

The African American Community of Parkers Creek, circa 1800-1960



Parkers Creek Heritage Trail Research Team
American Chestnut Land Trust
Work in Progress Edition, November 2022

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American Chestnut Land Trust
Prince Frederick, Maryland**

**Work in Progress Edition
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This booklet is a work in progress, part of the Parkers Creek Heritage Trails Project organized by the American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County, Maryland.

<https://www.acltweb.org/index.php/parkers-creek-heritage-trail/>

The project planners know well that there is much more to be learned and recorded about the African American community in and near Parkers Creek. We believe that the memories and insights of living people can provide a critical part of this community's history.

We hope you will share your knowledge with us.

Contact the project team through Kirsti Uunila, k.uunila20@gmail.com

Caption for cover illustration:

Brown's United Methodist Church, 1990

*Civil War U.S. Colored Troops record for William Commodore,
"missing in action" in 1864*

*Advertisement for a fund-raising picnic at Parkers Creek, sponsored by the
allied Household of Ruth and the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows,
and held at Beniah Bowen's store (yellow building still standing in 2022)
Calvert Gazette, June 24, 1898*

*Stripping tobacco for market. George Harrod (back to camera),
Frankie Wallace, and Claude Brooks, March 2001.*

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
OVERVIEW OF AFRICAN AMERICANS OF PARKERS CREEK	3
FAMILIES IN THE PARKERS CREEK AREA	5
Commodore	5
William H. and Suddie Commodore	5
Major Commodore	11
Harrod	15
Parker	16
David Parker and James Parker (south of Parkers Creek)	16
David Parker and James Parker (north of Parkers Creek).....	19
Scales.....	20
Wallace.....	23
Jane, David, and Joseph Wallace and their descendants	24
Basil, Lemuel, John Cephas Wallace and their descendants	27
Families for which we have less substantial information.....	30
Bell.....	30
Boots	32
Boom	32
Brooks.....	33
Chew.....	33
Kelson	33
Simms, also spelled Sims	33
McCormick	34
INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVED PARKERS CREEK COMMUNITY	34
Brown's United Methodist Church.....	35
Schools	38
Parkers Creek School	38
Dares School.....	40
Prince Frederick School, second location	40
Central School	40
William Sampson Brooks High School	41
Fraternal and Sororal Organizations	41
Grand Order of Galilean Fishermen	41
Grand United Order of Odd Fellows and the Household of Ruth.....	41
DO YOU KNOW MORE?	42

List of Illustrations

1. Overview map of African American properties in the Parkers Creek area (historical)	4
2. William H. Commodore properties	6
3. William H. Commodore properties	7
4. William H. Commodore former home	7
5. William Commodore Civil War military record	8
6. Ellen Commodore application for Civil War pension	9
7. William Commodore (1820-1881) property in 1880 Agricultural Census	10
8. Major Commodore Sr property	12
9. Major Commodore Sr property, rented farm in 1880 census	12
10. Major Commodore Jr property	13
11. Parker properties south of creek	17
12. Cleo Parker	18
13. Parker property north of creek	19
14. Escaped slave advertisement includes Jim Parker	19
15. John Walter Scales property	20
16. Scales house exterior	21
17. Scales house drawing	21
18. Scales house interior	22
19. Scales house map	23
20. Joseph Wallace in 1880 Agricultural Census	25
21. Joseph Wallace properties	25
22. Joseph Wallace obituary	26
23. Joseph Wallace Civil War military records	26
24. Lemuel Wallace (and Cornelius Harrod) properties	27
25. Woodrow Wallace photographed at Lemuel Wallace house; Lemuel Wallace barn	28
26. John Cephas Wallace properties	29
27. Alonzo Bell properties	31
28. Essie Simms World War II draft registration record	35
29. Brown's Methodist Episcopal Church census record, 1926	36
30. Brown's United Methodist Church, 1990; Community members at Clean-up Day, 2021	37
31. Parkers Creek School building, date unknown	38
32. News clipping includes picture of Parkers Creek School	39
33. Parkers Creek School location map	39
34. Prince Frederick School and students, 1909	39

Appendixes

Appendix A. Detailed lists from census records (selected families)	43
Appendix B. Wallace tobacco operation, 1988-2001	59

INTRODUCTION

Members and friends of the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) are working to uncover and understand the history of African Americans who have lived in the Parkers Creek watershed during the past 350 years. We have built an online archive of research materials that we've collected so far, and they are summarized in the pages that follow.

We believe that there are many more stories and much more information to add for the benefit of all. We are eager to do so and look forward to hearing from you about any material that should be added. We would also like to know if there are people still living who might consent to share their stories, photographs, or documents relating to the experience of residents of the area around Parkers Creek.

If you spot any errors or omissions in what we have assembled here, please let us know. We are eager to make corrections. Contact Kirsti Uunila (k.uunila20@gmail.com).

OVERVIEW OF AFRICAN AMERICANS OF PARKERS CREEK

From the early eighteenth almost until the mid-twentieth century, the population of Calvert County was majority African American. African Americans began to move out of the county after the Civil War, mainly because greater economic opportunity was to be found in areas where industry offered jobs and where there was greater social mobility.

Many African American men enlisted for service in the Civil War, the first war in which the United States drafted men to fight. More than two hundred African American men from Calvert County were enrolled in the US Colored Troops (USCT). More than twenty of those men, such as Joseph H. Wallace of Parkers Creek, were free at the time they enlisted. Others were enslaved, and the people who held them in bondage applied for a cash bounty to free them for enlistment. For example, the Port Republic farmer John Sedwick had enslaved James D. Brooks who returned to the area after serving in the USCT.

There were few African American landowners before the end of slavery, but opportunities for land ownership expanded in the years following the Civil War. Because they now had to pay for labor, a number of White landowners in Calvert County defaulted on mortgages on their properties which African Americans then purchased. Here's an example, although not from the Parkers Creek area: Augustus and Hezekiah Mason, two brothers who had been enslaved at Sheridan Point, purchased a large farm in Prince Frederick. Mason Road crosses a portion of the property and still bears the family name. Josephus Harris bought the farm where he had been enslaved off Sixes Road. Joe Harris Road commemorates that fact. Descendants of Josephus Harris are still residents of the original house on the road, and the name Josephus Harris has been carried down through generations.

In Parkers Creek, Joseph H. Wallace had acquired 300 acres of land by the time of his death in 1909. His father, a free man, had owned land before the Civil War. Other African American individuals and families, such as Commodores, Parkers, and Scales also purchased land in the area in the years after the end of the Civil War. Still others followed a more typical pattern of settlement on smaller parcels, either as tenants or as landowners. Many of the early homes in the watershed are now archaeological sites having been abandoned as dwellings generations ago.

The preceding paragraphs have mentioned a number of African American families who live in parts of Calvert County other than the Parkers Creek area. We have collected anecdotal accounts of family connections between the African American communities in Parkers Creek and communities in Adelina, Huntingtown, Plum Point, and elsewhere in Calvert County. Although our focus is on the people who lived in Parkers Creek, we hope this information may be of interest to people researching their families in other locations. We also hope to learn from their work as it informs our work.

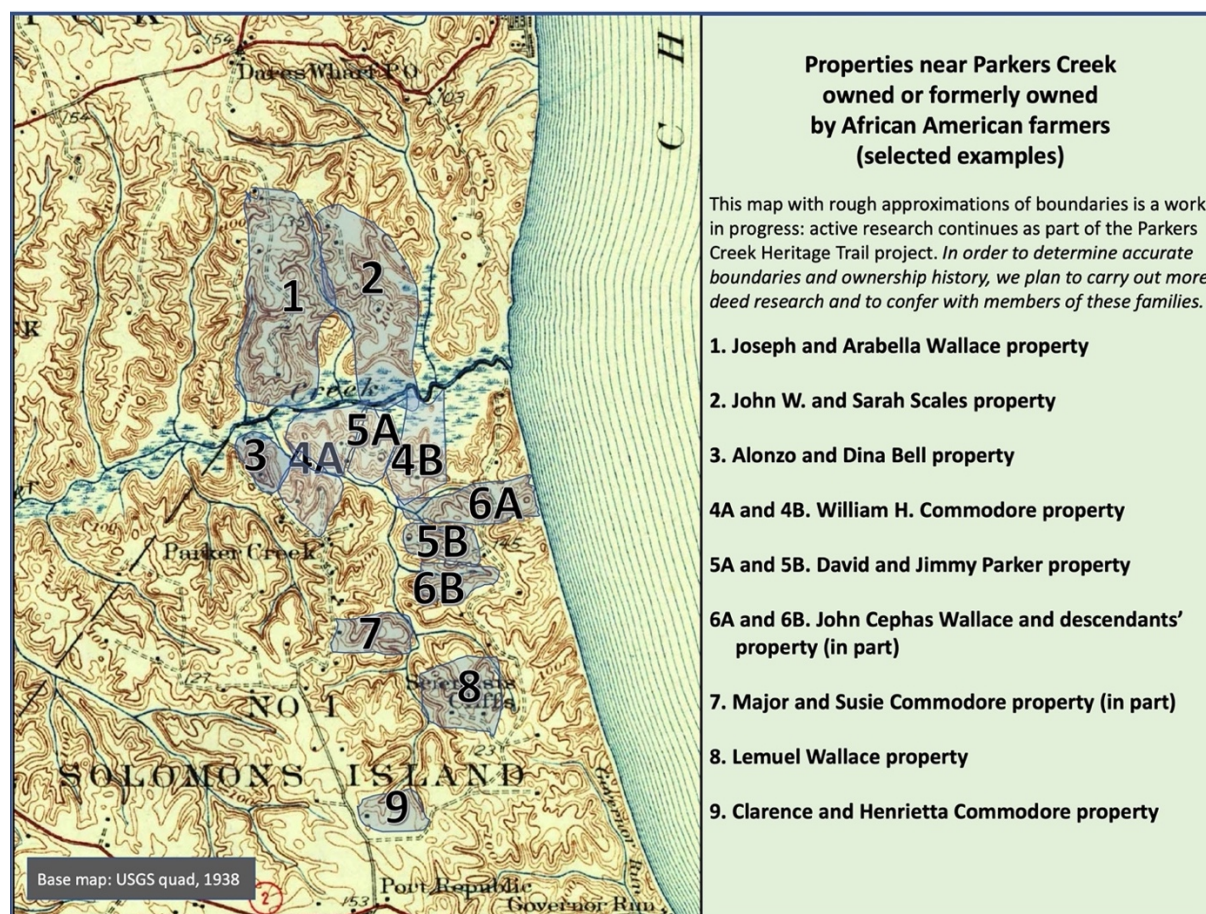


Figure 1. Overview map of African American properties in the Parkers Creek area (historical).

FAMILIES IN THE PARKERS CREEK AREA

Some African American family histories have been easier to find in the documentary records than others. A few familiar names from the area have yielded quite a bit of information. This section begins with those families for which we have done more research up to now, in alphabetical order.

Commodore

William H. and Suddie Commodore

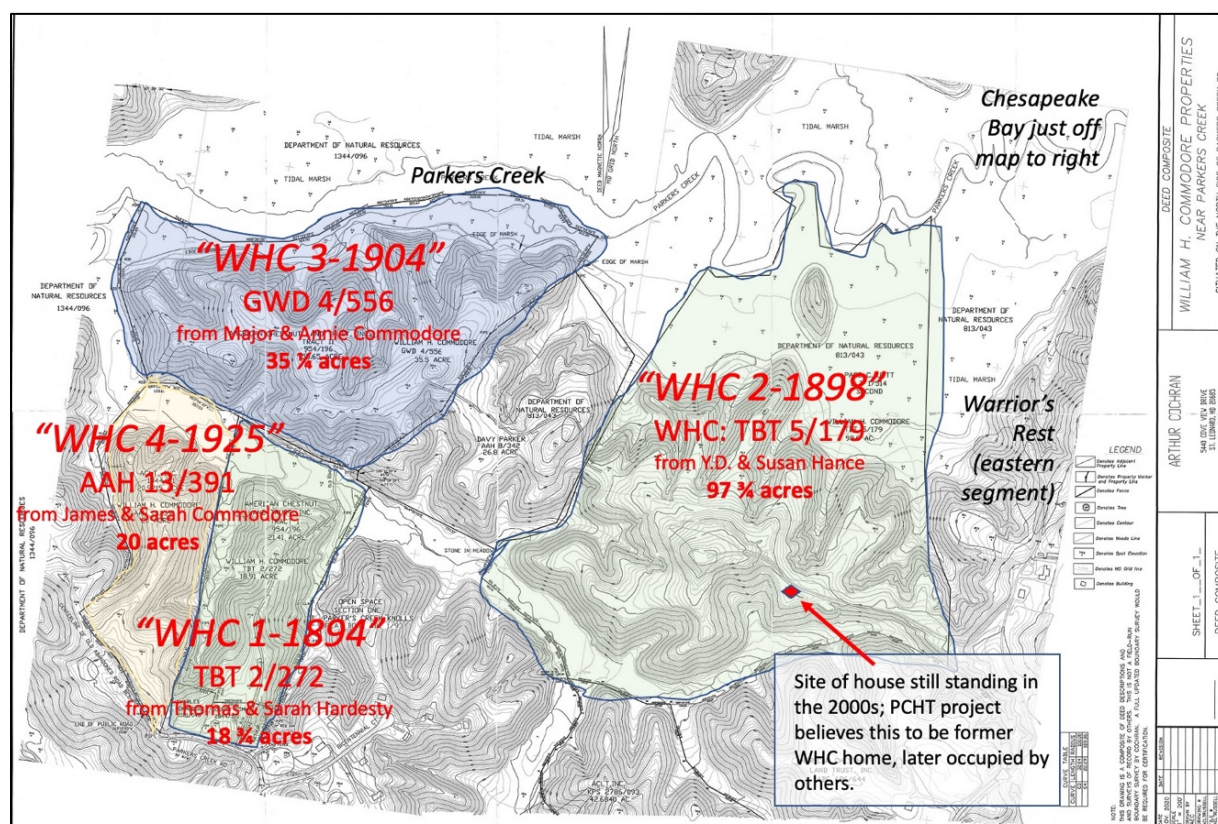
About the family and land. The Commodore family is prominent in the history of the Parkers Creek area and William H. (1861-1938) and Suddie (1871-1951, sometimes spelled 'Sudie' or 'Saddie' in records) Commodore were important members of this extended family. As described in the section *Enslavement and Civil War Service* (below), William H. Commodore was almost certainly the grandson of an enslaved couple and probably the nephew of a Civil War soldier.

William H. and Suddie Commodore owned about 220 acres of land, most of which is now owned by the ACLT or the State of Maryland DNR for public benefit, conservation, and land preservation. The maps and illustrations in this section offer a look at their properties and one remaining building. Many of their descendants live in the area and we hope to learn from their insights into William and Suddie Commodore's lives and contributions. See maps showing their properties on the next two pages. See Appendix A for a list of names found in census records.

Skills and livelihood. William H. Commodore and his family mastered a range of interests and skills beyond the farming that was no doubt their main source of income. Census data for 1940 names two of William and Suddie's sons, John and Willis, and identifies their occupations as "Laborer" and "Fishing Nets." The latter is almost certainly a reference to their employment at Frank Richardson's pound net operation at the mouth of Parkers Creek, a short walk from the Commodore home. An earlier newspaper item hints at an earlier connection to local fisheries. The July 22, 1911, issue of the *Calvert Gazette*, carries William H. Commodore's advertisement of a \$25 reward for "information that will lead to identification of the party who cut my gasoline launch loose from her anchorage at Parker's Creek and set it adrift in the bay Saturday night." It is impossible to be certain from this notice, but the amount of the reward and the terminology "gasoline launch" suggest that this may have been a workboat for use in commercial fishing.

The occasional synergy between farming and Richardson's pound net operation is expressed by a reminiscence from another fishing crew member. In a 1999 interview, Bill Tettimer told about going to the Richardson's fishing shanty and net yard during an exceptional snow storm in the winter of 1941. "We went up there to mend twine," Tettimer said, and "we was stuck in there for a week, and that Saturday night, we had to have three—the oxen—the

Storekeeping may have been another of William H. Commodore's income-producing activities. The July 18, 1896, issue of the *Calvert Gazette*, carried a slightly puzzling story about "two young men" whose stranded vessel put them afoot near Dare's Landing (today's Dares Beach). Before they caught a steamboat, presumably to Baltimore, the news report states, "they walked around to the south side of Parkers Creek, stopped a while at William Comodore's [sic] store, thence retraced their steps and were last seen in that section firing pistols and going towards Plum Point." This mention of Commodore's store is the only indication we have seen regarding a store in the Parkers Creek community. If accurate, it indicates that, in addition to farming and fishing, Commodore also ran a business.



African American Community, Parkers Creek - page 6

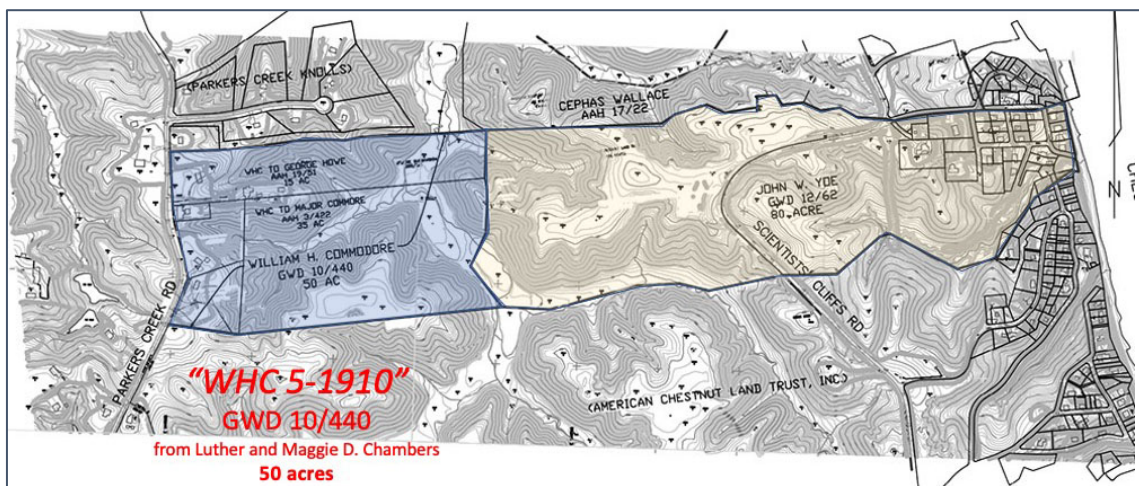


Figure 3. William H. Commodore property south of Brown's United Methodist Church, 50 acres, acquired in 1910.

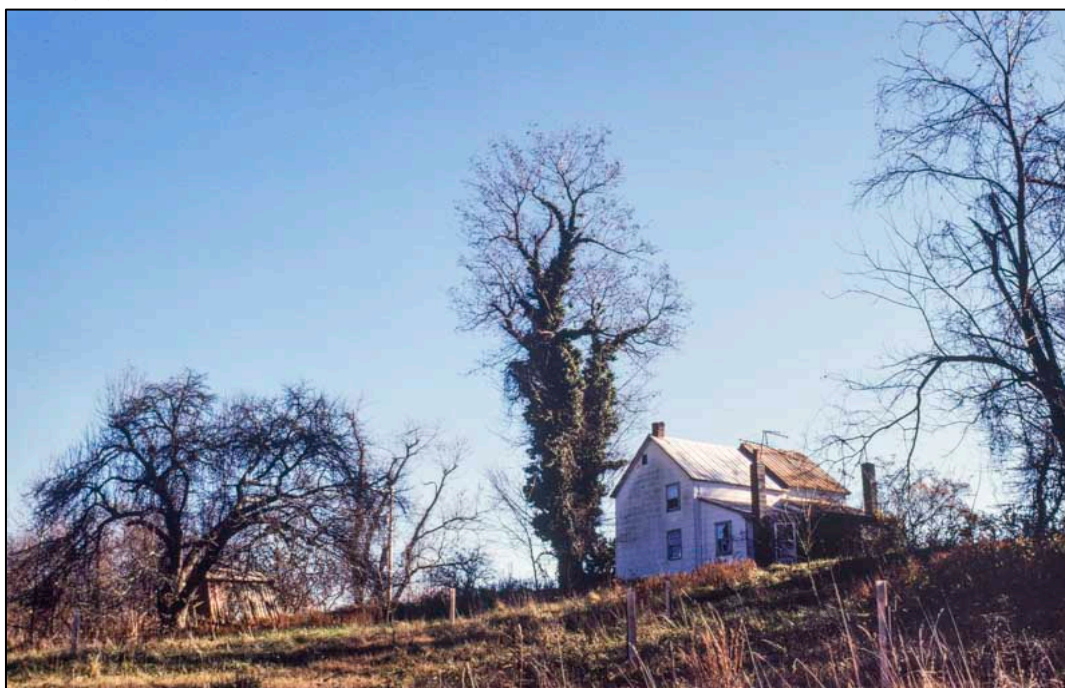


Figure 4. William H. Commodore's former home which others occupied later.

Above: House, apple tree, grape arbor, and shed in September 1995.

Below: William H. Commodore's former home with apple tree and shed in November 1998.

Photographs by Carl Fleischhauer



Enslavement and Civil War service. We cannot be certain of the connection, but the records of the 23rd Regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry include documents about a man named William Commodore of Calvert County, who enlisted at age 21 in February 1864 and is listed as missing in action in July of that year. Images of the documents are shown below. We believe this to have been William H. Commodore's uncle and one of his namesakes. We have not identified the Civil War soldier's brother who would have been William H. Commodore's father.

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

I, William Commodore born in Calvert Co
in the State of Maryland aged twenty one years,
and by occupation a laborer Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have
volunteered this twentieth day of February 1864
to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the
period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also
agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, estab-
lished by law for volunteers. And I, William Commodore do
solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States
of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all
their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the
orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers
appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Washington
this 20 day of February 1864
Before Henry D. Scheetz William X Commodore
Rep of Maryland D.C. mak

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above-named Volunteer, agreeably
to the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and
mental infirmity, which would, in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

James D. Wheatley
Singon of Board of Enlist.
EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer, William Commodore
previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my
judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties
of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service.
This soldier has Black eyes, Black hair, Black complexion, is 5 feet 2 inches
high.

To yeb Henry D. Scheetz
Rep of Maryland D.C.
RECRUITING OFFICER.

(A. G. O. No. 74.)

C. | 23 | U.S.C.T.
William Commodore
Co. C, 23 Reg't U.S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on
Company Descriptive Book
of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.
Age 21 years; height 5 feet 2 inches.
Complexion blk
Eyes blk; hair blk
Where born Calvert Co Md
Occupation laborer

ENLISTMENT.
When 20 Feb, 1864.
Where Wash. D.C.
By whom Rep Scheetz term 3 y'rs.
Remarks: Missing in action
before Petersburg Va.
July 30/64.

Dayton
(3854) Copyist.

Figure 5. Documents showing a William Commodore who enlisted in the USCT in 1864.

In addition to the U.S. Colored Infantry records, we base our account on two other forms of documentation: (1) pension records associated with the Civil War military service, and (2) an enumeration in the 1880 federal census.

The pension records chronicle an application process that lasted for more than twenty years. The earliest documents date from 1867, when a William Commodore appeared before a Justice of the Peace and testified that his son, William, died in action at Petersburg, Virginia

on July 30, 1865, leaving no wife or children. A later census record tells us that this elder William Commodore was born in about 1820; his wife Ellen was born in about 1816.

Act of June, 1890.
Declaration for Dependent Mother's Pension.

To be executed before Court of Record, or some officer thereof having custody of its seal.

STATE OF Maryland }
COUNTY OF Calvert } SS.

ON THIS 27th day of March, A. D., one thousand eight hundred and ninety two, personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace of the County of Calvert and State of Maryland a Court of Record in and for the County and State aforesaid Ellen Commodore (Mother's Name here.)

aged 78 years, a resident of the Port Republic County of Calvert State of Md., who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the mother of William Commodore (Soldier's or Sailor's Name here.)

under the name of William Commodore at P. O. 20th Regt. (Place where enlisted here.)

on the 20th day of July, 1864, in the War of the Rebellion, who died (Here state rank, Company and Regiment.)

in the Military Service, or Vessel if in the Navy, from the (Place of death here.)

on the 30th day of July, 1864, while in action at (Here state cause of death.)

incurred Petersburg, Va. on the 30th day of July, 1864 (Here state place where disability was incurred.)

That said son left neither widow nor child under sixteen years of age surviving. That there were surviving at said son's death his brothers and sisters, as follows:

....., born 18 ;
....., born 18 ;
....., born 18 ;
....., born 18 .

That she is without other present means of support than her own manual labor. That she has (If she has never applied for pension, write the word never in blank space above.)

applied for a pension. The number of her claim is That she makes this (Here state No. of claim if she has applied for pension; otherwise, leave blank.)

declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States, under the provisions of the Act of June, 1890.

She hereby appoints L. C. WOOD & CO., U. S. Pension Attorneys, 512 F Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., her true and lawful attorneys, to prosecute her claim. That her Postoffice address is Port Republic County of Calvert State of Md.

Claimant's Signature Ellen Commodore

Attest: Carl Weisman
W. S. Dawkins

Also personally appeared Carl Weisman residing at Port Republic and W. S. Dawkins residing at Port Republic persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn, say they were present and saw Ellen Commodore, the claimant, sign her name (or make her mark) to the foregoing declaration; that they have every reason to believe from the appearance of said claimant and an acquaintance with her of 10 years, and years respectively, that she is the identical person she represents herself to be; and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

Signature of Witnesses: { Carl Weisman
W. S. Dawkins

Figure 6. This document shows that Ellen Commodore appeared before a Justice of the Peace in 1892 to begin the application for a pension as the mother of William Commodore who was killed in the Civil War. Two Port Republic residents, Carl Weisman and W.S. Dawkins were her witnesses. The image is one of 30 pages in the pension record for William Commodore.

Original at the National Archives.

In 1892, the pension case continued, three friends from the Parkers Creek neighborhood submitted affidavits. They were Alonzo Bell; Jeremiah Boots, identified as “Jerry” in other, unrelated documents; and George Boots. Jeremiah Boots stated, “I know that Wm Commodore, husband of Ellen Commodore is dead. He died in December 1881. I know this from the fact that I was at his funeral. I think he left about thirty-five acres of land which he left to his children at his death.” Boots also stated, “I knew William Commodore, son of Ellen Commodore, he died or was killed in the service of the United States. He was never married and left no widow or children. He was a son of Ellen Commodore. She has no means of support except what she can do herself and what any one may give her.” George Boots also testified that William Commodore left no wife or children. The outcome of the case was that Ellen Commodore was awarded a pension and she collected \$12 monthly between 1892 and her death on March 22, 1897.

OF THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THIS FARM.				ACRES OF LAND.				FARM VALUES.			TOBACCO.			
THE NAME.	TENURE.		Tilled, including fallow and grass in rotation, (whether pasture or meadow.)	Permanent meadows, pastures, orchards, vineyards.	Woodland and forest.	Other unimproved, including "old fields" not growing wood.	Of farm, including land, fences, and buildings.	Of farming implements and machinery.	Of Live Stock.					
	Owner.	Rate for fixed money rental.												Rate for share of products.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1 Thomas Borne	1			10		30		500	5	20		4	1000	
2 Robert Hardesty		1		150		150		3000	40	500		12	4000	
3 John A. Magnader	1			100		120		1500	30	300		4	1400	
4 Julius C. Borey	1			10		5		1200	10	50		4	2500	
5 John J. Gott	1			72		73		1500	50	275		5	3000	
6 William Commodore	1			15		20		300	10	20		3	800	
7 John H. Mills		1		175		150		3000	100	200		6	400	
8 Benj. Howe		1		10					25	125		4	2200	
9 William Ogden	1			75		50		1200	40	350		10	5000	

Figure 7. As reported in the pension testimony quoted on this page, William Commodore (1820-1881) owned a farm also documented in the 1880 Agricultural Census: 35 acres, 15 of which were tilled; total value including improvements \$300; tobacco cultivation, 3 acres, yielding 800 pounds for market. At this writing the PCHT team has not turned up deeds for the purchase or sale of this property and its location is unknown.

William Commodore’s 1867 testimony includes information that is somewhat incidental to the pension claim, but critically important to the family’s history. Commodore testified that he and Ellen Commodore “were slaves of the same master, and live on the same plantation as man and wife, and have so lived since the date of their marriage in the year 1823.” (The marriage date of 1823 is inconsistent with the couple’s ages in the census and was likely written in error.) Two White residents who knew the family supported the testimony: Samuel B. Wilson, given the title *Captain*, and Dr. Benjamin Owen Hance, who lived on land called Angelica, not far from Plum Point on Wilson Road. Although we have not yet identified

the enslaver, we conclude that William and Ellen Commodore and presumably their children including William, the soldier, and perhaps two of their grandchildren were all enslaved on the same property by the same man or woman.

The second item that adds to our knowledge of the family and its circumstances is the 1880 census enumeration of the William and Ellen Commodore household. This listing identifies five of the couple's grandchildren who were counted with them: William, age 19, whom we believe to be the William H. Commodore central to the Parkers Creek story; Mary, 18; Major, 14, born 1866 and mentioned in the following section; Harriet, 11; and Robert, age 8. Emma Anderson, age 19, also lived in the household as a boarder and was a schoolteacher. The 1880 census makes no mention of the in-between generation, meaning the parents of the five grandchildren. Since William and Mary were born before the end of the Civil War, in 1861 and 1862 respectively, it is possible that they had also been enslaved with their grandparents and, perhaps, their parents.

Major Commodore

There were other persons named Commodore in the Parkers Creek neighborhood in the 19th and early 20th centuries and, no doubt, several of them were related to William H. and Suddie Commodore. As of October 2022, the project research team has assembled a variety of source materials but there are many gaps and questions that remain to be answered.

For example, the project archive includes information about four men named Major Commodore and their spouses and families. The evidence is not definitive, but it suggests the men may have been a grandfather or great-grandfather (possibly born 1782), father (born 1844 or 1848, depending upon which census record is consulted), and son (born 1890), while another man named Major Commodore (born 1866), may have been a cousin. (This is the son of William Commodore [1820-1881], mentioned above). The earliest Major Commodore is listed in the 1832 census of Free African Americans in Calvert County; he is the man who, if his age is reported correctly, would have been born in 1782.

According to the 1870 census, the inferred wife of the Major Commodore born in 1844 (or 1848) was Eliza Commodore and they had one child living with them. She may have died during the 1870s as Major Commodore is shown in the 1880 census living with four children, ten years old and younger, and his older sister, also named Eliza. He married a woman named Annie (recorded with birth years of 1866 or 1868) sometime after that. A map showing property Major and Annie Commodore owned is shown on the following page (figure 8), together with an 1880 census record (figure 9) for a farm rented by a Major Commodore, presumably the man born in 1844 (or 1848). The third land map (figure 10) shows a property that we believe belonged to the next-generation Major Commodore, sometimes referred to as Major Commodore Jr., whose wife's name was Susie.

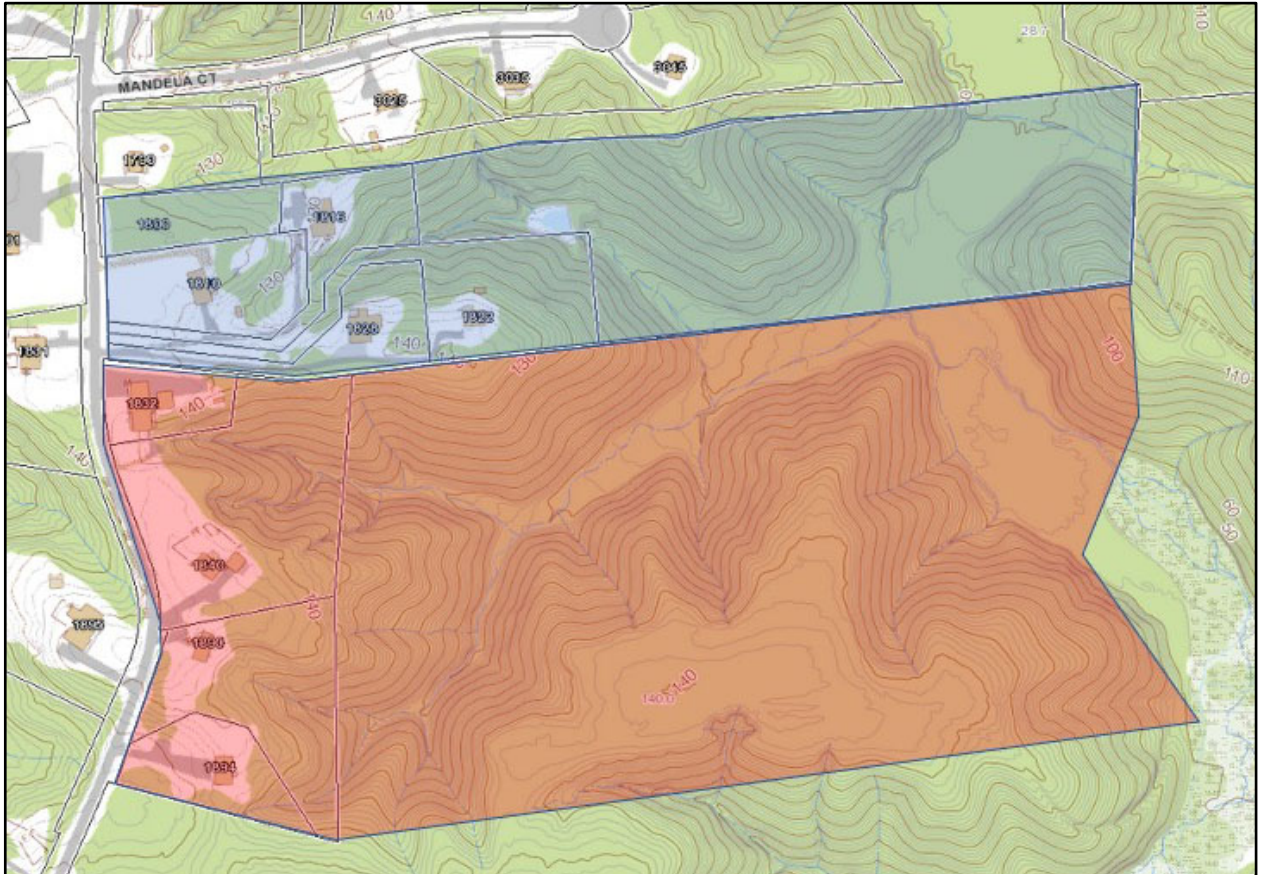


Figure 10. The project's current understanding is that the 35-acre property shaded in red was formerly owned by Major Commodore, Jr., son of Major (born 1844 or 1848) and Annie Commodore (born 1866 or 1868), purchased from William H. Commodore in 1919. Major Commodore, Jr.'s wife's name was Susie. The PCHT team believes that Major and Susie Commodore owned additional properties, not yet identified.

Eliza Commodore is an interesting figure. In the 1870 census, as noted above, she is listed as the 24-year-old inferred wife of Major Commodore, born 1844 (or 1848). In the same census (in fact, enumerated on the same census ledger sheet), is an Eliza Commodore, age 30, listed as a servant in the home of John R. Beckett, a White man north of Parkers Creek, in Prince Frederick. In this period, people's ages were not always tracked in a reliable way: could these two Eliza Commodores have been the same woman? Alternatively, the Eliza Commodore working for the Becketts may have been Major Commodore's sister, as she appears in the 1880 census.

The Commodore-Beckett connection also appears in an intriguing pre-Civil War church record. An entry in the St. Paul's Episcopal Church register in Prince Frederick lists Holdsworth Commodore, son of Wallace and Ellen Commodore, as having been baptized on July 20, 1857, by W. A. Mitchell. The baptism was sponsored by Mrs. S. N. Beckett and E. Commodore. If *S. N. Beckett* is Susan N. Beckett, other records show that she enslaved 15 persons in 1850. The Commodore couple and their child [children?] might have been among those persons. In the 1870 census, Susan N. Beckett is living with her son, John, and daughter-in-law and in the house with them are Eliza Commodore, Eliza Groce, 19, and David Green, 11.

A further Commodore-Beckett connection is established in a 1994 oral history interview. Richlyn Goddard interviewed Dorothy Commodore Thomas, born 1920, for a project to document the history of African American education in Calvert County. Dorothy Commodore Thomas was born and raised in Parkers Creek. Ms. Thomas' parents were May Ida Parker Commodore and Willis Commodore, who we believe to be one of William H. Commodore's sons. Ms. Thomas related, "My father's father was a Beckett and my grandmother's name was Lizzie James (Jane?), "and explained that her grandmother was Black, and her grandfather Beckett was White.

Eliza Jane Commodore, born 1874 and likely the daughter of Major Commodore, born 1844, married a man named Major Gross in 1893.

Clarence Commodore, born 1908, the son of Major Commodore, Jr., born 1890, and Susie Commodore, born 1889, bought land on Parkers Creek Road in 1943. In 2013, ACLT purchased the same property from a descendant, married to a member of the Harrod family. This Clarence Commodore lived with his grandparents, Major Commodore, Sr., born 1844, and Annie Commodore in 1910. Their dwelling was between William and Sudie Commodore and Robert and Florence Commodore on Parkers Creek Road.

Major (Sr.) and Annie Commodore also had a woman named Margrette (sic) Chew living with them as a lodger, same age as Major Sr. in 1910. We are hoping to sort out the two or three women with this name, although perhaps only one lived near Parkers Creek. There is a Margaret Chew listed as 18 years old in *Free African Americans* in Calvert County in 1832, thus born about 1814. A woman named Margaret Chew is also listed among communicants

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on the date, Easter 1862, with a note that she was subsequently removed from that list.

Back to Clarence Commodore—in 1910 he lived with his grandfather Major Commodore, born 1844. The 1930 census shows that Clarence had moved back in with his parents, Major Commodore Jr., born 1890 and Susie Commodore. This household also included Major and Susie's 15-year-old daughter, Ellen Johnson, along with Ellen's children, Clarence, and Martha. The 1930 census places Major and Susie Commodore's family next door to Eliza Commodore, born 1890, likely the daughter of Major and Annie Commodore. In her household was her son William E. Parker who was 23 years old, and her six-year-old daughter Mary Commodore.

We have learned about the Commodores primarily through census records and deeds and hope to learn more from family members and people who knew them. However, even the government records suggest the richness of community ties. For example, we know from the 1910 census and oral history that Suddie Commodore's daughter, Hattie, born 1894, married John Cephas Wallace, born 1884, son of Lemuel and Annie Wallace. Thanks to the Dorothy Commodore Thomas interview, we know that her mother, a Parker, married Willis Commodore, one of Suddie and William H. Commodore's sons. See Appendix A for a listing of people from the Parkers Creek area named Commodore extracted from census records.

Harrod

There are several Harrods noted in documents that we have collected, but at present we cannot connect them. Among them is Thomas Harrod who, with his wife, Elizabeth, and their children, are listed in the 1850 Census of Free Inhabitants in the Second District, north of the creek. Their son, Jasper, was 5 in 1850, born 1845. As we report on the section about the Simms family, below, a household headed by Jasper Harrod turns up in the census in later years, including a 1910 entry that lists his age as 62, born 1848, also north of the creek.

Ephrim Harrod's registration card for World War I states that he was self-employed as a farmer in Parkers Creek. Ephrim Harrod was a member of the Order of Galilean Fishermen and was mentioned in a deed in 1919 (AAH 04/12).

Cornelius Harrod (1873-1963) was married to Julia Wallace Harrod (1884-1971), mentioned in a quit claim deed in which they, along with John Cephas and Hattie Wallace, Harriet and Edward Carr agreed to convey property to George F. Gravatt in 1936 (AAH 34/569), following the death of Lemuel Wallace who died without leaving a will. Julia was Lemuel Wallace's daughter, as was Harriet Carr. At one time, Cornelius Harrod owned a 26-acre property, one segment of which lies along Parkers Creek Road. This property was purchased in 1902 (GWD 2/544) and is shown on the illustration with Lemuel Wallace's property later in this

document. Cornelius Harrod was also among the trustees of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows Lodge in Parkers Creek.

George Harrod, second husband of Ethel Gross (Jefferson-Harrod-Purvey) was born in 1886 and may be the George Harrod who owned a small parcel near Parkers Creek. He was the son of William Harrod, born 1815, and Mary Harrod, born 1833. He had siblings: Peter Harrod, born 1867; Perry Harrod, born 1870; Lizzie Harrod, born about 1876. If these George Harrods are the same man, he may represent a link between the Parkers Creek Harrods and the Harrods who lived in the Plum Point area.

John Harrod, born 1906, son of Cornelius Harrod and Julia Wallace Harrod, married Mable Boots (1906-1987). The 1940 census shows John and Mable Harod [sic] in a rented farm household with daughter, Ella, sons John Jr., age 13, and Josephus, 11. The sons were in school, the daughter was not. They lived next door to Clarence and Henrietta Commodore. Mable Boots's mother, Maggie, was likely the sister of Robert Commodore; both were living in Robert Commodore's household in 1910 according to the census that year. John Harrod, Jr. (1927-2020) was an Army veteran who served in Korea. He was married to Ruth Alverta Parker.

Parker

David Parker and James Parker (south of Parkers Creek)

Parkers Creek Heritage Trail research related to the Parker family has found some information about family-owned land near Parkers Creek in the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th and about the individuals associated with these properties. At this writing the PCHT team believes that two branches of the Parker family are central to our study: one south of Parkers Creek and one to the north. Both had prominent members named David Parker with sons named James Parker. Both may be related branches of the same family tree.

The parcels of land owned by Parkers on the south side of Parkers Creek, shown on the following page, were adjacent to land held by Commodores and Basil/Lemuel/Cephas Wallace families. The land held by Parkers north of Parkers Creek consists of ownership of part of Joseph Wallace's land.

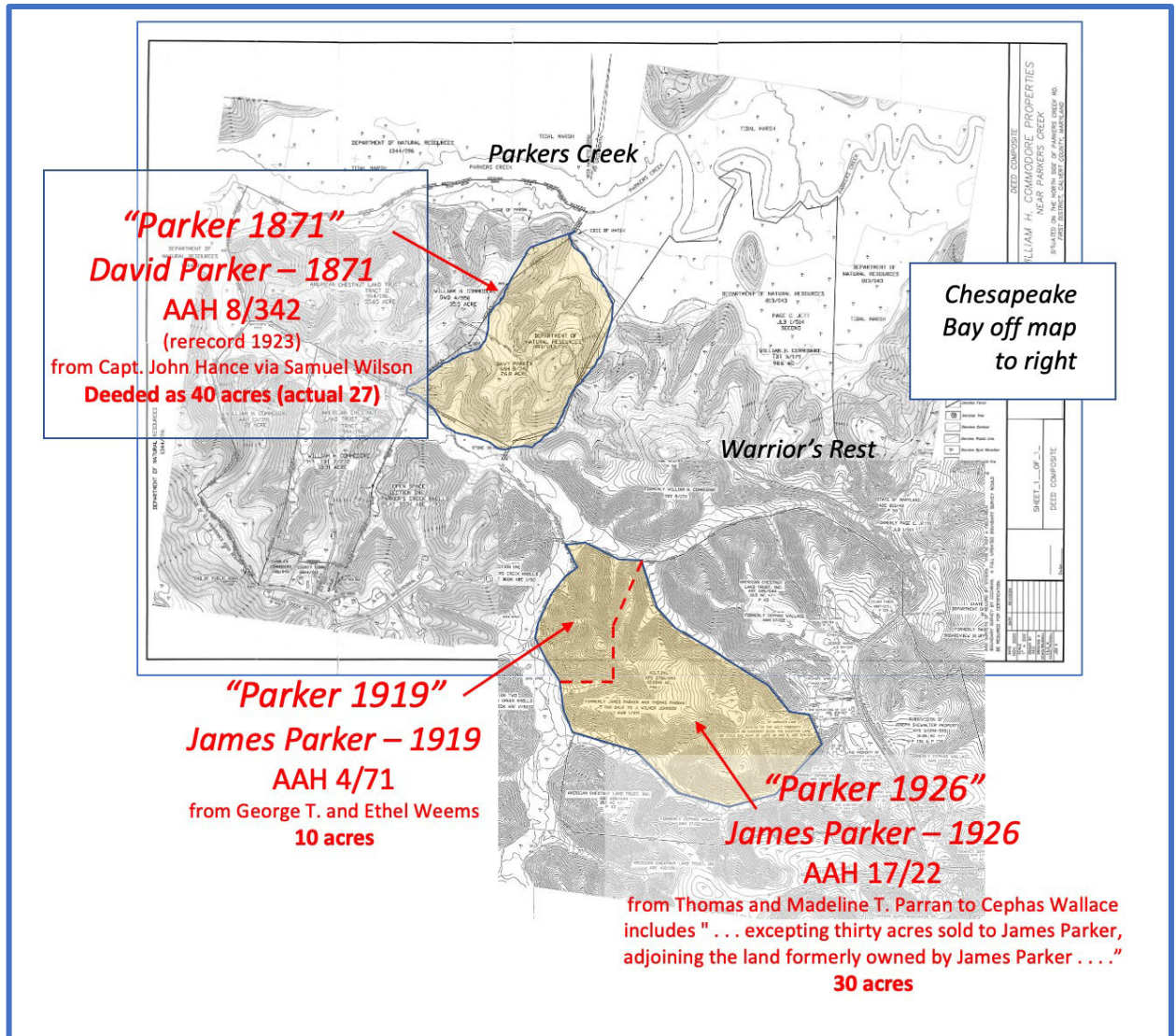


Figure 11. Properties owned by David Parker and James Parker south of Parkers Creek.

Appendix A includes summaries of census and other information that identifies a number of members of the Parkers Creek area branches of the family.



Figure 12. Our understanding of the family has been enhanced by discussion with Cleo Parker, shown at left, grand- and great-granddaughter of the landholders.

Cleo Parker's lineal ancestors:

Cleo Parker, born 1955

Father: Oliver Parker (B. Oliver Parker, 1911-1983)

Mother: Blanche Beatrice [Wallace] Parker (1918-1989)

Paternal grandfather: James L. Parker (born 1876)

Paternal great-grandfather: David Parker (born about 1830)

Maternal grandfather: John Cephas Wallace (1884-1968)

Maternal great-grandfather: Lemuel Wallace (185x-1934)

Thanks to information that Cleo Parker shared in an oral history interview, we know a little more about the relations and intermarriage of Parkers and Wallaces, especially those Parkers living south of Parkers Creek. Her recollections of growing up in the area evoke a sense of the land as a source of sustenance and human life, now replaced by woodland.

Ms. Parker said, "When you go all the way back in Parkers Creek ... it was several barns back there and that was open field. And just before you got to the big barn is where we'd turn and go down the creek. That's where we would go, and my uncle and them had built their own boats and we would row up the creek out to the Bay to crab from the mouth of the Bay.

"And then the peach trees, we had a peach orchard and then we had an apple orchard. We had the June apples. Then we had the regular yellow apples. Then we had the pears and we had nectarines. We just had all of those. We never had to buy. They canned all of that stuff. And the grape trees and the cherry trees, all of them was around where we was able to—my mother and grandmother and them every summer, we would pick them. And the folks in Scientists' Cliffs, when they came down for the summer, we would get them buckets and bags of apples and then poke salad. It's not as popular now, but in here, it was full of poke salad and watercress.

"And then kale, the straight and the curly kale, we always raised that around tobacco beds in the spring year and in late fall, my father and them had a spot and they just sowed kale. And everybody from everywhere just come and they just picked their own kale.

"And the hogs, my grandfather and them raised hogs. They would some years have 15-20 hogs because the folks in town, they would pay my grandfather and my uncle to raise their hogs from here because there wasn't nowhere else ... And my grandmother, I seen her kill chickens. And we raised chickens -- had chicken and she would catch [one by the -- and], throw it down on the chopping block and then dip it in hot water and pluck them and Sunday we had chicken. We had to gather the eggs up. Chicken would get in there and we'd go up in there and they would fly over our heads and stuff like that. But those were the good old days."

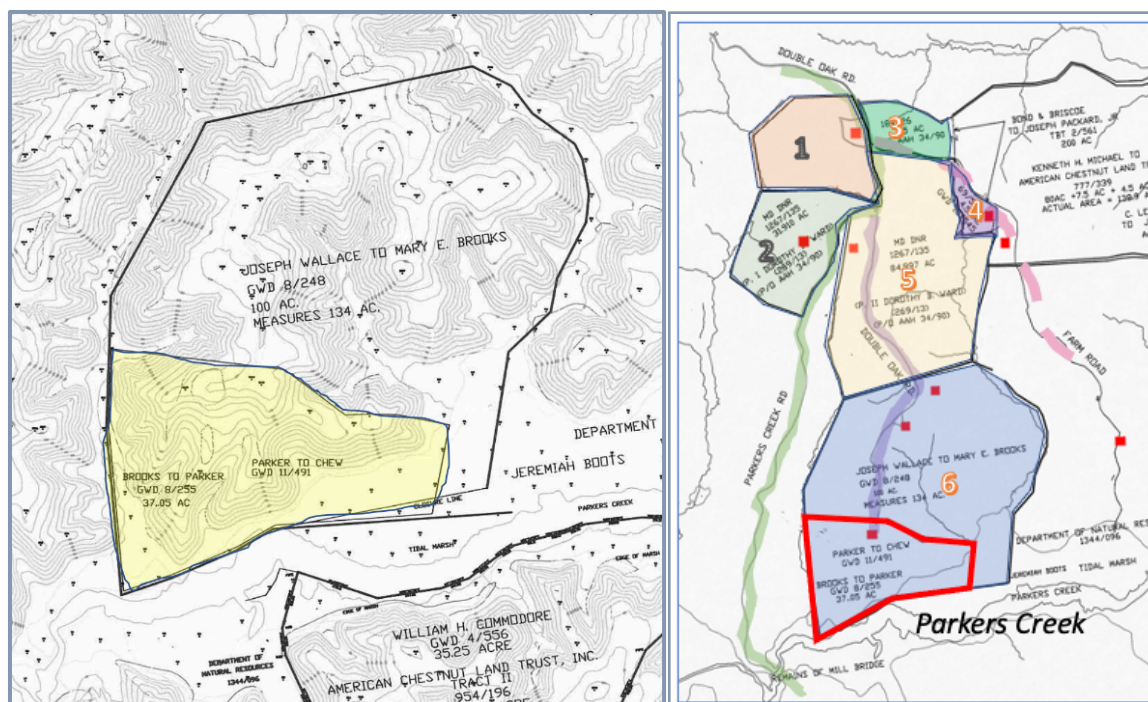


Figure 13. Parker property north of the creek, wording from deed reference GWD 8/255, 1908 states, “from Mary E. Brooks and Benjamin Brooks to David Parker, land formerly owned by Joseph Wallace.” The map on the left shows the parcel shaded in yellow. On the map to the right, all shaded segments are Wallace land. The section sold to Brooks in 1908 is blue. The segment sold to Parker is bounded in red. Parker sold the 40-acre tract in 1911.

The David Parker who lived north of the creek was born around 1850-1853, and died after 1900. His wife was named Hanna (or Hannah), and his mother-in-law was Eliza Kelson.

Meanwhile, the project team has found a newspaper item about a man named Jim Parker, below. We have not determined if this man is related to the Parkers described in this booklet.



Figure 14. Copy of an escaped slave advertisement for three Calvert County men: Henry Morsell, Jim Parker with a birth year of about 1841, and Bill Hutton. We have not determined if Jim Parker is related to the Parkers described in this booklet. Basil Duke Bond of Port Republic had the men enslaved. Bond believed that the men were headed in a boat up or across the Bay. This notice was published in the *Baltimore Sun*, 25 April 1857.

Scales

As early as 1870, there were persons with the surname Scales living in Calvert County, though they might not have lived in the Parkers Creek watershed. John Walter Scales, born circa 1849, lived with his family on property they owned north of Parkers Creek. The ruin of their house is still on the landscape and has been recorded as an archaeological site. Since the deed information indicates that Scales bought land in 1919, he may have lived in the same general area where he became a landowner. His farm was on the western side of what once had been the colonial patent *Parker's Clifts*.

The deed shows that Scales owned 200 acres but it does not include a typical survey, citing only information about the prior owner and the names of adjacent owners. Therefore, at this time, we are uncertain of the boundaries. Our best estimate of the property is shown in the map below.



Figure 15. Scales property 1916

The land is documented in deed AAH 1/086, from the Southern Maryland Land and Development Company (Thomas Parran).

The boundaries have not been determined by the PCHT project team: this is guesswork. Roughly speaking, the land appears to represent the western segment of the 1658 Parkers Clifts patent, and is so drawn here, to yield 200 acres. The underlying boundaries derived from the patent had no doubt been modified in the ensuing 250 years.

The wording in the deed does not include survey, but states: "... being the property conveyed to Thomas Parran by Jerry Boots and wife and by Thomas Parran and wife to Southern Maryland Land and Development Company by deeds duly recorded among the land records of Calvert County, containing 200 acres more or less ... Thomas Parran"

At this point, we have little information about the Scales family. We know that John W. Scales was active in his community. For example, in a 1911 newspaper clipping, he was named as a member of the Negro Business League, along with other men. John Walter Scales signed an affidavit in support of Rachel Sewell's application for her husband's Civil War pension after Leonard Sewell's death in 1916. He testified that he and Eli Hardman, who also signed the document, had attended the wedding of Rachel Smothers and Leonard Sewell in 1867.

A lifetime resident in the watershed reported that there was a location along Parkers Creek that was known as Scales Landing. Since it was adjacent to the Scales property, it suggests that the family was somehow involved with the water—fishing, oystering, transport, recreation, or all of the above.

John Walter Scales was married to a woman named Hannah. She was probably Hannah Hardman as the 1880 census records Ann Hardman living in their household, identified as "mother." John and Hannah's son Howard married Pauline Boots, who is named as his wife both in census records and on his World War I draft registration card. According to the register of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Prince Frederick, Benjamin Scales, the 5-month-old son of John Walter and Hannah Scales, was baptized on January 7, 1871, in a private ceremony by S. Cornelius.



Figure 16. Left: Front of the Scales house in 2001 taken from an old road that ACLT has named the Turkey (hiking) Trail. **Right:** Back of the Scales House. In this photo, the old road is on the far side of the house.

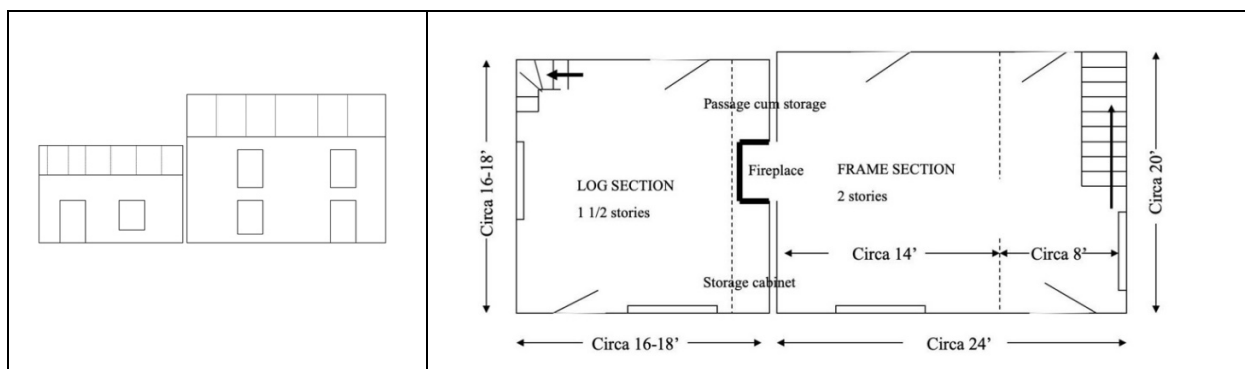


Figure 17. Drawings of the Scales house by Carl Fleischhauer, 2001



Figure 18. Photographs of interior of Scales House

Upper left: "Tightwind" staircase in log section of house.

Upper right: Fireplace between the two sections of the house.

Left and below: Photographs illustrating the log and chinking constructions of the log section of the house.

Photographs, 2001



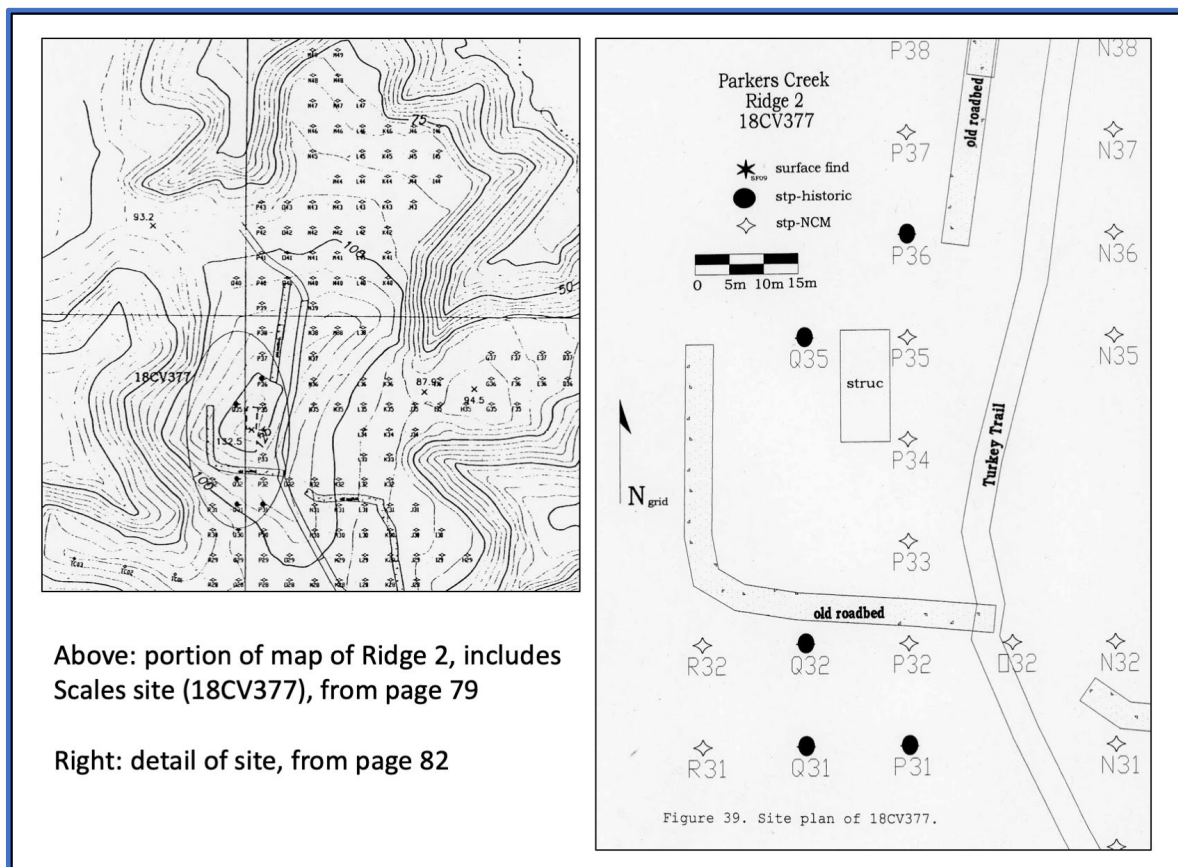


Figure 19. Scales house site shown on maps, drawn by Matthew Reeves from his 1997 archaeological survey of the Parkers Creek area. Note old roads.

Another entry in the St. Paul's Episcopal Church register records the marriage of Major Scales to Rachel Murdock on December 27, 1860, at Mr. W. Jones, officiated by Rev. W. A. Mitchell. Another entry in the St. Paul's Episcopal register states that Benjamin Jesse Scales, son of Major and Rachel Scales, was baptized on 11 October 1863 by W. A. Mitchell. Rachel and Sarah Scales were sponsors. Major Scales and his family lived west of the Parkers Creek watershed, but the fact that both Scales families obtained services from ministers at St. Paul's Episcopal Church suggests that they might have other connections as well.

Wallace

Members of the extended Wallace family have lived in the Parkers Creek watershed for generations. Our research to date finds records for the family as residents and landowners north and south of the creek beginning in 1850. Family connections in the area probably reach further back in time. Wallace family members still live south of the creek today.

The various Wallace families that we've found in census records are all likely to belong to a large extended family with at least two main branches, but we don't have sufficient information to establish the connections. An extensive summary of all the census-based information is included in Appendix A. Both branches of the family were active worshipers and leaders at Brown's Methodist Episcopal Church (after the 1968 Methodist denominational merger, Brown's United Methodist Church).

Jane, David, and Joseph Wallace and their descendants

Based on the information we have at this time, we speculate that one branch of the family can be traced to Jane Wallace and David Wallace. The 1840 census lists a woman named Jane Wallice (Wallace) as a Free Inhabitant, age range 24 to 36, born 1804 to 1816. Jane Wallice may be the Jane Wallace, then age 60, born 1800, named as the wife of David Wallace in the 1860s enumeration cited below. We believe that Jane and David Wallace were the parents of Joseph H. Wallace, a well-respected Civil War soldier and, after the war, farmer whose accomplishments are noted below.

Meanwhile, in the 1850 census of Free Inhabitants of Calvert County, William Wallace is recorded as 38 years old, living north of Parkers Creek with no other family listed in his household.

In the 1860 census of Free Inhabitants, David Wallace, 60, appears with his inferred wife, Jane, and Joseph, 20; Lizzie, 28; Dinah, 14; Ann, 38; Betsy, 30; William, 4; Sarah, 7; and John, 16. David Wallace owns land north of the creek in 1860. Joseph Wallace, likely the son of David, may be the Joseph H. Wallace who served in the Civil War and, in later years, owned a large tract of land in the watershed.

Joseph H. Wallace, born around 1844, was noted to have been an excellent soldier who never reported absent for a single day that he served with the USCT. Upon his return to Calvert County, he purchased land in Parkers Creek and was active in his community. He married Arabella and by 1870 had three children. He and his wife eventually had 8 children according to later census records. In 1900, Joseph and Arabella Wallace lived north of the creek on land that he owned.

In 1919, a decade after Joseph Wallace's death, his widow Arabella sold a 1/2-acre lot of the family's north-of-creek property to the Tabernacle No. 809 of the Grand Order of Galilean Fishermen. The Order was a national African American benevolent and fraternal organization founded in Baltimore in 1856. The trustees for Tabernacle No. 809 were Albert McCormick, Ephrim Harrod, and Daniel Wallace, one of Joseph and Arabella Wallace's sons. Note that in the writeup about Alonzo and Dina Bell, below, we also report the 1915 sale of a lot south of the creek, near Brown's Methodist Episcopal Church, to a different pair of African American benevolent and fraternal organizations, lodge number 4685 of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows and unit 2172 of the Household of Ruth.

[illegible]

Figure 20. Listing for Joseph Wallace in the 1880 Agricultural Census, which gives his middle initial as S. It shows him as the owner of 70 acres (almost certainly the tract mortgaged in 1899 and shown on the following map), 50 of which were tilled and 20 as woodland. The census also reports that Wallace owned 2 oxen, 2 milch cows, and raised corn on 5 acres (50 bushels) and tobacco on 5 acres (1,550 pounds).

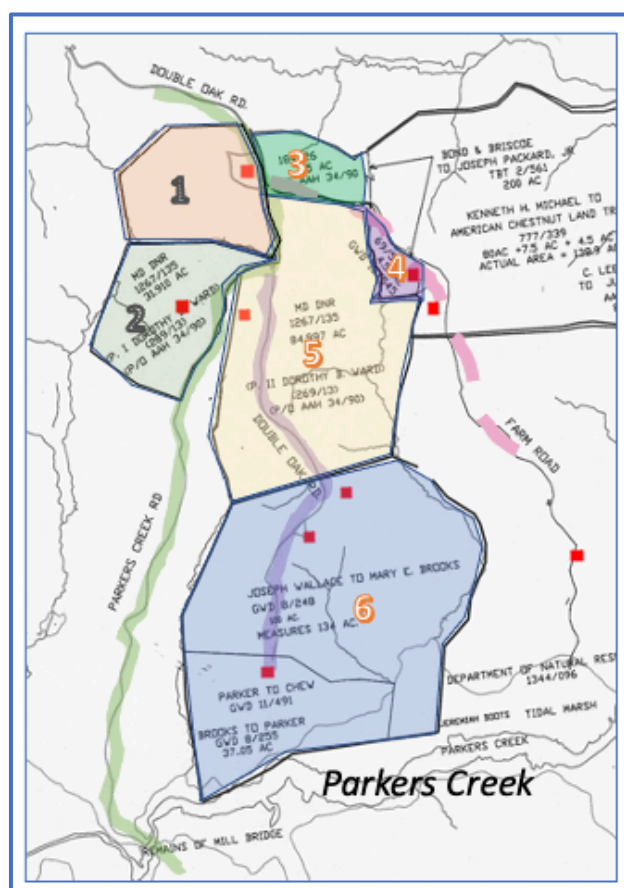


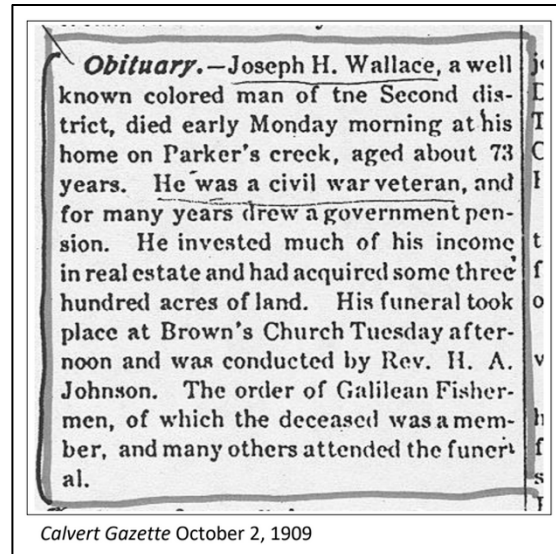
Figure 21. Joseph H. Wallace property.

Parcels labeled 1 and 2: We believe these are the lands referenced in the deed GWD 1/180, in 1899, a mortgage from Isaac P. Bowen to Joseph H. and Arabella Wallace for lands they bought from George T. Freeland [1835-1892] and his wife Wilhemina Lyles Freeland [1840-1919]. Acreage descriptions vary from 63 to 70 or 73 acres. We believe that this property is the farm documented in the 1880 Agricultural Census record above.

Parcels labeled 3, 4, 5, and 6: These show the land referenced in deed GWD 2/466, 1901. Purchased from Biscoe Bunting after an 1893 foreclosure, the land had sold to Enoch Kelson, but he “failed to comply.” Bunting then ordered another sale. The land sold to Joseph H. Wallace. The parcels together contain 200 acres. Later surveys indicate 230 acres. This tract adjoins land owned or in the possession of Frances William, formerly belonging to Mary Boome, Virginia F. Turner (formerly belonging to Virginia Freeland), and Joseph Packard (formerly the property of Zachariah Bowen), being one of the tracts owned by Gilbert Gott.

 = buildings identified on maps circa 1900 and/or archaeological surveys

Figure 22. Copy of the obituary for Joseph H. Wallace printed in the *Calvert Gazette* in 1909.



M/ | **39** | **U.S.C.T.**

Joseph H. Wallace
 Co. *10*, 39 Reg't U.S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on ☐ **Company Descriptive Book**
 of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age *24* years; height *6* feet — inches.
 Complexion *Mulatto*
 Eyes *Bk*; hair *Bk*
 Where born *Calvert Mch*
 Occupation *Farmer*

ENLISTMENT.

When *June 22*, 1864.
 Where *Calvert-lee*
 By whom *Wm. D. Brown*; term *3* y'rs.
 Remarks: *Mustered in Mch 31, 1864. S. M. Brown, at Baltimore Md. Aug 19. 65. has since been absent from Co. since enlistment. Has been a faithful soldier. A good soldier never sick nor absent.*

Wm. D. Brown
 (383e) Copyist.

Figure 23. Pages from Joseph H. Wallace's Civil War military records. He was a member of the 39th United States Colored Infantry Regiment. The page on the left concludes, "... faithful soldier. A good soldier never sick nor absent." The page below notes that Wallace was injured in the Battle of Cemetery Hill near Petersburg, Virginia on 30 July 1864.

CASUALTY SHEET.

Name, *Joe H. Wallace*
 Rank, *Private*, Company *D*, Regiment, *39*
 Arm, *U.S.C.*, State, *Md*
 Place of casualty, *Reep chow Cemetery Hill Va. Sud*
20 No 53
 Nature of casualty, *wounded*
 Date of casualty, *July 30/64*

FROM WHAT SOURCE THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED.

Report of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the *39* Regiment.
1 Brigade, *4* Division, *9* Corps, dated *Before Petersburg*
20 Aug 8/64
Lt. J. K. Sigfield
Col 48 P. U.S.C.
Comd'g Bn
Chas. H. H. H.
J. H. Bracovich
 Clerk.

Basil, Lemuel, John Cephas Wallace and their descendants

Basil Wallace, born 1810, is the earliest person we have identified in the other branch of the family near Parkers Creek. He is listed in the 1870 census, living south of the creek, with no wife named. In his household are children Marie, 15; Lemuel, 18, born 1852; Avon, 16; James, 14; Alice, 13; Peter, 5; and Charlotte, 4.

By 1870, Lemuel had married Ann Boots, who had been born in 1853, according to the Social Security index and the 1900 census. By 1900, Lemuel and Annie lived south of the creek; see the map in figure 23. The 1900 census lists their children: Walter Wallace, born 1883; Cephas Wallace, born 1885 (other records give his full name as John Cephas Wallace); Charles Wallace, born 1887; Frank Wallace, born 1892; Edward Wallace, born 1894; Rosa Wallace, born 1893; and Carry Wallace, born 1891. In 1910, Edith Gross, age 7, and Thomas Kelly, age 5, were listed as lodgers in the household. We believe it likely that these two children were kin.

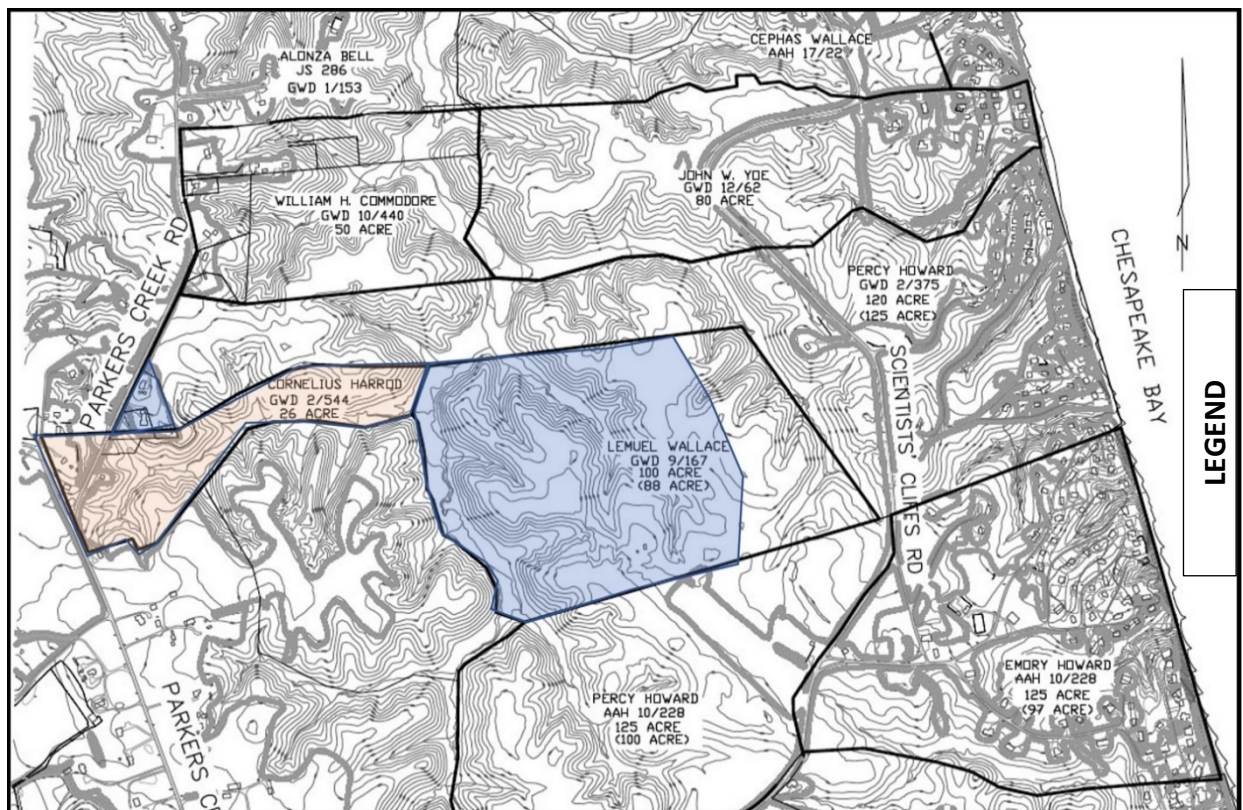


Figure 24. Parcels of land owned by Lemuel Wallace (blue shading), also showing segments of adjacent tracts owned by Alonzo Bell, William H. Commodore, and [John] Cephas Wallace, as well as a 26-acre property (tan shading) acquired by Cornelius Harrod in 1902 (GWD 2/544). As of September 2022, the PCHT team has been unable to determine the exact boundaries for the larger Lemuel Wallace property, deeded as 100 acres when purchased from John B. Gray in 1909 (GWD 9/167; a portion of the land Gray obtained from Florence E. and Benjamin Bowen in 1897; adjoins Mary E. Howard, land formerly owned by John T. Chambers, now owned by Percy Howard, Frank Bowen, and Cornelius Harrod). We believe the western boundary shown here is correct; other boundaries are approximations. The smaller, blue-shaded tract was deeded to Wallace in 1910 as 7 acres, measured today as about 3 acres (GWD 10/196).

Among the children of Lemuel and Ann Wallace, John Cephas Wallace—known better as Cephas—spent most of his life in the area. He married Hattie Commodore, as noted in a section above, and the family lived both south and north of Parkers Creek at different times. Maps of their property appear on the following pages. By 1940, Lemuel had died and his widow, Ann Boots Wallace, lived with her daughter, Ellen Howe, north of the creek.



Figure 25. Lemuel Wallace property photographs.

Left: Woodrow Wallace at his grandfather Lemuel Wallace's house, 1989. Woodrow Wallace explained that during much of his life, his uncle William Wallace lived in the house, on the larger property shown on the map in figure 23. Lemuel Wallace himself lived in another dwelling on Parkers Creek Road, in a small property also shown on the map in figure 23.

Below: Lemuel Wallace's barn, 1990.

Photographs by Carl Fleischhauer



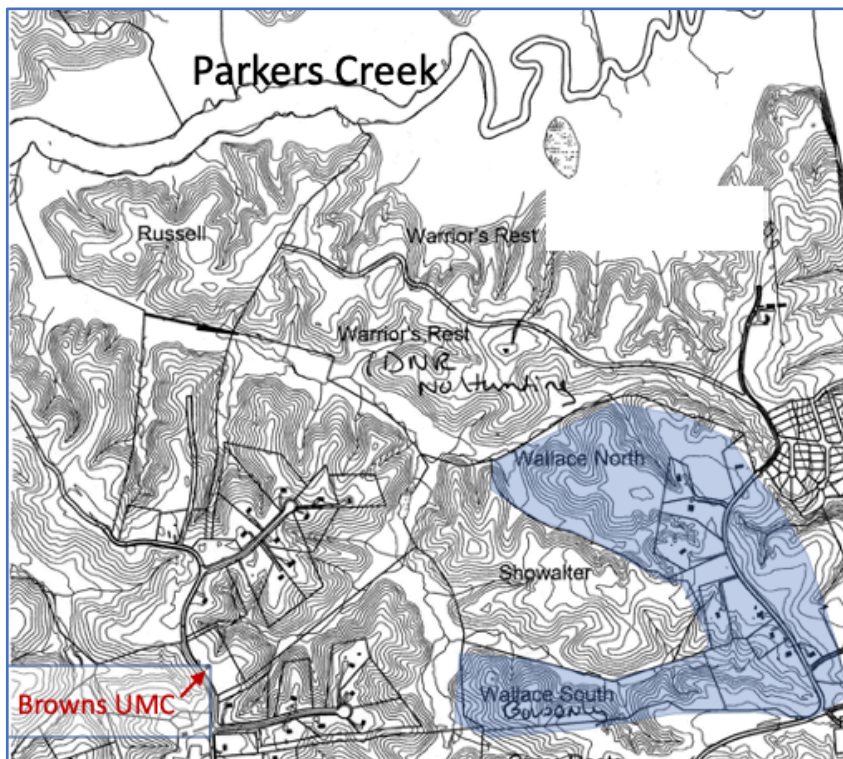
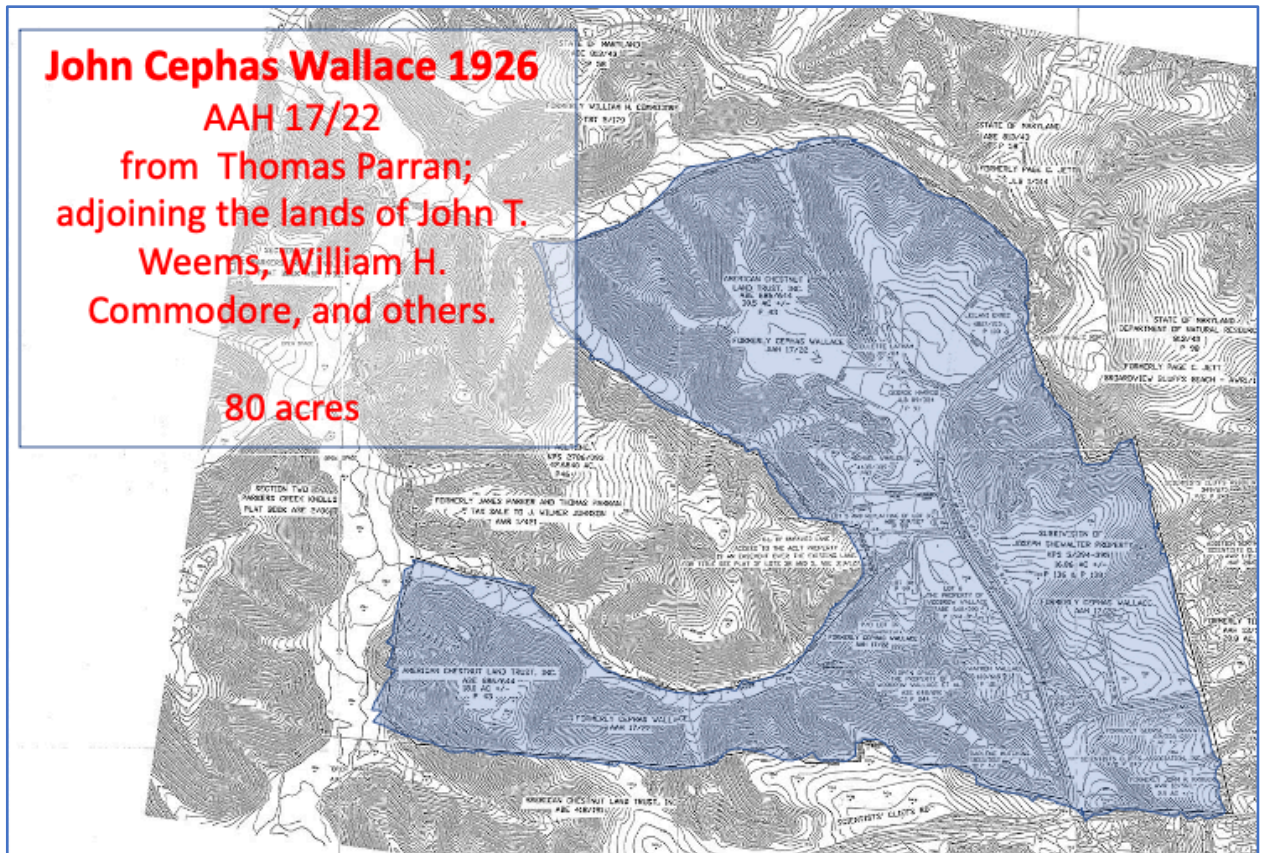


Figure 26.

Above: John Cephas Wallace property when acquired in 1926. John Cephas Wallace was one of Lemuel Wallace's sons. After his death in 1968, this land passed to his son Woodrow Wallace.

Left: Location of the parcel above shown in wider context of the area south of Parkers Creek. The tract labeled "Showalter" on this map is the 40-acre tract formerly owned by James Parker and shown in the Parker section of this document, above.

Families for which we have less substantial information

The families whose names appear in this booklet are those for whom we have found some information beyond names in Federal censuses. There are other African American families who lived in the Parkers Creek area during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but we have almost no knowledge of them beyond their names. If you have additional information to share about any of the families listed here, or about others whose names do not appear in this booklet and should, please let us know.

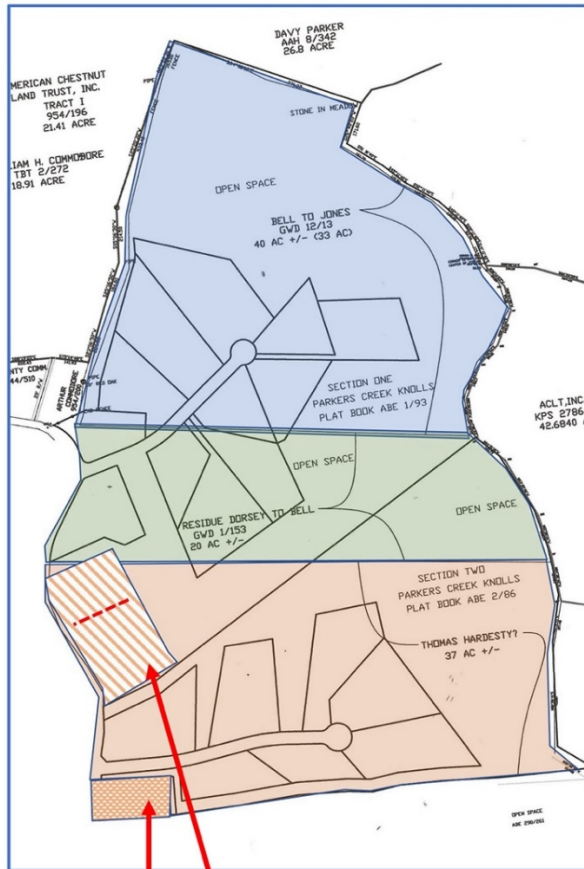
Bell

Alonzo Bell was an African American landowner who, with his wife Dina (or Dinah), were active members of the Parkers Creek community in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Their names often turn up as “adjoining owner” in land records. The deeds indicate that Bell owned two properties, one described as containing around 30 acres and the other containing 60-65 acres. A map of the Bell property appears on the following page.

While searching for deeds in MDLANDREC.NET (an online service of the Maryland State Archives), we also found 15 “bill of sale” documents in which Alonzo Bell put up collateral—usually livestock—in order to borrow money. Such borrowing seemed to be a regular occurrence for the Bells between 1893 and 1913, and probably helped them get by until the next tobacco crop sold at market. This was a fairly common practice among tobacco farmers who depended on the annual sale of their crop and it illustrates the insecure economy of tobacco agriculture. The final land deeds we found, both dated 1915, identify Dina (Dinah) Bell as a widow. Dina Bell does not appear in any other record groups that we have searched.

Alonzo/Alonza Bell, born around 1850, appears in the 1880 United States Federal Census. His wife at that enumeration is not named *Dina* or *Dinah*, but is listed as Francis Bell, age 27. This could be the same Alonzo Bell who had remarried by the time he shows up in land records. By 1908, Alonzo Bell is listed among members of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows who were raising funds to build a hall for the organization south of Parkers Creek.

In 1915, after Alonzo Bell's death, his widow sold a 1/2-acre lot of the family's land to lodge number 4685 of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows and unit 2172 of the Household of Ruth, a pair of benevolent and fraternal/sororal groups. These organizations are described in a later section of this booklet.



Alonzo and Dina Bell property

Analysis as of April 2022
Art Cochran and Carl Fleischhauer

Base map:

Parkers Creek Knolls subdivision

Blue and green areas

Both colors together

- 1899, GWD-01-153
- from heirs of W.W. Dorsey
- 60 acres

Blue

- 1911, GWD-12-13
- 40 acres (actual; 33 stated in deed)
- Sold by Bell to Daniel J. and Harriet August Jones

Green

- Residual 20 acres still possessed by Bell after the 1911 sale

For reference, not part of Ball land: Tan area (including patterned rectangles)

Ownership details not determined; the following deeds suggest different owners in the period 1867-1885 and circa 1908:

- 1884: deed for 1-acre Parkers Creek School lot (patterned rectangle at lower left), from Samuel B. and Henrietta W. Wilson to the church trustees.
- 1908: deed for **1-acre portion** of the cross-hatched area (Brown's Church property, more or less), from Thomas A. and Sarah Hardesty to the church.

Figure 27. Alonzo and Dinah Bell property with analysis and descriptions based on research of land records and field survey.

Boots

The surname Boots appears in records at least as early as the 1850 Census of Free Inhabitants or, to use another term of the period, as *Free Blacks*. The household headed by Samuel Boots in 1850 was enumerated in the Second District, north of Parkers Creek. The census shows that Samuel Boots, born 1820, laborer, his wife Elizabeth “Betsy” Boots, born 1825, and three children including George, born 1844, age 6; and Jere, born 1848, age 2.

An 1860 census record, also north of the creek, lists another Free Black named Jacob Boots. His age is given as 65 which, if accurate, puts his birth year in 1795. In 1860 he was counted in the household of the White farmer John G. Dare at Holly Hill on today’s Dares Beach Road. Five other Free Black persons named Boots, whose relationships are not specified, are also listed in the household. In the same 1860 census immediately following the Dare-Boots household is listed Samuel Boots, his wife, Betsy, and their family which has grown to six children. Family members may have worked at Holly Hill, perhaps as tenant farmers.

In the 1870 census, Samuel Boots, along with sons George, age 26, and Jeremiah, born 1851, age 19, are enumerated in the household of John G. Dare.

By 1880, Samuel and Elizabeth lived south of the creek and had grandchildren living with them. The other Boots families, listed in separate households, were also living south of the creek. Jerry Boots lived with his wife Sarah and two children. The entry for George Boots noted that he suffered from a broken leg. Both brothers, George and Jerry, were listed as farm laborers. The U.S. Agricultural Census in 1880 lists Jerry Boots as a renter and notes his products including 1 milch cow; 10 acres Indian corn, 105 bushels; [10?] acres tobacco, 5,000 pounds.

An 1884 deed for the Parkers Creek School lot acquired by the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States for the Parkers Creek Church, later called Brown's, lists Jerry Boots among the trustees of the church.

In 1900, Jeremiah and Sarah Boots again lived north of the creek, with four children. Jerry Boots owned land north of the creek by 1908. In the same year, he is listed in a newspaper announcement for a benefit picnic as a member of a committee of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.

Jerry Boots, according to a 1910 newspaper, made a good profit from shipping hickory wood from his farm to Baltimore. Jeremiah Boots and his wife Sarah Boots were the parents of Julius Boots who, in 1916, purchased part of the land that Mary E. Brooks had bought from Joseph H. and Arabella Wallace in 1908.

Boom

Future research topic – please share what you know.

Brooks

Research into property ownership in the Parkers Creek watershed reveals three deeds involving property owned by Mary E. Brooks and her husband, Benjamin Brooks, between 1908 and 1916.

We have had difficulty identifying the Benjamin Brooks who married Mary Brooks with certainty. In the 1870 Federal Census, we found a 12-year-old Benjamin Brooks who lived with Joshua White, 36, his inferred wife, Ann White, 24, and their son, Gabriel White, 9, in the Second District. It is not clear where in the county they lived. A Benjamin Brooks is listed as a brother of Walter Brooks in the 1880 census, apparently living on the Patuxent River side of the county. In 1880 he was 30 years old. Either of these men could possibly have been the Benjamin Brooks in the deeds.

James D. Brooks had been enslaved by Rev. John Sedwick in Port Republic. He served in the USCT in the Civil War. For a time after the war, he lived in Port Republic with his wife, Mary Rawlings Brooks. At some point, the couple moved, possibly with their six children, to Baltimore. Among their children was Mary E. Brooks, born 1867. This information was gleaned from the Civil War pension records for James Brooks.

Chew

Future research topic – please share what you know.

Kelson

Enoch Kelson is buried at Brown's United Methodist Church cemetery on Parkers Creek Road. According to research that is still being developed, his parents were Benjamin and Eliza Jane Kelson. By 1870, Enoch Kelson had married Mary and was living south of Parkers Creek with three children, Louise, Mary E., and John. In 1880 the census indicated that the family lived north of Parkers Creek with six children: Louisa, Mary E., Wesley, Isaac, Effie, and Wilson. Young John Kelson may have either died or was living elsewhere in 1880. Enoch Kelson and his family lived next door to David Parker and his wife, Hannah. David Parker's mother-in-law, Eliza Kelson, lived with them.

Benjamin Kelson enlisted in the USCT in 1864 where he served as a drummer. He had been enslaved by James S. Morsell since Benjamin's birth, "about 1847" according to the claim application Morsell filed to receive a \$300 bounty for Kelson's service and freedom. That would have meant Benjamin Kelson was 16 or 17 when he enlisted. It is unlikely that the Benjamin Kelson who served in the USCT was the father of Enoch owing to their respective ages, but it is probable that they were related.

Simms, also spelled Sims

Essie Albert Simms, born 1891, was a farmer in Parkers Creek. In 1910, he lived south of the creek with Jasper Harrod and his wife, Amelia Harrod. He listed Amelia Harrod as his

grandmother on his World War I draft registration. By 1940, Essie Simms had married Mary and they had four children. When he filled out his draft registration for World War II in 1942, Essie Simms listed his residence as Dares, and stated that he worked for Dr. Hugh Ward.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
SERIAL NUMBER U 322	1. NAME (Print) ESSIE AL SIMMS (First) (Middle) (Last)		ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) DARES CALVERT MARYLAND (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)			
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)			
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 51	6. PLACE OF BIRTH PORT REPUBLIC (Town or county) (State of country)	
	DATE OF BIRTH Mar. 24 1891 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	MARYLAND	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Lovelie Simms, Dares, Md.			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Dr. Hugh Ward, Owings, Md.			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Dares, Calvert Md. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 4-1-42)		16-21630-2 Essie Al Simms (Registrant's signature)	

Figure 28. A copy of the first page of the World War II Draft Registration Card for Essie Simms. Image was retrieved from Ancestry.com

Deed records (AWR 1/388) indicate that in 1944 Essie Simms acquired 20 (or 22) acres of land that had been part of the Joseph H. Wallace farm, inherited by his son William Wallace and, after some financial difficulties, bought by Essie Simms. After Essie's death, his children sorted out the ownership (deed ABE 506/510), with Rodell Simms being the principal figure until his death in 2006.

McCormick

To be elaborated: Yvonne Wills' stepmother Maddie's first husband was Albert McCormick; the couple is buried at Brown's. In 1919, Albert McCormick was a trustee of the Grand Order of Galilean Fishermen. In the 1920 census, he and his first wife Isabel were listed as living north of Parkers Creek.

INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVED PARKERS CREEK COMMUNITY

There are several organizations and institutions that were established to serve the African American residents of the Parkers Creek communities. These included a church, several schools, and fraternal and sororal organizations.

Brown's United Methodist Church

The faith community that established the historic church on Parkers Creek Road was apparently organized as Parkers Creek Church more than a decade before the church building that still stands was constructed. An 1884 deed grants ownership to “the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America for Parkers Creek Church in Calvert County” affirming that the trustees had been organized by that year.

The trustees and the first members of the community worked to build the church. An article from the *Calvert Gazette* on 2 October 1886 describes the following fund-raising trip:

Colored Excursion to Baltimore. The steamer Wenonah carried nearly six hundred colored excursionists from Governor's Run, Plum Point and Fair Haven to Baltimore on Friday night last [probably 24 September]. The boat started from Governor's Run at 10 P.M., calling at the above landings, and reached Baltimore early Saturday morning [probably 25 September]. The excursionists spent the day in the city and returned home Saturday night. Good order prevailed on the trip, and about one hundred and fifty dollars, over and above expenses, were realized by the managers, which will be applied to building a new church *at Parker's Creek*.

The cemetery on the grounds of the church may have been used before the existing building was erected. The earliest marked grave found to date is that of Hannah Brady who died in 1891. The members of the congregation may have worshiped there in an earlier structure or held their meetings on the grounds. Gladys Wallace Jones, the current owner of the property, states that the church building that still stands on Parkers Creek Road was dedicated on 3 July 1898.

According to documentary records, including newspaper accounts as noted, the church was called Parkers Creek Church, Brown's Chapel, and Brown's Methodist Episcopal Church. Organizationally, it was aligned with the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the African American conference of what became the Baltimore-Washington Conference when they merged in 1965. The church finally became Brown's United Methodist Church after the denomination merged with the Evangelical United Brethren in the 1960s. The church served the community until it was closed in 1972.

Like many African American churches, Brown's church was a community center as well as the site for worship. African American churches became the primary public arenas where African Americans could exercise social and civic responsibility and have autonomy over religious decisions and practice. The United States Census of Religious Bodies in 1927 offers a snapshot of the life of Brown's Church at one point in time. A copy of the document appears on the following.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
WASHINGTON

13354 MAY 18 1927 ✓
1-3-4

UNITED STATES CENSUS OF RELIGIOUS BODIES
SCHEDULE: 1926

097

FILL OUT A SEPARATE SCHEDULE FOR EACH CHURCH. SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET

a. Denomination Methodist Episcopal Church
b. Division (Association, Conference, Diocese, Presbytery, Synod, etc.) Wash. DISTRICT South Balto.
c. Local name of church Brown
d. City, town, village, or township, etc. Port Republic e. County Salbert f. State Ind.

MEMBERSHIP
Report number of members according to definition of member in your church

Number of members, by sex:
1. Male 40
2. Female 55
3. Total number of members 95
Number of members under and over 13 years old:
4. Under 13 years of age 20
5. 13 years old and over 75
6. Total number of members 95

NOTE.—The total given under Question 6 should be the same as the total of males and females given under Question 3.

CHURCH BUILDINGS
See instructions, paragraphs 10 to 12

7. Number of church edifices 1
8. Value of church edifices \$ 1000
9. Debt on church edifices \$ none
10. Does church own pastor's residence Yes
11. Value of pastor's residence (if owned by church) \$ 3000
12. Debt on pastor's residence (if owned by church) \$ none

EXPENDITURES
Amount expended by your church during last fiscal year

13. Amount expended for salaries, repairs, and other running expenses; for improvements or new buildings; and for payments on church debt \$ 250
14. Amount expended for benevolences, including home and foreign missions; for denominational support; and for all other purposes \$ 25
15. Total expenditures during year \$ 275

CHURCH SCHOOLS
Report here only schools conducted by this church

Sunday schools:
16. Number of officers and teachers 4
17. Number of scholars 40
Summer vacation Bible schools:
18. Number of officers and teachers none
19. Number of scholars 1
Week-day religious schools:
20. Number of officers and teachers 1
21. Number of scholars 1
Parochial schools:
22. Number of administrative officers 1
23. Number of teachers—
a. Elementary (grades 1 to 8) 1
b. Secondary 1
24. Number of scholars—
a. Elementary (grades 1 to 8) 1
b. Secondary 1

PASTOR
25. Name of pastor J. W. Langford
(If church has no pastor, write "None")
26. Number of ordained ministers, if any, employed as assistant pastors none
27. Number of other churches served by the pastor or his assistants 1

If pastor (or assistant pastor) is a graduate of a college or theological seminary, give name of institution below. (If not a graduate, write "No" in the space indicated.)
Pastor:
28. College See schedule for other churches
29. Theological seminary no
Assistant pastor:
30. College no
31. Theological seminary no

NOTE.—Where one pastor serves two or more churches, Questions 28 and 29 should be answered only on the schedule for one of the churches; on the schedules for the other churches, write "See schedule for _____ church."

Signature of person furnishing information J. W. Langford
Official title Methodist Minister
Date May 18, 1927 P. O. Address Spensville, Ind.

6-5518 a 11-0004

Figure 29. A copy of the Religious Bodies Census for Brown's Methodist Episcopal Church. Pastor J. W. Langford completed the form in May of 1927. The church recorded 95 members that year, with 44 people, teachers, and students, participating in Sunday school. Original document is at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.



Figure 30.

Left: Brown's United Methodist Church as it appeared in 1990.

Below: Many people gathered to enjoy each other's company after the first annual clean-up day hosted by Gladys Wallace Jones at the church in June 2021. Ms. Jones is on the far right in this photo.



The Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Church Trustees transferred ownership of the church to Gladys Wallace Jones in 2013. She immediately applied to have it designated as a Calvert County Historic District which the Calvert County Commissioners did that same year. Ms. Jones is working in partnership with others, including ACLT, to have the building restored for use of the community to share its history and as a gathering place.

Schools

This section describes five schools. Two were one-room schools located in the immediate Parkers Creek area: the Parkers Creek School and the Dares School (aka Dares Wharf School). The third, Prince Frederick School in its second location, was also a one-room school located not far from Parkers Creek. The fourth and fifth schools were also located in the vicinity but served African American students from across all of Calvert County: Central School (aka Central Industrial School and/or Central High School) and William Sampson Brooks High School.

For detailed information about any school in Calvert County, see Mary Rockefeller's book, *Early Schools of Calvert County, Maryland* (2019).

Parkers Creek School

Parkers Creek School, also known as Brown's Church School, was the first of three one-room schools to educate African American children in the area. Mary B. Rockefeller writes that the school was established in 1868, one year after land was secured and trustees were named. The school was constructed with assistance and guidance from the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands more commonly called the Freedmen's Bureau. The school was in use as a school for most of the years between 1868 and 1949 when it was closed. That year the students transferred to the newly built Island Creek School, a consolidated school building that still stands at Broomes Island and Hance Roads.



Figure 31. Parkers Creek School building, date unknown.

Photograph courtesy Calvert County Historical Society



Figure 32. From an article in the *Baltimore Afro-American* 6 April 1940.

It is interesting to note that the first trustees for Parkers Creek School were the same men named in deeds as the trustees for the Brown's Methodist Episcopal Church. They were Joseph H. Wallace, Nace Brown, Jeremiah Boots, James W. Weems, and Major Parran. This illustrates the connections between the church and the school and the evident leadership of these persons in their community.

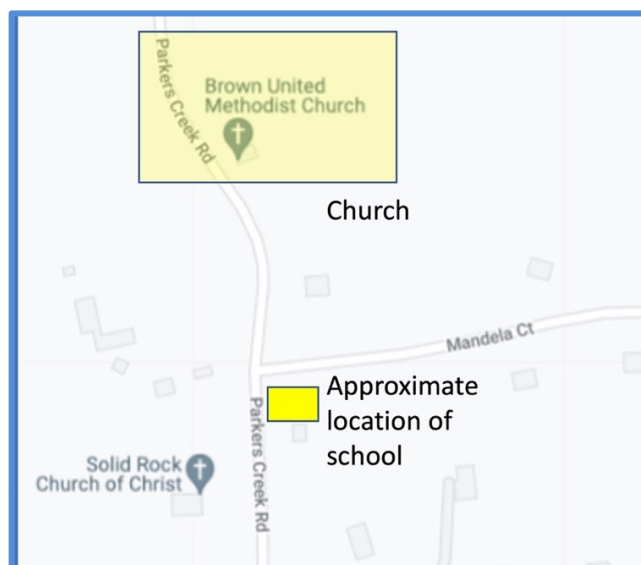


Figure 33. Map showing the proximity of Brown's United Methodist Church and the site of the Parkers Creek School. A house presently stands where the school used to be.

North of Parkers Creek there were two one-room schools that African American children who lived in the area could have attended. Like Parkers Creek School, they were eventually closed when multi-room schools were built.

Dares School

Dares School, also called Dares Wharf School, served African American children north of the creek from 1924-1955. It was located on the east side of Wilson Road near the intersection with Allday Road. The building at that site burned in 1953 and the students attended school in a temporary location behind Brooks High School on Dares Beach Road. The temporary site retained the name, Dares School.

Prince Frederick School, second location

The first location of the Prince Frederick School for African Americans was west of the intersection of Stoakley Road and Solomons Island Road. It was replaced in 1908 by a one-room school at the corner of Dorsey and Dares Beach Roads.



Figure 34. Prince Frederick School on Dares Beach Road, 1909 with teacher, Lydia Johnson.

Photograph courtesy of Frances Stewart King (3rd from left in front row) via Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning.

Prince Frederick School was abandoned in 1921 and the students transferred to the new Central Industrial School on what is now Armory Road.

Central School

Central School, opened as Central Industrial School in 1921, was built with assistance from the Rosenwald Foundation and with donations from the community to a capital campaign that was launched in 1918. The school never was an industrial school but was instead first an elementary school. It drew students from around the area because of its larger capacity. By 1929, the school included 8th grade which was the first year of high school at the time. In the fall of 1932, Central served students through the 11th grade; Mary Rockefeller writes that was “the highest level available to any student in Calvert County until 1952.”

In the spring of 1938, the last high school class at Central graduated and in fall the high school functions were taken over by the new William Sampson Brooks High School. The elementary school remained until merging with Dares School in 1955.

William Sampson Brooks High School

In 1938, William Sampson Brooks High School opened. African American students from everywhere in the county attended the school, the only high school available for them until desegregation.

Fraternal and Sororal Organizations

At least three organizations had a presence in the African American communities of Parkers Creek. They included the Grand Order of Galilean Fishermen, the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, and the Household of Ruth. The organizations were notably connected with schools and with churches in Calvert County.

Grand Order of Galilean Fishermen

The Grand Order of Galilean Fishermen, an African American fraternal organization was founded in Baltimore in 1856. Near Parkers Creek, we find Galilean Fishermen's Morning Glory Tabernacle No. 809. Additional tabernacles existed in Calvert County. Other Galilean Fishermen terms include *lodges*, buildings where tabernacle groups met (groups also met in churches) and *halls*, used for meetings of a more general nature and serving as places of assembly for other African American organizations and/or activities. Tabernacle No. 809 of the Order of Galilean Fishermen had an ongoing relationship with Brown's M.E. Church as the two shared membership and at least one individual, Joseph H. Wallace, who served as trustee of both the church and the fraternity. Newspaper clippings indicate that the Galilean Fishermen met in Brown's M.E. Church. Around 1916, Tabernacle 809 seems to have considered building north of the creek when the organization purchased a 1/2-acre lot there from the Wallace family. We found no indication that a building was ever constructed.

African American men who lived in Parkers Creek also participated in the activities of other organizations that met in the Fishermen's Hall in Prince Frederick such as the Negro Business League and the Colored United Republic Club.

Grand United Order of Odd Fellows and the Household of Ruth

A second fraternal organization in the Parkers Creek area was the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (GUOF). In the United States, there are multiple distinct Odd Fellows organizations. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) traditionally has had White members. In contrast, the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows is principally a Black organization, separately chartered in England in the 1840s to give its African American membership greater autonomy. There were several GUOF halls in Calvert County which, like the other organizations, were often associated with schools and churches. In at least one instance in Calvert County, a GUOF lodge met in a separate space in the same building as a lodge of the Prince Hall Order of Free Masons. We have not found evidence of a Masonic lodge having been established in the Parkers Creek area.

In 1915, Alonzo Bell's widow, Dina Bell sold a half-acre lot to the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, No. 4865 and the Household of Ruth, No. 2172. Among the trustees named in the deed are Isaac Kelson, Edward Wall, and Cornelius Harrod. The Household of Ruth was established in the United States in 1858 and is the counterpart to the GUOF. Its membership was made up of female relatives of men who belonged to the men's lodge.

DO YOU KNOW MORE?

What you have just read is a work in progress. There is more work to be done. We have not exhausted all possible documentary sources, but we believe that the most important source of key information is what living people know and remember. Perhaps you recall something helpful about someone who is mentioned or know about someone who is missing from these pages. Maybe you have a photograph of people and places in Parkers Creek that you would allow us to scan and share in an updated version of this booklet. Or perhaps you would like to volunteer to help in some way to find out more. Please let us know. You can contact the project team through Kirsti Uunila, k.uunila20@gmail.com Thank you for reading this booklet.

The African American Community of Parkers Creek, circa 1800-1960

Work in Progress

Appendix A. Detailed information for selected families from census records and other sources

Table of contents

A.1 Boots.....	44
A.2 Commodore.....	46
William H. and Suddie Commodore.....	46
Major (Sr.) and Annie Commodore, Major (Jr.) and Susie Commodore.....	47
A.3 Parker	48
A.4 Scales	54
A.5 Wallace	55

This draft 18 November 2022

A.1 Boots

In the following listings, several individuals--clearly the same people--are listed with ages that indicate different (but close) birth years. This is not unusual for residents--Black and White--in the 19th and early 20th century, a period during which birth and death records were imperfectly maintained.

- **1850:** filename: **c1850_dist2_hh-269-281.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yY9owM0BmRdZ3fZN1NZmrP6fzihuuMeg/>
- Boots, Samuel (age 35, born 1815); Boots, Betty, 35, 1815; children: George, 6; Grace, 4; Jere [Jeremiah, Jerry], 2 (born 1849)
- The preceding enumerated as Free Inhabitants, in the Second District, north of the creek.
- **1860:** filename: **c1860_dist2_hh-582-586.jpg**
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L5qq4NxAw9OcEhF_cm7-UXXSDs66WUrD/
- The following persons named Boots were enumerated as part of the household of John G. Dare, the White operator of Holly Hill farm on the road to Allnutt's Landing (later Dares Wharf, and subsequently Dares Beach). Dare was raised in a Quaker household (although later associated with St. Paul's Episcopal Church) and seems not to have enslaved individuals at Holly Hill.
- Household members include Boots, Jacob (65, 1795, laborer); Boots, Roaney (30, 1820, washerwoman); Boots, Eliza (19, 1841, washerwoman); [Julia] (14, 1846); Tom (10, 1850); [Baby?], (4/12, 1860)
- The preceding enumerated as Free Inhabitants, in the Second District, north of the creek.
- The following is a separate household, listed immediately after the Dare household. This family could easily have been tenants in a separate dwelling on Holly Hill.
- Boots, Samuel (age 40, born 1820); Boots, Betsy (35, 1825); children: Joseph, 20; George, 17; Gray, 12; William, 8; Anna, 4; [Sam?], 10/12.
- The preceding enumerated as Free Inhabitants, in the Second District, north of the creek.
- **1870:** filename: **c1870_dist2_hh-248-253.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H2rrJL8TsI5idPDU04dVdkCZl6naH5I/>
- The following persons named Boots were enumerated in the household of John G. Dare; see description of Dare in the 1860 notes above.
- Household members include Boots, Samuel (50, 1820, farm laborer); Boots, George (26, 1844, farm laborer); Boots, Jeremiah (19, 1851, farm laborer).
- The preceding enumerated in the Second District, north of the creek.
- **1880:** filename: **c1880_ed33_hh-336-344.jpg**
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-OKAzDPHu4FznL_iw1drrjKDaXgOllwE/
- The exact location for the following households (336 to 344) is unknown; it may be some distance to the west and south of Parkers Creek (?).
- Household 336: Boots, Saml (Samuel), 60, about 1820; Boots, Elizabeth, 55, about 1825, wife; Boots, Saml (Samuel), 20, about 1860, son; Boots, Sarah, 9, about 1871, granddaughter; Boots, Joseph, 7, about 1873, grandson.
- The preceding were enumerated in the First District, south of the creek.
- **1880:** filename (for two following households): **c1880_ed33_hh-08-14.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1weM8Z1AvVdrymueruoFvKRJWuKBL638w/>
- The following two households are listed one after the other (11 and 12), part of sequence that includes other familiar names from the Parkers Creek neighborhood.

- Household 11: Boots, Jerry (31, 1851, head of household); Boots, Sarah (26, 1854, wife); Boots, Sarah (5, daughter); Boots, Harriet (2, daughter).
- The preceding enumerated in the First District, south of the creek.
- Household 12: Boots, George (40, 1840, head of household, farm laborer, broken leg); Boots, Henney (39, 1841, wife); Boots, John (6, son); Boots, Joseph H. (4, son); Mary E. (2, daughter).
- The preceding enumerated in the First District, south of the creek.
- **1900:** filename: **c1900_ed67_hh-194-202.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yYctJlXnqbfHvDAdtdovHuSOTzyDHW1/>
- Jerry [Jeremiah] Boots (born June 1851); wife Sarah J. Boots (February 1855); children Pauline Boots (May 1884); Florida Boots (April 1886); Isabell Boots (February 1890); Julius Boots (March 1896).
- The preceding enumerated in the Second District, north of the creek.
- **1920:** filename: **c1920_ed33_hh-16-24.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dj9FXyGLYO6ubWD518pSD69hOa8weFCS/>
- Boots, Juelish [Julius?], 25, 1895, Boots, Esa B. [E.A.B.? Elizabeth?], 25, 1895, Boots, S.J., (Mother), 65, 1855, Boots, Nannie, 14, 1906, Boots, J. Ida, 11, 1909.
- The preceding enumerated in the Second District, north of the creek.
- **1920:** filename: **c1920_ed33_hh-25-34.jpg**
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fdg_7-eil_gqTLLXQDn83bvhdidG5K5f/
- Boots, J.W. [? Jeremiah?], 46, 1874, Boots, Sarah B., 36, 1884, Boots, Henesata B. [Henrietta?], 10, 1910, Boots, Madeline B., 7, 1913.
- The preceding enumerated in the Second District, north of the creek.
- **1930:** filename: **c1930_ed5-3_hh-180-191.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VbqwaTiiujKUZI!Ao4dQai-arvuiyF44h/>
- Commodore, James E.; Commodore, Sarah F., wife; Commodore, Thomas L., son; Commodore, Francis V., daughter; Boots, Sarah J., mother-in-law, age 79; Bright, John, adopted son.
- The preceding is not a Boots "household," but shows that James Commodore had married Sarah F. Boots, and that her mother Sarah J. came to live with the family in her later years.
- Carr, Edward; Carr, Harriet, wife; Carr, Dorsey, son; Carr, Myrtle, daughter; Commodore George, grandson; Boot [Boots], William T., grandson, age 6
- The preceding two enumerations are in the First District, south of the creek. A note on the census form states "Parkers Creek Road."

A.2 Commodore

William H. and Suddie Commodore

The earliest relevant census entry found thus far is for 1880: a man we believe to be the William H. Commodore who owned land on Parkers Creek is a 19-year-old (born 1861) living with his grandfather, also named William, age 60 (born 1820). None of the records found to date, however, identify William H. Commodore's father. Meanwhile, Civil War-period documents identify a Calvert County soldier in the U.S. Colored Troops named William Commodore, enlisted in February 1864 at age 21 (born 1843), and "missing in action" in July 1864. Testimony regarding this soldier's pension states that he was unmarried and without children, suggesting that he may have been William H. Commodore's uncle.

- Filename: **c1880_ed33_hh-08-14.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1weM8Z1AvVdrymueroFvKRJWuKBL638w/>
- Includes: **Commodore, William** (age 60, born about 1820, grandfather of the Parkers Creek William H.); Ellen (age 64, born about 1816, wife); Commodore, William (age 19, born 1861, grandson; probably the William H. Commodore later married to Suddie); Commodore, Mary (age 18, granddaughter); Commodore, Robert (age 8, grandson); Commodore, Harriet (age 11, granddaughter); Commodore, Mager [Major? Magen?] (age 14, born 1866, grandson); Anderson, Emma (age 19, boarder).
- Filename: **c1880_ed34_hh-09-16.jpg**
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1agaSaedEyrYMZGKE_k9bH2XLH4N3B8Fs/
- Includes: Boome, Thomas (head of household); the family listing includes seven children, one grandchild named Boome, and **Comodore, Wm.** (age 3, born 1877, grandson; we presume the name to be William Commodore, and we believe this is not part of the direct line to William H. Commodore, born about 1861).
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-10-18.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mbrj8gtd1bvKwmkdfjGm1NOGF3YIEBfU/>
- Includes: **Commodore, William** (age 49, landowner, occupation "farmer"; wife Sudie, age 38, ["our" family], lists sons Willis and Arthur, household includes daughter Hattie Wallace, age 17, sons Alfonso, daughter Mary, son Dewey), "continued on next sheet" (next bullet).
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-19-27.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hWdvRI-iLjtuB0zRGGXhuBtObrindf8c/>
- Includes (continued from last sheet): Commodore, Harry, age 9; Commodore, Herbert, age 6; Commodore, Bill (William?; born 1907), age 3; Commodore, Johnny, age 3.
- Filename: **c1920_ed32_hh-142-150.jpg**
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s5tDv9nRrrl9R0_M7whFWDFNOQx-u1zR/
- Includes: **Commodore, William H.** (age 59, landowner); wife Susie (usually given as Suddie or Sudie), children Willis T., Mary F., Harry L., Herbert, William H., John T.
- Filename: **c1930_ed5-3_hh-202-207.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xBVFbYhJpBwg9RkYUm6UcU2fYeK4J7kj/>
- **Commodore, William H.** (age 69, born about 1861); Commodore, Suddie, wife; Commodore, Mary F., daughter; Commodore, Harry, son; Commodore, Johnie, son; Briscoe, Azella, granddaughter; Commodore, [illegible], daughter-in-law; Commodore, Obiah, son.
- Filename: **c1940_ed5-2_hh-284-293.jpg**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YxLEEFs7liap6h9wgkcarzqPmcxhD1zh/>

- Includes: **Commodore, Suddie** (age 69 [born 1871; note that William H. died in 1938]; John, son age 34; Abbie [Abby, sometimes Obbie], son age 29; Mary F., daughter; Willis, son, age 50; Liza E., daughter, age 16; Willis, Jr., grandson age 13; Arthur, grandson age 11).

Major (Sr.) and Annie Commodore, Major (Jr.) and Susie Commodore

Chronology from sources indicated:

- **1782: birth of Major Commodore (1)** (calculated from 1832 entry).
- 1832: Major Commodore [spelled "Comadors"], age 50, page 6, FREE AFRICAN AMERICANS OF MARYLAND, CALVERT - 1832, prepared by Darlene Harrod and Kirsti Uunila (2019).
- **1844 (or 1848): birth of Major Commodore (2, aka "Sr.")** (calculated from 1870, 1910, and 1920 entries). The 1870 census reports him married to Eliza; the 1910 and 1920 censuses report him as married to Annie, born in 1861 or 1868. Major Commodore "Sr." is not recorded in post-1920 census records and he presumably died after that date.
- **1866: birth of Major Commodore (3, probably not in lineal descent)** (calc. from 1880 entry)
- 1870: Census (filename: c1870_dist2_hh-254-261.jpg) for the William Commodore household includes Major Commodore, (age 26, born 1844); Eliza (age 24, wife); Harriett (age 6/12, daughter). Residence north of creek.
- 1880: Census (filename: c1880_ed33_hh-08-14.jpg); includes Commodore, William (age 60, born about 1820, grandfather of the Parkers Creek William H.); Ellen (age 64, born about 1816, wife); Commodore, William (age 19, born 1861, grandson; probably the William H. Commodore later married to Suddie); Commodore, Mary (age 18, granddaughter); Commodore, Robert (age 8, grandson); Commodore, Harriet (age 11, granddaughter); Commodore, Mager [Major? Magen?] (age 14, born 1866, grandson); Anderson, Emma (age 19, boarder).
- **1890: birth of Major Commodore (4, aka "Jr.")** (calculated from 1910, 1920 [?], 1940, and 1950 entries, and Social Security claim in 1955; death after 1955; married to Susie).
- 1904: Major and Annie Commodore sold land to William H. Commodore.
- 1910: Census (filename: c1910_ed28_hh-10-18.jpg); includes Commodore, Major (age 66 ,born 1844, landowner), Annie (age 49, wife), Major Commodore, Jr. (age 21, born 1889, son), Susie (age 21, daughter-in-law); Clarence (age 1 5/12, grandson); the next household listed is Commodore, William (age 49, owner), Sudie (age 38, wife); Willis (son), and Arthur (son); William H. Commodore household also includes Hattie Wallace (age 17, daughter), Alfonso (son), Mary (daughter), Dewey (son), entry continued next page (filename: c1910_ed28_hh-19-27.jpg); Commodore, Harry (9); Commodore, Herbert (6); Commodore, Bill, (3); Commodore, Johnny (3); Wallace, Cephas, (25, born 1885, son-in-law).
- 1919: William H Commodore sold land to Major Commodore Jr.; 1904 deed AAH 3/422.
- 1920: Census (image filename: c1920_ed32_hh-160-170.jpg); Major Commodore (age 72, born about 1848, renter); household includes Annie (wife), Major, Jr. (age 29, born about 1891, son, listed as landowner), Susie (wife), Clarence (son), Lancaster (son), Beatrice (daughter).
- 1940: Census (filename: c1940_ed5-2_hh-301-310.jpg); includes Commodore, Major (age 51, born 1889); Susie (age 53, wife); Martha Commodore (granddaughter).
- 1950: Census (filename: c1950_ed5-2_hh-839-846.jpg); includes Commodore, Major, and Susie (wife).
- 1955: Major Commodore Jr. applies for Social Security, birth date listed as 2 January 1890.
- 1960: Major and Susie Commodore sold land to Flippo and Annie Gravatt (Scientists Cliffs).

A.3 Parker

Two branches of the Parker family near Parkers Creek (1830-1940)

At this writing, the PCHT team believes that two branches of the Parker family are especially relevant to our study: one south of Parkers Creek and one to the north. Both had prominent members named David Parker with sons named James Parker. The following section presents our current understanding of who was who.

After the listing of Parker family members known to have a Parkers Creek connection, this appendix section provides some information about a (so-called) fugitive slave named Jim Parker. This man was enslaved in the Basil Duke Bond household with a Port Republic mailing address, exact location unknown.

Selected family members who are significant in terms of land ownership and/or land transfers

This section presents Information about the Parker family **by main person** (head of household) from census records. Note that the same information **by date** is presented in the following section.

South of creek branch of family listed "by household"

- David Parker (born about 1830) and James Parker (born 1870s), and offspring.
- Census records put this lineage south of Parkers Creek, where this branch owned land. Other deeds include at least one acquisition north of the creek, held for only 3-4 years. Other genealogical information is derived from census records supplemented by information from Equity legal case No. 869, July 6, 1931, between James L. Parker, et al, complainants, and Henry H. Parker, et al, defendants (PCHT filename 1931_equity-869-ocr.pdf).

David Parker, born 1830-1833, died probably 1890-1900

- Wife: Susan born 1843; see next entry.
- Census 1870, south of creek, "Davy Parker," 37, born 1833; wife Susan, 27, born 1843; children Parker, Rachel, 9, 1861; Parker, John, 6, 1864, Parker, Ellen, 2, 1868.
- Census 1880, south of creek, David Parker, 50, born 1830; wife Susan's age 37, born 1843; children Parker, John, 15, 1865, son; Parker, Ellen, 12, 1868, daughter; Parker, Margaret, 9, 1871, daughter; Parker, William, 7, 1873, son; Parker, James, 6, 1874, son; Parker, Sarah, 2, 1878, daughter; Coats, Rachel, 19, 1861, stepdaughter).
- Recap list of all children in 1870 and 1880 census: Rachel, born 1861; John, born 1864-1865, Ellen, born 1868; Margaret, born 1871; William, born 1873; James, born 1874; Sarah, born 1878; stepdaughter: Coats, Rachel, born 1861.
- Offspring (and a few grand-offspring) named in 1931 equity case testimony:
- Henry H. Parker (wife Annie), both living 1931.
- William Parker (wife Eliza Jane), both living 1931.
- James L. Parker (wife Ella), both living 1931.
- Ella Frances Parker (usually Ella, may be same as Ellen in other data?), died 1928, unmarried, no children.
- Nathaniel (Nat) Parker, born about 1885 (wife Loretta), both living 1931.
- David ("Cook") Parker (wife Sarah), both living 1931; grave as "David Parker Jr."
- Margaret (Maggie) Parker, married name Height, died 1926, husband Clem Height died 1930; two children Edward Height and Nellie Height (married a man named Smith), the two children live in Baltimore.

- Sarah Parker, died 1920 (husband Johnnie Commodore died before 1920); "heirs at law" include Daisy Chew, wife of Willie Chew; named in same entries with Sarah [referred to as Parker] are Thomas (Tom) Parker, unmarried, and Elbert (once given as "Albert"; married to Carrie Wallace).

Susan Parker, born 1840-1850, died after 1920 and before 1931

- Spouse, then widow of David Parker, born 1830s.
- Note: not consistent with (a) children's names, (b) number of children in 1900 census note.
- Census 1900, Susan age 50 [born 1850] children: Henry, 1871; Nathaniel, 1882; David, 1886; "number of children, 4; number of children living, 3."
- Census 1920: Parker, Susan J. (age 80, born 1840, land owner, daughter Frances D., age 46, born 1874, son David, 35, born 1885, household includes Commodore, Earl).

Henry Parker, born about 1870-1884, died after 1940, son of David Parker (born 1830)

- Wife named Annie M.
- Probably the Henry Parker mentioned in the 1923 re-registration of the 1871 deed AAH-8-342 for 40 acres of land from Samuel Wilson to David Parker (born about 1830); although we believe he is David and Susan Parker's son, he does not appear in any relevant census listings while David Parker is alive.
- Census 1900, Susan (mother, see previous entry), age 50, born 1850; children: Henry, born 1871; Nathaniel, born 1882; David, born 1886.
- Census 1910, south of creek, age 26, born 1884; Parker, Henry (renter, age 26, born about 1884; wife Annie, 27; daughter Frances, 5, born 1905; son Horace, 3).
- 1918, WWI draft registration, born 1881.
- Census 1920, south of creek, Henry Parker (land owner age 38, born 1882, wife Annie M., children, Mary F. [T?], Horris [Horace], Eloise, Virginia).
- Census 1930, north of creek, Parker, Henry (age 52, born about 1878, rented, Parker, Annie, wife, age 50, born 1880; Parker, Lillian, daughter; Parker, Horace, son; Parker, Eloise, daughter; Parker, [Tucks Anna?], daughter; Parker, Samuel, son; Parker, Lillian, granddaughter).
- Census 1940, north of creek, Ancestry states near Plum Point: Parker, Henry (age 60, , born 1880; renter, Annie, 58, Samuel, son, 19, Lillian Gross, granddaughter, 11, Lillian Wallace, daughter, 39.

Frances D. Parker, born 1874 d. 1928

- Daughter of Susan Parker (born about 1840) and David Parker (born about 1830).
- Name sometimes given as Ella Frances Parker; almost certain to be the Frances Parker who, in 1923, buys [brother?] James L. Parker's share of David Parker's 1871 tract; deed reference for 1932 share transfer James to Frances is AAH-8-303.
- James L. Parker, born 1874-1876 [most say 1876], died after 1931.
- Wife named Ella, born 1882-1883, died after 1931.
- Census 1900, age 24, born about 1876, no middle initial, married to Ella, north of creek.
- Census 1910, age 34, born about 1876, middle initial E in this instance (only), son James, age 1 2/12, born about 1909, south of creek.
- WWI draft registration, 1918, middle initial L., born 1885, wife Ella.
- Census 1920, age 44, born about 1876, middle initial L., son James E., age 10, born 1910; son Oliver, age 7, born about 1913, south of creek.

- Census 1930, Parker, James, age 56, born about 1874, no middle initial, owned land; Parker, Ella V, wife; Parker, William, son; Parker, Oliver, son, age 19, born about 1911; Parker, Archie, son; Parker, Alverta, daughter; lives on farm, yes, south of creek.

David "Cook" Parker, born 1885, died after 1940

- Son of Susan Parker, born 1840-1850 and David Parker, born about 1830.
- Known as Cook Parker; grave at Brown's church, no dates, stone marked "David Parker Jr."
- Wife named Sarah [grave] 1899-1962.
- WWI draft registration, 1918, age 33, closest relative Susie [probably mother].
- Census 1930, south of creek, age 45 [born 1885]; Sarah age 30, born 1899-1900, children Ruth, Thomas, Robert, Gertrude; lives on farm, yes.
- Census 1940, south of creek, age 55, born 1885; Sarah age 35, born 1905, children Robert, Gertie, Ernest.

James E. Parker, born 1908 [from grave], census b ca. 1908-1910; died 1951

- Son of James L. Parker (born 1876, died after 1930).
- Brother of Oliver Parker (born 1911); uncle of Cleo Parker.
- Census 1910, age 1 2/12.
- Census 1920, age 10.
- James E. Parker burial Brown's church born 1908, d. 1951.

Oliver Parker [B. Oliver Parker], born 1911 [from grave], census 1911-1913; died 1983

- Initial B may stand for Bernis or Bernice.
- Brother of James E. Parker, born 1908; father of Cleo Parker.
- Wife probably Blanche Beatrice Parker [grave] born 1918, died 1989.
- Census 1930, age 19.
- Census 1940, age 29, wife Blanche.

North of creek branch of family listed "by household"

- David Parker (born about 1850) and James E. Parker (born about 1880), and offspring.
- This lineage seems to have lived north of Parkers Creek, later lived near Island Creek. Associated thus far with one Parkers Creek property ("Parker-1908," deed GWD-8-255).

David Parker, born ca 1850-1853, died after 1900

- Wife named Hanna (Hannah), mother-in-law Eliza Kelson.
- Census 1880, north of creek, Parker, David, age 27, born 1853, wife Hanna, age 30, born 1850.
- Census 1900, north of creek, son James E., 17, born about 1883.
- James E. Parker, born ca 1883-1885.
- Census 1900, north of creek, age 17, born 1883, in household of father David Parker born 1850-1853.
- WWII draft registration, 1942, James Eulus Parker, born 1883, wife Ida, lived near Island Creek, with son James Essie Parker, born 1918.

Information about the Parker family "by date," as found in census records

The same information "by main person" is presented in the preceding section.

1870

- Filename: **c1870_dist1_hh-24-32.**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17mWEKJM7vQReeD-6nHMf9gNal5aPvoi/>.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, Davy** (37, 1833, farm laborer; Parker, Susan, 27, 1843, keeping house; Parker, Rachel, 9, 1861; Parker, John, 6, 1864, Parker, Ellen, 2, 1868).

1880

- Filename: **c1880_ed33_hh-72-77.**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dSwaegD4l5v5RPSHyNwNnitNHmXoAIEC/>.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, David** (50, 1830; Parker, Susan, wife, 37 [born 1843]; Parker, John, 15, 1865, son; Parker, Ellen, 12, 1868, daughter; Parker, Margaret, 9, 1871, daughter; Parker, William, 7, 1873, son; Parker, James, 6, 1874, son; Parker, Sarah, 2, 1878, daughter; Coats, Rachel, 19, 1861, stepdaughter).
- Filename: **c1880_ed34_hh-16-25.jpg.**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z5FAXiH22L76xNpLx7F8SLf5dDioXYys/>.
- North of creek.
- **Parker, David** (age 27, b. ca. 1853, laborer; wife Hanna, age 30; daughter Elizabeth, age 7; household includes Kelson [probably not Helson?], Eliza, mother-in-law, age 65, b. ca. 1815).

1900

- Filename: **c1900_ed65_hh-81-92.jpg.**
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mLK-Rebwc6VOWHpAIDwIJH4br4_zSbEL/.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, Susan** (May 1850, 50; Parker, Henry, son, September 1871, 28; Parker, Nathaniel, son, February 1882, 18; Parker, David, son, May 1886, 14).
- Filename: **c1900_ed67_hh-194-202.jpg.**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yYctJIXnqbfHvDAdtdovHuSOTzyDHw1/>.
- North of creek.
- **David Parker** (farm laborer, renter, May 1850; wife Hannah Parker, March 1852; Ella Parker, June 1874; Retta [Rettoo? Bettee?] Parker, August 1877; James E Parker, May 1883; Mary Parker, April 1886; Annie Parker, August 1887; Isabell Parker, May 1890; Cornelius Parker, July 1892).
- Filename: **c1900_ed67_hh-203-210.jpg.**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AMh8o2til3jSPBR2wJwGzAOACK6lIng/>.
- North of creek.
- **James Parker** (born 1876, age 24; wife Ella, born 1882, age 18).

1910

- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-01-10.jpg.**
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ObZ5FwpJWg2PVLoCG0GpaXO8ObbDkTbN/>.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, Henry** (renter, age 26, born about 1884; wife Annie, 27; daughter Frances, 5; son Horace, 3).
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-19-27.jpg.**

- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hWdvRI-iLjtuB0zRGGXhuBtObrindf8c/>.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, James E.** (owns house, age 34 [born 1876]; Ella, wife, William, son; Mary, daughter; Lulu, daughter; James, son age 1 2/12 [born 1908 or 1909]).
- Parker, Susan (age 60; William, son age 36; Cook, son age 25; Daisy, granddaughter age 9).
- **Parker, Nat** [Nathaniel?] (wife Rosa, son Joe).

1920

- Filename: **c1920_ed32_hh-142-150.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s5tDv9nRrrl9R0_M7whFWDFNOQx-u1zR/.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, Susan J.** (age 80, owner, children Frances D., age 46; David, age 35, born 1885, household includes Commodore, Earl, cousin).
- Filename: **c1920_ed32_hh-151-159.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/11sGN_DyzT8FKUC5xerPcgioAkeGDKCp/.
- South of creek.
- **Henry Parker** (owner age 38, wife Annie M., children, Mary F. [T?], Horris [Horace], Eloise, Virginia).
- **Nathanael [Nathaniel?] Parker** (renter, age 40, wife Rosy, sons Joseph C. and Archie M., daughter Sadie, sons Theodore and Nathanael [Nathaniel?]).
- **James L. Parker** (owner, age 44 [born 1876], wife Ella V., children William H., Mary J., Julia V., James E. age 10, Oliver age 7, Archie, Alverta).
- **Parker, Susan J.** (age 80 [born 1840], owner, daughter Frances D., 46 [born 1874], son David, 35 [born 1885], household includes Commodore, Earl).

1930

- Filename: **c1930_ed5-3_hh-202-207**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xBVFbYhJpBwg9RkYUm6UcU2fYeK4J7kj/>.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, James** (age 56, born about 1874; owned; Parker, Ella V, wife; Parker, William, son; Parker, Oliver, son, 19 born about 1911; Parker, Archie, son; Parker, Alverta, daughter) [lives on farm, yes; on farm schedule, 68].
- Filename: **c1930_ed5-5_hh-155-164.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16vMwLbsi7DeAbrxO7dzU2M2N5oluNjos/>.
- North of creek [or near Island Creek].
- **Parker, Henry** (age 52, born about 1878, rented, Parker, Annie, wife, age 50, born 1880; Parker, Lillian, daughter; Parker, Horace, son; Parker, Eloise, daughter; Parker, [Tucks Anna?], daughter; Parker, Samuel, son; Parker, Lillian, granddaughter).

1940

- Filename: **c1940_ed5-2_hh-276-283.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16UwMarJVY23CtD7rkIGbNPiN4eYUzA_4/.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, Oliver** (age 29; Blanche, wife; Ruth, daughter; Oliver Jr., son, age 3; Blanchette, daughter).
- Filename: **c1940_ed5-2_hh-284-293.jpg**.

- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YxLEEFs7liap6h9wgkcarzqPmcxhD1zh/>.
- South of creek.
- **Parker, Josephus** (age 34; Lena, wife, age 17; Thomas [Jr.?], son age 4; William, son age 1).
- **Parker, David** (age 55 [born 1885]; Sarah, wife age 35; Robert, son; Gertie, daughter; Ernest, son).
- Filename: **c1940_ed5-5_hh-223-232.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wrOpXJR5tBgH0GpdGPJeG2RJoC9W_OA/.
- North of creek [or Plum Point area].
- **Parker, Henry** (60, renter, Annie, 58, Samuel, son, 19, Lillian Gross granddaughter, 11, Lillian Wallace, daughter, 39).

Prewar and Civil War period documentation of person(s) named Jim/James Parker

The PCHT team has not determined that the following individuals are connected to the branches of the Parker family described elsewhere in this section of the appendix. The given name and location information, however, inevitably makes one ask: could this/these have been one/two James Parkers (born ca. 1841), perhaps a relative of the Parkers named above?

Runaway slave notice, Baltimore Sun, 25 April 1857

- Filename: **1857_baltSun.pdf**.
- Direct link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Do3jMUP9gZe2Vv6bjg_iME4Otl0KDCaz/.
- \$600 REWARD—Left the service of the subscriber, near Port Republic, Calvert county, Md., about 19th April. THREE NEGRO SLAVES. . . . Another, Jim Parker, is black, about 5 feet 10 inches high, between 25 and 30 years old [born 1837-1842], has rather a round face with a fine or thin voice, has a slight stoop in the neck, is rather good looking, would weigh, I suppose, about 165 pounds. . . . if taken separately I will give for the recovery of . . . Jim I will give \$200 I believe they started or will start from the mouth of the Patuxent river in some boat going up or across the Chesapeake Bay. . . . B. D. BOND; Port Republic; Calvert county, Maryland.

Civil War draft listing

- James Parker in the U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865.
- Birth Year: about 1841.
- Place of birth: Maryland.
- Age on 1 July 1863: 22.
- Race: Black.
- Marital status: Unmarried (Single).
- Residence: Calvert, Maryland.
- Congressional District: 5th.
- Class: 1.

A.4 Scales

Census information

1880

- Filename: **c1880_ed34_hh-218-224.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-FvQEsraGo8g6ZJhCGWcDa0pUNtY_tig/.
- Households include **Scales, John W.** (farmer, age 31, Hannah A., 29, Benjamin, John J., 8, Mary C., Ann R., [Geon, Geor George?] W., Howard W., Ann Hardman, 55 [mother]).
- *Comment:* The John Scales that bought land (identified in Reeves's archaeology survey report as on "ridge 2") in 1916 had a different middle initial, married to Sarah C. The 8-year-old in this 1880 census would have been age 36 in 1916, very plausible. NOTE that the name given in the 1916 deed is "John W. Scales Jr." This 1880 Scales household is enumerated "five households away from" John W. Shemwell, associated with adjacent land in pre-Scales deeds (according to Ailene Hutchins).

1910

- Filename: **c1910_ed30_hh-210-218.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ihKEvHJK04L7QnrzXVnPgMWcgXv4lopS/>.
- Households include **Scales, John** (39, farmer, renter; Sarah, 33, wife; John W., 15, son; Ozella, 13, daughter; Shelton, 8, son).

1930

- Filename: **c1930_ed5-5_hh-164-175.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ccywjobU3JOlamsUIRT4pc9pj4Cf9jR/>.
- Households include **Scales, John W.** (59, owner, value \$300); Sarah (56, wife); John N. Scales (4, grandson); Gross, Louis (boarder). This listing also includes Simms, Essie (36, renter); Mary J. (wife); Rodell Simms (13, son); Tovolia (13, daughter); household also includes Wallace, Daniel (son of Joseph H. Wallace, age 44 or 54?); Ella (54, wife); Mary)17, daughter).
- *Comment:* John W. Scales (age 59, consistent with 1910 census, now a farm owner, presumably on Reeves's "ridge 2"). Essie Simms, son Rodell, and other family live in this same general area; Simms descendants live in this area today.

1940

- Filename: **c1940_ed5-5_hh-223-232.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wrOpXJXR5tBgH0GpdGPJeG2RJoC9W_OA/.
- Households include **Scales, John W.** (69, owner, 250, Sarah, 63, John W. Scales, grandson, 14); listing also includes Simms, Essie (male, 49, owner, value 250, household includes Roedell, 23); also includes Wall, Cephuf [Cephas?] (54, owner, 200, Jennie, 51 [57?], James, Nettie, Louis Ayres, lodger).
- *Comment:* John W. Scales (age 69, owner, wife Sarah), consistent with preceding. Essie Simms and son Rodell live nearby. Cephas Wall also nearby, he is named in Reeves's archaeology report as former resident of "ridge 3."

A.5 Wallace

Census Information

1840

- **Jane Wallice [Wallace]**
- Household includes 2 males under 10, 3 females under 10, and 1 female 24-to-36 (presumably Jane).
- Location unknown.
- Comment: Possible this is spouse of David Wallace (1860 census); this enumeration does not include male in same age range as Jane; were David Wallace still enslaved (e.g., on neighboring farm) he would be tallied at that location but no name provided.
- Filename: **c1840_calv-no-dist_Wallace-incl-sht115-front.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_bID7Kf2MccFkoK84I_N9ARamDgpcj5z/.
- Filename: **c1840_calv-no-dist_Wallace-incl-sht115-back.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lmmI_Q_XgYFx3E1Iz3EV6V1Mi2ViT5Au/.

1850

- **William Wallace**
- 38 [born about 1812], no other family.
- North side of creek.
- "Free inhabitant."
- Filename: **c1850_dist2_hh-291-301.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1exyPmRYbKcXj-MqRWh98Vsy02z2N4AD6/>.

1860

- **David Wallace**
- 60 [born 1800], owner, Jane, 60, Joseph, 20, Lizzie, 28, Dinah, 14, Ann, 38, Betsy, 30, William, 4 [born 1856], Sarah, 7, John, 16 [Ann & Betsy "married with the year"].
- North side of creek.
- "Free inhabitant."
- Comment: Joseph (age 20, ca 1840) name/age consistent w/Civil War soldier Joseph Wallace.
- Filename: **c1860_dist2_hh-131-138.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GqDZ1Gkl07-vRd7oo0E6p2AlJ8Yy6Yin/>.

1870

- **William Wallace**
- age 50 [b. ca. 1820], owns farm; wife Ellen, children Holdsworth, 18; William, 5 [born 1865], Mary J., 3.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1870_dist1_hh-33-38.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K4GbSW9-9rvD8onC_4iog7zfEfHmJfTi/.
- **Joseph Wallace**
- age 26 [b. ca. 1844], day laborer; wife Arabella, 22, children Mary, 10, Joseph, 5; [next page] James H., 3.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1870_dist1_hh-33-38.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K4GbSW9-9rvD8onC_4iog7zfEfHmJfTi/.

- **Basil Wallace**
- age 60 [born 1810], no wife; household includes Marie, 15 "keeping house"; Lemuel, 18; Avon, 16; James, 14; Alice, 13, Peter, 5; Charlott [Charlotte], 4.
- South side of creek.
- Comment: listing next after William Dorsey, household with Kate L., age 10.
- Filename: **c1870_dist1_hh-46-50.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kjM2EVQFhgZ-Pv3zNtN2YIX0LQKSRIhG/>.
- **Isac [Isaac] Wallace**
- age 51 [born 1819], George age 21, Amelia, age 20, probable children.
- South side of creek.
- Comment: adjacent names suggest different neighborhood, may not be near Parkers Creek.
- Filename: **c1870_dist1_hh-118-127.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13T6E8FhvpzJoEwigEqxH5UJZkWGJ0dXE/>.

1880

- [Abram Wilson]
- household includes **Henry Wallace**, age 17, son-in-law.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1880_ed33_hh-39-46.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c8VwwHouzo8cN9YKe1EozSiRo-8W6IYO/>.
- **Lemuel Wallace**
- age 27, [born about 1853]; Farm Laborer; Ann A, 22 [1858], wife, Keeping House; William, 7; James E, 5; Mary Alice, 4; Harriet, 2; George, 1.
- Filename: **c1880_ed-33_hh-22-31**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MulbskJP5QCLiG8VYLePxsjhCdcdssWs/>.
- **Joseph Wallace**
- age 40 [born about 1840]; wife Arabella, 42; children Joseph, 16; James, 14; William, 12 [born 1868]; Jeremiah, 10; Rebecca, 8; Daniel, 6; Ann M., born January.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1880_ed33_hh-152-160.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h7cnLiPiU4VYDUA_bDT3qq-QPNYnJuh/.

1900

- **James Wallace**
- renter, May 1865; Hannah Wallace, May 1874; Benjamin Wallace, February 1888; Emma Wallace, March 1890; Carrie Wallace, January 1892; Marrow [Marron?] Wallace, July 1897.
- North side of creek.
- Filename: **c1900_ed67_hh-194-202.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yYctJlXnqbfHvDAdtvdovHuSOTzyDHW1/>.
- **Jerry Wallace**
- [age ca 28] April 1872; Carrie Wallace, February 1879; daughters, Alverta Wallace, May 1897 [age 3]; Katie Wallace, January 1899.
- North side of creek.
- Filename: **c1900_ed67_hh-194-202.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yYctJlXnqbfHvDAdtvdovHuSOTzyDHW1/>.
- **Joseph Wallace**
- owner, March 1838 [age 62], married 1861, wife Arabella Wallace, May 1837.

- North side of creek.
- Filename: **c1900_ed67_hh-194-202.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yYctJIXnqbfHvDAdtvdovHuSOTzyDHw1/>.
- **William Wallace**
- born 1872; Louisa, wife; children Estelle, Mattie, Louisa; Rebecca Gross, sister; nephews Ernest, Albert; Cometius [Cornelius ?] brother-in-law.
- North side of creek.
- Filename: **c1900_ed67_hh-203-210.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AMh8o2til3jSPBR2wJwGzAOACk6lLing/>.

1910

- **William Wallace**
- age 40 [born about 1870], renter, daughter Stella, 13; daughter Mattie, 12; daughter Rena [Reno?], 9; son Howard, 7; daughter Gennie, 6; son Joe, 3.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-10-18.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mbrj8gtd1bvKwmkdfJGm1NOGF3YIEBfU/>.
- [William Commodore]
- Commodore household includes daughter **Hattie Wallace**, age 17 [born 1893, married to John Cephas Wallace, usually identified as "Cephas Wallace," born 1885], living in same household as son-in-law.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-10-18.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mbrj8gtd1bvKwmkdfJGm1NOGF3YIEBfU/>.
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-19-27.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hWdvRI-iLjtuB0zRGGXhuBtObrindf8c/>.
- [George Gross]
- household includes **Alberta [Alverta?] Wallace**, age 12, as granddaughter.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-19-27.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hWdvRI-iLjtuB0zRGGXhuBtObrindf8c/>.
- **Wallace, Joseph S.**
- age 46 [born 1864]; Charity, wife age 35; Iona, daughter age 18; household includes Jackson, John A., cousin.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-48-57.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xQuC114w997H9cGAcXyxtCllqzNDly9I/>.
- [Alex Monnett]
- household includes **Barbie Wallace**, mother-in-law.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-48-57.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xQuC114w997H9cGAcXyxtCllqzNDly9I/>.
- **Wallace, Lem [Lemuel]**
- age 59, 1851, married, Wallace, Annie, wife, 50, 1860, married, son Wallace, Frances [Francis?], 19, 1891; Wallace, Eddie, 16, 1894; Wallace, Carry [Carrie?], 18, 1892; Gross, Edith, lodger, 7, 1903; Kelly, Thomas, lodger, 5, 1905.

- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1910_ed28_hh-189-198.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-dx4NI6kYnthQtBlzs4b472sI5mrR2Z0/>.

1920

- **John Cephas Wallace**
- age 35 [born 1885], renter; wife Hattie, daughter Ruth, son Woodrow age 5, son Winson [Winsco] age 3 7/12, daughter Blanche age 1 7/12; cousin Mabel Boots.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1920_ed32_hh-131-141.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ka3i1R0oSMpeNCuQPROQsnCin1_sM2TY/.
- **Lemuel Wallace**
- owner, age 69 [birth about 1851], wife Annie M., age 65.
- South side of creek.
- Filename: **c1920_ed32_hh-131-141.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ka3i1R0oSMpeNCuQPROQsnCin1_sM2TY/.

1930

- **Daniel Wallace**
- age 44 [born 1886], wife Ella, 54; daughter Mary, 17.
- North side of creek.
- Filename: **c1930_ed5-5_hh-164-175.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12ccywjobU3JOlamsUIRT4pc9pj4Cf9jR/>.

1940

- **John Cephas Wallace**
- age 56 [born ca. 1884]; Hattie, wife, age 46; Hattie, daughter, age 17; Thelma. daughter, age 12; Carrie, daughter, age 10; Cephus [Cephas] [Jr.?], son, age 16; Calvin, son, age 6.
- North side of creek.
- Filename: **c1940_ed5-2_hh-284-293.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YxLEEFs7liap6h9wgkcarzqPmcxhD1zh/>.
- [Ellen Howe]
- Household includes **Annie Wallace**, mother, age 72.
- North side of creek.
- Widow of Lemuel Wallace.
- Filename: **c1940_ed5-2_hh-294-300.jpg**.
- Direct URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17DuPMSA9mgIfBmxXMCAfRQ4-l70-Hmw7/>.
- **McKinnley [McKinley] Wallace**
- 35, renter, wife Florence, 33; son George, 17; daughter, Nathanie [? Hathanie?], 15.
- North side of creek.
- Filename: **c1940_ed5-5_hh-223-232.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wrOpXJXR5tBgH0GpdGPJeG2RJoC9W_OA/.
- [Henry Parker]
- Household includes **Lillian Wallace**, granddaughter, 39 [born 1901].
- North side of creek.
- Filename: **c1940_ed5-5_hh-223-232.jpg**.
- Direct URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wrOpXJXR5tBgH0GpdGPJeG2RJoC9W_OA/.

The African American Community of Parkers Creek, circa 1800-1960

Work in Progress

Appendix B. Wallace family tobacco operation

Documentation in this appendix extends to the year 2001.

Table of Contents

1988-89	60
2000-01	64

This draft 18 November 2022

1988-89



April 1988. Transplanting from the seedbed to the main field. *Above:* Jonathan "Johnny" Weems prepares the plants. *Right:* Woodrow Wallace drives the tractor while William Edward "Bucky" Weems and Sam Wallace ride the transplanter. Johnny and Bucky are Woodrow's grandsons; Sam is Woodrow's son.



April 1988 transplant work crew: Woodrow Wallace, Johnny Weems, Bucky Weems, Derrick Parker, and Sam Wallace. Derrick is one of Woodrow's grand-nephews.



Summer 1988. *Left:* Woodrow Wallace.
Above: Woodrow Wallace, Derrick Parker, and Johnny Weems cultivate the crop in July.



September 1988. Harvesting crop. *Above:* Derrick Parker, Woodrow Wallace, Sam Wallace, Gary Mason Jr., and Louis Waul III.



September 1988. *Left:* Sam Wallace spearing plants. *Below:* Turnips for the dinner table grow at the edge of the field. Woodrow Wallace said, “cooked like white potatoes and seasoned with bacon or fatback.”



September 1988. Hanging tobacco. *Above left:* Louis Waul III, Dexter Holland, and Derrick Parker. *Right, bottom to top:* Woodrow Wallace, Sam Wallace, and Bucky Weems.





September 1988. Group photo, *front row*: Dexter Holland, Louis Waul III, Gary Mason Jr, Derrick Parker, Johnny Weems, and Woodrow Wallace. *Back row*: Sam Wallace and Bucky Weems.



January 1989. Barn where tobacco hangs and is stripped; farm formerly owned by Clarence and Henrietta Commodore.

2000-01

At the age of 85, Woodrow Wallace cut back on his farm work and his son Frankie Wallace managed the operation for a year or two.



Left: Frankie Wallace

August 2000. *Below left:* Claude Brooks sharpens a tool to cut the tobacco stalks. *Below right:* Dave Evans sharpens a cutting tool.



Left: [Terence Gross?], Dave Evans, and Michael Wallace load the truck to carry the sticks to the barn.



August 2000. Man at left (red cap) unidentified; Frankie Wallace handing up the stick (black cap, blue shirt); Michael Wallace (shirt with red decoration), Dave Evans (plaid shirt); on the ground at right, [Terrence Gross?] (sleeveless shirt); man at far right, unidentified.



March 2001. Stripping tobacco for market. Sam Wallace [may be Ricky Waul ?], George Harrod (back to camera), Frankie Wallace, and Claude Brooks.

