

MORE THAN WHISKEY AND FLOUR:

Shopping in an 1850s Canal Town



With thanks to Karen Gray, Ph.D., and Mr. William Bauman.

MORE THAN WHISKEY AND FLOUR:

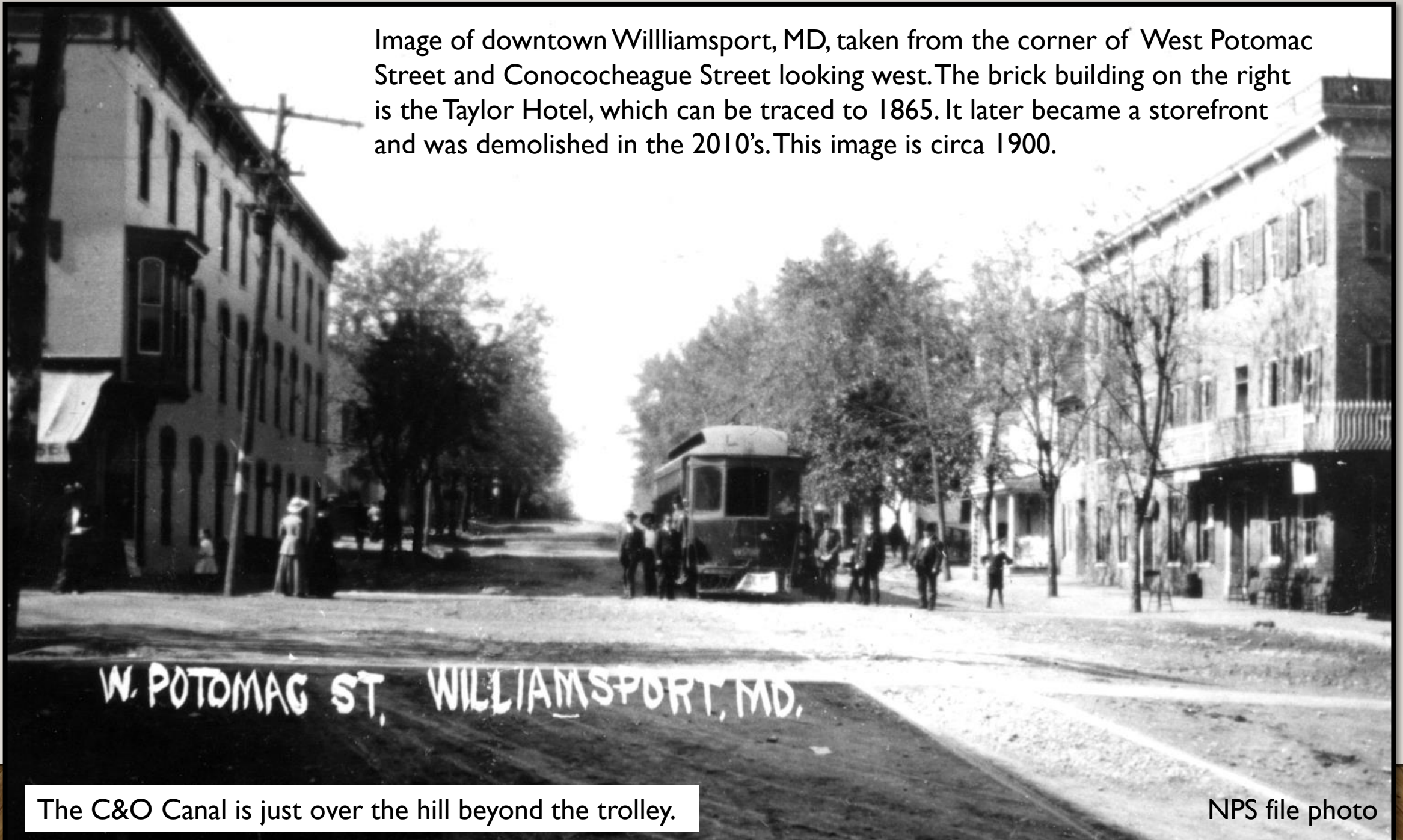
Shopping in an 1850s Canal Town

In the museum collection of the C&O Canal National Historical Park is a shop ledger from a Williamsport merchant.

It lists purchases made between 1856-1858, providing tantalizing glimpses into the everyday lives of its customers.



Image of downtown Williamsport, MD, taken from the corner of West Potomac Street and Conococheague Street looking west. The brick building on the right is the Taylor Hotel, which can be traced to 1865. It later became a storefront and was demolished in the 2010's. This image is circa 1900.

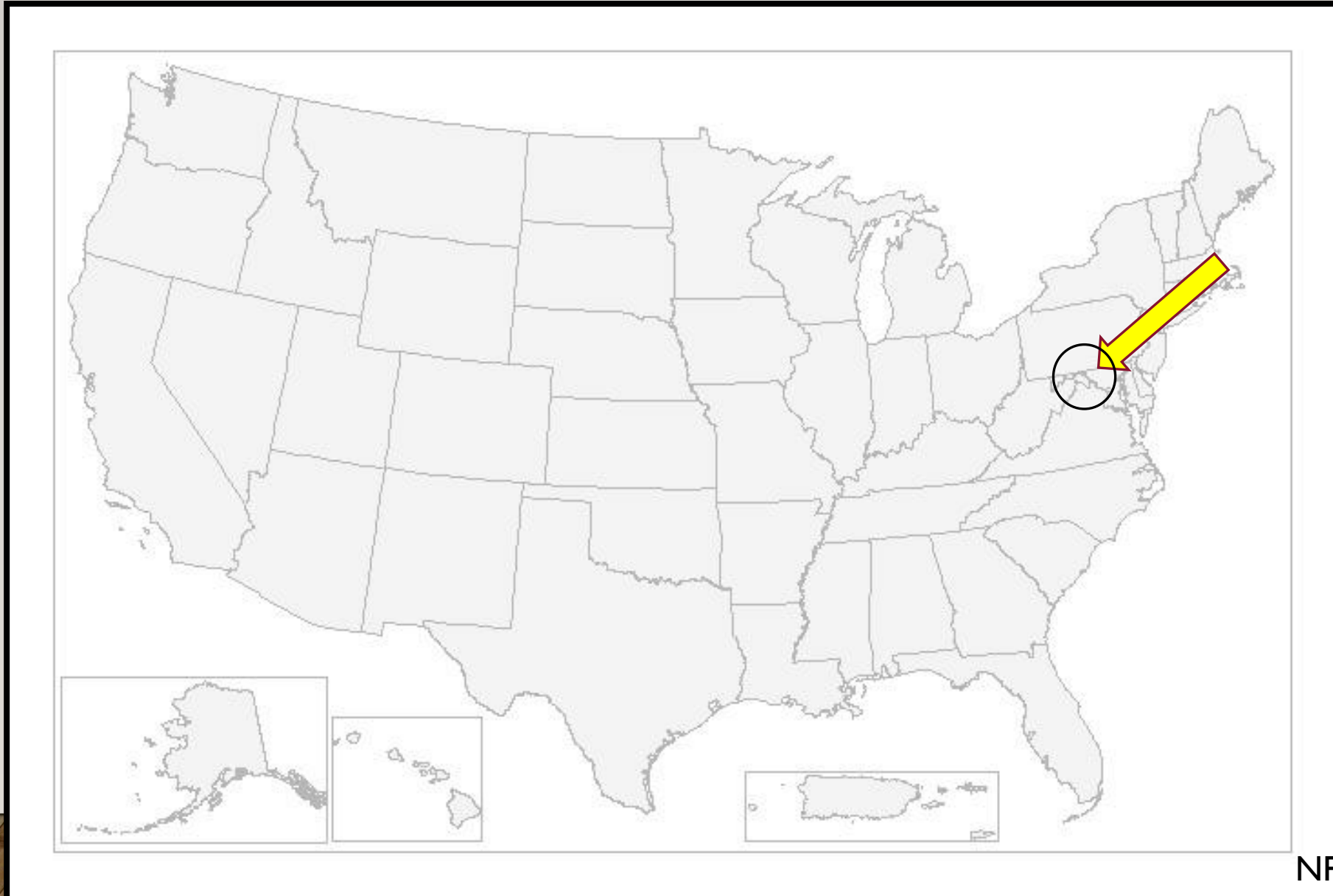


W. POTOMAC ST, WILLIAMSPORT, MD.

The C&O Canal is just over the hill beyond the trolley.

NPS file photo

WILLIAMSPORT, MD, USA



NPS file photo

STATE OF MARYLAND

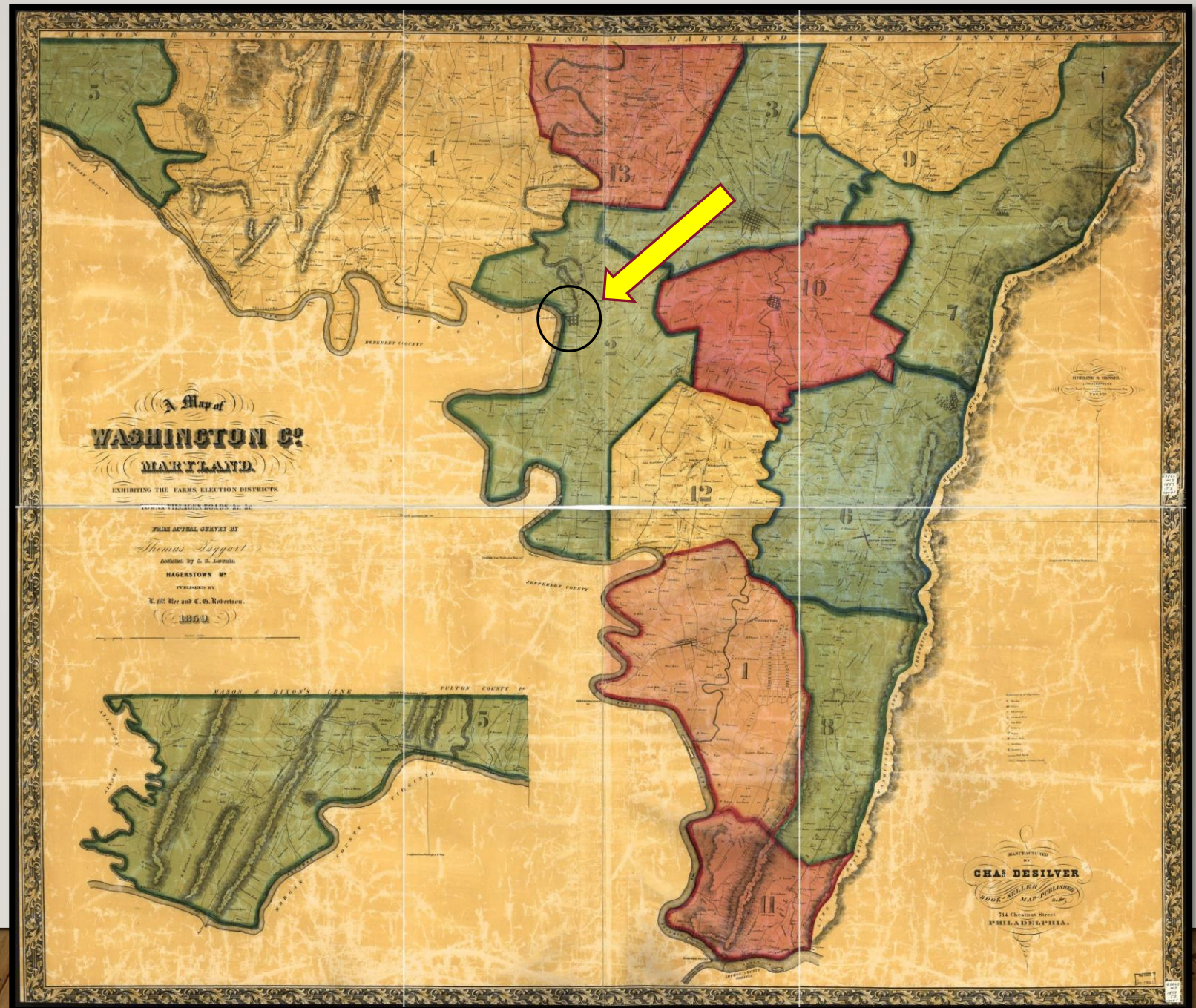
In 1852

Martenet's map of
Maryland
Library of Congress



WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD

Showing Williamsport in 1859



Thomas Taggart, A Map of
Washington County, 1859

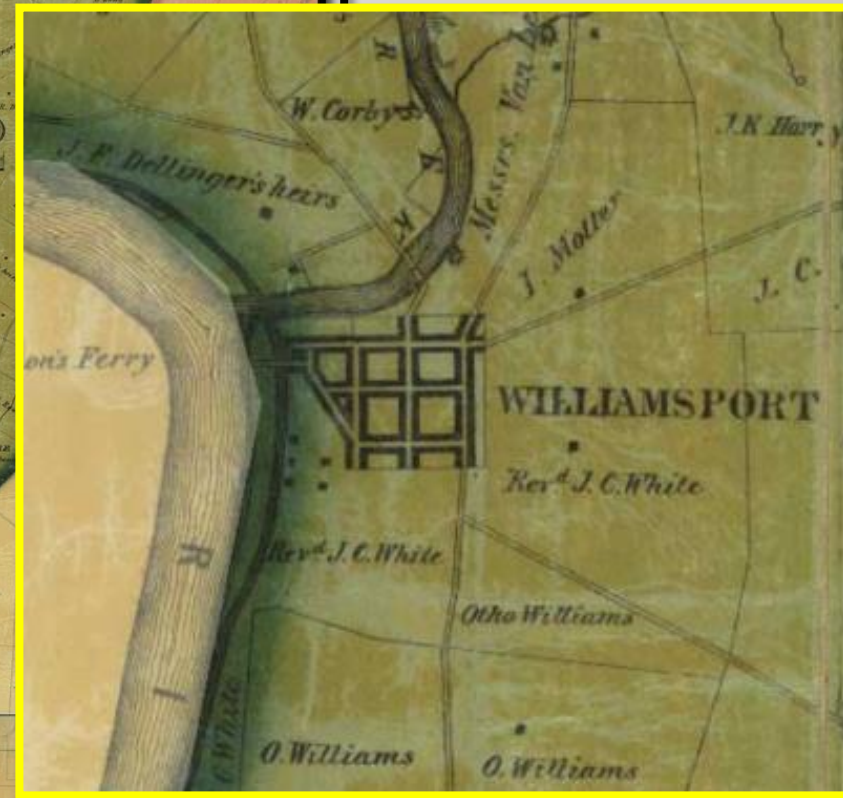
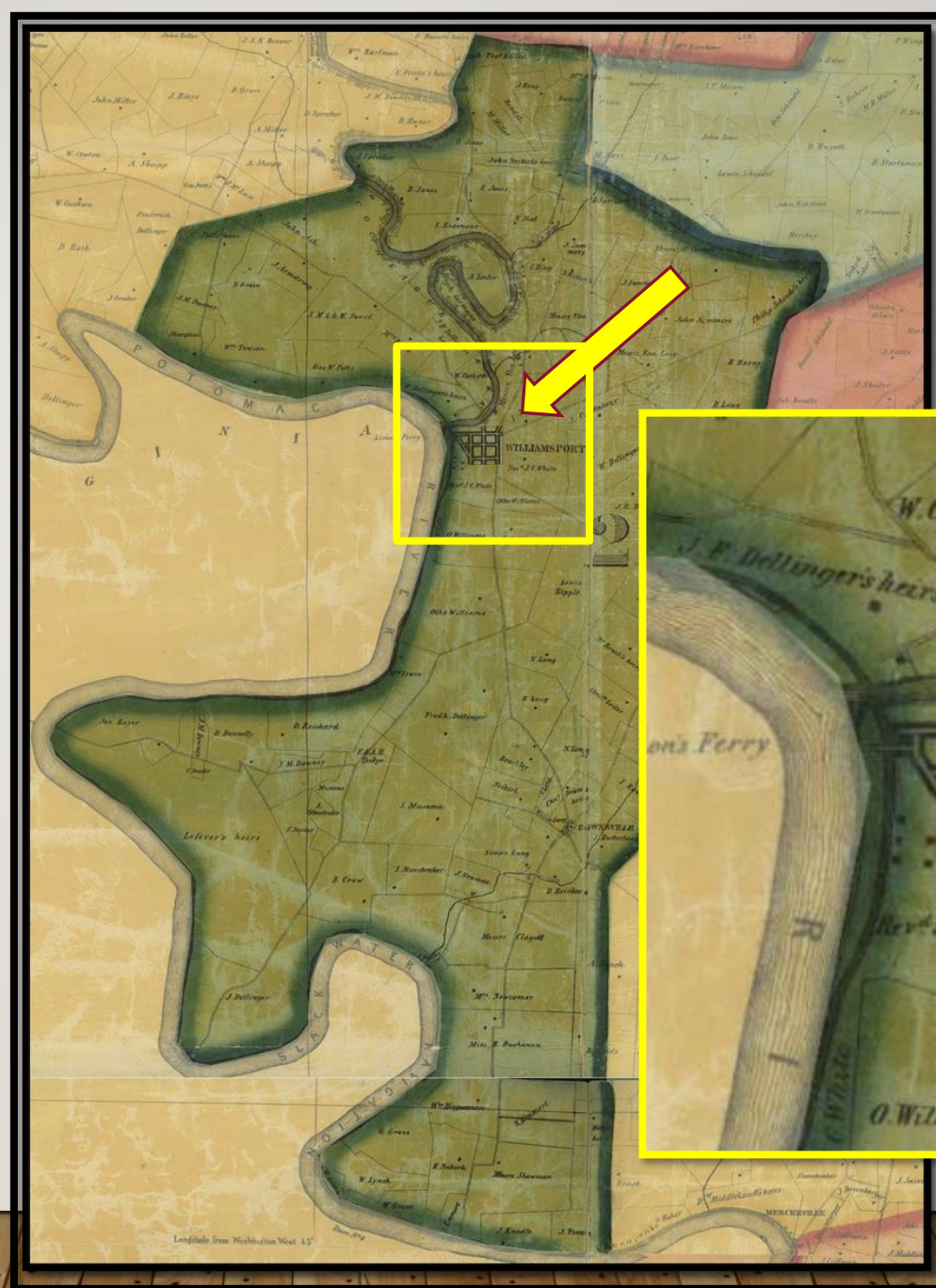
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SC 1213-1-471

EASTERN WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD

Showing Williamsport in 1859

Washington County District 2
Thomas Taggart, A Map of Washington
County, 1859

Library of Congress. MSA SC 1213-I-471

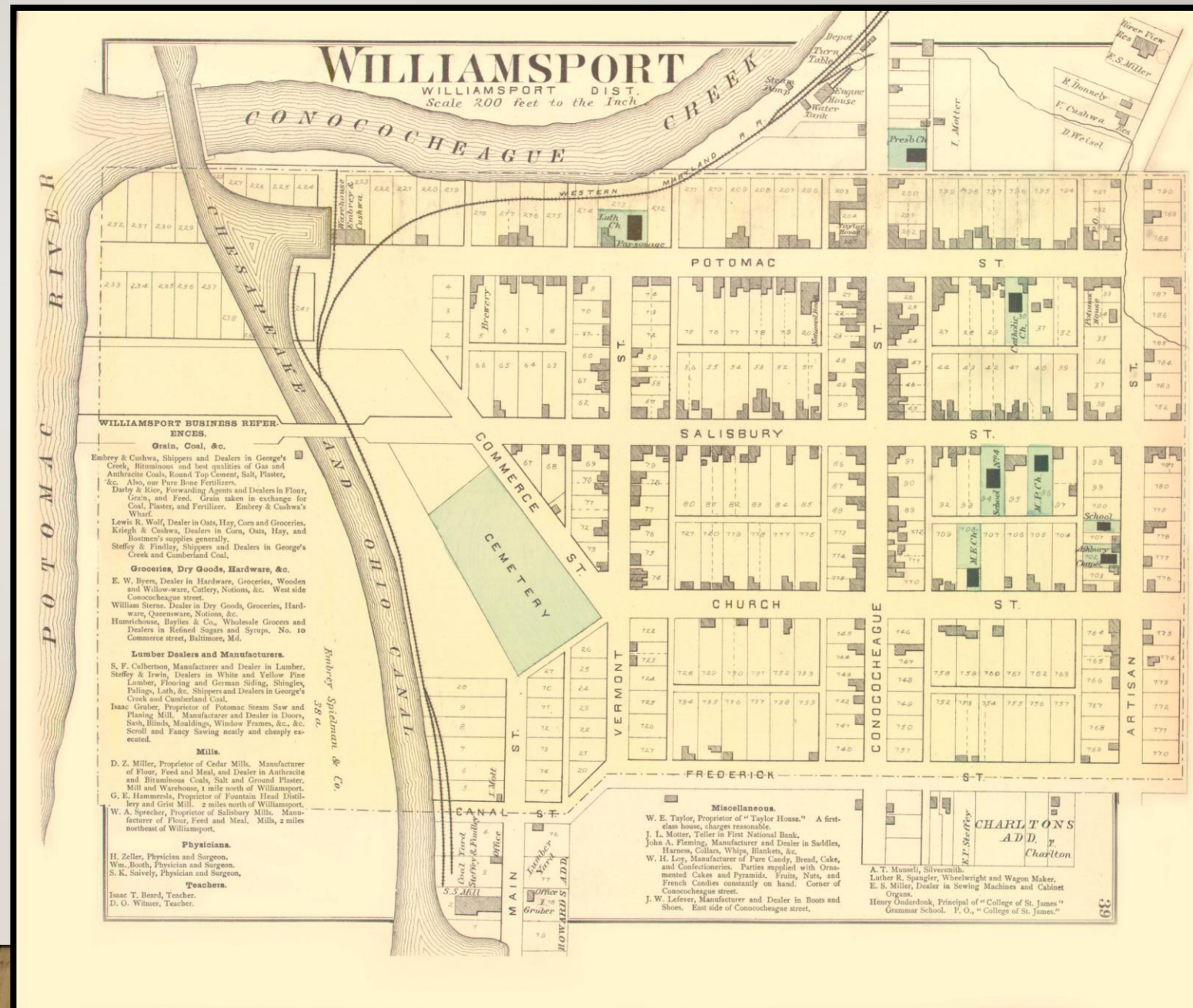


WILLIAMSPORT, MD DETAIL

In 1877

An Illustrated Atlas of Washington
County, Maryland.

Compiled, Drawn and published from
Actual Surveys by Lake, Griffing &
Stevenson.





165

Samuel Hollenberger Sr

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 1657 | 8 | 10 Doct Salt Salt | 18 ¹⁴ / ₄ | Coffee 10 Sugar 10 | 44 |
| 1658 | 18 | Whisky 8 | Molasses 12 ¹⁸ / ₄ | Viniger 12 ¹⁸ / ₄ | 53 |
| 1659 | 19 | Candles 19 | Rice 1 ²⁴ / ₄ | Coffee 10 Sugar 20 | 87 ¹ / ₂ |
| 1660 | 24 | Nutmeg 8 | Molasses 12 ¹⁸ / ₄ | Candles 19 | 36 ¹ / ₂ |
| 1661 | 25 | Candles 19 | Rice 10 ¹⁸ / ₄ | Rice 10 ¹⁸ / ₄ | 56 ¹ / ₂ |
| 1662 | 26 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | 1 12 |
| 1663 | 27 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | 22 ¹ / ₂ |
| 1664 | 28 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | 43 |
| 1665 | 29 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | 1 00 ¹ / ₄ |
| 1666 | 30 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | 73 ¹ / ₂ |
| 1667 | 31 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | 1 03 |
| 1668 | 32 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | 34 |
| 1669 | 33 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1670 | 34 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1671 | 35 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1672 | 36 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1673 | 37 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1674 | 38 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1675 | 39 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1676 | 40 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1677 | 41 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1678 | 42 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1679 | 43 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1680 | 44 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1681 | 45 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1682 | 46 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1683 | 47 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1684 | 48 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1685 | 49 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1686 | 50 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1687 | 51 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1688 | 52 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1689 | 53 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1690 | 54 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1691 | 55 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1692 | 56 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1693 | 57 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1694 | 58 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1695 | 59 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1696 | 60 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1697 | 61 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1698 | 62 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1699 | 63 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1700 | 64 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1701 | 65 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1702 | 66 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1703 | 67 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1704 | 68 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1705 | 69 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1706 | 70 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1707 | 71 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1708 | 72 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1709 | 73 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1710 | 74 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1711 | 75 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1712 | 76 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1713 | 77 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1714 | 78 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1715 | 79 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1716 | 80 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1717 | 81 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1718 | 82 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1719 | 83 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1720 | 84 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1721 | 85 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1722 | 86 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1723 | 87 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1724 | 88 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1725 | 89 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1726 | 90 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1727 | 91 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1728 | 92 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1729 | 93 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1730 | 94 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1731 | 95 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1732 | 96 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1733 | 97 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1734 | 98 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1735 | 99 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |
| 1736 | 100 | Candles 19 | Molasses 8 | Soap 16 | |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Albert George Payne | 4.74 |
| Anderson George | 7. |
| Anderson John | 10 |
| Anderson Peter | 23. |
| Adams David | 30 65 Small L |
| Anderson Eric | 17. |
| Anderson, W. James | 60. |
| Angle Harrison | 66 177 242 |
| Arto Joseph H. | |
| Ash John | 77. |
| Artinger Jacob | 94. |
| Adams John | 116. 188 238 |
| Aranger Chas Jr | 130. |
| Arto Henry | 148 |
| Arto Smith | 178 |
| Albert Wm | 187, 245 |
| Artinger Calvin | 206 |

What's the one huge piece of information we don't have?

What's the one huge piece of information we don't have?

The name of the shop.

What's the one huge piece of information we don't have?

The name of the shop.

So this is not just a story of shopping, it's also a mystery story!

1860 CENSUS: MERCHANTS

With thanks to Ancestry.com

- Grocery:
 - William Stuckel
- Dry goods:
 - Alfred Snibley
 - Joseph Zeller
 - John R Wilson
 - William H Wilson
- Merchant:
 - E G W Stake
 - Adam Shoop (Lumber)
 - Jeremiah Patterson
 - Samuel Lefever (Coal)
 - James Lemaster (Fanarding)
 - William B Kennedy
 - James E Hawkins
 - Lewis O Downs
 - Charles Downs (also clerk)
 - Christ Downs
 - Saml Culbertson (Drug Serre)

FLOUR, FLOUR, FLOUR

Huber Lemaster

July 24, 1858

| | | | |
|-------------|------|---|--------------------|
| 78 | 1856 | Huber & Lemaster | |
| December 11 | 1857 | To 8 Bunches $\frac{4+16}{4} = 64, \frac{4+12}{4} = 50$ | 1 14 |
| May 7 | | To 26 th Bacon @ 15 th $\frac{1}{2}$ p 3.90 | 3 90 |
| 16 | | Bacon 2.10. Flour 1.00. per 6 Bunches | 3.10 |
| July 2 | | Fish Oil 63 th . Ham 63 th . Sausage 4.28. | 5.50 |
| Sept 8 | | To Cornucopia at N th Rocks | 30 |
| 1858 | | To Freight on 2 bbls Whiskey 1 bbl Sugar | 90 |
| April 10 | | Lard 35 th . Bacon 2.52. Bacon 2.18 th | 8.38 th |
| 19 | | Lard Ham 63 th . Bacon 2.03 | 2 65 th |
| May 31 | | Lard 3.60 Ham 13 Nails 75. Nails 25 | 4.60 |
| June 26 | | Bacon 1.75 Flour 1.25 Meat Side 2.56 | 5.86 |
| July 24 | | Flour 50. Flour 50. Flour 75 | 1.75 |
| | | | 37.95 |
| | | Oct 20 To B th B th | 25 |
| | | | 38 20 |
| Nov 13 | | Molasses 50. Syrup 20. Sugar 15.00 | 2 31 |
| Dec 20 | | By Amt of aff in Bar | 40.51 |
| 1856 | | Lydia Prinn | 40 |
| Dec 19 | | To 4 th Sugar 50 Small Butter 10. By Cash 60. | 60 |

WHAT ELSE WAS PURCHASED?

Edward G. M Herr

- Coffee
- Sugar
- Tobacco
- Matches
- Whiskey
- Blacking
- Whiskey
- Cheese
- Flour
- Mustard
- Molasses
- Syrup
- Broom

16

1856 Edward G. M Herr

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| May | 15 | 5 th Coffee 7 th " Sugar 5 th " Tobacco 1 st " Matches 6 th | 1.43 ⁷ / ₂ |
| | 26 | Whiskey 2 nd " June 9 th " Tobacco 1 st " " Tobacco 5 th " | 87 ⁷ / ₂ |
| June | 28 | Blacking 10 th " July 1 st " " Sugar 5 th " " Matches 1 st " | 77 ⁷ / ₂ |
| August | 8 th | Whiskey 5 th " " Cheese 4 th " " Tobacco 3 rd " " Coffee 7 th " | 1.67 ⁷ / ₂ |
| | 21 st | Coffee 2 nd " Pepper 8 th " " Flour 5 th " " Tobacco 3 rd " | 1.21 ⁷ / ₂ |
| Sept | 21 | Water Procter 1 st " " Imp. Tea 2 nd " " Broom 3 rd " | 69 |
| October | 9 th | Alf. pie 1 st " " Molasses 1 st " " Tobacco 3 rd " " Mustard 1 st " | 78 ⁷ / ₂ |
| November | 18 | Tobacco 3 rd " " Molasses 1 st " " Water Procter 1 st " | 66 |
| December | 4 | Pepper 1 st " " Molasses 1 st " " Sugar 6 th " " Cinnamon 1 st " | 1.01 |
| | 20 | Tobacco 3 rd " Mustard 1 st " " Brandy 7 th " " Brandy 2 nd " | 1.12 ⁷ / ₂ |
| January | 3 | Matches 1 st " " Molasses 2 nd " " Tobacco 3 rd " " Molasses 1 st " | 70 |
| February | 11 | Tobacco 2 nd " " Mustard 1 st " " Tobacco 2 nd " | 63 ⁷ / ₂ |
| April | 9 | Tobacco 2 nd " " Molasses 2 nd " " Syrup 2 nd " | 78 |
| May | 2 nd | Molasses 2 nd " " Tobacco 3 rd " " Syrup 2 nd " " Pepper 1 st " | 89 |
| | 10 | Black 1 st " " Starch 1 st " " Broom 1 st " " Syrup 2 nd " | 61 |
| June | 6 | Broom 3 rd " " Syrup 2 nd " " Tea 2 nd " " Best Bra 3 rd " | 1.19 |
| July | 21 | Sugar 7 th " " Syrup 2 nd " " Sugar 6 th " " Mustard 1 st " | 1.70 |
| August | 13 | Sugar 3 rd " | 37 ⁷ / ₂ |
| Oct | 8 | Molasses 2 nd " " Sugar 5 th " | 78 |
| November | 16 | Starch 1 st " " Pepper 1 st " " Molasses 1 st " | 48 |
| Dec | 2 | Tea 3 rd " " Syrup 1 st " " Broom 1 st " " Molasses 1 st " | 68 ⁷ / ₂ |
| 1858 | 23 | Flour 5 th " | 50 |
| February | 12 | Molasses 1 st " " Bal on Molasses 3 | 1.57 ⁷ / ₂ |
| Dec 18 Settled in full by ap. Herr | | | 19.69 |

WHAT ELSE WAS PURCHASED?

John McKinney

- Tobacco
- Whisky
- Whisky
- Whisky
- Bottle
- Whisky
- Whisky
- Candle
- Onions
- Coffee
- Whisky
- Whiskey

BUT ALSO -

NPS file photo

1556

John McKinney

| | | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| May | 6 | Tobacco 6/10 | 12 th Whisky 28 th | 15 th Whisky 28 th | 56 th | |
| June | 3 | Whisky 28 th | Bottle in Whisky 28 th | 10 th Whisky 28 th | 68 th | |
| July | 11 | Whisky 28 th | 12 th Tobacco 3 rd | Sugar 17 th | 27 th | |
| Aug | 20 | Whisky 28 th | Tobacco 3 rd | Whisky 28 th | 53 th | |
| Sept | 28 | Candle 3 rd | Tobacco 3 rd | By Post 4 th | 06 th | 9 |
| Oct | 8 | Candle 3 rd | Candle 3 rd | Tobacco 3 rd | 15 th | |
| Nov | 6 | Tobacco 3 rd | Tobacco 3 rd | By Post 4 th | 38 th | |
| Dec | 20 | Sugar 17 th | | | 04 th | |
| Jan | 5 | By apt | affirmed by B. F. Lacey | | 266 th | 257 th |
| | | | | | | 266 th |
| Feb | 19 | Sugar 17 th | By 12 th | Tobacco 06 th | 25 th | |
| Mar | 9 | Tobacco 06 th | | | 06 th | |
| Apr | 8 | Onions 28 th | Tobacco 06 th | By Post 4 th | 56 th | |
| May | 13 | Sugar 17 th | Sugar 17 th | By Post 4 th | 50 th | |
| June | 10 | By apt | | | 137 th | 137 th |
| July | 11 | Whisky 15 th | Tobacco 06 th | By Post 4 th | 35 th | |
| Aug | 17 | Coffee 28 th | Sugar 17 th | Tobacco 06 th | Whisky 15 th | 48 th |
| Sept | 7 | Tobacco 06 th | Sweet Potatoes 35 th | | 41 th | |
| Oct | 1 st | Whisky 28 th | Whisky 15 th | By Post 4 th | 81 th | |
| Nov | 1 | Whisky | | | 25 th | |
| Dec | 22 | Whisky 28 th | | | 25 th | |
| Jan | 11 | Whisky 28 th | Sugar 17 th | | 14 th | |
| Feb | 11 | Goods | By P. Anderson | | 50 th | |
| Mar | 21 | Chocolate | Sugar Cakes | | 46 th | |
| | | | | | 3.85 | |
| Jan | 2 | Charged to | Johnathan Spelman | | | 3.85 |
| Feb | 3 | Whisky 28 th | Whisky 28 th | Whisky 28 th | 75 th | |
| | | Whisky | Bottle 35 th | Chocolate 16 th | 51 th | |
| | | | | | 126 th | |
| Feb | 19 | By apt | Charged to Spelman | | | 1.26 |

Page Small Ledger

CHOCOLATE, OF COURSE.

1856 John McKinney

| | | | |
|------|------------------|--|-------------------|
| May | 6 th | Tobacco 6 th 12 th Whisky 28 th 15 th Whisky 28 th | 56 th |
| June | 3 rd | Whisky 28 th Bacon Whisky 28 th Bottle 10 th 13 th Whisky 28 th | 60 |
| July | 11 th | Whisky 28 th 19 th Tobacco 3 rd Sizer 17 th | 29 |
| Aug | 10 th | Whisky 28 th Tobacco 3 rd 8 th Whisky 28 th | 53 |
| Sept | 25 th | Canals 3 rd Tobacco 3 rd 13 th By Cash 9 th | 16 |
| Oct | 18 th | Canals 3 rd Canals 3 rd Tobacco 3 rd 10 th Sizer 10 th | 15 |
| Nov | 6 th | Tobacco 3 rd 26 th Tobacco 3 rd 10 th Sizer 10 th | 38 |
| Dec | 20 th | Sizer 10 th | 84 |
| Jan | 5 th | By of attested by B. F. Lacey | 266 th |
| | | | 257 th |
| | | | 266 th |
| Feb | 19 th | Sizer 10 th 21 st Run 12 th 22 nd Tobacco 6 th 6 th | 25 |

John McKinney

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----------|-----------------|------|
| Jan | 11 | Goods | Per P. Ardinger | 50 |
| " | 21 | Chocolate | Sugar Crackles | 46 |
| | | | | 3.83 |

John McKinney

| | | | | |
|-----|----|--|-----------------|-------|
| Jan | 11 | Goods | Per P. Ardinger | 50 |
| " | 21 | ¹⁶ Chocolate ²⁶ Sugar Crackles | | 46 |
| | | | f | 3.83- |
| Jan | 2 | Charged to Schmittman Spelman | | 3.83- |
| Feb | 3 | Whisky 25- Whisky 25- Whisky 25- | 75- | |
| | | Whisky Bottle 35- Chocolate 16, | 51 | |
| | | | 126 | |
| Feb | 19 | By Cash charged to Spelman | | 1.26 |
| | | Page Small Ledger | | |

FANCY!

- Spices:
 - Pepper
 - Nutmeg
 - Cinnamon
 - Mace
 - Allspice
- Imported tea
- Water crackers

BUT ALSO -



INDIGO

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------|
| Oct | 1.. | Sugar \$1.00.. | Butter 19 | Lard 28 | Sugar 60.. | 2.07 |
| | 2 | Coffee 31 | "Sugar 37. | Lard 28 | Butter 18 | 1.10 |
| | 7 | Starch 16 | Indigo 06 1/4 | Flour \$1.00 | Lard 14 | 1.36 |

Hamilton Downs was the first customer listed in the ledger. He also purchased the most merchandise. The 1860 census lists his profession as transportation.

NPS file photo

| | | | |
|----------|------|---|---------|
| 136 | 1557 | Hamilton Downs Jr | En |
| Sept | 11 | 2 nd Account brought forward 90 | 349.70 |
| | 14 | Flour \$1.00.. Lard 28.. Sugar 12.. Coffee 18 | 1.55 |
| | 16 | Flour \$1.00.. Lard 28.. Sugar 12.. Coffee 18 | 1.55 |
| | 18 | Sugar 18.. Sugar 38.. Flour 18.. Lard 10 1/2 | 1.70 |
| | 23 | Sugar 18.. Flour 60.. Lard 30.. Sugar 48 | 1.50 |
| | 36 | Coffee 33.. Lard 18.. Flour 12 1/2 | 1.47 |
| Oct | 1.. | Sugar \$1.00.. Butter 19.. Lard 28.. Sugar 60.. | 2.07 |
| | 2 | Coffee 31.. Sugar 37.. Lard 28.. Butter 18 | 1.10 |
| | 7 | Starch 16.. Indigo 06 1/4.. Flour \$1.00.. Lard 14 | 1.36 |
| | 9 | Lard 28.. Coffee 30.. Eggs 20.. | .78 |
| | | Lard 4.. Butter \$1.00.. | 1.37 |
| | | Sugar 37.. Sugar 60.. Lard 28.. | 1.50 |
| | | Starch 37.. Lard 28.. | .93 |
| | | Butter 18.. Coffee 37.. | .92 |
| | | Flour \$1.00.. Coffee 60.. Lard 14.. | 2.03 |
| | | Sugar 10.. Lard 4.. Flour 20 1/2 | 2.41 |
| | | Starch 37.. Potatoes 37.. | 6.41 |
| | | Flour 90.. Flour \$1.00.. Sugar 10 1/2 | 2.66 |
| | | Butter 37.. Lard 17.. | 1.40 |
| | 31 | Cash 33.. | 23 |
| November | 3 | Sugar 10.. Indigo 06 1/4.. Coffee 42.. Sugar 18.. Eggs 50.. | 1.23 |
| | 9 | Wool 10 1/2.. Lard 16.. Flour 31 1/2.. Coffee 18 | .74 |
| | 13 | Flour \$1.00.. Sugar 28.. Lard 12 1/2.. Coffee 2 1/2 | 1.58 |
| | 17 | Lard 33.. Eggs 37 1/2.. Butter 25.. Coffee 33 | 1.08 |
| | 21 | Cash 37.. Lard 18.. Butter 18.. | 1.12 |
| | 24 | Starch 16.. Lard 28.. Lard 13 1/2.. Potatoes 12.. Rais 06 1/4 | .81 |
| | 28 | Flour 38.. Flour \$1.00.. Coffee 22.. Sugar 44 | 1.91 |
| | 28 | Coffee \$1.00.. Cash 50.. Potatoes 20.. Lard 14 | 1.84 |
| | 30 | Lard 10 1/2 | .12 |
| December | 1 | Indigo 12 1/2.. Coffee 60.. Potatoes 22.. Butter 37.. | 1.32 |
| | 7 | Lard 32.. Lard 10 1/2.. Lard 25.. | .69 |
| | | Transferred to page 162 | \$39.26 |

HOW ABOUT WHISKEY (OR IS IT WHISKY*)?

John Ardinger

- May 18, 1856
- May 20
- May 22
- May 26
- May 28
- June 2
- June 5
- June 24
- July 16
- But then not again until October 6.

*Generally, the American English version is “whiskey,” while the Irish version is “whisky.”

Many of the people who built the canal and lived alongside it were from Ireland.

But if there is someone here with greater knowledge, I welcome correction.

| Date | Description | Amount | Balance |
|-----------|-------------------|--------|---------|
| May 11 | To Whiskey 15 7/8 | 81 7/8 | |
| May 26 | Whiskey 15 7/8 | 56 7/8 | |
| June 24 | Whiskey 15 7/8 | 52 7/8 | |
| October 6 | Whiskey 18 7/8 | 18 7/8 | 212 1/2 |
| Dec 20 | By Cash on a/c | | 212 1/2 |
| May 19 | Whiskey 20 1/8 | 75 | |
| June 11 | Whiskey 30 | 28 | |
| July 17 | By Cash in full | 100 | 100 |
| July 20 | Whiskey 20 1/8 | 75 | |
| July 21 | Whiskey 20 1/8 | 50 | |
| July 14 | By Cash in full | 125 | 125 |
| July 18 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 50 | |
| July 20 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 62 1/2 | |
| July 27 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 65 | |
| Aug 3 | Whiskey 20 1/8 | 75 | |
| Aug 11 | Brandy 40 | 33 | |
| Sept 8 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 50 | |
| Sept 16 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 75 | |
| Oct 6 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 37 1/2 | |
| 1858 | Run 13 1/2 | 13 1/2 | |
| April 4 | Whiskey 50 | 62 1/2 | 62 1/2 |
| April 24 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 50 | 30 |
| April 29 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 15 | |
| May 1 | Whiskey 12 1/2 | 37 1/2 | |
| May 11 | Whiskey 20 1/8 | 25 | |
| Oct 20 | By Cash on a/c | | 350 |
| | Interest | 6.48 | 356.48 |
| | | 20 | 376.48 |

HOW ABOUT PAYMENT?

Watson Goodrich

He paid \$13.63 ½ on July 28, 1856 “By Amt of Work done on Boat.”

- Did the shopkeeper own a boat?
- Was it a canal boat?

| | | Watson & Goodrich | | Dr | Cr |
|------|----|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1856 | | | | | |
| May | 7- | Tobacco per Mat 3.7 | Bacon ^{15/16} \$1.98 | Coffee 10/- | 2.16 |
| | 15 | Sugar 10 Candles 9- | Matches 1/- | Lard 2.00 | 2.30 |
| | 31 | Flour \$1.00 | Sugar 20 7/- | Bacon ^{32/100} \$1.33 1/2 | 2.43 1/2 |
| July | 30 | To Cash \$5.00 | Sep. 23 16 1/2 | Bacon per Maria Henry \$1.84 1/2 | 6.84 |
| | | | By Amt of Work done on Boat | 13 63 1/2 | 13 63 1/2 |

But who was this merchant?

Joseph Zeller, identified in the 1860 census as a dry goods merchant, shopped at the store.

We can probably eliminate his store as a potential owner of the ledger.

1860 United States Federal Census for Joseph Zeller

Maryland > Washington > Williamsport

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Williams Port in the County of Washington State 97
of Maryland enumerated by me, on the 5th day of July 1860. Wm Birchling Ass't Marshal.
Post Office Williams Port.

| Dwelling-houses— numbered in the order of visitation. | Families numbered in the order of visitation. | The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family. | DESCRIPTION. | | | Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age. | VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED. | | Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country. | Married within the year. | Attended School within the year. | Persons over 20 yrs of age who cannot read & write. | Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict. |
|---|---|---|--------------|------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | Age. | Sex. | White, black, or mulatto. | | Value of Real Estate. | Value of Personal Estate. | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 1 | | Ellen " | 11 | F | | | | | Maryland | | | | |
| 2 | | Lilly " | 12 | F | | | | | " | | | | |
| 3 | 613 696 | George Kennedy | 34 | m | | | | | " | | | | |
| 4 | | Mary Harris | 50 | F | B | | | | " | | | | |
| 5 | | Margaret Blake | 14 | F | B | | | | " | | | | |
| 6 | | Ellen J Zeller | 25 | F | | | | | " | | | | |
| 7 | | Arthur Delah | 20 | m | | black | | | Pennsylvania | | | | |
| 8 | | Joseph Zeller | 23 | m | | dry goods Merchant | | 6000 | Maryland | | | | |
| 9 | | Ellen Key | 25 | m | B | Domestic | | | " | | | | |
| 10 | 614 697 | Jonathan Spielman | 40 | m | | Master | 3600 | 3500 | " | | | | |

Records Administration

21 of 60

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But wait! The back of the ledger book shows tax assessments and collection of payments.

Does that give us another clue?



But wait! The back of the ledger book shows tax assessments and collection of payments.

Does that give us another clue?

We have one more hint.

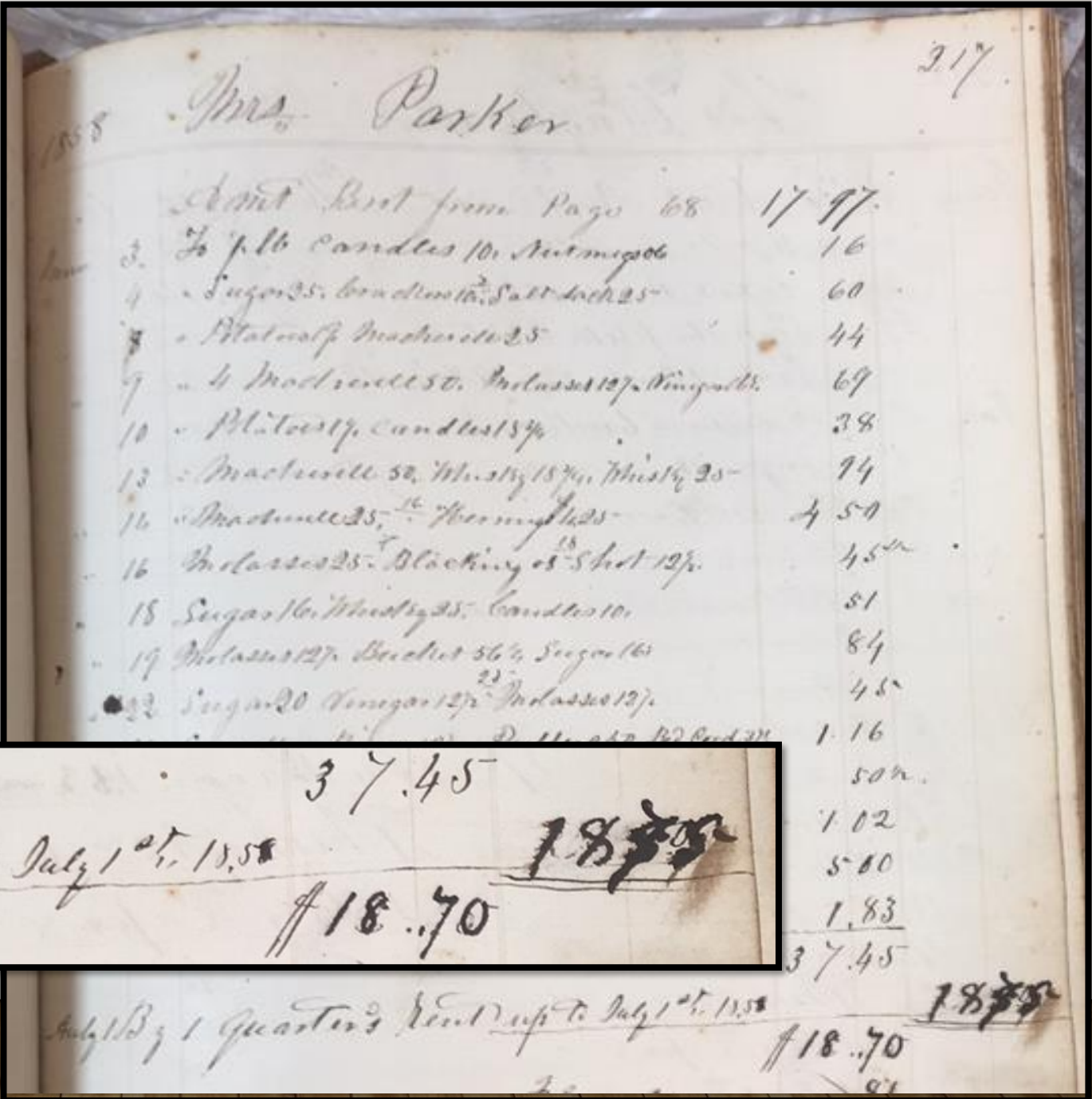


CREDIT FOR RENT PAYMENT

Mrs. Parker

On July 1, 1858, her account was credited "By 1 quarter's rent up to July 1st, 1858.

- Was she the owner of the building that housed the shop?



Here's the 1850 census showing a "Catharine Parker" whose profession is listed as "Grocer." She lives with "John Parker," whose profession is listed as "Clerk." Did we find relatives who operated this establishment together in a building they owned?

1860 United States Federal Census for Catharine Parker

Maryland > Washington > Williamsport

Page No. 70

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Williamsport in the County of Washington State 373
of Maryland enumerated by me, on the 5th day of July 1860. Tom Biersing Ass't Marshal.
Post Office Williamsport.

| Dwelling-houses— numbered in the order of visitation. | Families numbered in the order of visitation. | The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family. | DESCRIPTION. | | | Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age. | VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED. | | Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country. | Married within the year. | Attended School within the year. | Persons over 15 years of age who cannot read & write. | Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict. |
|---|---|---|--------------|------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | Age. | Sex. | White, black, or Colored. | | Value of Real Estate. | Value of Personal Estate. | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 1 | 584 | Unoccupied | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 585 | Unoccupied | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 586 | Unoccupied | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 587 662 | Catharine Parker | 50 | F | | Grocer | 1200 | 1700 | Pennsylvania | | | | |
| 5 | | John " | 22 | M | | Black " | | | Maryland | | | | |
| 6 | | William " | 18 | M | | Painter | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | Anna " | 17 | F | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | Thomas " | 15 | M | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | Samuel " | 13 | M | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 10 | | Richard " | 22 | M | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 11 | 663 | John B. Shreve | 42 | M | | Clerk | | | Virginia | | | | |
| 12 | | Margaret " | 25 | F | | | | | Maryland | | | | |

Resources like this ledger give us brief but intimate glimpses into the everyday life - the material culture - of everyday people.

This presentation is only a tiny snapshot into the lives of hundreds of people who passed through or lived in Williamsport, MD between 1856 and 1858.



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What else can we learn?



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

