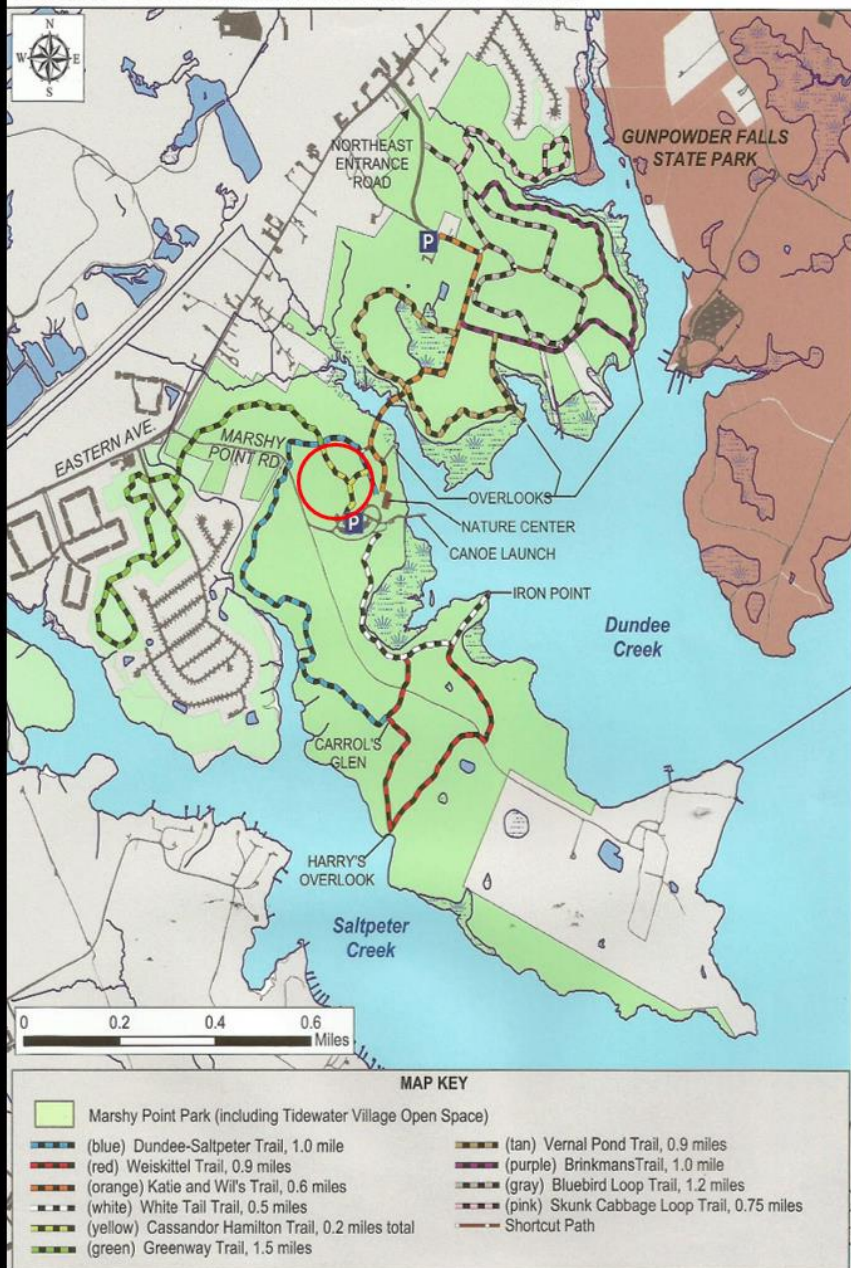


Marshy Point- Cassandor Hamilton Site (18BA623)

By Daniel Dean

Research Chair- Marshy Point Nature Center Council

MARSHY POINT PARK & NATURE CENTER - TRAILS



Property lines compiled from existing deed information, and are not to be considered authoritative. Trail lengths are approximate. Map created by the Balto. County Dept. of Rec. and Parks, March 2017.

Trail Map

(Balto. County Dept. of Rec. and Parks, March 2017)

Background Information

- Marshy Point property was acquired by Baltimore County in 1982 from the Weiskittel and Zelinski families
- A gravestone was found on the property and is inscribed: “In Memory of/CASSANDOR HAMILTON/Who Departed this Life/October 1st 1794/Aged 42 Years”
- Plans were to make a history learning point along a trail suggested by Robert Stanhope, chief naturalist for the county at the time
- No information was found about the marker until 2019

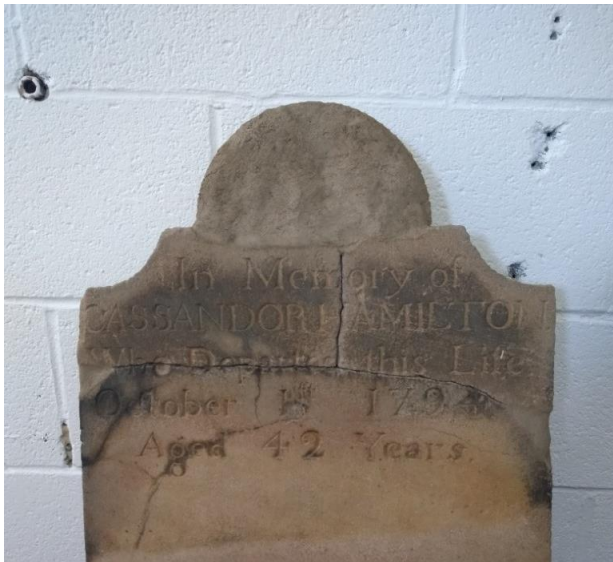


The Grave Marker

Photo taken in Winter of 2019

Transition of grave marker

- Dave Oshman of the Marshy Point Nature Center Council had the stone restored by Roth Cemetery Services in Pennsylvania
- Covid19 slowed preservation attempts
- Stone was replaced in August of 2020





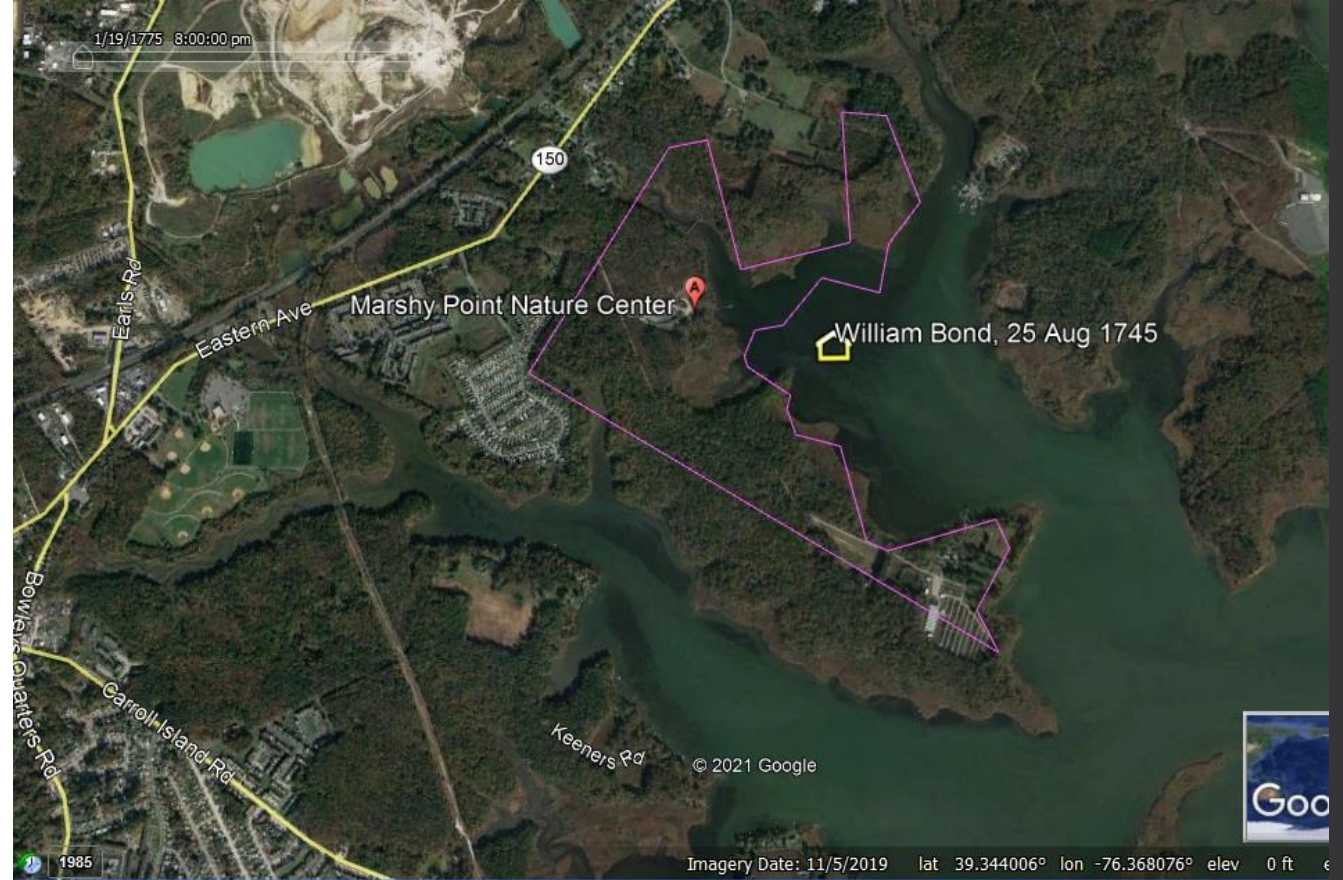
Finished and Set Back in Original Location

Research

- While Dave Oshman, president of the nature center's council, was completing work for the 20th anniversary of the Nature Center, I had been sending information to Benjamin Porter, director of the park for Baltimore County
- It was found, Cassandra Hamilton had inherited the property from her father, William Bond
- The information had previously assumed a male because of the name, however, all evidence pointed to Cassandra and other possible members of her family being buried on the property

687	3524	3275	2567
BALTIMORE COUNTY.	BALTIMORE COUNTY.	BALTIMORE COUNTY.	BALTIMORE COUNTY.
<i>Bond's Neck</i>	<i>Nicholson's Discovery</i>	<i>Midsummer Hills</i>	<i>James' First Attempts</i>
Acres <i>512</i>	Acres <i>217</i>	Acres <i>246</i>	Acres <i>46 2/3</i>
SURVEYED FOR <i>William Bond</i> <i>Dec. 24th 1757</i>	SURVEYED FOR <i>Nathan Nicholson</i> <i>Sept. 27 1768</i>	SURVEYED FOR <i>William Bond</i> <i>June 20 1743</i>	SURVEYED FOR <i>James Bond</i> <i>Aug. 14 1774</i>
Returned	Returned <i>22 Octo. 1768</i>	Returned	Returned <i>9 March 1775</i>
Ex'd. and Passed <i>28th May 1758</i>	Ex'd. and Passed <i>Nov. 12 1768</i>	Ex'd. and Passed <i>June 23 1744</i>	Ex'd. and Passed <i>Apr. 29 1775</i>
Comp. \$ Pd.	Comp. \$ Pd.	Comp. \$ Pd.	Comp. \$ Pd.
PATENTED TO <i>William Bond</i> <i>24th May 1757</i>	PATENTED TO <i>Nathan Nicholson</i> <i>27 Aug. 1770</i>	PATENTED TO <i>William Bond</i> <i>25 Aug. 1745</i>	PATENTED TO <i>James Bond</i> <i>Octo. 3^d 1782</i>
Rec. of Cert. <i>B.C. & G.S. No 9 p. 380</i>	Rec. of Cert. <i>B.C. & G.S. No 41 p. 373</i>		Rec. of Cert. <i>B.C. & G.S. No 50 p. 380</i>

Marshy Point- Comprised of 4 Sections

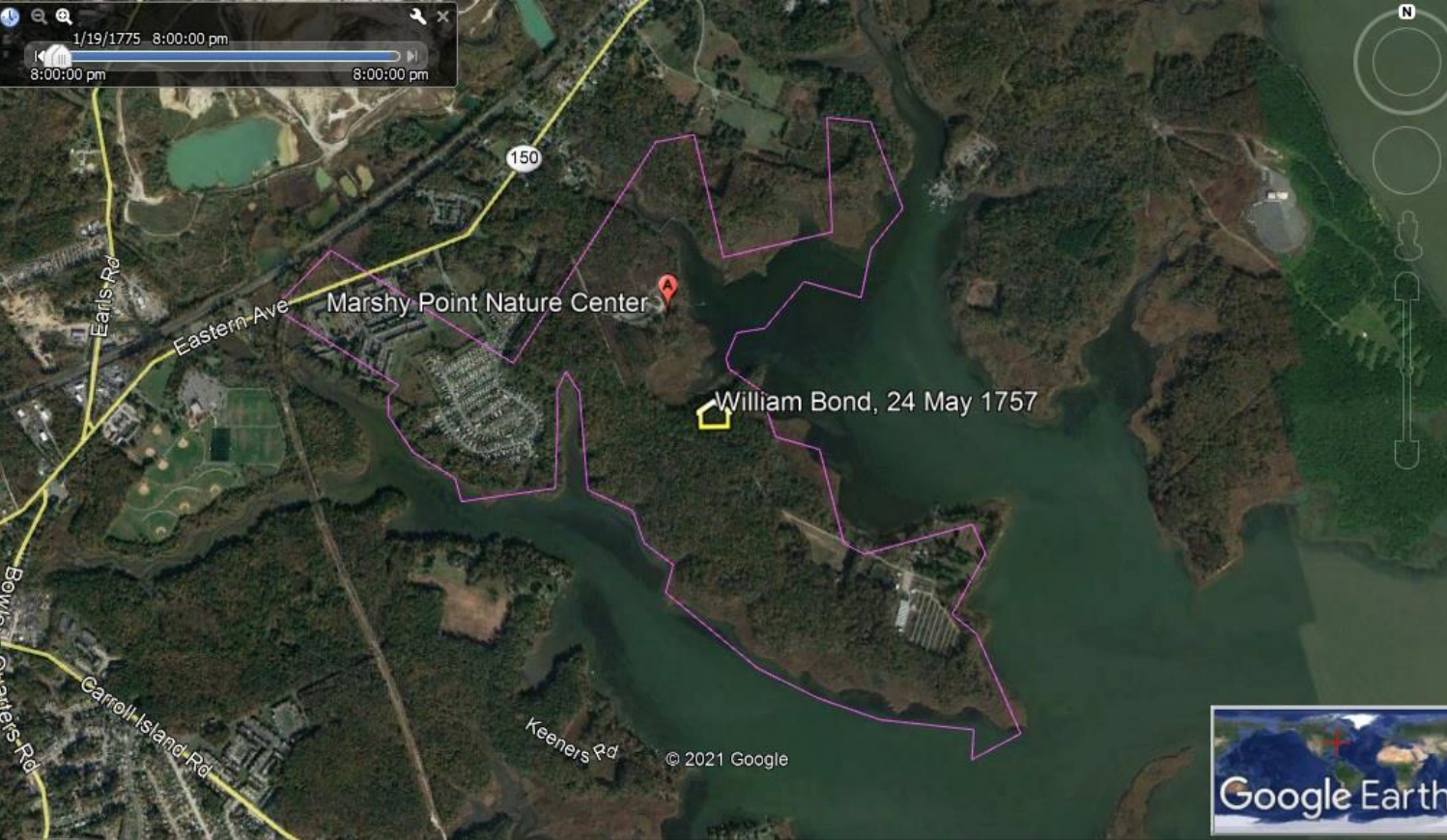


Midsummer Hill (201a)
and other properties of
John Beavan(s) – Plain
Dealing 1743 (325a) and
Limbrick 1678 (100a)

Note: Also called Limmerick

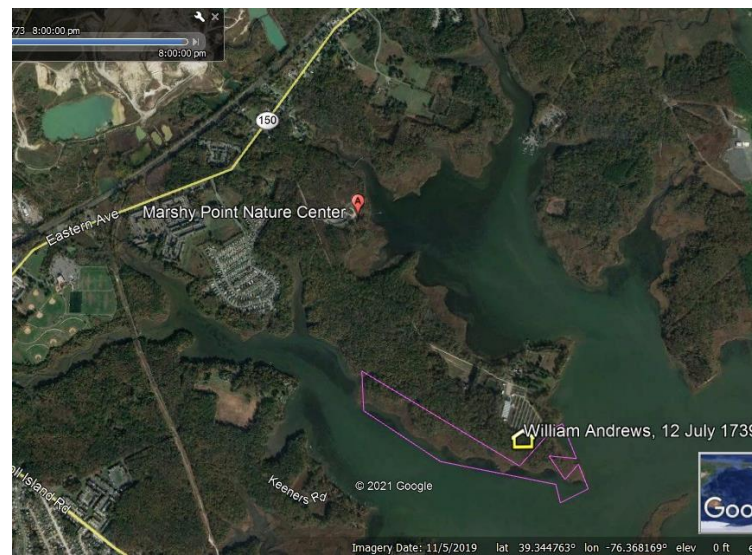
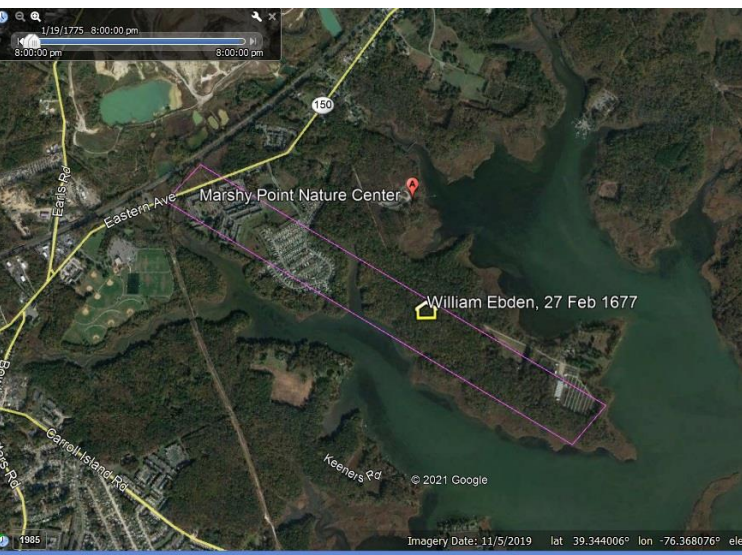
Midsummer Hills of William
Bond 1745 (246a)

Information from map-maker.org (The Happy-Map-
Makers Website) with data in Google Earth



Bonds Neck 1757 (512a)

- Included Forberry Neck, Feb 27, 1677 William Ebden (180a)
- Included Filial Care, July 12, 1739 William Andrews (50a)
- Included Midsummer Hills

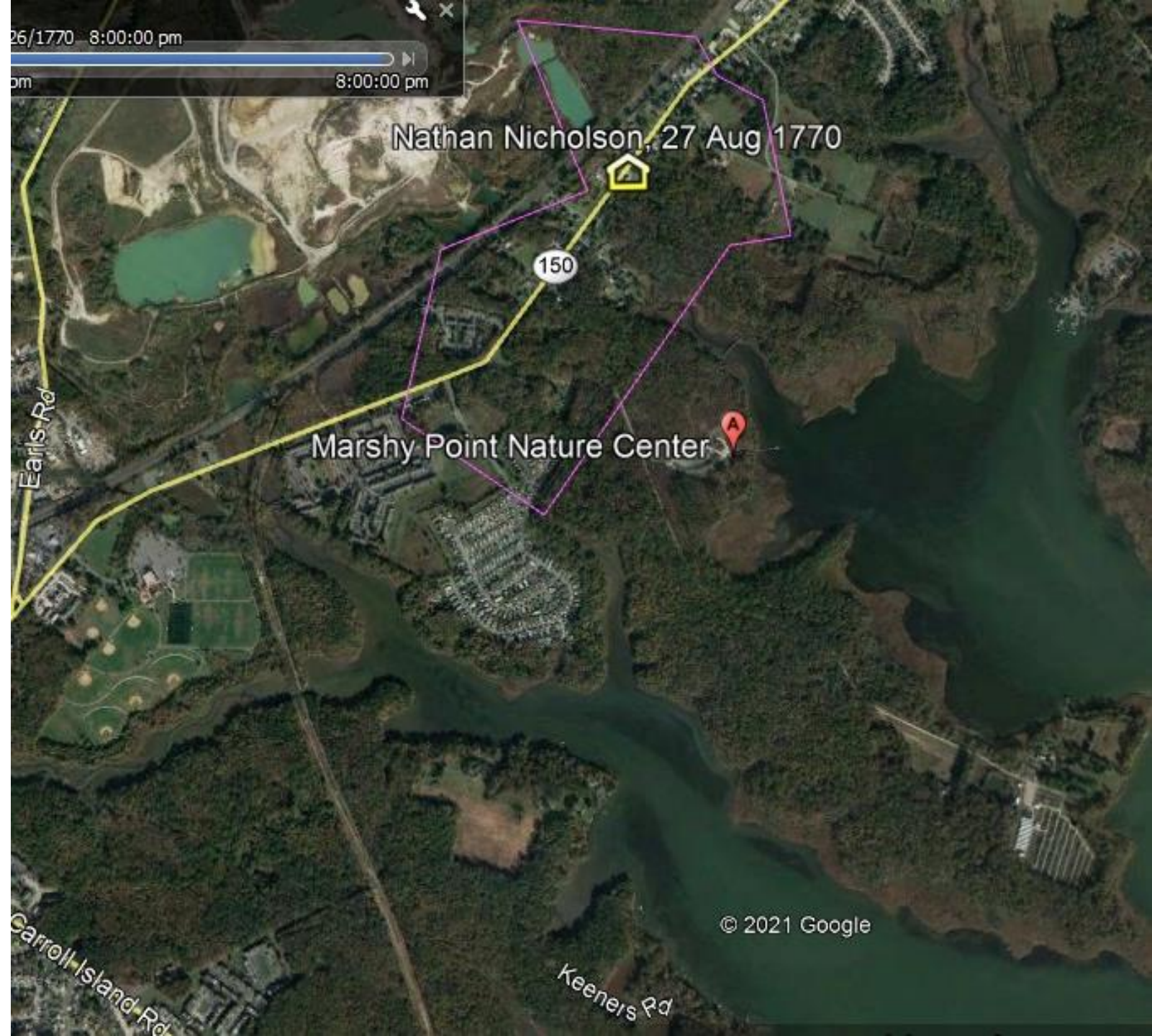


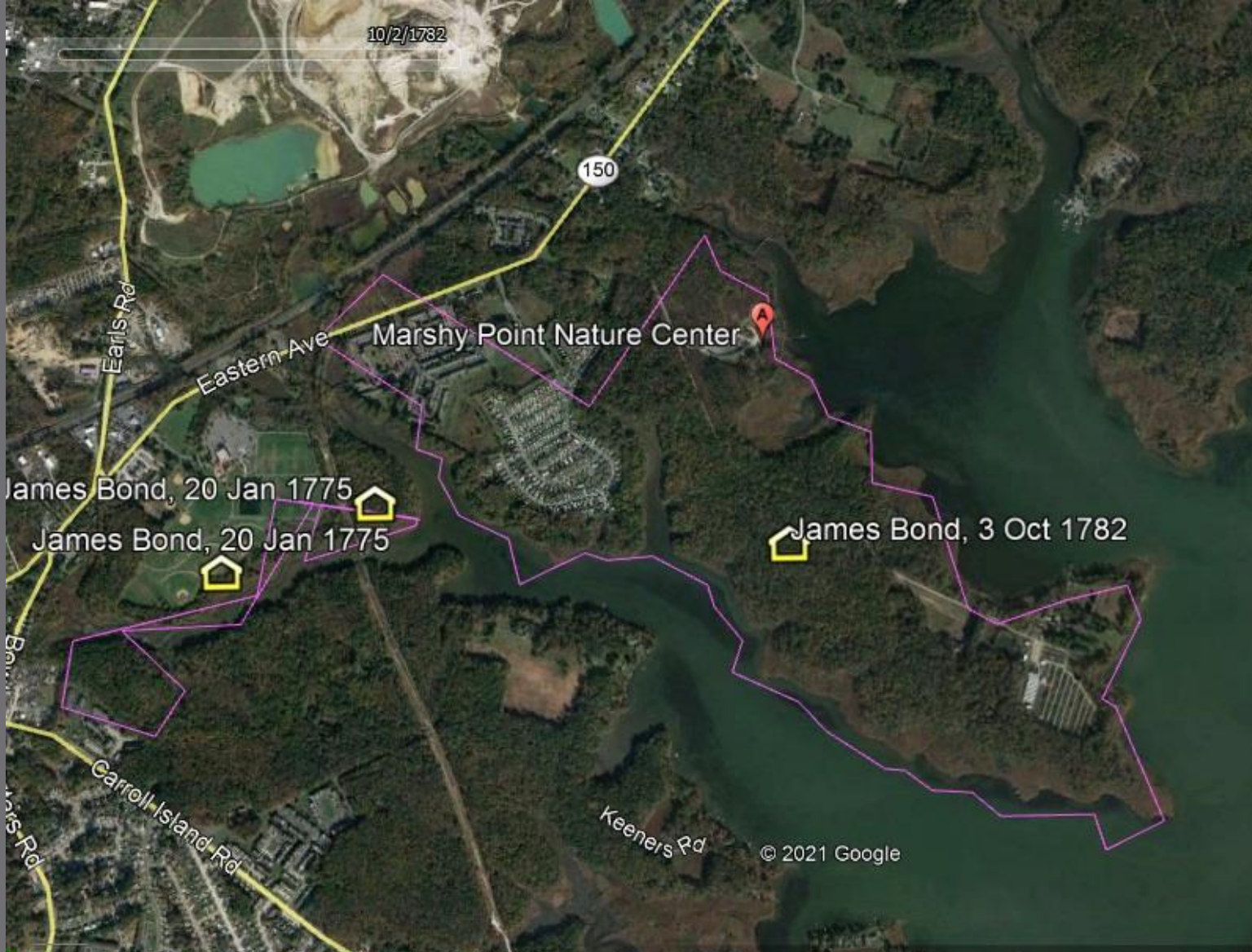
Information from map-maker.org (The Happy-Map-Makers Website) with data in Google Earth

Nicholson's Discovery 1770 (217a)

- Widower of Ruth Bond

Information from map-maker.org
(The Happy-Map-Makers Website)
with data in Google Earth





James' First Attempt 1782 (462a)

- James also had patents of Andrew's Neglect 1775 (27.5a and 7.5a)

Information from map-maker.org (The Happy-Map-Makers Website) with data in Google Earth

to say Part of "Bald Neck and James' First Attempt" situate on the waters of Salt Petre and Dundee creeks in Middle River neck in the County aforesaid. Beginning for the same at the gut formerly called High Bridge at the place bequeathed to Cassandra Bond by her father William Bond, and bring on the line of a tract of land called Nicholson's Discovery and running south west by south on said line of Nicholson's Discovery to a stump being the corner of a tract of land called Midsummer Hills, then running south easterly with the line of land sold by William Bond's executors until it intersects a branch of Salt Petre Creek then running down said branch to Salt Petre Creek and running down and binding on Salt Petre Creek until Salt Petre and Dundee creeks join and then running up and bounding on Dundee Creek and gut to the first place of beginning containing by estimation, three hundred and sixty acres (360) of land be the same more or less. Being the property known ^{also} as Marshy Point.

We see sections mentioned in deeds – along with Cassandra Bond

TRANSCRIPTS FROM THE FAMILY BIBLE OF JAMES BOND.

William & Elizabeth Bond, Married March 17th Anno Domini 1730.

Ruth Bond Daughter of William & Elizabeth Bond, was Born Feb^r 7th Anno Domini 1731.

Luke Stansbury Bond Son of William & Elizabeth Bond, Born April 15th Anno Domini 1733.

Priscilla Bond Daughter of William & Elizabeth Bond Born July 2^d 1735.

Tobias Bond, Son of William & Elizabeth Bond, Born Oct^r 5th 1744.

✦ Cassandra Bond, Daughter of William & Elizabeth Bond November 7th 1749.

James Bond, Son of William & Elizabeth Bond Born March 7th 1755.

Elizabeth Worthington Daughter of Vashel & Priscilla Worthington Born November 25th 1759.

Margaret Worthington Daughter of Vashel & Priscilla Worthington Born July 24th 1762.

Priscilla Bond Worthington Daughter of Charles & Elizabeth Worthington Born Novem^r 7th 1774.

William Bond Husband of Elizabeth Bond, departed this Life February 25th 1769 Aged 63 years.

Elizabeth Bond wife of the above William departed this Life Jan^r 31, 1787. Aged 73 years.

Luke & Frances Bond was married July 18th 1762.

Tobias Bond Son of Luke & Frances Bond, born July 22^d 1763.

John Bond, Son of Luke & Frances Bond, born Dec^r 6, 1764.

Elizabeth Bond, Daughter of Luke & Frances Bond, born April 8th 1766.

William Bond, Son of Luke & Frances Bond born March 10, 1 [torn] 8.

Frances Bond wife of Luke Bond Departed this Life, Oct^r 24. 1768.

The life of Cassandra...

- Per a family Bible from James Bond found on familysearch.org
- Birth date varies slightly from the estimated gravestone birth

An early mention of Cassandra in her grandmother's will from 1759

Liber 30, folio 684

16 April 1759

STANSBURY, JANE, Baltimore Co.

To the 6 chldn. of my son Tobias Stansbury decd., the money & tob. he had of me at his d.
To grddau. Prissilla Worthington, d. o. Wm. Bond & wife Vachel Worthington, negro lad Jerry.
To grdchldn. Luke, Tobias, & Cassandra Bond, the g. & c. in the hands of my son-in-law Wm. Bond, except the negroes & a bed worth L 8..
To grddau. Ruth Nicols, wife of Nathan Nicols, a large Bible & part of the use of negro Ben, & if Ruth d. s. p., sd. Ben to grdson Luke Bond.
To dau. Elizabeth Bond, for life, L 8/yr. from the use of sd. negro Ben.
To grddau. Sophia Hall (d. o. of John Hall of Cranberry), negro lad James.
To grddau. Martha Hall, d. o. John Hall of Cranberry, negro wench Dinah & her increase except her child Abigal, which I have devised to grdau. Elizth. Hall.
To grdson Edard Hall, s. o. John Hall of Cranberry, negro girl Cate.
To grdson John Bidle Hall, s. o. John Hall of Cranberry, negro girl Sue.
To grdson Josias Hall, s. o. John Hall of Cranberry, negro boy Cupit.
To grddau. Elizabeth Hall, d. o. John Hall of Cranberry, negro girl Abigal, d. o. sd. wench Dinah.
/ To dau. Bothya Hall, wife of John Hall of Cranberry, negro woman Sarah & her increase, except Sue, Cupit, & Cate, bequeathed to my sd. grdsons.
The residue to my son-in-law & extr., John Hall of Cranberry.
Witn: Luke Griffith, Wm. Horton, Peter Dickson, Amos Garrett.
9 May 1759, sworn to by Griffith, Dickson, & Garrett.


my Daughter Ruth Nicholson one hundred acres of Land and she being dead with-
out issue of her Body I Give and bequeath unto my Daughter Cassandra Bond the hun-
dred acres of Land aforesaid as also all that part and parts, and Parcels of Land
Belonging to me that lies on the East side or North East side of a Creek where there is a
Bridge commonly known by the name of High Bridge which lays on the road
leading from my house to that where Nathan Nicholson now dwells, So hold to her
and her heirs and assigns forever. Item I Give and Bequeath unto my son James Bond
my Plantation on which I now dwell together with the remainder of the Lands which belongs
unto me that I have not willed as above or otherwise disposed of, So hold unto him his heirs
and assigns forever. Lastly I Constitute and appoint my Brother Jacob Bond and my
Wife Elizabeth Bond, my whole and sole Executor and Executrix of this my last will and
Testament Contained on this or inside of paper. All Witness whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and seal the Day and Year first above written.

The will where Cassandra receives land from
her father, William Bond in 1767

Ground on the said Tract of Land. (1769)
Baltimore County, June 19, 1769.
To be sold, on the 1st Day of August next, at Public
Vendue, at the late Dwelling Plantation of Captain
William Bond, deceased, in said County, Saltpetre
Creek,
ALL the moveable Estate of the said *William*
Bond. Also 98 Acres of Land, lying on said
Creek, with a clear Title, for ready Money, by
ELISABETH BOND, Executrix.

Maryland Gazette 29 Jun 1769

William Bond's Estate Sold

my Estate whatsoever should be equally divided between my two
Children now living namely Cassandra Bond and James
Bond Lastly I constitute and appoint my son James
Bond and Cassandra Bond my hole and sole Execitor and
Executrix of this my last will and Testament
Signed Sealed and Acknowledged
in the presence of us
Am Stansbury
Thomas Bond of Barnet . . . } Elizabeth^{her} Bond 
the 15th Day of Feb. } mark
Baltimore County to Wit On

One year prior to Cassandra's marriage, her
mother passes away (1787)

1788

Jan. 10 Thomas Dye Cockey and Elizabeth Cockey L

Jan. 13 Joseph Perrigoy and Susanna Green L

Jan. 22 Joseph Israel and Hester Thompson L

Mar. 11 Thomas Cockey and Ruth Brown L

Apr. 7 John Hiud and Ann Shields P

Apr. 8 William Penn and Mary liams L

Apr. 24 Daniel Holland and Rachel Cotrill L

May 1 Daniel Stansbury and Elizabeth Stansbury L

May 2 Thos. McDermott and Etty Bryan P

May 8 Joseph Stansbury and Ruth Chineth L

May 8 John Divers and Belinda Eagleston L

May 12 George Hall and Elizabeth Robinson L

May 22 John Renddy and Deborah Bowen L

June 28 James Hambleton and Cassandra Bond L

Cassandra
marries James
Hambleton in
1788 (from the
marriage
records of
Reverend Lewis
Richards 1784-
1790)


Financial Struggles of the Bond Family

Maryland Journal Baltimore, MD
Tuesday, Nov 29, 1791
Vol: XVIII, Issue: 95, Page: 3

To be SOLD, at PUBLIC SALE, on Monday the 19th Day of December next, at 11 o'Clock in the Forenoon, at the late Sheriff's Office, in Baltimore-Town, Part of Two TRACTS of LAND, called ANDREW'S-NEGLECT, and Part of BOND'S-NECK, lying in Middle-River Lower-Hundred, in Baltimore County, about 14 or 15 Miles from Baltimore-Town, late the Property of JAMES BOND and CASSANDRA BOND, Devises of WILLIAM BOND; seized and taken at the Suit of CHARLES CARROLL, Executor of C. CARROLL, for the Use of JAMES GILES, by virtue of a Writ of *Venditioni Exponas* to me directed. To be sold for Cash only.
THOMAS RUTTER, late Sheriff.
Baltimore, November 28, 1791.

Maryland Journal Baltimore, MD
Friday, Dec 16, 1791
Vol: XVIII, Issue: 100, Page: 1

To be SOLD, at PUBLIC SALE, on Monday the 19th Day of December next, at 11 o'Clock in the Forenoon, at the late Sheriff's Office, in Baltimore-Town, Part of Two TRACTS of LAND, called ANDREW'S-NEGLECT, and Part of BOND'S-NECK, lying in Middle-River Lower-Hundred, in Baltimore County, about 14 or 15 Miles from Baltimore-Town, late the Property of JAMES BOND and CASSANDRA BOND, Devises of WILLIAM BOND; seized and taken at the Suit of CHARLES CARROLL, Executor of C. CARROLL, for the Use of JAMES GILES, by virtue of a Writ of *Venditioni Exponas* to me directed. To be sold for Cash only.
THOMAS RUTTER, late Sheriff.

James and Cassandra Hamilton } This Indenture made
To David McMecken  } this thirty first day of January in
mortgage } the year of our Lord one thousand
seven hundred and ninety three Between James Hamilton and Cassandra
Hamilton his wife both of Baltimore County who was Daughter and Heir
of William Bond late of said County deceased of the one part and David
McMecken of Baltimore Town of the other part Whereas the said James
Hamilton is indebted to the said David McMecken for a Sum of Money
due on Bond dated the Twenty seventh day of March in the year of our
Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine and for a further sum
of money due for two years Rent of a Tract of Land Called Bond's Neck on
Lease and for the further Sum of Seventeen pounds ten Shillings Current
Money due for Services done and performed by him the said David McMecken
to the said James Hamilton in discharge of which said Debts the said
James Hamilton has made Considerable payments And Whereas the said
Cassandra the wife of the said James Hamilton doth Inherit by the will of

The name changes
to Hamilton as
seen on the
mortgage as
evidenced from
1793, a year prior
to Cassandra's
death according to
her gravestone

James Hamilton } State of Maryland to William Allender
Land Commission } Abraham Stansbury, Chaney, Skatton and
James Cook Gentlemen Greeting Whereas James Hamilton by his Petition
to our Justices of Baltimore County Court hath set forth that he conceives
himself Injured by a Certain Nathan Nicholson of Middle River neck
and County aforesaid in his holding and possessing a greater Quantity of
Land than he is Justly entitled to by virtue of a Deed of Conveyance hereunto
made to his wife Ruth Nicholson by her father Capt William Bord of
the aforesaid County both since Deceased for a Tract piece or parcel of Land
Called Limerick Situate lying and being in the neck and County aforesaid

A boundary document a year after Cassandra's passing in 1795 with her
widower, James Hamilton

Cassandra's brother James and the End

Telegraph and Daily Advertiser Baltimore, MD

Wednesday, Dec 28, 1803 Page: 4

Notice.

FROM losses sustained in trade, I am under the painful necessity of applying to the next general assembly of Maryland, for the benefit of an Insolvent law.

JAMES BOND.

October 1 (20) 1805

1806

“From losses sustained in trade, I am under the painful necessity of applying to the next general assembly of Maryland, for the benefit of an Insolvent law.”

A published
genealogy
from the
Historical
Society of
Baltimore
County
in December
1975 shows:

7. WILLIAM BOND, son of Thomas and Ann (Robinson) Bond, died in Baltimore County on 6 April 1769, having married Elizabeth, daughter of Luke and Jane Stansbury. Elizabeth, was born c. 1714, and died 15 Feb. 1787, in her 74th year.

William and Elizabeth were the parents of: a. Ruth, married Nathar Nicholson on 16 March 1749; b. Luke Stansbury, born April 1733, died c. 1773; c. Priscilla, born 3 July 1735, married Vachel Worthington on 17 Nov. 1757; d. Elizabeth; e. Thomas; f. William; g. Tobias; h. James died 1809, having married Martha; i. Jacob, died before 1787; k. Cassandra.

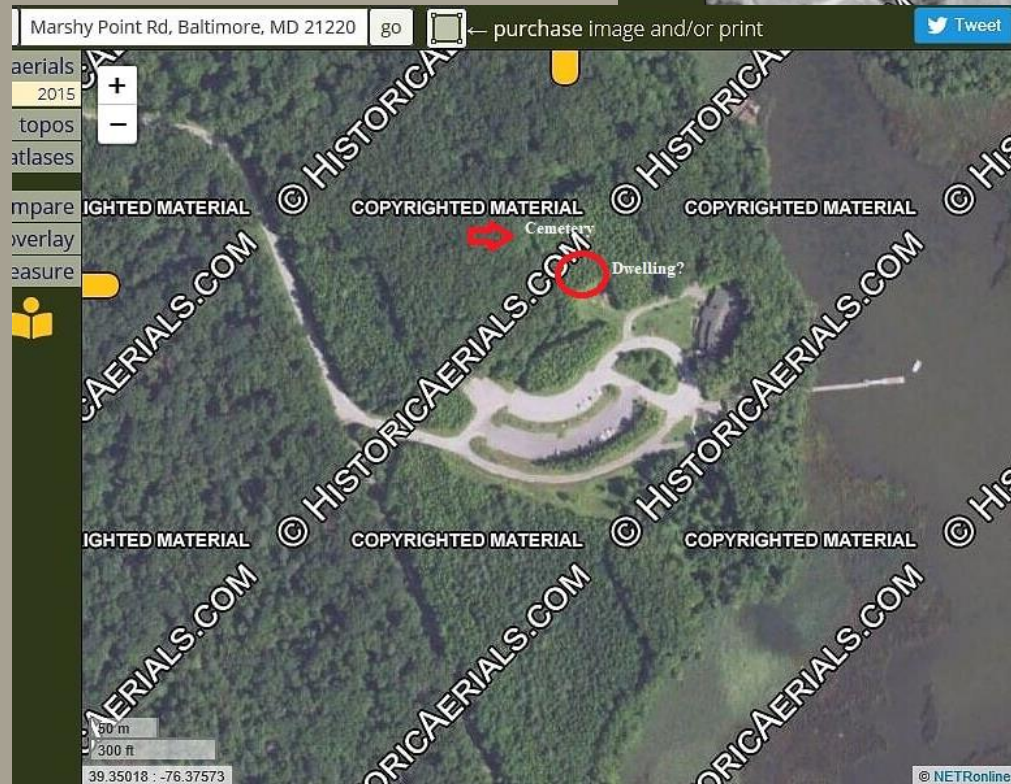
Summary of Research

- I found, on this land, the resident of **Cassandra Hamilton**, nee Bond.
- Her father William Bond had left her the land in 1767 when he passed away.
- Her mother was still living on the land as well as other relatives according to the tax record of 1783.
- Cassandra's mother Elizabeth Bond, nee Stansbury, passed away in 1787 as indicated by her Will.
- A year later, Cassandra marries James Hambleton, changed to Hamilton on other documents, in 1788.
- Evidence of financial trouble appears with the Bond family at Marshy Point around 1791
- A year prior to Cassandra's death in 1793, the property at Marshy Point is mortgaged involving David McMechen of Pot Spring (BA-70).
- Cassandra passes away according to the gravestone in 1794.
- Cassandra's brother James applies for the benefit of Insolvent Law in 1803.

Family Ties

- The importance of the Bond family and owners of this property have wide reach in the state of Maryland. Research has found relations of the Bond family who were part of founding Fell's Point. William Bond, who left Marshy Point's property to his daughter Cassandra is the son of Thomas Bond of Harford County, Maryland. His father left an acre of land to the Quakers to found a church with members practicing today. William's brother Jacob Bond was involved with the committee deciding to go to war during the revolution.
- Another of William's brothers, John, and a sister, Sarah, along with their children during Cassandra's lifetime were involved in the establishment of Fell's Point. One of William's brothers, Joshua is known today for Joshua's Meadows property (HA-356).
- On Cassandra's mothers side, Elizabeth Bond nee Stansbury was the daughter of the same Luke Stansbury whose gravestone is located at the Ballestone-Stansbury House on the National Register of Historic Places (BA-262, Cedar Point House).

Metal Detecting Finds and Surface Finds in Domestic Area



Note: Metal detecting is prohibited on Balto. Co. Rec & Parks sites containing nature centers without prior permission of park director.

Screenshots from Historicaerials.com



Domestic
Area

Current Area



Cemetery



Items Found in Domestic Area



Photos courtesy of Balt. Co. Rec & Parks

Items Found in Domestic Area cont.



Photos courtesy of Balt. Co. Rec & Parks

Items Found in Domestic Area cont.



Photos courtesy of Balt. Co. Rec & Parks



Items Found in Domestic Area cont.

Photos courtesy of Balt. Co. Rec & Parks



Items Found in Domestic Area cont.

Photos courtesy of Balt. Co. Rec & Parks

Preventative Conservation

For the iron objects:

- Used electrolysis bath using Sodium Carbonate (washing soda and sometimes with soda ash). It was run at about 2 amps for most items for about 2 weeks changing out the water and electrolyte solution every other day. Depending on time, it was jumped to 10 amps.
- Sealed with a rust preventative. Rustoleum was used in both clear and black. Unfortunately, the pot base is still showing signs of "weeping iron." Item was transferred to the Northern Chesapeake chapter of Archeological Society of Maryland for further processing.
- Items are stored in a "dry box" until a final display is finished.



Preventative Conservation

For the copper/brass/pewter/other mixed metal items:

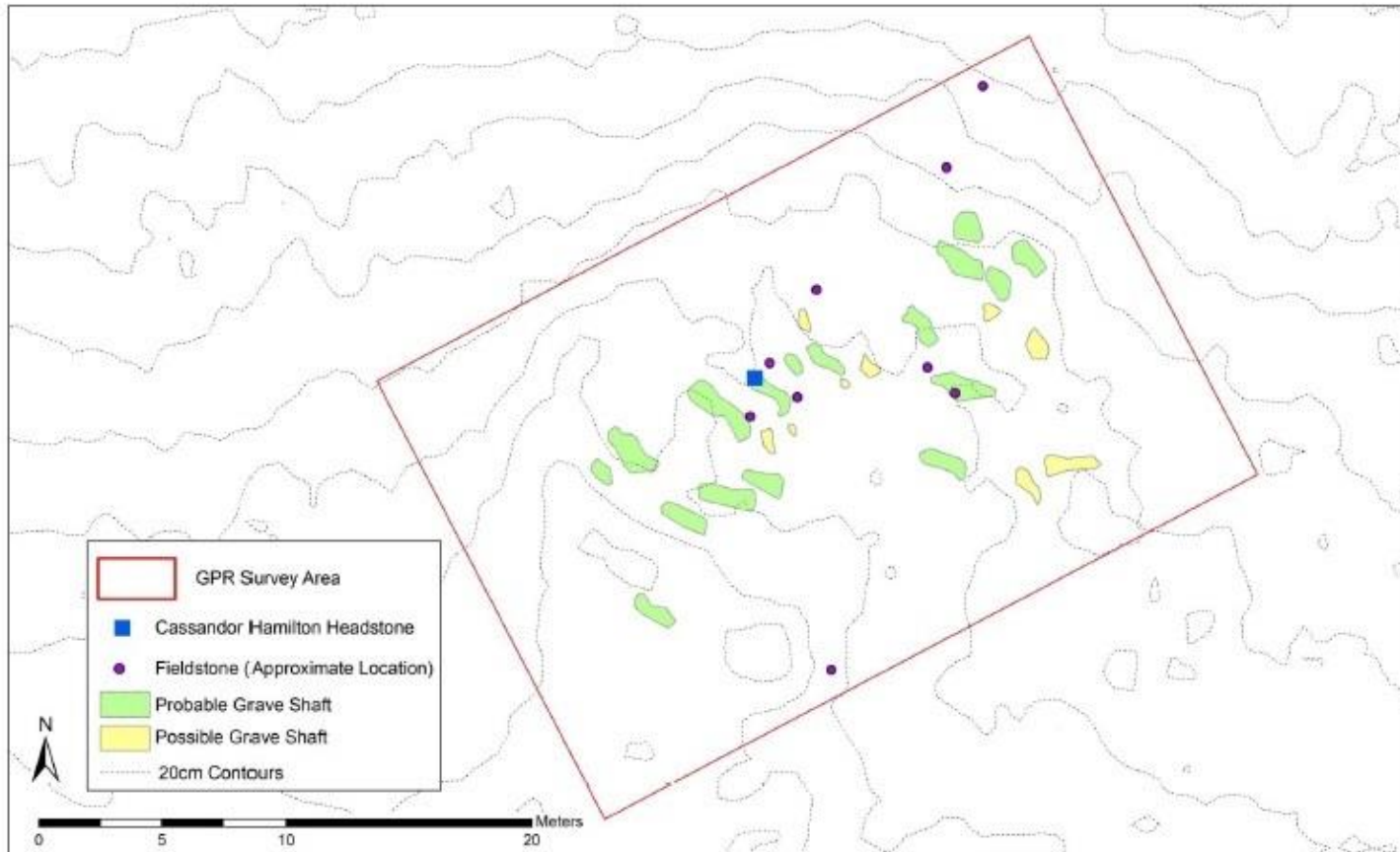
- Soaked in distilled water mixed with sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate to make a rough amount of sesquicarbonate. Aimed for 5% but I did not worry about patina and was more worried about cupreous chlorides. I changed this solution out every day or so for about a week depending on the items.
- I moved the items to a mix of grain alcohol (Everclear) and Benzotriazole BTA (carcinogen). They were soaked and sealed for about a week or sometimes less in this mixture.
- The items were rinsed in acetone and left to dry a day.
- A coating of Renaissance Wax was applied for the majority of items.
- Will reapply wax as needed and will keep an eye out for "Bronze Disease."



Help from the ASM

- With the help of the Central and Northern Chesapeake Chapters of the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM), Marshy Point Park has been able to search for clues into the life of the individuals who associated with our vast landscape, hundreds of years ago, by digging test pits in the earth.
- Led by Katharine Fernstrom and Dan Coates, of the Central and Northern Chesapeake Chapters of the ASM, who have combined decades of experience and expertise, we have broken ground and begun analyzing what has been found. We are gaining a better understanding of the socioeconomic presence during the 18th-20th centuries for the community.

FIGURE 14: Locations of Headstone, Fieldstones, and Probable and Possible Grave Shafts



In March 2020, the MHT provided its services by performing a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey to look for anomalies which would indicate possible grave shafts.

Final results suggest 17 probable and 9 possible grave shafts.

Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Trust - Office of Archaeology

Help from the Maryland Historical Trust

Set in Stone: Two Hundred Twenty-Six Years a Mystery

Daniel Dean

Now, more than ever, we find ourselves realizing the value of being close to family and reflecting on our own mortality. Memories of loved ones are passed to the next generation for some, but others soon are forgotten in the bins of antique shops, thrift stores, and yard sales. Over time, even the last remaining glimpses of those passed can be lost in cemeteries overgrown by woods as the earth envelops history. We at Marshy Point have one of those rare enigmas along the trail aptly named for one of its successors.

The Cassandor Hamilton trail was developed from a mystery that has been waiting over 226 years for insight, set in stone quietly slumbering in the woods. When Baltimore County acquired the land in 1982, they noted a gravestone bearing the inscription, "In Memory of Cassandor Hamilton Who Departed this Life October 1(?) 1794 Aged 42 Years." There are other stones marking a number of graves; however, except for a stone with a single X, none have inscriptions or markings other than that of the Cassandor Hamilton's. Sadly, the stone has deteriorated over time and was broken into three pieces. This past year, the Marshy Point Nature Council, in conjunction with Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, decided to send the gravestone for professional restoration. Current events have slowed progress but will not hinder our responsibility of preserving the important ancestors of our park. Since its discovery, it was assumed the stone commemorated a male, with imaginations forming possible stories as to why he was there and why nobody could find record of him.

There have been aspirations to educate visitors about the graves and protect the area around them. However, to educate, we must first discover the history ourselves. We at Marshy Point have begun the research phase into the people making home and sport prior to Baltimore County's investment of this unique land. We will be focusing on displaying what we learn with the public and celebrate when our community is ready once again to gather.

Of the many things to come, our focus will be on the life of the true occupant of the one legibly marked grave, along with many others who lie in the ground here at Marshy Point. However, one part of the mystery has been solved: the person commemorated by the named stone in our graveyard was *not* a man named Cassandor Hamilton, but was rather Cassandra Hamilton, a woman. Whether done intentionally or in error, what was chiseled centuries ago had us all fooled. We are hopeful we can solve more of the mystery that was set in stone.



Restoring Family Bonds

Daniel Dean

We are excited at Marshy Point to have the headstone of Cassandra Hamilton back home, fully repaired and cleaned by Roth Cemetery Services located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Our council president, Dave Oshman, has been diligent in the care and follow-up of the work during uncertain times. We are grateful for the opportunity to preserve our centuries-old link to the past, allowing future generations to learn the history of our area and maintain a relic not lost to the forgetfulness of time.

Historical perspective is a limited resource, just as the parks are to us. We neither know the personalities nor the virtues of all predecessors who walked along the trails prior. We know little of their generosity, caring, or altruism. Likewise, we do not know if they were driven by greed, envy, or apathy. When the only tangible object remaining is a gravestone, it no longer only stands for the person who is interred underneath. It becomes a memorial to all those who lived, worked, and passed in the serenity by the water. This headstone at Marshy Point stands for not just Cassandra, but for all of the unmarked and lost souls in the vicinity. What we have found with limited records are glimpses into Cassandra's family. We can only hypothesize the personal relations each member held but there are some facts we know, facts that tie the family to Maryland history.

Prior to Cassandra, her father Captain William Bond and his wife Elizabeth were deeded on Marshy Point's property. Many of the Bonds of Harford County are the lineage of Thomas Bond, William's father. Thomas had given an acre plot of land to the Quakers of the Little Falls Friends Meeting, established in Fallston in 1749. William's brothers and sisters also went on to do great things for Maryland. Jacob Bond was involved in forming the first constitution of the state, representing Harford County. John and Sarah, along with their children, were predominant in forming Fells Point. Many of Fells Point streets are named after this branch of the family. Cassandra's mother Elizabeth, nee Stansbury, is of the familiar Baltimore County family. Luke Stansbury, Cassandra's grandfather on her mother's side, lies in the small cemetery adjacent to the road leading toward Rocky Point Golf Club, next to the Stansbury House. Luke's wife Jane mentions her grandchildren, including Cassandra, in her will of 1759. One can only imagine a possible visit, on horseback, to our park from family living not too far away.

Remembering someone lost is a multi-faceted gift, often repurposed for generations as an introduction to the past. Without knowledge of personality, we do not know if we are to celebrate the life of a saint or the death of a tyrant. Our perspective comes from the importance of the family and the wonderful nature left from those long gone. We find it our duty to continue researching the past in order to gain more insight into the people who are known and find those hidden in the trees.

There is more outreach with the interlacing of our Maryland family. We have additional records and information, including our sources. Feel free to reach out with your own family stories in relation to our park of if you descend from Cassandra's family.



Outreach: Marshy Point Newsletter- Cattails from Summer and Fall 2020

Imagine trotting horses along a winding road toward 19th-century Marshy Point. Before Eastern Avenue was extended, the road was called Shell Road, in some references suggesting an oyster shell road where visitors would ride in carriages from a hotel located near present Bengies Drive-In Theatre. Many of us are familiar with the sounds of sleigh bells from the season, but the ringing of bells was once heard with each carriage rounding corners to alert oncoming transports or pedestrians. The train whistles added to the clamor as travel kept family, friends, and business moving. Going further back in time, we approach even less convenience of the 18th century. Prior to the locomotion of trains, strength and time were left to people and horses for long travel. The resting members of Marshy Point's cemetery dealt with the hardships of travel along with those of the time.



The Bonds of our park had local family. Many were located in Harford County, Baltimore County, or Baltimore City. A mild drive for us would have been extensive in the mid- to late 1700s. Travel limited visiting for short trips. Some would spend more extended periods of time after a long journey, compared to a visit of today. Others would forgo a trip if weather posed a problem. For the Bond family, they did not extend so far as to isolate themselves from seeing each other or doing business with those in either direction; however, it was not a simple ride, easily preformed within an hour. Another obstacle that befell the Bonds of Marshy Point was time of a different sort. Mortality. Sadly, many members passed in the height of their lives. Still unknown is the cause of death for Cassandra Bond who lies in our cemetery, passing in her 40s.

During the holidays, people celebrated. They visited with family. They ate, drank, and were merry. However, when someone was sick, they were cautious. They did not always know the causes, but they did not intentionally further the distress. They used the little they knew to

make decisions, which were felt to be in the best interest at the time. We are accustomed to self-decision within our means, but during this time, the constraints of outside forces sometimes hold us back. With what we have learned, we must make good choices to protect friends and family. Just as in the past, we too can find balance within limits.

This season will feel different. Normal activities are now memories, seemingly out of reach and distant. It feels like ages passing, but only months separate us from our former selves. Simple holiday acts, once taken for granted, are priceless traditions when barriers keep us apart. Just like travel in miles, the passing of time has its similarities making life feel mathematical in routine. Take comfort in knowing our ancestors prepared us for this pivot in life. The emotions through all generations are instilled genetically as we are humans. We will be strong as our parents, grandparents, and all before us were in times of danger and unknown. Contentment in life comes from willingness to adjust without compromising the traditions you cherish.



Cattails from Winter 2020

MARYLAND

RECOLLECTIONS

Uncovering a mysterious 18th-century burial ground at Baltimore County's Marshy Point park

By Christina Tkacik

Just between Saltpeter Creek and Dundee Creek on the eastern side of Baltimore County, Marshy Point Nature Center attracts bountiful wildlife to its Upper Chesapeake wetlands.

On any given visit a guest might encounter frogs and toads in its vernal pools, seasonal ponds that dry up in the summer, or see majestic eagles soaring across the creek. Kids love checking out the chickens, owls and vulture near the nature center.

But the sights aren't limited to wildlife.

Just past a dry-docked boat in the parking lot sits a gray tombstone from more than 200 years ago. Few of the visitors to Marshy Point Nature Center even realize it's there, much less stop to read its inscription:

"In Memory of CASSANDOR HAMILTON Who Departed this Life October 11794 Aged 42 Years."

A few years ago, Parkville resident Daniel Dean became fascinated with the site and the mysteries it seemed to hold. His curiosity was sparked after reading a park booklet speculating that Hamilton, buried down below, could have been a soldier who fought in the French and Indian War.

Delving into centuries' worth of archives — and some ground-penetrating radar — he and others began a quest that would ultimately

uncover more than a dozen other graves nearby — and open a can of worms on the park's history.

In a past life, Marshy Point was home to an exclusive hunting club, whose visitors included a U.S. president, Babe Ruth and even sharpshooter Annie Oakley, according to a history on the park's website. That would have been long after Cassandor Hamilton ever walked these parts.

Through the generations, Hamilton's tombstone became something of a park oddity, left undisturbed but also unexplored when Baltimore County purchased the land in 1982 and turned it into a public park.

"We think it's the best park around," said Dave Oshman, president of the Marshy Point Nature Center Council, who, like Dean, became curious about the provenance of the park's 18th-century headstone.

To find out more about Hamilton, Dean, an amateur historian who works full time for a coffee and tea supplier, researched genealogy websites and state land records and archives. He found a listing of a landowner named "Cassandra Hamilton, nee Bond." She had inherited the land from her father, William Bond.

Despite the difference in spelling — "Cassandor" versus "Cassandra" — and a slight discrepancy in the age at the time of death, Oshman and Dean are sure that it's the same person buried at the site in Marshy

Point. Given that so many people couldn't read in the 18th century, Oshman says, "It wasn't uncommon for misspellings to happen."

"We're 99.9% sure there's no one else it could be," said Dean.

Cassandor, who some had assumed to be a man, was most likely a woman.

Beyond that, the records don't tell much about who Hamilton was or what she was like. She was related to some powerful people. An uncle and his family helped settle Fells Point. She married James Hamilton, though some spellings list it "Hambleton."

"We kind of know her birth date, her marriage date and the date she died, and that's about it," said Oshman.

In addition to Hamilton's tombstone, Dean and Oshman had noticed stone fragments nearby that they thought could be grave markers. Earlier this year, the Maryland Historical Trust used ground-penetrating radar to survey the surrounding area — running over the land with a device Dean compared to a "little lawn mower." Preliminary results found "14 shaft anomalies suggestive of burials."

For the most part, this 18th-century grave is "forgotten in the woods," said Dean, who now holds the title of research chair for Marshy Point Nature Center Council in Baltimore County. He and Oshman put up signs to let visitors know that the area is a cemetery, so they should please be respectful.

Dean's quest to dig up the park's history isn't finished. Together with a Towson



Dave Oshman, left, and Daniel Dean stand behind a recovered tombstone that includes the name "Cassandor Hamilton." **KARL MERTON FERRON/BALTIMORE SUN**

professor and archaeological adviser, he's planning an archaeological dig of Hamilton's home. Someday they may exhume the graves and do DNA testing to learn more about the site — though there's no guarantee that any fragments will have survived the centuries in the marshy ground below.

"You've got to have a tooth and a section of a bone," he said.

Could some of the enslaved people be lying in rest nearby?

"The records show there weren't that many family members that lived around there," said Oshman.

Hamilton does not appear to have had any children. Any grave marked with a simple field stone, he thinks, could potentially be the grave of an enslaved person.

Dean and Oshman also recently sent Hamilton's headstone to a conservator in Pennsylvania who patched up pieces that had been broken over the years. For Middle River residents like Oshman, the stone is a connection to the past and to the people who first built homes here.



Cattails

7130 Marshy Point Road, Middle River, MD 21220
www.marshypoint.org
410-887-2817



The Marshy Point Nature Center Council Newsletter June - July - August 2021

Reaching the Dead

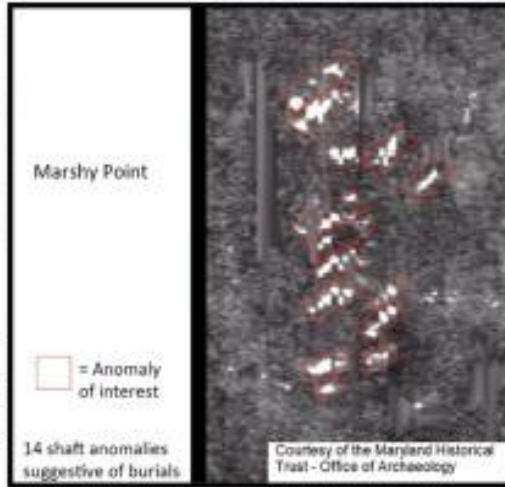
Daniel Dean

"14 shaft anomalies suggestive of burials." These were the notes written in the preliminary report from the Maryland Historical Trust's (MHT) Office of Archaeology. Shadowed under trees and covered in unmoved earth, Marshy Point has a true cemetery to call its own. Voiceless for many decades, while the surroundings changed from homes to park, they waited. We walk alongside the lost, silenced in breath but crying out for remembrance.

In the past couple of years, we have found Cassandra. Lost to either carving typo or nickname, her association was in rubble like her gravestone until last year. In repair of both stone and status, we have pieced together the clues left from the written history of time. Now it is known how many others lie eternally alongside her: thirteen more.

In March, the MHT Office of Archaeology pushed around an important vehicle, sending signals into the crust of earth where speculation neared its end. Ground penetrating radar was able to determine soil disturbances within a perimeter large enough to include the remaining evidence visible to the eye. A few upright pillars, fighting to stand tall after hundreds of years, finally paid their due, as common field stones they were no more. If any rock could attain gravity in importance, it would be these humble protrusions in the soil. Their signal to Marshy Point staff and volunteers instilled questioning the possibility to a neighboring group of unknowns.

As we wait for a final analysis of the area, feel free to visit the site along the *Cassandra Hamilton* (Yellow) trail. Please be respectful and mindful of the area, as you are not alone. Fragile points are beneath the feet, undisturbed for many years. Now is our time to journey into finding who these additional thirteen sleepers may be. We hope they take comfort in the serene atmosphere of the singing birds and resident woodpecker known to this side of Marshy Point.



Marshy Point Newsletter

Volunteers Needed

We are Currently working on a "phase one" Archeological survey in the domestic area led by Katharine Fernstrom and Dan Coates of the ASM. If you would like to be involved and have hands on learning with our team, please contact the Marshy Point Nature Center at **contact@marshypoint.org**

Current opportunities include:

- Digging shovel test pits (STP)
- Analyzing soil depths and types
- Sifting through dirt for artifacts
- Cleaning found artifacts
- Helping with documentation and research

Conclusion and Questions