

1. Introduction & Context

Background

When *A History of Pylesville, Harford County, Maryland*¹ was written, it was clear to the author that the story had to be about the 21132 ZIP code and not just the village. This was for a very selfish reason ... otherwise Eden Mill and Stansbury Mansion would not have been included. Given that his maternal grandfather had been the Eden Mill miller from 1918 through 1930, and his mother was born in Stansbury Mansion in 1922, this would have been an unacceptable exclusion.

Jarrettsville is a different story. The author's parents lived in the Election District 4 quadrant (northwest corner) of Forest Hill at the time of his birth, then Black Horse at Old York and Norrisville Roads, then the corner of Jarrettsville Pike and Schuster Road from 1950 to 1960, and on Schuster Road, near the fifth schoolhouse to serve the village, until 1967. Not quite in the village, but certainly not far afield.

Election District 4 is in the northwest corner of Harford County, bordered by Baltimore County on the west, Pennsylvania on the north, generally Rocks Road on the east and, generally, Pleasantville Road on the south. By the 1878 depiction, it encompasses three precincts: 1: Norrisville, 2: Jarrettsville (shown left), and 3: Upper Crossroads. In 2020, Election District 4 Precincts 1, 4, 6, and 7 define the equivalent area of Precinct 2 in 1878, and is muddled by congressional, councilmanic and legislative districts.

The village and most of the ZIP code of Jarrettsville is in the 1878 Jarrettsville Precinct as illustrated on the portion of the *Simone J. Martenet's 1878 Map of Harford County*, opposite. District 4 is named for Samuel Marshall who was apparently a prominent citizen of the area. Marshall's importance to justify the election district bearing his name is unclear. Land records indicate he only owned the 21-acre land patent named *Dines' Lot* that he purchased in 1789 from Francis Dines' widow, Mary. Court documents at the Historical Society of Harford County indicate he was an ordinary (i.e., tavern) keeper from no later than the early 1790s to 1822, just before his death. With taverns numbering the hundreds in the county at that time, why was District 4 the only one named for a person who owned a tavern?

The author's previous works on the one-room and two-room schoolhouses of Election District 4 (*Harford Historical Bulletin* No. 96) meant that presenting some of that research again would be easy. And with all the material now available via the Shagena and Peden books it was not unreasonable to do an area larger than just the village or the ZIP code. The image, opposite, shows the 21084 ZIP code overlaid on the 1878 Jarrettsville Precinct. Doing just the ZIP code would eliminate a significant area that other authors would not likely tackle (e.g., Cooptown, Rocks, Shawsville, Federal Hill, Taylor, or Black Horse). At the same time, all of Election District 4 was a bit much, and other writers might well be willing to spend the time to research Norrisville² or Fallston / Upper Crossroads.

The result of all this is to say that this total work will be about the 1878 Election District 4, Precinct 2, a.k.a. Jarrettsville. Thus, the borders of the area to be discussed are Old York (Maryland 439

piece), Bradenbaugh, Madonna, Telegraph, and Harkins (Maryland 136) Roads on the north; the southern border is Pocock, Ebenezer, Fallston (Maryland 152), Baldwin Mill, Morse, O'Connor, Phillips Mill, and West Jarrettsville Roads; Baltimore County is the western border; and Rocks Road (Maryland 24) from Five Forks to Sharon Road and back to Rocks Road to Forest Hill is the eastern border. The above border results in the following ZIP codes being investigated: the majority of 21084 (Jarrettsville), portions of 21050 (Fallston), 21132 (Pylesville), 21154 (Street), 21161 (White Hall), and 21111 (Monkton).

However, as the research progressed, it became obvious that a single manuscript for all the above would be larger than reasonable to print. Thus, it was decided to change direction, and plan on the total work to be a multi-volume set. You are now reading Volume 1. How many volumes there will be in total, at this point, is undetermined.

Originally, now almost five years ago, this document was about consolidating existing information, and adding any new information found. As it turned out, this document provides a multiplicity of new information, particularly about the hotel that stood in the southwest corner of the village, and the General Store that stood on the southeast corner. It expands significantly on the other endeavor regarding Jarrettsville's history, *Jarrettsville Past and Present*, and extends that work's timeline into the 1960s and 1970s in many cases, and to the current time in some instances.

Jarrettsville Past and Present was a 1976, 44-page publication by the Jarrettsville Lions Club done for America's Bicentennial. The work was "Compiled by Bicentennial Committee". The committee chair was Florence Kegley (1906-1997), the chief historian was Anna Lee Kirkwood Smith (1917-2014), and the typist was Mrs. Lee Johnson.

This author assumes that C. Milton Wright's 1967 *Our Harford Heritage* provided more than a starting point for the 1976 work. And Mr. Wright states that his information on Jarrettsville came from the section of the 1953 *Harford County Directory* that had been written by Lillian Amoss Brown, a Jarrett descendant that lived in the Jarrett Manor house.

These three documents have been the de facto standard for Jarrettsville's history. However, the lack of source citation in these documents has long left this researcher wondering about their accuracy. This effort is to prove them right when possible and correct their errors when not.

Two Snapshots in Time

Although Volume 1 will concentrate on the village of Jarrettsville, the following is offered to provide framework to the multi-volume work envisioned.

Two sources are often referenced to provide historical context for Harford County's towns and villages. The first is the 1878 *Harford County Directory*³, and the second is the 1895 *U. S. Atlas*.⁴

The 1878 data for the several villages that existed in the Jarrettsville Precinct before the turn of the 20th century follows. What strikes this researcher is that even though Jarrettsville has the largest population (150), Black Horse (population 100) has the longest list of people with trades. Also note that the listing for Cooptown (population 40), Chrome Hill (population 40), and Taylor (population 75) are about the same length as Jarrettsville. A few obvious misspellings have been