

Appendix A

Personnel

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Project Managers

Steven Anthony
David Shaw

Project Archaeologist

Dennis Knepper

Researchers

Steven Anthony
Thomas Berkey
James Smailes
David Shaw
David Kentopp

MAHS Field Volunteers

Steven Anthony
Thomas Berkey
William Blodgett
John Craig
Earl Glock
Jennifer Kalmanson
Philip Kalmanson
David Kerr
Dennis Knepper
James Landon
David Shaw
James Smailes

Geomar, LLC

Jeffery Morris
Stephen Bilicki

Appendix B

Oral History Interview

Oral History Interview

Location: Hancock's Resolution Historic Park

Date: 4/11/09

Attendees:

James Morrison

Henry Schmidt

Kim Nielsen

Tom Berkey

Dennis Knepper

Transcript:

[0:00] (time)

Morrison: ...achusetts Regulars were coming in and the crowd challenged them as they were coming down Pratt Street. They arrived at the President Street Station coming from the north and I think there was ...broken...had to change they got off at the President Street Station and were going down to the, uh, something Steer Station, and it was on that march that they were challenged by the local people. It's interesting, that's the reason why the President Street Station is so precious and it really doesn't belong to anybody anymore, and it used to belong to the Maryland Historical Society but they couldn't afford to keep it up, and it's kind of hanging there right now. But the history is too good to let go.

As far as Civil War per se, there are – and I don't have this information – but Ted Calvert talks about a member of the family who was...I mean there were Southern sympathizers, but I don't know if he got railroaded into the Northern army or exactly what – I don't have that information.

Dennis, how do you see us proceeding here. Do you have a series of questions you want to fire at us?

[1:45]

Knepper: Yeah, just some general ones, mainly. We talked about a lot of stuff over the last couple times we were out here, and I didn't...wasn't able to take a lot of notes. So some of it might be covering old ground, things we've already talked about. But uh, we really just wanted to talk more than have a real formal interview or something like that.

Morrison: OK.

Berkey: You know the history, so you know...we're just sort of putting the leading questions out.

Morrison: We know some of it. And between Henry and me we've thought about concentrating on two or three things I don't know if we've talked about or not, maybe tangentially.

[2:29]

Knepper: OK, sure. Well I though maybe first of all we could go through again your connection with, your family connection, what your...

Schmidt: I'm tenth generation...

Morrison: Are we recording now?

Knepper: Yes.

Schmidt: I'm tenth generation of the Hancock family, the original Hancock's here, which I have the family tree here that goes all the way back to I think 1666 up to current, or almost current.

Berkey: Here's what he's talking about.

Schmidt: This one you can keep. This is a deed history of my farm...[unintelligible]. You want to keep that for your...

Morrison: Kim can just join us.

Berkey: He knows to just come on in?

Schmidt: And what I found when I was doing this deed thing, you started out...where're we at...OK down here you started out with an exceptionally large acreage and it keeps getting chopped up until I have 140 acres left, and originally it was part of 10,000 acres.

Berkey: And that was what, a grant from...

Schmidt: That part I don't know for sure. All I've got is the names here. The deed I have, I went back, somebody did the research on all the deeds, a lady named Gladys Nelker, and she had then pulled all the deeds up. And the thing you run into when you start trying to trace it back, they kept changing the name of the land so you need to look at the old map to see what name was on your property.

[4:12]

Morrison: What is the first date you have that is documented...on your property.

Schmidt: 1683. 5/24/1683. Robert Jones and George Yates. And [16]87 it went to Robert Procter. 1695 it went to Richard Beard.

Morrison: They're going to get copies.

Schmidt: Yes, this they can keep [unintelligible]

Morrison: You just said something that interests me, that Robert Jones, a hundred years later there was a Robert Ireland Jones that uh, in the War of 1812 period...maybe they were related.

Schmidt: In 1784 it belonged to Nicholas Carroll and in 1824 it went to Robert Spence. So it's getting in you War of 1812 era, Jim, in that time.

[5:27]

Knepper: So how does this, how does your property relate physically to...

Schmidt: Not at all other than family. My father married one of the Hancock's.

Knepper: But I mean where...

Schmidt: Oh, you mean on here?

Knepper: Yeah, specifically where you were...

Schmidt: Jim, if you open that door we might get some light, because...I've had the cataracts done, but I'm not...

Knepper: We're right in here at Hancock's.

Schmidt: Yeah, right. It'd be easier for me to show you on a tax map, because that's bigger and...

Morrison: I think we have a flashlight here.

[6:20]

Schmidt: This should be Hancock's property here.

Knepper: And the original Hancock...

Schmidt: ...was up to Alpine Beach Road, Jim, is that correct?

Morrison: Yes.

Schmidt: Up to Facewood here. And this was the...

Morrison: All of this.

Berkey: And that's in your book on Hancock's Resolution, your little handout there with the master plan.

Morrison: Yeah.

Schmidt: And then here's my farm here, and then this is the old Cook farm, who...my grandmother came from here and married, moved here. What's in yellow is what I personally own today. This is open spaces, will always be open, the pink.

Morrison: But the connection, if there...the connection is the creek. This is on Back Creek on the Bodkin, he's on Main Creek on the Bodkin, way the hell up here.

Schmidt: OK, the...this was one at the time my dad bought it, he bought 190 acres [unintelligible] and somebody else got this, uh this was all part of the farm, one farm at the time he bought that half. The old wharf on our farm was right here on this point. This was where we brought [unintelligible] right up against the boundary almost of this development was where this wharf was. So then you come down to the Cook property, the wharf was right here, and one of my daughters has a house built basically on the wharf. And then you come on up to the Calvert property and the wharf was right here and a friend of mine owns that now, the one that let us take and go, you remember the equipment and all that was in the woods, you took the pictures of me. Well there was a house built right there on that point where that wharf, that was the Calvert wharf, this was the Cook wharf, and then you know here, where you saw where the Hancock wharf was, and then this was the wharf for the farm that I now own.

Knepper: The Cook wharf was right there. And how long ago were these wharves there, or functioning?

Morrison: 1938. The last...

Schmidt: As a commercial wharf.

Morrison: The last market boats on Back Creek were run by the Deale brothers of Deale Maryland, and they came in five days a week and took the produce from the farms here on Back Creek into Baltimore.

[8:54]

Schmidt: ...talking history of the war...the commerce...my grandfather had his own market boat, and this book is on the history of the market boat, he had that built in 1903, and it was named after my grandmother who was born in this house, Rhoda Virginia, her maiden name of course was Rhoda Virginia Hancock. Her father was Henry Alfred Hancock, and her husband was Henry Alfred Cook. And then of course I ended up with that handle a couple years later.

Knepper: So the, your, let's see, she married into the Cook family.

Schmidt: Right. So the Cook farmhouse over here, my mother was born in that house, physically born in it, and my grandmother was physically born in this house and God knows how many more greats before her were be born here. And uh, we don't know it factually but this was the original cradle out here so I got a feeling most, looking at the age of that cradle most of them probably rocked in that cradle.

Knepper: And so how long were the Cooks around before that?

[10:19]

Schmidt: They had the farm up there in the 1850s, is when they came. And my great grandfather died when my grandfather was 13 years old, and my grandfather was 13 and his mother took over and run the farm. And looking at market records and history and ledgers, he was, they were much more successful farmers than the Hancocks. I think they had a little

bit better soil, was part of it. But they also, just looking at the records, which I brought some of them, you can see that what they were selling, they were selling a lot more produce. And of course my grandmother divided this farm up and my one cousin owns this and my second cousin this, another cousin's over here. And of course I come from a breed where you keep everything, so I still have all of my...

Nielsen: Henry, you're here.

[11:27]

Introductions

Schmidt: That gives you the location pretty much for the old, at least four of the old wharves, three on Back Creek and the one up here on Main Creek.

Knepper: Now which Calvert family is this, are they related to the...

Schmidt: They just in, what, two years ago with the DNA came up that they are related to the original Lord Calvert.

Knepper: They are related...

Morrison: It's not totally clear how, there's a couple of thoughts on that but the DNA does tie them in.

Knepper: When did they come into this area then?

Schmidt: I don't know the exact dates, but uh, I've heard the dates but I...

Morrison: I may be able to find something on that, ... or something. I'll be back.

Knepper: And then, clarify for me again what your connection with the Calvert family is.

Schmidt: OK, one of my mother's sisters married into the Calvert family.

Knepper: So, marriage a couple generations ago.

[13:00]

Schmidt: Right my mother's generation, yeah, two generations. My mother married a Schmidt, and one of the other sisters married a Calvert, and then there was two old maid sisters...they run out of men in the communities where that, I arrived at modern times I started looking back because I knew they liked men because they dated some, there's records where they dated a ship's captain or different things. And one, the old maid aunt she dated one when she was senior years. But evidently you've only got so many people in the area and they stayed, didn't get out of the area and they run out of...

Berkey: ...males.

Schmidt: And most all the great, when you go back through the records, most all of them were married two or three times because their wives, so many of them died in childbirth,

because you look at the death records they were 23, 28. And they kept right on marrying, because you had to have a woman in the house to cook...

Berkey: ...and take care of the children.

Schmidt: So this gives you a good way to see how everything lays. The historic maps are great for history, but for me it's so much easier to um,...And I did this when I was dealing with the County to show them how much open space they had. You know, everybody cries "we need open space, open space." Well you can't really afford to have this whole peninsula as open space. But I think in spite of ourselves we've did pretty good when you look at the amount of pink that's on that map.

Morrison: I do have something that Ed Calvert developed, it's some information based as of September 2003, and this definitely is not the latest information. It's all we've got though, if you want...

Schmidt: Yeah, that was before they knew they were, had the DNA said they were...

Morrison: But if you want to take it for the more recent...uh, it's not the most recent stuff. It's probably very good from where they start...

Schmidt: It might be some dates in the Hancock's 200 years encampment, there probably some dates...

Morrison: That was before, that's long before.

Schmidt: Yeah, I know, but I'm talking about the original history of when they came. He had that before, he just didn't have the proof of the relatives being related.

Morrison: Do you have that book, *Two Hundred Years and Counting*? Does that make any sense? If not...

Berkey: Doesn't ring a bell.

Knepper: No.

Morrison: I'll get you one right now.

Schmidt: I've got one here. That's the reason I was suggesting that. He's got a new book he's working on that's on the Calvert family and the history of the area which, did he tell me 600 pages? He's bringing it down next weekend for me to take a, proof read it

Berkey: And this is who, who's the author?

Schmidt: He's a cousin, and he was my aunt's son. So his relationship to the Hancock's is the same as mine through our mothers, our mothers are sisters.

[15:55]

The Calvert family farm was this land here that's adjoined the foot farms she didn't go far to find her husband.

Knepper: No, she didn't have to go far at all did she.

Berkey: You're right, people didn't travel too far, they could...born and die...

[jumbled comments]

Schmidt: And my mother always went from our farm, the trail is down through the woods here, took the horse and buggy down to visit her mother and the house that sits right up here on top of this real high hill. And my dad would hook up the buggy and she'd drive the horse over to visit her mother all day and then she'd drive back home. You can still see on the back part of our farm where the road's there.

Knepper: Now what about the south side of the creek?

Schmidt: No family. Well, some of the Cooks...I take that back, the Cooks were down in this area at Pinehurst, which would be here...no...there's the radio towers [garbled] see the little square? There's a family graveyard there and my great grandfather's first wife, who was a Cook, is buried here. Of course she's not related to me. His second wife, which is my grandmother, my great-grandmother Cook, was his second wife, and she's buried with the rest of my family. She's...My daughter has my great-grandmother's four-poster bed, that dates back quite a ways. Both of my kids are inter...we can't get them too involved down here yet because they're both trying to make a living. But they're both very much concerned and interested in preserving, and anything they've got won't get lost, it'll be preserved.

Knepper: OK, so most of your family is in the north...

Schmidt: Yes. You see my father's family was only in, came, I'm third generation, because my grandfather Schmidt and four of my aunts and uncles were born in Germany. So they came to this country when, uh, wife and four babies, the oldest was 10 years old and a two-year spread as they all had. Everything he had he had on his back and didn't speak English. He worked as a cabinet maker, and then he leased this farm from the Robinson family, which is Pinehurst now, he leased that. And then my grandfather moved up the road and he bought a farm up above our farm that's called Clearview Village now, got bigger and sold that and bought Rivera Beach which is now Rivera Beach, he bought that farm, then when my dad and my uncle went on their own, he retired from [garbled] he had four daughters who lived over ... But history ties together, because women mostly married watermen because the captains were coming in, they get them someone outside of their next door neighbor, so they latched on to some of those captains. You don't think about why, but then you start thinking how things were and it makes sense.

So I don't have any history on my father's side other than back to him, my grandfather. But then he had four more kids that, my dad was one of them that were born in this country. My father was born, and one aunt and one uncle were born right here, Pinehurst.

Knepper: Pinehurst.

[19:32]

Schmidt: It's not that shows in the history anywhere that I've seen, written history, but that's what happened. I guess that's not history, I can't verify it. Right, Jim, it's not black or white.

[mixed comments and laughter]

Nielsen: Is there a picture of the old house with the folks sitting out on the front at Pinehurst, the old Pinehurst house...

Morrison: There is something...

Schmidt: There's an old house that we've been trying to identify that Jim Calvert had a photo, and we've never been able to pin down, we think it was on the bank there, I do...and some...a couple other people but we can't very positively identify it.

Berkey: This wasn't the house that burned in 1931...

Schmidt: No, that was here, that was part of the Hancock history.

Berkey: Oh, OK.

Schmidt: That was just across the road here a little bit. That was over here on the bay front or the river front, whatever, when you get here the bay starts and the river stops, and you can always debate where the actual line is, where the bay and the river run together there.

Knepper: And that house burned in 19...

Morrison: 31.

Knepper: Who was living in it at that time?

Morrison: Uh, I don't know. It, at one stage of the game, uh, in the 1800s, uh, that was deeded to a Mr. Osborn, who married one of the Hancock girls. And, uh, that, you know as the generations change you lop off a certain amount and that goes with the new family. And that's what happens to Bayside Beach, that the plat that was called Peggy and Mollie's Delight, that area up there about, um, about 100 acres was deeded to somebody Osborn, or well Hancock wife and Mr. Osborn, too ...

[21:47]

Schmidt: What we do know that the land was already developed as a development when the house burned because the gentleman that lives there now, still living, he came there as a boy

[garbled – many voices “Well they met that guy” “Parsley?” “Buzz Parsley”] ...ten years old, wasn't he?

Morrison: Something like that.

Schmidt: And I think he was younger than that, because look at things that his age...

Morrison: But by that time it had been, that area, the Bayside Beach area had been bought, in 1930s, had been bought for development.

Schmidt: And they had electric because in the picture of the house burning you can see the electric poles, which was rare back here in the 30s, wasn't too many people, we didn't get electric 'til 1947 on our farm, because my dad was poor and he was hard-headed, both.

Knepper: But the, Peggy and Mollie's Delight was this stretch going up to the pond that they used to get their produce...

Morrison: I actually, you're asking a very good question to which I don't have a specific answer. I don't believe Peggy and Mollie's Delight came all the way up the Bayside. Um, I think that when in the 1792 period, when Harry Hancock consolidated the farm, and then replatted it in 1806 or something like that, that is part of, um, when he did that he picked up some of Homewoods Range, and that's where the pond was, the Letha Pond or whatever the name of... Not the big ...no, this is the little pond up here, OK? He picked up the pond, and I always thought the farm ended there until we looked at these more in the 1806 plat, and it did not end there. It went up, uh, I'm not sure how much farther, but a fairly good ways right up the shoreline, um, I think that was when they picked it up, that was all part of Homewoods Range.

[23:57]

Schmidt: Well, one of the things I picked up on, I hadn't before, after we'd met with you, looking at the pictures, I think this – oh, did you get a picture of the old farm house, did somebody, did you get a copy of that that day, or not?

Morrison: Yes.

Knepper: Yeah.

Schmidt: Well, looking at that picture, there's only one chimney on that house. That farm house is the same design, I went through one of the books that has all the different old farm houses in this area, and they all had the same basic...design. Well, you had a fireplace in each room. There's only one chimney on that house in that picture, so that means somebody, to me, built that house that copied the old farmhouse that probably was there, but that house that burned, to me, couldn't be that old because it's only got one chimney.

Knepper: So that might not have been the original house.

Morrison: It most certainly, as you see it, it most certainly wasn't the original house. Now whether as part of the, that was incorporated into, you know, you can build around it and what have you.

Berkey: Yeah, add on to it.

Schmidt: But every house that I saw, you had a fireplace in each room. We had six fireplaces in our old house, it was a six-room house, the one that... And every one of them was the same design, how else would you heat.

[25:10]

Morrison: But this house has an altered method of heating because there was only one chimney.

Schmidt: But I hadn't paid any attention. I kept looking, looking, something didn't look right to me, and I started hunting for chimneys.

Nielsen: You're trying to find the date of the original construction of the house?

Morrison: Not here. This is the one that burned.

Nielsen: So there's no record going back to...

Morrison: Well, there is the, the, at the time...um...it may be a slight inference, uh, the second, um, generation, Francis, is not in this graveyard. OK, we have five generations in the house. The second generation is missing from this graveyard. And it's presumed that he was living up in the house up on Peggy and Mollie's Delight at that time. And...

Schmidt: And we know there was a graveyard over there.

Morrison: We know the, the oral history up there is that there definitely was a graveyard, and um, and that house was likely older than this house, because the first Hancock on this property was William Hancock, in 1733. And he was living some place, and it wasn't here.

Nielsen: That house was on the plat that I got out of the Library of Congress from 1840 which was an 1820 survey.

Morrison: It's likely, it's likely that that house was the oldest Hancock house in this area. And it may have belonged to somebody before that, because he was 1733. But the original patent on Peggy and Mollie's Delight was something like 1665. You know this area's been worked, and was called Dividing Points and called a lot of different names...

[27:07]

Schmidt: It's just like the thing I gave them. It kept changing names as people merged. And the same shenanigans went on, you start looking through the deeds that go on today as far as how people acquired...the poor widows didn't know what to do, and [garbled] or the rich doctor, they were there to help her out, and you give her a couple gold pieces and take her farm. And nothing changes, always somebody trying to take advantage of the weak.

Knepper: And then it was after the '30s that the uh, the development along the bay front, the hotels and the dance pavilions and things...?

Schmidt: No that was always residential. You got up here further.

Morrison: The dance hall was down in Pinehurst.

Knepper: OK, that was in the '30s?

Morrison: And by the way, there is a picture of that...

Schmidt: I have the pictures, I don't have it with me but I have pictures of that.

Morrison: There is a picture of that *in Between Two Rivers*

Schmidt: Yeah, that would be, in *Between Two Rivers*. One of those two books has got that picture.

Morrison: And it's a...we saw the remains of that, if you'd like to see a picture, it's a substantial...

Schmidt: Well that was still there when I was in my early teens. The owner of that was a friend of my father's, and we used to go down there to go swimming. And that was a public beach, they charged admission at that time. Well he'd let us go up here where my father was born on the bank that wasn't developed, so we [garbled] very good swimming place. My dad and my close friends, he had a seed business in Baltimore, and my dad bought his seed and supplies from him and did work on his rental houses in the winter months. That was one of the things my dad did in the winter to survive, he took and did maintenance work on the beach homes to make money.

[29:00]

[garbled]

[29:20]

Schmidt: ...north shore, when it was developed. I don't know the dates on it, but I have that somewhere. I have so much stuff I can't...

Nielsen: Yeah, there was a, just like this wave of [garbled] let's develop the entire waterfront of the peninsula, in ten years.

Schmidt: Well, what happened, we were so close to Baltimore and Jim's illustrious community, uh, those people had their summer homes there and they would come to our farms to buy vegetables from my dad. And they kept saying, well you should be out on the road, have a roadstand. This was in 1927, which is, you talk about the roadside markets, well that's a big deal today. Well, he started one in 1927 with the encouragement of the people of Gibson Island. And of course that continued up until, through the '60s when I finally

decided there was other things to do in life beside set out in the sun. We used to supply all the vegetables for the Gibson Island Club and their restaurant there

Knepper: A truck farm without the truck...

Schmidt: Which picture you got, Jim? Yeah, well I have all of the pictures on this...

Morrison: That's a hell of a pavilion. Now we just saw the remains of that place.

Berkey: This was the one that...

Morrison: This one is the Pinehurst, the pavilion that the Robinsons built in Pinehurst in 1928.

Schmidt: Well that's big, there's no question that it's big.

Morrison: This one is at Curtis Beach, just down the road here. But that's the one you're...

Knepper: What's the name of that book? *Pasadena Peninsula*.

Schmidt: I have all the pictures of both of those books on disk, if anybody wants to look at the pictures...

Morrison: You're going to get that cover and a piece of paper in just a minute, OK? But I just came across that in preparation for this meeting. It's a good thing we're having this meeting here, we're have all of these resources over in the store. But isn't that awesome? I didn't realize it was that big.

[31:30]

[mixed and garbled]

[31:36]

Schmidt: We used to go down [garbled] to the pier there in the fall.

Knepper: OK, there was one other question we wanted to revisit. Not question but uh, subject. And that was the, uh, garbage...

Berkey: ...disposal...

Knepper: ...the history of that, when it started, when it ended, and what...

Schmidt: This is, the old [garbled] this is called Spit Point. It's now Poplar Ridge. And the garbage dump was out in here. All these people, they dig down, they keep getting bricks and pieces of china and stuff, that they don't know their houses are built on a garbage dump. And I did find, when the community took and got a petition...

Berkey: What was the name before it became Poplar Ridge, again?

Schmidt: Spit Point, S-P-I-T. It was owned by the Hines family, H-I-N-E-S.

Knepper: What general date are we talking about?

Morrison: I'm going to give you specifics here. You're going to get them. And it was called, the title of this is The Piggery, actually... Let me just read a second.

Schmidt: The Piggery is a different operation than the Spit Point Dump.

[33:05]

Morrison: Yes it is. "From 1907 until 1919, the City of Baltimore hauled its garbage by scow into Bodkin Creek and unloaded it onto Spit Point, which is now the very nice community of Poplar Ridge. There the Southern Products Company, operated a reduction plant. In 1918, Baltimore decided to phase out that operation and replace it with a piggery on the Jubb farm..." and Henry can talk about where the Jubb Farm was, "...at which 15,000 pigs would be put on a 116-acre farm to eat the garbage and turn it into saleable meat products."

And then I was writing this for the Gibson Island community, so I said "Where was the Jubb Farm? As you leave Gibson Island and go up Mountain Road, turn right before the high school on Ventnor Road go straight ahead where the Ventnor Marina is now located, on Graveyard Point. That was the Jubb Farm. The first step in establishing the piggery is for the garbage to be just spread over 116 acres until the American Feeding Company was ready to import 15,000 pigs. In other words, unless stopped the City of Baltimore was happily engaging in turning our corner of Anne Arundel County, our peninsula into the armpit – worse analogies offer themselves – or the local universe."

And so forth...the local community tried to fight that. Ah, somebody ruled that a piggery was not, um, would not depreciate local property values [laughter] ah, "before the residents could file and appeal, the pigs became ill and some died, the manager of the piggery absconded with \$15,000 that belonged to the City, and Baltimore returned to incineration and landfills to dispose of the garbage. It turned out that the City did not do a very good job of separating broken glass out of the garbage, and the pigs seemed to have a problem with that."

[35:25]

Schmidt: Jim wrote this out of, I have the actual original newspaper articles that I loaned him when he put together his paper. It was in the *Baltimore Sun*...did you put a date on there when it was?

Morrison: Yes. I don't know what else was in there, but that...

Schmidt: This was the legal papers when the community got together to try to get rid of the Baltimore City.

Berkey: What. To get rid of the...

Schmidt: The dump, because it was detrimental to their community. But all the farms got the silage to put on the fields. And I found coins, I've got silverware from different hotels in Baltimore...they came out of the garbage that was put on the farms.

Morrison: So there are two different period. The first period was when they had a ret... essentially a plant there that...

Schmidt: This was what they sent to each individual, evidently, in the area. That one was to the last Hancock that lived here, my uncle Harry – John Henry. [garbled]

Knepper: This went on for quite awhile, then.

Morrison: Oh, yeah.

Schmidt: Here a little note that was put in with it that...

[36:58]

Morrison: There are two phases of bad stuff. The first was the rendering plant or whatever is the right term, although I [garbled] and then the piggery came in. So, phase one and phase two, before Baltimore gave up.

Nielsen: It's interesting that it all came by water rather than by truck. All by barge.

Schmidt: Water's always been much cheaper. Even today. I was in the fertilizer industry for a lot of years, and we could bring potash from Israel for \$9 a ton, and it cost me \$10 a ton to get it delivered in a 25-mile radius of Baltimore City. So it shows you, it was cheaper freighting from Israel to Baltimore than it was from Baltimore say to Glen Burnie.

Nielsen: [garbled] tugs and barges would have kicked up the sediment keeping the creek deep enough to navigate up to Pig Point there and doing all that, so it impacted the waterfront at least by [garbled]. Because right now you can't take a tugboat up to Pig Point, to Poplar Point...

Schmidt: Well, your water's still pretty deep at Ventnor Marina.

Morrison: Yeah, on that side, on Main Creek.

Schmidt: Yeah, it's still pretty deep in Back Creek.

Knepper: What's deep, when you say pretty deep?

Nielsen: 9 feet.

Morrison: 10-12.

Schmidt: 10-12 feet in the center. Of course the land I have, we had a short pier, we had 4 foot at the end of the pier.

Knepper: Do they dredge it regularly?

Morrison: They have done some, regularly, um, periodic would be a little better than...

Nielsen: The records I saw, the part I saw, the County records for the last 20 years that the main channel out of the creek to the Patapsco, they cleared that out fairly regularly.

Knepper: Who maintains that? Who's responsible for that?

Nielsen: The state is the one who put out the RFP for the last [garbled].

[39:29]

Knepper: OK, um, you've given us some information recently about the lighthouse and the telegraph. Is that something we want to talk about now, or...you said you had a couple other things.

Morrison: Well, I looked for it and I couldn't find those other things. But I think you have essentially everything that's been documented this is this thing that's called the Bodkin Telegraphe, and Kim is up-to-speed on that. It's where Captain David Porter...

Berkey: Oh yeah, Commodore...

Nielsen: Father of the Commodore.

Berkey: Father of the Commodore, OK.

Morrison: Captain David Porter advertised to establish, to get subscribers to something called the Bodkin Telegraphe, with a base on Federal Hill at the old Observatory in Federal Hill. The Observatory had a purpose, and the purpose was to be the base point for the Bodkin Telegraphe. And there were two remote sites. There was a look-out point on Bodkin Island. And because you cannot see directly from Bodkin Island to Federal Hill, the signals, the flags, flag signals had to be relayed from some place on North Point. And so there was a relay station...

Berkey: ...across the Patapsco...

Morrison: ...and the directly into Federal Hill. And that began, they had some 50 subscribers to that and the concept was that when merchant ships were returning from overseas and they were passing Annapolis, the look-out point on Bodkin Island could pick them up by spyglass. And there was an agreed set of flags with every one of the merchant ships, and through those flags you could identify which ship it was. And I'm not sure what other details you would have on this, but the look-out point on Bodkin Island would relay that to North Point which would relay the same signal flags. When it got to Baltimore, the Observatory would fire a gun, and everyone would go out and look up and see whose flags were flying and whose ship was coming in, and all that sort of stuff. And indeed, as information is money, and this was a going concern. Now what happened to this during the

War of 1812, because this began in 1806, and it was a going concern. And how long it lasted after that I do not know. But there, the speculation is that if General Sam Smith wanted to get intelligence as to where the Brits were going, here was an already operating signaling system that could be readily adapted to some other flags and you could relay that. So, that's the speculation because we have not found any exact documentation on that part of it but...in almost...and Sam Smith definitely had other means of getting information. But there were barges out there talking to people and getting intelligence.

[43:15]

Nielsen: But see you [garbled] Bodkin Island you could look down to Annapolis, because as the ship was coming up you wouldn't whether it was bound for the port of Annapolis or the port of Baltimore, so Bodkin Point would have then picked out the ones that were passing Annapolis and say, OK...

Berkey: This one's coming north to Baltimore.

Nielsen: And that's sort of a little bit what I was thinking about after reading the logs of the British ship *Menelaus*, that they scouted Annapolis and Fort Madison, which is still down there and walked around in the night and said, uh, it's not worth, uh it's not worth the effort to invade Annapolis, we'll skip right by Annapolis and go directly to Baltimore, that's the message from the British captain. And so it seems to me that, you know, this weaving these things together, that telegraph system, the [garbled] didn't know they were going to skip by Annapolis, but at least they would have been able to say they're heading this way or they're at Annapolis or something of that nature. It would be a lot faster than horseback from Annapolis to Baltimore. That was the only other alternative.

Schmidt: This was [garbled] light house.

[mixed and garbled]

[44:38]

Morrison: I do have something here on Bodkin Point Light that pulled right up, you can look up Bodkin Point, you can Google Bodkin Point Light, and so I'm giving you one of the better things that I found on Bodkin Point Light. And then I, this is the copy of the front page of that book because Isabel Cunningham has a nice little description that goes along with it.

Nielsen: [garbled] ...the Coast Guard establishment documents for the Bodkin Point Light [garbled] was written up, the contracts, the specs and all that, but, the cut-and-dry government stuff, but this was the first light in the northern Bay, 1820. What's interesting, the letter to the Hancocks about, you know, the keeper being kept here during the bad weather, and then I think you were mentioning the cemetery over at Pinehurst, is the grave of the first keeper there. [garbled] his family.

Knepper: So when did it come down?

Morrison: Well, it's all, it's all in there. Apparently, its first year of operation was 1822, and its last year of operation, "went into service 1822," and its last, it served until 1856. And there were a lot of complaints. It was apparently not well constructed. And they weren't

getting the, the uh, the light was ineffective. And that's when the Seven-Foot-Knoll Lighthouse, which is now in downtown Baltimore was put in to replace it. It actually stood until the early 1900s, when it collapsed...collapsed into the...let me see...

[mixed and garbled]

[47:20]

Schmidt: There's actually a small farm out where the lighthouse was. But it was always an island, and the water was only very shallow, you could drive a buggy or a horse and wagon out and bring the produce back and ...

Knepper: When did the island disappear?

Morrison: "The Bodkin Point Light, being abandoned, fell into ruin and finally in 1914, the tower became so weakened that it fell to the ground."

Schmidt: And everybody that has a boat in this area has found the Bodkin Point Light [laughter]. They take the short cut across there and the rocks do a job on the props. I don't know anybody that hasn't hit those rocks that's had a boat in this area.

Nielsen: But the island itself disap...

[48:00] end of Disk 1

Disk 2

[0:04]

Morrison: The best documentation we have is that the store started in what was now the milk house, what we now call the milk house over here. But somewhere around 1900 things were going well enough that they, that they established the store building over here, to be a separate store. And that uh, that operated, uh, until, uh, Mamie died in 1954, and it was probably still going into the more modern period. I don't have an exact date on th...

Schmidt: Yeah, well they went down to more like a roadstand than a store in the last few years. They were selling eggs and vegetables and stuff by the road. This was...that came out of some of the records, that's 18...what...66? And that was an order, they bought stuff out of Baltimore. I have a lot of the invoices where they were buying from the store. We could actually pin down the dates. I've never did it, I don't know whether Jim has or not, but you can go back through these invoices I've got and get probably right exactly when the store was probably first started. I think it actually probably started earlier than what you've mentioned. Henry Alford might have started the store from the things he was buying.

Nielsen: It was part of that oyster story is the artesian water pipe because...

[mixed and garbled]

Nielsen: ...oyster guys out here, remember, they're gonna oyster all through the winter until they're frozen in, and even when they're frozen in doesn't preclude the breaks they're gonna go back out. They would come over here to the water pipe and water up, to the [garbled] and get water.

Morrison: It just ran all day, it ran...

Schmidt: They were still coming in the 40s, the oyster boats and anchoring there. But what their contacts with the Hancocks then I can't tell you. But I remember as a kid seeing the boats anchored up in, the oyster boats anchored up in there.

Knepper: And where is the artesian pipe?

[2:18]

Morrison: Did we not look at that?

Schmidt: We never found it, did we?

Morrison: Oh, heavens yes. That's what...it's um, it's on the 7 ½ acres down here. Did we ever show you the foundations of the old house?

Schmidt: That's not the artesian well.

Morrison: No...no, no, no. I'm giving a location now. Did we ever show you the foundation of the old house?

Knepper: I don't think so.

Morrison: Well, maybe we didn't show that to you. That's hard to believe as long as we know. But it, there was a...in fact the family, the Millers lived in the house over there. And they actually, I don't know where they got their power or generator, they had a uh light on a tree. You can still see the light on the tree.

Knepper: OK, you're talking about the other side.

Morrison: Yes, exactly. And that light on the tree was over that artesian...

Knepper: OK.

Morrison: Yes, you have been there...

Schmidt: Where are you saying this artesian well, location?

Morrison: Just below the light.

Schmidt: You're talking about on the ground.

Morrison: Yeah.

Schmidt: It was in the water. It was at the pipe out in the water. It's in the records.

Morrison: I am not aware...I've seen some allusion to that but I have never...

Schmidt: There was some writings, I think Evan [?] has some from his father ... some of the relatives I thinks there's some notes to that effect.

Nielsen: Yeah, I've heard the guys tell that story. It obviously rusted away until what's left is that stub coming out of the bank, there, but it ran down.

Morrison: There is...on...OK, we're talking about two different things, now. The one you can document because it is in a big ceramic, um, pipe now that comes out of the hillside about three feet down. Now, Henry's right, there is a story that there was a pipe, vertical pipe...

[4:18]

Schmidt: I mean I never saw it, but Jim and them say they saw it, as kids [garbled] I take Jim's credibility more than...they was starting to imagine a few things, but Jim's mind was pretty good about the past, him and Charles both.

Morrison: Now, OK, the ideas was, there was an iron pipe, in the water, off of the shoreline some distance, and water ran continually, fresh water ran continually out of it. That's the story.

Schmidt: Whether that's factual, I can't say because I didn't see it.

Nielsen: Well, it would have to be an artesian...

Morrison: ...for it to, obviously...

[mixed and garbled]

Schmidt: ...artesian is the element of spring. It was probably more like a spring than an artesian, the one that...

Morrison: Well, yeah.

Schmidt: Because we had a spring on our farm that was just under the root, the base of a tree and we'd pull water out of that. Well, I used to pump water out of that with an electric, or a gas engine that we'd put in transplanters to plant plants with. And we, our pickers got all their fresh water out of it. Of course, today you couldn't do that because it wouldn't be politically correct to use water from mother nature provides without going through a system.

Berkey: And paying tax for it.

[5:34]

[laughter, mixed and garbled]

Nielsen: ...we'll make a million.

[laughter]

Schmidt: We're gonna sell them, water's a bigger item in the grocery stores now than...and you know most of that water's never saw a spring. You read the labels, it's not mis-labeled, most of it. You read the label it doesn't say anything, some of them say spring, but most of them don't.

The other thing you might have some interest in, getting back, the family graveyard...

Berkey: Oh, this is the plot again.

Schmidt: The scout that, I think I mentioned he did his Eagle Scout project, and this was all done with GPS, is my understanding. So each one, and then he put in the book the one, the stones that he knew...we have some, I know Jim, I have somewhere, more died than what's in that book of course going back... But they raised all the stones back up and then one of the Scout Masters was an engineer and he took and GPSed them and plotted it all. So this should be pretty much, [garbled] the shape of it, but he's got the plan, they've got the...

Berkey: You're covering what, about five, six generations in this?

Morrison: Five.

Berkey: Five?

Schmidt: That we, you can document, because there's a lot of stones with no dates on them, no names

Morrison: Well, generation one, the builder of the house, was Stephen, and his grave is over there and his three wives. And so it's, we know the start.

Schmidt: This adds a tie-in with the history of the property here. There's a lot of work involved.

[7:37]

Morrison: As far as other things are concerned, is there any more of a discussion, we've got Kim to come out here with the *Lion* in mind. Is um...

Nielsen: Tom's been doing good stuff.

Morrison: Is there any more we should talk about the *Lion* at this stage of the game?

Nielsen: Well I asked, I've been trying to get hold of Scott Sheads since you sent your message about the Smith papers, because you found the Smith personal papers. What I was going to ask you was did that also include the, uh, Defense of Baltimore official papers?

Berkey: There were some papers there, the ones... Number one, I told you the handwriting, we all thought it, boy in the nineteenth century they knew how to write. Well there were a lot of people that didn't. You know the address on the front of the envelop was beautiful, but when we go inside [garbled]. But there, in the letters there were, uh, reports of, uh, commanding officers of various units of militia in the 1814 time period, reporting, you know, "I'm here, sir, awaiting your orders." And there were some...

Nielsen: ...[garbled] was in that...

Berkey: Uh, and there were people that, uh...it [garbled] looked like a little intelligence, you know, what they heard, you know, especially when, I'm...the attack that [garbled]. And then of course you're getting information at that time about, uh, Cochrane, you know, coming up the Patuxent, debarking his troops like at Benedict and going forward, and of course...

Nielsen: [garbled]

Berkey: Yeah, uh, it was sort of passing, uh, things in there and what was it, General Winder, the governor's n'er-do-well...not n'er-do-well, but he didn't do such a good job in the Bladensburg...

Morrison: William?

Berkey: I think it was. There was the governor and his cousins, was made the general by, uh, President Madison, and Monroe, who was Secretary of State at that time, you know.

Morrison: Going out and doing reconnaissance on his own.

Berkey: Yeah, but the guy was always apparently dithering about and not doing anything, as opposed to Sam Smith, who albeit had a longer time to prepare for it, was a lot more methodical and, uh, in getting the Defense of Baltimore prepared.

Nielsen: See, that's where Scott did Chris [garbled] book said there may be something, reports of, who is it, I can't remember the name of the, the other colonel or whatever who was in charge of the ...

Berkey: The military barge...

Nielsen: The barge, no, the barges going down to, keeping watch at Bodkin Point.

Berkey: Oh, I didn't see much, occasionally I would see mentioned a river, but it was mostly comments on the militia. Like I said, a lot of that...

Nielsen: Well, this is where it, the speculate... where Scott Sheads from Fort McHenry said that those reports of the Defense of Baltimore by the gunboats, the barges and the schooners, which are mentioned in all the writing, they had to have logs kept, because they would be dispatched and brought back, you know. And so he was, his thought was they were in the Smith papers, Now, that's my, I don't like to send you on wild goose chases but [mixed and garbled]. But now it that doesn't turn out to be the case I can go back and say well, in the Smith personal correspondence that material isn't there. Where else could it be, because Scott had this sort of ...

[\[11:46\]](#)

Morrison: You know, when you're looking for something, you can very often find things that you're not particularly looking for. So, since you have a concept of what you're looking for and go into those papers looking for that you may find it whereas if you're just cruising the papers you wouldn't, wouldn't pay much attention to...

Nielsen: Well, that's where it's great to know, uh, but unfortunately that's the, the legibility is really difficult and that's the same thing with the Beynon journal [garbled] the British that I had. To me it was very hard to read. But to Christine Hughes, who edits the documents of the War of 1812 reads it like it's print. She says, "aw, I can read it, you know, it took me years, but now I can read it like I wrote it myself."

Schmidt: Well, Jim's saying things lead up to something different than you're looking for. This past Wednesday, I'm told I was on property where the British camped out at Benedict, in the War of 1812, and also that John Smith had been there also on that property, a farm down on the Patuxent right at Benedict. And it's a good 150-acre flat field there, and it's the only flat land anywhere in the general area of Benedict. So the logic is they been, you can't camp in land like that just because it's on the flat land. And they had a little thing of arrowheads there they picked up. They also had the name of an Indian tribe that had their town there. They, and the one son works for the Smithsonian now. He, uh, said he's very much interested in the history of the property. But [garbled] I didn't really get a chance to pick his brain that much. I asked him one question, he didn't have the answer, and then he

didn't want to talk to me again. I didn't mean to embarrass him, I was honest when I was asking the question, I wasn't being smart.

[13:49]

Nielsen: Next Sunday you can talk to him about [mixed and garbled]

Schmidt: The guy that owns the property, his name's Franklin Robinson.

Nielsen: [garbled] will know because he lives in Lusby, in the cove, in Benedict.

Schmidt: If you go across the bridge, as soon as you get to the Charles County side, if you're going west, it's the first farm on the right, right on the river bank, they got a couple of miles on the waterfront there.

Nielsen: Well, that's, uh, that's going to be part of, that's one of the big issues with the War of 1812 Trail that starts [garbled] really important sites. Like where did the British land at Benedict, camp and start marching to Washington? It's the middle of a swamp, uh, there's no roads, there's, it's private property, like OK, we know where it was but you can't get there.

Schmidt: What they're doing is, is working on ag-tourism, that's agriculture instead of production agriculture, and then they weren't going to get the grants to build the visitor's center so they got a bunch of plans.

[14:50]

Nielsen: The money's coming...

Schmidt: I'm on an agriculture tour end up relating back to what we're doing here. See you it all ties together when you get nosing around. Of course if I'd stayed where I belong I wouldn't get [garbled]

Morrison: Well, I guess we've exhausted the things at least Henry and I could identify were key to the Creek.

Schmidt: One thing they might want to look at, I've got the twelve, probably that I've put together. But these are papers out of here, and you might see something that you might be interested in looking at here. Like I say, I got a whole lot more of them. [garbled] ...that was an inventory that has the negro boy that sold for five dollars and a gray mare was \$30. But that's the original paper that must have...

Knepper: From...

Schmidt: I think the last item on that list at the bottom is the negro boy and then

Knepper: Yeah, second to last, yeah, one negro boy five dollars.

Schmidt: Yeah, I think you'll see I think the gray mare up above was \$30. And my daughter, I had trouble getting that, explaining that to her, she couldn't quite believe there

was slavery. But I tried to explain to her how it worked. I don't think she still bought it, but I tried.

[16:19]

Berkey: And these look like, are these receipts from the store?

Schmidt: These are all things that came out, this house, either produce they were selling or you see it's, some of them'll be things that they were buying. And everything in these books came out of this house. Like I say, I've got loads more of it.

Knepper: And Bond was the dealer up in...

Schmidt: That was one of the commission houses that what we called them, they sold produce for you. There's a lot of different names of them. A lot of them are in the Broadway area, and there's a lot of them still there when I was, uh, late teens early twenties, because I was trucking produce to there and delivering it to some of the same ones you'll see names that are still there. And then basically the whole Inner Harbor area is where the produce hub of Baltimore was. The boats came in to the waterfront where the harbor place is, Shaw and Kansas Streets was the center of the produce burghers.

Morrison: Long Wharf.

Schmidt: Yeah.

Knepper: Now would all this have gone out to the bay side?

Schmidt: Probably out of here.

Morrison: Well, now this is the question, this is the question.

Schmidt: Controversy [garbled] living off shore.

Morrison: They had, in more recent times they used the wharves right here. But the only reason you can think of, at least I can think of, that they worked so hard to acquire land on the Patapsco shore was if you could load your boats in the shallows right there, um... Henry, hold a second because we're recording and we're getting your conversation conflicting. There are stories, again, of taking your farm wagon down on the beach and right into the water and loading your boats right there on the Patapsco, which would, if you could do it, uh, eight miles from Baltimore rather than 14 miles from Baltimore, you were saving time and money and, um, that was an excellent reason to do it. So, things change over time, but that's very likely.

Knepper: It's likely but it's not specifically documented.

Morrison: Documented, it's likely but not specifically documented.

Knepper: They wouldn't have had a wharf or anything out there.

Morrison: You wouldn't need a wharf. You could anchor your boat...

[19:00]

Berkey: And they were shallow draft probably.

Morrison: Oh yeah, absolutely.

Berkey: Centerboard, so they could come in close and you just drive the wagon out.

Morrison: Well, these people, and Henry can speak to this better than I, these people knew how to use the seasons in their favor in a way that we forget. Such as, in building a wharf, like a 70-foot by 40-foot wharves out here, you'd lay them down, the cribbage and a good deal of the rubble in the middle, on the ice in the wintertime. And then when the ice thawed, bam, you'd have the foundation of your wharf right there.

Berkey: Now we played around with one of those over there several years back. Did you ever find any whar... well, you said you didn't need a wharf, it seems I answered my question. You didn't need a wharf on the other side, because the boat could come in and just load directly from the wagon.

There've been, just looking at these papers, several, uh, you know, references to the *Niles Weekly Register*. And I found that on-line.

Nielsen: Yep, I've been working with them for about six or seven years, that they just continue to add material. The editor himself took on the *Lion* project about five years ago. He says I'll let you know when I find anything, but so far...

Berkey: Nothing, because I noticed the last Saturdays of the month were the prize list.

Nielsen: Not a...

Berkey: Not a peep, yes. That's really...

[20:50]

Morrison: On wharves, there is I think something we may not have specifically mentioned. There was a fairly extensive period when the County established county wharves on the local creeks to serve as a place for the market boats to come and pick up, um, the produce from the local farms. For example, on Bodkin Creek, you have Main Creek, you have Back Creek to the north, and you have Wharf Creek to the south. Guess why it was called Wharf Creek? There was a county wharf there, right at the end of Dock Road. You go down there and you can see where the wharf was. It's now been acquired by some folks next to the, uh, where the wharf was. But, uh...

Schmidt: They had one at the head of Rock Creek, when you go down to [garbled] the county wharf was there.

Morrison: But the County maintained the roads to these, and established these wharves essentially all over the county.

Knepper: Twentieth century, or...?

Morrison: I, would it last 'til the twentieth century? I would say yes. Early-twentieth century. I would say yes.

Knepper: And it began...?

Morrison: I can't, I, you know, I can't, some research would be needed. I don't...

Schmidt: It appears that when the farms were starting to get smaller and probably they couldn't maintain these family wharves, I think it's when the County moved in and picked up and [garbled] but I don't know what year that would have been.

Morrison: The, the, on the Magothy, in the Gibson Island area, there was a county wharf to which the farmers, in the twentieth century, before the Symington boys bought Gibson Island, they would take their produce down to, um, the wharf just off the island and now the people do the same. So, I would say definitely into the twentieth, early-twentieth century.
[\[22:53\]](#)

Schmidt: The last produce shipped from this farm was shipped, five baskets in a Model-T Ford from here over to my farm to go on our truck to take to the Baltimore market. My great uncle would bring over four of five baskets of squash, cucumbers that he didn't sell here locally and we would take it up with our produce when we went to the Baltimore market. He'd bring it over in his Model-T Ford, which is the one sitting there over in my building. So that was a produce truck.

Knepper: A truck from a truck farm. [pause] Were there any more questions about the *Lion*, Tom or...?

Berkey: [laughter] ...the lack of information.

Nielsen: You're the first one that's ever gone through all the, uh, the registries and, uh, in looking over what you found, and we've talked over the phone [garbled]. It's not clear whether there were two or three *Lions*, whether they were the same one, or when one would go away they'd build a new one and name it *Lion* or, you know, go back to 1801 or 1799, and it's a hard thing because...

Berkey: Well, I, you know, I've only got, had a limited look, like, uh, for what was it, registrations and enrollments, were like from 1802. And I says, you know, 1814, that's already 12 years old. I was thinking if this *Lion* existed as a privateer it had to be in relatively good shape, so, and one of the things was the age of it. And, but I did find this one like we talked about in Lloyd's Registry that in 1812 mentioned, you know...

Nielsen: It had guns and...

[mixed and garbled]

Berkey: But I didn't see it exactly in 1805, and, uh, and there was an age thing. They had that funny thing, how old was the ship? And it was, you know, if this was 1812, how old was it in 1811? Which, uh, was a little weird. So, that would put things back around, uh, 1800. And I didn't have the records. There may be other places...

Nielsen: And that's part of it, almost it's like a jigsaw puzzle, you start taking those facts and you add them to the other facts, but that's where the carpenter's certificates, see what I was hoping that we'd find...a record of its, where it was built, and that's...[garbled]

Berkey: I just didn't find a *Lion* anywhere. Now, the other thing that the people were telling me was, and I thought, for instance, you remember we talked about Claughton, Cloutman being the skipper, well, there was one there for *Lion*, it was up in Massachusetts, and there was one *Lyon*, L-Y-O-N. And one day when I was down at the Archives, I ran into a gent named Jack Ireland, Ireland, who works for Mineral Management. He was looking for a privateer that had sunk off in the Gulf.

[26:25]

Nielsen: You know, that's a big secret. You are one of the few people that know the name of that, because it's in the papers that this privateer's been found in the Gulf and their not letting out the name because of its connection to the War of 1812.

Berkey: Oh, well the secret's safe with me.

Nielsen: You wrote the name to me and you said this guy is looking for the whatever, and I said OK, now I know the name. In the reports we have back [garbled] it said they're not letting out the name because they would then know what the cargo was, they would know what the...

Berkey: Well, he came in one day, he said yeah, I'm looking at the privateer records, I said [garbled] I said you know that, that they would put it in, in say North Carolina, it'd be the [garbled] but if it were down in the Gulf they'd request the release. Same crew, same tonnage in, you know, and [garbled] the skipper. That's why I call with the *Lion* and the *Lyon*...

Nielsen: That's part of what is difficult, but that's where you look in the Coggeshall book in the back of its listing it says *Lion of Baltimore*, *Lion of Salem*, sometimes called *Lyon*, L-Y-O-N. But yet he, in all the writing he says, he always calls it L-I-O-N. Um, so, that's the only reference to L-Y-O-N, but there is then when have the [garbled] up here. There was a very famous one called L-Y-O-N, but it was always L-Y-O-N and I can't imagine George Coggeshall who was the famous captain of Baltimore clippers making a mistake on, on his own home town.

[28:07]

Berkey: Yeah, well the other thing was, when we started this thing, they're talking like *Lion of Baltimore*, so I figured, hey, if you ever found that ship in pristine condition, you'd read the name, the *Lion of Baltimore*, well...

Nielsen: And that's what it said on our...

Berkey: I know, but you read the prize list, and it'll say the *Rapide* of Boston, Baltimore, you know, who, it was always told of – and their home port. And that's why, when the guy came back and said *Lion of Baltimore*, he may have meant *Lion*, the ship's name, and underneath it is the port of registry.

Morrison: I think that's very possible.

[mixed and garbled]

Berkey: I mean it's still a successful privateer over there.

Nielsen: But then you try to speculate between these things, I think I told you, I found another reference to the *Lion* in that same Beynon journal that, uh, in April or May of that year, before the *Menelaus* sailed over here. They ran across the *Lion* in the English Channel, and chased it. And again, because it's in shorthand and brief, I'm wondering what, I wonder why the captain wrote to the general, "I burned a schooner in Bodkin Creek," when he'd captured a number of others and burned boats, but he didn't ever report them. And whether or not, but it didn't say *Lion*, or privateer. Um, but yet there was a lot of shorthand going on back in those days, but the fact that I found it, they were, the *Menelaus*, the captain, Peter Parker of the *Menelaus*, was aware of the *Lion's* presence here and chased him. Six months earlier, before he burned it, burned a schooner here, *Lion of Baltimore*. Again, and he wrote his dispatch a week later, his first lieutenant, uh, came back from burning the *Lion*, and reported that he burned it, and so I'm not sure that they just, there's a whole, there's a section of the, uh, ship's log that is missing...

[30:26]

Berkey: Yes, somebody said that it'd been, uh...

Nielsen: I found it. It's in a library in British Columbia. And so I'm writing to them to copy it. Why is it in the library in Columbia? We don't know, but...

Knepper: Was the other one in Ohio or some place?

Nielsen: The other, the other journal from the marine was in Ohio. They got have no idea where they got it from. But it's the magic of the internet. Because the *Lion's* log is still in England in the archives, but the journal's in Western Reserve University, and the log is in British Columbia. So, fortunately we have that, but I've got, it's not, um, lined or it's not indexed or anything, so I have to literally call and write, I called once and I didn't get any answer, but say pull this out, can you tell me, you know, what's, where's, read to me what's on page you know whatever, August 24th. Um, and then it goes from there. But, see if there's more primary research to do, and this is what you're doing, and to me the most

exciting thing is that primary research, looking at documents that no one has looked at in 200 years, with as Jim said, a mission in life, some, trying to link, and every piece of this is a piece of the puzzle. You can't see the big picture, but you keep adding enough pieces of the puzzle together the picture will emerge. So, that's where we are right now. There's a lot of pieces, but we don't know that [garbled] we do know that they abandoned the *Lion* in the area and walked up this road, because on the map there's only one road out of this whole area in 1814. And that, from here, it goes right up to Baltimore. So, that crew abandoned ship and walked home.

[32:20]

Berkey: Well, they were a lot luckier than others [laughter] because some of those, uh, and I should have brought along the thing, the pictures I'd taken of the abstracts of letters of marque and reprisal issued. In one of them, you could see the number, you know they numbered them, but under some there were a list of ten, and under five I think were some captured, captured, you know written them all, you know, they'd been issued but they were subsequently captured.

Nielsen: Let's, there was so much money involved then that there was, it was similar to what, sort of the ponsey schemes that they have now, they were, investors were investing in a lot of these ships, and some would be captured and they'd lose their money, others like the *Lion* would come home with \$400,000 in profits and make up for all the rest.

Schmidt: You got the same thing in the Indian Ocean right now, though ...

Nielsen: Yep, they just captured another one this morning, did you hear that? [mixed and garbled] Pirates just capture another American ship this morning. So, it's getting out of hand, I'd say. But the other, so, one of the things that, you know, I want to keep looking and keep digging. There's more...

Berkey: Where'd you think these gun boat logs were?

[33:36]

Nielsen: Well, that's, that's what I've got to find out. That's, Scott Sheads at Fort McHenry thought they were with the Smith papers in the library, or the Archives...

Berkey: They may well be. You know, I just looked at a very focused area of 1814.

Nielsen: Well, that's, but that would be the area, between 1813-1814, there are, uh, that, I sent you that, I think I forwarded you the e-mail that they found one reference that said some of the gunboat barges went down to patrol in 1813. That was when that happened. But the letter from Peter Parker, Admiral Coburn has said, you know, gunboats and the schooner came down on the 25th of August and tried to cut off their tender, *Mary*, that was sounding around Poole's Island, and this was the whole thing. So they, it was quite a day, because this was the day that they had, uh, they burned the schooner the afternoon before, gunboats, which are slow moving, and, but they had a schooner with them that came down and, *Menelaus* was at, the station was across the Bay...

Berkey: At Poole's Island, yeah...

Nielsen: Well, no, their station was between Love Point and Swan Point. If you take the natural channel of the river and go straight out, it puts you right in the deep between Love Point and Swan Point. And that's where, uh, as they, each day in the logs, they'd mark where they're anchored. And that's, day of that, they'd say, you know, anchored, you know, basically through the night, Bodkin Point northwest. You draw the line northwest and it follows the natural channel. Remember, there was no dredged channel. It was the, it was the channel here that went past this point down past the Seven Knoll...like, and directly out there. So, as they were there and their tender, *Mary*, which is a sloop, was sounding up at Poole's Island, which isn't in view. But they went up, and it says that they attempted to cut it off. They were going to capture it, and so the big ship, *Menelaus*, had to, Beynon raises his anchor and getting under weigh, and as soon as they did that the Americans scattered back. And that was the report that was given. So, the question I have is did they come down, it said in the 1813 report they came down daily and that they didn't, some of the things that Jim had said they would obviously pull up and probably stopped and pull into Bodkin Island rather than sit bobbing all day. But on this day, they came down and went back, reporting that the British were doing stuff. So, where is the report? Usually, if you have that many people involved and a couple of gunboats and a ship, that report would go to General Smith or something. Where are those papers? Because those sorts of papers have been kept, they are somewhere, whether the Library of Congress, National Archives...

[36:57]

Berkey: They had that a [garbled] naval guy whose name, a lieutenant that was sort of in charge of the...

Nielsen: Yeah, in charge of the barges.

Berkey: And I just wondered where his papers were.

Nielsen: Well, this is where Scott, being the expert says, he thinks they would be with the Smith papers. He hadn't, you see you're the first person to ever pursue that. If they're not there, we've got to go back and say alright they're...

Berkey: Well, I'm not saying that, I'm saying get some other eyes on, on those ,uh, documents, on microfilm, and, uh, and it's actually many, uh, several microfilms...

Nielsen: One of the things that it, it's great about this now is all these libraries have enough microfilm. At the Navy Archives, we've just purchased a microfilm digitizer. And...

Berkey: So you can do OCR on the things and...

Nielsen: Well, they don't do OCR, but they, well they can, in a way but what it does is that it digitizes, and it comes up on your computer screen and you can modify it to make it brighter and clearer and...enlarge it, and zoom in, zoom out. And that's what I'm, my next effort may be to get the Navy to help me digitize some of this stuff if it turns out to be...

Knepper: It would be easier to look through.

Nielsen: Yeah.

Knepper: You can't do optical character recognition because the characters aren't sharp enough or clear...

Berkey: Well, somebody did something because in the *Niles Register* I was looking at, after awhile you get cross-eyed, but they'd go in and there is something I still haven't mastered all, that you can get PDF or something...but it is shotgun, you know how bad OCR is. That's what it looks like and just a continuous thing...

Nielsen: Well, there is, I mean the Post Office department has the best OCR software in the world. They read every address. The computer reads every address, hand-scrawled, and they said that they're up to like 99.9 accuracy on bad handwriting, towns and cities and streets. [mixed and garbled] Some of this has to trickle down.

[39:19]

Berkey: That's tight. That technology is spreading...

Nielsen: But that's, you know, it's, for some reason the challenge is you have to, we know we had the great privateer *Lion*, we know we burned the *Lion* here, we need the record of what... somebody burned my schooner, I would want somebody to pay me. And so, this is, the other part of this is, is that un-indexed, long list of war reparations that were claimed by citizens against the government. And as you, if you read any of the documents, uh, General Coburn was, uh, Admiral Coburn [mixed and garbled], bad guy, he burned smoke, uh, haystacks, burned barns, he burned houses, he was, you know, he was the terror of the Chesapeake. And that's where, and that's where uh, every one of these farmers came back to Madison after the war and said you started this, and I want my money back. And the government of the next four years adjudicated repayments to all the citizens for all of the losses from the war. Did that get, that ship in that list? And it's a huge pile of papers with no index, no finding aids.

[40:41]

Berkey: Where is it?

Nielsen: Archives. Um, that was at the Archives in College Park. The question is...

Berkey: What's it called?

Nielsen: Claims for Reparations and Repayments for the War of 1812. War of 1812 and it runs through 1840.

Morrison: Don't they have it by year?

Nielsen: We don't, you see no one at, no one in this whole business has ever actually gone and looked at them. They just know that they're un-indexed, un-filed, we don't know... This is where I was talking to Tom, the challenge is other than by year, are they by, alphabetically by claimant, or are they alphabetically by category – ships, barns, crops – are they...

Morrison: Are they anything?

[41:27]

Nielsen: ...you know, how are they arranged or are they just random? So, or chronologically as they were filed. We don't, we don't know, so... But, the other challenge is, depending on what they are, the work that Tom has done, he's found some names of owners of possible *Lions*, and captains...

Berkey: Oh yeah, you had the list...

Nielsen: I was going to talk to you more about those names because, more names, you found more names than I had. But you need a list next to you as you're going through these files of all the owners, all the captains, all the states of...

Berkey: Yeah, and sometimes the ship would stay but she'd get another captain, to, uh, you know, I've made enough on this cruise and somebody else would come along.

Nielsen: So, there's work to be done. But as I told you, that's, I don't want this really to be wrapped up with a ribbon, yet, because it's too much fun. We find more stuff, stuff keeps popping up. By 18, uh, 2014 I want us to wrap it up.

[laughter]

Berkey: He does have an ultimate...uh, would there have been any records here at the house about...? Because I'm sure, you know, people coming ashore, that was sort of a big deal.

Nielsen: The whole action out here would have been a big deal. The diary of a resident, that's the question. Any [garbled] diary [garbled] show up.

Schmidt: I wonder if anything would show up in the Bible we're going to be looking at, Jim.

Berkey: If you lost, if any of the family lost any, uh, anybody. Although there weren't any...

[43:06]

Nielsen: Well, the thing is, when, this activity was very dangerous to the Hancocks, because, as I was saying, the Admiral was going around burning every militia man's house. He was, the captains of all the militias, he found out they were militias, he burned their house. So, by them coming ashore here, and the log says that they came back night after night on their patrols, they came into the creek, that they [garbled]

Morrison: The problem with that is that, that, maybe they were looking somewhere else, and not here. This is so near the water. It was cleared, I mean this place stood out. So, if they did not burn it, it might be because they thought they didn't have a reason to burn it.

Nielsen: Right, he didn't know that Francis Hancock was the captain of the militia, of the militia. That's, that was where the danger was. When these guys came ashore here, if the

British had followed them, so to say, then they burned the schooner, and then, at three o'clock and by four o'clock rowed back to the *Menelaus*. If they had come ashore, chased, and chased the crew or done whatever and found out that Francis Hancock was the head, you know, questioned people, this...history would've, could've changed dramatically. It could have been burned down as part, as he did many other...If you read the, um, History of the War of 1812 by, um, Benson Lossing, that's on-line. It's fantastic. Benson Lossing went through the, about 18...

Morrison: How do you spell Lossing?

[44:52]

Nielsen: L-O-S-S-I-N-G. And he did The Pictorial History of the War of 1812 [*The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812*], and The Pictorial History of the Revolution. And in the 1840s and 50s, walked [garbled] road every site in every activity in both wars, and interviewed all remaining existing people, including my great-great-grandmother in New Jersey, who was a Revolutionary War widow. And he tells the whole story of, uh, you know, many of the accounts of Captain Peter Parker's adventures further south, burning farms, and burning haystacks, and burning barns, and taking cattle. All recorded there. And he relates to the stories, the stories turn out to be...The other thing that you need to read that is very interesting is Frederick Chamier's book...

Berkey: I was gonna, he was the midshipman, and he looked like, you know, on the *Menelaus*, and, uh, commented on Peter Parker. I saw that and I says...

Nielsen: His memoir, he wrote it in 1845 or something. It was a little bit like Charles, he was remembering a lot more 40 years later than we think the way it actually happened. At least he was, by his book he was in the center of everything, he was...[mixed and garbled] History revolved around him. But it was, it is a great insight, because it's talking about he went ashore in France and walked around, tried to find a ride home to the United States. He was in, uh, Jamaica, and he was running into the Brits and they were all, they would all go out and have a drink together and say, "well, we're going back to our ships, I hope you don't have to fight tomorrow." You know that sort...great stuff. It's really good. But, those are the very few original documents that we can relate to the... but it all comes to the Chesapeake Campaign of 1814, it really focuses here. This is one good site. One darn good site, here. Especially with that, now that we've proven the telegraph. This is another reason to keep digging. How many years have the pooh-poohed this idea? "Ah, Hancock's Resolution was not, was not a signal station, come on, that's an old family legend. You can't believe that stuff." Darned if it isn't true. Up until last year they said, they just dismissed it totally. So, you gotta keep digging.

[47:23]

Berkey: Doesn't matter how old the stuff is, you keep learning about it. Anything else you can think of?

Knepper: No, that...

Morrison: Well, I'd like to propose we, uh, Henry's got an awful lot of stuff in here. If somebody can help him, and we'll close up a bit. And it's now hard upon noon. I'd suggest we all, all of us who can, go get some lunch some place.

[47:49]

END

Appendix C

Remote Sensing Survey Report, Geomar, LLC

Available from Maryland Historical Trust

Appendix D

Site Forms

Redacted
(information available from Maryland Historical Trust)

Appendix E

Additional Archival Material

Additional Archival Material

Additional primary documentation available in digital format from the Maryland Historical Trust.