

MATHIAS SPONG FAMILY HISTORY

Including the Research of  
Cindy Spong

Written by  
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## PREFACE

This family history was started to provide more information about this family than the horrible accident that occurred in 1916 which resulted in the scalding and death of three Spong children. Who knew it would also include the assassination of a park superintendent and a suicide.

Apparently there were several Spong families, relationship not known. This family history concentrates on those living along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, primarily in Sharpsburg, Washington County, Md. and at Lock No. 8, Montgomery County, Md. A great deal of the early, e.g. 1766-1800, Spong family history comes from a letter written by Ada Y. Regenos, deceased on June 19, 1982, to Mr. John C. Frye, at Washington County Regional Library who generously permitted the author to copy the letter and its enclosures for this report.

The census reports Marietta Spong while her obituary and tombstone use Mary Etta Spong. The census reports use Tenna B. Spong while her obituary and tombstone use Tena B. Spong. Since we have no authorization to correct the census, newspaper reports or other references, we will quote exactly in the following text and use the tombstone spelling in the table of family statistics at the back of this report. The same situation exists for dates, particularly birth dates. When a name or date is, in fact, etched in stone, i.e. a tombstone, we will highlight that data in blue in the table of family statistics. Many thanks to Cindy Spong for her excellent work on the family statistics; she has backup data on almost every entry. In a few cases where a tombstone recorded the life span of the deceased in years, months and days, Cindy Spong back-calculated the date of birth, which was thus also highlighted.

Text within (parenthesis) was found in the original document. Text within [brackets] is something I added for clarity or because it was missing from the original, e.g. census report.

All photographs are courtesy of Cindy Spong, unless otherwise noted.

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This family history starts with Leonard Spong, who emigrated from Germany. It is not known when he arrived in Sharpsburg but he was there in 1766 when he bought [actually rented] Lot No. 129 in Sharpsburg.<sup>1</sup> According to the deed, attached, he was living in Frederick County. Then on April 2, 1774 he bought Lot No. 127 in Sharpsburg.<sup>2</sup> On Sept. 6, 1776 Frederick County was divided into three parts. The westernmost portion became Washington County, named after George Washington. The southernmost portion became Montgomery County, named after Revolutionary War General Richard Montgomery. The northern portion remained Frederick County. In 1778 Leonard Spong signed the Oath of Allegiance to the government [aka Patriot's Oath] in Sharpsburg Hundred, Washington County, Md.<sup>3</sup> In his family in 1790 were two males over the age of sixteen, himself and probably his son Mathias.<sup>4</sup> His wife was named Barbara, who signed a deed with him when he sold Lots No. 127<sup>5</sup> and 129<sup>6</sup> in Sharpsburg.

On April 28, 1797 Leonard Spong, in consideration of 75£ current money, purchased Lot 34 in Sharpsburg.<sup>7</sup> While he "bought" the lot together with the buildings, improvements and advantages, he still had to pay three shillings and six pence rent to Joseph Chapline on the 9th of July every year.

The 1800 census reported a Leonard Spong living in Sharpsburg, Md. The names of persons living in the household were not given so we offer the following: 1 male under 10; 1 male 10 - 16; 1 male over 45; 1 female 16 -26; and 1 female over 45. Also find in the same 1800 census a Mathias Spong living in Sharpsburg, Md. with 4 males under 10; 1 male 10 -16; 1 male 26 - 45; 1 female under 10; 1 female 10 - 16; and 1 female 26 -45. In 1800 Mathias Spong, Sr. did not have 4 sons under the age of 10 nor any daughter under the age of 10; thus this must be a different Spong family. Perhaps other researchers can decipher the 1800 census data.

On July 21, 1803 Leonard Spong, in consideration of the natural love and affection he had for Mathias Spong and five shillings current money sold Lot No. 34 to Mathias Spong; who would thereafter pay the rent of three shillings six pence to Joseph Chapline his heirs and assigns each July 9th, forever.<sup>8</sup> Barbara Spong did not sign the deed regarding her dower rights, thus we presume she had already died.

On April 11, 1807 Mathias Spong [Sr.], in consideration of \$300 current money of the United States, sold Lot 34 in Sharpsburg to Paul Grove, who would then pay the annual rent of 3 shilling 6 pence sterling money of Great Britain. Mathias Spong signed the deed in German, suggesting that was his primary language spoken in his home and probably Leonard Spong's home.

On June 10, 1817, Mathias Spong [Jr.] married Sarah Shepherd. Presumably in Sharpsburg, Md.

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<sup>1</sup> Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, MD., Deed Book K, p. 695, recorded 8/21/1766.

<sup>2</sup> Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, MD., Deed Book V, p. 428, recorded 5/13/1774.

<sup>3</sup> *The National Genealogical Quarterly*, Vol. VI, April 1917, p. 13.

<sup>4</sup> 1790 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., p. 117.

<sup>5</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD., Deed Book A, p. 513, recorded 4/10/1779.

<sup>6</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD., Deed Book A, p. 515, recorded 4/10/1779

<sup>7</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD., Deed Book K, p. 240, recorded 6/10/1797.

<sup>8</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD., Deed Book P, p. 187, recorded 7/21/1803.

On Jan. 4, 1829 Elias Spong married Catherine Weaver, presumably in Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>9</sup> Then on May 31, 1829, Mathias Spong, Jr. died and was buried in Mount Calvary Lutheran Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. He was 38 years old, thus born in 1791. His spouse was Sarah Spong, father Mathias Spong [Sr.] and mother Catherine Spong.

The following year his estate trustees put his property up for sale as indicated in the adjacent advertisement.<sup>10</sup> In 1831 a newspaper reported: "In No. 124, Spong et. al. vs. Mumma, the Court ordered the record to be transmitted to Washington County Court as a Court of Equity, for further proceeding, each party to pay his own costs."<sup>11</sup>

In June 1834 Sarah Spong advertised: "**Strays! Strays!!** - Strayed from the farm of the subscriber, on the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, near Sharpsburg, on the 25th ultimate, a small bright Sorrel MARE about nine years old, two hind feet white, bald face & long tail. Also a two year old strawberry roan mare COLT, two hind feet white, but not been docked. Any person restoring said strays to the subscribers, will receive a liberal reward.

SARAH SPONG  
33-3w"<sup>12</sup>

June 5

**TRUSTEE'S SALE.**  
**W**ILL be sold, at public sale, at the Tavern of John M. Knode, in Sharpsburg, on Saturday the 11th of September next, All the right, title and interest of Matthias Spong, dec'd, in and to the  
 **HOUSE & ½ LOT OF GROUND,** In Sharpsburg,  
At present occupied by David Spong, consisting of the undivided half of said House and half Lot. The improvements are a log house one story and a half high, a small log stable, a pump close to the door of the house, a few fruit trees and a good garden, the whole well enclosed and in good repair. Sale will commence at 10 o'clock on said day. Terms—payable in twelve months with interest from the day of sale, the purchaser to give bond with approved security. Possession will be given on the first day of April next.  
WILLIAM F. HEBB, Trustee  
August 19. 43—ts.  
N. B. David Spong's undivided half of said property will also be sold on said day, if desired by the purchaser.

On Oct. 27, 1837, Sarah Shepherd Spong died and was buried in Mount Calvary Lutheran Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. Her daughter, Sarah Ellen Spong, age 10, was then reared in the home of Dr. Thomas and Ann Shepherd Hammond. Sarah Shepherd Spong was a cousin to Ann Shepherd Hammond, and thus the foster home for Sarah Ellen Spong.

On Mar. 6, 1841, Isaac Spong died and was subsequently buried in Mount Calvary Lutheran Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. He was the son of Mathias and Catherine Spong.

On Sep. 4, 1845, Catherine Spong died and was buried in Mount Calvary Lutheran Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. Her tombstone lists her date of birth as 1772. Her spouse was Mathias Spong [Sr.] and her five children were: Mathias [Jr.], David [Sr.], Eleanor, Elias and Isaac Spong.

In November 1844 Mathias Spong, Sr. became sick and weak of body, so much so that he published his last will and testament, appended to the back of this report. And on Oct. 8, 1846, he died and was buried in Mount Calvary Lutheran Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. His tombstone lists his date of birth as 20 Oct. 1770. His spouse was Catherine Spong and his four living children were: Mathias [Jr.], David [Sr.], Eleanor and Isaac Spong. Son, Elias Spong had already died. On January 18, 1848 David Spong, Executor of Mathias Spong, deceased, made

<sup>9</sup> *The Torch Light And Public Advertiser*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 2/12/1829, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> *Torch Light and Public Advertiser*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 8/19/1830, p. 4.

<sup>11</sup> *The Maryland Gazette*, Annapolis, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 7/14/1831, p. 2.

<sup>12</sup> *Torch Light and Public Advertiser*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 6/19/1834, p. 3.

his 1<sup>st</sup> account of the estate. On April 24, 1850 David Spong, made his 2<sup>nd</sup> and final account of the estate. Both accounts are appended to the back of this report.

David and Elizabeth Spong's, eldest son, Samuel W. Spong, had left for California in 1849 and in 1850 the census reported him, age 23, single, a miner, as living on the Fork of the American River, California.<sup>13</sup>

On March 3, 1849 William M. Hill married Henrietta Spong, first daughter of David and Elizabeth Spong. As we will see shortly, William M. Hill was active in boating on the canal.

The 1850 census reported David Spong, age 55, unemployed, with an estate valued at \$1,000 was living in Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>14</sup> Living with him were: Elizabeth, age 53, wife; Ann, age 21, daughter; Sabrina, age 19, daughter; Amelia, age 16, daughter; David, age 14, son; and Mathias, age 11, son. By 1850 David Spong, Sr. was the only living 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Spong.

The 1850 census reported Mathias Spong [III], age 29, a blacksmith with real estate valued at \$350, living in Sharpsburg.<sup>15</sup> Living with him were: Susan, age 22, wife; Martha, age 2, daughter; and William, age 5/12, son.

The 1850 census reported William Hill, age 26, a sailor [boatman], living in Sharpsburg.<sup>16</sup> Living with him was Henrietta, age 29, wife.

The following year Elizabeth Arnsberger Spong died on Feb. 1, 1851 and was subsequently buried in the First Methodist Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md.

On Dec. 4, 1858 William M. Hill bought the canal boat *Albert H. Bradt* from Henry Thomas Weld in consideration of \$1,530.<sup>17</sup> The mortgage is attached to this report. Canal boat departures from Cumberland during 1859 and the decade 1860 have not been compiled. There is such data during the decade 1870, which we will get to shortly.

Sometime in 1859 Hiram Dorsey Felker married Sabrina Spong, the date to be determined. By 1864 they were living in Franklin Grove, Illinois where Mrs. Hiram D. Felker had a business.<sup>18</sup> Also, on Sep. 26, 1859, Josiah Hill married Amelia Spong, in Ogle County, Illinois. Hiram Dorsey Felker, Sabrina Spong, Josiah Hill and Amelia Spong had all been born and raised in Maryland; what were they doing in Illinois? And then Josiah and Amelia Hill returned to Maryland by Sep. 8, 1860 as we shall see in a moment.

The 1860 census reported David Bilmyer, age 48, a farmer with real estate valued at \$18,000 and a personal estate valued at \$14,000 was living in Shepherdstown.<sup>19</sup> Living with him were: Helen [*sic* Sarah Ellen Spong], age 31, wife; William, age 9, son; Sallie, age 7, daughter; Edward, age

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<sup>13</sup> 1850 census, California, Eldorado Cty., Fork of the American River, enumerated on 11/4/1850.

<sup>14</sup> 1850 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Subdivision 2, enumerated on 8/17/1850, p. 88.

<sup>15</sup> 1850 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 8/19/1850, p. 66.

<sup>16</sup> 1850 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Subdivision 2, enumerated on 8/15/1850, p. 78 & 79.

<sup>17</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 13, p 449, 12/4/1858.

<sup>18</sup> 1864 Illinois State Business Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., 1864-1865, p. 749.

<sup>19</sup> 1860 census, Virginia, Shepherdstown, enumerated on 7/19/1860, p. 86.

3, son; Frank, age 1, son; Emeline Spong, age 35, [sister-in-law]; Ann Hammond, age 60, [Sarah Ellen Spong's foster mother].

The 1860 census reported David Spong, age 66, a farmer with real estate valued at \$1,000 and a personal estate valued at \$100, was living in Sharpsburg.<sup>20</sup> Living with him were: David, age 30, son, a Boatman; and Martha, age 20, daughter. The census is very clear in spelling Martha Spong as a 20 year old female, further research will be necessary. In the same 1860 census, in the adjacent dwelling lived Josiah Hill, age 27, a Boatman with a personal estate valued at \$300.<sup>21</sup> Living with him was Amelia, age 26, wife. Brother and sister lived in adjacent homes while the men boated.

On Sep. 8, 1860, Josiah Hill bought the canal boat *John Hill* in consideration of \$1,500.<sup>22</sup> The mortgage is attached to this report. Later that month, the 1860 census reported Josiah Hill, age 27, a Boatman, with a \$300 personal estate, was living in Sharpsburg.<sup>23</sup> Living with him was Amelia A. [Spong], age 26, wife. On Nov. 2, 1860 the canal boat *John Hill* was registered as owned by Samuel Swain of Sharpsburg. It may be that Josiah Hill left boating.

In 1860 the census reported William Hill, age 33, a Boatman with real estate valued at \$400 and a personal estate valued at \$200, living in Sharpsburg.<sup>24</sup> Living with him were: Henrietta, age 32, wife; and William, age 2, son. Later that month, on Sep. 26, 1860, William M. Hill bought the canal boat *G. W. Birdsall* in consideration of \$1,429.<sup>25</sup> The mortgage is attached to this report

In 1860, Eli[as] Spong, age 25, a Boatman, with a personal estate valued at \$50, was living in Sharpsburg.<sup>26</sup> Living with him were: Martha, age 20, wife and Melissa, age 1, daughter.

The Civil War started on April 12, 1861. The adjacent photograph illustrates Sharpsburg circa 1862.



David Spong did register for the Civil War Draft in August, 1863. The record page has been damaged beyond readability of the registrant's description, place of birth or former military service. Records were found for a David Spong, who enlisted in Ohio, thus those records are deemed not applicable to this David Spong.

Mathias [B.] Spong signed up on the Union side, as a Private, Co. A, 13th Regiment Maryland Infantry on Aug. 12, 1861, in Sharpsburg, Maryland, for a period of 3 years. He was 23 years

<sup>20</sup> 1860 census, Maryland, Sharpsburg, enumerated on 9/31/1860, p. 230.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md., Deed Book IN 15, p. 228, recorded 9/21/1860.

<sup>23</sup> 1860 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 9/31/1860, p. 230.

<sup>24</sup> 1860 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 9/3/1860, p. 231.

<sup>25</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 15, p 97, 9/26/1860.

<sup>26</sup> 1860 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 9/4/1860, p. 240.

old, 5' and 8½" in height, with fair complexion, light colored hair, and was a Laborer. On Aug. 15, 1861, he was placed on the Company Muster-in Roll for Capt. Cook's Co., 1st Regiment Potomac Home Brigade, Maryland Volunteers. Apparently he spent most of his enlistment at Harper's Ferry where he was captured on Sept. 15, 1862 and paroled the same day. He was sent to Alexandria, Va. Nov. 1862. He was regularly absent without leave and was mustered out on Aug. 27, 1864 due to the expiration of his enlistment. He did apply for a pension as an invalid on July 2, 1890 and died on Feb. 21, 1921. His widow applied for a pension on March 5, 1921.

John L. Spong signed up on the Union side, he was a carpenter. On Aug. 15, 1861, he was placed on the Company Muster-in Roll for Capt. Cook's Company, 1st Regiment Potomac Home Brigade, Maryland Volunteers, for a period of 3 years. On March 6, 1862 he was captured at Bevinsville, Loudoun Co., Va., confined at Richmond, Va. from Mar. 22, 1862, paroled May 11, 1862 and mustered out of service May 23, 1862 at Washington, D.C. by order of Secretary of War. He applied for a pension as an invalid on May 2, 1888.

Elias Spong signed up on the Union side, Aug. 12, 1861, in Sharpsburg, Md., for a term of 3 years. He was 5' - 8½" in height. On Aug. 15, 1861, he was placed on the Company Muster-in Roll for Capt. Cook's Co., 1st Regiment Potomac Home Brigade, Maryland Volunteers. He was captured at Harper's ferry on Sep. 15, 1862 and paroled the same day. He was sent to Alexandria, Va. Nov. 1862. From Nov. 10, 1862 until Dec. 1862 he was absent without leave. He was absent without leave again in Jun, 1863. In July, 1863 he was absent sick at his home. On Aug. 27, 1864 he was mustered out at Harper's Ferry due to the expiration of his enlistment.

In August of 1863, William M. Hill registered for the Civil War Draft, age 36, a Boatman<sup>27</sup> and that same month Josiah Hill registered for the Civil War Draft, age 30, a Boatman, married.<sup>28</sup>

The Civil War ended on April 9, 1865.

Elias, John L. and Mathias Spong are all listed as members of 1st Regiment, Potomac Home Brigade - Company A, 1861 - 1865 in the pamphlet: *THE SHARPSBURG RIFLES* - 1959 by Virginia Mumma Hildebrand, p. 11. All three are also listed in the 1st Regiment, Potomac Home Brigade, Company A, roster as Privates, August 15, 1861 in the book *Answering the Call*, by Keith O. Gary, p. 206.

On Feb. 18, 1869 David Spong [Sr.] died and was subsequently buried in the First Methodist Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md.

On April 13, 1869, William M. Hill, bought a canal boat called *Albert H. Bradt*, in consideration of \$2,000, from the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company of Allegany County, Md.<sup>29</sup> The mortgage is attached to this report. Since William M. Hill had earlier bought a boat of the same name from Henry Thomas Weld in 1858, and the mortgage had been paid off per the note at the bottom of the mortgage, we can suspect the boat had been injured during the Civil War or otherwise worn out and William M. Hill needed a new boat in 1869, after the Civil War.

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<sup>27</sup> U. S. Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-1865, 4th Congressional District, Md., Aug. 1863, p. 27.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, Aug. & Sep. 1863, p. 253.

<sup>29</sup> Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 29, page 274, 4/13/1869.

On April 15, 1869, David Spong, Sr.'s son, Mathias Spong, of Allegany County, Md. bought a canal boat called *Sharpsburg*, in consideration of \$2,000, from the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company of Allegany County, Md.<sup>30</sup> The mortgage is attached to this report.

On Sep. 21, 1869, William M. Hill used his boat, *Albert H. Bradt*, as collateral for a \$350 loan from Frederick Mertens.<sup>31</sup> The mortgage is attached to this report.

In 1870 William M. Hill, age 45, was Boating on the Canal, with real estate valued at \$900 and a personal estate of \$1,000, living in Sharpsburg.<sup>32</sup> Living with him was: Henrietta, age 49, wife. Of sad note is that both their children had died, in 1864; obituaries to be found.

In 1870 Samuel W. Spong, age 44, single, a Miner with real estate valued at \$7,000 and a personal estate valued at \$6,000 was living in Clarksville, California.<sup>33</sup>

The 1870 census reported David Spong [Jr.], age 35, with a personal estate valued at \$100, was a day laborer, living in Sharpsburg.<sup>34</sup> Living with him were: Delaney, age 25, wife; Charlie, age 7, son; William, age 5, son; Ann L., age 3, daughter; and Marietta, age 1, daughter.

In 1870 John [Luther] Spong, age 38, a carpenter, was living in Sharpsburg.<sup>35</sup> Living with him were: Julia, age 36, wife; Mary, age 11, daughter; and Sarah E., age 6, daughter. John and Julia Spong's first three children, Annie, John R. and Maggie, had already died by 1870. It appears that Sarah had a twin sister, Ellen M., who died in infancy; to be confirmed.

In 1870 Elias Spong, age 38, Boating on the Canal, was living in Sharpsburg.<sup>36</sup> Living with him were: Martha E., age 29, wife; Melissa L., age 10; daughter; Annie Kate, age 7, daughter; and Aaron Fry, age 59, unrelated, a house carpenter.

On July 11, 1871 the Commissioners of Washington County appointed Josiah Hill a Constable for Election District No. 1.<sup>37</sup>

On Mar. 1, 1873, Elias Spong registered the canal boat *Isaac M. Boyer* to operate on the Canal. On the same day William M. Hill registered the canal boat *Albert H. Bradt*.

In 1874 the canal boat *Sharpsburg* departed Cumberland with coal on: 5/24, 7/12, 7/19, 7/28, 8/6, 10/4, 10/16, 10/29 and 11/13/1874.<sup>38</sup> That same year the canal boat *Isaac M. Boyer* also departed Cumberland with coal on: 7/15, 7/25, 8/6, 10/23 and 11/10/1874. That same year the Canal boat *Albert H. Bradt* departed Cumberland with coal on 6/2, 7/14, 7/21, 7/31, 9/15, 10/7,

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<sup>30</sup> Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 29, page 286, 4/13/1869.

<sup>31</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book WMcKK 1, p 732, 9/21/1869.

<sup>32</sup> 1870 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 8/3/1870, p. 15.

<sup>33</sup> 1870 census, California, El Dorado Cty., Clarksville, enumerated on 6/25/1870, p. 19.

<sup>34</sup> 1870 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 8/3/1870, p. 14.

<sup>35</sup> 1870 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 8/3/1870, p. 20.

<sup>36</sup> 1870 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 8/2/1870, p. 3.

<sup>37</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book McKK 3, p. 598, 7/18/1871.

<sup>38</sup> All canal boat data is available at [www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html](http://www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html).

10/22, 11/5 and 11/23. The compilation is incomplete because all editions of the newspaper were not found and all that were found did not contain canal boat departure information.

The *Sharpsburg* descended past Lock 75 on: 5/1, 5/18, 5/27, 6/5, 6/15, 6/25, 7/4, 7/13, 7/22, 7/31, 8/11, 8/19, 8/30, 9/10, 9/23, 10/1, 10/14, 11/11 and 11/25/1875. By 1875, Mathias Spong had surely paid off his 1869 mortgage, yet we observe he was routinely making the 184.5 mile round trip in 9 or 10 days; he was still running day and night. The *Isaac M. Boyer* similarly descended past Lock 75 on: 5/4, 5/13, 5/27, 6/5, 6/17, 6/29, 7/12, 7/27, 8/10, 8/23, 9/4, 9/15, 9/28, 10/20, 11/9, and 11/22/1875. He was routinely making the round trip in 12 to 14 days; he was running long days. The *Albert H. Bradt* descended past Lock 75 on: 5/3, 5/19, 5/29, 6/8, 6/18, 6/26, 7/7, 7/15, 7/24, 8/4, 8/14, 8/23, 9/4, 9/14, 9/27, 10/5, 10/19, 11/16 and 11/29/1875. He was routinely making the round trip in 10 days, which would suggest running day and night.

Meanwhile, out in California, Samuel W. Spong married Ellen Arietta Hall on July 5, 1875.

On Jan. 20, 1876 Mathias Spong married Ida F. Benner, in Washington County, Md. That year Capt. Mathias Spong, with the canal boat *Sharpsburg*, departed Cumberland with coal on: 5/16, 6/1, 6/22, 7/20, 8/7, 8/24, 10/5 and 10/26/1876. That year Capt. Elias Spong, with the canal boat *Isaac M. Boyer*, departed Cumberland with coal on: 4/17, 4/28, 5/5, 5/16, 5/29, 6/7, 6/23, 7/10, 7/17, 7/26, 8/18, 9/5, 9/17, 10/5, 10/19 and 11/7/1876. Also that year Capt. Hill, with the canal boat *Albert H. Bradt*, departed Cumberland with coal on 5/13, 6/21, 7/21, 8/5, 8/25 and 9/16/1876. The data is incomplete for 1876, however, all three boats appear to have traveled at about the same pace.

In 1876 the Government tried to resolve claims as evidenced by the newspaper article:

**"Claims Against the Government.**

"William T. Clark, Esq., Agent of the U. S. Quartermaster Department at Washington, is at present at the Washington House in our town, and will remain here for some time. We understand that the object of his visit is to investigate and obtain information with regard to claims against the Government for losses incurred by our people during the war-of-the-rebellion.

"A Washington Correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*, under date of April 12, says that among the bills now pending in committee of the whole House on the private calendar is one from the committee on claims for the allowance of certain claims reported by the accounting officer of the Treasury Department under the act of July 4, 1864. Among the claims allowed by the bill, he says, are the following to the citizens of this county.

"... estate of David Spong, \$85.62 . . ." <sup>39</sup>

On February 24, 1877, Elias and Martha Ellen Spong sold their property in Sharpsburg to Jacob and Catherine Highbarger, see attached mortgage. <sup>40</sup>

In 1877, the canal boat *C. C. Kelly* departed Cumberland with Capt. Mathias Spong on: 4/5, 4/23, 5/23, 6/12, 8/30, 9/13, 9/26, 10/11, 10/22, 11/3 and 11/20/1877. The data appears incomplete for 1877. The canal boat *Sharpsburg* was not found in the newspaper listings for 1877; did Mathias re-name the boat? Capt. Elias Spong, with the canal boat *Isaac M. Boyer*, departed Cumberland

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<sup>39</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, 4/19/1876, p. 2.

<sup>40</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 75, page 418, 4/16/1877.

with coal on: 4/26, 5/27, 6/8, 6/22, 8/28, 9/14, 9/28, 10/16, 10/30, and 11/13/1877. Capt. Hill, with the canal boat *Albert H. Bradt*, departed Cumberland with coal on: 4/15, 5/4, 5/23, 6/7, 6/20, 8/30, 9/10, 9/21, 10/2, 10/16, 10/28 and 11/11/1877.

In 1878 the canal boat *C. C. Kelly* was registered as owned and captained by Mathias Spong; the boat was built in 1873 by Frederick Mertens although a mortgage has not been found. The *C. C. Kelly* departed Cumberland with Capt. Mathias Spong on: 5/14, 5/28, 6/12, 6/24, 7/5, 7/16, 8/2, 8/24, 9/4, 9/27, 10/16, 11/1 and 11/19/1878. Capt. Elias Spong, with the canal boat *Isaac M. Boyer*, departed Cumberland with coal on: 5/1, 5/17, 6/1, 6/20, 7/13, 8/5, 8/28, 9/16, 10/5, 10/23 and 11/6/1878. Also in 1878 the canal boat *Albert H. Bradt* was registered as owned and captained by William M. Hill; the boat was built in 1870 by Frederick Mertens. So this was probably not the same named boat built by Henry Thomas Weld in 1858. Capt. Hill, with the canal boat *Albert H. Bradt*, departed Cumberland with coal on: 5/2, 5/17, 6/4, 6/16, 7/1, 7/12, 7/25, 8/7, 8/29, 9/9, 9/17, 9/26, 10/9, 10/24, 11/7 and 11/21/1878. A 14 day round trip suggests they were all running by day only.

The 1880 census reported David Spong [Jr.], age 43, a laborer was living in Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>41</sup> Living with him were: Annie D., age 37, wife; Charles R., age 17, son, a laborer; William J., age 15, son, a laborer; Annie E., age 13, daughter; Samuel D., age 9, son; Lucy H., age 7, daughter; Nellie C., age 5, daughter; Henrietta H., age 2, daughter; and Elizabeth Bowers, age 58, widowed, his mother-in-law, from which we learn Ann Delany Bowers' maiden name.

In 1880 William Hill, age 58, a Boatman, was living in Sharpsburg.<sup>42</sup> Living with him was Henrietta, age 57, his wife.

In 1880 Josiah Hill, age 48, a Boatman, was living on Antietam Street, in Sharpsburg.<sup>43</sup> Living with him were: Amelia, age 46, wife; and Grace A., age 6, daughter.

The 1880 census reported John Benner, age 58, a retired farmer, was living on Antietam Street, in Sharpsburg.<sup>44</sup> Living with him were: Eliza., age 60, wife; Charles W., age 28, son, a laborer; Mathias B. Spong, age 35, son-in-law, a Boatman; Ida F. [Benner] Spong, age 23, daughter; and Tenna B. Spong, age 3, granddaughter. That same year Capt. Spong with the *C. C. Kelly* departed from Cumberland on: 4/19, 5/1, 5/11, 6/4, 9/2, 9/16, 10/5, 10/27, 11/6 and 11/15/1880. Capt. Hill, with the canal boat *Albert H. Bradt*, departed Cumberland with coal on: 4/29, 5/14, 5/28, 6/8, 6/28, 9/2, 9/15, 10/1, 10/29, 11/15 and 11/29/1880. While some dates may be missing, daytime running seems to be the pace.

The 1880 census also reported Elias E. Spong, age 46, a Boatman, living in Sharpsburg.<sup>45</sup> Living with him were: Martha E., age 37, wife; and Anna K., age 18, daughter. In 1880 the newspaper reported both the canal boat *George L. Shaffer* and the canal boat *G. S. Shupp*, with Capt. Elias Spong, departed Cumberland with coal on: 4/30, 5/15, 5/27, 6/7, 6/22, 7/6, 8/31,

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<sup>41</sup> 1880 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 6/4/1880, p. 11.

<sup>42</sup> 1880 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 6/4/1880, p. 18.

<sup>43</sup> 1880 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 6/5/1880, p. 23.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>45</sup> 1880 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 6/1/1880, p. 2.

9/11, 9/25, 10/14, 10/26, 11/10 and 11/23/1880. It could be that the newspaper reporter misheard the name of the boat or that both boats were owned by a coal company and Capt. Elias Spong took whichever one was assigned to him for that trip.

The Edwin L. Hebb obituary read: "**Died, Hebb.** - On Thursday, May 26, at his residence in Sharpsburg, Edwin L. Hebb, aged 76 years."<sup>46</sup> He was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md.

**Order of Publication.**

<p>Richard H. Hebb and Isabel Hebb vs. Elias Spong et al.</p>	<p>No. 4089 Equity. In the Circuit Court for Washington county.</p>
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The object of this suit is to obtain a decree for the sale of certain real estate situate in Washington county, Maryland, of which John Weaver and Elizabeth Weaver (or Wade) died seized and possessed. The bill states that John Weaver died intestate in 1820, and that his wife Elizabeth having subsequently married Henry Wade, who is now dead, also died intestate in 1873; that the said John and Elizabeth owned certain real estate in Washington county; that they left one heir at law, Catharine Weaver, who married Elias Spong, who died in 1833; that subsequently Catharine Spong married Edwin L. Hebb, who died 1887; that Catharine Hebb died intestate in 1882, leaving as her heirs at law: Elias Spong, married to Martha Ellen; John L. Spong, married to Julia; Mary Florence Hebb, married to Richard J. Hebb; Richard H. Hebb, married to Isabel; Helen Hebb, married to John Turner; Clara Elizabeth Hebb, married to Joseph Cox; Edward Hebb, married to Mary Elizabeth; Emma Virginia Hebb, married to Arnolphus R. Renner; Joseph E. Hebb, married to Ann Mary; that all these are alive, of full age and residents of Washington county, except John L. Spong and Julia his wife, who reside in Yolo county, California; Joseph R. Hebb, Helen Turner and John her husband, who reside in Roanoke county, Virginia; that Edwin L. and Catharine Hebb in 1873 executed a mortgage on a portion of the said real estate to Elizabeth Mumma, which mortgage was afterwards assigned to Joseph Cox and still remains unsatisfied; that said real estate is not susceptible of division without injury to the interests of the parties, and that it would be to their interest to have it sold and the proceeds divided.

It is thereupon adjudged and ordered that the complainants by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in some newspaper published at Hagerstown once a week for four successive weeks before the 24th day of May, 1889, giving notice to the said non-resident defendants of the object and substance of this bill, and warning them to appear in this court in person or by solicitor, on or before the 10th day of June, A. D., 1889, to answer the premises and show cause, if any they have, why a decree ought not to pass as prayed.

A. K. SYESTER.

True copy—Test:                   GEO. B. OSWALD, Clerk.  
Ghas. G. Briggs, Solicitor.                   Apr 25-89.

In 1888 the *C. C. Kelly* was again registered as owned by Mathias Spong, with Captain William Sprigg. That year the canal boat *John Leitch*, with Capt. Spong, departed Cumberland on 4/7 and 4/24/1888. The canal boat *George L. Shaffer* was registered as captained by Elias Spong. The data is incomplete and we don't know for sure which Capt. Spong was taking which boat.

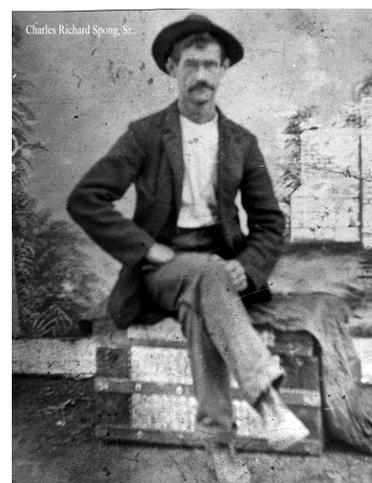
By May 1889 Catherine Weaver Spong Hebb had died as had her two husbands, Elias Spong and then Edwin L. Hebb. The adjacent newspaper article indicates that the heirs could not divide the estate without injury to the interests of the heirs and thus would have it sold and the proceeds divided.<sup>47</sup> The article also lists several heirs and their spouses, which is most helpful in establishing family statistics. The real estate was sold for \$860.00.<sup>48</sup>

In Sept. 1889, it was reported: "**County Commissioners.** - The board of county commissioners was in session on Tuesday.

"The clerk was instructed to issue proposals for the erection of an arched stone bridge over the Antietam at

Rock Forge; also for the building of abutments for an iron bridge at the same point.

"Josiah Hill, who was awarded the contract for the erection of the stone bridge over the Antietam at Antietam furnace, having failed to execute the bond required by the commissioners, the contract was awarded to Samuel S. Stouffer, the next lowest bidder."<sup>49</sup> From this we see that after Josiah Hill left boating on the canal he became a stone mason, which will be confirmed shortly by the 1900 census report.



<sup>46</sup> *The Hagerstown Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 6/3/1887, p. 2.

<sup>47</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 5/23/1889, p. 2.

<sup>48</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 11/14/1889, p. 2.

<sup>49</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 9/12/1889, p. 3.

On Oct. 8, 1889 Charles Richard Spong [Sr.] married Sarah Catherine Muck, the announcement to be found. The preceding photograph was taken of him circa 1900.

In November 1890 Oliver T. Reilly moved his family to Sharpsburg where he opened a confectionary, grocery and novelty store in the room adjoining the residence of [his father-in-law] Elias Spong at the corner of Main and Hall streets. As his family grew, he rented, and finally purchased, a large stone house near the square where he moved his family, set up his candy store on the ground floor and sold his relics and antiques out of the basement.<sup>50</sup> The entire article is appended to this report.

Elias and Catherine Spong's son, Elias E. Spong was active in local affairs as recorded: "**Officers Elected.** - Antietam Post No. 14, Grand Army of the Republic, Sharpsburg. - Commander Thomas S. Malone; senior vice commander, Edward L. Hebb; junior vice commander, Benjamin F. Delaunay; chaplain, Daniel Bowers; adjutant, Daniel Cramer; quartermaster, A. R. Renner; officer of the day, Benjamin F. Santman; officer of the day and assistant adjutant, Elias [E.] Spong; inner guard, Daniel Mose; outer guard, Charles Lowery; surgeon, Rufus Stride; delegate to State Encampment, A. R. Renner; alternate delegate, James A. Seaman."<sup>51</sup>

The next month a similar article recorded: "**Officers Installed.** - At a regular meeting of Antietam Post, No. 14, Grand Army of the Republic, of Sharpsburg, A. R. Renner installed the following officers of the Women's Relief Corps; President, Laura V. Marrow; senior vice president, Martha Spong; junior vice president, Amelia Marrow; chaplain, Delaney Spong; treasurer, Alice Pennel; secretary, Nannie Swain; conductor, Emma E. Renner; assistant conductor, Isabel Hebb; guard, Anna Santman; assistant guard, Rachael Smith. After the installation a banquet was held."<sup>52</sup> The **Woman's Relief Corps (W.R.C.)** was the official women's auxiliary to the **Grand Army of the Republic**, and was recognized in 1883. To join, an applicant had to prove being loyal to the Union during the Civil War. Members were given a "Woman's Relief Society" medal in recognition of their membership. The adjacent photograph, from the Richard Clem Collection, shows chaplain Delaney Spong with her medals.



In 1892 Hiram D. Felker was in the car repair business with his son, Clyde A. Felker, living at 256 S. Tremont St., Kansas City, Missouri.<sup>53</sup>

In April 1893 a newspaper reported: "Mr. Mathias Spong has commenced work at the foundation for his new house, on the lot near the drug store, recently bought by Chas. M. Porter."<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> O. T. Reilly - *Relic Collector and Early Antietam Tour Guide*, by Stephen J. Recker, *America's Civil War* magazine, published online Aug. 14, 2008.

<sup>51</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 1/15/1891, p. 3.

<sup>52</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 2/15/1891, p. 3

<sup>53</sup> 1892 Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory, p. 48.

<sup>54</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 4/13/1893., p. 4.

Meanwhile, life on the canal had its exciting moments as reported by a newspaper:

**"Encountered a Wild Cat.**

"One night last week the canal boat commanded by Captain Spooner Spong was tied up near Seneca. The tow boy, a youth named John Something, according to the Shepherdstown Register, was up very early attending to his morning's work. Just as he was lighting his pipe he heard a screech and a spit, and the next instant a wild cat jumped on his shoulders. The vicious creature got John's hand in its mouth and began to chew on it, when the boy threw the cat off. It returned to the attack, and he got it and himself into the hay cabin. The two had a pretty lively scrimmage in there, but the beast was finally over-powered. The boy carried it out, and by this time Spooner was on hand. While they were looking at it the cat suddenly revived and sprang at Spong, who knocked it into the canal. It swam out and again attacked him, and it was only by the liveliest sort of fighting that the wicked varmint was finally killed."<sup>55</sup>

In July 1895, a newspaper reported that Miss Tenna B. Spong had passed the examination for new teachers, second grade, second class.<sup>56</sup>

In Oct. 1895 there was a severe drought as evidenced by the account:

**"Along the Canal. -**

"Daniel Bowers, Sharpsburg, on his last trip from Cumberland with forty-seven tons of coal on his boat, was required to put on thirty mules at one of the levels to draw the boat.

"Elias Spong, Sharpsburg, went to Cumberland with his boat and got twenty-two tons of coal for a load, just one hundred tons less than he hauled for a load before the drought."<sup>57</sup>

By January 22, 1896, Henrietta Spong Hill, at age 76, was feeling the effects of age and to help settle her affairs, deeded her home to her sister, Amelia Spong Hill. The deed is attached to this report. Henrietta Spong Hill then died on June 1, 1896 and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery with her husband, William M. Hill, who died May 25, 1895.

In 1896 Samuel David Spong married Nina L Brashears; the announcement remains to be found.

In 1898 Hiram D. Felker was making harness for A. A. Kelley in Kansas City Missouri and lived in Kansas City, Kansas.<sup>58</sup> Since that branch of the family [Sabrina Spong] moved out of the Maryland area and we have found no subsequent interaction, we leave development of their family history to others.

Meanwhile out in California we read: "**Samuel W. Spong** - Is a native of Washington County, Maryland where he was born November 23, 1825. His father was David, and mother Elizabeth Spong. His father was a distiller and farmer, and Samuel worked on the farm until 1849, when he came to California and engaged in mining at Mormon Island, and later at Salmon Falls, and has been engaged at mining ever since, with slight interruptions. Success was with him, he discovered some very rich mines. He was married on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1875 to Miss Etta Hall; by the union there have been two children: Stella, deceased; and Lotta E. Mr. Spong is a

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<sup>55</sup> *The News*, Frederick, Md., newspaper, Friday, 10/27/1893, p. 3.

<sup>56</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 7/4/1895, p. 5.

<sup>57</sup> *The Herald and Torch Light*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 10/17/1895, p. 4.

<sup>58</sup> 1898 Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory, p. 259.

member of the I.O.O.F. Consumers' Lodge, No. 63. He is now residing on a ranch on Gray's Flat."<sup>59</sup>

On Feb. 8, 1899, Mary E. Spong Bowers died, the obituary read:

**"Mrs. Mary Bowers.**

"Mrs. Mary E. Bowers, widow of the late John Bowers, died Wednesday evening at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. W. Sebold, 440 W. Washington street, of general debility, aged 77 years. She was the daughter of the late David Spong and was born in Sharpsburg in 1822, residing there most of her life. For the last few years she had been living with her children in this city, three of which survive her: Mrs. Geo. W. King, Charlestown, W. Va.; Mrs. Chas. W. Sebold and J. Samuel Bowers, this city. These brothers and sisters also survive: Mrs. Josiah Hill, Sharpsburg; Mrs. Hiram Felker, Kansas City, Mo.; Mathias and David Spong, Sharpsburg, and Samuel Spong in California. Mrs. Bowers was a member of the Methodist church, Sharpsburg, for 60 years.

"The funeral will take place Friday at 10 o'clock from the residence of her sister, Mrs. Josiah Hill, in Sharpsburg, services by Rev. W. McK. Hammack, of the Methodist church; interment in Mountain View Cemetery."<sup>60</sup>

The 1900 census reported David Spong [Jr.], age 64, a Boatman, was living on West Chapline St., Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>61</sup> Living with him were: Annie D., age 57, wife, they had been married 38 years, she had 10 children only 4 of whom were then still living; Albert, age 18, son, a Boatman; and Ila L., age 11, daughter, who was at school.

The 1900 census reported Mathias [B.] Spong, age 59, married 24 years, retired, was living in Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>62</sup> Living with him were: Ida F., age 43, married 24 years, she had one child who was then still living; and Tenna B., age 23, daughter.

The 1900 census also reported Elias Spong, age 66, married 42 years, a laborer was living in Sharpsburg.<sup>63</sup> Living with him were: Martha E., age 63, wife, married 42 years, she had four children three of whom were then still living; and Aaron E. Baker, age 19, grandson.

The 1900 census reported Josiah Hill, age 68, married 40 years, a mason was living in Sharpsburg.<sup>64</sup> Living with him were: Amelia, age 65, wife, married 40 years, she had three children only one of which was then still living; and Grace A., age 25, daughter, a teacher.

The 1900 census reported William T. Mack, age 69, widowed, a day laborer, living in Shepherdstown, W. Va.<sup>65</sup> Living with him were: Kate [Mack] Spong, age 33, his daughter, married 11 years, she had four children three of whom were then still living; Charles Spong [Sr.], age 38, son-in-law, married 11 years, a day laborer; Mary, age 9, granddaughter; Charles H., age 8, grandson; and Myrtle, age 6, granddaughter.

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<sup>59</sup> Excerpt from 1998 souvenir reprint of the History of El Dorado, California by Paolo Siloi written in 1898.

<sup>60</sup> *The Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 2/10/1899, p. 6.

<sup>61</sup> 1900 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 6/21/1900, p. 19A.

<sup>62</sup> 1900 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 6/16/1900, p. 11.

<sup>63</sup> 1900 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 6/18/1900, p. 12B.

<sup>64</sup> 1900 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 6/20/1900, p. 17B.

<sup>65</sup> 1900 census, West Virginia, Jefferson Cty., Shepherdstown, enumerated on 6/15/1900, p. 10B.

Josiah Hill died on June 5, 1901; his obituary read: "**Josiah Hill**, an aged resident of Sharpsburg, died at his home in that place at 4 o'clock this morning after a long illness, aged 72 years. He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Grace. Funeral Thursday at 2 p.m., services by Revs. Rice and Kerlin, interment in Mountain View."<sup>66</sup>

Albert M. Spong married Grace F. Bowers in 1903. The studio photograph adjacent was probably taken about that time.



Martha Ellen Spong died on Jan. 31, 1905, the obituary remains to be found.

It is getting a little ahead of the story, but Cleveland H. Wade, future husband to Mary Etta Spong, did in June 1906 enlist in the Army in Cumberland, Md. although he was living in Keedysville, Md., was working as a R. R. Brakeman and was 22½ years old, 5' - 8" in height, had black hair and a ruddy complexion. Details of his enlistment remain to be found.

On June 17, 1906 Amelia Spong Hill died and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. Her obituary remains to be found. Then on July 28, 1906 David Spong [Jr.] died and was buried in First Methodist Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md.

By 1908 David Spong's, widow, Annie Delaney Spong, had moved to 406 George St., Hagerstown, Md.<sup>67</sup> And in 1908 Cleveland H. Wade married Mary Etta Spong, the announcement remains to be found.

Talk about bad blood, first a 1909 newspaper reported:

**"SHARPSBURG SHOOTING.**

**"Charles Benner Wounded in Front of His Home.**

"Hagerstown, Md., March 22. - Chas. Benner was shot and seriously wounded late Saturday night in front of the house of his brother-in-law, Mathias Spong, of Sharpsburg.

"Spong is charged with the shooting, which was the result of a quarrel over some property left by Benner's father, who died several years ago. Spong alleges he shot in self-defense, contending that he had been threatened several times previously by Benner. Spong fired two shots, both taking effect. One bullet lodged in Benner's arm and the other in his hip. The latter wound is regarded as dangerous.

"It is said Spong will be arrested today. He is a Union veteran of the Civil War. Benner is 45 years old and married. His step-sister married Spong. Benner about 10 years ago shot Clinton Swain in the stomach after a quarrel. Swain nearly died, but Benner was never punished for the shooting."<sup>68</sup>

Then a few months later another newspaper reported:

<sup>66</sup> *The Hagerstown Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, 6/5/1901, p. 2.

<sup>67</sup> 1908 City Directory, Hagerstown, Md. R. L. Polk & Co., p. 219.

<sup>68</sup> *The Cumberland Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, 3/22/1909, p. 1.

## "JURY ACQUITS OLD SOLDIER -

### "Mathias Spong Freed From Charge of Shooting Brother-in-Law. -

"Special to the Washington Post. Hagerstown, Md., May 20. - Mathias Spong, the aged civil war veteran, indicted for shooting and wounding his brother-in-law, Charles W. Benner, aged 66, in Sharpsburg, March 20 last, was tried before a jury today and acquitted.

"Forty witnesses testified, Benner, into whom two bullets were shot, was able to testify, although he has not fully recovered. Spong alleges self-defense, claiming Benner once choked him until his tongue hung out. The shooting grew out of a quarrel over the division of the Benner estate.<sup>69</sup>



The adjacent photograph of brothers Samuel, Albert and Charles R. Spong was taken circa 1910.

The 1910 census reported David and Annie Spong's son, Albert M. Spong, age 27, married seven years, a Brakeman for a Railroad was living on Chapline St. Sharpsburg.<sup>70</sup> Living with him were: Grace F., age 25, wife, married seven years, she had three children all of whom were then still living; Willis M., age 5, son; Naomi B., age 3, daughter; and Anna N., age 9/12, daughter. There is another report that Albert M. Spong was boarding at 400 George St., Hagerstown, and he was a brakeman.<sup>71</sup>

In 1910 Mathias Spong, age 71, married 34 years, was a laborer working from home in Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>72</sup> Living with him were: Ida F., age 53, wife, married 34 years; and Tenna B., age 33, daughter.

The 1910 census reported Oliver T. Reilly, age 53, married 25 years, a Store Merchant, living on Main Street, Sharpsburg.<sup>73</sup> Living with him were: Annie K., age 46, wife, married 25 years, she had seven children four of whom were then still living; Eva G., age 24, daughter; Martha W., age 17, daughter; Annie C., age 12, daughter; Elias Spong, age 76, father-in-law, working as a laborer at odd jobs; and two unrelated men, one a laborer in a stone quarry and the other a laborer for a railroad.

In the 1910 census Cleveland H. Wade, age 26, married 2 years, a Boatman on the Canal, was living in Shepherdstown, W. Va.<sup>74</sup> Living with him were: Mary E. [Spong], age 19, wife,

<sup>69</sup> *The Washington Post*, Washington, D. C., newspaper, Friday, 5/21/1909, p. 3.

<sup>70</sup> 1910 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 5/5/1910, p. 16B.

<sup>71</sup> 1910 Hagerstown City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 262.

<sup>72</sup> 1910 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 5/3/1910, p. 15A.

<sup>73</sup> 1910 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 5/3/1910, p. 14B.

<sup>74</sup> 1910 census, West Virginia, Jefferson Cty., Shepherdstown, enumerated on 4/26/1910, p. 11A...

married 2 years with no children; Charles Spong [Sr.], [age 48], father-in-law, a Boatman on the Canal; Kathryn E. Spong, [age 40], mother-in-law, she had three children all of whom were then still living; Myrtle Spong, age 17, sister-in-law; and Charles W. Spong, age 18, brother-in-law.

The 1910 census reported Samuel D. Spong, age 39, married 13 years, a Boatman on the C & O Canal, was living in Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>75</sup> Living with him were Nina L., age 32, wife, married 13 years, she had 5 children all of whom were then still living; Mary B., age 13, daughter; Thomas D., age 11, son; John W., age 7, son; Samuel W., age 4, son; and Etta F., age 2, daughter. The adjacent photograph of Mary B. Spong was taken circa 1910, photo courtesy of Sharpsburg Historical Society.



On June 7, 1912, a newspaper reported:

**"Court Testimony Leads to Murder and Suicide.**

"Hagerstown, Md., June 7. - Charles W. Adams, of Sharpsburg, superintendent of the national cemetery at Antietam battlefield, was shot and killed on the avenue leading from Sharpsburg to Burnside bridge by Charles W. Benner, a resident of Sharpsburg. Benner then went to his home and committed suicide.

"The cause of the shooting is said to have been a grudge Benner held against his victim because of testimony reflecting on Benner's character, which Adams gave in court a few years ago.

"Adams was seventy years old. He was a doorkeeper of the house of representatives during the Fifty-first congress and was the Republican leader of Washington county, Maryland. Benner was fifty years old.<sup>76</sup>

Remember back in 1880, parents John and Eliza Benner lived in Sharpsburg, with their son, Charles W., plus Mathias and Ida F. [Benner] Spong lived with them while Mathias was busy boating. And remember back in 1909, Charles Benner had threatened Mathias Spong over the Benner estate and Mathias Spong has shot Charles Benner. A report written by two staff members of Antietam National Battlefield and National Cemetery of the incident is appended.

On July 2, 1912 John Luther Spong died in California. His obituary:

**"WITH THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD**

**Great Commander Calls John Spong, Brave Soldier and Good Citizen.**

"Day by day the ranks of the Grand Army veterans are being gradually reduced. On Tuesday evening at 7:12 o'clock, Wm. Seward Post No. 65, of this city, lost John Luther Spong, who has been for years one of its most active members. Mr. Spong's death was not due to any disease, but was just a general breakdown due to old age and hard work. He was a man of untiring energy and up to a year ago it was his boast that he could do his full day's work as well as any young man. For the past year signs of decline have been apparent. His strength began to leave him and he gradually grew weaker until finally about a week ago he was compelled to seek his bed.

<sup>75</sup> 1910 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 5/7/1910, p. 19A

<sup>76</sup> *The News*, Frederick, Md., newspaper, Friday 6/7/1912, p. 7.

"Deceased was a native of Sharpsburg, Maryland, 80 years, 4 months and 12 days of age. His boyhood days were all spent there. When a young man he joined the Potomac Home Brigade, Company A, and was three years in service, 17 months of which were spent in Libby prison, from which he was finally paroled. On June 12, 1856, Mr. Spong married Miss Julia Roulette at Antietam, Maryland. She died in this city on December 2, 1902.

"Mr. Spong and his family came to California in April of 1879. They located in Woodland, where Mr. Spong had resided continuously. He engaged in the carpentry business up to the time his strength failed him.

Nine children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Spong. Those living are Mrs. Thomas Boyer of Lakeview, Oregon; Mrs. Clayton Boyer of Grand Island; Mrs. John Kretzer of Lakeview, Oregon; and Miss Julia Spong who lived at home with her father at the corner of Court and Elm streets. Deceased is also survived by one brother, Elias Spong, who resides at Sharpsburg, Maryland.

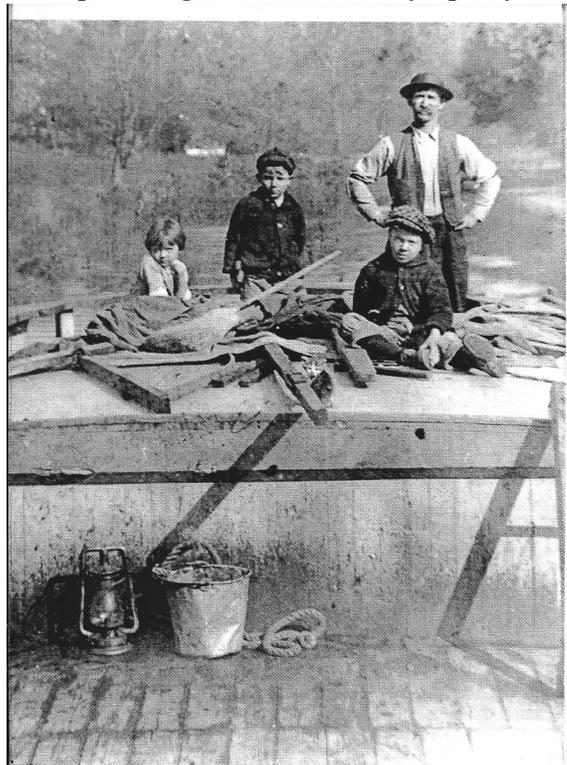
"Mr. Spong was a brave soldier. He fought from principle and espoused the cause he believed to be right with all the zeal and enthusiasm of his nature. But while he was firm and uncompromising in his own views he harbored no ill will for those who differed with him in opinion. He tolerated an honest difference of opinion. Conscious that his own course was prompted by unselfish motives and a sincere love of country he did not impugn the motives of others.

"And when the end came he gladly laid aside the panoply of war and returned to his home and the peaceful pursuits of civil life. And since that time his voice has been constantly and consistently for a complete re-union of every section of the country, and a restoration of that harmony and good will that have made this government the greatest ever conceived by the mind of man. And now that he has gone we will have no more sincere mourners than those of his acquaintances who wore the gray, and none will lay tributes upon his grave with more sympathy and deeper regret than those who fought for the cause that lost.

"It was in his home that his virtues shone in their fairest light. He loved the members of his family deeply and devotedly, and was by them beloved in return. The happiness he enjoyed in these tender relations shone in his face with a luster begotten only of the most genuine and deepest and most sacred feelings of the human heart."<sup>77</sup>

Sometime in 1915 Mary Brashears Spong married Everett Lee Rohrer; the wedding announcement remains to be found. She was no longer boating with her father in 1916.

Captain Samuel Spong with canal boat Consolidation No. 74 left Cumberland early in Sept. 1916, exact date to be found, bound for Georgetown with a load of coal. When the boat got to Sharpsburg, Etta Faye Spong got off the boat and stayed with her married



<sup>77</sup> *Woodland Daily Democrat*, Woodland, CA, newspaper, Wednesday, 7/3/1912, p. 3.

sister, Mary B. Spong Rohrer.<sup>78</sup> The previous photograph shows Samuel with his three children, Sarah, Samuel Willard and John Willett Spong at about that time, photo courtesy of Sharpsburg Historical Society.



The adjacent photograph is of Thomas D. Spong and the family dog, also taken circa 1916, photo courtesy of Sharpsburg Historical Society.

Tragedy struck later that month; the first newspaper story was:

**"CANAL BOAT FAMILY SCALDED BY STEAM,  
"Boy and Girl Dead, Brother Dying, Mother  
Prostrated, Father Burned.**

"Two children are dead, another is probably dying, the father injured and the mother prostrated by shock - all the family of Capt. Samuel Spong - the result of scalding by steam which poured into the cabin of a canal boat at about 6 o'clock this morning from a powerhouse exhaust pipe. The injured are at Emergency Hospital.

"Capt. Spong commands canal boat No. 74 of the Consolidation Coal Company, his wife is Mrs. Nina Spong. The children are Willet, eleven years old; John, thirteen years old; and Sarah Spong, six years old. The little girl died about four hours after the accident, and her brother John died at 12:00 o'clock.

**"Family Asleep in Cabin.** - The boat, loaded with coal, arrived at the foot of Wisconsin avenue, Georgetown, about 5 o'clock this morning and tied up to the sea wall of the Capital Traction power house. Capt. Spong was on duty. His wife and children were asleep in the cabin.

"The window of the cabin was open and within four or five feet of a six-inch steam exhaust pipe coming underground from the power house and leading to the river. About 6 o'clock steam was turned into the pipe to blow off one of one of the boilers.

"The high pressure of the steam in the pipe caused a flange on the pipe, where it turned downward into the water, to blow off. The escaping steam went directly into the cabin of the boat.

"The sleeping occupants had no time to escape, and were awakened by the scalding steam blowing over them. The cries of the mother and children attracted the father, who was on another part of the boat. When he went to their assistance he was burned on the back.

"An employee of the power house heard the cries of the boat occupants. He called to another employee to shut off the steam.

**"All Taken to Hospital.** - The mother and children were rushed to the hospital. There it was found the children were burned over their entire bodies. Mrs. Spong was suffering from shock. After she arrived at the institution her condition became worse. Capt. Spong went to the hospital later.

"When the police heard of the accident Detective Hughlett was sent from police headquarters and Detective Scrivener from the seventh precinct to make investigation. An inspection was also made by an official of the public utilities commission.

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<sup>78</sup> *Home on the Canal*, by Elizabeth Kytle, 1983, p. 149.

"It was stated at the power plant that it is the custom each morning to 'blow off' the boilers, before the fires are started up at full heat for the day. It was when this was being done that the accident happened.

**"Officials Make Investigation.** - John H. Mills, representing the public utilities commission, made a careful examination of the pipe where the break occurred. Detectives Hughlett and Springman and Precinct Detective Scrivener also examined it and will report the result of their examination tomorrow at an inquest that will be held at the morgue at 11:30 o'clock.

"Virgil R. Walker, night engineer at the power plant, and Edgar Rollins, fireman, who is alleged to have turned on the steam this morning were questioned at police headquarters by Inspector Grant. Walker was directed to appear at the inquest as a witness and Rollins was formally placed under arrest. He was required to furnish \$500 bond for his appearance.

"Coroner Nevitt viewed the body of the dead child at the hospital and visited the scene of the accident. He conferred with the police who investigated the affair and directed that all the witnesses be summoned to appear at the inquest. Police Photographer Sandberg took photographs at the scene of the accident and it is probable that they will be displayed at the inquest for the benefit of the jurors."<sup>79</sup>

Another newspaper reported:

**" POLICE INVESTIGATE SCALDING OF FAMILY -  
"Fireman Arrested and Required to Furnish \$500 Bond.**

"Inspector John H. Mills, of the Public Utilities Commission, and Detectives Hughlett and Springman, of the police department, last night completed their investigation to fix responsibility for the bursting of a steam pipe at the Capitol Traction Company plant yesterday, which caused the death of the three children of Capt. and Mrs. Spong, of the Consolidation Coal Company barge tied up at the power house wharf. They will report at the inquest to be held at the morgue today.

"Mrs. Nina Spong, who was scalded with the children, is doing well at Emergency Hospital. Her injuries are not as serious as first reported.

"The three children are John Spong, 13 years; Willet, 11 years; and Sarah, 6 year.

**"Mother and children Asleep.** - The children and their mother were asleep in the cabin of coal barge 74, of the Consolidation Coal Company, commanded by Capt. Spong, which had just tied up opposite the power house.

"The window of the cabin, which was open, was directly opposite a flange on a six-inch exhaust pipe, at a point where it turned down toward the water. At 6 o'clock steam was turned on, resulting in a high pressure, which blew off the flange.

"Great volumes of boiling steam flooded the cabin, scalding the occupants before they could escape. Their cries brought Capt. Spong to the scene, he being burned slightly in the back. An employee, hearing the cries, turned off the steam, but it had already scalded the children beyond recovery.

"Edgar Rollins, fireman, who is said to have been the one to turn on the steam, was formally arrested, and required to furnish \$500 bond for his appearance."<sup>80</sup>

An evening newspaper continued with:

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<sup>79</sup> *The Evening Star*, Washington, D.C., newspaper, Monday, 9/11/1916, p. 2.

<sup>80</sup> *The Washington Herald*, Washington, D.C., newspaper, Tuesday, 9/12/1916, p. 3.

## "SCALDING ACCIDENT, CORONER'S VERDICT -

### "Death of Girl, However, Is Blamed on Failure to Inspect Exhaust Pipe. -

"That the death of Sarah Spong, six years old, who, with her two brothers, was scalded in a canal boat yesterday morning, was the result of an accident, due to failure on the part of the Capital Traction Company to provide a safe connection at the elbow of the exhaust pipe from its power plant, which blew off, was the verdict of a coroner's jury at the District morgue this afternoon.

"The inquest was held over the body of the little girl, who died at Emergency Hospital yesterday morning. Capt. Samuel Spong, father of the little girl, in charge of the canal boat, testified that he arrived at the sea wall adjoining the power plant about 5:30 o'clock yesterday morning. The boat had been tied up to the sea wall about half an hour, he testified, when suddenly the exhaust pipe end blew off, causing the steam to go directly through the cabin window of the canal boat. He first assisted his wife from the cabin and then got his children out, but not before they had been scalded.

"**Elbow Joint Not Inspected.** - John H. Hanna, chief engineer of the Capital Traction Company, testified that the exhaust pipe was placed in its position about five years ago. He said no inspection had been made as to the elbow joint at the end of the pipe. It was impossible to tell from the outside whether or not the joint was still perfect, although he declared it was in such a condition when placed there.

"Edgar Rollins, 420 - 7th street southwest, a fireman, testified he was 'blowing off' the boiler of which he was in charge when the accident happened. He said it was customary each morning to 'blow off' the boiler, and that there was no unusual pressure at the time of the accident.

"Virgil R. Walker, of 361 L street, night engineer at the plant, testified as to the custom of 'blowing off' the boiler.

"Detective Hughlett of police headquarters and Detective Scrivener of the seventh precinct, who investigated the accident, also gave testimony.

"The children, Sarah, six years old; John, thirteen years old; and Willett, eleven years old, died yesterday. The death of the last named occurred at 4:35 o'clock in the afternoon.

"**Mrs. Spong Will Recover.** - Mrs. Spong, the wife and mother, who was taken to Emergency Hospital with the children, suffering from shock, was much improved today and it was stated she will recover. Capt. Samuel Spong, the husband and father, who also was burned when he attempted to rescue his wife and children, was but slightly injured.

"An investigation of the accident was made by Inspector John H. Mills of the public utilities commission in connection with Detective Hughlett of police headquarters and Detective Scrivener of the seventh precinct.

"Capt. Spong resided with his family in Washington county, Pa. [*sic Md.*].<sup>81</sup>

Another evening paper tells a similar story with a few different details:

### "FATHER TELLS HOW STEAM KILLED BABIES

#### Canal Boat Captain Rehearses the Triple Tragedy at Coroner's Inquest.

"Samuel Spong, father of the three children who died from burns received from the searing steam shot over them from a bursting pipe while they slept aboard a canal boat yesterday, today told a coroner's jury a graphic story of the tragedy.

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<sup>81</sup> *The Evening Star*, Washington, D.C., newspaper, Tuesday, 9/12/1916, p. 5.

"I knew of no danger in the world.' said Captain Spong. 'I never saw the steam turned on there before in my life.'

"As he recited how he heard the hiss of the scalding steam and rushed to the room where his children lay, he choked and almost broke down.

"But he pulled himself together with visible effort, and went on with his story.

"Screens were in the windows, and the shutters were closed.' he said. 'My wife and I had just gotten up and were putting some steak on to cook for breakfast. Then came steam, steam, steam, literally cooking my family to death.'

"The father, in telling his story, said: 'I started to go to their assistance, when my oldest boy, Tommy, jerked me back and handed them out to me. He had to come out one time himself to keep from being suffocated.'

"There was one little fellow we just couldn't get out. He came running to the window with his face in agony, crying bitterly.'

"Mrs. Spong, mother of the three child victims, is lying today at the hospital, herself, badly scalded. She is expected to recover.

**"Explains 'Blowing Off.'** - Thomas E. Rollins, who lives at 420 Seventh street southwest, was the fireman in charge of boiler No. 3, which was blown out at 6 o'clock yesterday morning, according to his statement.

"Each boiler has three valves. The practice is to turn each valve separately, but yesterday morning according to Mr. Rollins, Mr. Walker had one valve turned on and I opened up a second valve. Then I heard a safety valve blowing.

"The steam and hot water from the boilers is carried into a large tank, according to testimony, and an exhaust pipe leads from the tank to the Potomac river. When the pipe comes through the wall it is turned downward to the Potomac river by an elbow joint.

"This elbow joint came off yesterday when the boiler was blown off and as a result steam and hot water was directed at the cabin of the canal boat in which Mrs. Spong and her children were sleeping.

"John H. Hanna, vice president of the Capital traction Company, and formerly chief engineer of the concern, stated in regard to the elbow joint that the fitting was not exactly the same kind of pipe as used for main steam boiler lines.

**"Never Figured Pressure.** - 'Did you ever figure the pressure the joint would have to withstand.' Coroner Nevitt asked him.

"He replied in the negative, but explained that it was a standard fitting which was designed to meet such conditions. The joint which was blown off was shown to him and he examined it.

"There has been deterioration in this elbow' said Mr. Hanna, 'there must have been to round off the threads.'

"Mr. Hanna added that there was no accurate method of determining by exterior examination as to the condition of the pipe.

"Thomas Spong, the eldest son, followed his father on the stand, and told of his part in the rescue.

**"Operation Customary.** - One of the witnesses, Virgil R. Walker, 801 L street, who is the night engineer at the plant, stated that the same operation of blowing down the boilers had been gone through with every night for four years.

"Yesterday morning,' said Mr. Walker, 'after we had blown off No. 3, and had shut off the fireman came to me and said something must be wrong. I looked and saw a man on a canal boat. I phoned to the Emergency Hospital and No. 7 precinct right away.'

" Mr. Walker stated that it took from half a minute to a minute to blow the pipe.

"Another witness, William H. Wiggington, also a fireman at the plant, stated that it generally took about six minutes to blow a boiler. Me. Wiggington was in charge of two boilers out of the three in operation at the time of the accident. He had blown out both of his boilers about 4:30 o'clock. The third boiler was not blown until about 6 o'clock. Mr. Wiggington stated that they generally have heavier steam at 6 o'clock than at 4:30.

"What would have happened if steam had been up?' was asked him.

**"Testifies About Blow-offs.** - He did not reply. He stated, however, that the safety valves on one of the boilers blew off about 6 o'clock. It was one of those which he tended, he admitted. A. Swingle, representing the Capital Traction Company, had questioned him sharply on this point.

"The case went in the jury at 1:30 o'clock. William F. Leahy is representing the district attorney's office. Mark Spearman is representing Captain Spong."<sup>82</sup>

The next day a newspaper reported:

**"SPONG TAKES HOME HIS DEAD. -**

**"Bodies of Scalded Children Conveyed to Keedysville, Md.**

"Samuel Spong, canal boatman, father of John Willett, Samuel and Sarah Spong, children, who were scalded to death Monday morning, while in the cabin of their father's boat, lying off the power plant of the Capital Traction Company, this morning accompanied the bodies of the children to Keedysville, Md., the family home. Two friends accompanied him.

"Mrs. Spong, mother of the children, who received severe scalds and was taken to Emergency Hospital, has been told of the death of the children. It is probable that she will be able to leave the hospital in a few days."<sup>83</sup>

The next day another newspaper reported: "Samuel Spong, the canal barge captain whose three children were scalded to death with steam from a broken pipe at the Capital Traction Company's plant yesterday, applied at the morgue and took custody of the bodies. They will be buried in Keedysville, Md. Mrs. Spong, who also was scalded, is improving rapidly at the Emergency Hospital, and will be able to leave the institution within a few days."<sup>84</sup>

In November of the same year, a newspaper wrote:

**"WOULD SUE FOR DEATHS OF HIS THREE CHILDREN -**

**"Samuel D. Spong Petitions Court for Appointment as Administrator of Their Estates.**

"Samuel D. Spong today filed petitions in the District Supreme Court, asking that he be appointed administrator of the estate of his three children, who came to their deaths September 12, 1916. Mr. Spong advises the court that his children were on a canal boat which at the time was moored on the Potomac river at a point just south of the power plant of the Capital Traction Company, and he states that they were so seriously scalded by hot water and steam escaping from a blow-out pipe of the power plant that they died as a result of their injuries the same day.

<sup>82</sup> *The Washington Times*, Washington, D.C., newspaper, Tuesday, 9/12/1916, pp. 1,2.

<sup>83</sup> *Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., newspaper, Wednesday, 9/13/1916, p. 9.

<sup>84</sup> *The Washington Herald*, Washington, D.C., newspaper, Thursday, 9/14/1916, p. 10.

He seeks the appointment as administrator for the purpose of filing suit on account of the death of the children. The names of the children are given as John W. Spong, Samuel W. Spong and Sarah A. Spong, and their ages are stated at thirteen, eleven and six years, respectively.

"At the coroner's inquest held over the bodies of the children shortly after the accident the jury returned a verdict stating that the accident was due to the failure on the part of the company to provide a safe connection on the steam pipe, it is alleged.

"Mrs. Nina L. Spong, the mother of the deceased children, was also seriously scalded at the time of the accident.

"The petitioner is represented by Attorney Mark Stearman."<sup>85</sup>

Apparently the case did go to court as we read from a January 1917 newspaper:

**"BURSTING STEAM PIPE COSTS COMPANY \$5,000 -**

**"Traction Concern Pays That Sum for Deaths of Children of Canal Boat Captain.**

"Justice Hitz, presiding in the Probate Division of the Supreme Court of the District today signed decrees authorizing Samuel D. Spong as administrator of the estates of his three children, Samuel W. Spong, John W. Spong and Sarah A. Spong, to make settlements with the Capital Traction Company of the claims on account of the death of the children in the amount of \$1,500 in each of the first two cases and \$1,000 in the last named case.

"The claims arose out of an accident which occurred September 11, 1916, on the canal at the foot of Wisconsin avenue. Samuel D. Spong, the father of the deceased children, was in charge of a canal boat, which was loaded with coal for the Capital Traction Company, and on the morning of the accident the boat was moored at a point just to the rear of the power plant of the company. The children named, as well as Nina L. Spong, wife of Samuel D. Spong, were on board the canal boat and at the time of the accident the children were asleep in the cabin of the boat.

"Between the canal boat and the retaining wall at the north bank of the Potomac river at this point the Capital Traction Company had in place an exhaust pipe, and it is claimed this pipe loosened and gave way so that the hot water and steam passing through it, which should have been diverted below the surface of the river, was blown into the cabin and the three children named were so badly injured that they died the same day.

"Upon his petition, Samuel D. Spong, the father of the children, was appointed administrator of their estates, and by the decrees of the court he is authorized to make settlements.

"The mother of the children, Mrs. Nina L. Spong, was injured, and it is stated that her claim against the company also has been compromised, the company paying her \$1,000, making the total amount paid on account of the accident, \$5,000. The claimants were represented by Attorney Mark Stearman."<sup>86</sup>

The adjacent photograph, by Heisenberg, shows the children's tombstone in the Mountain View Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. Birth and death dates etched in stone.

On Mar. 26, 1918, for \$731.00, Nina L. Spong did purchase at public sale, Sharpsburg town lot No. 160, formerly owned by James F.



<sup>85</sup> *The Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., newspaper, Friday, 11/17/1916, p. 2.

<sup>86</sup> *The Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., newspaper, Thursday, 1/25/1917, p. 4.

Swain.<sup>87</sup> Apparently she did not have the full purchase money and thus had to take a mortgage for the \$250.00 balance due.<sup>88</sup> Both records are attached to this report.

World War I came along and the following men registered for the draft:

**Albert M. Spong**, age 35, born 11/15/1882, living at 139 Foundry St, Hagerstown, Md.<sup>89</sup> He was a Conductor on the C. V. R. R. His nearest relative was Grace Spong of the same address. He was medium in height, slender in build, had gray eyes and brown hair.

**Thomas David Spong**, age 20, born 8/8/1898, living at Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>90</sup> He was a Laborer for Samuel Stouffer. His nearest relative was Samuel Spong of the same address. He was tall in height, slender in build, had gray eyes and light colored hair.

**Cleveland Harvey Wade**, age 32, born 4/13/1886, living in Arlington, Va.<sup>91</sup> He was a Carpenter Foreman for Turner Construction Co., Washington, D. C. His nearest relative was Mary E. [Spong] Wade, wife. He was medium in height, medium in build, had brown eyes and brown hair.

**Everett Lee Rohrer**, age 23, born 8/31/1894, living in Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>92</sup> He was an Air Drill Operator for Thomas Conner, Hagerstown. He had a wife and one child. He was tall in height, medium build, gray eyes, light brown hair and not bald.

**Henry Wade Crampton**, age 21, born 10/25/1895, living in Sharpsburg.<sup>93</sup> He was a Laborer at Security Lime Co., Berkeley, W. Va. He was single with his parents dependent upon him. He was tall in height, slender in build, blue eyes, light colored hair, not bald.

In August 1918 a newspaper published the following obituary: "**Elias Spong**, aged 84 years died at 11 o'clock Friday evening, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. O. T. Reilly, Sharpsburg, of general debility. He was a member of the G. A. R. and the Knights of Pythias. Besides Mrs. Reilly he is survived by another daughter, Mrs. J. B. Baker, Yola, California. The funeral will be on Monday at 2 p. m. at the Lutheran Church at Sharpsburg, by Rev. A. A. Kerlin. Interment in Mountain View Cemetery."<sup>94</sup>

The 1920 census reported Albert Spong, age 37, working as a Conductor on a Steam Railroad and living in Hagerstown.<sup>95</sup> Living with him were: Grace, age 34, wife; Willis, age 15, son, working as an errand boy at a book binding Co.; Naomi, age 13, daughter; Anna, age 10, daughter; Robin, age 8, daughter; Vincent, age 5, son; and Earl, age 2-7/12, son.

In 1920 the census reported Charles Spong [Sr.], age 56, a lock tender on the canal [Lock 8], living in Potomac, Md.<sup>96</sup> Living with him were: Katherine, age 52, wife; Charles [Jr.], age 27, son, a chipper at the Navy yard; Emma, age 17, daughter -in-law; Rose G., age 6/12, granddaughter; Myrtle Fields, age 25, daughter; John J. Fields, age 33, son-in-law; working as a

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<sup>87</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md., Deed Book 152, p. 371, recorded 5/2/1918.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>89</sup> WW I Draft Registration Card, Serial Number 1171, dated 9/12/1916.

<sup>90</sup> WW I Draft Registration Card, Serial Number 170, dated 9/12/1918

<sup>91</sup> WW I Draft Registration Card, Serial Number 78, dated 9/12/1918

<sup>92</sup> WW I Draft Registration Card, Serial Number 40, dated 6/5/1917.

<sup>93</sup> WW I Draft Registration Card, Serial Number 6, dated 6/5/1917.

<sup>94</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 8/17/1918, p. 2.

<sup>95</sup> 1920 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Hagerstown, enumerated on 1/7/1920, p. 9B.

<sup>96</sup> 1920 census, Maryland, Montgomery Cty., Potomac, enumerated on 1/26/1920, p. 10B.

crane operator at the Navy Yard; Genevieve Fields, age 3-6/12, granddaughter; and Lillian A. Fields, age 2, granddaughter. Three families living in Lockhouse 8.

The adjacent photograph of Mary Etta Spong Wade was taken circa 1920 when she visited Lock 8.

In March of 1921, Mathias Spong died and was subsequently buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. His spouse was Ida Frances Spong, father David Spong and mother Elizabeth Spong. An obituary remains to be found.

In 1922 Albert M. and Grace F. Spong were living at 113 N. Foundry St., Hagerstown and he worked in a lab.<sup>97</sup> Willis M. Spong was a printer and Naomi B. Spong was employed at the paper box department, Hagerstown Bookbinding & Printing, Co.; both still lived at home. Cousin John W. Spong lived at 431 Salem Ave., Hagerstown and worked in a lab.



In 1922 Ida Frances (widow of Mathias) Spong was living on Main Street, Sharpsburg; their daughter, Tenna B. Spong, lived with her.<sup>98</sup> Samuel and Nina Spong also lived on Main Street, Sharpsburg, with their son, Thomas Spong.<sup>99</sup> It appears that both Samuel and Thomas worked in a laboratory, possibly in Hagerstown.

Also in 1922, Charles R. Spong [Sr.] was working as a helper at Old Dutch Market and resided in Cabin John, Md.<sup>100</sup>

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal closed forever in 1924.

The Spong family did participate socially as evidenced by the following newspaper article:

#### **"POUND PARTY.**

"A pound party was held on Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Nellie Himes. The evening was spent in games and dancing. Refreshments were served at a late hour.

"Those present were: Helen Rudisill, Marlin Thurmond, Isabel Wallick, Howard Nally, Naomi Spong, Edward Shaffner, Martha Hines, Harry Everly, Lillian Fox, Howard French, Elizabeth Fry, Johnnie Hollinger, Anna Spong, Roy Robinson, Margaret Bloyer, Jacob Adams, Sarah Churchy, Leonard Poffenberger, Robin Spong, Markwood Hines, Louise Henesy, Roy Homer, Jane Thomas, Earl Reel, Irene Bowers, Victor Thumma, Irene Flesher, Robert Moore, Hattie Hines, Hillard French, Virginia Kratz, Floyd Rudisill, Leda Metzger, Willis Spong, Nora Herman. Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kretzer and Nellie Mae, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Griffith, Mrs. Nellie Himes, Charles and David Himes."<sup>101</sup>

<sup>97</sup> 1922 Hagerstown City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 696.

<sup>98</sup> 1922 Sharpsburg, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 972.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>100</sup> 1922 Washington, District of Columbia, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 1457.

<sup>101</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 1/14/1926, p. 7.

In October 1926, Willis M. and Helen M., residing at 238 Summit Ave. Hagerstown, were listed as New Voters in District 3 - Precinct 2.<sup>102</sup>

In 1927 Charles R. Spong [Sr.] was working as a watchmen at Independent Publishing Co. while living at Cabin John, Md.<sup>103</sup>

In 1929 Mrs. Fannie Spong was still residing on South Main Street, Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>104</sup> Daughter, Tenna B. Spong, still lived with her. Samuel D. Spong was a janitor and still lived on South Main Street, Sharpsburg.<sup>105</sup> His son, Thomas D. Spong, had married Pauline O. and Thomas was working as a stitcher; they lived on North Main Street, Sharpsburg.<sup>106</sup>

The 1930 census reported Charles Spong [Sr.], age 66, married at age 25, retired, living on Halifax Street, Cabin John Park, Md.<sup>107</sup> Living with him were: Katherine, age 63, wife, married at age 21; Charles R., age 37, son, married at age 28, working as a general laborer; Emma M., age 27, daughter-in-law, married at age 16; Alice V., age 10, granddaughter; Roselyn D, age 9, granddaughter; Charles D., age 6, grandson; and Mary E. Underdork, age 52, widowed, aunt.



In 1930, the census reported John J. Fields, age 44, married at age 21, a general carpenter, was living in a house he owned, valued at \$2,500, on Halifax Street, Cabin John, Md.<sup>108</sup> Living with him were: Myrtle I. [Spong], age 36, wife, married at age 19; Katherine E., age 16, daughter; Genevieve M., age 13, daughter; Lillian G., age 11, daughter; and John C., age 8, son; Nellie M., age 5, daughter; Margaret E., age 4-2/12, daughter; and William L., age 2-10/12, son. The adjacent photograph is of Myrtle I. Spong Fields taken circa 1930.

The 1930 census reported Samuel Spong, age 59, widowed, unemployed, living on Main Street, Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>109</sup> Living with him were: Merell D. Long, age 24, son-in-law, married at age 20, working as a laborer in a shoe factory; Etta F. Long, age 22, daughter, married at age 18; Beverly L. Long, age 2-6/12, granddaughter; and Gerald L. Long, age 5/12, grandson.

In 1930 Thomas D. Spong, age 31, married at age 25, was living on Main Street, Sharpsburg, and he was a stitcher in a Shoe Legging Co.<sup>110</sup> Living with him was Pauline O. Spong, age 31, married at age 25, wife. Based on this 1930 census report we determine they were not living with his father, Samuel Spong.

<sup>102</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 10/16/1926, p. 8.

<sup>103</sup> 1927 Washington, District of Columbia, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 1407.

<sup>104</sup> 1929 Sharpsburg, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 651.

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>107</sup> 1930 census, Maryland, Montgomery Cty., Bethesda, enumerated on 4/19/1930, p. 12B.

<sup>108</sup> 1930 census, Maryland, Montgomery Cty., Cabin John Part, enumerated on 4/19/1930, p. 12A.

<sup>109</sup> 1930 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 4/3/1930, p. 3A.

<sup>110</sup> 1930 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 4/4/1930, p. 4A

The 1930 census reported Albert M. Spong, age 48, living on South Locust Street, Hagerstown in a house he rented for \$26/month and he was a Brakeman on the Steam B & O Railroad.<sup>111</sup> Living with him were: Grace F., age 44, wife; Anna N., age 20, daughter, working as a box maker at a Book Binding Co.; Edna R., age 18, daughter, working as a box maker at a Book Binding Co.; Vincent G., age 16, son, working as a clerk in a Grocery store; Vincent M., age 14, son; Robert R., age 5, son; and Naomi B. Burger, age 23, daughter, working as a stenographer in a Jewelry Store.

The 1930 census reported Mary B. [Spong] Rohrer, age 33, widowed, living in her owned home valued at \$1,800, with a radio set, on Main Street, Sharpsburg.<sup>112</sup> Living with her were: Max E., age 14, son; Willard L., age 8, son; Wanda J., age 6, daughter; and Donald S., age 11/12, son.

Apparently Nina L. and Samuel D. Spong only paid the yearly interest on their \$250 mortgage, vice anything on the principal. On Jan. 8, 1931 their mortgage was assigned to Clarence V. Snyder.<sup>113</sup>

On May 7, 1931, Ida Fannie Spong died. Her obituary read: "**Mrs. Fannie Spong**, widow of Mathias Spong, died last night at 11 o'clock at her home in Sharpsburg of complications, aged 74 years. Mrs. Spong was a member of the Lutheran church of Sharpsburg for many years and known in the community for her acts of charity. She was well known and highly esteemed in the town and community. She is survived by a daughter, Miss Tena Spong, who attended her during her illness.

"Funeral from the home in Sharpsburg at 1:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, services by Rev. H. D. Chapman. Burial in Mountain View cemetery.

"The pallbearers will be William Fisher, T. R. Swain, Charles Gross, Robert Hebb, W. O. Cox and Joseph Hammond."<sup>114</sup>

In Feb. 1933 a newspaper reported: "Mrs. Elta Spong Long, who has been bedfast for the past four weeks is very ill at the home of Mrs. Thomas Spong."<sup>115</sup>

On Jan. 15, 1934 Charles R. Spong [Sr.], died and was buried in Potomac United Methodist Church Cemetery, Potomac, Md. His obituary remains to be found. The adjacent photograph of his tombstone provides his birth and death dates, etched in stone.

In 1935 Samuel Spong [widowed] was still living on West Main Street, Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>116</sup> Thomas D. and



<sup>111</sup> 1930 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Hagerstown, enumerated on 5/12/1930, p. 15A.

<sup>112</sup> 1930 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 4/8/1930, p. 8B.

<sup>113</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md., Deed Book 152, p. 371, recorded 5/2/1918.

<sup>114</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 5/8/1931, p. 10.

<sup>115</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 2/25/1933, p. 6.

<sup>116</sup> 1935 Sharpsburg, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 517.

Pauline O. Spong were also living on West Main Street and he was a shoe worker.<sup>117</sup>

In 1935 Albert M. and Grace S. Spong were living at 22 S. Locust St, Hagerstown.<sup>118</sup> Their son, Vincent G. Spong was a box maker for the Hagerstown Bookbinding & Printing Co. as was their son Earl M. Spong; both were single and living at home. Their oldest son, Willis M. and Helen M. Spong were living at 131 East Ave., Hagerstown and he worked as a pressman at the Hagerstown Bookbinding & Printing Co.

On or about Sep. 21, 1936 Earl M. Spong, 21, and Ray [*sic* Rhae] A. Wolfe, 21, both of Hagerstown, were granted a marriage license;<sup>119</sup> presumably they were married that same month.

In 1937 Samuel Spong was still living on West Main Street, Sharpsburg.<sup>120</sup> Mrs. Pauline O. Spong had opened an antique store on W. Main St. Thomas D. Spong was still a shoe worker and they lived on West Main Street.<sup>121</sup>

In 1937 Albert M. and Grace F. Spong were living at 22 S. Locust St., Hagerstown.<sup>122</sup> Living with them were Earl M. and Rhae A. Spong, he was working as a box maker. Willis M. and Helen M. Spong were living at 131 East Ave., and he was a pressman.

In Nov. 1938 we read: "Mr. and Mrs. Earl Spong, 22 South Locust street, announce the birth of a son at the Frederick City Hospital on November 22. Mrs. Spong was formerly Miss Rhae Wolfe."<sup>123</sup>

On Feb. 13, 1939 Tena Blanche Spong, unmarried, of Washington, D.C. sold the Spong farm to The Washington County Historical Society for \$2,350.00.<sup>124</sup> The deed is appended to this report. Then the newspaper had an article:

**"Farm Is Purchased at Bargain Price.**

"Years ago an Ohio committee of Civil War veterans of the 23rd Ohio McKinley Regiment made an offer of \$8,000 for the Spong farm near Burnside Bridge, Sharpsburg, that last week was purchased by the Washington County Historical Society for less than \$2,400. The farm of 136 acres was the scene of a bloody skirmish during the Civil War and will eventually be deeded the Federal Government. The McKinley monument occupies a tract adjacent to the land purchased."<sup>125</sup>

Then in July 1939 we read:

**"Sharpsburg Project Started In March Is Nearing Completion.**

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<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>118</sup> 1935 Hagerstown, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co. p. 338.

<sup>119</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Monday, 9/21/1936, p. 4.

<sup>120</sup> 1937 Sharpsburg, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 574.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>122</sup> 1937 Hagerstown, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 378.

<sup>123</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, 11/23/1938, p. 6.

<sup>124</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 208, page 589, recorded 2/17/1939.

<sup>125</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 2/17/1939, p. 12.

"Progress is being made on work of making repairs and rebuilding portions of the National Cemetery stone wall on Antietam Battlefield at Sharpsburg. This is a WPA project. The work started in March.

"The entire rear wall or south wall of the cemetery has been rebuilt and work is now progressing on the east wall, about 200 feet of which has been completed. About forty men are now at work on various activities on the battlefield.

"Engineers from the regional office of the National Park Service, Richmond, Va. have completed their work. During the two months they were at Antietam they made topographic and utility surveys and maps of the National Cemetery and the utility areas. They also surveyed the Spong and Dorsey lands around the Burnside Bridge which will be turned over to the government by the Washington County Historical Society. They have established the new road grades for the road into the battlefield utility buildings and this new roadway is being constructed under the same WPA project as the repairs to the National Cemetery stone wall."<sup>126</sup>

Later that month we read:

**"New Park Planned Near Sharpsburg.**

"A wooded ridge near Burnside Bridge on Antietam Battlefield at Sharpsburg will be acquired following approval of a bill authorizing taking over the land through funds donated by the Washington County Historical Society, according to word received from Washington.

"The Senate Committee on Public Lands approved the bill on Saturday. It is likely that the land will be developed into a park of some suitable use made of it for the public. Some of the fiercest fighting of the Civil War took place at Burnside Bridge.

"Funds to purchase the site were raised by the Historical Society by staging an historical pageant in 1937 in connection with the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. The pageant showed a profit of \$15,000.

"U. S. Senator George L. Radcliffe was favorable toward the bill and urged its passage."<sup>127</sup>

The actual deed was made Oct. 13, 1940 but was not recorded until March 24, 1943.<sup>128</sup> The deed is appended at the back of this report.

The 1940 census reported Charles Spong [Jr.], age 48, a carpenter, was living in census dwelling 72, which he owned, valued at \$1,000, on Halifax Street, Cabin John, Md.<sup>129</sup> Living with him were: Emma, age 36, wife; Charles J., age 16, son, a new worker; Elizabeth, age 10, daughter; Floyd, age 5, son; and Mary, age 3, daughter.

The 1940 census reported John J. Fields, age 54, retired, was living in census dwelling 71, which he owned, valued at \$3,000, on Halifax Street, Cabin John, Md.<sup>130</sup> Living with him were: Myrtle I. [Spong], age 46, wife; Walter Perry, age 26, son-in-law, working in an amusement park; Genevieve Perry, age 23, daughter; Myra L. Perry, age 2, granddaughter; and Barbara Perry, age 1, granddaughter.

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<sup>126</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 7/8/1939, p. 2.

<sup>127</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Monday, 7/17/1939, p. 3.

<sup>128</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 222, page 179, recorded 3/24/1943.

<sup>129</sup> 1940 census, Maryland, Montgomery Cty., Cabin John Part, enumerated on 5/28/1940, p. 4B.

<sup>130</sup> 1940 census, Maryland, Montgomery Cty., Cabin John Part, enumerated on 5/28/1940, p. 4B.

In 1940 Samuel [David] Spong was still living on West Main Street, Sharpsburg.<sup>131</sup> He was 70 years old, widowed, owned his home which was valued at \$400, and was a laborer in road construction.<sup>132</sup> He lived alone.

Thomas D. Spong was a Commissioner in Sharpsburg and living on W. Main Street. Mrs. Pauline O. Spong had an antique store on W. Main Street and resided at the same place. In 1940, Thomas was 41 years old, working as a sticker in a shoe factory.<sup>133</sup> His wife, Pauline O. Spong, age 41, was living with him, as was Henry Delaney, age 15, nephew.

In 1940 Etta F. [Spong] Long, age 33, widowed, was a machine operator in a shoe factory and living in Sharpsburg.<sup>134</sup> Living with her was Beverly L. Long, age 12, daughter.

And in 1940 Albert M. Spong, age 57, was living in Hagerstown and working as a Brakeman on a Railroad.<sup>135</sup> Living with him were: Grace F., age 54, wife; Anne N., age 30, daughter; Vincent B., age 26, son working as a printer at a printing office; and Bobby R., age 15; son. From a second source we learn the Albert M. and Grace F. Spong were living at 234 Summit Ave., Hagerstown while he worked as a Brakeman.<sup>136</sup> Vincent G. Spong was a printer and lived at home. Willis M. and Helen M. Spong lived at 134 East Ave. and he was a printer for Rudy & Spong. The wife or widow of Earl M. Spong, Rhae A. Spong lived at 22 S. Locust St. and was employed at Interwoven Stocking Co. This was the residence of Albert M. and Grace F. Spong in 1937.

Later in April 1940 we read: "**G. O. P. BLOCKS LOCAL BILL.** -

**"Republican House Leaders Sidetrack Battlefield Measure.**

(Special to the Daily Mail)

"Washington, April 16. - Republican leadership in the House of Representatives yesterday blocked the bill for acquisition of certain land belonging to the Washington County Historical Society for the Antietam Battlefield.

"The measure was sponsored by Representative William D. Byron, Sixth District of Maryland, who announced at once that he will continue to strive for the passage and seek at some future date to bring it up under a suspension of rules.

"The bill provides for the acceptance by the Federal Government as part of the Antietam Battlefield the former Spong Farm of 200 acres, which the Washington County Historical Society purchased sometime ago with profits from the pageant, Wings of Time. The farm adjoins the battlefield area in the vicinity of Burnside Bridge and figured prominently in the Battle of Antietam."<sup>137</sup>

At the Jan. 1941 meeting of the Washington County Historical Society held in Hagerstown, Md.

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<sup>131</sup> 1940 Sharpsburg, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 524.

<sup>132</sup> 1940 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 4/10/1940, p. 7A.

<sup>133</sup> 1940 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 4/10/1940, p. 1B.

<sup>134</sup> 1940 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Sharpsburg, enumerated on 4/6/1940, p. 4A.

<sup>135</sup> 1940 census, Maryland, Washington Cty., Hagerstown, enumerated on 4/10/1940, p. 10A.

<sup>136</sup> 1940 Hagerstown, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 317.

<sup>137</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., Tuesday, 4/16/1940, p. 1.

"Mention was made at the meeting of the most recent outstanding accomplishment of the society which was purchase of the Spong farm at Sharpsburg, with land adjacent to the historic Burnside Bridge, as well as land along the Antietam creek near the bridge. This land has been turned over to the Federal government with the idea of having it become a part of the Antietam National Battlefield Site. The final phase of acquiring this land by the government, it is understood, has not been completed. This will insure the safety of the famous bridge which is a landmark on the battlefield. Union and Confederate troops battled for several hours at the bridge on the day of the battle."<sup>138</sup>

The June 1941 obituary for Grace F. Spong read: "**Mrs. Grace F. Spong**, wife of Albert M. Spong, died early today at her home, 234 Summit avenue, from complications, after an illness of 3 days, aged 56.

"She was born at Sharpsburg, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowers. She was a member of the Church of God, Sharpsburg.

"Surviving are husband, sons, Vincent G., Bobby R., at home; Willis M., Hagerstown; daughter, Mrs. Naomi Murfree, of Jacksonville, Florida; Mrs. Charles Conner, and Mrs. Victor Simpson, Hagerstown; brothers, Charles Bowers, Washington; Gardner and Walter, Hagerstown; sisters, Mrs. Luther Drenner, Mrs. Bernard Kennedy, Mrs. Richard Eichelberger, all of Hagerstown; 3 grandchildren.

"Funeral announcements later."<sup>139</sup>

Albert M. Spong died on Feb. 9, 1942 and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Hagerstown, Md. His obituary remains to be found.

World War II came along and eligible men had to register for the draft.

**Harvey Cleveland Wade**, age 41, born 4/13/1886, was living in Brookneal, Campbell County, Virginia.<sup>140</sup> He was self employed and Mrs. H. C. Wade of the same address would always know his address. The Description of the Registrant page was not found.

**Charles Richard Spong [Jr.]**, age 51, born 5/17/1891, was living on Halifax Street, Cabin John, Md.<sup>141</sup> He was working as a Guard on Conduit Rd., for the U. S. Engineers Office, 1st & Douglas St., NW, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Myrtle Fields of Cabin John was listed as the person who would always know his address. The Description of Registrant was stamped Cumberland, Md. and thus probably applies to another registrant, although the date is probably very close.

**John Joseph Fields**, age 55, was living at Halifax Street, Cabin John, Md.<sup>142</sup> He was working at Simmons Motor Co., Beach drive, Bethesda, Md. Myrtle Fields, Halifax St. Cabin John, Md. was listed as the person who would always know his address. The Description of Registrant was stamped Baltimore, Md. and thus probably applies to another registrant, although the date is probably very close.

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<sup>138</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 1/31/1941, p. 7.

<sup>139</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 6/4/1941, p. 12.

<sup>140</sup> WW II Draft Registration Card, Serial No. U444.

<sup>141</sup> WW II Draft Registration Card, Serial No. U1552, dated 4/26/1942.

<sup>142</sup> WW II Draft Registration Card, Serial No. U435, dated 4/26/1942.

**Charles William Muck**, age 55, born 10/12/1886, was living on the Canal, Lock #8, Cabin John, Md.<sup>143</sup> He was employed by William P. Limscomb Co., Columbia Pike, Arlington, Va. Mrs. Laura McKeon, 3034 Dent Place, NW, Washington, D. C. was listed as the person who would always know his address. The Description of Registrant was stamped Baltimore, Md. and thus probably applies to another registrant and the date is probably off by four years.

**Harvey Wade Crampton**, age 46, born 10/23/1895, was living in Sharpsburg, Md.<sup>144</sup> He was employed by Charles Edward Crampton, Sr. at odd jobs around Sharpsburg and he was listed as the person who would always know his address. He was 5' - 5" in height, 135 lbs, blue eyes, bald, with a light complexion and a scar on his right hand.

**PUBLIC SALE**  
 OF PROPERTY IN SHARPSBURG,  
 MARYLAND

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain mortgage dated April 17th, 1915, and duly recorded in Liber 152, folio 371, of the Land Records of Washington County, default having occurred in the covenants herein contained, and said mortgage being duly assigned to the undersigned for the purpose of foreclosure and collection, the undersigned Assignee will offer at public sale in front of the Charles F. Gross Store in the Public Square in Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, on

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH, 1943**  
 between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock p. m. All that one-half lot or parcel of ground situate on the Main Street in said Town of Sharpsburg, fronting 51 1/2 feet on said Main Street and extending back 266 feet, and is known and designated as Lot No. 160 on the plat of said Town, being the same that was conveyed to Nina L. Spong by Jesse O. Snyder, Trustee, by deed dated April 19, 1915, and duly recorded in Liber 152, folio 371 of the Land Records of said Washington County. This property is improved by a one and one-half story brick dwelling house, stable, hog pen and other necessary out-buildings. There is also a well and cistern on the premises.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Cash upon the ratification of sale.

**ELLSWORTH R. ROULETTE,**  
 Assignee for the purpose of foreclosure and collection.  
 H. S. Churcher, Auctioneer.

Samuel D. Spong continued to suffer financially as evidenced by his mortgage being reassigned on March 9, 1943 to Walter H. Snyder.<sup>145</sup> A few days later, March 15, 1943, the mortgage was reassigned to Ellsworth R. Roulette for the purpose of foreclosure and collection. Then, as shown in the adjacent newspaper article, the house was to be sold at public sale on Saturday, April 10th, 1943.<sup>146</sup> The sale did happen, resulting in \$985.00.<sup>147</sup>

On Aug. 9, 1945, Earl Spong was home on furlough and his wife gave him a

**"Spaghetti Supper Given Earl Spong.**

"Mrs. Earl Spong entertained at a spaghetti supper on Tuesday evening at Little Mike's Tavern honoring her husband Earl "Red" Spong, who is returning for duty with the Seabees after spending a 30-day furlough at his home here. He has been on duty in the South Pacific for nearly 2½ years.

"Supper guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Spong, Sgt. and Mrs. Le Roy G. Metz, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Colley, Mrs. Ella Snyder and Clarence Swope."<sup>148</sup>

John J. Fields died on Aug. 12, 1945 and was subsequently buried in Potomac United Methodist Church Cemetery, Potomac, Md.

An obituary remains to be found.

There was a legal problem in the family as reported:

**"Held For November Court On Breaking Entering Charge.**

"Vincent Spong, 30, South Potomac street, was ordered held in \$1,000 bond for the November term of Circuit Court by Magistrate M. V. B. Bostetter in City Court today when he was arraigned at a preliminary hearing charging him with breaking and entering the King Wine and Liquor Store on Salem avenue.

<sup>143</sup> WW II Draft Registration Card, Serial No. U3148, dated 3/18/1947.

<sup>144</sup> WW II Draft Registration Card, Serial No. U2175, dated 4/25/1942.

<sup>145</sup> Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Md., Deed Book 152, p. 371, recorded 5/2/1918.

<sup>146</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 3/27/1943, p. 9.

<sup>147</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Tuesday, 4/27/1943, p. 5.

<sup>148</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 1/31/1941, p. 7

"The case of Edward Steinmetz, who was also arraigned on the same charge, was dismissed when William F. Rickard, who confessed involvement in the breaking and entering, testified that Steinmetz had nothing to do with the case.

"Rickard, who is awaiting trial by the November Circuit Court, testified that Spong was a member of the gang which sought to break into the liquor establishment."<sup>149</sup>

The Spong farm came back into the news:

**"Farm Near Burnside Bridge Will Be Acquired In Battlefield Development.**

"Initial steps in a program that will eventually develop and bring into the Antietam battlefield site the former Spong farm of 120 acres, near Burnside bridge, and the abandonment of this famous span for traffic, were started this past week.

"Paul Younger, superintendent of the battlefield, said Tuesday that the program calls for construction of a new bridge above Burnside bridge and the rerouting of the highway over the new span. The historic Burnside bridge, scene of some of the interest fighting during the Battle of Antietam, will be preserved as a national shrine. It was felt that the old bridge could not continue to take the pounding that will result through the years of heavy traffic, so it is to be retired when the new one is completed.

"The first step in the master plan for bringing the Spong farm into the National Battlefield site are now under way. Some of the buildings on the farm are being razed. None of these, Superintendent Younger said, have any historic significance, having been erected since the battle.

"One of the first thing that will be done as soon as appropriations are made by Congress for continuing the work halted at the start of the war, is to fence the farm, construct walkways and perhaps a driveway to the highest point on the farm, as well as walkways and picnic grounds along Antietam creek.

"It was some years ago that the Washington County Historical Society purchased the Spong farm from funds derived from the Antietam Celebration, and presented the land, as well as old Burnside bridge to the National Park Service. It was necessary for the Historical Society to purchase the approaches to the bridges before the government would take it over, and the entire Spong farm was bought at that time, as one of the two approaches to the span was a part of that farm.

"It was over the Spong farm and adjacent land that some of the bitterest fighting during the Battle of Antietam took place. Some historians contend that in this one sector of the battlefield, which includes the Burnside bridge, the entire course of the Civil War was changed. Had Lee and his Confederate army been successful in their assault at that point, he might have driven on the Washington, the capital, contends one historian."<sup>150</sup>

Some good news was reported:

**"Miss Morrison Is Wed To Mr. Spong.**

"St. Paul's Methodist Is Scene Of Ceremony Thursday Evening. - The St. Paul's Methodist Church was the scene of a quiet but pretty wedding, Thursday evening at five o'clock, when Miss Helen V. Morrison, East Washington street, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Morrison, became the bride of Robert R. Spong, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert Spong.

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<sup>149</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Tuesday, 6/18/1946, p. 1.

<sup>150</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, 11/13/1946, p. 14.

The single ring ceremony was solemnized by the Rev. Harry C. Marsh in the presence of relatives and a few close friends.

"The bride was attired in a white gabardine suit with navy accessories and a corsage of red rosebuds. Miss Judith E. Browne, as the bride's only attendant, was attired in a coca brown suit with yellow accessories and a corsage of yellow rosebuds.

"Willis Spong, brother of the bridegroom, served as best man.

"Following the ceremony, a reception was given in honor of the couple by Mrs. Anne Conner, sister of the bridegroom, at her home on Summit avenue, after which the couple left for a wedding trip to New York City.

"For her going away outfit, the bride chose a gray suit with navy accessories. Mrs. Spong, a graduate of the Hagerstown Business College, is employed in the office of Montgomery Ward. Mr. Spong, who served in the U. S. Navy during the war, is now employed by Victor Products Corporation."<sup>151</sup>

In August 1947, a newspaper article mentioned that the parcel of land, where Samuel Spong occupied a one-room weatherboard house, was to be sold at public auction.<sup>152</sup>

On Dec. 2, 1950 Tena B. Spong held a public sale of her antique household furnishings plus her 12 room house, part brick and frame, all in first class condition.<sup>153</sup>

In August 1952 we read:

#### **"Bus Hits Pole Near Hancock**

"HANCOCK - Twenty-two passengers, most of them sleeping and consequently completely relaxed, escaped serious injury early yesterday when a Blue Ridge Lines bus left the road and smashed into a power pole.

"Only one of the passengers, Frank L. Benefield, 45, of 634 N. Street, NW, Washington, required hospitalization. His condition was described as 'very good' today at Berkeley Springs (W. Va.) Hospital where he was being treated for a broken knee cap.

"Police said the relaxed condition of the passengers, most of whom were sleeping, probably accounted for the fact that there were no serious injuries.

"Driver Earl M. Spong, Hagerstown, said something went wrong with the steering mechanism of the bus and he lost control temporarily on State Route 40, about three miles west of here."<sup>154</sup>

During Feb. 1954, Wayne W. Spong received an alternate appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy from Senator John Marshall Butler.<sup>155</sup> He was 20 years old and enrolled at Randolph Macon Academy at Front Royal, Va. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Spong, 1241 Potomac Avenue, Hagerstown.

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<sup>151</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 4/5/1947, p. 2.

<sup>152</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 8/29/1947, p. 27.

<sup>153</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 11/30/1950, p. 19.

<sup>154</sup> *Cumberland Evening Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Monday, 8/18/1952, p. 6.

<sup>155</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Tuesday, 2/23/1954, p. 16.

During June 1954, John T. O'Rourke married the widow Mary Brashears Spong Rohrer. They lived on W. Main Street, Sharpsburg, and he was a aircraft worker.<sup>156</sup>

Willis M. Spong made the newspapers:

**"Willis Spong Pulls 3 From Burning Auto.**

"A well known Hagerstown printer, Willis Spong, helped pull three men from a burning car along Route 40A on South Mountain yesterday about 4:15 p.m.

"Charles W. Eakle, 25, of Jefferson, Frederick County, was driver of the vehicle which went out of control while ascending the mountain. The car barely missed a sharp curve, hit a telephone pole, rolled into a ditch and caught fire.

"Eakle and the owner of the car, Ralph Smith of Burkettsville, were pinned against the right side of the car, which was held shut by the broken telephone pole. The car was lying on its left side, thus pinning the left hand door shut also.

"With windows and the windshield smashed, Spong saw the situation and worked to get the occupants out. Authorities had not yet arrived. Both occupants were dazed, but only one was slightly hurt.

"Trooper Robert L. Slorer, who investigated the accident, filed a charge of operating at a speed greater than reasonable against Eakle."<sup>157</sup>

Samuel D. Spong remained opinionated as indicated by the following story:

**"Two Old Sharpsburgers Not Happy About Registration.**

"The two old Sharpsburgers sat there in the warm spring sunshine, shaking their heads, arguing over an invasion of these modern times. 'No, I ain't goin' to register,' said 85-year-old Sam Spong. Robert Bender, 82, didn't allow as how 'It's a damn sight better'n lettin' any Tom, Dick and Harry come in and vote.' he bellowed.

"The question they argued - and most all of Sharpsburg - was the latest diction of the mayor, Elmer Koontz.

"Elmer had come out for everybody in town registering before they could vote. The Town Council had agreed with him. So the folks had to register to vote in the coming town election.

"A lot of the old timers didn't like it. A mighty proud lot, these people living virtually in the shade of Antietam and South Mountain, cornerstones of the Civil War. Many of them - and their fathers and grandfathers - had dedicated their lives to the old Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, now choked with weeds and saplings. They fought its closing back in '24 and they fought this registration business.

"Like Sam Spong. Oh, he votes in the state and national elections every time, he said proudly enough. But this business of registering to vote in a town election. Well . . .

"He paused then, and didn't say any more. Just sat on the porch down at the American Legion hall, fingering his 62-year-old banjo.

"The women seem a bit more excited about it. Most of the house-wives checked indicated they intended to get down and register to vote, even though they didn't before, when it was just a matter of walking down to the town hall and marking a ballot.

"Mrs. William Fournier was beaming with civic pride. She noted that in Keedysville, a neighboring town, 22 had registered. Here in Sharpsburg, the total was 33.

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<sup>156</sup> 1954 Sharpsburg, Maryland, City Directory, R. L. Polk & Co., p. 924.

<sup>157</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 1/7/1955, p. 1.

"Keedysville's population is 417. Sharpsburg's is 865.

"The town clerk, Mrs. Etta Hamilton, pointed out an inducement the women were aware of. The mayor wasn't requiring them to list their ages.

"They're pretty sure all the fuss and confusion will pass over."<sup>158</sup>

On July 11, 1956, Tena B. Spong died. Her obituary read:

**"Miss Tena B. Spong. -**

"Miss Tena B. Spong died at Providence Hospital, Washington, D. C., early yesterday of complications.

"Born and reared in Sharpsburg, she had lived in Washington for the past 25 years. Daughter of the late Mathias and Francis Benner Spong, Sharpsburg, she was the last member of her family.

"She is survived by a number of cousins.

"The body rests at the Hines Funeral Home, 14th Street, NW, Washington, where it may be viewed Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"It will be removed to the Leaf Funeral Home, Sharpsburg, at noon Friday and may be viewed until 1:30 Saturday when it will be taken to Trinity Lutheran Church, Sharpsburg, for services at 2 p.m., by Rev. Herbert Jones; interment in Mountain View Cemetery."<sup>159</sup>

The Spong farm purchase would not go away, as mentioned: "It was learned that years ago an Ohio committee of Civil War veterans of the 23rd Ohio McKinley Regiment made an offer of \$8,000 for the Spong farm near Burnside Bridge, Sharpsburg, which was purchased by the Washington County Historical Society for less than \$2,400."<sup>160</sup>

Vandals were a problem in Hagerstown as reported:

**"Vandals Prove Quite Irsome To This Firm.**

"Willis Spong of the job printing firm of Rudy and Spong, located at Charles Street and Forest Drive, is getting fed up with vandals or the person or persons bent on destroying his property.

"Early in December someone tossed a chunk of concrete at his \$150 electric clock that hangs in his building facing Jonathan Street. The chunk knocked out the light and otherwise damaged the big timepiece.

"Several weeks later a beer bottle just about finished off the clock and again police were called to check.

"Last night someone with either an air rifle or small caliber rifle, shattered a plate glass window, scattering glass over Mr. Spong's desk. Police are again investigating."<sup>161</sup>

Later in January 1960 a newspaper reported that a marriage license had been issued to George E. Elkins, 42, Hagerstown, and Elizabeth L. Spong, 44, Hagerstown.<sup>162</sup>

On March 24, 1960, Grace Amelia Sharar died, her obituary read:

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<sup>158</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, 5/2/1956, p. 24.

<sup>159</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 7/12/1956, p. 24.

<sup>160</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Monday, 2/16/1959, p. 10.

<sup>161</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Monday, 1/4/1960, p. 22.

<sup>162</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Monday, 1/25/1960, p. 7.

**” Grace Amelia Sharar.**

"Grace Amelia Sharar, widow of Walter R. Sharar, died Thursday evening at the Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home, where she had been a guest for the last six years.

"Born in Sharpsburg, she was the daughter of the late Josiah and Amelia Spong Hill.

"A former resident of Hagerstown, she taught for many years in the public schools of Washington County.

"She was a member of St. Paul's Methodist Church, the Flora B. Zeigler Bible Class, W. S. C. S., W. C. T. U., and the Byron-Schley Veterans Auxiliary.

"She is survived by a number of cousins.

"The body was removed to the Bast Funeral Home, Boonsboro, where services will be held Saturday at 2:30, the Rev. Dr. J. T. Spicknall officiating, assisted by Rev. D. H. Miller. Interment will be made in the Mountain View Cemetery, Sharpsburg."<sup>163</sup>

In October 1960, Samuel D. Spong reminisced about his time on the canal in a newspaper article:

**"Boatman Observes Birthday.**

"Samuel D. Spong, Sharpsburg's oldest gentleman and the oldest living Chesapeake and Ohio Canal boatman, marked another milestone in his long life Saturday, October 8, when he celebrated his 90th birthday.

"The nonagenarian, who still chews tobacco and takes an occasional drink of whiskey, was in fine fettle yesterday when a newspaper reporter called on him to wish him 'Harry Birthday.' He had celebrated on Saturday with his family had his only living sister, Mrs. Frank Moore of Brunswick, and tactfully reminded the newspaper representative that she was a day late with her best wishes and would have to wait another year to get in on 'the real celebration.'

"Mr. Spong, who still recalls his 34 years on the C&O as though they were only yesterday, lives with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Crampton, at 213 West Main Street in Sharpsburg. Another son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. O'Rourke, live next door, and his son, Thomas, resides close by. He has six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren who visit him frequently and who keep him informed of the many community activities in which he can no longer take an active part.

"Samuel, who manages to get around the house pretty well for his 90 years and who boasts that he still fries up a couple of eggs for breakfast when his daughters are gadding about, keeps abreast of the events of the world by reading the daily newspapers and watching his favorite television programs.

"However, he likes to regale his family and friends with tales of his days on the C&O, when, he reminds the young folks of today, he worked for the stupendous salary of \$8 a month. He worked night and day in those days - six hours on duty and six hours off - hauling coal and grain from Western Maryland down to Georgetown and bringing back lumber, fertilizer and other products.

"Sam steered a canal boat driven by a team of mules, and often took his family along on his trips up and down the old canal. However, tragedy struck his boat in October, 1915, and about a year later he quit the canal to take stay-at-home work in Sharpsburg. He had taken several of his children with him on a trip down to Georgetown and had tied his boat near the Capital Traction Company Power House, where a waste steam pipe burst and filled the cabin of Samuel's boat with steam. Before the family could escape, three children - Sarah, 6; Willard, 11; and John 13 - were scalded to death.

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<sup>163</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 3/25/1960, p. 40.

"Mr. Spong remembers quite well, too, how the mile-long tunnel near Paw Paw was built. The tunnel was started at both ends, he says, and was gradually joined in the center. The engineer for this project was John Fiske, whom he remembers.

"The Spong family is one of Sharpsburg's oldest families, the Spongs being among the first settlers in the Sharpsburg area. Three Spong brothers came to the United States from Germany, with Samuel's descendents settling in Sharpsburg, another in Ohio, and the third possibly in California. Samuel is the son of Delana and David Spong, who was also a C&O boatman. His wife, the former Nina Brashears of Sharpsburg, died 32 years ago.

"Sam is a charter member of the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company and is also its oldest member. Although he is no longer active in the company, he takes a keen interest in its activities. He is a banjo player of note, too, but has been forced by his advancing years to leave the music-making to younger members of his family."<sup>164</sup>



Samuel D. Spong died on Aug. 31, 1962 and was buried in the Mountain View Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md. The adjacent photograph, by Heisenberg, is of the Samuel D. and Nina L. Spong headstone. His obituary read:

**"Samuel David Spong.**

"Mr. Samuel David Spong, 205 Mechanic St., Sharpsburg, died Friday evening at his home, aged 92 years.

"Mr. Spong was the oldest living boatman of the C. & O. Canal, the son of David and Delano (Bowers) Spong, of Sharpsburg. He was a member of the Methodist Church, Sharpsburg.

"Surviving are children, Mrs. J. T. O'Rourke, Mrs. Henry Crampton, Mr. Thomas Spong, all of Sharpsburg; sister, Mrs. Ila Moore, Brunswick; six grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren.

"Funeral services will be held Monday at 2 p.m. at the Leaf Funeral Home in Sharpsburg, the Rev. Frederick E. Kurkowski officiating. Interment will be made in Mountain View Cemetery, Sharpsburg.

"The remains may be viewed at the funeral home from Sunday noon until the time of the service."<sup>165</sup>

Also in 1962 the Spong Farm was bought by the National Park Service as reported in the following story:

**"Civil War Era Troops Make Camp Near Burnside Bridge.**

"Between 200 and 300 people have already arrived at the bivouac area near Burnside Bridge to take part in the re-enactment of the Battle of Antietam this Saturday and Sunday.

"Dressed in Civil War era garb, they will camp on the old Spong Farm near Burnside Bridge until the re-enactment. About 1,000 are expected for the re-enactment.

"This area is open only to members of re-activated Civil War units taking part in the re-enactment, and their families.

"The Spong Farm was purchased for the National Park Service out of proceeds from the re-enactment on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam.

<sup>164</sup> *Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, 10/10/1960, p. 7.

<sup>165</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Saturday, 9/1/1962, p. 20.

"The bivouac area has been cleared by members of the National Park Service, inmates of the Maryland State reformatory for Males, and employees of Washington County.

"Each unit has its own special camp area. The Confederates camp in a separate area from the Union troops.

"A number of re-activated soldiers have brought their families. Their wives have hoop skirts and other costume of the era which they wear on appropriate occasions.

"Dress rehearsal for the battle will be Friday at 4 p.m. Minimum prices will be charged those who wish to watch the rehearsal. However, spectators are warned by Centennial authorities that it will be a rehearsal, with frequent interruptions and repetitions.

"During the rep-enactment itself, a photographers tower will be made available. Twenty feet high, 50-feet long, on two levels, it will have a capacity of 50. Tickets for the tower will be \$10 for each day. No photographers will be allowed on the re-enactment field for safety reasons and for reasons of authenticity."<sup>166</sup>

On Sunday, March 31, 1963, Ila L. Moore died; her obituary read:

**"Mrs. Ila L. Moore.**

"Mrs. Ila L. Moore, Brunswick, died Sunday at Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, aged 74 years.

"Born and reared in Sharpsburg, she was the daughter of the late David and Ann (Delaney) Spong. She was a member of First Methodist Church, Brunswick, and Order of Eastern Star, Chapter 97, of Brunswick.

"She is survived by relatives in this area.

"The body was taken to the Chevy Chase Funeral Home, 5101 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C., where services will be held Wednesday at 1 p.m. Burial will be made in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Washington, D.C."<sup>167</sup>

On March 14, 1967 Charles Richard Spong, Jr., of Germantown, Montgomery County, Maryland made his last will and testament.

In 1970 a newspaper reported: **"Willis Spong Plans to Re-Open,  
"Hopes Insurance Covers Fire Loss.**

"Willis Spong, 66, said this week he plans to re-open the Spong Printing Company at Charles St. and Forrest Drive, which was heavily damaged by fire early Saturday morning.

"He said he hopes his fire insurance will cover most of the damage. He is not sure about that yet.

"'If the community is going to allow me to stay here. fine.' he said. 'If not, I'll go some place else.'

"Spong said he first thought after the fire had been to give up and close the business. But he now wants to continue it in order to have something for his wife and daughter.

"'I'm the only union printer between Harrisburg, Pa., and Harrisonburg, Va., and between Baltimore and Cumberland.' Spong said. He said he has received about 200 telephone calls from organizations, customers and friends urging him to stay in business.

"Because he is a union printer, he does much of the printing of political campaign literature in this area.

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<sup>166</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, 9/12/1962, p. 1.

<sup>167</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Tuesday, 4/2/1963, p. 18.

"My first thought was to quit,' he said. 'But, thank God, I am very active. I used to lift weights and I've been active in athletics. Consequently, I'm physically in pretty good shape. So I hate to sit down in that old rocking chair and carry that fish pole over my shoulder. I want to keep on doing something.'

"He said he has received several offers of financial assistance from friends. 'But, I would prefer them to add their money to the \$1,000 reward offered by the mayor.' Spong said. 'Catching these people is the important thing. I'll eat cakes without beans, as they say, until I get back on my feet.'

"Spong employs six men, in addition to his wife, sister-in-law and himself. He said he has never employed a printer from the Jonathan St. community in his 21 years at the present location.

"The reason, he said, is that only one person from the Jonathan St. community has ever applied. This person had not taken his printer's course at the Washington County Vocational-Technical Center, Spong said, so he advised him to take the qualification test offered by the printer's union.

"He didn't know what became of that person, but he doubted he passed the test.

"Spong is a member of the printing advisory commission of the Vocational-Technical Center. He said he would consider hiring any person, black or white, who graduates from the printing course - provided the present economic recession eases up enough to enable him to hire more people.

"He has hired four different ex-convicts from the Maryland Correctional Institution over the years. The last one was discharged right after the fire, he said, for economic reasons.

"Spong said he hired an artist out of the Jonathan St. community in 1965 to do the art work in campaign literature for the Committee to Save the Light Plant. He was highly impressed with this man's work, he said, and understandably he has gone on to a successful career in advertising in Philadelphia.

"He said he is not influenced by race in hiring and firing.

"Spong does not blame the Jonathan St. community as a whole for the fire-bombing.

"You can't go out and kick the first colored person you see, and say, 'Why did you burn down my place?' He said, 'Some have come and expressed their regrets to me for what happened. They weren't just saying it. They were sincere and honest people I've known for a good many years. You can't blame those persons for the depredations of a few nitwits.'

"He also said, however, that he does not see how equal employment opportunity can be provided by plants that are burned down.

"The firebombing was the climax of a long series of vandalism and burglary incidents, Spong said.

"He has had so many burglaries, he stated, that his burglary insurance has been cancelled. 'It reached the point where the insurance company laughed when I called up.' Spong said. 'I got ashamed.'

"There were breaking and enterings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights of the week before the fire,' he said.

"Glass breakage has also been a serious problem,' he said, and his sign is painted on a brick wall because metal signs will not stay up.

"Destruction of property seems to be a countywide problem,' Spong said, 'and is not unique to businesses located in the vicinity of the Negro community.'

"Vandalism is being practiced as a sort of entertainment by a class of people who have no respect for material worth,' he said. 'I don't know what the young people are thinking of. If it is young people. Maybe, it's the middle aged people or the old people for all I know.'

"Spong said he always takes cash and moveable equipment home from the plant at night, and he did so on Saturday night.

"A crowd had gathered in the vicinity of the plant earlier Saturday night, and there were harsh words between the crowd and police, he said. But the crowd had gone home at the time the fire broke out, Spong stated.

"As far as he knows, he is covered by fire insurance. He noted that the fire was not the result of riot or mob action.

"Spong said he has been in the printing business all his adult life. He graduated from Hagerstown High School, and took night courses at business college. He worked as a printer for Hagerstown Bookbinding and Printing Company for 12 years, before going into partnership with Jacob E. Rudy in 1938 to start Rudy and Spong Printers.

"They moved to the present location in 1948 or 1949, he said, and Rudy died in 1950. He bought out the Rudy interest from the heirs, and, on the advice of lawyers, changed the name to Spong Printing about two years ago.

"He said it is important to catch the persons responsible for starting the fires.

"If this situation keeps up, no man is safe.' Spong said. 'No location is safe.'"<sup>168</sup>

Myrtle I. [Spong] Fields died on Feb. 23, 1976 and was buried in Potomac United Methodist Church Cemetery, Potomac, Md. An obituary remains to be found.

Vincent Spong died on July 5, 1976 and his obituary read:

**"Vincent Spong**

"WAYNESBORO, Pa., - Vincent G. (Skilley) Spong, 62, 42 Phillips Ave., died Monday in the Waynesboro Hospital.

"Born in Hagerstown, he was a son of the late Albert M. and Grace Bowers Spong.

"He was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Waynesboro and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's.

"He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Betty Irene Johns Spong; one son, Mason R. Spong, of New Orleans, La.; three brothers, Willis Spong of Wilmington, S.C., Earl M. Spong of Hagerstown, and Robert H. Spong of Keedysville, Md.; two sisters, Mrs. Naomi Murfree and Mrs. Robin Simpson both of Hagerstown; and two grandchildren.

"Burial office will be read and resurrection Eucharist will be celebrated Thursday at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The Rev. Edward J. Peck Jr. will officiate."

"Burial will be in Green Hill Cemetery."<sup>169</sup>

On July 6, 1977 Thomas D. Spong died and his obituary read:

**"Thomas D. Spong.**

"SHARPSBURG - Thomas David Spong, 78, 105 W. Main St., died Wednesday morning at the Washington County Hospital.

"Born in Sharpsburg, he was a son of Samuel D. and Nina Brashears Spong.

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<sup>168</sup> *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Friday, 7/24/1970, p. 13.

<sup>169</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Wednesday, 7/7/1976, p. 37.

"He was a member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and a charter member of the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company.

"He is survived by his wife, Pauline Adams Spong, and two sisters, Mrs. Mary O'Rourke and Mrs. Etta Crampton, both of Sharpsburg.

"Funeral Services will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Osborne Funeral Home, Sharpsburg. The Rev. G. Edward Whetstone will officiate.

"Burial will be in Mt. View Cemetery.

"Family will receive friends at the funeral home Friday evening from 7 to 9."<sup>170</sup>

Emma Mae Spong died in Oct. 1985. Her last address was 21227 Halethorpe St., Baltimore, Md. She was subsequently buried in the Reformed Graveyard, Shepherdstown, WV, where she was born. An obituary remains to be found.

The memories of three descendants are attached to this report, unabridged.

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<sup>170</sup> *The Morning Herald*, Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, Thursday, 7/7/1977, p. 33.

TABLE OF SPONG FAMILY STATISTICS

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
Leonard Spong	hus	±1750	±1770	±1838	Germany
Barbara	wife	?		-1790	
Mathias Spong, Sr.	hus	10/22/1770		10/8/1846	Maryland
<b>End of 1<sup>st</sup> Generation</b>					
Mathias Spong, Sr.	hus	10/20/1770		10/8/1846	Maryland
Catherine	wife	8/4/1772		9/4/1845	Maryland
Mathias Spong, Jr.	son	1791	6/10/1817	5/31/1829	Maryland
David Spong	son	10/12/1793	12/23/1819	2/18/1869	Maryland
Eleanor (Ellen) Spong (Morrow)	dau	1805	1/24/1826	1882	Maryland
Elias Spong	son	1810	1/8/1829	8/25/1833	Maryland
Isaac Spong	son	6/23/1817	never	3/6/1841	Maryland
<b>End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation</b>					
Mathias Spong, Jr.	hus	1791	6/10/1817	5/31/1829	Maryland
Sarah Shepherd	wife	1797		10/27/1837	Maryland
Irvin Spong	son				Maryland
Shepherd Spong	son				Maryland
Mathias Spong III	son	1821	3/9/1847		Maryland
Mary Emaline Spong	dau	5/15/1823		1/3/1871	Maryland
Sarah Ellen Spong (Billmyer)	dau	4/12/1827	7/17/1849	7/27/1910	Maryland
Joseph Thomas Spong	son	9/18/1829	infant	4/12/1833	Maryland
David Spong, Sr.	hus	10/12/1793	12/23/1819	2/18/1869	Maryland
Elizabeth Arnsberger	wife	1/1/1796		2/1/1851	Maryland
Henrietta Spong (Hill)	dau	7/15/1820	3/3/1849	6/1/1896	Maryland
Mary E. Spong (Bowers)	dau	1822		2/8/1899	Maryland
Samuel Welcome Spong	son	11/23/1825	7/5/1875	11/12/1921	Maryland
Ann E. Spong	dau	1829		7/1/1850	Maryland
Sabina Spong (Felker)	dau	2/1830	1859	1911	Maryland
Amelia Spong (Hill)	dau	11/5/1833	9/26/1859	6/17/1906	Maryland
David Spong, Jr.	son	5/14/1836	7/3/1862	7/28/1906	Maryland
Mathias B. Spong	son	11/1839	1/20/1876	2/21/1921	Maryland
John Weaver (1 <sup>st</sup> )	hus		11/17/1810	8/29/1821	Maryland
Elizabeth Harmon	wife	5/16/1791		10/17/1873	Maryland
Catherine Weaver	dau	7/8/1811	1/4/1829	3/17/1882	Maryland
Henry Wade (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	hus				Maryland
Elizabeth Harmon Weaver	wife	5/16/1791		10/17/1873	Maryland
Elias Spong (1 <sup>st</sup> )	hus	1810	1/8/1829	8/25/1833	Maryland
Catherine Weaver	wife	7/8/1811		3/17/1882	Maryland
John Luther Spong	son	2/20/1832	6/12/1856	7/2/1912	Maryland
Elias E. Spong	son	1832	5/31/1858	8/16/1918	Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
Edwin L. <b>Hebb</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	hus	10/27/1811	11/25/1837	5/26/1887	Maryland
Catherine Weaver <b>Spong</b>	wife	7/8/1811		3/17/1882	Maryland
<i>Mary Florence</i> <b>Hebb</b> (Hebb)	dau	7/15/1838	9/20/1859	2/9/1891	Maryland
<i>Richard Hanson</i> <b>Hebb</b>	son	10/27/1840	5/26/1865	7/29/1897	Maryland
<i>Helen C.</i> <b>Hebb</b> (Turner)	dau	1842	1/9/1872	3/10/1923	Maryland
<i>Clara Elizabeth</i> <b>Hebb</b> (Cox)	dau	1844	4/12/1864	5/27/1896	Maryland
<i>Edward Thomas</i> <b>Hebb</b>	son	5/25/1846	1/9/1868	12/10/1914	Maryland
<i>Emma Virginia</i> <b>Hebb</b> (Renner)	dau	6/6/1848	6/12/1867	9/13/1894	Maryland
<i>Joseph Richard</i> <b>Hebb</b>	son	1/9/1852	3/1/1876	2/2/1900	Maryland
<b>Hebb</b>	dau	8/1/1854	infant	1854	Maryland
<b>End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation</b>					
<b>Mathias Spong III</b>	hus	1821	3/9/1847		Maryland
<b>Susan Sulser</b>	wife	1828		Virginia	
<i>Martha</i> <b>Spong</b>	dau	1848			Maryland
<i>William</i> <b>Spong</b>	son	1850			Maryland
<b>William M. Hill</b> [Boatman]	hus	4/2/1826	3/3/1849	5/25/1895	Maryland
<b>Henrietta Spong</b>	wife	7/15/1820		6/1/1896	Maryland
<i>William Henry</i> <b>Hill</b>	son	1858	infant	1864	Maryland
<i>Mary Elizabeth</i> <b>Hill</b>	dau	1861	infant	1864	Maryland
<b>John Samuel Bowers</b>	hus	1820	12/12/1851	1870	New York
<b>Mary E. Spong</b>	wife	1822		2/8/1899	Maryland
<i>John Samuel</i> <b>Bowers</b>	son	1853		1936	Maryland
<i>Elizabeth C.</i> <b>Bowers</b>	dau	1858			Maryland
<i>Ida Annie</i> <b>Bowers</b>	dau	1859			Maryland
<b>Samuel Welcome Spong</b>	hus	11/23/1825	7/5/1875	11/12/1921	Maryland
<b>Ellen Arrietta Hall</b>	wife	1854		1908	California
<i>Stella</i> <b>Spong</b>	dau				California
<i>Charlotta Experience</i> <b>Spong</b>	dau	11/7/1878		11/14/1976	California
<b>Hiram Dorsey Felker</b>	hus	10/9/1835	1859	11/30/1909	Maryland
<b>Sabina Spong</b>	wife	2/1830		1911	Maryland
<i>Alva V.</i> <b>Felker</b>	son	12/1859			
<i>Elmer H.</i> <b>Felker</b>	son	12/19/1861		12/25/1945	Illinois
<i>Clyde</i> <b>Felker</b>	son	1866			Illinois
<i>Zelma</i> <b>Felker</b>	dau	1871			Illinois
<i>Etta</i> <b>Felker</b>	dau	1873			Illinois

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
Josiah <b>Hill</b> [Boatman]	hus	7/13/1831	9/26/1859	6/5/1901	Maryland
Amelia <b>Spong</b>	wife	11/5/1833		6/17/1906	Maryland
<i>Lilly Hill</i>	dau	10/27/1865	infant	5/2/1870	Maryland
<i>Grace Amelia Hill</i> (Sharar)	dau	12/15/1874		3/24/1960	Maryland
David <b>Spong, Jr.</b> [Boatman]	hus.	5/14/1836	7/3/1862	7/28/1906	Maryland
Ann Delaney <b>Bowers</b>	wife	2/8/1843		3/3/1917	Maryland
<i>Charles Richard Spong</i>	son	2/3/1863	10/8/1889	1/15/1934	West Va.
<i>William J. Spong</i>	son	1865			Maryland
<i>Annie Elizabeth Spong</i> (Smith)	dau	10/18/1866	10/9/1890	5/10/1924	Maryland
<i>Mary Etta Spong</i>	dau	3/24/1868	infant	11/26/1870	Maryland
<i>Samuel David Spong</i>	son	10/8/1870	1896	8/31/1962	Maryland
<i>Lucy H. Spong</i> (Colbert)	dau	1873			Maryland
<i>Nellie K. Spong</i> (Hines)	dau	1875			Maryland
<i>Henrietta Hill Spong</i> (Renner)	dau	2/15/1877			Maryland
<i>Albert M. Spong</i>	son	11/15/1882	1903	2/9/1942	Maryland
<i>Ila L. Spong</i> (Moore)	dau	12/1888	1906	3/31/1963	Maryland
Mathias B. <b>Spong</b> [Boatman]	hus	11/1839	1/24/1876	3/21/1921	Maryland
Ida Frances <b>Benner</b>	wife	12/25/1856		5/7/1931	Maryland
<i>Tena Blanche Spong</i>	dau	1/1877	never	7/11/1956	Maryland
John Luther <b>Spong</b>	hus	2/2/1832	6/7/1856	7/2/1912	Maryland
Julia <b>Roulette</b>	wife	10/18/1834		12/2/1902	Maryland
<i>Annie E. Spong</i>	dau	11/16/1856		8/12/1864	Maryland
<i>John R. Spong</i>	son	10/31/1861	infant	8/2/1864	Maryland
<i>Maggie R. Spong</i>	dau	11/22/1865	infant	8/12/1868	Maryland
<i>Mary F. Spong</i>	dau	1859			Maryland
<i>Ellen M. Spong</i> [Twin?]	dau	1864			Maryland
<i>Sarah E. Spong</i> [Twin?]	dau	1864			Maryland
<i>Rebecca Spong</i>	dau	1871			Maryland
<i>Jesse Spong</i>	dau	1874			Maryland
<i>Julia Spong</i>	dau	1876			Maryland
Elias E. <b>Spong</b> [Boatman]	hus	1832	5/31/1858	8/16/1918	Maryland
Martha Ellen <b>Fry</b>	wife	1840		1/31/1905	Maryland
<i>Melissa L. Spong</i>	dau	1860			Maryland
<i>Annie Kate Spong</i> (Reilly)	dau	6/4/1862	10/13/1884	1/31/1926	Maryland
<b>End of 4<sup>th</sup> Generation</b>					
Charles Richard <b>Spong, Sr.</b>	hus	2/3/1862	10/8/1889	1/20/1934	West Va.
Sarah Catherine <b>Muck</b>	wife	3/1870		1930	West Va.
<i>Mary Etta Spong</i> (Wade)	dau	7/9/1890	1908	12/10/1968	West Va.
<i>Charles Richard. Spong, Jr.</i>	son	5/17/1892		9/1/1968	West Va.
<i>Myrtle Irene Spong</i> (Fields)	dau	3/16/1894	6/2/1913	2/23/1976	Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
<b>Harry Spong</b>	son	9/2/1896	infant	3/3/1899	Maryland
<b>George W. Smith</b>	hus	3/1/1861	10/9/1890	1/7/1920+	Pennsylvania
<b>Annie Elizabeth Spong</b>	wife	10/18/1866		5/10/1924	Maryland
<b>Katherine Delaney Smith</b>	dau	8/26/1891	infant	9/12/1891	Maryland
<b>William Spong Smith</b>	son	9/5/1892		6/23/1903	Maryland
<b>Albert David Smith</b>	son	12/16/1899	infant	6/11/1900	Maryland
<b>Theodore Everett Smith</b>	son	2/26/1904		10/2/1975	Maryland
<b>Samuel David Spong</b>	hus	10/8/1870	1896	8/31/1962	Maryland
<b>Nina L. Brashears</b>	wife	1878		3/1928	Maryland
<b>Mary Brashears Spong</b> (Rohrer/O'Rouke)	dau	2/1/1897	1915 6/1954	11/13/1990	Maryland
<b>Thomas David Spong</b>	son	8/8/1898		7/6/1977	Maryland
<b>John Willett Spong</b>	son	4/11/1903		9/11/1916	Maryland
<b>Samuel Willard Spong</b>	son	8/15/1905		9/11/1916	Maryland
<b>Elta Faye Spong</b> (Long/Crampton)	dau	9/19/1907	twice	1/15/2003	Maryland
<b>Sarah A. Spong</b>	dau	8/29/1910		9/11/1916	Maryland
<b>Albert M. Spong</b>	hus	11/15/1882	1903	2/9/1942	Maryland
<b>Grace F. Bowers</b>	wife	8/1885		6/4/1941	Maryland
<b>Willis M. Spong</b>	son	5/9/1904		12/22/1997	Maryland
<b>Naomi B. Spong</b> (Burger/Murfree)	dau	1907		1999	Maryland
<b>Anna N. Spong</b> (Conner)	dau	7/21/1909		6/16/1954	Maryland
<b>Edna Rohn Spong</b> (Simpson)	dau	1/19/1912		4/1989	Maryland
<b>Vincent G. Spong</b>	son	4/25/1914		7/5/1976	Maryland
<b>Earl Marcus Spong</b>	son	5/31/1917		4/15/1993	Maryland
<b>Robert R. Spong</b>	son	4/19/1925	4/3/1947	4/15/2002	Maryland
<b>Oliver Thomas Reilly</b>	hus	3/11/1857	10/13/1884	6/17/1944	Maryland
<b>Annie Kate Spong</b>	wife	6/4/1862		1/31/1926	Maryland
<b>Eve Golden Reilly</b>	dau	10/19/1885		1/1966	Maryland
<b>Maud Laruna Reilly</b>	dau	6/13/1888			Maryland
<b>Martha Washington Reilly</b>	dau	2/22/1893			Maryland
<b>Anna Caroline Reilly</b>	dau	6/3/1897			Maryland
<b>End of 5<sup>th</sup> Generation</b>					
<b>Cleveland H. Wade</b>	hus	4/13/1886	1908	5/5/1971	Maryland
<b>Mary Etta Spong</b>	wife	7/9/1890		12/10/1968	Maryland
<b>Vivien Wade</b> (Booker)	dau	12/6/1913		1/11/2010	Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
<b>Charles Richard Spong, Jr.</b>	hus	5/17/1892		9/1/1968	West Va.
<b>Emma Mae Keller</b>	wife	2/1/1903		10/13/1985	West Va.
<i>Alice Virginia Spong</i> (Kidwell/Reid)	dau	7/30/1919	1936 11/29/1943	10/12/1959	Maryland
<i>Rosalie D. Spong</i> (Russell)	dau	12/26/1920	2/21/1948	12/15/1979	Maryland
<i>Charles David Spong</i>	son	12/10/1923	3/11/1950	5/24/1995	Maryland
<i>Elizabeth Rebecca Lorrain Spong</i>	dau	4/3/1930		2/16/2005	Maryland
<i>Floyd William Spong</i>	son	8/9/1934		10/1/2007	Maryland
<i>Mary Inez Spong</i> (Nuchols)	dau	1937	twice		Maryland
<b>John Joseph Fields</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> )	hus	3/12/1887	6/2/1913	8/12/1945	Maryland
<b>Myrtle Irene Spong</b>	wife	3/16/1894		2/23/1976	Maryland
<i>Catherine E. Fields</i> (Scafide)	dau	4/2/1914	1938	11/14/1977	Maryland
<i>Genevieve Fields</i> (Perry)	dau	1917			Maryland
<i>Lillian G. Fields</i>	dau	12/13/1917		12/29/2007	Maryland
<i>John Charles Fields</i>	son	5/9/1921		11/17/2013	Maryland
<i>Nellie M. Fields</i>	dau	1925		10/24/1963	Maryland
<i>Margaret Evelyn Fields</i> (Corbin)	dau	12/6/1926	7/1964	12/21/1998	Maryland
<i>William Lindy Fields</i>	son	5/22/1927		12/8/1997	Maryland
<i>Helen Jean Fields</i> (Helbert)	dau	6/29/1932	7/12/1976	12/18/1998	Maryland
<b>Charles William Muck</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	hus	10/12/1886		4/19/1973	West Va.
<b>Myrtle Irene Spong Fields</b>	wife	3/16/1894		2/23/1976	Maryland
<b>Everett Lee Rohrer</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> )	hus	8/31/1894	1915	7/10/1928	Maryland
<b>Mary Brashears Spong</b>	wife	2/1/1897		11/13/1990	Maryland
<i>Edward Max Rohrer</i>	son	11/19/1915		11/22/2007	Maryland
<i>Willard Lee Rohrer</i>	son	8/14/1921	1942	4/24/1965	Maryland
<i>Wanda Jane Rohrer</i> (Waters)	dau	6/23/1923		8/12/1995	Maryland
<i>Don LaVerne Rohrer</i>	son	5/5/1929		9/2/1974	Maryland
<b>John Thomas O'Rourke</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	hus	6/10/1907	6/1954	1/1983	Maryland
<b>Mary Brashears Spong Rohrer</b>	wife	2/1/1897		11/13/1990	Maryland
<b>Thomas David Spong</b>	hus	8/8/1898	1923	7/6/1977	Maryland
<b>Pauline O. Adams</b>	wife	10/13/1898		5/12/1985	Maryland
<b>Merle Daniel Long</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> )	hus	3/29/1906	1926	11/9/1965	Maryland
<b>Elta Faye Spong</b>	wife	9/19/1907		1/15/2003	Maryland
<i>Beverly L. Long</i>	dau	9/8/1927			Maryland
<i>Gerald L. Long</i>	son	10/16/1929		7/8/1996	Maryland

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died	Born in
Henry Wade <b>Crampton</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	hus	10/23/1895	1949	6/4/1976	Maryland
Elta Faye Spong <b>Long</b>	wife	9/19/1907		1/15/2003	Maryland
<b>Willis M. Spong</b>	hus	5/9/1904	1928	12/27/1997	Maryland
Helen M. <b>Packett</b>	wife	12/24/1904		1/2/1959	Virginia
<i>Wayne Willis Spong</i>	son	1/9/1934		12/6/1997	Maryland
<b>Vincent G. Spong</b>	hus	4/25/1914		7/5/1976	Maryland
Betty Irene <b>Johns</b>	wife				Maryland
<i>Mason R. Spong</i>	son				Maryland
Earl Marcus <b>Spong</b>	hus	5/31/1917	9/1936	4/15/1993	Maryland
Rhae Alice <b>Wolfe</b>	wife	9/11/1915		6/13/1995	Maryland
<i>Sidney R. Spong</i>	son	11/22/1938			Maryland
<b>End of 6<sup>th</sup> Generation</b>					
<b>Charles David Spong</b>	hus	12/10/1923	3/11/1950	5/24/1995	Maryland
Elaine Marie <b>Walton</b>	wife	3/1/1924		9/13/1996	Maryland
<i>David L. Spong</i>	son	1951			Maryland
<i>Richard Arnold (Rick) Spong</i>	son	8/12/1955		6/3/2011	Maryland
<i>Donna Marie Spong</i>	dau	1953			Maryland
Willard Leo <b>Rohrer</b>	hus	8/14/1921	1942	4/24/1965	Maryland
Phyllis Pauline	wife				Maryland
<i>Michael S. Rohrer</i>	son				Maryland
<i>Carolyn Rohrer</i> (Shaw)	dau	11/13/1947			Maryland

Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, MD, Deed Book K, p 695, 8/21/1766.

At the request of Leonard Spong, the following Deed was Recorded the 21st of August, 1766 to wit: This Indenture made this Sixteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty six between Joseph Chapline of Frederick County in the Province of Maryland of the one part and Leonard Spong of the same County and province aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Joseph Chapline for and in consideration of the sum of three pounds current money to him in hand paid by the said Leonard Spong the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained and sold and doth by these presents grant, bargain and sell unto the said Leonard Spong all the Lot or portion of ground in Sharpsburgh Town in Frederick County No. 129 containing one hundred and three feet in breadth and two hundred and six feet narrower in length with all profits, advantages and appurtenances to the said Lott or portion of ground belonging or appertaining. To Have and To Hold to him the said Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns forever to his and their own proper use and to no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever, yielding and paying unto the said Joseph Chapline his heirs and assigns for the said Lot three shillings and six pence sterling money of Great Britain on the ninth day of July yearly and every year from the ninth day of July one thousand seven hundred and sixty six thereafter and the said Joseph Chapline for himself and his heirs doth covenant and agree to and with the said Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns that he and they shall and may have, hold and peaceable enjoy and possess the said Lot of portion of ground and other the premises, yielding and paying the Rent aforesaid hereinbefore reserved and any Rent that may grow due to Lord Proprietary freely and absolutely discharge from all other claims, encumbrances and charges whatsoever. In Witness whereof the said Joseph Chapline hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed & delivered in presence of  
Jos. Smith, Peter Bainbridge

Joseph Chapline {Seal}

On the back of which Deed was this endorsed, to wit: August 16<sup>th</sup> day of 1766 received of the within mentioned Leonard Spong three pounds current money it being the consideration within mentioned as Witness my hand.

Joseph Chapline

Witness Jos. Smith, Peter Bainbridge

Frederick County, August the 16<sup>th</sup> day of 1766, Then came the within mentioned Joseph Chapline before us two of his Lordships' Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid and acknowledged the within Deed of land & premises therein mentioned to be the right of the within named Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns forever; at the same time from Rubamah Chapline wife of the said Joseph Chapline & with her free consent relinquished her right of dower to said Lott of land before Jos. Smith, Peter Bainbridge.

Received this 21st day of August 1766 of the within mentioned Leonard Spong one half penny sterling as an alienation fine on the within mentioned Lott or portion of ground by order of Edward Hay, Esquire, agent of his Lordship the Right Honorable the Lord Proprietary of Maryland.

John Darnell

Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, MD, Deed Book V, p 428, 5/13/1774.

At the request of Leonard Spong, the following Deed was Recorded the 13th day of May, Anno Domini 1774 to wit: This Indenture made this Second day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy four between Joseph Chapline of Frederick County and Province of Maryland of the one part and Leonard Spong of the same County and province aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Joseph Chapline for and in consideration of the sum of two pounds current money to him in hand paid by the said Leonard Spong the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained and sold and doth by these presents grant, bargain and sell unto the said [Leonard Spong] all the Lot or portion of ground in Sharpsburgh Town in Frederick County No. 127 containing one hundred and three feet in breadth and two hundred and six feet narrow or list in length with all profits, advantages and appurtenances to the said Lott or portion of ground belonging or appertaining. To Have and To Hold to him the said Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns forever to his and their own use and to no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever, yielding and paying unto Joseph Chapline his heirs and assigns for the said Lot three shillings and six pence sterling money of Great Britain on the ninth day of July yearly and every year from the ninth day of July one thousand seven hundred and seventy four thereafter and the said Joseph Chapline for himself and his heirs doth covenant and agree to and with the said Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns that he and they shall and may have, hold and peaceably enjoy and possess the said Lot of portion of ground and other the premises, yielding and paying the Rent aforesaid hereinbefore reserved and any Rent that may grow due to Lord Proprietary freely and absolutely discharged from all other claims, encumbrances and charges whatsoever. In Witness whereof the said Joseph Chapline hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed & delivered in presence of  
John Hill, Samuel Beall, Jr.

Joseph Chapline {Seal}

On the back of which Deed the following endorsements, to wit: April the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1774 received of [Leonard Spong] the sum of [three] pounds current money it being the consideration within mentioned as Witness my hand.

Joseph Chapline

Witness John Hill, Samuel Beall, Jr.

Frederick County, April 20<sup>th</sup> 1774, Then came the within mentioned Joseph Chapline, party to the within presents, before us the subscribers, two of his Lordships' Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid and acknowledged the within Deed of land & premises to be the right of the within named Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns forever.

John Hill, Samuel Beall, Jr.

Received 26 April 1774 of Leonard Spong one farthing sterling for an alienation fine on the within mentioned land by order of his Lordship Agent.

Wm. M. Beall

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book A, p 513, 4/10/1779.

At the request of Martin Long was the following Deed recorded April 10<sup>th</sup> 1779.

To wit: This Indenture made the 1st day of April 1779 between Leonard Spong of Sharpsburgh in Washington County & State of Maryland of the one part & Martin Long of the County & State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Leonard Spong for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred pounds current money of Maryland to him in hand paid by the said Martin Long, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained & sold & doth by these presents grant, bargain & sell unto the said Martin Long his heirs and assigns all that Lot or portion of ground in Sharpsburgh Town, Washington County as No. 127, containing 103 feet in breadth and 206 feet measured in length. With all profits, advantages and appurtenances unto the said Lot or portion of ground belonging or in any wise appertaining, to have & to hold to him the said Martin Long his heirs and assigns forever, to his and their own purposes and use thereof and to no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever, yielding and paying unto Capt. Jos. Chapline or his heirs or assigns for the said Lot the sum of 3s 6p sterling money of Great Britain on the 9th day of July yearly and every year hereafter from the day of the date of these presents & I the said Leonard Spong for himself and his heirs doth covenant & agree to and with the said Martin Long his heirs and assigns that he and they shall and may have, hold and peaceably enjoy & possess the said Lot or portion of ground & other the promise of yielding & paying the Rent as hereinbefore to referred and any Rent that may grow due to the Lord Proprietary freely & absolutely discharged from all the claims, encumbrances & charges whatsoever. In Witness whereof the said Leonard Spong hath hereunto set his hand & seal the day & year first above written.

Signed, sealed & delivered

In the presence of Joseph Chapline, C. W. Chruss

his

Leonard X Spong {Seal}

mark

On the back of the above Deed was the following endorsements: to wit April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1779 received of the within mentioned Martin Long the sum of 100£ current money it being the consideration within mentioned.

Witness Jos. Chapline, C. W. Chruss

his

Leonard X Spong

mark

Washington County, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1779, then came the within mentioned Leonard Spong before us, we being two of the State's Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, and acknowledged the within Deed and the land & promise therein mentioned to be the right & estate of the within named Martin Long his heirs and assigns forever. At the same time came Barbara Spong, wife to the said Leonard Spong, and being privately examined out of the hearing of her said husband and according to a statute of law in that case made & promised and hath relinquished & forever quit claim to all her rights of dower unto the within mentioned Lot & premises. Be and to Jos. Chapline.

C. W. Chruss

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book A, p 515, 4/10/1779.

At the request of Martin Long was the following Deed recorded April 10<sup>th</sup> 1779.

To wit: This Indenture made the 1st day of April 1779 between Leonard Spong of Sharpsburgh, Washington County & State of Maryland of the one part & Martin Long of the County & State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Leonard Spong for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred pounds current money of Maryland to him in hand paid by the said Martin Long, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained & sold & doth by these presents grant, bargain & sell unto the said Martin Long his heirs and assigns all that Lot and portion of ground in Sharpsburgh Town, Washington County aforesaid No. 129, containing 103 feet in breadth and 206 feet narrower or less in length. With all profits, advantages and appurtenances unto the said Lot or portion of ground belonging or in any wise appertaining, to have & to hold to him the said Martin Long his heirs and assigns forever, to the only proper use & behoof of him the said Martin Long, his heirs & assigns and to no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever, yielding and paying unto Capt. Jos. Chapline, Esq., his heirs or assigns for the said Lot 3s 6p sterling money of Great Britain on the 9th day of July yearly and every year hereafter from the day of the date of these presents. And the said Leonard Spong for himself and his heirs doth covenant & agree to and with the said Martin Long his heirs and assigns that he and they shall and may have, hold and peaceably enjoy & possess the said Lot or portion of ground. And other the promise of yielding & paying the Rent as hereinbefore to referred and any Rent that may grow due to the Lord Proprietary freely & absolutely discharged from all the claims, encumbrances & charges whatsoever. In Witness whereof the said Leonard Spong hath hereunto set his hand & seal the day & year first above written.

Signed, sealed & delivered	his
In the presence of Joseph Chapline, C. W. Chruss	Leonard X Spong {Seal}
	mark

On the back of the foregoing Deed was the following endorsements: to wit April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1779 received of the within mentioned Martin Long the sum of 100£ current money it being the consideration within mentioned.

Witness Jos. Chapline, C. W. Chruss	his
	Leonard X Spong
	mark

Washington County, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1779, then came the within mentioned Leonard Spong before us, we being two of the State's Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, and acknowledged the within Deed and the land & promise therein mentioned to be the right & estate of the within named Martin Long his heirs and assigns forever. At the same time came Barbara Spong, wife to the said Leonard Spong, and being privately examined out of the hearing of her said husband and according to a statute of law in that case made & promised and hath relinquished & forever quit claim to all her right of dower unto the said Lot & premises.

Be and to Jos. Chapline, C. W. Chruss

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book K, p 240, 6/10/1797.

At the request of Leonard Spong the following Deed recorded June 10<sup>th</sup> 1797.

This Indenture made this twenty eight day of April in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, between Solomon Miller of Washington County and State of Maryland of the one part, and Leonard Spong of the County and State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that he the said Solomon Miller for and in consideration of the sum of seventy five pounds [£] to him in hand paid by the said Leonard Spong the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, he the said Solomon Miller hath granted, bargained, sold, aligned and confirmed and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, align and confirm unto the aforesaid Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns one Lot or portion of ground situate in Sharpsburg Town in the County and State aforesaid and known and distinguished in the said Town plat by the number thirty four containing two hundred and six feet in length and one hundred and three feet in breadth together with the buildings, improvements and advantages to the aforesaid Lot or portion of ground belonging or in any wise appertaining. To have and to hold the aforesaid Lot or portion of ground and premises unto Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns forever to his and their own proper use, benefit and behoof; and to or for no other intent or purpose whatsoever he or they yielding and paying yearly and every year forever on the ninth day of July every year the annual rent or sum of three shillings and six pence sterling, money of Great Britain for the said Lot and premises unto Joseph Chapline his heirs and assigns the first payment to commence on the ninth day of July next ensuing the date hereof and the said Solomon Miller for himself and heirs doth hereby covenant, promise, grant and agree to and with the aforegoing Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns that he the said Leonard Spong and his heirs assigns the aforesaid Lot or portion of ground and premises unto the aforesaid Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns shall and will warrant and forever defend from, by or under him and against all persons claiming the same from, by or under him the said Solomon Miller of his heirs. In Witness whereof the said Solomon Miller hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal this day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered  
In the presence of  
Thos. Crampton, Wm. Good

Solomon Miller {Seal}

Received April the twenty eight 1798 of the within named Leonard Spong the sum of seventy five pounds current money it being the consideration money within mentioned.

Received by me Solomon Miller

Thos. Crampton, Wm. Good

Maryland, Washington County: On the twenty eight day of April 1797 came the within named Solomon Miller before we the subscribers two of the Justices of the Peace for said County and acknowledged the aforegoing instrument of writing to be his act and deed for the use and purposes within mentioned and the Lot and portion of ground and premises therein mentioned to be the right and estate of the aforesaid Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns forever.

Thos. Crampton

Wm. Good

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book P, p 187, 7/21/1803.

At the request of Mathias Spong the following Deed recorded July 21<sup>st</sup> 1803.

This Indenture made this twenty first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three between Leonard Spong of Washington County and State of Maryland of the one part and Mathias Spong of the County and State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Leonard Spong, as well for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which he hath and beareth unto the said Mathias Spong or for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings current money to him in hand paid the receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge hath granted, bargained, sold, aligned and confirmed and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, align and confirm unto him the said Mathias Spong his heirs and assigns all that Lot or portion of ground situate in the Town of Sharpsburgh in the County and State aforesaid known and distinguished in the plot of said Town by the number thirty four and containing two hundred and six feet in length and one hundred and three feet in breadth more or less together with the buildings and improvements thereon or therewith belonging or in any wise appertaining to the said Lot and premises hereinbefore granted. To have and to hold the aforesaid Lot or portion of ground and premises unto the said Mathias Spong his heirs and assigns forever to his and their own proper use, benefit and behoof and to and for no other intent or purpose whatsoever he or they yielding and paying yearly and every year forever on the ninth day of July the annual rent or sum of three shillings and six pence sterling money of Great Britain for the said Lot and premises unto Joseph Chapline his heirs and assigns the first payment to commence on the ninth day of July next ensuing the date hereof and the said Leonard Spong for himself and heirs doth hereby covenant, promise, grant and agree to and with the aforesaid Mathias Spong his heirs and assigns that he the said Leonard Spong his heirs and assigns the aforesaid Lot or portion of ground and premises, unto the aforesaid Mathias Spong his heirs and assigns shall and will warrant and forever defend by, from or under him, them or any of them and against all persons whatsoever. In Witness whereof the said Leonard Spong hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year within written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered  
in the presence of  
Adam Ott, Robert Douglass

his  
Leonard X Spong  
mark

Maryland, Sct: Be it remembered that on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and three, personally appeared before us the subscribers two Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid duly commissioned and Qualified, Leonard Spong the party grantor within mentioned and acknowledged the within Deed or instrument of writing to be his act and deed and the Lot or portion of ground and premises therein mentioned and thereby bargained and sold to the right and estate of the within named Mathias Spong his heirs and assigns forever agreeably in such case made and provided.

Acknowledged before us Adam Ott, Robert Douglass

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book S, p 797, 6/29/1807.

At the request of Paul Grove, the following Deed recorded June 29, 1807, to wit.

This Indenture was made this eleventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seven between Mathias Spong of Washington County and State of Maryland of the one part and Paul Grove of the County and State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Mathias Spong for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred dollars current money of the United States to him in hand paid by the said Paul Grove before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof he the said Mathias Spong doth hereby acknowledge, hath granted, bargained, sold, aliened and confirmed and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, alien and confirm unto the said Paul Grove, his heirs and assigns, all that Lot or portion of ground situate in the Town of Sharpsburgh in the County and State aforesaid known and distinguished in the plat of said Town by number thirty four and containing two hundred and six feet in length and one hundred and three feet in breadth together with the buildings and improvements thereon or thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining to the said Lot and premises hereinbefore granted. To have and to hold the aforesaid Lot or portion of ground and premises unto the said Paul Grove, his heirs and assigns forever, to his and their own proper use, benefit and behoof and to or for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever, he or they yielding and paying yearly and every year forever on the ninth day of July the annual rent or sum of three shillings and six pence sterling money of Great Britain for the said Lot and premises unto Joseph Chapline, his heirs and assigns, the first payment to commence on the ninth day of July next ensuing the date hereof and the said Mathias Spong for himself and heirs doth hereby covenant, promise, grant and agree to and with the aforesaid Paul Grove, his heirs and assigns, that he the said Mathias Spong his heirs and assigns the aforesaid Lot or portion of ground and premises unto the aforesaid Paul Grove his heirs and assigns shall and will warrant and forever defend by, from or under him, them or any of them and against all persons claiming whatsoever. In Witness whereof the said Mathias Spong hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year within written.

Mathias Spong, (in German) {Seal}

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us John Good & George Smith.

Received on the day of the date of the within Deed of and from the within named Paul Grove the sum of three hundred dollars current money of the United States being the consideration money in the said Deed.

Mathias Spong, (in German)

Witness John Good & George Smith.

Washington County, to wit: On this eleventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seven, personally appeared Mathias Spong of Washington County being the party grantor above named, before us two Justices of the Peace and acknowledged the within Deed or instrument of writing to be his act and deed and the land and premises therein mentioned and thereby granted, bargained and sold to be the right and estate of the within named Paul Grove party grantee also therein named his heirs and assigns forever according to the perfect true intent and meaning of the said Deed or instrument of writing and the Acts of Assembly in such case made and provided and now at the same time also personally appeared Catherine Spong, wife of the said Mathias Spong, before us two of the Justices aforesaid and acknowledged the said Deed or instrument of writing to be her act and deed and the land and premises therein

mentioned to be the right and estate of the within named Paul Grove, his heirs and assigns, forever and the said Catherine Spong being by us privately examined apart from and out of the hearing of her husband whither she doth make her acknowledgement of the same willingly and freely and without being induced thereto by fear or threats of, or ill usage by her husband of fear of his displeasure, acknowledge that she doth make her acknowledgement of the same willingly and freely and without being induced thereto by fear or threats of or ill usage by her husband or fear of his displeasure.

Acknowledged before John Good & George Smith

Maryland, Register of Wills Records, Washington County, Wills 1815-1831, Vol. C., p. 271.

In the name of God, Amen: I, Sarah Spong, of Washington County in the State of Maryland, being sick and weak in body but sound in mind and memory, Considering the Certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof and being desirous to settle my worldly affairs and thereby be the better prepared to leave this world when it shall please God to call me hence do therefore make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say. First and principally I commit my soul unto the hands of Almighty God and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executor hereinafter named and after my debts and funeral charges are paid I devise and bequeath as follows:

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Emaline Spong one bed worth thirty dollars and unto my daughter Sarah Ellen Spong one bed worth thirty dollars and I also bequeath to my two daughters my two copper kettles and I wish my daughter Sarah also to have six tea spoons. I bequeath unto Ann Hammond, wife of Thomas Hammond, my young muley cow & all the balance of my property I wish my Executor to sell at public sale and divide it among my children, share and share alike, that is to say unto my son Ervin Spong one share and unto my son Shepherd Spong one share and unto my son Mathias Spong one share and unto my daughter Mary Emaline Spong one share and unto my daughter Sarah Ellen Spong one share and lastly I do hereby Constitute and appoint Jacob Rohrback Executor of this my last will and testament, revoking and annulling all former wills by me heretofore made and confirming this and none other to be my last will and testament, in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this fourteenth day of October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty seven.

her  
Sarah + Spong {Seal}  
mark

Signed, sealed, published and declared by Sarah Spong the above named Testator as and for her last will and testament in the presence of us who at her request, in her presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto:

David Grove

George Edwards

Jacob Piper

Washington County, to wit: On this 4th day of Nov. 1837 came Jacob Rohrback and made oath &c. that this is the true and whole will of Sarah Spong, late of said County, deceased, that hath come to his hands and possession and that he doth not know nor hath he heard of any other. And at the same time came Jacob Piper & Sam'l Grove and made oath &c. that they did see the testator named in this will sign and seal the same, that they heard her publish, pronounce and declare the same to be her last will and testament, that at the time of her so doing she was to the best of their apprehension of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, that they subscribed their names as witnesses to this will in the presence and at the request of the testator and in the presence of each other.

Certified by

Dan'l Schnebly, Reg.

Maryland, Register of Wills Records, Washington County, Inventories 1835-1839, Vol. K., p. 517.

The State of Maryland, to John Miller (of John) and John M. Knode, Greetings: This is to authorize you jointly to appraise the goods, chattels and the personal estate of Sarah Spong, late of Washington County, deceased, so far as they shall come to your sight and knowledge, each of you first having taken the oath or affirmation hereunto annexed, a certificate whereof you are to return, annexed to an inventory of the said goods, chattels and personal estate by you appraised, in dollars and cents, and in the said inventory, you are to set down in a column or columns, opposite to each article the value thereof. Witness, Thomas Kelly, Esq., Chief Judge of the Orphan's Court of Washington County, this Fourth day of Nov. in the year Eighteen hundred and thirty seven.

Dan'l Schnebly, Register of Wills, Washington County

We, John Miller, of John, and John M. Knode do swear that we will well and truly, without partiality or prejudice, value and appraise the goods, chattels and personal estate of Sarah Spong, late of Washington County, deceased, so far as the same shall come to our sight and knowledge, and will in all respects perform our duty as appraisers, to the best of our skill and judgment, SO HELP US GOD.

John Miller, of John, Appraiser  
John M. Knode, Appraiser

I hereby certify that the foregoing oath was taken and subscribed by the said John Miller, of John, and John M. Knode before the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for Washington County, duly commissioned and qualified according to law, this seventh day of November 1837.

David Smith, a Justice of the Peace for Washington County

A true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the goods, chattels and personal estate of Sarah Spong, late of Washington County, deceased, appraised by us the subscribers, each of us having been first lawfully authorized and duly sworn, as will be seen by the annexed certificate.

2 Beds willed to Emaline & Sarah Ellen	\$60.00
1 Copper Kettle willed to each	10.00
1 set silver tea spoons willed to Sarah Ellen	4.00
1 White cow willed to Mrs. Ann Hammond	12.00
1 Bedstead & Bedding \$12, Bed Clothing \$10.	22.00
1 Bureau \$4.00, 1 Stove \$8.00, 1 Sat of Carpet \$10.00, William	22.00
Curtains \$2.00, 1 small table & looking glass 25 cts.	2.25
1 work Basket 12 cts., 1 safe & chest \$4.00, 2 Tables \$4.00	8.12
Mantle clock \$6.00, 1 lot chairs \$5.00, new bureau \$3.00	14.00
1 lot Books \$2.00, 2 spinning wheels 75 cts.	2.75
1 Bedstead & bedding \$4.00, 1 Ditto \$6.00, 2 Ditto \$14.00	24.00
2 Coverlets \$10.00, 2 unfinished Quilts \$1.00, 1 lot of dried apples \$5.00	16.00
1 wool wheel & Reed \$1.00, 1 chest 25 cts., 18 pots apple butter \$6.00	7.25
Candle & basket &c. \$1.50, 3 Buckles \$1.50, 1 lot of thread \$1.50	4.50

2 knives 50 cts., 1 side saddle \$3.00, 1 lot of sundries \$3.00	6.50
1 lot of salt \$1.50, 1 half bushel 50 cts., 2 pr. Slutyards \$1.00	3.00
1 lot kitchen furniture & sundries \$15.00, barrels \$8.00	23.00
1 lot of potatoes \$3.00, 1 lot of sundries \$3.50, 1 cross cut saw \$1.50	8.00
Mall & 2 picks 75 cts., 2 wheelbarrows & spades 75 cts.	1.50
Chiller trough & dry hods 28 cts., 2 Welles & axe \$1.00	1.25
1 Wagon \$8.00, 1 Skid & double tree \$1.00, 1 lot Gears \$4.00	13.00
1 lot Corn \$100.00, 1 lot Millet \$10.00, 1 lot Rye \$10.00	120.00
1 Sorrel Mare \$30.00, 1 Brown Mare \$15.00, 1 White bull \$10.0	55.00
1 Red cow \$15.00, 1 White cow \$15.00, 1 small heifer \$10.00	40.00
1 Calf \$4.00, 18 pigs \$75.00, 13 shouts \$18.00	97.00
1 Sow & 8 pigs \$7.00, 1 lot Rye straw 50 cts.	7.50
1 lot of wheat in straw \$50.00, 1 lot out \$30.00	80.00
82 acres of wheat in the ground \$75.00, Winter Rye in ground	125.00
1 lot of poultry \$15.00, Mattocks & hoes 75 cts.	15.75
3 ploughs & harrows, &c. \$5.00, 1 lot fodder \$6.00	11.00
Hammers & tongs 25 cts., Tool & Chop chest 50 cts.	.75
2 Sheep \$3.00	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$820.12

Lot of corn sent to Georgetown supposed 87 bushels.

We the subscribers do certify that the foregoing is a true and just inventory and valuation of all and singular the goods, chattels and personal estate of Sarah Spong, late of Washington County, deceased, so far as the same has come to our sight and knowledge and as appraised by us according to the best of our skill and judgment. In testimony whereof we hereunto set our hands and seals this seventh day of November in the year Eighteen hundred and thirty seven.

John Miller, Of John {Seal}

John M. Knode {Seal}

Jacob Rohrback, Executor

Washington County, to wit: On this 8th day of November 1837, came Jacob Rohrback and made oath that the annexed and foregoing is a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods and chattels of Sarah Spong, late of said County, deceased, that had come to his hands and possession at the time of making thereof. That what hath since or shall hereafter come to his hands and possession he will return in an additional inventory that he knows no concealment of any part or parcel of the said deceased's estate by any person whatsoever, and that should he hereafter hear of any concealment or suspicion of concealment he will acquaint the Orphan's Court therewith, that it may be inquired into according to law.

Certified by, Dan'l Schnebly, Register.

Maryland, Register of Wills Records, Washington, Minutes and proceedings 1834-1847, Vol. 1835., p. 106.

The Court met Tuesday, June 20th, [1837] agreeable to adjournment. Those present: Thomas Keller, Esq., William Gabby, Esq., Alexander Neill, Esq., John Howard, Crier.

On application of Sarah Spong, Guardian to her minor heirs, It is ordered by the Court that commission issue to Jacob Miller and Wm. Closs to ascertain the amount owed of the Real Estate of said Wards.

Maryland, Register of Wills Records, Washington, Minutes and proceedings 1834-1847, Vol. 1835., p. 115.

The Court met Tuesday, Nov. 14th, 1837. The Court met agreeable to adjournment. Were present: Wm. Gabby, Esq., Alexander Neill, Esq., John Howard, Crier. Tuesday being unpleasant and snowing, Mr. Keller did not attend.

On application, It is ordered by the Court that Sarah Spong be and she is hereby allowed the sum of Fifty eight dollars and eighty cents for the support, maintenance & education of Irwin Spong her ward, and the same for Shepherd, Mathias, Emeline & Sarah E. Spong in the account settled by Jacob Rohrback, Executor of said Sarah Spong, deceased, who was the former Guardian.



Maryland, Register of Wills Records, Washington County, Administration Accounts 1847 - 1849, Vol. 15, p. 89.

The 1<sup>st</sup> account of David Spong, Executor of Mathias Spong, late of Washington County, deceased.

This accountant charges himself with the amount of a List of Sales of the personal estate of the deceased. \$121.35

And he claims a credit for the following sums, to wit:

of money paid James Mason, per receipt	\$5.88	
of money paid James Mason, per receipt	2.12	
of money paid Isaac Nesbitt	.50	
of money paid Elie Niatt	2.00	
of money paid Dan Grimm	2.00	
of money paid Richard Moore	8.00	
of money paid James Mason	1.23	
of money paid John Hine	2.00	
of money paid Jacob Rohrback	2.00	
of money paid Edwin Bell	1.00	
of money paid Mary Ground, judgment in part	40.00	
of 10 percent commission on \$131.35	13.13	
of money paid Register fees	2.65	
	<hr/>	
	82.51	121.35
Balance due the estate to be charged in next account		<hr/> \$48.84

Amount of state tax on Commission \$1.31

Washington County, to wit: On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1848 came David Spong, Executor of Mathias Spong, deceased, & made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that the aforegoing account as stated is just & true & that he has paid or secured to be paid the same for which he claims a credit. Whereupon after an examination by the Court is passed the same day.

Test: James Mason, Register

Maryland, Register of Wills Records, Washington County, Administration Accounts 1849 - 1852, Vol. 16, p. 224.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> account of David Spong, Executor of Mathias Spong, late of Washington County, deceased.

This accountant charges himself with the balance of 1 <sup>st</sup> account:	\$48.84
Also with interest on the same from the 18 <sup>th</sup> day of January 1848	<u>6.64</u>
	\$55.48

And he claims credit for the following sums, to wit:

of money paid John Miller, per receipt	\$2.81
of this sum being balance paid on judgment in favor of Mary Ground	87.31
of money paid Z. S. Claggett, costs	7.91
of money paid D. Smith, Sliff on execution, including costs	348.69
of money paid Dr. A. A. Biggs	33.18
of money paid Register, Fees	<u>1.90</u>
	<u>\$481.81</u>
	<u>\$55.48</u>
Balance due Executor	\$426.33

Washington County, to wit:

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 1850, came David Spong, and made oath on the Holy Evangelical of Almighty God that the foregoing account as stated is just and true, and that he has bona fide paid or secured to be paid the particular sums for which he has claimed a credit.

Sworn before James mason, Register

Approved by the Court and ordered to be recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1850

Test. James Mason, Register

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 13, p 449, 12/4/1858.

At the request of Henry Tho. Weld, the following Mortgage was recorded December 4<sup>th</sup> 1858.

This Indenture, made this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November eighteen hundred and fifty eight, between William M. Hill of Washington County, State of Maryland of the first part, and Henry Thomas Weld, of Allegany County, State of Maryland, of the second part. Whereas, the said Henry Thomas Weld has this day sold to the said William M. Hill the Canal Boat called Albert H. Bradt at and for the sum of Fifteen hundred and thirty dollars, which the said [William M. Hill] is to pay unto the said Weld and his assigns, the balance of the purchase money, in installments of Forty dollars each, for the first twenty trips and thirty five dollars each, for every subsequent trip, full interest to be paid at each trip regularly from the beginning for every trip made by said boat from Cumberland to Georgetown, Alexandria or Washington City, until the entire balance of said purchase money is paid, with interest thereon from this date, crediting the respective payments thereon, as of the time when such payments shall be made. And Whereas, it was a part of said contract of purchase and sale between the said Hill and the said Weld, that the said Hill shall use the said boat in freighting Coal from Cumberland to the points aforesaid, in regular trips, with as much expedition and regularity as can be reasonably done; and to receive the loads of the said boat promptly at each trip with the coal of such company or person as the said Weld shall direct; and to freight the same at the lowest current rates which shall be paid by the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company, the Borden Mining Company, and the Allegany Mining Company, and keep said boat in proper repair; all of which said stipulations the said Hill hereby covenants and agrees with the said Weld and his assigns to fulfill and perform. Provided always, that if said Weld should not be prepared with coal within twenty four hours of the boat being reported by the captain as ready to receive her load, then the said Hill to have the right of loading wherever he chooses for that trip; provided the detention is not caused by a glut of boats, in which case all must take their turn. And Whereas, the said Hill is anxious to secure [unto] the said Weld and his assigns, the regular and due payment of each and every installment of said purchase money; and also to secure to the said Weld and his assigns, the regular, prompt and due performance of the covenants aforesaid, and the said Hill is willing to execute these presents. Now, this Indenture Witnesseth, that the said William M. Hill for and in consideration of the premises, hath granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents doth grant, bargain and sell unto the said Henry Thomas Weld, his executors, administrators and assigns, the Canal Boat called Albert H. Bradt to have and to hold the same unto the said Henry Thomas Weld, his executors, administrators and assigns forever. Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of these presents, that if the said Hill shall well and truly pay unto said Weld, his executors, administrators or assigns, the aforesaid installments of purchase money, upon each and every trip as aforesaid, until the whole purchase money, with the interest as aforesaid, shall be fully paid; and if the said Hill shall well and truly do and perform all the covenants on his part to be done and performed, as set forth in this mortgage, then this instrument of writing and every matter and thing herein contained shall cease and be utterly null and void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in law. And this instrument further Witnesseth, that it is mutually agreed between the parties aforesaid, that in case of any default upon the part of the said Hill to make regular payments on account of said purchase money, as herein provided, or in case of a failure to make regular trips as aforesaid with said boat, or in case of a refusal or neglect on the part of the said Hill to freight for the company or person

designated by said Weld, or in case of a failure or neglect to use all diligence, care and skill in making such trips with said boat, as before mentioned, or in case said boat is not kept in proper repair, or in case of a failure to perform any of the stipulations or recitals in this mortgage named, to be done and performed on the part of said Hill, then, and in either event, the said Henry Thomas Weld, or his assigns, is hereby authorized to take immediate possession of said boat, and after ten days public notice thereof in a newspaper printed in the City of Cumberland, to sell said canal boat at public sale, as mortgagee, to the highest bidder for cash or on credit; and out of the proceeds of such sale pay first the expenses of such sale and advertisement, and then the balance due to said Weld, or his assigns, of said purchase money and interest. In Witness whereof the said William M. Hill hath hereunto subscribed his name and affixed his seal, on the day and year first above written.

Teste: Andrew Gonder, Tho. Sheridan

William M. Hill {Seal}

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify, that on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1858, before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for said county, personally appeared William M. Hill and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his act and deed.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: Be it remembered, and it is hereby certified, that on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1858, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Allegany county, personally appeared Henry Thomas Weld, the mortgagee in the foregoing mortgage, and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, that the consideration set forth in the foregoing mortgage is true and bona fide, as herein set forth. In Witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name on the day and year aforesaid.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify that Andrew Gonder Esquire, before whom the acknowledgement was made, and whose genuine signature appears thereto, was at the time thereof, one of the Justices of the Peace of the said State, in and for the county aforesaid, duly commissioned and qualified.

In Testimony whereof, I herewith subscribe my name and affix the Seal for the Circuit Court for said County, at Cumberland, this third day of December 1858.

{Seal}

Horace Resley, Clerk  
of the Circuit Court for Allegany County

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 15, p 228, 9/21/1860.

At the request of Henry Tho. Weld, the following Mortgage was recorded September 21<sup>st</sup> 1860.

This Indenture, made this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September eighteen hundred and sixty, between Josiah Hill of Washington County, State of Maryland of the first part, and Henry Thomas Weld, of Allegany County, State of Maryland, of the second part. Whereas, the said Henry Thomas Weld has this day sold to the said Hill the Canal Scow called John Hill at and for the sum of Fifteen hundred dollars, which the said Hill is to pay unto the said Weld and his assigns, in installments of forty five dollars each, with interest for the first twenty trips and thirty five dollars with interest for every subsequent trip, the accruing interest to be paid regularly at each trip from the beginning for every trip made by said boat from Cumberland to Georgetown, Alexandria or Washington City, until the entire of said purchase money is paid, with interest thereon from this date, crediting the respective payments thereon, as of the time when such payments shall be made. And Whereas, it was a part of said contract of purchase and sale between the said Hill and the said Weld, that the said Hill shall use the said boat in freighting Coal from Cumberland to the points aforesaid, in regular trips, with not less than four head of stock at all times, with as much expedition and regularity as can be reasonably done; and to receive the loads of the said boat promptly at each trip with the coal of such company or person as the said Weld shall direct; and to freight the same at the lowest current rates which shall be paid by the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company, the Borden Mining Company, and the Allegany Mining Company, and keep said boat in proper repair; all of which said stipulations the said Hill hereby covenants and agrees with the said Weld and his assigns to fulfill and perform. Provided always, that if said Weld should not be prepared with coal within twenty four hours of the boat being reported by the captain as ready to receive her load, then the said Hill to have the right of loading wherever he chooses for that trip; provided the detention is not caused by a glut of boats, in which case all must take their turn. And Whereas, the said Hill is anxious to secure unto the said Weld and his assigns, the regular and due payment of each and every installment of said purchase money; and also to secure to the said Weld and his assigns, the regular, prompt and due performance of the covenants aforesaid, and the said Hill is willing to execute these presents. Now, this Indenture Witnesseth, that the said Hill for and in consideration of the premises, hath granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents doth grant, bargain and sell unto the said Henry Thomas Weld, his executors, administrators and assigns, the Canal Boat called John Hill, to have and to hold the same unto the said Henry Thomas Weld, his executors, administrators and assigns forever. Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of these presents, that if the said Hill shall well and truly pay unto said Weld, his executors, administrators or assigns, the aforesaid installments of purchase money, upon each and every trip as aforesaid, until the whole purchase money, with the interest as aforesaid, shall be fully paid; and if the said Hill shall well and truly do and perform all the covenants on his part to be done and performed, as set forth in this mortgage, then this instrument of writing and every matter and thing herein contained shall cease and be utterly null and void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in law. And this Instrument further Witnesseth, that it is mutually agreed between the parties aforesaid, that in case of any default upon the part of the said Hill to make regular payments on account of said purchase money, as herein provided, or in case of a failure to make regular trips as aforesaid with said boat, or in case of a refusal or neglect on the part of the said Hill to freight for the company or person designated by said Weld, or in case of a failure or

neglect to use all diligence, care and skill in making such trips with said boat, as before mentioned, or in case said boat is not kept in proper repair, or in case of a failure to perform any of the stipulations or recitals in this mortgage named, to be done and performed on the part of said Hill, then, and in either event, the said Henry Thomas Weld, or his assigns, is hereby authorized to take immediate possession of said boat, and after ten days public notice thereof in a newspaper printed in the City of Cumberland, to sell said canal boat at public sale, as mortgagee, to the highest bidder for cash or on credit; and out of the proceeds of such sale pay first the expenses of such sale and advertisement, and then the balance due to said Weld, or his assigns, of said purchase money and interest. In Witness whereof the said Josiah Hill hath hereunto subscribed his name and affixed his seal, on the day and year first above written.

Teste: Jeremiah Kuhn

Josiah Hill {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify, that on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1860, before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for said County, personally appeared Josiah Hill and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his act and deed.

Before me,

Jeremiah Kuhn, J.P.

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1860 before me the subscribe, a Justice of the Peace of the said State and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Joseph J. Graham agent of Henry Thomas Weld the mortgagee in the within mortgage and made oath in due form of law that the consideration in the said Mortgage is true and bona fide as therein set forth; and that the said Jos. J. Graham further in like manner made oath that he is the agent of the said Henry Thomas Weld and authorized by said mortgagee to make said affidavit.

Jos. J. Graham

Jeremiah Kuhn, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book IN 15, p 97, 9/26/1860.

At the request of Mertens & Snyder, the following mortgage was recorded November 26<sup>th</sup> 1860.

This Indenture, made this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord 1860, between Frederick Mertens and John Snyder, partners trading under the name of Mertens and Snyder, of Allegany County, in the State of Maryland, of the first part, and William M. Hill, of Washington County, in the State of Maryland, of the second part. Witnesseth: Whereas the said Mertens & Snyder, have this day sold to the said William M. Hill, the Canal Boat G. W. Birdsall at and for the sum of fourteen hundred & twenty nine dollars, which the said William M. Hill is to pay unto the said Mertens & Snyder, or their assigns, in installments of forty dollars each, for all the trips made by said boat, from Cumberland to Georgetown, Alexandria, or Washington City, until the entire purchase money is paid, with interest from date, crediting the respective payments thereon as of the time when such payments shall be made. And Whereas it was a part of said contract of purchase and sale, that the said William M. Hill shall use said boat in freighting coal from Cumberland to the points aforesaid, in regular trips, with as much expedition and regularity as can be reasonably done, by running both by day & night, and to receive the loads of said boat promptly at each trip, with the coal of such company or person, as said Mertens & Snyder or their assigns shall direct; and to freight the same at the lowest, current rates, which shall be paid by the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company, the Allegany Mining Company and such other Companies as are now shipping coal from Cumberland, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Georgetown, Alexandria, and Washington City; and to keep said boat in proper repair, all of which said stipulations the said William M. Hill hereby covenants and agrees with the said Mertens & Snyder and their assigns to fulfill and to perform. And whereas the said William M. Hill is anxious to secure to the said Mertens & Snyder and their assigns, the regular and due payments of each and every installment of said purchase money, and also to secure to the said Mertens and Snyder and their assigns the regular, prompt and due performance of the covenants aforesaid, the said William M. Hill is willing to execute these presents. Now this Indenture Witnesseth, that the said William M. Hill for and in consideration of the premises hath granted, bargained and sold unto the said Mertens & Snyder the Canal boat called G. W. Birdsall, to have and to hold the same forever: Provided nevertheless, that if the said William M. Hill shall well, and truly pay unto the said Mertens & Snyder or their assigns, the aforesaid installments of purchase money, with interest, upon each and every trip as aforesaid, until the whole shall be fully paid; and shall well and truly do and perform all the covenants on his part to be done and performed as set forth in this mortgage, then this instrument of writing to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in law. And this indenture further witnesseth, that it is mutually agreed between the parties aforesaid, that in case of any default upon the part of the said William M. Hill to make regular payments on account of said purchase money, as herein provided, or in case of a failure to perform any of the covenants named in this mortgage, then, and in either event, the said Mertens & Snyder, or their assigns, are hereby authorized to take immediate possession of said boat, and after ten days notice thereof, in a public newspaper printed in Cumberland City to sell said boat, as mortgagees, to the highest bidder for cash or credit; and out of the proceeds of such sale pay first the expenses of such sale and publication, and the balance due to the said Mertens & Snyder, or their assigns, and if there be an overplus, the said Mertens & Snyder or their assigns are to pay the same to the said William M. Hill or his assigns. Witness whereof the said William M. Hill subscribed his name and affixed his seal.

Teste: O. M. Clain

William M. Hill {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit:

I hereby certify that on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord 1860, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace, of the State of Maryland, in and for Allegany County, appeared William M. Hill, and acknowledged the foregoing mortgage to be his act.

O. M. Clain, J. P.

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit,

Be it remembered, and it is hereby certified, that on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 1860, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace in and for Allegany County, personally appeared Frederick Mertens one of the firm of Mertens and Snyder the mortgagee; in the foregoing mortgage, and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, that the consideration set forth in the foregoing mortgage is true and bona fide as herein set forth. In Witness whereof, I hereby subscribe my name on the day and year aforesaid.

Andrew Gonder, J.P.

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit,

I hereby certify, that Andrew Gonder, Esq., before whom the above affidavit was made, and whose genuine signature appears thereto, was at the time thereof a Justice of the Peace of the said State in and for the County aforesaid duly commissioned and sworn. In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of the Circuit Court for Allegany County this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 1860.

H. Resley, Clerk.

I hereby release the foregoing mortgage. Witness our hand & seal.

Witness: B. W. Blocker

Mertens and Snyder {Seal}  
by F. Mertens {Seal}

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 29, page 274, 4/13/1869.

At the request of the C. C. M. & M. Co. this Mortgage was recorded April 13th 1869.

This Indenture made this fifth day of April eighteen hundred and sixty nine between William M. Hill of Allegany County, State of Maryland party of the first part and the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company of Allegany County, State of Maryland party of the second part. Whereas the said party of the second part has this day sold to the said party of the first part the Canal Boat called "Albert H. Bradt" at and for the sum of two thousand dollars which the said party of the first part is to pay to the said party of the second part in installments and in the manner and upon the terms hereinafter mentioned, to wit: forty dollars per trip for each and every trip said boat shall make from Cumberland to Georgetown, to Alexandria, Washington City or any other port until the entire purchase money with interest is fully paid, crediting the respective payments thereon as of the time when such payments shall have been made. And whereas it was part of said contract of purchase and sale between the said party of the first part and the said party second part that the said party of the first part shall use the said boat exclusively in freighting coal from Cumberland to Georgetown, Alexandria or Washington City in regular trips both day and night with as much expedition and regularity as can be reasonably done and to receive the loads of said boat promptly at each trip with the coal of such Company or person as the said party of the second part shall direct and to freight the same at the lowest current rates which shall be paid by the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company, the Borden Mining Company, the Consolidation Coal Company and the Hampshire and Baltimore Coal Company, and keep said boat in proper repair, and that the said party of the first part will not during the continuance of this instrument of writing, assign, transfer or set over or otherwise by any act or deed permit the said boat to be assigned, transferred or set over unto any person or persons whomsoever without the consent in writing of the said party of the second part or its authorized agent. All or which said stipulations the said party of the first part covenants and agrees with the said party of the second part and its assigns, to fulfill and perform provided always that if the said Company should not furnish loading for said boat within twenty four hours after the said boat has been reported by the Captain at the place of loading ready to receive her load, then the said party of the first part shall have the right of loading wherever he chooses for that trip, if such want of readiness to load the boat is caused by any default on the part of the said Company or its agents but in case of a glut of boats or in case such default either in loading or unloading happens from any other cause than a personal default of the said Company or its agents, then all the boats carrying coal for it must take their turn in loading and unloading and no claims shall be made for such detention. And whereas the said party of the first part is anxious to secure unto the said party of the second part, and its assigns, the regular and due payment of each and every installment of said purchase money and also to secure to the said party of the second part, and its assigns, the regular prompt and due performance of the covenants aforesaid, the said party of the first part is willing to execute these presents. Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the premises hath granted, bargained and sold and by these presents doth grant, bargain and sell unto the said party of the second part and its assigns the Canal Boat called "Albert H. Bradt" to have and to hold the same unto the said party of the second part and its assigns forever. Provided nevertheless and it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of these presents that if the said party of the first part shall well and truly pay unto the party of the second part or its assigns the installments of purchase money upon each and

every trip as aforesaid until the whole purchase money with the interest as aforesaid shall be fully paid and if the said party of the first part shall well and truly do and perform all the covenants on his part to be done and performed as set forth in this mortgage, then this instrument of writing and every matter and thing contained shall cease and be utterly null and void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in law. And this instrument further witnesseth that it is mutually agreed between the parties aforesaid that in case of any default upon the part of the party of the first part to make regular payments on account of said purchase money as herein provided, or in case of a failure to make regular trips as aforesaid with said boat, or in case of a refusal or neglect on the part of the said party of the first part to freight for the Company or person designated by the said party of the second part or its authorized agent, or in case of a failure or neglect to use all diligence, care and skill in making each trip with said boat as before mentioned, or in case said boat is not kept in proper repair, or in case of a transfer without permission as aforesaid, or in case of a failure to perform any of the stipulations or recitals in this mortgage named to be done and performed on the part of the said party of the first part, then and in either event the said party of the second part, or its assigns or any duly authorized agent, is hereby authorized to take immediate possession of said boat and after ten days public notice thereof in a newspaper printed in the City of Cumberland to sell said Canal Boat at public sale as mortgagee to the highest bidder for cash or on credit, and out of the proceeds of such sale to pay the expenses of such sale and advertisement and then the balance due to said party of the second part or the assigns of said purchase money and interest, and if there be any overplus the said party or its assigns are to pay the same to the said party of the first part.

In witness whereof the said William M. Hill hath hereunto subscribed his name and affixed his seal on the day and year first above written.

Teste: J. B. Widener

William M. Hill {Seal}

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this fifth day of April 1869 before the subscriber personally appeared William M. Hill and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his act and deed.

J. B. Widener, J.P.

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: Be it remembered and it is hereby certified that on this fifth day of April 1869 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County personally appeared A. Spier, Agent for the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company, mortgagee in the foregoing mortgage and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that the consideration set forth in the foregoing mortgage is true and bona fide as herein set forth and that he is the Agent of and authorized by the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company to make such affidavit. In witness whereof I hereunto subscribe my name on the day and year aforesaid.

J. B. Widener, J.P.

Allegany County Courthouse, Cumberland, MD, Deed Book 29, page 286, 4/13/1869.

At the request of the C. C. M. & M. Co. this Mortgage was recorded April 13th 1869.

This Indenture made this fifth day of April eighteen hundred and sixty nine between Mathias Spong of Allegany County, State of Maryland party of the first part and the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company of Allegany County, State of Maryland party of the second part. Whereas the said party of the second part has this day sold to the said party of the first part the Canal Boat called "Sharpsburg" at and for the sum of two thousand dollars which the said party of the first part is to pay to the said party of the second part in installments and in the manner and upon the terms hereinafter mentioned, to wit: forty dollars per trip for each and every trip said boat shall make from Cumberland to Georgetown, to Alexandria, Washington City or any other port until the entire purchase money with interest is fully paid, crediting the respective payments thereon as of the time when such payments shall have been made. And whereas it was part of said contract of purchase and sale between the said party of the first part and the said party second part that the said party of the first part shall use the said boat exclusively in freighting coal from Cumberland to Georgetown, Alexandria or Washington City in regular trips both day and night with as much expedition and regularity as can be reasonably done and to receive the loads of said boat promptly at each trip with the coal of such company or person as the said party of the second part shall direct and to freight the same at the lowest current rates which shall be paid by the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company, the Borden Mining Company, the Consolidation Coal Company and the Hampshire and Baltimore Coal Company, and keep said boat in proper repair, and that the said party of the first part will not during the continuance of this instrument of writing, assign, transfer or set over or otherwise by any act or deed permit the said boat to be assigned, transferred or set over unto any person or persons whomsoever without the consent in writing of the said party of the second part or its authorized agent. All or which said stipulations the said party of the first part covenants and agrees with the said party of the second part and its assigns, to fulfill and perform provided always that if the said Company should not furnish loading for said boat within twenty four hours after the said boat has been reported by the Captain at the place of loading ready to receive her load, then the said party of the first part shall have the right of loading wherever he chooses for that trip, if such want of readiness to load the boat is caused by any default on the part of the said Company or its agents but in case of a glut of boats or in case such default either in loading or unloading happens from any other cause than a personal default of the said Company or its agents, then all the boats carrying coal for it must take their turn in loading and unloading and no claims shall be made for such detention. And whereas the said party of the first part is anxious to secure unto the said party of the second part, and its assigns, the regular and due payment of each and every installment of said purchase money and also to secure to the said party of the second part, and its assigns, the regular prompt and due performance of the covenants aforesaid, the said party of the first part is willing to execute these presents. Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the premises hath granted, bargained and sold and by these presents doth grant, bargain and sell unto the said party of the second part and its assigns the Canal Boat called "Sharpsburg" to have and to hold the same unto the said party of the second part and its assigns forever. Provided nevertheless and it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of these presents that if the said party of the first part shall well and truly pay unto the party of the second part or its assigns the installments of purchase money upon each and

every trip as aforesaid until the whole purchase money with the interest as aforesaid shall be fully paid and if the said party of the first part shall well and truly do and perform all the covenants on his part to be done and performed as set forth in this mortgage, then this instrument of writing and every matter and thing contained shall cease and be utterly null and void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in law. And this instrument further witnesseth that it is mutually agreed between the parties aforesaid that in case of any default upon the part of the party of the first part to make regular payments on account of said purchase money as herein provided, or in case of a failure to make regular trips as aforesaid with said boat, or in case of a refusal or neglect on the part of the said party of the first part to freight for the Company or person designated by the said party of the second part or its authorized agent, or in case of a failure or neglect to use all diligence, care and skill in making each trip with said boat as before mentioned, or in case said boat is not kept in proper repair, or in case of a transfer without permission as aforesaid, or in case of a failure to perform any of the stipulations or recitals in this mortgage named to be done and performed on the part of the said party of the first part, then and in either event the said party of the second part, or its assigns or any duly authorized agent, is hereby authorized to take immediate possession of said boat and after ten days public notice thereof in a newspaper printed in the City of Cumberland to sell said Canal Boat at public sale as mortgagee to the highest bidder for cash or on credit, and out of the proceeds of such sale to pay the expenses of such sale and advertisement and then the balance due to said party of the second part or the assigns of said purchase money and interest, and if there be any overplus the said party or its assigns are to pay the same to the said party of the first part.

In witness whereof the said Mathias Spong hath hereunto subscribed his name and affixed his seal on the day and year first above written.

Teste: J. B. Widener

Mathias Spong {Seal}

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify that on this fifth day of April 1869 before the subscriber personally appeared Mathias Spong and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his act and deed.

J. B. Widener, J.P.

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: Be it remembered and it is hereby certified that on this fifth day of April 1869 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Allegany County personally appeared A. Spier, Agent for the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company, mortgagee in the foregoing mortgage and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that the consideration set forth in the foregoing mortgage is true and bona fide as herein set forth and that he is the Agent of and authorized by the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company to make such affidavit. In witness whereof I hereunto subscribe my name on the day and year aforesaid.

J. B. Widener, J.P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book WMcKK 1, p 732, 9/21/1869.

At the request of Fred Mertens, the following deed was recorded Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 1869.

This Mortgage, made this 8th day of Sept. in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty nine, by me, William M. Hill, of Washington County, in the State of Maryland. Witnesseth; that the said Wm M. Hill being now indebted to Frederick Mertens of Allegany County in the State of Maryland, in the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars with interest from the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1869, being the amount due and owing from me the said Wm M. Hill to the said Frederick Mertens upon the purchase of a Canal boat known under the name and style of A. H. Bradt now lying on the water of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at Cumberland, Maryland, in consideration thereof do hereby bargain and sell unto the said Frederick Mertens the said Canal Boat known under the name and style above mentioned, provided that if the said Wm. M Hill shall pay to the said Frederick Mertens the said price of three hundred and fifty dollars with interest in equal installments of thirty dollars for each and every trip made by the said boat known under the name and style above mentioned, then this mortgage shall be void, Witness my hand and seal this 8<sup>th</sup> day Sept. 1869.

Teste: Andrew Gonder

William M. Hill {Seal}

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit,

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 1869 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Allegany County, William M. Hill and acknowledged the foregoing mortgage to be his act and deed, at the same time also appeared before me Frederick Mertens and made oath in due force of law that the consideration set forth in said mortgage is true and bona fide as therein set forth. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this day and year aforesaid.

Andrew Gonder, J. P.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book McKK 3, page 598, 7/18/1871.

At the request of the State of Maryland, the following Bond was recorded July 18th 1871.

Know All Men: by these presents: That we Josiah Hill, John Hill and Jacob Baker of Washington County, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Maryland, in the just and full sum of Two Thousand Dollars current money, to which payment well and truly, to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents sealed with our seals, and dated this twelfth day of July in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy one. Whereas, the Commissioners of Washington County, on the eleventh day of July in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy one appointed the above named Josiah Hill, a Constable for Election District No. one in said County, in the room and stead of Ezra Macker to serve until the next appointment for Constables in said County or until he shall be duly discharged therefrom according to law. Now the condition of the above obligation is such that if the said Josiah Hill shall well and truly execute the same office in all things appertaining thereto; and shall also well and truly account for all monies placed in his hands for collection, and shall also well and truly pay all sums of money received by him; then this obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue in law.

Signed sealed and delivered  
in presence of  
B. F. Delaney, Aaron Good

Josiah Hill {Seal}  
John Hill {Seal}  
Jacob Baker {Seal}

Washington County, Jc. We, B. F. Delaney and Aaron Good, subscribing Witnesses to the above Bond do make oath that the obligation mentioned in said Bond, did severally, and in our presence, sign, seal and deliver the said Bond as their act and deed for the purpose therein mentioned. Sworn before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the State of Maryland, in and for the County aforesaid, this twelfth day of July 1871.

John Snyder, J. P. {Seal}

The above Bond is approved by the Commissioners for Washington County the day and year above mentioned.

Test: E. W. Funk, Clerk

J. G. Brown, President

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 75, page 418, 4/16/1877.

At the request of Jacob Highbarger & wife the following mortgage was recorded April 6th 1877.

**This Mortgage, Made** this 24th day of February 1877, - Elias Spong - Martha Ellen, his wife, of Sharpsburg, Washington County, and State of Maryland, of the one part, and Jacob Highbarger and Catherine, his wife, of the same County and State as aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth, that the said Elias Spong and his wife, in consideration of two notes or obligations each of the sum of Three Hundred and Sixty Six 66/100 Dollars, duly made and executed, one of \$366.66 to Jacob Highbarger and will be due April 1st 1878. The second of a like sum of 366.66 Dollars to Catherine Highbarger, and will be due April 1st 1879, both notes respectively bearing interest from the 1st day of April 1877. Interest to be paid annually. Now this mortgage, Witnesseth, that in consideration of the premises, and of the sum of One Dollar, the said Elias Spong and his wife, do grant unto Jacob Highbarger and Catherine, his wife, their personal representatives and assigns all that half lot or portion of ground in the town of Sharpsburg and being the same that Jacob Highbarger and Catherine, his wife, conveyed by deed to the said E. Spong and Martha Ellen, his wife, and bearing date even herewith, together with all the appurtenances thereto belonging to have and to hold the above described or mentioned property to and unto their use the said Jacob Highbarger and Catherine, his wife, their executors, administrators or assigns forever. **Provided** that the said Elias Spong and Martha Ellen, his wife, their executors, administrators or assigns shall pay or cause to be paid said Jacob Highbarger and Catherine, his wife, their executors, administrators or assigns. the sums according to the conditions of the bonds or obligations hereinbefore described, and shall perform all the covenants herein on his or her part to be performed, then this mortgage shall be void. And it is agreed that until default be made in the provisions, the said Elias Spong and Martha Ellen, his wife, shall possess the aforesaid property by repose in the mean time paying all taxes on said hereby mortgaged property and interest hereby intended to be secured, which taxes and interest the said Elias Spong and Martha Ellen, his wife, covenant to pay when legally demandable. But in case of any default being made in any condition of this mortgage, then these presents are hereby declared to be made in trust, and the said Jacob Highbarger or Catherine, his wife, his or her executor, administrator or assigns, or his or her attorney in this case may be, are hereby authorized and empowered to sell all the property hereby mortgaged or so much thereof as may be necessary and to grant and enfine the same to the purchaser or purchasers thereof or to their legal representatives, which sale shall be in the following manner, by giving at least twenty days notice of the time and place and terms of sale, by at least six bills posted at public houses in the said town of Sharpsburg, and the proceeds arising from such sale to apply first to the payment of all expenses incident to such sale. Secondly to the payment of all monies owing hereunder and the balance pay unto the said Elias Spong and Martha Ellen, his wife, or his or her executors, administrators or assigns. Witness our hands and seals.

Test: Moses Poffenberger, Morgan Miller

Elias Spong {Seal}  
her  
Martha E. X Spong  
mark

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit:

I hereby certify that on this 24th day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy seven, before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Washington County aforesaid, personally appeared Elias Spong and Martha Ellen, his wife, and each acknowledged the foregoing mortgage to be their respective act and deed, and now at the same time before me personally appeared Jacob Highbarger and Catherine, his wife, the within named Mortgagees and made affirmation, in due form of law, that the considerations as set forth in the foregoing mortgage are true and bona fide as therein set forth. And the said Catherine Highbarger accepts the sum herein caused to her credit in full for her right to dower.

Morgan Miller

I do hereby assign and set over all my right, title, claim, interest, property and described whatsoever in and to the within mortgage unto Jacob F. Miller for value received. Witness my hand and seal the 1st day of April 1880.

Catherine Highbarger {Seal}

H. W. Schamel, agent by power of attorney.

(Rec. Apr. 6, 1880)

We the undersigned Administrators do hereby assign and transfer the within mortgage to Henry M. Miller. Witness our hand and seal this first day of April Eighteen Hundred and Ninety two

Test: E. A. Toy

Henry M. Miller {Seal}

Otho W. Miller {Seal}

I hereby assign the within Mortgage to Wm. H. Thomas. Witness my hand and seal this 4th day of April A.D. 1893.

Henry M. Miller {Seal}

I hereby assign the within Mortgage to Henry M. Miller. Witness my hand and seal this 5th day of July 1895.

William H. Thomas {Seal}

Foreclosed in No. 4936 Equity, Dec. 6, 1897.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 104, page 390, 1/28/1896.

At the request of Josiah Hill, the following Deed was recorded January 28th 1896 at 10:00 A.M.

**This Deed**, made this twenty second day of January One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Six, by me, Henrietta Hill, of Washington County, State of Maryland. Witnesseth that whereas I the said Henrietta Hill by reason of age, physical infirmities and my lonely situation in life, and unable to properly care and provide for myself, and whereas my sister Amelia Hill, wife of Josiah Hill of Washington County aforesaid, hath agreed and undertaken to care, provide for, and maintain me the said Henrietta Hill at her own proper cost and charge during my natural life, which services she has already rendered me for nearly one year. Now therefore in consideration of the premises and of Five Dollars the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I the said Henrietta Hill do grant unto Josiah Hill of Washington County aforesaid, all that Real Estate situate, lying and being in Washington County aforesaid, and described as follows, that is to say: being all that part of Lot No. 34 on the Plat of the town of Sharpsburg, beginning at the South East corner of Georgietta Edmundo property and running South with the West line of Mechanic Street forty seven feet three inches then with the South line of the property now occupied by James A. A. Seaman, West sixty three feet, then with the West line of the last named property South Fourteen feet five inches, then with said South line West Seventy one feet to the North most corner of said property, then South Sixty-one feet eight inches with the East line of John Baunds' property, then East one hundred and fifty four feet to the place of the beginning, containing Eight Thousand five Hundred and Eighty-Eight and five twelfths square feet, more or less, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, and all and every the rights, alleyways, privileges and appurtenances to the same as anywise appertaining, including a right-of-way to and the use and enjoyment of a well of water situate on the said property of Georgietta Edmundo, upon condition that the grantor or beneficiary herein named shall defray a moiety of the expenses incidental to maintaining said well in proper curtaining. To have and to hold the same unto him the said Josiah Hill his heirs and assigns forever. In Trust, however, to use for the sole and separate use benefit and comfort of the said Amelia Hill, the said Josiah Hill to suffer and permit the said Amelia Hill without let or molestation to have, hold, occupy and enjoy the aforesaid premises with all the cents, issues, profits and proceeds arising therefrom whether farm sale or lease for her own sole use and benefit, separate and apart from her said husband, and wholly free from his control and interference, debts and liabilities, courtesy and all other interests whatsoever, and after my death, provided she has cared for and maintained me as aforesaid, the said Amelia Hill to be permitted to devise, bargain, sell, mortgage, convey, lease or otherwise dispose of said premises, or of any part thereof, in her own name, at such time or times, or to such person or persons as she may desire. And the said Henrietta Hill covenants that she will warrant specially the property hereby granted and conveyed, and that she will execute further assurances of said land as may be requisite. Witness the hand and seal of said Grantor.

Test. Chas. C. Biggs, Wm. F. Blackford

her  
Henrietta x Hill {Seal}  
mark

State of Maryland, Washington County, to wit:

I hereby certify that on this Twenty second day of January in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Six, before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of

Maryland in and for Washington County aforesaid, personally appeared Henrietta Hill and acknowledged the foregoing deed to be her act.

Wm. F. Blackford, J. P.

**O. T. Reilly - Relic Collector and Early Antietam Tour Guide**, by Stephen J. Recker, originally published by *America's Civil War* magazine, published Online: August 14, 2008.

Born March 11, 1857 in "a little log cabin" in Keedysville, Md., Oliver Thomas Reilly was one of 10 children born to Edward Reilly and Mariah Lantz Reilly. At the age of 5, O. T. Reilly stood "in the midst of both armies during the retreat from South Mountain of the Confederates and the advance of the Union Army." He was "an eyewitness to the Battle of Antietam from the Union Signal Station" on nearby Elk Ridge. The memory of that single event made such a profound impression on the boy that it shaped his entire life.

A battlefield guide from the age of 15, Reilly declared on his calling card, "Get O. T. Reilly, the best guide, nearly 65 years experience ... has been over the battlefield with many high ranked officers of both armies (Gens. Hooker, Burnside, Franklin, and Longstreet included) and thousands of men who fought in the battles."

Secure in his knowledge of the battle, he was known for challenging the memories of the veterans he met. A week before the battle's 25th anniversary, the inaugural issue of the *Antietam Wavelet* featured a column by neophyte reporter Reilly, beginning an amazing run of weekly columns that lasted 55 years.

Mostly he gathered news on battle-related topics: relics found and sold, veterans and their reunions, monuments planned and dedicated, monuments planned and not dedicated: "Several members of the 108th New York Regiment visited Antietam Battle-field last Thursday (September 15, 1888) and located the place occupied by their regiment during the battle. They called on Mr. William Roulette, the owner of the field, who gave them permission to erect a monument, which will be done as soon as the work on the shaft can be completed." The 108th New York never erected the monument.

He moved to Sharpsburg in November 1890 and "opened a confectionary, grocery and novelty store in the room adjoining the residence of (his father-in-law) Elias Spong" at the corner of Main and Hall. "His novelties are chiefly battlefield relics, and it will pay any one to go and see them." he wrote. But as his family grew, he rented, and finally purchased, a large stone house near the square where he moved his family, set up his candy store on the ground floor and sold his relics and antiques out of the basement.

He had "in his collection of relics, two spring-wagon loads of the wood of the old roof of the Dunkard Church, a long well-made pine bench from the Smoketown Hospital used by wounded soldiers after the Battle of Antietam, about 25 kinds of shot and shell, and 8 John Brown pikes or spears, but all have been sold."

Local historian Earl Roulette tells of a local boy who found a cannonball in a stone fence as he ran after a foul ball during a baseball game. The whole team ran into town to sell the relic to O. T. Legend has it that, as such exchanges were going on upstairs, other children would sometimes slip downstairs and steal relics that they would sell back to Reilly at a later date.

O. T. Reilly's dominance in Sharpsburg seemed undisputed until July 19, 1906, when Martin L. Burgan walked into the office of the *Shepherdstown Register*. Writing for the newspaper, Reilly graciously reported that Burgan had "a very beautiful souvenir book containing views of Antietam battlefield that he has recently published. Mr. Burgan deals in souvenirs and relics of the great battle."

That September, Burgan opened a stationery store right next to Reilly's, released a line of full-color postcards and offered battlefield tours. "In visiting the Antietam Battlefield save time," his brochure exclaimed. "... see it all and have it explained to you by experienced guides who will give you historical information of reliability at a reasonable price. Get you guide at the Burgan Antique Shop. Antiques and Relics of All Kinds."

Local historian Wilmer Mumma recalled that "both printed and copyrighted a picture and souvenir guidebook, and often got into open conflicts as to who owned what and who was more correct in his facts. This sometimes led to fisticuffs in the street over would-be customers."

Burgan left Sharpsburg in 1924, but Reilly's battles continued as the War Department transferred care of Antietam Battlefield to the National Park Service, which promptly took aim at him. "It has been learned that two persons living in the town of Sharpsburg conduct visitors over the Battlefield Site and explain the movements of troops during the battle," the 1934 NPS Annual Report reads. "They have not been required to pass an examination to determine their fitness nor have they been licensed by the Government (as was the practice at Gettysburg). It is understood that they do not as a general rule solicit on the highways but conduct visitors who request them to do so. A further study of this phase of the situation will be made and reported on at a later date."

Reilly fired back in the *Register*. "John K. Beckenbaugh, the newly appointed superintendent of the Antietam Battlefield, comes out in his new uniform. We understand anyone acting as a guide will have to take an examination, be rated and wear a uniform like at Gettysburg. Mr. Oliver T. Reilly, the noted Antietam Battlefield guide, because of his residence on the field during the Battle of Antietam, doesn't have to depend upon the history of others to gather the information necessary to depict accurately the battle that occurred on this historic spot."

Still a fighter at 79, Reilly watched the approach of the battle's 75th anniversary with characteristic energy: "I want to get older. I want to be here to see the great gathering next year. I am living on borrowed time." He would, in fact, live, and write, into the next decade.

ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD AND NATIONAL CEMETERY  
AN ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

By Charles W. Snell and Sharon Brown

On June 6, 1912, the depot quartermaster in charge of the Antietam National Battlefield Site received the stunning news that Charles W. Adams, the first superintendent of the battlefield, had been assassinated. John L. Cook, superintendent of Antietam National Cemetery, wrote on that date: "I have the honor to inform you of the death of C. W. Adams being shot on roadway about 9:30 o'clock (a.m.) in a murderous brutal manner by a man (of) the name of Benner (Bemer), who later shot himself to death."

The data in the files of the quartermaster general on the death of Adams are slight, but he was killed by a young man by the name of John [*sic* Charles W.] Bemer [*sic* Benner], who shot himself later the same day as the posse closed in on the murderer. The reasons for the tragedy are thus unknown. From evidence that emerged over the next 25 years it seems possible that his death was related, at least in part, to a feud that arose from the construction of the McKinley Monument. John Bemer [*sic* Benner], the father of the young man who was to kill Adams, sold the land for the McKinley Monument to the state of Ohio. In 1932 a representative of the quartermaster general's office, after several unsuccessful attempts, finally obtained an audience with Miss Fannie Spong [Mrs. Ida Francis "Fannie" Benner Spong, who died in 1931], the grand-daughter of John Bemer [daughter of John Benner], who then owned the property surrounding the McKinley Monument. He reported: "During the conversation with her, it developed that the owner (her grandfather) [her father] had never received any money or other consideration for the land including the right-of-way to the (McKinley) Monument; that it was understood they were to receive the sum of \$750 from the State of Ohio, or the Association sponsoring the McKinley Monument; that these representatives visited her grandfather [*sic* father] with legal transfer papers, who being illiterate, signed by his mark, which was witnessed by two of the visitors. The contents of the papers were unknown to the owner, but were represented as a transfer of the property in consideration of \$750.00. The money never came ...

The hostility generated by this experience was apparently transferred to the United States Government and its representatives when the United States obtained title to the right-of-way and monument site on October 15, 1902; this ill feeling exhibited by the Bemer-Spong [*sic* Benner-Spong] families was still in evidence in 1931.

In an earlier report on the McKinley Monument, dated July 30, 1926, C. E. Swift had remarked: John Benner (or Bemer) sold the right-of-way to the monument to the United States. His son caused the Superintendent of the battlefield (Charles W. Adams) much trouble from the time work of constructing the road (from the Burnside Bridge to the Monument) was started (1907). This trouble terminated when young Benner killed the Superintendent, and when about to be captured killed himself.

Local newspaper accounts of the assassination have not been investigated. Cemetery Superintendent Cook served as acting superintendent of the battlefield until a new custodian could be appointed.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 153, page 371, 5/2/1918.

At the request of NINA L. SPONG, the following DEED was recorded May 2nd 1918, at 2:00 P. M.

THIS DEED, Made this 19th day of April 1918, by Jesse O. Snyder of Washington County, Maryland, Trustee, as hereinafter set forth.

WHEREAS, By a decree of the Circuit Court for Washington County, sitting as a Court of Equity, dated March 4, 1918, and passed in Cause No.8391 on the Docket of said Court, the above named JESSE O. SNYDER was duly appointed Trustee with authority to sell the real estate in the proceedings in said cause mentioned.

AND WHEREAS, after having given bond, and complied with all the other requisites of the decree, said Trustee did on the 26th day of March 1918, sell the property hereinafter described to NINA L. SPONG, at public sale at and for the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY ONE DOLLARS (\$731.00) which said sale has been duly reported to and ratified by said Court and the purchase money fully paid to the said Trustee.

NOW THEREFORE, THIS DEED WITNESSETH, That in consideration of the premises and of the payment of the purchase money, the said JESSE O. SNYDER Trustee, as aforesaid, does hereby grant and convey unto the said NINA L. SPONG all the right, and title of all the parties to the aforesaid cause in and to all that half lot or parcel of ground, lying and being in the town of Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, known on the plat of said Town as No. 160 containing 51½ feet in breadth and 206 feet in length, together with all the improvements thereon, and it is the same property which was conveyed to JAMES F. SWAIN, by JOHN DORNER and JANE S. DORNER, his wife, by deed dated March 29, 1869, and recorded in Liber W. McKK No. 1, Folio 494, one of the land records of Washington County.

WITNESS my hand and seal.

TEST: MARY CLOPPER

JESSE O. SNYDER, Trustee {Seal}

STATE OF MARYLAND, WASHINGTON COUNTY, to wit:

I hereby certify that on this 19th day of April 1918, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally appeared JESSE O. SNYDER Trustee as aforesaid, and acknowledged the foregoing deed to be his act.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Notarial seal the day and year above written.

(N. P. Seal)

MARY CLOPPER, Notary Public.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 153, page 371, 5/2/1918.

At the request of JAS. SNYDER, the following MORTGAGE was recorded May 2nd, 1918, at 2:00 p. m.

THIS MORTGAGE, Made this 27th day of April 1918, by NINA L. SPONG and SAMUEL D. SPONG, her husband, of Washington County, State of Maryland.

WITNESSETH, That for and in consideration of the sum of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00) owing by us to JAMES SNYDER, and desiring to secure the payment of the same, together with the interest thereon, we, the said NINA L. SPONG and SAMUEL D. SPONG, her husband, do hereby grant and convey unto the said JAMES SNYDER,

All the following half lot or parcel of ground lying and being in the town of SHARPSBURG, Washington County, Maryland, known on the plat of said Town as NO. 160 CONTAINING 51½ feet in breadth and 206 feet in length, together with all the improvements thereon, and is the same property which was conveyed to the said NINA L. SPONG by JESSE O. SNYDER, Trustee, by deed dated the . . . day of . . . 1918, and recorded among the Land Records of Washington County, immediately preceding this mortgage.

PROVIDED, That if we, the said NINA L. SPONG and SAMUEL D. SPONG, her husband, shall pay to the said JAMES SNYDER, the said sum of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS in one year from the date hereof together with the interest thereon from April 1, 1918, at the rate of six per cent, said interest to be paid annually and shall perform the covenants hereinafter contained, then this mortgage shall be void.

And we the said NINA L. SPONG and SAMUEL D. SPONG, her husband, do hereby covenant that we will pay to the said JAMES SNYDER the said sum of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS, in one year from the date hereof, together with the interest thereon from April 1st 1918, at the rate of six per cent, said interest to be paid annually and we do further covenant that we will keep said property insured to the extent of at least three hundred dollars, and have the policy of insurance entered payable to the mortgagee as collateral security for this mortgage debt. And in case of default in the payment of the principal or interest when the same become due and payable, or upon breach of any covenant or condition hereinbefore entered into, it shall be lawful for the said JAMES SNYDER, or his assigns, at any time after such default or breach to sell the property herein described at public sale for cash or credit under the provisions of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, and from the proceeds of such sale to pay, first, all costs, counsel fees and expenses including the usual Equity commission, then to pay the mortgage debt, principal and interest and the balance to the said Nina L. Spong.

WITNESS our hands and seals.  
TEST: ROBERT L. HIGHBERGER

NINA L. SPONG {Seal}  
SAMUEL D. SPONG {Seal}

STATE OF MARYLAND, WASHINGTON COUNTY, to wit:

I hereby certify that on this 27th day of April 1918, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for the County of Washington, personally appeared NINA L. SPONG and SAMUEL D. SPONG, her husband, and acknowledged the foregoing mortgage to be their act; and at the same time also appeared JAMES SNYDER the within named mortgagee and made oath in due form of law that the consideration mentioned in the foregoing mortgage is true and bona fide as therein set forth. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Notarial seal the day and year above written.  
(N. P. SEAL) ROBERT L. HIGHBERGER

For value received I hereby assign within mortgage to Clarence V. Snyder, with interest from April 27, 1930. Given under my hand and seal this 8th day of January 1931. Witness Walter E. Snyder. (Rec. Jan. 26th 1931) James Snyder (SEAL)

For value received I hereby reassign the above Mortgage together with all accrued interest unto Walter H. Snyder. Witness my hand and seal this 9th day of March 1943. (Recorded Mar. 18, 1943) Witness J. Louise Snyder, Clarence V. Snyder {Seal}

I hereby assign the within and foregoing Mortgage to Ellsworth R. Roulette for the purpose of foreclosure and collection. Witness my hand and seal this 15th day of March A.D. 1943.  
Walter H. Snyder {Seal}

(Recorded Mar. 18, 1943) Test. F. Miriam Frey.

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 208, page 589, 2/17/1939.

At the request of THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, a Corporation, this DEED was recorded February 17th, 1939, at 3:30 P. M.

THIS DEED, made this 13th day of February, A.D. 1939, by Tena Blanche Spong, unmarried, of Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, now residing in Washington, District of Columbia, surviving joint tenant, WITNESSETH:

THAT for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty-three Hundred Fifty Dollars, (\$2,350.00) the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, the said Tena Blanche Spong, do hereby grant and convey to The Washington County Historical Society, a corporation of the State of Maryland, all the following described tracts or parcels of land, together with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being about one mile Southeast of the Town of Sharpsburg, in Washington County, Maryland, and along the road leading from said Town to Rohrersville and adjoining the lands now or formerly owned by Jacob B. Stine, W. O. Cox, M. F. Lum, and the Antietam Creek and Burnside Bridge, containing 136 acres of land, more or less. Said tract of land being comprised of several parcels for which a more particular description will be found in the following deeds to Jacob Benner, a prior grantor and owner, through whom the present grantor obtained title; Deed from Henry C. Mumma dated February 28, 1863 and recorded in Liber I.N. 16, folio 528 of the Land Records of Washington County; Deed from Joseph Sherick and wife, dated April 10, 1866 and recorded in Liber I.N. 19, folio 551 and 552 of the Land Records of Washington County; Deed from John H. Snavely and wife, dated August 10, 1875 and recorded in Liber 74, folio 74, of the Land Records of Washington County.

BEING the same that was conveyed by James Snyder to Ida Frances Spong, now deceased, and the said Tena Blanche Spong, as joint tenants, being described as Parcel No. 2 in a deed dated April 12, 1928, and duly recorded in Liber 180, folio 111 of the Land Records of Washington County.

AND I, the said Tens Blanche Spong, do hereby covenant that I will warrant generally the property hereby conveyed and will execute such other and further assurances as may be required.

WITNESS my hand and seal.

TENA BLANCHE SPONG {Seal}

WITNESS: F. Miriam Fiery.

STATE OF MARYLAND, WASHINGTON COUNTY, to-wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that on this 13th day of February, A.D. 1939, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally appeared Tena Blanche Spong, and acknowledged the foregoing deed to be her act.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Notarial Seal.  
{N. P. Seal} F. MIRIAM FIERY, Notary Public

Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 222, page 179, 3/24/1943.

At the request of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, this DEED was recorded March 24th, 1943, at 11:10 o'clock A. M.

THIS DEED, Made this 13th day of October, A.D., 1940, by THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of Maryland, of Washington County, State of Maryland.

WITNESSETH: That for and in consideration of the sum of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars, and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said The Washington County Historical Society, Incorporated, does hereby grant and convey unto the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA all the following described tracts or parcels of land situate in Election District No. 1 near Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, and being more particularly described as follows:

PARCEL NO. 1 - Beginning at the Northwest corner of the fence enclosing the plot of ground known as the eleventh Connecticut plot deeded to the United States of America by deeds recorded in the Land Records of Washington County, Maryland. Thence following a fence on the line of J. W. Dorsey the following courses: North 83° - 25' - 50" West 142.27' North 69° - 42' - 55" West 95.32' North 59° - 26' - 30" West 93.66' North 48° - 57' - 50" West 71.49' North 43° - 24' - 30" West 100.94' Thence leaving the fence North 22° - 29' - 00" East 32.91' to the Southwest corner of the wall enclosing a tract known as the 51st New York plot; deeded to the United States of America by a deed recorded in the Land Records of Washington County, Maryland. Thence following the East wall of said tract North 40° - 54' - 20" West 31.50' to the Northeast corner. Thence leaving the wall North 80° - 57' - 55" West 91.36' to a point North of Burnside Bridge and about three feet East of an old stone wall paralleling Antietam Creek. Thence following and about three feet from said wall still with the line of J. W. Dorsey: North 27° - 08' - 40" West 215.20' North 41° - 33' - 30" West 39.75' North 51° - 41' - 35" West 52.34' North 32° - 41' - 00" West 232.18' North 21° - 39' - 05" West 127.44' North 13° - 17' - 20" West 140.52' North 5° - 38' 10" West 165.22' North 26° - 01' - 10" East 58.74' North 3° - 53' - 55" West 50.20' North 77° - 44' - 00" West 54.00' to the center of Antietam Creek on the dividing line between J. W. Dorsey and Harvey Dorsey; Thence following the center of Antietam Creek: South 8° - 32' - 00" West 196.04' South 6° - 12' - 30" East 129.44' South 21° - 08' - 20" East 330.71' to the corner of the Harvey Dorsey farm and the tract known as the Spong Farm. Thence with the center of the Creek and the boundary of the Spong Farm: South 31° - 06' - 30" East 464.68' South 52° - 15' - 30" East 431.13' South 63° - 41' - 50" East 137.60' South 69° - 11' - 45" East 270.45' to the line of O. W. Burtner; thence leaving the Creek and with said line of O. W. Burtner North 15° - 08' - 25" East 294.00' to an angle in the East fence enclosing the Eleventh Connecticut plot; Thence following the fence: North 2° - 01' - 45" West 39.45' North 78° - 23' - 35" West 152.70' South 12° - 09' - 05" West 177.04' to the point of the beginning containing 3.5060 Acres, more or less, not including the eleventh Connecticut and 51st New York plots heretofore mentioned; both of these plots lying inside the boundaries called for in this description and containing 0.7851 Acres, more or less.

All bearings referred to a true meridian established by Polaris observations. (The line between the O. W. Burtner farm and this tract was determined by running a line from a stone

West of Burtner's house apparently the one called for in his deed and a stone near the angle in the eleventh Connecticut plot fence apparently the stone called for in this deed.) And being the same property which was conveyed by John W. Dorsey and Abbie W. Dorsey, his wife, to the said The Washington County Historical Society, Incorporated by deed dated September 27, 1939, and recorded in Liber No. 210, Folio 460, one of the Land Records of Washington County, aforesaid, to which deed reference is hereby made.

PARCEL NO. 2 - Beginning at a planted stone, at the Southern end of the herein described tract on the boundary line of George W. Griffith, thence following this line: North 26° - 00' - 40" West 234.96' North 16° - 17' - 45" West 234.15' North 11° - 04' - 30" West 917.96' North 84° - 23' - 35" West 87.21' to a corner at the end of an old stone wall corner to George W. Griffith and W. O. Cox, thence with the line of W. O. Cox North 14° - 11' - 00" West 324.81' to the corner of W. O. Cox and Harvey Dorsey, thence following Dorsey's line: North 51° - 21' - 00" East 758.30' South 63° - 30' - 00" East 214.17' North 12° - 50' - 10" East 1,523.01' North 52° - 54' - 40" West 391.05' North 53° - 36' - 25" East 411.80' to a corner in the center of Antietam Creek. Thence following the center line of Antietam Creek: South 31° - 06' - 30" East 464.68' South 52° - 15' - 30" East 431.13' South 63° - 41' - 50" East 137.60' South 69° - 11' - 45" East 270.45' to a corner on the line between J. W. Dorsey and O. W. Burtner; thence: South 66° - 53' - 10" East 304.90' South 50° - 29' - 10" East 116.14' South 12° - 25' - 50" East 199.78' South 33° - 31' - 00" West 237.61' North 83° - 40' - 00" West 598.25' South 52° - 32' - 10" West 188.73' South 6° - 01' - 45" East 268.48' South 39° - 18' - 10" East 505.67' South 11° - 45' - 15" East 336.65' South 23° - 57' - 00" East 887.62' to a corner; thence leaving the center of Antietam Creek South 68° - 30' - 00" West 42.00' to a corner on the West bank of the Creek. Thence following the West bank of Antietam Creek: South 16° - 40' - 10" East 276.11' South 29° - 08' - 50" West 114.16' South 45° - 18' - 20" West 106.07' North 85° - 19' - 00" West 112.68' South 85° - 47' - 10" West 201.45' South 71° - 42' - 50" West 436.74' to a corner on the line between George W. Griffith and O. W. Burtner; thence leaving the Creek bank and following the line of George W. Griffith: North 82° - 44' - 05" West 145.83' South 74° - 06' - 55" West 297.00' South 77° - 06' - 55" West 429.00' North 87° - 53' - 05" West 231.00' to the point of beginning containing 125.082 Acres. And being also the same property which was conveyed by Tens Blanche Spong, unmarried, to the said The Washington County Historical Society, Incorporated, by deed dated February 13, 1939, and recorded in Liber No. 208, Folio 589, one of the Land Records of Washington County, aforesaid, to which deed reference is hereby made.

AND the said The Washington County Historical Society, Incorporated, does hereby covenant that it will Warrant generally the property hereby conveyed and that it will execute such other and further assurances as may be requisite.

WITNESS the Hand of the President of said The Washington County Historical Society, Incorporated, of Washington County, Maryland, and the Corporate Seal of the said Corporation hereunto affixed and duly attested by its Secretary.

{CORP. SEAL}  
Test as to seal  
GEORGE D. HICKS, Secretary

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INCORPORATED  
By: EDWARD M. TENNEY, President

Test as to signature:  
ALICE S. HIMELRIGHT, Notary Public.

STATE OF MARYLAND, WASHINGTON COUNTY, to-wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on this 18th day of October, A.D., 1940, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for Washington County, personally appeared Edward M. Tenney, President of the said The Washington County Historical Society, Incorporated, and acknowledged the foregoing deed to be the act and deed of the said Corporation.

{N. P. Seal}

ALICE M. HIMELRIGHT, NOTARY PUBLIC  
My commission expires on the 5th day of May, 1941.

## Childhood Years Remembered Along the C&O Canal by David L. Spong

I was born in Maryland in the winter of 1951. My mom, Elaine Marie Spong was a beautiful, loving, caring, religious person and my dad, Charles David Spong, was a decorated WWII vet who fought at the Remagen Bridge and the Battle of the Bulge. My earliest memories of lock #10 lock house were of the day we moved into the rental during the summer of 1954. The grass was so tall that dad had to cut it with a scythe and during the cutting was attacked by yellow jackets which swarmed and followed him as he ran and jumped into the canal. He was stung so many times that he was unable to work for a week. My mom was a stay at home mom soon to have three children. In the year to come I believe I had all the childhood diseases, measles, mumps and chicken pox. Of course it wasn't all at once, but it seemed like it to me. I am certain that I only survived because of my mom's prayers and the Pentecostal preacher that she dragged into service at my bedside every time I coughed. The lock house was unencumbered by modern amenities! We had no running water or indoor toilet. We did however, have electricity and eventually a TV. My dad used to haul water from nearby relatives homes in Brookmont for drinking and washing and we had an outhouse. Oh, mom loved the outhouse! It was the epicenter of many volatile "discussions" she had with my dad, whose job the second he arrived home from work, was to rid the smelly contraption of snakes and spiders. We had a potbelly, wood burning stove for heat and in the winter it was my job to go to the wood shed and gather the wood to feed the beast. I really did enjoy that chore; it somehow made me feel like a big man!

During the summer the towpath was always bustling with hikers, bikers, fishermen and picnickers, all of whom enjoyed watching my mother bathe me in a wash tub set up on the kitchen table. All had a wonderful view from the towpath through our huge kitchen window with no curtains! I will always remember the laughing and pointing by towpath travelers as mom sponged me down in full view. After each bath I was allowed to regain my dignity by hunting turtles and getting as dirty as possible. I would wave to the passersby and watch the folks in their kayaks and canoes (some were rental canoes from Swains lock) portage around our lock and paddle down the canal and back. My dad brought us a Dalmatian dog one day and it was love at first sight. The tenant in the lock house down from ours had a fish trap set up in one of the streams pouring into the canal to trap catfish. Strictly illegal of course! My dog, who loved catfish, would often help himself to this captive treat. This practice

ultimately led to his demise, as one day we discovered, after he failed to return home. Trapping fish was not the only illegal poaching taking place along the canal. My Grandfather, Charles Richard Spong, Jr. who lived nearby in Cabin John with my Grandmother, Emma Mae Spong used to illegally trap muskrats to sell the pelts. It was one of the ways he was able to buy we grandchildren Christmas presents. I'm sure he wasn't the only one taking advantage of the Park's bounty.

I also remember hearing rifle shots within the Park. My Grandfather (Bub) and Grandmother lived in a house overlooking the canal. Bub would make unannounced visits to our home, usually after several days of fishing along the Potomac River. He would share his catch with us and usually have a cup of coffee after which he would light his pipe, blow billows of smoke into the air and sit silently making us all uncomfortable. Grandpa Bub usually smelled of fish and tobacco and would have made a terrific character in a Samuel Clemens novel. His face was wrinkled by age and hardship, his eyes were droopy and dark and his leathery fingers withered and yellowed from nicotine. I told my younger brother to be quiet when Grandfather was around, that if he made too much noise Grandpa might eat him! Grandpa spoke very little if at all, stayed an uncomfortable amount of time, then, without a word he would collect his fishing equipment from the front porch and disappear as quickly as he had arrived. Grandpa's father, my Great Grandfather Charles Richard Spong, Sr., was a lock tender until 1922 when his job ended at lock house #8.

My mother who was deathly afraid of snakes, would let out a blood curdling scream that could wake the dead when she would discover a black snake winding its way across our kitchen floor. She would open the front door and with a broom in hand, escort it out screaming at it the entire time while we kids looked on in horror. She told my father that "she never saw those snakes unless his father had been to the house." Dad laughed and made jokes about it until one time when he mentioned it to Grandpa. To my father's surprise, Bub admitted that he would catch and deliberately place black snakes in the cellar of our house to "keep down the rats". We didn't see much of Grandpa Bub after that.

In the summer at dusk, we would be told to go to bed and just before I would nod off to the singing of the cicada's, I would be awakened by the metallic rattling of the retaining chain being unlocked and moved aside by the Park Policeman as he was preparing to enter the gate to the towpath on Patrol. In

order to do this, he would have to unlock the chain, drive past it onto the lock, dismount to relock the chain and continue down the towpath. His Harley Davidson motorcycle would blub, blub, blub along down the towpath as he stealthily looked and listened for trouble and frequently found it! The culprits were mostly young lovers or teenagers looking for a party hangout spot as I recall. The sound really traveled along the water and I would often be entertained by the excuses rendered by the captors and their pitiful pleas for exoneration. Most were let go with a stern warning, generally after their booze was confiscated.

Rain was my friend and I looked forward to a good, long, drenching summer thunderstorm! The lock house had a metal roof and nothing could be more soothing to me than listening to the rain hit the roof! Sleep came easy during a good rain! Being a kid in the country with not many neighbor children to play with was a situation that lent itself to finding your own kind of fun without suggestions or interference from others. In other words, you could do whatever the Hell you wanted! I had all kinds of things to do! There were trees to climb, turtles and snakes to find, bugs to torment, fish and frogs to catch. You could also make a slingshot using a tree branch and a piece of an old inner tube and practice you're shooting skills on numerous varieties of unsuspecting wildlife. But, my favorite thing to do was watch the heavy equipment being used on the highway being built right beside our house! At that time the Clara Barton Parkway was being built and what a treat for a kid! There were earthmovers, bulldozers, huge trucks, front end loaders, and giant shovels. You name it! At 5:00 PM, the workers would abandon their machines for the day to return home. If mom wasn't watching, my brother Rick and I could dash out to one of the many pieces of heavy equipment left on the work site and play on it!

The adjacent photograph shows David at top, then Donna and Rick standing on the bulldozer tread.

Occasionally our sister Donna would tag along but girls weren't invited on these important missions! Sometimes a watchman would drive by and yell at us and we would jump off and run



away, but most of the time we were left alone to imagine ourselves operating a monster machine capable of destroying a city! Another treat was playing among the piles of downed trees the workers would pile up as they cleared the path. These were a fantastic maze of jungle gym forests that provided hours of exciting entertainment! It never even entered our minds that they may be dangerous, and we certainly weren't going to tell mom we were playing in them! Little did we know that this encroachment of progress was signaling the end of our quiet lifestyle on the C&O canal. Mom had a unique way of calling us to dinner that is difficult for me to describe. She made a shrill, trilling noise that we could hear for miles. It was always answered by a simultaneous sigh; "AWWW, MAN!" from my brother and me who were usually involved in some extraordinarily important activity, but being late to dinner wasn't an option.

We would soon leave this retro way of life sometime in 1959 because of the changing policies of the Park Service and the inevitable pressures and attractiveness of a more modern lifestyle. However, in retrospect, I can't help thinking but for a few short years, I experienced what my predecessors and ancestors experienced as children on the C&O canal. Although the food and water were considerably better and the electricity was an incredible extravagance, to a child back in the earlier decades it must have been much the same. It is an experience I will carry for the rest of my life and remember as a good thing! I loved walking the towpath with mom and dad as they identified the native trees and rare fruits, like the sycamore, weeping willow, walnut and the Paw Paw trees. I also loved gazing at the stars at night while being serenaded by the cicadas and listening wide eyed as my parents told the stories of my ancestors that worked and died on the canal boats. I am grateful for this experience and proud to say that I too have been a part of the C & O canal history.

# Locktenders at Lock 8 – A Chronology

By Judy Welles, June, 2006

**1830-1839 Solomon Drew**

No family records exist. He was paid \$100 a year.

**1839-1850 Levi Barrett**

Levi was 28, married to Ann, and had 6 children while they lived in the lockhouse, 3 of whom were born there. According to census records, the family also held three slaves. Levi earned \$150 a year.

**1850s-1870 ?Ayles Stephens**

No records

**1870–1878 Elizabeth Davis/John Davis**

Elizabeth A. Davis, a single mother, presumably widowed, received \$50 a month from the C&O Canal Company and her son John, 19, tended the lock. When John turned 22 or 23, he began receiving paychecks as the locktender. He and his mother lived in the lockhouse with his 3 siblings. Another person, Graty Hyman, 53, is also listed as a locktender on the census and living at the lockhouse, perhaps a companion to Elizabeth.

**1878-1885 Thomas Davis**

Thomas was the brother of John Davis and another son of Elizabeth. His family consisted of his wife Emma, 22, and three daughters, Mary, 9, Jesse, 2, and Anne, 1. Elizabeth continued to live in the house to the age of 64. Another man, 24-year-old William Goodman, probably a hired hand, also lived with the family and helped tend the lock. Between 1878 and 1884, Thomas Davis' salary fluctuated between \$20 and \$40 a month. By 1884, the struggling company often owed lockkeepers money in back salary, including Davis. In March 1884 he received \$20 and in January 1884, just \$15.

**1885-1889 John H. Morgrel (or Morgrell)**

No family information. C&O Canal Company became insolvent and operations were taken over by B&O Railroad.

**1900s**

**Hamilton Davis**

Davis was married to Femia, a canal midwife who ran a small store. Davis worked one at Lock 8 in the early 1900s.

**“Old Man” Hamrick**

He is said to have tended the “crooked lock, lower lock of the seven,” his name or a nickname for Lock 8.

**1915-1934 Charles Spong – The Last Lockkeeper**

Charles and his wife Sarah had three children. One of his daughters, Myrtle, married and lived with them, and three of her children (their grandchildren) were born in the lockhouse. One of those grandchildren born in the lockhouse in 1917 was Lillian Fields Stephens, now 89, living in southern Maryland. She remembers her grandfather as a tall man, with dark hair, who always wore a "creased hat," like a fedora. She and her brother Jack Fields, who now lives in Texas, recall that their grandfather had white geese.

In 1917, the Spongs (Charles and Sarah) and their daughter Myrtle, her husband John Fields, and three of her children lived in the lockhouse. So at one point, there were 7 people living in the four-room lockhouse. Myrtle and her growing family moved out in 1920 (she had five more children), and her brother and wife moved in with the Spongs. The canal closed operations in 1924, but Charles continued to operate the lock for occasional pleasure boats.

Charles Spong died in 1934. He is buried in Potomac at the old Methodist church graveyard on Falls Road. Charles Spong also was the brother of Samuel Spong, the canal boat captain whose three children were scalded to death on the boat after a burst of steam from a factory in Georgetown.

**1939-1950s** Charles Spong’s daughter Myrtle and her children, including Lillian and Jack, lived in one of the houses at the top of the hill behind the lockhouse in the 1930s. The houses were later demolished to make room for the Clara Barton Parkway. Lillian and Jack remember the devastating flood of 1936 with water coming “half way up of the hill,” pouring through the lockhouse windows, and nearly reaching the second floor.

After Myrtle's husband, John Fields, died, she married Charles Muck, also a carpenter and friend of her husband. They moved back into the lockhouse in the 1940s, and Charles Muck repaired the back porch and installed running water from a spring behind the lockhouse. The Mucks lived in the lockhouse until the late 1950s.

**1960s** A National Park Service ranger, Garland Williams, and his family, including daughter Susan, lived in the lockhouse for a few years. After 1963, the lockhouse remained unoccupied and boarded up, in a state of deterioration, until its restoration by the Potomac Conservancy

## Descendents of Charles Spong, Last Lock Tender at Lock 8



Myrtle Spong Fields Muck, daughter of Charles Spong, the last lockkeeper at Lock 8, stands with her brother Charles Richard Spong, Jr. and his son Charles David Spong. Two of her eight children were born in the lockhouse.

Mr. Muck, Myrtle's husband, worked in the engineering department of the water company, got running water into the lockhouse from a stream in the back and also built the front and back porches in the 1940s.



Lillian "Blizz" Fields, granddaughter of Charles Spong, is shown at the lockhouse, standing in the middle between two friends in the early 1940s. She was born in the lockhouse.

**John “Jack” Fields, grandson of Charles Spong, is shown standing at the end of Lock 8 in 1941. He is the son of Myrtle Spong and John Fields. He returned to visit the lockhouse in 2006 after many years. He grew up in a house on the top of the hill behind the lockhouse and visited his grandfather often.**



John Fields, 2006

The last lockhouse keeper at Lock 8, Charles Spong, died in 1934. He and his wife Sarah are buried in the cemetery of the Methodist Church in Potomac, Md. Their daughter Myrtle is buried nearby with her husband, John J. Fields.



Vivian Booker, who lives in West Virginia, is a granddaughter of Charles Spong, the last lock tender at Lock 8. Her mother was Mary Spong Wade.