

GPCA INTERNAL USE ONLY

**Worthington Manor: A Report on its History,
Significance, and Preservation**

by

Dr. Joseph N. Tatarewicz

With the considerable assistance of members of the Greater Patapsco Community Association
and the Granite Historical Society

Property of, and Institutional Author:
GPCA Greater Patapsco Community Association
Post Office Box 31
Granite, MD 21163

Associate Professor, Department of History
UMBC University of Maryland Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

Phone: (410) 461-3789
Internet: Tatarewicz@home.com

FINAL REPORT October 1, 2001

FOR INTERNAL GPCA USE ONLY

DO NOT QUOTE, CITE OR REPRODUCE

Contents

Figures.....	1
Acknowledgments.....	2
Introduction.....	4
The Worthingtons and their role in state and county	6
Worthington Manor	7
Marcella Chapel	12
Conclusions.....	13
Appendix 1: Dana Marvel, Celia Lange, and Martha Bleidner, <i>A History and Geneology of the Worthington Family and Property in the Greater Patapsco Area</i> (2000)..... [separately paginated].....	1
Appendix 2: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., <i>Summary of Results of Archeological Reconnaissance Survey on a Parcel of Land within the Boundaries of the Worthington Plantation in Baltimore County, Maryland</i> (Frederick, Maryland, January 4, 2000)..... [separately paginated]...	14
Appendix 3: <i>Partial Listing of Inscriptions from the Marcella Chapel Cemetery</i>	67
Appendix 4: <i>Partial Listing of Inscriptions from the Worthington Family Cemetery</i>	68
Appendix 5: Major Research Collections and Abbreviations.....	70
Appendix 6: Beverly Griffith, <i>Patapsco-Granite Area Historic Sites Inventory</i> 1997, Appendix “B” of the <i>Patapsco-Granite Community Plan</i>	71
Appendix 7: Figures.....	77

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

Figures

1. Rezin Hammond Worthington	77
2. Worthington Holdings and Sites Overview	78
3. Worthington Holdings Land Grant Basis ca 1800	79
4. Worthington Holdings ca 1877	80
5. Subdivision of Rezin Worthington’s Plantation ca 1880.....	81
6. Worthington Manor Historical Resources Confirmed by August 2000	82
7. Plan of Marcella Chapel, Cemetery, and Worthington Crypts	83
8. Marcella Chapel Graves.....	84
9. Worthington Crypt No. 2	n/a
10. Plan of Worthington Manor Central Complex.....	85
11. Presumed Cadet House	86
12. Twin Residential-Barn Building	n/a
13. Worthington Family Cemetery	87
14. Worthington Manor Likely Historical Resources Unsurveyed	88
15. Facsimile of Document, <i>Rezin H. Worthington Inventory of Slaves</i>	89

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

Acknowledgments

A very large number of generous people contributed to this report. First and foremost, Beverly Griffith, Granite Historian and Founder of the Granite Historical Society, has spent more than thirty years patiently collecting material on the Worthingtons and Granite. She was ever gracious and generous. Celia Lange and her mother researched the Worthingtons and their role in the state and county, working through a mountain of manuscripts at the Maryland Historical Society and elsewhere. Dana Marvel, worked tirelessly in County and State courthouses and archives to develop and verify the land history. Based on this extensive research, Celia, Dana, and Martha Bleidner wrote the document reproduced here as *Appendix 1*. Marian Iannuzzi searched secondary literature far and wide. Ted Ciechanowski studied historic maps and did aerial imagery Analysis. In studying the Worthington Manor Complex and the Marcella Chapel archeology we were most fortunate to have the assistance of Senior Historian Kate Kuranda, Archeologist Dr. Ann Markell, and Christopher Polglase, Chief of Archeological Services, all of R. Christopher Goodwin, and Associates. Their report is reproduced here as *Appendix 2*. Dorsey Hoggard, Bob and Winona Hocutt, Dave Griffith, Marty Cayford, Sharon Layne, Steve Goodmuth and others worked very hard in the field. Richard Klein assisted with maps and exploratory field work, and Wayne Dickie served as videographer. Anne Worthington White of New York compiled an enormous amount of geneological information on her web site devoted to the Worthington Family. Kristen Kraske, George Horvath, and others from the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc. were generous with their assistance. The Reverend Edwin Schell, Executive Secretary of the United Methodist Historical Society kindly provided essential information and documents from the archives, as well as his own valuable historical perspective. For access to properties during the field surveys we thank Mary Ann Lamb, Timothy Lamb, Bonnie Kahler, Owen Weaver, and Dave Griffith.

I should make it very clear at the outset that this is one of the most complex family and land histories to research, document, and write. The secondary literature is moderate only on Baltimore County, and very thin on this branch of the Worthingtons. The manuscripts and archives are widely dispersed, and the central portion of the personal papers of this branch of the Worthingtons, while substantial, is nonetheless incomplete. Documentary evidence is scattered among several repositories, and even there it is scattered within various collections. All these wonderful volunteers worked within a context of ambiguity, unverified or unverifiable information, and historic trails of evidence that frequently ran cold or to dead ends. Since I myself am working in a historical area somewhat new to me, and at times far outside my area of expertise, I asked a number of colleagues for criticisms of early drafts.

Finally, we owe a very special thanks to Bob Hocutt, Roz Roddy and the GPCA for constant encouragement, support, and enthusiasm for each and every detail as it emerged in our efforts. It has been my great pleasure to serve as somewhat of a ringleader of many highly motivated, intelligent, and self-directed folks with a keen personal interest in the history of their community. I have taken freely of their work, hereby give them credit and gratitude, and accept full responsibility for any errors and especially for any interpretations contained herein.

Worthington Manor Historical Report **FINAL 10/01/2001**

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

While I have listed my UMBC affiliation for identification and credentials, UMBC has responsibility neither for this project nor for its results. My colleagues there have been most gracious as I ventured into new areas of American history and the practice of history in the public arena.

Joseph N. Tatarewicz
Granite-Patapsco, Maryland
October 2001

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

Introduction

The Granite National Register Historic District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994, preserves the legacy of a rural quarrying community located in the Patapsco Valley of Western Baltimore County, Maryland. The District includes properties along Old Court Road and several side streets, between Granite Road on the east and Hernwood Road on the west.¹ The village of Granite, numbering about two hundred in the 1880s, was the source of fine building stone used in numerous structures and monuments in Baltimore and Washington, including the Washington Monument and the Smithsonian Institution. So much fine stone issued from the quarries that a spur connected them with the B&O Railroad station at Woodstock, and many stonecutters emigrated from Europe to work the Granite quarries. The village population swelled to 500-800, before declining as reinforced concrete building construction began to replace cut stone in the early part of this century. The historic legacy of this area, however, is much wider and deeper.²

Before the quarrying boom of the nineteenth century, the area was predominantly plantation and forest. It was very slowly settled from the mid-1600s onward, when the entire Western Shore was mostly the province of native Americans and a handful of European trappers, itinerants, and absentee landholders. Only very slowly did what would become Western Baltimore County develop a gentry of planters and an agricultural economic and social order, and even then it was far different from that of Tidewater Southern Maryland and Virginia. Social historian Charles G. Steffan noted whereas there “the familiar landmarks of the social landscape [were] already taking shape in the prime tobacco-producing areas—gentlemen, slaves, merchants, court, and church—[these] were barely visible in the straggling settlements between the Patapsco and Susquehanna Rivers.”³ Slowly, during the eighteenth century, the Western shore developed its own social and economic system, although much later than, and only partially imitative of the Tidewater. In the Greater Patapsco area, it was based on a few mineral and stone resources—granite from the quarries, chromium iron from far western mines, and asbestos from the now euphemistically named “Diamond Ridge,” but mostly on the productivity of the land.

With a few tools and great deal of animal and human effort the land gave back grain to feed the many mills on the Patapsco and, of course, prime tobacco to roll in “hogs heads” down the Rolling Road to the export piers at Elkridge Landing on the lower Patapsco. The human labor came first from indentured immigrant servants, many children, laboring freemen, and, of course,

¹The Granite Historical Society maintains a web page at: <http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~granhist/>

² J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County, from the earliest period to the present day: including biographical sketches of their representative men* (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1881; reprinted Baltimore: Regional Pub. Co., 1971), 830-831; *The Granite Story*, reprinted from *The Community News* (March 10, 1967) by the Granite Historical Society 1998.

³ Charles G. Steffan, *From Gentlemen to Townsmen: The Gentry of Baltimore County, Maryland 1660-1776* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1993), 8.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

to bring the whole agricultural economy to its mid-nineteenth century peak, many human slaves from Africa and the Caribbean.⁴ If Maryland itself was perched uncomfortably between North and South, Western Baltimore County as a sparsely populated, pre-industrial, mostly agricultural community found itself in equally ambiguous straits. Whereas the traditional gentry elsewhere was self-consciously socially closed, politically ambitious, and held onto their accumulated wealth, their Baltimore County counterparts were much more flexible and open, often accumulating large estates not to jealously hold intact and pass onto a single heir, but rather only to partition into pieces among their many progeny. Baltimore County elite, and especially those in the Western County, organized and oversaw taming a rude wilderness and creating a significant genteel agrarian society and economy in the century or so before the Civil War, but they did it in ways that defy established patterns comfortably ensconced elsewhere.

Then, perhaps as now, the Baltimore County elites seemed more folksy and perhaps even provincial than their counterparts from other parts of the State when they served in Annapolis, and correspondingly the Western County elites when they served in various courts in Baltimore, Joppa, and Towson.⁵ As J. Thomas Scharf put it, in his wonderfully florid prose, “While the aristocratic planters of the lower counties and the polished citizens of Annapolis . . . imitated, at some distance, the London fashions and manners . . . and while the hardy pioneers of the backwoods adopted, partly for convenience and partly as an expression of forest freedom, many of the customs and almost the entire dress of the Indians, Baltimore, as a central point, a great mart of interchange, took in most of these things a middle course, preferring solid comfort to the extremes of ostentation or of rudeness.”⁶ Baltimore Town itself was established first and foremost to provide a warehousing and shipping center for the products of the County. The elements for settling the Western County and indeed for the very growth of Baltimore City itself, were the same as those elsewhere in the colonial tidewater: plantations, land grants and acquisitions, large families, intermarriage among the gentry, servants, and slaves. But each of these elements, while sharing its name with its correspondent in the Colonial tidewater, had a unique Baltimore County and Patapsco twist. For this reason, social and economic study of Maryland gentry has been an important testing ground for theories of development in U.S. history. Comparison with North and South helps historians understand what was common and what was provincial in a given region, and Baltimore County serves as a middle-ground check on these theories. Study of these particular gentry, however, is difficult. They left fewer written records than their tidewater fellows, the ancillary court, tax, and census system that would document their activity developed and matured later, and their heirs were generally less concerned about keeping old records. Thus while we have some archival sources on these founders and builders of the County, much of the evidence they left behind is only to be found engraved in land and in structures.⁷

⁴ Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland, A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988).

⁵ Steffen, 5-6.

⁶ Scharf, 763.

⁷ The Worthington manuscripts at the Maryland Historical Society (MSS 923, 924 (four boxes, ca 800 items), 1178, 1406, 1466 are the chief primary records, supplemented by items in the Maryland State Archives.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

Of all the members of this small group of uniquely Western County gentry—Owings, Shipley, Ridgely, Hammond, Dorsey, to mention but a few—only the central core of Worthington’s plantation remains largely intact, eroded and covered by natural processes. The rest have been devoured by human erosion, a much more effective and insidious sprawl that levels and grinds into rubble land and structures, leaving only mocking commemorative names for streets and subdivisions. The land in question, lying just outside the National Historic quarrying District, was originally owned by Thomas Worthington (1691-1753) and his heirs, and was but a small part of very extensive holdings accumulated over generations. Subdivided in the early nineteenth century between two brothers, its central Manor complex fell to Rezin, while Noah built a smaller satellite complex. Further subdivided through the twentieth century, various pieces and tracts were sold off until the central headquarters of the Worthington Plantation and the central core of its cultivated fields and kept forest now stand, almost miraculously, still intact. Portions are on different tracts of land, some still owned by Worthington descendents. That remaining core, imminently threatened by suburban encroachment and development on all sides over the past several years, is itself now threatened by massive and irreversible development. This provides the urgency and the occasion for a review of what we know about this land, its residents, and the traces they have left behind.

The Worthingtons and their role in state and county

Captain John Worthington (ca 1650-1701) emigrated from Lancaster, England to the American colonies in 1664. From the Annapolis area he began to amass land while serving in variety of posts, including County Commissioner & Coroner, Member of the House of Burgess, Associate County Justice, and finally member of the Legislative Assembly.⁸ Colonel John Worthington, Jr. (1689-1765) son of Captain John and Sarah Howard, amassed more than 7,000 acres of land well outside Anne Arundel County, including three tracts totalling 1,680 acres on the Patapsco River, which he bequeathed to his son, Thomas (1739-1821). By this time, the Worthingtons were intermarried with the Beales, Blunts, Brices, Cockeys, Chews, Hammonds, Howards, Harrisons, Ridgelys, Walters, and the numerous other family members were establishing their presence elsewhere in the state, notably in nearby Worthington Valley.⁹ Thomas and his second wife, Marcella Owings (1786-1842), had five children. Of them, Rezin Hammond Worthington (1794-1884) inherited the original land, and increased it to 3,500 acres by 1871. Rezin donated an acre of land in 1827 on which was built Marcella Chapel, in honor of his mother. Marcella Owings Worthington (b. about 1836), daughter of Rezin and his second wife Mary Shipley

⁸ Ann Worthington White, *The Worthingtons and Allied Families*
<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/w/h/i/ANNE-W-WHITE/BOOK-0001/0002-0001.html>.

⁹ Marvel, et al., *Appendix 1*, pp. 1-2; the Patapsco Worthingtons were thus directly descended from the Annapolis Worthingtons on the neck lands at Greenbury Point. The Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project, an archaeological research and public education program sponsored by Anne Arundel County and the [Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. \(ACT\)](#) in cooperation with the [London Town Foundation](#).), is documenting these connections.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

(1816-1854), carried the name of Rezin's mother.¹⁰

His brother Noah (1789-1872) farmed the tract of land immediately adjacent to Rezin's. Rezin and his first wife, Rachel Shipley (1806-1823) had one son, Thomas Chew Worthington (1823-1903), who lived most of his life with his father on the main plantation.¹¹ Even before Rezin's death the estate was subdivided among three nieces, and with Rezin's and both Noahs' passing the two large tracts entered a period early in the century of confusing subdivision and passing among family members. Eventually, in the 1950s, the central portion of Rezin's plantation was reunited and wound up owned by the Chew Limited Partnership, remote family members. In March 1999 it was sold to the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore.¹²

According to a lengthy and apparently well-researched 1967 newspaper article the first settler, a Patapsco Ranger named Thomas Brown, took up residence in 1692. One "Captain Walters, an Englishman, married Elizabeth Worthington in the 1700s," and began a small quarrying operation. The area around the quarries became known as Waltersville.¹³ When the major land acquisition by the Worthingtons began, there was an Inn at the Patapsco River Crossing. The railroad reached this crossing in 1830, establishing a station at Davis Tavern (site of the present Ye Olde Woodstock Inn). In 1836 the Woodstock Post Office was established. Only in the 1870s, during the quarrying boom, did the town get its own post office and was renamed Granite.¹⁴

Worthington Manor

The Land Grants show Worthington Purchases, dated 1736, extending along the current Davis Avenue area to the current Old Court Road, adjoining the chief quarrying area. Thomas Worthington, father of Noah and Rezin, would have arrived sometime before his marriage to

¹⁰ Appendix 1, Marvel, et al., pp. 5-6. The latter corrects a confusion to be found in a 1947 newspaper article between Rezin Worthington's mother and daughter. It was the elder Marcella who founded Marcella Chapel, and the younger who later founded the Quarries Church.

¹¹ Garrett Power, "Parcelling out land in the vicinity of Baltimore, 1632-1796" *Maryland Historical Magazine* 87 (1992): 453-456. Compare George Horvath, *Granite Map* (Sykesville, Maryland, 1985) with the *Atlas of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, Hopkins Co., 1877). After his brother Noah's death in 1872, apparently Rezin's son Noah took over this tract, as indicated on the maps by Noah Worthington *of Thomas* and Noah Worthington *of Rezin*. However the younger Noah survived only until 1880. The younger Noah was married to Mary Anne Cockey Worthington, but none of their six children survived past an apparent epidemic in 1875-6.

¹² Dana Marvel, Brief Narrative of the Will of Rezin H. Worthington AND Subsequent Civil Lawsuit for Partition of Part of the Property. (August 15, 2000), MS. and personal communication.

¹³ According to Beverly Griffith, Captain Alexander Walters and his father, Samuel Walters, arrived in the area at about the same time as the Worthingtons. Elizabeth Worthington, daughter of John and Ann, is interred in the Blunt Family Cemetery, in Granite.

¹⁴ *The Granite Story*. No Elizabeth Worthington listed on Ann Worthington White's geneology seems to fit.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

Elizabeth Hammond in 1761, which took place in Baltimore County. Rezin is said by Scharf to have been born on his farm, so Thomas and family by 1794 had moved from the original settlement house (remains located just North of Old Court Road) to the main family land described in this report.¹⁵ The original Worthington Manor House had burned down sometime before Scharf visited Rezin in the late 1870s, replaced by a second Manor House. Neither structure was found in a 1999 Archeological survey of the complex. A house, now abandoned and dated as 1912 in real estate records, stands in a location between the main complex and the remains of a suspected “Cadet House”, and was probably built by Thomas Chew Worthington. It is known as the “Kahler House,” after the most recent owners and residents.¹⁶

It was under Thomas and then Rezin that the Worthingtons added to their original holdings and operated one of the largest plantations in the county. If they followed the pattern prevalent in Baltimore County, their main cash crops would have been dominated by tobacco in the early years, with a gradual transition to cereal grains as the soil was exhausted. The arrival of Quaker millers, such as the Ellicotts, in the early part of the nineteenth century expanded the capacity for milling and depressed the enthusiasm for the “stinking weed.” The arrival of the railroad in 1830 then provided convenient and substantial transportation to Ellicotts Mills, although there was already a profusion of local mills taking advantage of the Patapsco’s falls and even those of tributaries such as Ben’s Run and Brice’s Run. The Ellicotts eventually opened their own shipping pier and warehouse in Baltimore to export the grain. A steam-powered saw mill, located near Marcella Chapel on an 1877 map, suggests forest harvesting as well.¹⁷

It is clear that some time before Rezin was born the family moved to a site very near or within the Archeological survey area of *Appendix 2*. A complex of ruins from at least the early nineteenth century very near the Family Cemetery is suggestive, but does not imply the scale of residence for such a large operation. Taken as a whole, the remains in the archeological survey area suggest an operational complex of scale consistent with the plantation, which at that time would have included all land from current Old Court Road South to Ben’s Run, and everything between the current Ridge Road and running nearly to the power line easements that bisect Davis Avenue and terminate at the substation on Old Court Road. At its Civil War height, the plantation would have encompassed some four or so thousand acres. If only a quarter were cultivated, then simply farming tobacco and grain on nearly a thousand acres would have required a headquarters complex, managerial force, and laboring force of vast extent.

Baltimore County, and especially the Western area as it bordered on both Virginia and

¹⁵ Scharf, 832; Horvath, map and personal collection; the settlement house, a log structure, was documented by Beverly Griffith and Baltimore County Historian John McGrain in the 1980s. For a listing of remaining structures and ruins see *Patapsco/Granite Area Community Plan* (September 1998), Appendix B, “Historic Buildings and Sites Inventory,” reproduced here in the *Appendices*.

¹⁶ *Appendix 2*; Dana Marvel, Worthington land records search documents; Bonnie Kahler, personal communication.

¹⁷ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson: Friends of the Baltimore County Library, 1979), 183 ff. Neal A. Brooks and Richard Parsons, *Baltimore County Panorama* (Towson: Baltimore County Public Library, 1988), 234-239.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

Pennsylvania, sustained its middle temperament. Slavery was widespread in the county generally, but far less than in the tidewater. The influx of Quakers added to economics and a general liberal spirit, and slavery declined rapidly in the years just before the Civil War. Slavery and a general tidewater style of plantation management persisted, however, on the largest lands and the Worthington Plantation was one such large operation. The largest plantations were self-consciously imitative—in manners, customs, organization, architecture, and overall geographical layout—of the tidewater estates. Whereas elsewhere in the County there was a considerable itinerant and seasonal laboring population for hire, the relative isolation of the Patapsco area induced landowners to hold their labor, quite literally. Slaves worked the plantations and the quarries. In the Patapsco area, the Federal slave census of 1798 represents Thomas Worthington with 53 slaves, second only to Edward Dorsey with 67. Charles Carnan Ridgely had the most in the entire county, more than two hundred among his isolated properties in the Middle River area, and three hundred at his death in 1829.¹⁸ Sixty years later, as the Civil War was about to break out in earnest, Towson hosted a county slaveholders convention. Rezin, Richard I., and Samuel Worthington joined more than a score of the largest slaveholders in the County, including other famous county elites such as Joshua Bosley, James Carroll, Jr., P.W. Gibbons, and J.S.S. Linthicum. By the Federal slave census of 1860, three Worthingtons are listed with a total of 138 slaves (Noah 64, Mary G. 31, Rezin 22, Richard 21), more than any other single family. There should be little faith in these exact numbers, but only in the proportions. Other estimates show slavery rapidly decreasing in Baltimore City, but holding its own everywhere else in Maryland. In “Northern Maryland,” which means largely Baltimore and Frederick Counties, slavery was on the rise from 1790-1820, reaching 25,000 or more during the peak years before the Civil War. The aggregate and the individual numbers simply do not add up.¹⁹

Testimony abounds concerning the Worthingtons’ “army of slaves [sic].”²⁰ An 1878 newspaper article credits the Worthingtons with single-handedly keeping Joseph Wright’s Mill in business producing “beat hominy”, until emancipation when the Mill went bust.²¹ A History of Woodlawn written in 1977 states: "According to the late Garrison Longley, aged 83 at the time of a 1964 interview, these families [Rogers, Johnson, Dorsey] were former slaves of the Worthingtons, the largest slave owners around with over 1200 slaves in this and other areas. . . . Joseph Johnson is a descendant of a freedman and still owns the family land adjoining Carroll Sauter's Hillcrest Farm on Ridge Road." While it has been but little-researched, it is safe to say that significant portions of the local African-American population of this area are descended

¹⁸ Brooks and Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County*, 225-228.

¹⁹ Ibid., 234-236; the numbers for the Federal census were surely gross underestimates, especially since owners were taxed according to the results; higher numbers from Christopher Phillips, *Freedom’s Port: the African-American Community in Baltimore, 1790-1860* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1997), 60. Ralph Clayton, *Slavery, Slaveholding, and the Free Black Population of Antebellum Baltimore* (PLACE: Heritage Books, DATE). *Woodlawn, Franklinton, and Hebbville: Three Communities—Two Centuries* (Woodlawn: Recreation and Parks Council, 1977), A-3-1; Jean B. Russo, *Free Workers in a Plantation Economy: Talbot County Maryland, 1690-1759* (New York: Garland, 1989).

²⁰ Marvel, et al, *Appendix 1*, p. 3 and note xxiv.; Beverly Griffith, Worthington Research Collection.

²¹ Baltimore County Union, November 2, 1878 as cited in Marvel, et al, p. 3 note xxiv.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

from Worthington slaves.²²

The Worthington papers at the Maryland Historical Society contain many partial inventories of slaves, with names, ages, and gender. Because of the incomplete nature of the collection, it is impossible to arrive at numerical totals. One typical such document is reproduced below.²³

During the Civil War, sentiment in Baltimore County was almost perfectly split, reflecting the general Maryland character being what Robert Brugger called a “sectional netherland”. Sentiment in the Patapsco area was likewise split, with numerous minor encounters, but no battle, as Blue and Grey passed through on their way to campaigns and engagements. Local sympathizers of both sides lived in uneasy association, and a local mill happily churned out both Blue and Grey uniform cloth. While the Worthington and other smaller plantations continued in operation, an underground railroad operated in the area. One bit of local lore has an underground railroad operating out of the residence of Rezin’s next-door neighbor, “HyFryfogel.”²⁴ One Elizabeth Zimmerman Smith is said to have been “raising funds to purchase freedom for slaves owned by the Worthington family when the war broke out.”²⁵

So confident were local and County historians that an extensive slave population worked the Worthington land right through to Emancipation, they conducted searches for the remains of graves and dwellings throughout the 1980s and 1990s. One structure, identified by Granite Historian Beverly Griffith and County historian and planner Bill Hughey as a potential “slave barracks” was recovered during GPCA field surveys and is identified in *Appendix 2* as a possible “Cadet House.” In the early 1990s during planning for the Willow Run development on former Worthington property, there was much discussion of this issue. At the insistence of the Greater Patapsco Community Association and local historians, a “bulldozer scrape” search was conducted for graves before grading of the property.²⁶ Worthington land between the current Kahler and Willow Run properties was developed as a cemetery, King Memorial Park in 1973, but no reports are known of any remains having been recovered during its more than twenty

²² *Woodlawn, Franklinton, and Hebbville: Three Communities—Two Centuries* (Woodlawn: Recreation and Parks Council, 1977), 52-53. According to Bob Hocutt, the slaves or freedpersons would be Aaron and Hester Johnson, allegedly buried on the Ridge Road property, now the Berg property, site of the Ely's Mill ruins.

²³ Lorena S. Walsh, “Rural African-Americans in the Constitutional Era in Maryland, 1776-1810,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* 84 (1989): 327-341. See this document, *Figure 15*. Worthington MS 924, Box 1, Folder, “Rezin H. Worthington Inventory of Slaves.” See also, *inter alia*, numerous other inventories in this and in other boxes of the collection. [EVERYBODY: DOES THIS FLY?]

²⁴ Bob Hocutt, personal communication. The underground railroad in the Greater Patapsco area is discussed in numerous local and community histories.

²⁵ Brugger, 248; *Woodlawn*, 48.

²⁶ Beverly Griffith Papers; Alan Schechter Property (“Willow Creek” development), Hearing Officer's Hearing Case # 91-7-SPH and archeological search for slave graves (ca September 1990); ca 10 large sheets, blowback of multiple pages from microfiche in Baltimore County Office of Planning and Development Management Records, in GPCA Case Files. Many thanks to Kathy Skullney for obtaining these records.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

years of operation. Hence, it is the informed opinion of local and county historians associated with this matter that a large number of slave graves remain to be identified.²⁷

The remains of a complex large and elaborate enough to have been a Manor Complex, and at a sensible location, were found and surveyed by professional archeologists. The area is indicated on *Figure 10*. Near the family cemetery is a complex, surveyed in only a cursory fashion, which includes surface and subsurface indications of several structures.²⁸ The age of this complex is not yet known, but appears much older than any other nineteenth century structures in the immediate vicinity. Further South along the road, which numerous plats and other evidence show aligning with the Worthington Drive, is a very rich nineteenth century complex of dwellings and agricultural buildings, supported by a well. Seven hundred feet East of this complex is a well-preserved structure, at least two stories high, with double chimneys. This has been provisionally interpreted as a satellite dwelling that may have been inhabited by Worthington family members or tenants.²⁹ It was the latter structure that was once believed to be the slave barracks. My current, admittedly provisional interpretation of these structures is as follows. The original Worthington Manor House, which had burned down sometime in the 1870s, was replaced by a second Manor House. No evidence of either structure was found in the archeological survey. The standing house, now abandoned and dated as constructed in 1912 in real estate records, stands in a location between the main complex and the remains of the satellite dwelling, and was may be the house built by Thomas Chew Worthington after Rezin's death. A very large complex of successive and overlapping building and use from an unknown but very early time to the mid-1900s is evident, but both manor houses are missing.³⁰ Also missing are the slave living quarters. We would expect these to be imitative of Tidewater plantations, and located in medium proximity to the Manor House. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, for example, these burials were located in surprising proximity to the family cemetery.³¹

Because of the richness of these archeological findings, the importance of the Worthingtons and their workers to the history of the County, and the associated documentary evidence, the Archeological survey concluded: *"Because the project area has been well-protected from developmental disturbance and because the sites appear to retain excellent integrity, it is presumed that the project area possesses excellent potential to address questions about the*

²⁷ Eric March, President, King Memorial Park, Inc., remarks at GPCA General Meeting, September 11, 2000; on the very recent discovery by Mr. March and local historian Louis Diggs (or perhaps recovery, the information is too sketchy at the moment to assess) of intriguing structures on adjoining land recently purchased, see: Susan Ingram, "Historical Supplement to National Holiday Found in Memorial, *The Community Times* (July 3-10, 2001): A-1, A-8.

²⁸ *Appendix 2*. The cemetery is RCG-4, the older complex RCG-3, and the combined residential-agricultural complex RCG-2.

²⁹ This is Structure 1, site RCG-1.

³⁰ *Appendix 2*; the standing house is known as the "Kahler House," after the most recent owners and residents.

³¹ Joseph Agonito, "St. Inigoes Manor: A Nineteenth Century Jesuit Plantation," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 72-73 (1977-78), 83-98. See also Lorena S. Walsh, "Rural African Americans in the Constitutional Era in Maryland, 1776-1810", *Ibid.*, 84 (1989), 327-341.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

broad changes in regional agricultural practices, economic factors, and social practices that occurred between the end of the eighteenth century and the middle of the twentieth century. "[emphasis mine]³²

Marcella Chapel

Thomas Worthington embraced Methodism very early, around 1770, through his association with Richard Owings, who was the first American-born Methodist preacher.³³ In 1786 Richard's sister, Marcella, became Thomas Worthington's second wife. In 1827, Six years after Thomas' death, Marcella persuaded her son Rezin to donate an acre of land and an initial fund for the establishment of a Chapel of the faith. Constructed 1827-8, Marcella Chapel stood on a wooded hill just off Court Road, near the original Worthington homestead. In that simple 50x30 foot chapel the very first Western County elites of Methodism gathered to celebrate their faith, alongside other neighbors and also slaves, who occupied a separate galley. Faithful traveled from great distances to worship in Marcella Chapel, and frequently stayed the night. Two elaborate crypts were erected to contain Worthington family members, and numerous graves for congregants began to fill in the hill to the South and West, and extend Eastward connecting the chapel and crypts.³⁴ For thirty years the Chapel thrived, even lending its name to the current Old Court Road, which was then known as Marcella Church Road. The new nearby Mount Olive Church began to draw congregants away in 1858. With the quarrying boom in full swing as nearby Granite swelled in population, around 1870, Rezin's daughter Marcella helped found another Methodist church, now known as St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church.³⁵ After the two new Methodist congregations were in operation, Marcella Chapel became the temporary home of an African Methodist Episcopal church.³⁶

A preliminary reconnaissance visit in July 2000 by the author found the stone foundations of the chapel intact and a number of grave stones in the locations suggested by contemporary and later accounts. Moreover, combined with eyewitness testimony concerning graves and the location of the collapsed Worthington Crypt, it is clear that the Chapel, the cemetery, and the two Worthington Crypts formed in the nineteenth century a unified whole that extended from the current utility easement all the way to the Griffith family driveway, and perhaps even beyond. Two neat rows of grave stones are plainly visible parallel to the current driveway, a mere ten or

³² *Appendix 2*, p. 9.

³³ *Appendix 1*, pp. 5 ff. This account follows closely Marvel, et al, which is the first comprehensive account of Marcella Chapel based on primary sources.

³⁴ See *Figures 8-9*.

³⁵ See: *Granite National Historic District Nomination*, Granite Historical Society Records.

³⁶ *Appendix 1*, pp. 5 ff.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

so feet away, between it and the standing Worthington Crypt.³⁷

Thus we may consider Marcella Chapel and the Worthington Crypts, in conjunction with the settlement house, to be a major pole of the Worthington interest. With their home, headquarters, and family cemetery at the Manor House Complex, and a satellite cemetery and primary religious focus at Marcella, nearby to their original home, we would expect their orientation to be towards Marcella Chapel (Old Court) Road. Hence, a major logical site on which to search for the remains of the two successive original Manor Houses, and for the missing slave burials, would be in that direction.

Conclusions

Because the land to the North of the Manor Complex has never been developed, and has suffered only minor logging disturbance since the nineteenth century, historic and archeological resources there should remain in an excellent state of preservation. The Archeological survey further concluded, *“it is extremely likely that additional cultural resources related to this estate are present just outside of the current project area. . . . This area could contain late seventeenth or early eighteenth century occupational evidence related to the Brice and Worthington families.”*³⁸ This conclusion is further strengthened by the fact all other portions of the Worthington plantation can be eliminated as having been explored or developed, or are topographically or geologically unsuitable for burial or habitation.³⁹ The fields extending to the Southeast appear to have been in cultivation since at least the nineteenth century. The land to the Southwest and West has been developed and searches were undertaken with negative results. The land to the Northeast is topographically excluded, and appears to have remained forest since at least the nineteenth century. Evidence of key structures known to have existed in the late nineteenth century must lie between the Manor Complex and Old Court Road. Likely locations for search include the Worthington Drive, on a line roughly through the center of the plantation area towards Old Court Road, and on a line roughly between the known Manor Complex and Marcella Chapel.⁴⁰

³⁷ Visit to Marcella Chapel July 22, 2000. Members of the Maryland Coalition for the Protection of Burial Sites and adjoining property owner Mr. Dave Griffith accompanied the party. Mr. Griffith, who has lived next to the property for more than fifty years, confirmed that grave stones were once plainly visible where historical accounts suggest, and that they formed a unified line with the two Worthington Crypts. The Worthington Crypt no longer standing was collapsed by the growth of Poplar trees some time in the 1960s. The area is considerably overgrown with brush and secondary growth, so it was impossible during that reconnaissance to identify other features.

³⁸ *Appendix 2*, p. 10.

³⁹ Land from roughly Kratz Lane Eastward is Settler's Formation gneiss and Loch Raven schist, rising to a thrust fault that makes the ridge of Ridge Road. *Geologic Map of Ellicott City Quadrangle, Maryland*, Maryland Geological Survey, 1980.

DO NOT QUOTE OR CITE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GPCA

Because of the very large population of slaves who lived and worked on the Worthington Plantation, even as it remained in operation through the Civil War, and because in spite of reconnaissance and search no trace of these graves has ever been discovered, it is likely that their burial locations would be found in the same area described above.⁴¹

⁴¹ See *Figure 14*.