23, 2018, the Garrett County Gran Fondo offers five supported ride options for cyclists with skills ranging from recreational to professional. “Garrett’s Greatest 25” features a scenic 25-mile course through rolling farmland with no major hills. For more of a challenge, there’s the



**Mountain biking near Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County, Maryland, with moderate to difficult terrain.**

“Fabulous 44” with 5800 feet of climbing. The next ride’s name, the “Masochistic Metric,” offers a good hint of what’s ahead for cyclists attempting its 64 miles and 8400 feet of climbing. If that’s not enough, there’s the “Savage Century” that organizers claim may be “the hardest 100-mile ride in North America” with more than 12,700 feet of climbing. Finally, for highly trained and skilled riders, the Garrett County Gran Fondo tops out with the extreme challenge of the “Diabolical Double,” an epic ride of almost 125 miles and over 16,800 feet of climbing.

“The Gran Fondo encompasses Garrett County,” Ryan says. “It will kick your butt!”

For more information, check out the event website at <https://garrettcountygranfondo.org/> and its Facebook page.

For triathletes, Garrett County offers the “World’s Most Savage and Beautiful Triathlon.” The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the SavageMan Triathlon Festival will be held September 15 -16, 2018, at Deep Creek State Park, with some major changes

and multiple events on the schedule. The main event is the SavageMan60 that challenges participants to complete a course with 50 miles of hill cycling, plus a 1.2-mile lake swim and a 10-mile hill run. The Westernport Wall returns as the highlight event of the race. Every cyclist who successfully climbs this infamous uphill ride without stopping or putting a foot down will be immortalized with a brick bearing his or her name. Adding to the fun is the Westernport Wall Block Party, with screaming spectators ringing cowbells alongside the 31-percent grade. For beginners and those seeking a less challenging race, the SavageMan20 is a sprint with a 500-meter swim, 5K flat run and 16 miles of flat cycling. The SavageMan30 consists of almost 15 miles of hill cycling, a 5-mile hill run and almost a mile of lake swimming. New this year is the SavageMan20/20 double sprint – two 500-meter lake swims, two 3.1-mile runs with one hill and a 15.5-mile ride over rolling terrain.

Recognizing Garrett County's potential to attract cycling enthusiasts and encourage healthy outdoor activity for area residents, a group of cycling advocates from local government and area businesses came together to form Garrett Trails. The non-profit group of volunteers has developed a master plan to promote trail development and support a sustainable trail network linking Garrett County destinations with links to trails outside Garrett County, notably the GAP to the north. The group has been working to develop the Eastern Continental Divide Loop, a multi-use trail with 150-miles of hard-packed surface (to promote economic development of the county and enhance its quality of life). Its website, [www.garretttrails.org](http://www.garretttrails.org), provides a wealth of information about its efforts and includes a helpful and extensive list of suggested rides.



**All three photos: Bicycle portion of the SavageMan Triathlon Festival in Garrett County, Maryland.**

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# The Watson Family: *Cycling to a New Life*

Written by: **Sara Mullins**

PHOTO BY LANCE C. BELL

Sometimes we're presented with a chance to change course, to explore new possibilities, to live new lives. It takes courage to grab the ring and take the risk.

Meet the Watson family, whose six members – Nathaniel and Melanie, plus their two sons and two daughters – did just that when they chose to set out on a cross-country adventure on two triple tandem bicycles, with the ultimate goal of finding a new place to call home. Nathaniel had recently retired from a military career and completed a graduate program in analytical chemistry. The timing seemed right for a pause before embarking upon a career path in a new field. After selling their house, van and sundry possessions, the family said their goodbyes to their home and friends in Seattle, Washington, and set out on March 31, 2017.

**Melanie and Nate Watson and their four children during a chance encounter (October 21, 2017) with Mountain Discoveries co-owner and photographer, Lance Bell, along the C&O Canal towpath at Lockhouse #70, Oldtown, MD.**

The destination: Houston, Texas, where the couple could stay with relatives while seeking employment and a new home. Nathaniel and Melanie estimated that the journey would take the family from 13–15 months to ride through 19 states. They planned an itinerary taking a northern route across Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, Minnesota and Michigan until heading south through Indiana to Kentucky, east to Virginia, then south through the Carolinas and further south to St. Augustine, Florida, then west with a southern route through the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico until they reached Houston.

To record their adventures, post photos, and provide a way for friends and family to communicate with them en route, the Watsons created a website for a blog entitled "Dandelions and Tumbleweeds." The site, <https://dandelionsandtumbleweeds.com>, features Melanie as lead writer, with occasional postings by the older children. Melanie uses nicknames for the children to protect their privacy. Links at the top provide answers to commonly asked questions and a map of the intended route.

Teamwork was a critical component of a journey that required stamina, cooperation and grit from every member of the family. Each bike was powered by a team consisting of one parent and two children, and equipped with four pannier bags, plus coolers and trailers in tow. Nathaniel led Team Frank, assisted by daughters Sissy, age 10, and Lil' Mo, age 4. Melanie led Team Eleanor, assisted by sons Otter, age 9, and Tango, age 7. Their accommodations ranged from campsites to hotels to lodging provided by family, friends, and kind people they met who became friends, and through Warm-showers, a community of volunteers offering amenities to cyclists. Meals were usually simple, prepared with ingredients purchased along the way. The children's education continued en route with homeschool lessons, supplemented with visits to libraries, parks and a host of attractions ranging from farms to theme parks to museums. Bonus activities included horseback rides, goat-tending and wildlife identification.

By the time the Watsons reached Kentucky in late September, they had become increasingly concerned about the feasibility of



**A sampling of some photos from the Watson family blog – (top to bottom): Mt. Rushmore, SD; Camping at Wilderness Gateway, ID; Gulf Islands National Seashore, MS; Yellowstone River, MT; Antietam Battlefield, MD; Cavern Gulch Trail, Lewis and Clark State Park, MT; Monticello, VA; Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC; Wright Brothers Memorial, NC; and The White House, Washington, DC.**

**To see more cross country photos and adventures, go to: <https://dandelionsandtumbleweeds.com>.**

THESE PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE WATSON FAMILY



PHOTO BY LANCE C. BELL

following their planned route over the Appalachian Mountains, with its steep climbs and worn road surfaces. Their average daily mileage of 25 – 30 miles, the substantial weight they carried, and their hilly route were taking a toll on their bikes. They had heard about a rail trail known as the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) that started in Pittsburgh, PA, and then joined the C&O Canal Towpath that extended to Washington, DC. This route would add miles, but cut their total climbing elevation by more than half. So they decided to change course, head north through Ohio, and then east into Pennsylvania to take this detour.

By chance, as the Watsons were riding along the Towpath near Spring Gap in Allegany County, Maryland, they were spotted by *Mountain Discoveries'* roving photographer and co-owner, Lance Bell. He followed them by car and met them in Oldtown, MD, where he learned about their journey and took a photo near C&O Canal Lockhouse #70. After a detour to visit the Antietam National Battlefield, the family continued along the Towpath until reaching White's Ferry, which transported them, plus bikes and trailers, across the Potomac River to Virginia. Friends in Alexandria welcomed them for a visit allowing them to explore notable attractions in Washington, DC, before continuing their journey south and onward to Houston.

On March 27, 2018, Melanie triumphantly posted, “**We Made It!**” on the family blog, celebrating a journey ending that day that covered 8,188 total miles and 361 total days of cycling through a total of 23 states.

**The Watson family leaving Oldtown, MD, along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal towpath trail, to continue their journey through Maryland and on to the next state to continue their cross country journey.**

Reflecting on the family’s ambitious journey, Melanie says, “The biggest ‘wow’ of the trip was a feeling of triumph experienced after achieving the distance cycled and the multitude of experiences that could never be replicated. An example was an invitation to do farm-sitting. The experience inspired the kids to ask if we could settle on a hobby farm. It was a gift. It could be a game changer.”

“Another ‘wow’ was the ability to meet and interact with people face-to-face in fruitful engagement. We found fellowship with a variety of people who might have different outlooks on many issues. The kids had previously been more fearful of others. Lil’ Mo was especially negative, but now she views the world with joy.”

Melanie’s blog post indicates that the Watsons aren’t ready to settle down just yet. “This tremendous experience tempts us to continue adventuring and delay real life for a bit longer, so we are going abroad for some volunteer opportunities for the summer (without our bikes). We will begin job searching in earnest in August.”

If the kids have their way, there’s a good chance that the Watsons’ next home will be a hobby farm.

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# The Rolling Pin Bakery and Deli

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

The small cinder block building at 203 N. Main Street in Accident, Maryland, has housed many businesses since its start as a blacksmith shop in the late 1800s. Most recently, it has been used as a bakery. Glen Maust has for several years envisioned having a food business in the area that would sell deli items in addition to baked goods. In April 2017, Glen and his wife Rachel decided to purchase the newly vacant building and make that business idea a reality.

First, they gave the shop a makeover. Rustic wooden shingles, sturdy cedar log porch supports, and a huge hand-crafted rolling pin were added to the front. Inside, older fixtures were replaced and the floor plan was adjusted to allow more room in the shop both for display and for customers. It was ready to open the first week of October.

The Mausts' daughter Jennifer helped with the paperwork and planning that go into starting a business, but she received a job offer from California and departed at the end of opening week.

Being busy with other occupations—Glen has been a builder for 28 years and Rachel has been a homemaker taking care of six children and has recently taken on office work for an apartment building they own—the Mausts have hired a full crew. Currently Trina Yoder, manager; Joanna Beachy, secretary; Shelly Bender, head baker; along with Julia Yoder, Nicole Beachy, Brenda Orendorf, Lucinda and Lavonda Maust (sisters and nieces of Glen and Rachel), Abby Maust (daughter-in-law), and Jennette Kauffman round out the team. Jeffrey and Janessa Maust, children of the owners, also help after school and on Saturdays.

The deli and bakery has been a hit with both locals and visitors. In addition to bread, cinnamon rolls, pies, and other standard bakery items, The Rolling Pin has special doughnut days. On Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, bakers start even earlier than usual, at 3:30 AM, to produce dozens of fresh doughnuts, which are sold until they are gone.



**Top photo (left to right):** Glen and Rachel Maust, owners; Lavonda Maust, Nicole Beachy, Shelly Bender, Brenda Orendorf and Katrina Yoder.

**Bottom photos:** Owners Glen and Rachel Maust inside The Rolling Pin Bakery & Deli at 203 N. Main Street, Accident, Maryland.



The Rolling Pin also provides a varied menu of deli food. Fresh deli sandwiches, potato salad (from a sister-in-law's popular recipe), macaroni salad, meatball subs with homemade sauce, cheeses and meats are always on the menu. In the colder months, two kinds of soups such as regular or white chicken chili, cheesy potato, or cheesy broccoli are offered each day. In warmer months, self-serve hot dogs are available with all the fixings.

Call ahead if you'd like to order carry out, or to plan for deli trays, cookie trays and other special orders.

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## *in Mountain Maryland*

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

From the Cumberland Expressway, a large sign is clearly visible: "Allegany Medical Marijuana Dispensary." What is this newcomer to the medical scene, and how did it come to be in Cumberland, Maryland?

Basically, the combination of three events in 2014 has resulted in this important new medical resource for the people of Western Maryland.

One: Dr. Sajal Roy opened a specialty pharmacy located in Maryland, Louisiana, and Texas, and serving all fifty states that now generates over 125 million in revenue annually.

That business, Factor One Source/FAST Pharmacy, provides medications for patients with hemophilia; immune disorders such as multiple sclerosis (MS), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and psoriasis; and addiction disorders.

Two: During this time, Sajal's mother was struggling with the effects of cancer treatment, and he was "astonished" to observe that a few drops of THC oil under her tongue gave her pain relief and the ability to sleep without the need for opiates or sleeping medication.

Three: After much study and debate, the State of Maryland decided to legalize medical marijuana, and established a Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) to develop regulations and oversee the industry.

Thus, Sajal became interested in the medical marijuana business that was being planned in Maryland for both professional and personal reasons. Operating a dispensary would draw on the skills he had already developed in his business, medical marijuana would serve a similar population as his



**Allegany Medical Marijuana Dispensary is located off I-68, Exit 43A in Cumberland, Maryland.**

specialty pharmacy and he had seen firsthand how effective cannabis could be.

Convinced that this field would be a good fit, he decided to apply for a license to dispense medical marijuana.

His application was approved in 2016. Sajal and co-owners George Merling and Greg Pappas selected and renovated a building, employees received specialized online training through THC University, and the dispensary opened in Cumberland on December 1, 2017.

The Allegany County Medical Marijuana Dispensary has the distinction of being the second dispensary to open in Maryland. Budtender Ian Beattie notes ruefully that another dispensary "beat us by a day or so."

The first day at the dispensary would have to be counted a success; to serve all the patients, the place had to stay



**Ian Beattie, budtender at Allegany Medical Marijuana Dispensary, provides individualized attention for patients and caregivers, with the best product solutions to meet their needs.**

open until 3:30 a.m., and a community began to form immediately. One person even brought in pizza for others who were waiting. Soon, the dispensary settled into its regular hours, Tuesday-Friday 10-6 and Saturday 11-7.

Many people think of marijuana use as similar to alcoholism, with people smoking joints and staying stoned all the time. In reality, medical marijuana is dispensed in a professional setting. It can be used in a variety of forms, does not usually cause a feeling of being high, and has vital therapeutic value for patients suffering from a variety of conditions.

Cannabis contains dozens of compounds called cannabinoids. One of them, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is responsible for the feeling of being high when it is consumed in sufficient quantity. Some other cannabinoids such as cannabidiol (CBD) do not have this effect and can even counteract it when used in combination with THC. The essential plant oils (terpenes) in cannabis also have therapeutic effect used alone or in conjunction with cannabinoids.

Plants are tested for contaminants such as heavy metals, pesticides, and anaerobic material. Plants that do not pass

this testing can be sent to a processor where the undesirable material is removed and extracts can be produced.

As Ian points out, marijuana is a natural plant rather than a synthetic formulation, and growers have developed thousands of strains of marijuana. Different types have different characteristics. Some tend to make users more alert, while others tend to be relaxing. People who are licensed to grow, process, and dispense medical marijuana are very knowledgeable about its characteristics and uses, and budtenders can help patients find the right solutions for their own situations.

Like Sajal's mother, some patients use medical marijuana to relieve pain and promote restful sleep. Cannabis is a versatile medicine. Among other uses, it can stimulate or suppress appetite, quell nausea, alleviate symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), improve focus for individuals who have attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), regulate blood sugar, and aid in treatment of glaucoma.



**Cannabis is a versatile medicine with a variety of supplies available and dispensed in many forms.**

One of medical marijuana's benefits is that it can reduce or eliminate the need to use other medicines. Ian describes a patient with severe muscle spasms who was reluctantly planning to return to narcotics use when he found that cannabis was effective in lessening the spasms. Some people with MS who take many medications have found that they can replace some of their other prescriptions with cannabis. This can lead to far fewer side effects and lower the risk of addiction.

Cannabis can indeed be smoked in several ways, including via cigarettes, vape cartridges, bongs, or dab rigs. Allegany Medical Marijuana Dispensary can demonstrate and provide supplies for these methods. However, some people, such as those using oxygen, cannot smoke. Others don't want to smoke. And smoking isn't the best means of treating some conditions. For these reasons, cannabis can be dispensed in many other forms. It can be a liquid that is squirted into the mouth or incorporated into food. It can come as a salve or lotion to be applied to skin; in fact, cannabis shows great promise as a healing agent for wounds, psoriasis, and similar problems. It can be taken as a tablet, or worn as a patch.

Some people who become patients have prior knowledge of marijuana, while others have very little or no experience. Allegany Medical Marijuana Dispensary provides individualized attention for all patients and caregivers, and sponsors classes for everyone who wants to learn more about the use of cannabis.

To date, the Allegany Medical Marijuana Dispensary has served over 1000 unique patients. Though Sajal makes sure to reserve time for his wife Holly and infant daughter Savita, he wants to extend his expertise to more locations. He is in the process of applying for licenses to open medical marijuana dispensaries in Louisiana and Arkansas.

The State of Maryland is also moving forward. A question about the lack of diversity among growers has led to legislative discussion of possible remedies. Other legislation being considered relates to increasing from 10 grams to one ounce the amount of marijuana a person can possess without being charged with a felony, and legalization of recreational use of marijuana.

While these issues are being resolved, over 26,000 registered patients in Maryland are finding relief for various ailments through the use of medical marijuana, with the confidence that the product they are using has been professionally tested, labeled, and dispensed. Learning more about this helpful and carefully regulated treatment option has changed the minds of many community members who initially opposed legalization of medical marijuana.

Ian says that he enjoys being employed at the Allegany Medical Marijuana Dispensary—the staff are treated well—but the most gratifying part of the job for him is to see the difference this medicine makes for people who are suffering. Sajal concurs: "My staff and I love hearing the life changing success stories, and we are happy to be a part of our patients' lives."

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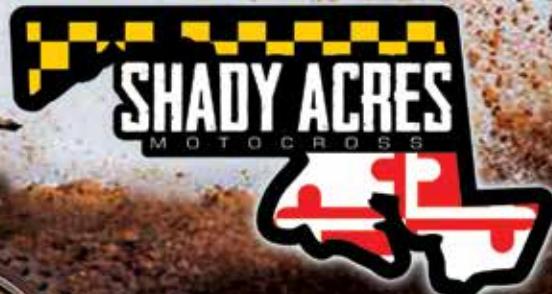
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# Shop 'til You Drop at Shenandoah Valley's Route 11 Yard Crawl

Written by: **Sara Mullins**

Bargain hunters, rejoice! Virginia's largest yard sale, the Route 11 Yard Crawl, will return for its 14th year this summer on Saturday, August 11, 2018. Held rain or shine, the Crawl offers a bonanza of treasures for sale in the scenic heart of the Shenandoah Valley. The Crawl's route extends more than 43 miles through nine historic towns that include (from south to north) New Market, Mount Jackson, Edinburg, Woodstock, Maurertown, Toms Brook, Strasburg, Middletown and Stephens City.

"Yard sales are very big in the valley," says Sharon Baroncelli, executive director of the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce. "This event developed as a takeoff from that. We've lost track of how many people participate because it's become so large."

"Most of our visitors come from outside the area," Sharon adds, and suggests that they come earlier to explore the Shenandoah Valley's multiple attractions, check out the merchandise and better plan their shopping strategy. With as many as 40 to 100 vendors clustered in large areas, not to mention additional vendors filling any available space, a shopper can be easily overwhelmed by the amount of merchandise on display. Before the Crawl officially begins Saturday, early attendees can relax and enjoy Friday's Crawl kick-off party at the Flea Market in Edinburg.

So what's for sale? Almost anything you can think of – collectibles, books, furniture, tools, clothing, sporting goods, toys, and the list goes on. Several local businesses offer discounts and hold sales during the Crawl, with some benefitting local nonprofits. Shopping can work up an appetite, so vendors will be on hand to offer a variety of food choices to satisfy a wide range of tastes.



To enhance the Crawl experience for all, organizers have assembled some helpful tips:

- Consider driving a spacious vehicle so you'll have room for all your booty. Consider bringing rope, straps or bungee cords to tie down any large purchases.
- Start at one end or the other – New Market or Stephens City – for the best experience.
- Safety first! Drive slowly and watch for pedestrians and other vehicles.
- Park your vehicle completely off the road and do not block driveways.
- Take care of yourself. Stay hydrated, eat when you're hungry, get out of the sun when uncomfortable and take breaks as needed.

Two special events add to the Crawl fun: the Route 11 Yard Crawl Flip and the Route 11 Yard Crawl Scavenger Hunt. Inspired by HGTV's *Flea Market Flip*, the Route 11 version challenges individuals or teams of two to find the best item to refurbish or transform into something that can be sold for a profit. The winning piece will be displayed and resold at auction during the Shenandoah Autumnfest at the Shenandoah County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 13. Proceeds of the sale will be split between the seller and the Leadership Shenandoah County scholarship program. The Scavenger Hunt, a virtual event involving social media, kicks off bright and early at 6 a.m. on Saturday, August 11. Items included in the Hunt will be listed at [www.facebook.com/OfficialRoute11YardCrawl](http://www.facebook.com/OfficialRoute11YardCrawl). On Saturday, participants must identify and photograph all listed items on display at the Crawl, and then send these photos to [director@shenandoahcountychamber.com](mailto:director@shenandoahcountychamber.com). The first person to successfully do so will win a \$50 gift card good at the Flea Market in Edinburg, plus a Crawl t-shirt that comes in different colors every year. The 2018 version features tangerine with navy blue letters and can be purchased for \$10 at several locations scattered throughout the Crawl.

Whether or not Crawl attendees make a purchase or vendors make a sale, all are sure to leave the event with vivid memories and perhaps some new friends. "It's a destination and a community gathering," Sharon says. Some might say it's Yard Sale Heaven.



# "DRUMS ON THE CONOCOCHEAGUE: THEN AND NOW"

## A NATIVE AMERICAN POWWOW AT CONOCOCHEAGUE SETTLEMENT

### MERCERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Written by: **Rachel Nichols**

Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Native American heritage will again be celebrated with two exciting days of drumming, dancing and singing at the Conococheague Settlement, 12995 Bain Road, Mercersburg, PA, on September 8 and 9, 2018. The event will be held Saturday, September 8th, from 9 am–8 pm and Sunday, September 9th, from 11 am – 4 pm. The Grand Entry will take place at noon each day.

The event features the Medicine Horse Singers, Aztec Dancers and the Potamoc Dancers performing traditional Native American drumming, dancing and singing with fire dancing featured Saturday evening. In addition, eventgoers will experience a variety of Native American craft and lifeway demonstrators. The bridge between ancient and modern powwows and the spiritual significance of the drumming, dances and song will be explained.

The public is invited to join in some dances and have fun while learning about Eastern Native heritage, and kids will enjoy a candy dance.

An emcee will discuss the dances and their origins along with a narrated reenactment depicting a French & Indian War era frontier skirmish complete with the burning of a cabin and taking of captives. The dance circle is open to all.

Other customs that the people may see are smudging with sage, keeping the sacred fire going, praying to Creator, showing respect for elders, Native dress, male dancing, female dancing and social dances. These customs would be done by Nations from this area such as Delaware, Shawnee



All ages perform in the dances with very colorful, tradition dress.

and Iroquois; all nations are welcome to join in the event.

Food and beverages will be sold on premises and will include Native American specialties. There will be no alcohol on premises. Visitors are advised to bring chairs or blankets.

In the 16th, 17th and 18th century powwows were a gathering of Natives to worship Creator; to thank Him for food, shelter and one another in the daily struggle to survive.

Modern Powwows started after WWII when the Native soldiers were coming home from war. The powwow fulfilled their wish to show how they were protectors of their families and the

Nation. It came from the old Objibway religion called Drum, which comes from a story where a Chief's wife went into a very cold body of water to escape enemies who had attacked the village. She passed over, but the Sky people sent her back because it was not her time. They told her

how to make a drum and she had two men make it. Another village was attacking them; the men played this drum and some of the attackers were killed by the mighty sound. The attack was called off and the two groups talked. It was decided that the drum was to be used for music instead of going to war.

Men drummed and women sang. The dancers in the circle were all men until 1949 when a group of women entered the circle, which brought the Powwow to an abrupt halt. The women talked with the Chiefs, who decided the women added grace and beauty. Later, young boys wanted fancy dance and the young girls wanted jingle dance. They would wear 365 cones on their dress and one additional cone for each male relative in the armed service.

Today, Powwow is still a religious experience for Natives and a way to thank the Creator. Professional drummers, dancers and singers will use the powwow to praise Creator and it will also be an opportunity to educate people about Natives from the past and present.

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*The Conococheague Settlement is the main attraction of the Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage, a non-profit organization that serves as a regional center for the purpose of developing and fostering awareness, understanding and stewardship of the cultural and natural history of the Appalachian frontier through preservation, education and research.*

*Headquartered within Rock Hill Farm, a well-preserved historic farmstead that was established in the early 18th century in southern Franklin County, Pennsylvania, the 30-acre site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It includes two historic house museums with outbuildings, a research library, two relocated historic log structures, walking trails with access to a pioneer cemetery, and several historic gardens.*

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**Conococheague, rhymes with Monica Jig, is a Native American word often translated as "long indeed, very long indeed" owing to the winding nature of the creek.**

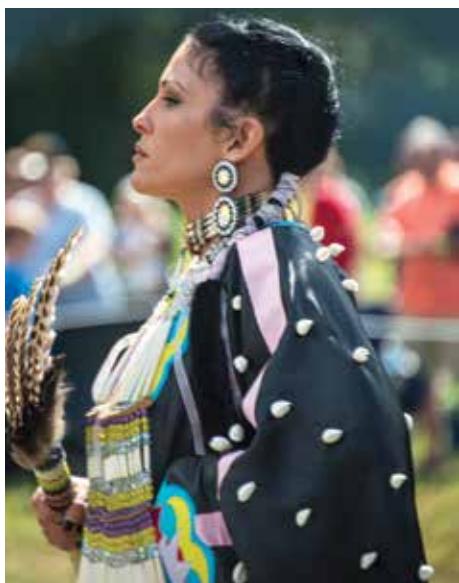


**One of the two relocated historic log structures at the Conococheague Settlement.**

**Women add grace and beauty, as well as colorful dress, to the traditional Powwow dances.**



## William Penn's Policy Toward Native Peoples in 1682 Pennsylvania



At the beginning of Pennsylvania's colonial period, the story of the Lenape people was bound to the story of William Penn and his "holy experiment." Of the English colonies, Pennsylvania initially adopted the most enlightened policy toward the Native peoples.

In 1682, William Penn, son of a wealthy admiral, was granted the territory north of Maryland in lieu of a debt owed by the English Crown to his father. An early convert to Quakerism, Penn conceived of his land as a "free colony for all mankind." As part of this freedom, Penn entertained what was then the "curious notion" that his grant did not override native rights. He promised the Lenape people tolerance for their way of life and respect for their property. In return, the colony saw little in the way of conflict during the first 36 years.

When in London, Penn wrote to the Lenape, "I am very sensible of unkindness and injustice that hath been too much exercised toward you by the people of these parts of the world...but I am not such a man." After Penn's death in 1718, his "holy experiment" was replaced by self interest and greed on the part of his heirs, other English colonists and the Iroquois Confederation.



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June 9 – Whiskey Rebellion Festival at Canal Place

June 10 – Heritage Home & Garden Tour

June 9-10 – Museum Open House/50th Annual Heritage Days  
Special Tours/Car Show at Canal Place

June 14 – Mountain Side Baroque Festival Concert

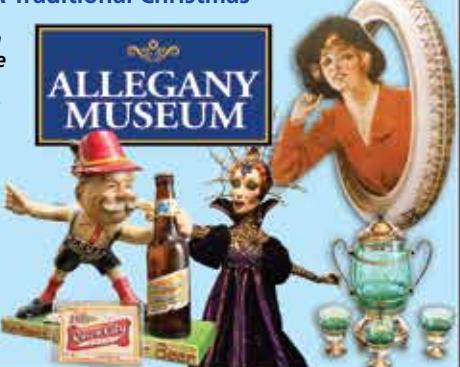
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# Down to Earth Landscape Design and Construction: A True Calling



The Urbanski family — Standing left to right: son Olek, daughters Monika, Joanna "Asia," and Julia and son-in-law, Christopher. Seated: Lucian and Anna.

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**  
Photography provided by: **Lucian & Anna Urbanski**

In 1982, Anna Urbanski's toddler daughter Monika was near death. The best doctor in Poland advised Anna and her husband that the child's only hope was to move to the United States to escape the toxic environment and to receive medical treatment. Soon after Anna's husband Lucian left to begin the process of establishing a home for them in America, martial law was declared in Poland, which meant Anna had to start over again in obtaining passports and permission to leave the country. This led to the family asking for, and being granted, political asylum. Ultimately, Anna



**Above:** One of Anna's ponds nearing completion. Anna in foreground with two of her "muscle men," Ty and Clay.

**Inset (right)** shows the waterfall feature cascading into the many layers of this pond's depths.

**Facing page:** Anna's first pond in which the owner was very involved in the build, with Anna's supervision.

and her two children (Monika and son Olek) were able to join Lucian. They lived in a relative's un air-conditioned attic in terrible heat as her husband worked and Anna strove to care for her growing family (two more daughters, Julia and Joanna, were born), learn English and acclimate to a new country.

Decades later, she is proud of her immigrant family's success, and she is grateful—grateful that the United States allowed them to enter the country for humanitarian reasons; that her daughter thrived with the medical care and diet that were possible here; that after a few years her husband was able to find work in his field of expertise, electro-mechanical engineering; and that she was able to pursue a dream vocation.

Anna's original education was in archaeology. In fact, she met her husband in the Polish Archaeological Museum in Warsaw where she worked and where he had been hired



to design and install security systems for priceless international exhibits. However, since childhood, she has loved nature and natural materials such as stone, so when the family settled into a large rural property in Mount Savage, near Frostburg, Maryland, and Anna had no opportunity to work in archaeology, she decided to learn all she could about landscaping and building natural ponds. She took a two-year correspondence course in landscape design, obtaining her diploma in six months. She continued her pond building education based on the methods of Aquascape, Inc., and built a pond on her own property.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE DAVIS

**Just a few of Anna's many beautiful landscape designs — with and without water features. Her designs often include rock structures, streams, waterfalls and lush vegetation.**

**Inset: Anna with the Butterfly Koi fish "Mermaid," with the history of being relocated three times — from the pet shop to Anna's pond, then to a client's pond on the East Coast, then back to Cumberland, Maryland, for a permanent location in a larger pond.**

Soon, neighbors and friends were clamoring for her to assist them with similar projects; she traces her "Down to Earth" business to these early projects beginning in 1993. In the decades since, her husband and son have worked with her when they could, and she has hired other laborers. She relies on her "forewoman" Edith to supervise on site, and some members of Edith's family are also on the crew. Anna has never established a website because clients find her via "word of mouth."

When requests come in to provide maintenance or extensions of gardens she has designed, Anna gives these "children" of hers priority. She says she usually spends the early part of the season (until around the Fourth of July) taking care of these existing projects before she turns to new

landscape designs each year.

Anna feels she has found her true calling. She embraces methods that lead to balanced micro-ecosystems that will maintain

good health with minimal chemicals and other interventions. She stocks the ponds with fish, and other animal life is naturally attracted to the beautiful water features she creates. Her plans often include pond-less waterfalls, streams, rock structures, and plantings that develop into lush scenes.

Down to Earth has designed and installed projects all over the mid-Atlantic area, but these days Anna tries to take new work that is within a one hour drive of Mount Savage, Maryland.

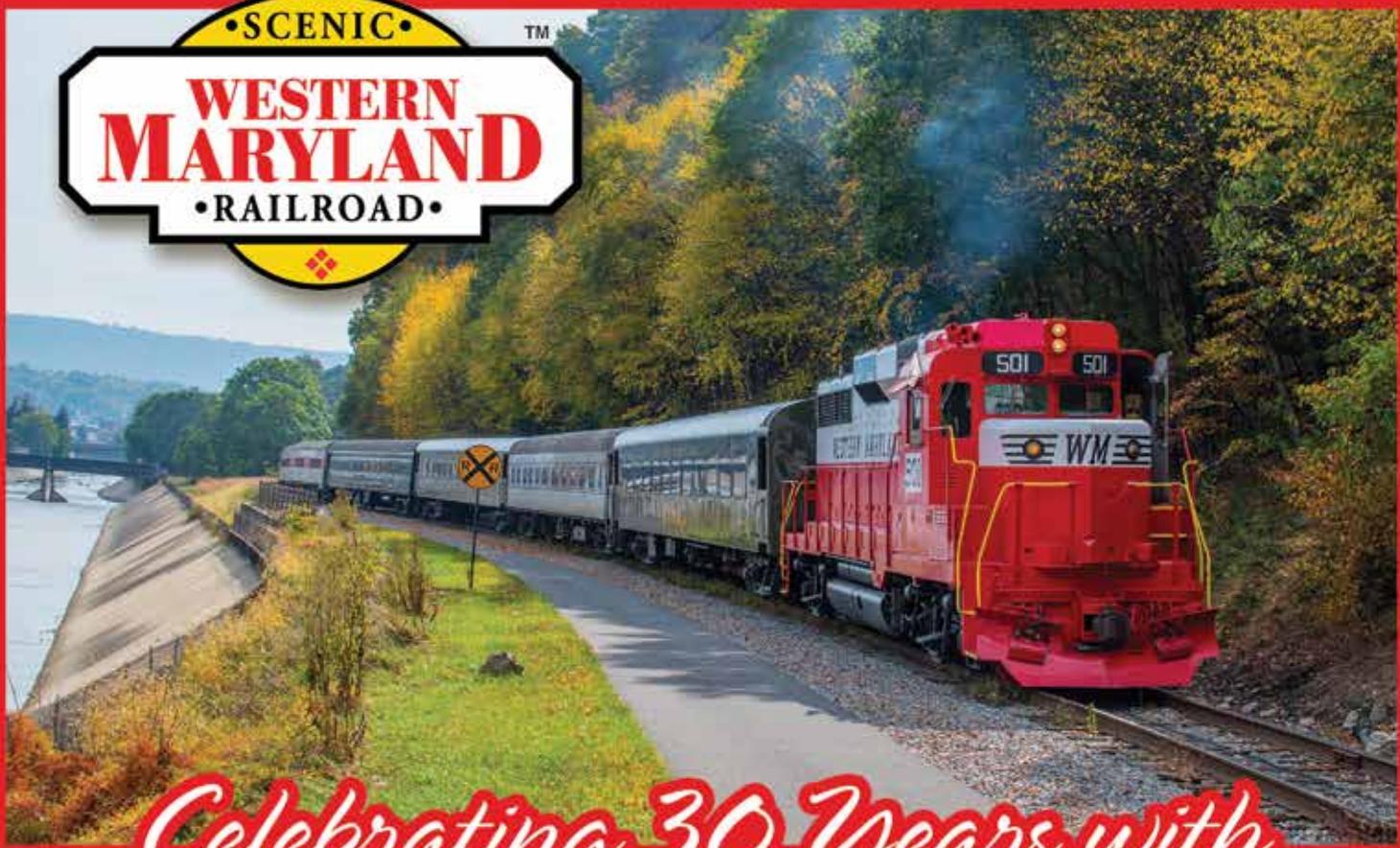
The twist of fate that led Anna and her family to move to the United States has resulted in her discovery of the work she was meant to do, and has allowed her, over more than two decades of landscape creation, to give people what she describes as "a little piece of heaven" in their backyards.



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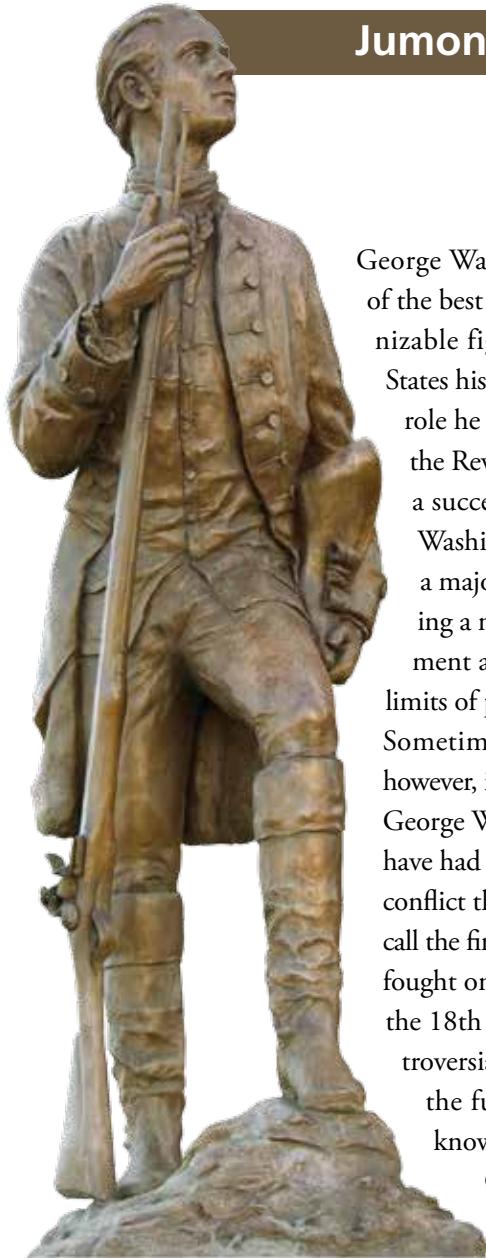
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# George Washington

## and the French & Indian War

Jumonville Glen — Fayette County, Pennsylvania



**Bronze statue of young George Washington at the site of Fort Cumberland; currently the location of the Allegany County Courthouse at 30 Washington Street, Cumberland, MD.**

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

George Washington is one of the best known and recognizable figures in United States history because of the role he played in bringing the Revolutionary War to a successful conclusion. Washington later played a major part in establishing a new federal government and defining the limits of presidential power. Sometimes overlooked, however, is the responsibility George Washington may have had in starting another conflict that some historians call the first world war, a war fought on five continents in the 18th century. The controversial event involving the future president, known as Jumonville

Glen, includes many elements of regional history, and is directly connected to the start of the

conflict was based on long standing European disputes, including the Hundred Years that placed the two kingdoms at odds and created lingering resentments.

With the exploration of North America in the 17th century, the British-French rivalry once again exploded into armed conflict with what the former called King William's War (1688-1697), a time when settlements were subjected to raids and the native population forced to take sides. King William's War did not settle the colonial disputes in North America, as the two colonial powers confronted each other again on the western frontier.

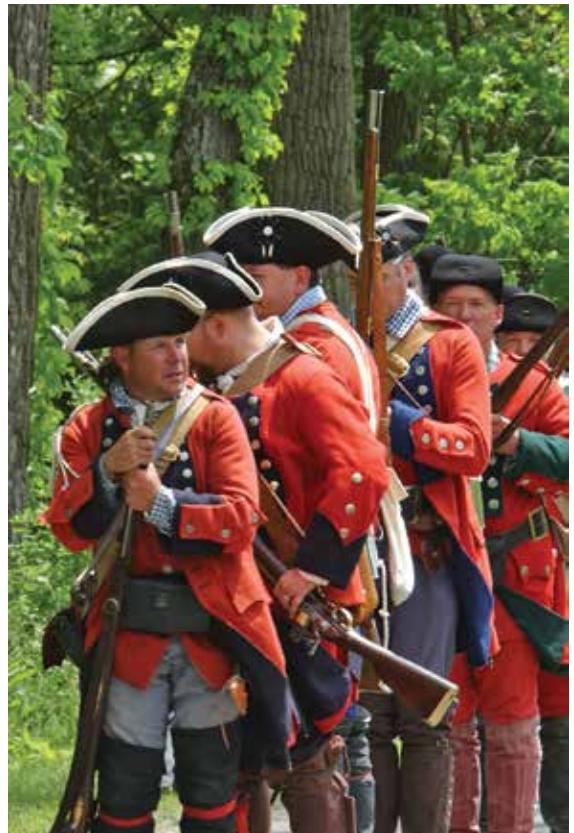
Britain and France experienced major disagreements over the Ohio Valley by 1750. English settlements had been expanding for decades from the eastern seaboard toward the Ohio Valley, while French settlers were acting similarly as they moved south from Canada. The conflicts over commercial and political interests in the region increased when the two sides clashed over territorial claims.

A key figure in the economic and political intrigue was Robert Dinwiddie, Lt. Governor of Virginia and a primary investor in the Ohio Company, a private land speculation company that today would be called a venture capital enterprise. The Ohio Company received a land grant from the crown to a large part of the Ohio Valley, thereby entwining the British government with colonial authorities and private investors. Additional western land companies were chartered which increased political pressures to ensure that Ohio remained under friendly control.

Native Americans became victims in the territorial disputes since their occupation of the land predated both French and English settlements. By the mid eighteenth century, the three parties drew closer to armed conflict as negotiations continued to fail.

French and Indian War (1756-1763), a major conflict involving Britain, France, and the native population of North America.

George Washington was obviously not responsible for the British-French rivalry that existed for centuries. The



Reenactors portraying the French (left) and the British (right) during the French and Indian War.

Robert Dinwiddie recognized the threat that a French presence would pose to the Ohio Company, so he sought powerful support. After Dinwiddie's plea to the British Privy Council, the government offered assurances by authorizing the building of forts in strategic locations in the Ohio Valley and other measures. The government in London did not, however, provide funding to carry out all that was authorized and Virginia's legislative assembly, called the House of Burgesses, refused to finance the initiatives. Dinwiddie was forced to try a less expensive alternative—sending an emissary to speak with the French. Dinwiddie's decision to include 21-year-old George Washington with the diplomatic mission would have important implications.

Washington was likely included in the mission because of his previous experience as a surveyor in western lands and connections to the influential Fairfax family of Virginia. Armed with a letter from Dinwiddie and a new title, Major in the Virginia militia, Washington departed Williamsburg, Virginia, at the end of October 1753. After arriving several weeks later at the Ohio Company storehouse in present day Ridgeley, West Virginia, he hired Christopher Gist as a guide to lead the small party into Pennsylvania.

The French commander at Fort LeBoeuf (present day Waterford, PA) was unimpressed by Dinwiddie's letter demanding that he vacate the region. Although treated with respect due a diplomat, the young major was invited to depart Fort LeBoeuf and return to Williamsburg.

Upon return to Virginia, Dinwiddie requested that Washington prepare a written report of the expedition that was later published and widely read, thereby thrusting the young military leader into the public spotlight for the first time.

Washington's report on the mission not only included the rejection of British demands, but also a survey of French forces and allies that he observed in the region. Dinwiddie and the colonial legislature interpreted the French presence in the Ohio Valley and the more recent rejection of demands as unfriendly acts. Dinwiddie subsequently promoted George Washington to the rank of Lt. Colonel and ordered a militia force be raised with orders to destroy or make prisoners of anyone who was obstructing British interests in the Ohio Valley.

As hostilities grew closer, the colonial powers increased their efforts to curry favor with Native Americans. Unfortunately



**Some Native Americans viewed the French as the lesser threat while others became British allies.**

for the native population, Britain and France usually considered Indian interests only within the context of European concerns. Bargains were forged and broken depending on circumstances and misunderstandings. Like their European counterparts, native peoples were diverse and exploiting the differences was typically practiced by both colonial powers.

Britain's primary allies among Native Americans belonged to the Iroquois confederation and a leader named Tanacharison, but commonly called by the title "Half King." Not all groups within the confederation trusted the British or Half King; Indians continued to see their lands encroached upon despite the presence of their leader. Many Indians, therefore, rejected Half King's authority, opposed the British, and viewed the French as a lesser threat.

Washington became part of the newly formed Virginia Regiment under the leadership of Colonel Joshua Fry that was dispatched with specific orders to hold the land at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, the same area claimed by the French. After arriving at Fort

Cumberland in April 1754, Washington learned that 1,000 French forces had already begun work on a fort where Dinwiddie had ordered that a British stronghold be constructed.

Not waiting for the arrival of Colonel Fry, Washington ordered his men to depart Fort Cumberland and make their way into Pennsylvania where French forces and their allies awaited. Although Britain and France were not technically at war, tensions continued to mount after word was received that the French had attempted to burn the plantation of Christopher Gist, a member of Washington's party.

Washington was aware that French forces would be present in southwest Pennsylvania, but on May 27, 1754, Indian allies presented him with specific information about a camp 15 miles from his position. Following consultations with Half King, Washington selected approximately 40 militiamen to meet the French. Walking single file through darkness, the small group located the encampment on the morning of May 28th in a glen not far from the main trail.



**Reenactors portraying the British during the French and Indian War (1756 – 1763).**

It is at this point in time the encounter became a controversial issue with international consequences.

Washington's Indian allies circled behind the French while Washington and the colonials walked straight into the glen. No one is sure which side fired first, but it is uncontested that a volley of gun fire occurred that morning. The fighting continued for about 15 minutes and took the lives of 13 Frenchmen and one militiaman. Importantly, one Frenchman escaped the glen and made his way back to Fort Duquesne (present day Pittsburgh, PA) where news of the encounter quickly became known and disseminated.

If the attack was not controversial enough, subsequent events further escalated tensions and tarnished Washington's reputation as a military leader.

The controversial and tragic incident allegedly occurred after the French surrendered and when Washington was trying to communicate with an officer, Ensign de Villiers, Sieur de Jumonville, who had been dispatched to warn the British about occupying French claimed territory. As Jumonville and Washington conversed while attempting

to overcome the language barrier, Half King stepped into their presence. Without warning, he tomahawked Jumonville's head and reportedly washed his hands in the dead man's brains. Half King's motivation was based in previous war experiences involving the French. This personal act of revenge against an unarmed and in-custody officer elevated what had been a backwoods skirmish into a brutal murder event.

The historical accuracy of the encounter was later disputed by several accounts that did not include Half King's violent act. Other undisputed behavior involved the scalping of French casualties by Half King's men. Regardless of differing accounts, the French who fought at what became known as the Battle of Jumonville Glen believed the British and their allies had acted inappropriately on the morning of May 28th.

As word of the skirmish became known, so did questions about it. Were the French secretly stalking the militia and waiting for an opportunity to ambush them? Did Washington open fire on sleeping men who were engaged in a



**Reenactors with their muskets, portraying the French during the French and Indian War.**

diplomatic mission? Was the young Washington influenced by Half King to commit a reckless act? These and other questions continued to be debated by those interested in the French and Indian War and what became known as the “Battle of Jumonville Glen” or simply “Jumonville.”

Washington consistently stated that members of the French party were going for their weapons when he fired in self defense. The French, however, maintained most of them learned of Washington’s presence only after he opened fire. The French also argued that the violent encounter constituted an act of war on a diplomatic mission and that armed retaliation was justified.

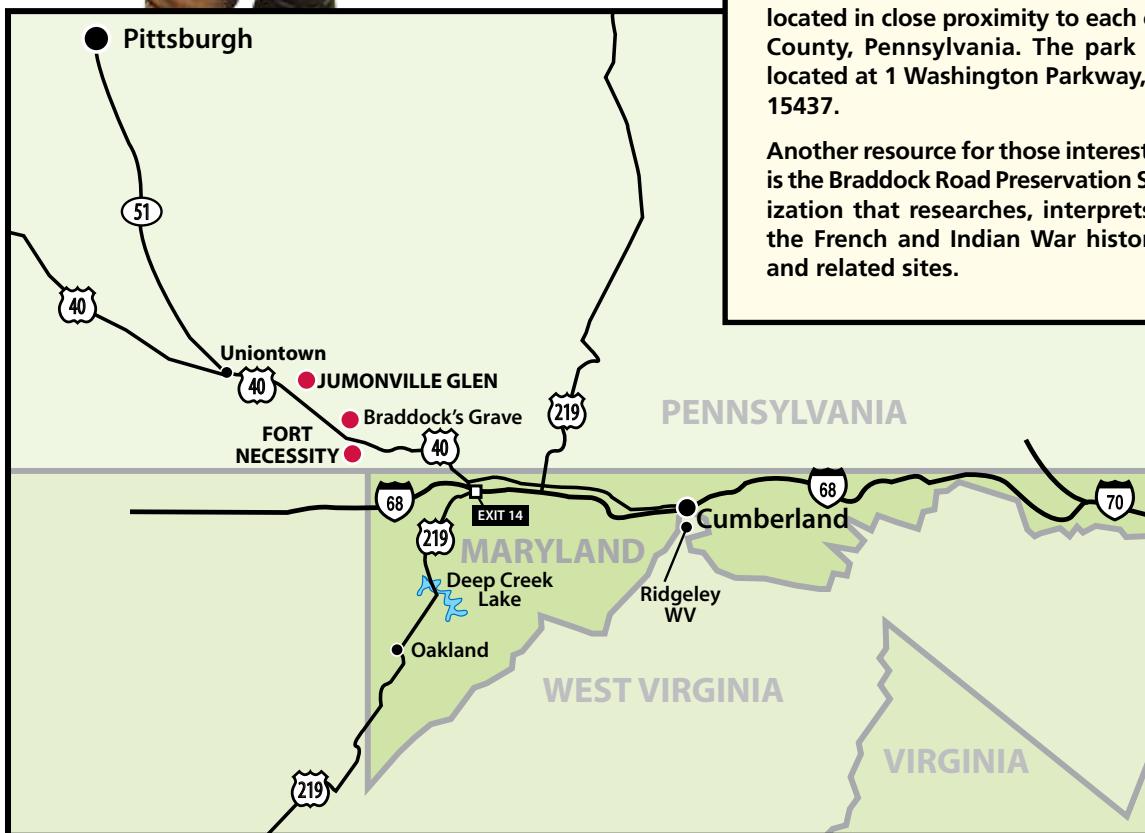
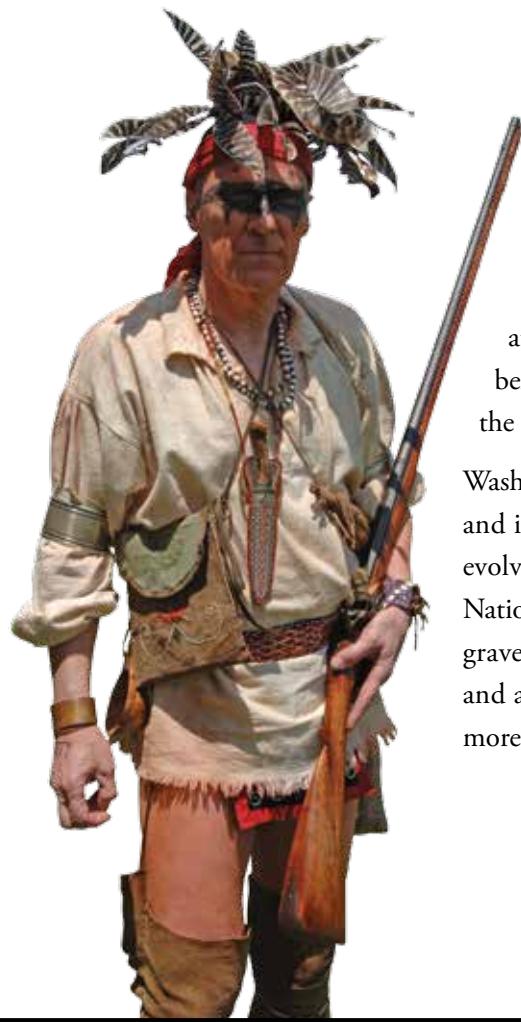
Washington expected French retaliation, so he retreated a short distance to a position known as Great Meadows. A hastily constructed wooden enclosure that was begun shortly before the incident, known as Fort Necessity, provided the best defense the militia could muster in a short time. Despite preparations, French and Indian forces

caused Washington to surrender on July 3rd. The surrender negotiations must have been tense for Washington because Jumonville’s half-brother was involved in the talks.

The surrender document proved to be generous because it allowed the militiamen to depart the temporary garrison and return to Virginia. Not having many options, Washington signed a surrender document written in French stating that he had “assassinated” Jumonville, a term Washington later complained was not translated correctly at the time.

The consequences of Jumonville Glen were significant. Horace Walpole, Member of Parliament and historian, summarized the incident succinctly when he wrote, “A volley fired by a young Virginian in the backwoods of America...set the world on fire.”

Walpole’s statement is supported by the rapid fire events following Jumonville Glen: Fort Necessity and Washington’s surrender, British General Edward Braddock’s defeat



in 1755, and the beginning of the French and Indian War which became the American theatre of the Seven Years War (1756-1763). The Seven Years War involved all the great European Wars and was fought on five continents, causing some historians to argue it could be called the first world war.

On a personal level, Washington did not seem to fear the armed conflict at Jumonville Glen. His famous statement, "I heard the bullets whistle, and, believe me there is something charming in the sound," does not conflict with the courage he demonstrated during the Revolutionary War.

Washington's actions at Jumonville Glen proved to be controversial at the time and into the future. While historical interpretations of the event continue to evolve, the location where it occurred has been acquired and enhanced by the National Park Service. A visit to Jumonville Glen, Fort Necessity, and Braddock's grave is an easy journey for Mountain Maryland and Pennsylvania residents, and a way for everyone to experience the sites that made international news more than two and a half centuries ago.

Jumonville is not a town but refers to the general area where the event took place. The glen appears much the same as it did in 1754 and is operated by the National Park Service, as a sub-unit of the Fort Necessity National Battlefield. Fort Necessity, Jumonville Glen, and General Braddock's grave are located in close proximity to each other in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The park headquarters is located at 1 Washington Parkway, Farmington, PA 15437.

Another resource for those interested in the subject is the Braddock Road Preservation Society, an organization that researches, interprets, and promotes the French and Indian War history at Jumonville and related sites.



# Jumonville Christian Camp and Retreat Center

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Jumonville Christian Camp and Retreat Center is located near Washington's military encounter with the French in 1754. Retreats, camps, and concerts are hosted at the center that has welcomed visitors for more than 75 years. The most visible feature on the center grounds is a 60-foot cross that was erected in 1950. Located on a hill known as Dunbar's Knob that is nearly 2,500 feet above sea level, the cross annually attracts visitors from around the world. Three states and seven counties may be viewed from the hilltop. Also available for visitors and guests is a museum containing French and Indian War artifacts.



Notice the individuals at the bottom of the 60-foot cross. The flags (above) are French, United States, Christian, and British.

# Jumonville Christian Camp MUSEUM Featuring French and Indian War Artifacts



For more information, see

<https://jumonville.org>

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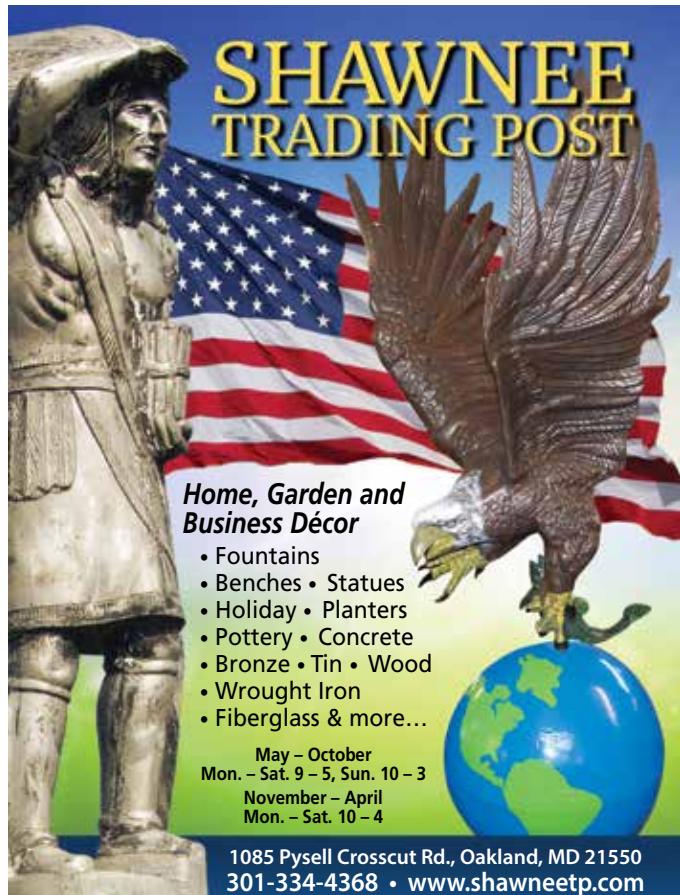


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# Where is General Braddock's Gold?

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Fortune hunters have attempted to answer that question since it was first discussed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The treasure seekers have been joined by amateur historians, journalists, and students in analyzing possible locations of the gold that has eluded all attempts to be uncovered. While stories surrounding the legend's origins are difficult to document, General Braddock's disastrous military campaign in 1755 has clearly been the inspiration for numerous accounts about it that have appeared in books, magazine articles, and online sites. It is also clear the general's payroll chest continues to stir imaginations and controversies more than 250 years after the historical incident gave rise to the legend. So, how did the legend of Braddock's treasure begin and where are the precious coins?

The historical facts of General Braddock's military campaign are well known. In 1755, British General Edward Braddock was ordered to Virginia where, with two regiments of regular troops and additional militia, he would move westward to Fort Cumberland, Maryland. From that location Braddock's orders directed him to enter the Ohio Valley, capture Fort Duquesne (present day Pittsburgh), and then engage additional French strongholds further north. Even though Britain and France were not formally at war during Braddock's march, the events served as an important prelude to the French and Indian War (1756-1763).

Braddock successfully reached Fort Cumberland in May 1755 and Fort Duquesne in July of the same year. The French moved some of their forces from the fort to a forward position where they attacked the unwanted visitors in a violent encounter that resulted in more than 900 casualties, including a mortal wound to Braddock. It is following the armed clash that most legends begin because the general



**General Edward Braddock**  
**1695 – 1755**

allegedly carried a gold-laden chest that went missing during or soon after the battle.

The location of Braddock's gold seems to be dependent upon the geographic locations of the authors who write about it. Stories have been passed down through generations that place the cache anywhere from Alexandria, Virginia, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the general route of Braddock's mission in 1755.

Fairfax County, Virginia's claim to the treasure, is traced to the general's arrival in Alexandria and the subsequent problems

he encountered building a road to Winchester, Virginia, for equipment laden troops. After being slowed by rain and mud, General Braddock ordered that two brass cannons be removed from wagons and buried. Gold coins, intended for payroll, were poured into the cannons for safe keeping. The Centerville, Virginia, location was noted and plans were made to retrieve the items at a later date. This story was given credence after it appeared in a historical society publication in 1954.

Allegany County, Maryland, residents often hear that Clarysville, Maryland, hosts the contents of Braddock's payroll chest since it fits the popular requirement of being hidden at the confluence of two streams. More than one metal detector has combed Braddock Run at Clarysville.

The Clarysville location and other related information regarding Braddock's gold was given significant press coverage by William J. Hunt, long-time editor of the *Cumberland Times*, civic leader, and impresario. Older residents recall his "Across the Desk" columns that covered a wide range of topics, including local events surrounding the French and Indian War. In addition to written accounts, Mr. Hunt was an active public speaker and resource for

local educators; he noted that Braddock's gold was the most popular topic in classroom discussions. (Hunt's "Across the Desk" columns have been reprinted and made available as a reference in local libraries.)

Mr. Hunt published the first Braddock's gold article in 1945 and followed with an additional 19 over the years. One of the most significant is a popular version of how General Braddock's treasure came to be associated with Allegany County.

According to Hunt's summary, an optimistic General Braddock anticipated that his forces would successfully drive the French from Fort Duquesne and that a supply of money would be necessary to provide for the troops' needs until a proper administration could be established. Braddock's crushing defeat, in 1755, dashed his plans and set in motion a chaotic retreat toward the safety of Fort Cumberland. The general suffered a serious wound during the battle and later died near Uniontown,

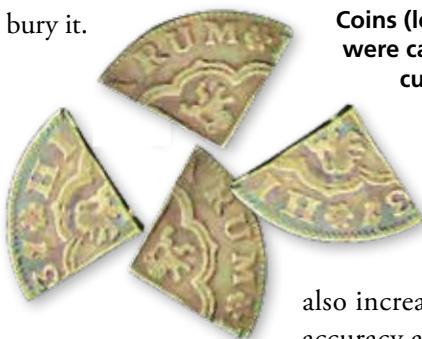
Pennsylvania. A decision was made to carry the payroll chest to Fort Cumberland, but further attacks on the retreating party prompted the survivors to bury it.

Only one member of the payroll detail survived and was found wandering along Will's Creek in a state of delirium. He could only recall burying the gold at a divided section of Braddock Run, or perhaps where it emptied into Will's Creek. Both locations were near the fort where he sought safety.

A different version of the legend reported by Hunt has the chest buried at the junction of streams feeding Savage River in present day Garrett County, Maryland. A leprechaun is added to this story whose job it is to stand guard over the buried treasure.



A section of the painting "The Wounding of General Braddock" by Robert Griffing, depicts Braddock's mortal wound from July 1755.



Coins (left) used during the French and Indian War were called the "Real" meaning "Royal" and were cut into four or eight pieces. One eighth of a Real is called a "bit."

William J. Hunt's newspaper articles not only have kept the legends alive but also increasingly gave credence to their historical accuracy as the years passed.

Two prominent Allegany County historians included the Braddock legend in their well known *The History of Allegany County* published in 1923. While doubting its validity, authors' Thomas and Williams nevertheless repeated the folktale of a mysterious man who suddenly scrambled

down a hill and onto a road near Grantsville, Maryland. The unidentified man carried a crowbar and announced to a startled traveler that he had been digging for Braddock's gold that night, and indeed, for many years. The traveler announced that his ancestor, a soldier with the surname of Giles, had served on the Braddock expedition. The mysterious man excitedly exclaimed that his father was a messmate of Giles and one of the soldiers in charge of burying Braddock's gold. He begged the Cumberland traveler to join him in the search, but the traveler refused and the mysterious old man was never heard from again.

Pennsylvania probably has more potential locations for the hidden treasure than Maryland or Virginia since the armed encounter occurred within its borders. One of the most popular versions is allegedly based on General Braddock's decision to bury the chest near a walnut tree along the Youghiogheny River.



**General Braddock's grave is located along National Pike, Farmington, PA 15437, near Fort Necessity.**

Additional stories may easily be found that support locations all along the road that Braddock's men blazed to Pittsburgh, yet none have provided proof the gold ever existed. But there is considerable evidence that Braddock's gold fits more comfortably with leprechaun folklore than historical accounts of the time period. Professional historians pay little attention to the treasure stories and even consider them a distraction to more serious matters.

One comprehensive account of Braddock's actions in the colonies was written by Dr. Gordon Kershaw, Emeritus Professor

of History at Frostburg State University. Dr. Kershaw's article, appearing in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 2001, repeatedly notes the difficulties that Braddock had in financing and generally providing for his troops during the campaign—hardly an endorsement of the gold coin legend. Funds for the troops were anticipated to arrive in



**Some of the wrought Iron, hand forged artifacts recovered along Braddock's Road by Bob Bantz, historical researcher and documentarian of Braddock's Road.**

Philadelphia late in 1755 following the capture of Fort Duquesne. Private contractors could expect the same time frame for payment. It is evident that any funds Braddock had in his possession were for smaller expenses and insufficient to cover basic campaign costs. Furthermore, Thomas Penn, proprietor of Pennsylvania, and a credible source, stated in official correspondence that Braddock's money never fell into enemy hands. The army paymaster corroborated Penn's account by noting any money Braddock did possess was held at a nearby camp. Finally, no official report of Braddock's defeat recorded a missing payroll chest.

Additional arguments against Braddock's treasure existing include: the unlikely decision by Braddock to carry a large sum of money into battle, a lack of evidence that Braddock was paying his men in precious coins, and the simple fact that no one has found it after two and a half centuries of road building, housing development, and commercial growth along the route.

While not the golden cache treasure hunters have been seeking, numerous artifacts have been uncovered that

possess intrinsic wealth. Primary documents cataloged over the years also added to the historical record of British forces in the region, while generating revenue through the development of heritage tourism—Braddock's grave, Fort Necessity, and Jumonville Glen historical sites in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, stand as examples.

Despite the facts being on the side of skeptics, there is always a chance that Braddock's gold is safely hidden and waiting to be uncovered by a lucky treasure hunter. Those who continue to search will always be motivated by the thrill of the hunt and the gold coins that await them.

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*The author acknowledges the essays of Dr. Kershaw; Thomas and William's volumes on Allegany County; William J. Hunt; An Inquiry into the Legend of Braddock's Gold in Northern Virginia, by Phillips and Nygren; and Bob Bantz for his historical research and documentation of the Braddock's road and earlier trails in the region.*

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## Allegany Museum First Floor Restoration



### CROSSROAD OF AMERICA

Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Cumberland's foundation and history is tied to its geographic importance as a key east-west route linking coastal eastern America with the Ohio and Mississippi watersheds. The evolution of transportation via roads, canals, and trains in America and the role this played in encouraging westward colonization is a primary theme of the Allegany Museum.

The museum's new first floor exhibition space will highlight "Crossroads of America" featuring the evolution of transportation from about 1750 into the 1900s. The space will include scale models of canal boats and trains, a fully restored 1825 Conestoga wagon, 1900 Studebaker wagon, 1915 Model T Ford, and 1929 Durant Town Car. This collection is complemented by the extensive Thrasher Carriage collection.

The Allegany Museum's first floor renovations are nearing completion. Check for more details later this summer on their website [www.alleganymuseummd.org](http://www.alleganymuseummd.org).



Fully restored 1825 Conestoga wagon.

The first floor also features a B&O Railroad Room with various train memorabilia.



1900 Studebaker Runabout wagon.



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