

## SHENANDOAH VALLEY PIONEERS --- CARTMELL Pages 66 and 67.

## PUBLIC FERRIES.

Orange County gave John Mersey the ferry right over the Shenandoah River in 1736 and Frederick County confirmed this order by an order Jan. 13, 1744.

This was first called Kerseys Ferry and later called Berrys Ferry.

Tradition has it that ferries were established at Harpers Ferry and at Shepherdstown about this period. This claim is not sustained by any record evidence, and, as will be shown later on, no such ferries existed as early as 1736.

The first ferry established on the Potomas west of the blue ridge

was in 1755, and this was near what was then known as Mecklenburg. Thomas

Swearingan upon his application, endorsed by quite a number of settlers

on the south side of the Cohongoluta (Potomac) was granted the right to

establish a ferry over the said river from his land to a point opposite

in the Province of Maryland.

Robert Harper was granted a right to establish and maintain a ferry March 1761 to cross the Potomas from the point in Frederick County to the land of said Robert Harper on the opposite side, being in the Province of Maryland. No evidence appears that Robert Harper owned any land in Frederick Co. (Va.) prior to 1780.

October 1755 Thomas Shepherd was given the right to erect and maintain a ferry from the Town of Mecklenburg in Frederic; County--from his land to cross the Cohongoroota and the first suitable landing on the Maryland to cross the Cohongoroota and the first suitable landing on the Maryland sude. This right did not enjoy long, for we find that in Nov. 1766 sude. This right did not enjoy long, for we find that in Nov. 1766 sude. This right did not enjoy long, for we find that in Nov. 1766 sude. This right did not enjoy long, for we find that in Nov. 1766 sude. This right did not enjoy long, for we find that in Nov. 1766 sude. This right did not enjoy long, for we find that in Nov. 1766 sude. This right did not enjoy long, for we find that in Nov. 1766 sude. This right did not enjoy long, for we find that in Nov. 1766 sude.

(Note by A.G.T. FERRY LANDING 11/20/1800 was resurveyed upon 2-24-1795 called FERRY LANDING ENL. It was patented to Benoni Swearingen, and is located just south of a point opposite of Shepherdstown. This was at the original beginning point of ANTIET M BOTTOM Surv. 8-4-1739 to at the original beginning point of ANTIET M BOTTOM Surv. 8-4-1739 to John Moore. All of this was subsequently patented into MORE LAND 5-18-1830.)

The old Court record shows that a road was opened in 1744 from Shepherds Ferry to the Bullskin, indicating that some Shepherd was there with a ferry at that early date.

(Note by A.G.T. Official Court orders etc cannot be confused with the idea that what they create are firsts. For instance we know that idea that what they create are firsts. For instance we know that samuel Taylor's Ferry was in existance at the mouth of the Antietam Samuel Taylor's Ferry. The on August 4, 1739. It is so stated in the survey of ANTIETAM BOTTOM on August 4, 1739. It is so stated in the survey of ANTIETAM BOTTOM is just below the mount of the beginning point of ANTIETAM BOTTON is just below the mount of the beginning point of ANTIETAM BOTTON is just below the mount of the Antietam) (We know that the name Shepherd's Ford was in existance Antietam) (We know that the name Shepherd's Ford was in Moses Chaplain.) (We also know that Charles Anderson's Ford was in existance 4-12-1734 as mentioned in SPRIGGS DELIGHT. (Q-17-18) This is

not shown on Winslows Map.)

Samuel Taylor is shown on Winslow's map on the Virginia side opposite the mouth of the Antietam.

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