

Helen Gorman

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The first land grants in this area were taken up by land speculators, mostly people from southern Maryland, and one of these was John Diggs. John Diggs owned a lot of land in this area. He owned Diggs Choice which was kind across the Mason-Dixon line, and on this side and of course there was a big dispute about that land. He owned lots and lots of land grants in this vicinity. And he owned this 60-acre lot; it was called Brothers Agreement. In 1774 he deeded it to his son Edward and his son-in-law Rafael Taney. And they bought the surrounding unclaimed land, and ended up with 6,900 acres. And that was the beginning of Taneytown.

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Rafael was the one that laid out the town, and he laid it out along what is now 194, which is a north-south route and the east-west route which today is 140. Back in those days the 194 was part of the Monocacy River that went from Hanover to Frederick, and there were several parts to the Monocacy but this was one part. In other words there were several branches. The east-west road was kind of it, it went from Taneytown to Union Town to Westminster. It was kind of a round-about way. That was the way that the English settlers, the Scotch Presbyterians, and whatever, came up from that direction. And the Pennsylvania people came down the Monocacy trail, the Monocacy road.

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The taverns—when he laid out the lots, they were half acre lots; and they varied in price. The person who bought one had to erect a house that was 20 feet by 24 feet and it had to have a stone or brick chimney, and that had to be done within a year. If they didn't do that then they could be fined or they could lose their land. And when they bought a lot, they still had to pay; they paid for the lot, they still had to pay for taxes to the Calverts. And they still had to pay what is called a ground rent, which was in perpetuity for the original owner. In other words, if it was owned by Rafael Taney it went to him.

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Later on in the 1700s Rafael Taney sold his unclaimed lots and some acreage to Jacob Goode, and he took over the selling of the lots. The taverns on Lot 1, which is where, what we called the Central Hotel building, which was on the corner of East Baltimore and York Street. That was the one that was owned by Jacob Goode. Across the street from him, on the southwest corner, was Lot 3 which was Orrich Hoover (?). That tavern was a stone tavern and it has, we've seen the date stone on that building, it's still around in 1760 so it was built before the actual town was erected, shortly after the town was laid out.

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Over on the other corner, the northwest corner, there was another inn that was owned by Philip Fishburn, and then on the corner of, opposite there, there was another tavern owned by Hoover; a man by the name of Hoover. I think he was also a tailor. The inns, not all of them were the same. I guess some of them could accommodate over-night

guests but some were just merely like...Fishburn's was a tavern, the one that was on the...Hoover's was...he was a tailor too.

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It was also a place where people could buy and sell things, produce. It was also a place where the justice of the peace might hold court. It was a place where they held elections. Adam Goode was the first post master and so the inn that he occupied was probably a post office.

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Yes, there were taverns on Lot 1 which was the corner where now the Central Hotel building is. That was owned by Jacob Goode, and that was probably a log structure. Across the street from him on what is now Frederick and East Baltimore, the corner of Frederick and East Baltimore Street was erected angular fieldstone inn or tavern. And that one has the date stone 1760; it's the oldest building in Taneytown.

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Across the street from that would be one that was on Fredrick and West Baltimore Street would be the one that was owned by Bonner, and it probably was log. Bonner was also a tailor, in addition to being an inn keeper. And across the street from him on the side that would be York and West Baltimore Street, was the one owned by Philip Fishburn. Philip Fishburn's lot was divided very shortly after he bought it, and Eli Bentley, who was our famous clockmaker, owned part of that lot.

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There were four taverns, the taverns were on the four corners of the town that was laid out, and they were some of the earliest buildings that were erected.

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Jacob Goode had a brother by the name of Adam, and Adam bought Lot 8 which was down the street from, which was on Frederick Street, what we call Frederick Street. When the visit of Washington and Martha was reported in July of 1791, Hugh Thompson was the innkeeper. And of course it was reported that Washington stopped overnight and supposedly had an enjoyable meal of mush and milk. And then Martha's reportedly to have taken out of, from her ridicule of stocking that she was knitting. And of course the story is that of course they left the next morning.

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Now the table on which they ate their meal was handed down through generations into the McKellep family. Now what became of it I don't know, but we do have a record of the different people who owned it at one time.

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That was reported I think in his diary. This was a diary entry. It can be documented in...from his diary. The fact that he stayed at the Adam Goode tavern. And yes I think there was a reference that he did make a comment about the sign, the A was a distance

from the DAM, which made it kind of humorous. This was not Washington's first visit though to Taneytown; there were others.

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Well in outlying Diggs area, a lot of that land that was bought up by the settlers that came through here. Some of them didn't keep on going south, they stopped here. And of course it became a farming community. And now the town, I'd have to say, because it was a farming community, there were many craftspeople that started businesses in town to accommodate the farmers. And you would have people like barrel makers, saddler makers, harness makers, pottery makers, brick makers, blacksmiths, many, many more that started their crafts because the farmers needed these things in order to survive. So I would say that it became a center for business in that direction.

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Yes there were mills. The blacksmiths I think were the most numerous. There seemed to be about on every road, and there were many mills around. How early the mills came; I don't have a date but there were many in the Taneytown area. They were different kinds. There were grist mills and other types of mills that the farmer would need.

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Not that early... There were canneries later on. They would be later on in the 1800s when you had canneries because if you remember, there is references to during the Civil War as to the fact that there were a few cans, canned goods that the soldiers had. But canneries I wouldn't say would be the earliest type of industry.

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Yes, I think in the 1790 census there was something like 16 black slaves, but they said that number could include indentured servants, so I'm not sure how many were black. The Keys owned slaves, the Bernies owned slaves; there were a people in town that owned a couple, but they weren't that numerous. It was more free and indentured servant type situation.

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Yes, around the time of the Revolutionary War there was a Mr. Stroyer (?) that had munitions plant. It was described as being a long, low frame building. It was up on what is now York Street. In addition to making guns he made shovels, hose, nails, for the people. It burned down and he went over to Harper's Ferry to continue his business. There was another man by the name of Knight who also manufactured munitions. And he had a son who became a doctor, and is credited with being the father of orthopedic surgery.

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The Clotworthy Bernie family, the first Clotworthy Bernie came in 1810, and he came to manage Runny Meade which was an estate of over 3,000 acres for his uncle, Dr. Upton Scott who lived in Annapolis. And when he came to the Taneytown area he lived for a time in a rather log-like structure, over on what is now the Glenburn farm, which was part

of his property. He farmed part of the property, and rented out the rest of the land to tenants. He didn't really know very much about farming but he's credited with having different types of plows and thrashers made.

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One of the, I think the most outstanding thing about Clotworthy Bernie, 1810, is his correspondence with many important people in the state and in the country. And also he was connected with the Keys and the Taney's, and his uncle lived in Annapolis, and they owned land down there. He corresponded with many businessmen in Baltimore; he corresponded with people in Ireland, kept journals, kept all kinds of records of what he bought and sold. And from his journals we can find out a lot of what Taneytown was like when he was here.

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Now he had a large family. When he died he left Glenburn which was the original property that he built his first house on. He eventually came over to another part of the land, and built a house that he called Thorndale. When he died he left Thorndale to his daughters and they started a school for girls. He left Glenburn to his son, Rogers, and he started a school for boys. So they're credited with doing education in this area. Rogers' son, Dr. Clotworthy Bernie, practiced in Taneytown in late 1800s, early 1900s, and he is the person who wrote the history of Taneytown. He was the first president of the Maryland Medical Society, or not the first president, but I think the first person from Carroll county. He also served a term in the House of Delegates, and of course wrote this history of Taneytown.

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His brother George started Bernie Bank in Taneytown, and his other brother Rogers went to West Point and spent his entire life as an army person. And when he came out of the army he was one of the founders of the National Geographic Society. And his sisters, Dr. Clotworthy's sisters, took...kept house for him. All of these people, every generation kept records, and the Maryland House, the Hall of Records, deemed these records so important that they put them on microfilm. They came to Taneytown and the last great granddaughters of the first Clotworthy Bernie still had in their possession all these diaries and journals, and they were all microfilmed and put on film. And we have copies of them at the Historical Society.

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Rogers kept journals, all the girls kept journals; the girls that were in the schools kept records of the girls that went there. They ran correspondence with aunts and relatives in Ireland; that are very interesting. They had...one of Clotworthy Bernie's sons, a Clotworthy was a lawyer, had a son that was in the Union army in the Civil War, and he wrote many interesting letters to his aunts about his experiences.

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Francis Scott Key's sister Anne, married Roger Brooke Taney, who later became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. They were married; he was a Catholic and she was

Episcopalian. They were married at Terra Ruba in 1806, I believe. And their marriage record is in the marriage books at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Taneytown.

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The town up until that time only extended about, I think, for example, from the square down to East Baltimore Street to what we call Banner's Alley or Ripples Alley. Those lots were half acre lots and that's a half acre from let's say that Central Hotel down to Ripples Alley; that would be a half acre. From the Stone Hotel down to Banner's Alley would be a half acre. And the town only extended down East Baltimore Street to about that, about that, those places before the railroad came in. The people that owned Antrim sold off some of their land, which extended up into that area of the town, and they were bought up by local people and houses started to be built.

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I believe I read somewhere where there were about 68 buildings that went up when they knew that the railroad was coming. And then after the railroad came in, all along Baltimore Street, especially the people who owned property there, began to make the facades brick or they improved the looks of the property. From that we get the look that we have today, which is the Pennsylvania German influence and some Greek revival architecture. But that started after the railroad came in so the railroad was really a big, important factor in the development of the town.

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There was both freight and passenger service. And later on the freight I knew some of the merchants got their things that came in; some of their merchandise came in by railroad. Of course there was products that, from the farms that went out, and then now the canneries would have shipped their canned goods by railroad. It also became the post office pickup; the mail came in on the trains.

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The mail came in on the trains then and was brought to the post office. I think twice a day in the morning and in the evening. Mail went out; mail came in.

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The service continued through the 20s. I believe the passenger service stopped earlier than the freight service. But the freight service would have been used by the canneries especially.

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Well the railroad isn't owned by the Pennsylvania, but there is a railroad line, the Midland railroad comes through here, and does freight business.

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Meade's headquarters were at Taneytown before the Battle of Gettysburg. Meade had drawn a temporary line along Pipe Creek. He thought that if he was going to fight the South, that that would be the place that he would fight, but of course things didn't work

out that way. So we didn't become Gettysburg, Taneytown didn't become Gettysburg, but his headquarters were here. Of course when the battle began at the end of June, and the first part of July, troops were moving; some through Taneytown. They were moving through all the towns in Carroll County.

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Sickles Corps came through I think the 30th, and then Hancock's troops came on the 1st of July, when they found out that the battle had begun. At the forks of the road outside of Taneytown, what we call the Harney Road, there's a big inn where Dr. Swoope lived at the time. And that was where Meade asked Hancock to go and take over because Reynolds who had come by way of Emmitsburg, and then into; he was one of the first generals into Gettysburg, and of course killed shortly after he arrived. And so Hancock was sent to take care of him.

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Now the Harney Road was a supply route for things being taken up to the battle. And there were about, I think, in excess of 67,000 troops that went back and forth, you know before, during, and after the Battle of Gettysburg. The Lutheran Church tower was used as a signal tower; that's documented. There were of course concentrated troop movements an Antrum, and it's not unlikely that that could have been used in some way, but we don't have documentation for that, but it's kind of like a legend that lookout might have been used.

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Well right after the Civil War things were like static. It wasn't until that railroad came in 1871 when things began to pick up again and that's when they knew that the railroad was coming. That's when things started to expand.

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Well yes there were canneries. There was a A.W. Feaser Cannery company and there was a smaller one, and I think they did corn. A. W. Feaser had several plants; they had one in Taneytown, one in Keymar, one in Silver Run, and they did different things. Taneytown plant mostly did corn and peas, I believe.

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The Carroll Record I would say was an important paper; I'm not sure it was the longest. I don't have statistics on how long some of the other papers ran, but it did run for almost a hundred years, but not quite. But the importance of the Carroll Record was that the editor, P. B. Englar encouraged neighboring communities to correspond or send items of interest to the paper. And so every week you had an item from like say Keymar or Keysville or New Windsor, Union Bridge, Middleburg. They all had correspondence and they all sent information in so the paper reached to them, as well as just the Taneytown residents.

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Of course it also published not only local news but national and state news. And today what we find interesting when we look at the old papers are the ads and the merchants that were in business at the time, and the prices of the food and the prices of the merchandise.

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Yes there was a Taneytown Manufacturing Company that manufactured mens' suits. There was also one that did ladies dresses. And the Cambridge Rubber Company, which was during the war, produced; it produced a lot of rubber products that were used by the troops. And it employed about 2,000 people at the height I think of their... They did have a fire near the beginning of the war, but they rebuilt and were able to supply rubber type products like capes and boots and that sort of things for troops.

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Growing up in Taneytown was fun. We didn't have a lot of the problems that we have today. Things were more relaxed. There was not television; we had radios of course; I'm not that ancient. We had fun like in the winter time we had fun sledding, the roads were not that well traveled. I lived on Frederick Street and the plows would come by and pack the snow down. It was just a dual highway at the time and not much traffic but we would use spotters, and we would start down Memorial Lane on Frederick Street, and if we really had a good packed snow, we could go all the way down past the Catholic Cemetery.

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The kids that lived up on York Street would start at Roberts Mill Road and they could go down as far as the canning factories if they had a good slick roadway. We used spotters; we wouldn't do that today. You wouldn't use the roadways. A little later, the town did block off Middle Street for the children to use, like in the evenings. And they would go at the top of Roberts Mills Road and down toward the rubber factory.

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And we had parties and picnics and there were lawn (?), and the fairs belonged to the 4H Club. And of course we put entries into the county fair which was at Taneytown. The fairgrounds were just outside the town, where now is the shopping center. And in the summer time we had to; we had picnics. We had a summer home along Bear Branch but during the war we couldn't; my father didn't have the gas so we couldn't stay down there. But when we were there we did a lot of swimming and that sort of thing.

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We didn't have a library but we had books and we used to get, buy magazines at McKinney's Drug Store. And of course there were ice cream parlors and there was the movies that cost five or ten cents to go to the movies. So, then later on, around the time of the war or after the war, there was a drive-in movie, so that was how we spent our time. But we didn't worry about burglars or things like that. I don't believe people

locked their doors; things were just... We invented games; we played games on sidewalk and rode our bikes and skated, roller skated, that sort of thing.

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Yes, I did. The boys of course were off fighting in the war and male help was scarce so they hired me to, they were doing, the State I believe was doing a survey of the Japanese beetle population. And I had to go around and, I think I had something like maybe 50-100 traps, and it took me all week to go around and check the traps. I had to empty them and count these beetles by the quart, and then send a report to Westminster. But I got higher wages than some of the kids that were working in the canning factories. I was getting paid 60 cents an hour and they were getting paid 40 cents an hour.

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I was away at school mostly as a young adult. In the summer time I went to Notre Dame College in Baltimore, but in the summer time I went to Baltimore each week to school because I was a piano major and I was taking private lessons and studies at Peabody. So I traveled back and forth. So most of the things that we did were similar to what I've described before. We had, one of the things that we all enjoyed was the skating rink, which was just outside of town, and going to Frizzellburg to the dairy because they had wonderful, thick milkshakes, and everybody I think in Carroll county knew about Warners Dairy's milkshakes.

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My first job in Carroll county; I was a teacher in the Carroll county school system and I taught music first, because I had a degree in music, and I was certified in, later certified in elementary, and I taught elementary. And then got certified in media and I was a librarian for 25 years. I started the first elementary library, William Winchester, and that was the first school that had a library built into it. Other schools had rooms that were converted into libraries, but William Winchester was the first school that was built with a library planned.

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Well I was always interested in history but I guess being a librarian, you know I was very interested in, especially reference questions, you know that students would bring. But while I was still teaching I worked in the summer time as a volunteer in the library at the historical society, and I started doing research on my family. That's how I started out. And I got interested in doing other things, the history of the town, and I did a history of the church, St. Josephs Church. And as I said I worked on some of the other publications, the Atlas of Carroll county, the northwest history of Carroll county, and some of the other publications from the society.

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Taneytown today, I don't think the farming is as outstanding as the light businesses in town. I think one of them is Evapco and Flowserve and then there's another one that manufactures plastic fences, I think out on west, on the Emmitsburg Road. And the Cambridge Rubber Factory has been torn down, and some of the buildings were saved

and small businesses have gone into there. And of course there's Taney's Stairs, that's out on 194, and I believe some other businesses around there. I believe there's a plant out there that recycles cardboard.

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Well we're hoping that it will. Of course we've become a bedroom community for commuters to surrounding towns or cities, like Baltimore. Even people travel down to Washington. But we're trying to, the town has of course been under, what we call the "old town," we've been working on for several years. We're a main street community; we're in the National Register for Historic Places. Our architecture on the main street is well documented.

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A lot of people that own property along the way have received grants to do façade work, and the town is beginning to look differently. They've encouraged businesses to come back from; you know when the shopping centers started up, the downtown businesses lacked customers. So they're encouraging people to come and start businesses in the old town. So we're hoping that we've done a lot to encourage an interest in people who have moved here to be interested in what the heritage of the town that they're now living in was like.

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The Heritage Committee and the Museum are two examples of efforts to drive this out along. The Museum of course offers exhibits and we offer tours too of the downtown. We have self guided tours; we have guided tours that the Heritage Committee gives. And recently this spring one of the school groups took a tour of the Museum and I believe downtown, and were very enthusiastic about what they learned about some of the buildings that they had just driven by and just didn't pay too much attention to. But now after the tour, it meant much more to them, and they had an entirely different outlook about what their town was all about.

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Well we've lost your ancestors. Its too bad; we've already lost a lot of...we wish that we had more knowledge of what the town, what happened in the town during the time of the Civil War. But a lot of people maybe kept diaries or whatever, they're no longer in existence so they don't; we don't know you know too much about people in the...people living here in the Civil War. For example we have no documentation about churches being used for hospitals, except one reference. A Maggie Marren that went to school in New Windsor wrote that a friend of hers told her, a friend from Taneytown, said that they were using the churches for hospitals. But we have no documentation other than that one remark. And we're trying to put together the Heritage Committee right now is trying, me in particular, trying to get some material together to write down some of the things that people...that happened to people locally during the time of the Civil War. But so far we don't have too much material. If there's anybody out there that has material we would be glad to know about it.

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But I think it's important for you to know about your past because it's a shame to lose contact with what went before. It means much more to you today if you know what people went through in order for you to now be enjoying the town, for example.

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It's still rural; it's still... Carroll county is still rural. I hope that we don't lose any more farmland and, of course we have the preservation in place which is great. But I hate to see the county change too much and it's, its...that's why people are moving; people move out of the city, and come to the county because they want a more relaxed type of living.