

Historical Facts



Slave manacles and door hinge from slave cabin, Columbia Farm, ca. 1815.



1849 prize fight at Stony Point, now Andelot Farm



TOM HYER.
SEE OTHER SIDE FOR RECORDS OF BATTLES.
LORDILLARDS MECHANICS DELIGHT.
WINS ALL TOBACCO.
HAS AN UNBEATEN RECORD.



Cow tag, Columbia Farm, ca. 1930s.

With Special Thanks...

... for the Andelot Farm exhibit to Louisa Duemling, who generously loaned family photographs and artifacts and spent time sharing her family stories, and to Susan Percival for her photographs of the Andelot residence.

... for the Woodland Hall and Marsh Point exhibit to Mary Woodland Tan, Margaret Anne Cummings, and Robert Bryan who generously dove into the family archives and loaned family photographs, documents, and artifacts, not to mention spending many hours helping us understand their family stories.

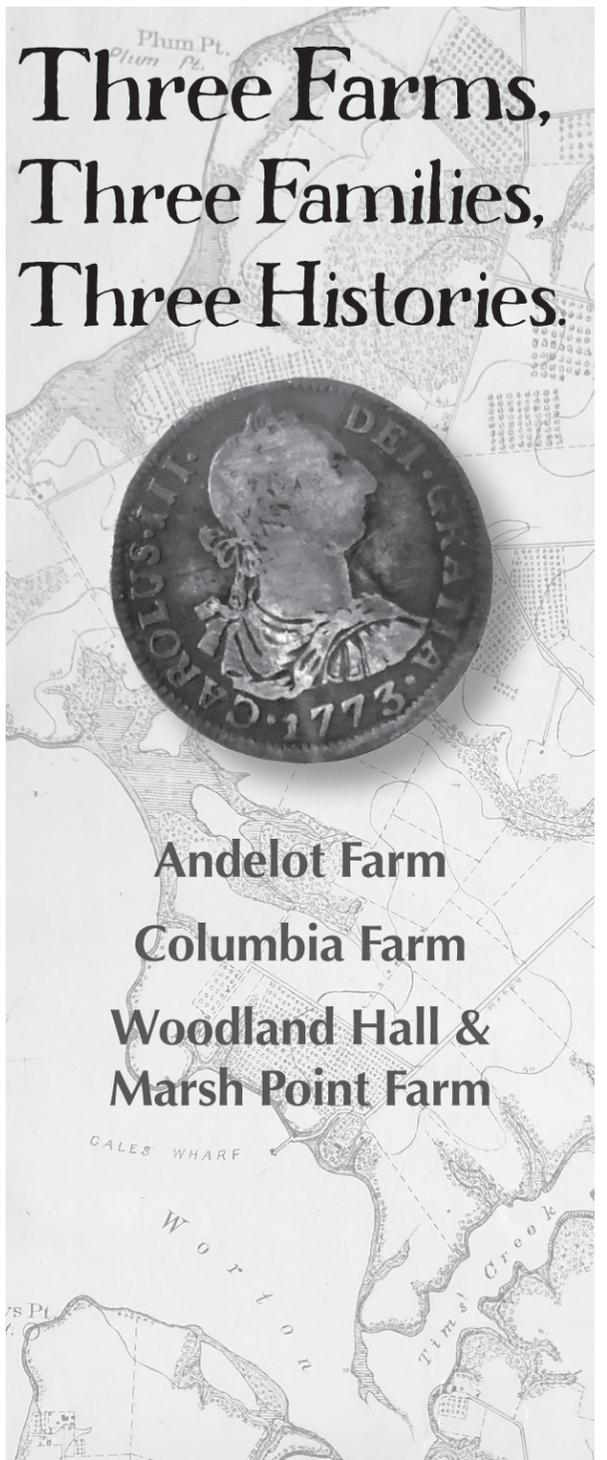
... for the Columbia Farm exhibit to George and Cari Corey, who told the Corey family stories with both alacrity and aplomb, and who answered many requests for photographs, artifacts, and fact checking. Their generosity in loaning photographs and artifacts for this exhibit is much appreciated.

... to Kurt Smith and Barbara Slocum without whose time and talent these exhibits would not have been possible.

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Andelot Farm: From Many to One

This is the story of how seven Worton-area farms were saved during the Depression.

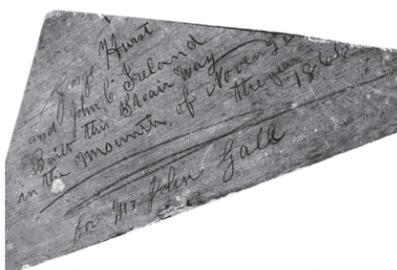
The Depression began in August 1929. Before it ended in March 1933, some 200,000 farms across the United States had fallen to foreclosure, including many in Kent County.

In 1930, a Wilmington, DE, businessman began quietly buying farms along the Chesapeake Bay. Ultimately, he stitched together some five miles of coast line along the Bay, stretching from Rocky Point to Plum Point, past Worton Creek, and down to Timm's Creek. Today these farms are collectively known as Andelot (pronounced An-de-low), named after a French town, where the family had property. Andelot Farm encompasses 2,894 acres, including 1,087 acres of forest, 1,692 acres of tilled land, and 50 acres of freshwater ponds. It is Kent County's largest farm.

The man was Lamot duPont Copeland, who would later become president of the DuPont Company and be featured on the cover of Time magazine. He wanted a place to hunt, and he wanted his three children to experience country life. Mr. Copeland brought his family down weekends and for the summers. When they first came, the house they occupied had no indoor plumbing or electricity. It was two houses that had been joined together in 1865. The earliest part has 1834 etched in its exterior gable and may have been moved from its original site; the later part dates to 1865 and contains a Sears and Roebuck staircase. A third section and an expansive sun porch were added in the 1980s.

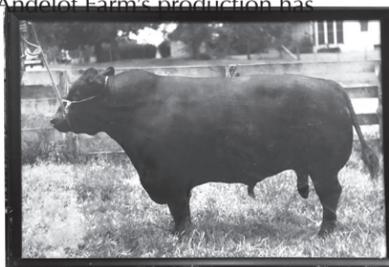


Lamotte duPont Copeland



The seven farms were all part of the original 1658 land grant to Col. Edward Carter of Virginia. The families who farmed them in 1930 remained after Mr. Copeland's purchase. Instead of facing foreclosure as their neighbors did, these farm families received weekly wages and were able to stay in their homes. Most of those homes are gone today, but several remain including the home at Plum Point, now owned by Mr. Copeland's granddaughter.

Over the years, Andelot Farm's production has mirrored that of other Kent County farms: from peaches and apples, to prize-winning Angus cattle, to dairy farming,



to alfalfa, and now to corn and soybeans for commercial feeds.

During World War II, Andelot Farm raised cattle for the military. During the war as well, Italian prisoners of war worked on the farm. After the war, the peach blight and lack of labor led to the loss of the peach orchards. Alfalfa was grown and cured for chicken feed until the largest Eastern Shore chicken farm took over the market.

Over the years, the farms comprising Andelot Farm have been the site of the famous 1849 Rocky Point prize fight, home to a fish cannery, and home to two look-out sites for Aberdeen Proving Grounds which were manned. Today the look-out sites are operated remotely.

In 1983, Mr. Copeland's daughter, Louisa Duemling, inherited Andelot Farm. In 2009, she created a conservation easement to protect Andelot Farm in perpetuity. Mrs. Duemling donated the easement to the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and the Maryland Environment Trust, making it the largest easement in the Trust's history. When asked why, Mrs. Duemling told The Chestertown Spy, "Because it's beautiful. It means it can never be developed...There are very few open spaces like it in Maryland at this time. We are just thrilled that we were able to do this."

Sources: *Historic Houses of Kent County* by Michael Bourne; *Descendants' Day* by Carolyn E. Cooper; 2022 interview with Louisa Duemling; interview with Louisa Duemling, *The Chestertown Spy*, December 20, 2009.

Three Farms, Three Families, Three Histories

Columbia Farm: How a New Hampshire Farmer Stood Against Slavery

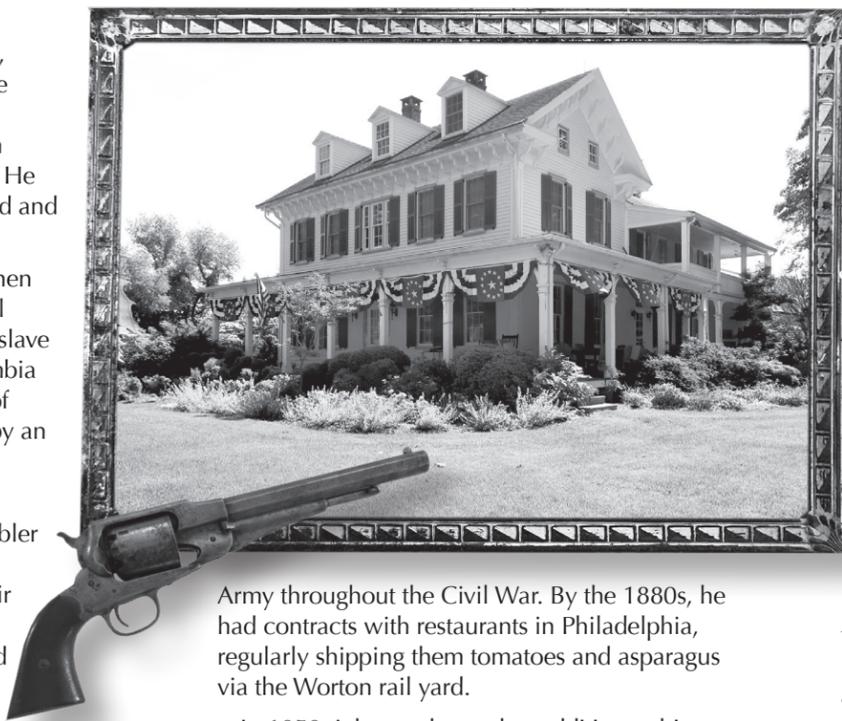
John Wilson Corey was born in Dublin, New Hampshire, in 1821. He and his wife Maria, and two of his brothers eventually settled in Kent County. In April 1852, John purchased Columbia Farm, near Melitota. He taught school nearby on Handy Point Road and farmed.

Unsubstantiated family lore tells that when John bought the farm, it came with several slaves, whom he immediately freed. One slave cabin, dated to 1815, still exists on Columbia Farm. The iron manacles, which are part of this exhibit, were found on the farm, left by an earlier owner.

John Corey and William Spencer, who owned a nearby farm now known as Gobbler Hill, were among the few farmers in Kent County who hired free Blacks to work their farms. This was not a popular act at the time, when many neighbors used enslaved workers.

John was known, for the times, to be considerate of his hired laborers. One family story recounts that when John learned that one of his laborers was getting married that evening, he told the men to stop work early, clean up, and take his carriage to the wedding. When John expanded his original house (which had been built ca. 1740), he divided the structure and moved part of it to an adjacent field to provide housing for the workers.

In addition to teaching, John ran a prosperous farm. John sold timber and grain to the Union



Army throughout the Civil War. By the 1880s, he had contracts with restaurants in Philadelphia, regularly shipping them tomatoes and asparagus via the Worton rail yard.

In 1858, John made another addition to his house: a stunning three-story structure with an A roof and a center stair hall, flanked by formal parlors. It is from this addition that John literally fired a shot in defense of his views on slavery.

A group of slave-owning neighbors approached his property to change his mind about slavery. A family member relates that their purpose was to tar and feather John. When the group approached the house on horseback, John sent for his pistol, took careful aim at a chicken pecking in the yard

near the group, and shot off the chicken's head, shouting out to his wife, "Maria, come pluck that chicken for our supper." The unruly group got the message and departed. The pistol John used is part of this exhibit.

The farm has remained in the Corey family, with John's grandsons Roland and John Corey inheriting the farm about 1936. At that point, the farm was mortgaged and had other debts. Their handwritten ledger from 1936, also part of this exhibit, shows the farm's debts, assets, and accounts. Roland and John ultimately saved the farm, and today it is owned by John's great-great grandchildren, one of whom resides at Columbia Farm today and is the fifth generation Corey living on the property.

John's house, remodeled and expanded by him twice, remains today "one of the finest third quarter nineteenth century houses of its form in Kent County," according to Historic Houses of Kent County. Besides its many architectural features, John installed an early plumbing system that pumped water to a second-floor bathroom before the Civil War.

Columbia Farm is a designated Century Farm, with its original 300 acres still intact. Today, as with most local farms, Columbia Farm grows corn and soybeans for the commercial feed market.

Sources: *Historic Houses of Kent County* by Michael Bourne; *Descendants' Day* by Carolyn Cooper; interviews with Roland Reece Corey, Jr., and with George and Cari Corey; 1936 ledger of Columbia Farm; April 10, 1852, deed from J. Shaffer and wife to John W. Corey.



Woodland Hall and Marsh Point Farm: How Mary Elizabeth Got Her Homes Back

Edward Wright purchased the land which came to be known as Woodland Hall in 1782. He built a magnificent house there, an L-shaped mansion, in 1790. James Freeman Woodland, Wright's son-in-law, purchased the beautiful home, by then known as "The Mansion," and its surrounding farms in 1840.

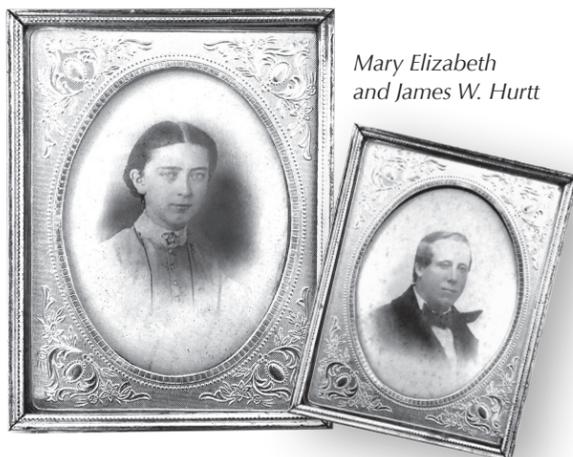
Woodland Hall was more than a house. It was a sprawling farm, known as Home Farm, where the "Mansion" residence sat, along with adjoining Hard Scrabble Farm and Falk Field. The three farms stretched far along what is now known as Kennedyville.

James moved his family to Woodland Hall, including his daughter, Mary Elizabeth, then four years old, and her younger brother. Tragically, Mary Elizabeth's mother died in 1846. Her father married again, this time to his cousin Margaret Travilla Wilson, a widow with a young child.

The remarriage was not a success in Mary Elizabeth's eyes. Troubles with her stepmother led to Mary Elizabeth and her brother moving to live with their paternal grandmother in 1850. In 1857, at age 20, Mary Elizabeth married James William Hurtt, and they moved to nearby Marshy Point Farm.

Marshy Point, now known as Marsh Point Farm, had been in Mary Elizabeth's family since 1733. Her father refurbished Marshy Point Farm for the newlyweds. Mary Elizabeth's first child, Julian, was born there.

Mary Elizabeth's father James and stepmother Margaret remained at Woodland Hall, which they extensively remodeled with a third story added in the 1850s to accommodate their growing family of four sons.



Mary Elizabeth and James W. Hurtt

In 1859, James and Margaret were entertaining company from Wilmington, DE, one afternoon on horseback. One of the visiting girls dropped her riding crop. James leaned down to retrieve it and was kicked in the head by the horse, breaking his jaw.

James's jaw failed to heal properly, and he went to Baltimore where his jaw was re-broken and re-set. He returned to Woodland Hall but he never recovered and ultimately died.

Two days before his death in 1859, James changed his will. The new will disinherited Mary Elizabeth and her brother, the children of his first marriage, in favor of Margaret and her four children.

Mary Elizabeth sued to have the will invalidated.

A trial was held in November 1859, and the jury found that James was not of sound mind and was therefore incapable of executing a valid will. The will was set aside, and Mary Elizabeth's husband, James Hurtt, was appointed to settle the estate in accord with the law. A settlement followed, with all parties agreeing in court in April 1861, just as the Civil War was about to start.

As part of the settlement, James Hurtt purchased Woodland Hall and Marshy Point Farm, putting the deeds in his name alone. He used funds he borrowed from Mary Elizabeth, who had sold properties inherited long ago from her mother.

Stepmother Margaret and her children moved to Philadelphia. Mary Elizabeth moved back to Woodland Hall with husband James; they ultimately raised seven children there.

But when James failed to repay the loan to Mary Elizabeth, she sued him in 1876. To avoid public embarrassment, on January 25, 1876, James deeded Home Farm (a/k/a Woodland Hall), Marshy Point Farm, Falk Field, and all of their contents to Mary Elizabeth.

Woodland Hall and Marsh Point Farm remain family properties. Today Woodland Hall has 220 acres in production, and Marsh Point Farm's now includes 249 acres from an adjoining property. Both have always been farmed.

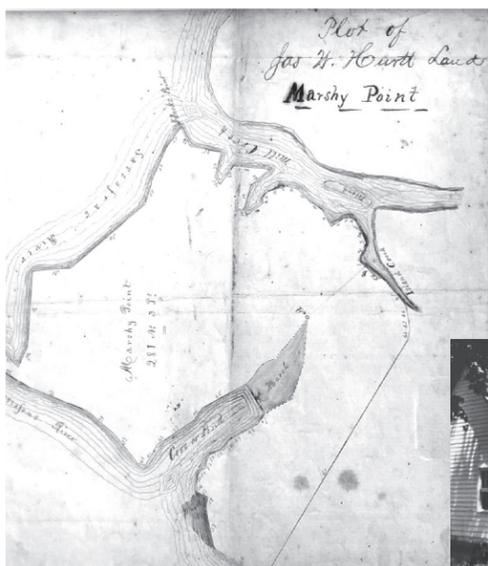
Woodland Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Century Farm. It is owned by Mary Elizabeth's great, great granddaughters, Mary Woodland Tan and Margaret Anne Cummings. The beautiful Italianate home was re-modeled in the 1950s by their mother.

Marsh Point Farm dates to 1679 when William Pearce purchased the land from Godfrey Harmon. Harmon had received an original land grant for the property in 1656, the same time he came to possess the property now known as Mt. Harmon. Pearce sold Marsh Point Farm to Isaac Freeman, who in 1733 sold it to the husband of his granddaughter, James Woodland, whose son James Freeman Woodland would later purchase Woodland Hall. Marsh Point Farm has remained in the family ever since.

The original Marsh Point Farm house, part of which dates to before 1720, was moved to its current waterfront location and modernized in 1985. Robert Bryan, Mary Elizabeth's great, great grandson, moved there in 1999 and lives there today with his cat, Cisco. Robert is also a direct descendant of Godfrey Harmon.

The road into Marsh Point Farm remains unpaved and follows the same path it has for centuries.

Sources: *Historic Homes of Kent County* by Michael Bourne; *Woodland Hall* by Maryland Woodland Tan and Virginia Carroll; interviews with Robert Bryan, Mary Woodland Tan, and Margaret Anne Cummings; January 25, 1876, deed from James Freeman Woodland to Mary Elizabeth Woodland.



All that piece or parcel of land lying and being in Kent County Maryland, called Marshy Point lying on Sabapas River and Mill creek and contained within the Courses and distances following. Beginning as shown on the Plot at B, at the end of a line drawn South 37° East 65 feet from the Point, which said point is near the side of a valley and the head of a cove or pond, and running from the end of said line down Island Creek