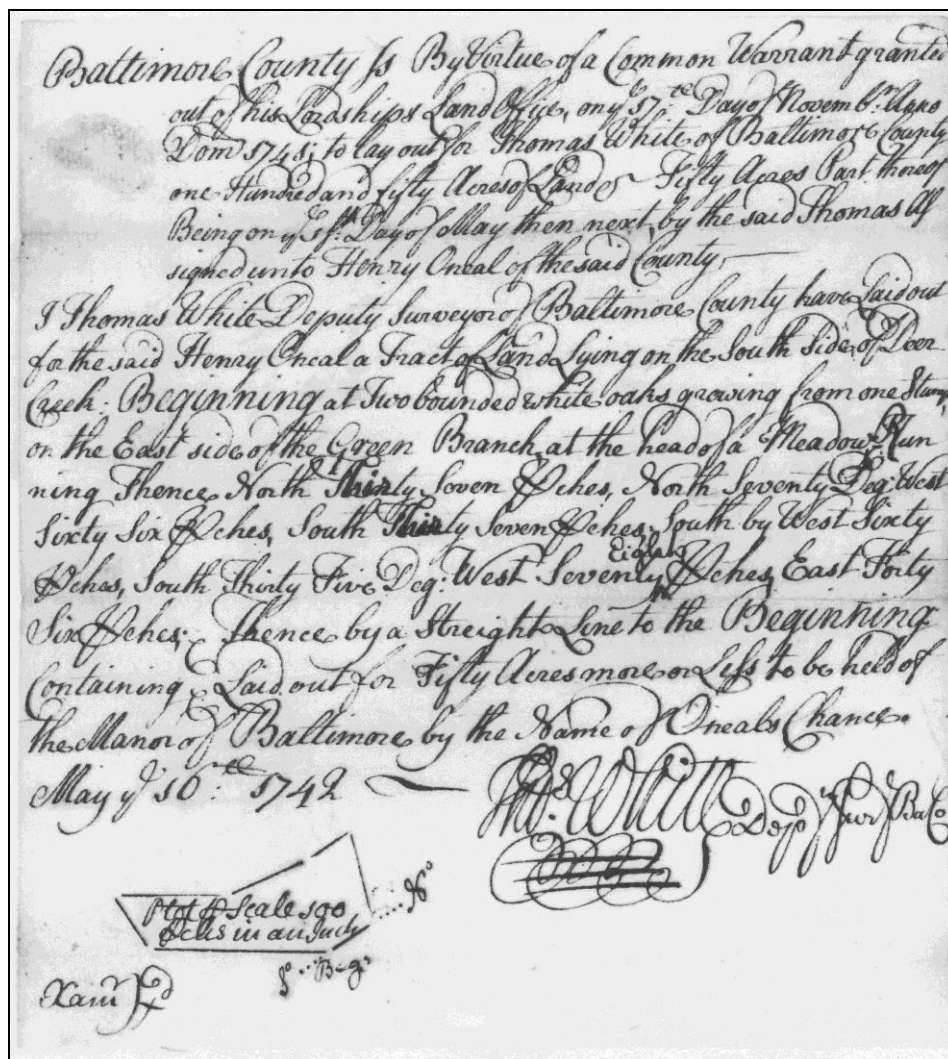


Henry O'Neal of Deer Creek, Harford County, Maryland

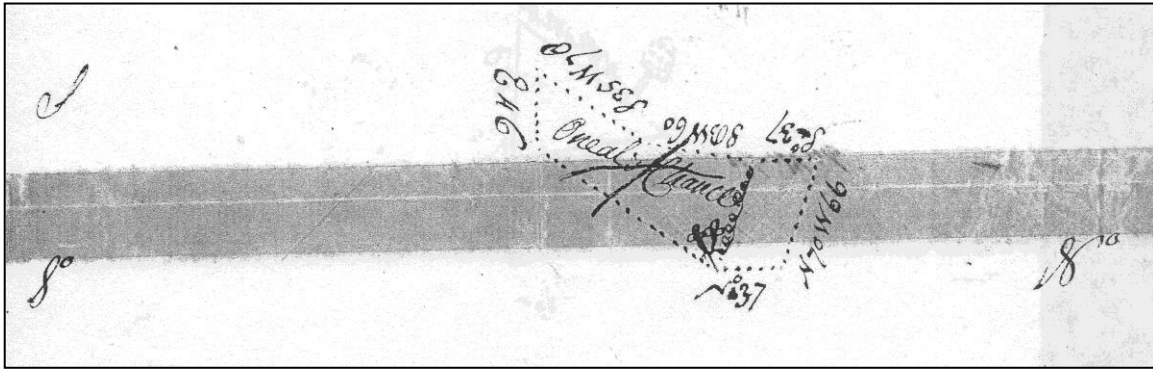
Henry O'Neal acquired "Oneals Chance", 50 acres, on the south side of Deer Creek, east side of the Green Branch, Manor of Baltimore, Maryland, part of a 150-acre warrant issued 17 Nov 1741 to Thomas White, with 50 acres assigned by White to Henry O'Neal on 1 May 1742, surveyed 16 May 1742 by Thomas White, and then patented 14 Jul 1743 by O'Neal.¹ The description reads "at the head of a meadow running thence north thirty seven perches, north seventy degrees west sixty six perches, south thirty seven perches, south by west sixty perches, south thirty five degrees west seventy eight perches, east forty six perches, thence by a streight [sic] line to the beginning..." This 1742 action is the first known mention of Henry O'Neal in the historical record.²



¹ Baltimore County Certificate LG E p 195; Patent LG B, p. 697. Maryland State Archives.

² Note: O'Neal is not mentioned in the 1737 tax list for Deer Creek Hundred in St. George's Parish.

There are two drawings of Oneal's Chance, one in the patent above, and the other in the Joseph L. Hughes Collection (MS 1675) at the Maryland Historical Society. The field book of surveyor Thomas White 1725-1744 is in the same collection, but the Oneal survey, on a sheet with a survey of a 460-acre tract Charles' Neighbor on the north side of Broad Creek, is loose with no author noted.³



This leads one to question, who was surveyor Thomas White, and did he have a connection to Henry O'Neal? Thomas White, a London-born lawyer, had come to Maryland in 1720 to serve Governor Charles Calvert. He quickly acquired nearly 8,000 acres in current Harford Co. MD before retiring to Philadelphia in 1745.⁴ O'Neal, who we will discover through his estate records was a blacksmith, was certainly respected in the community because of his occupation, but he was not of the class to have any familial connection with Thomas White. White simply was the land source for many settlers along Deer Creek. Later O'Neal acquaintances, Thomas Gash, William Hughs, and Samuel Howell, had also purchased 50-acre tracts from White all on the same day, 30 Jul 1737.⁵ O'Neal certainly had some type of business arrangement with White in exchange for being the assignee of 50 acres of land. Many of Thomas White's deeds mention tobacco, but it also could have had something to do with O'Neal's trade.

Was Henry O'Neal the immigrant, the first of his line in America, or did he have generations of O'Neals who proceeded him? We simply do not know.

That we are Irish is definite. My DNA has been tested by Family Tree DNA for 67 markers.⁶ That is, actual allele values are provided for 67 locations on the Y chromosome. This particular strand of DNA is passed from father to son and remains unaltered for long periods of time. In fact, a descendant of Henry Neel (1802-185?), a brother to our John Neel (1797-1872), matches me exactly – no mutations (changes) in

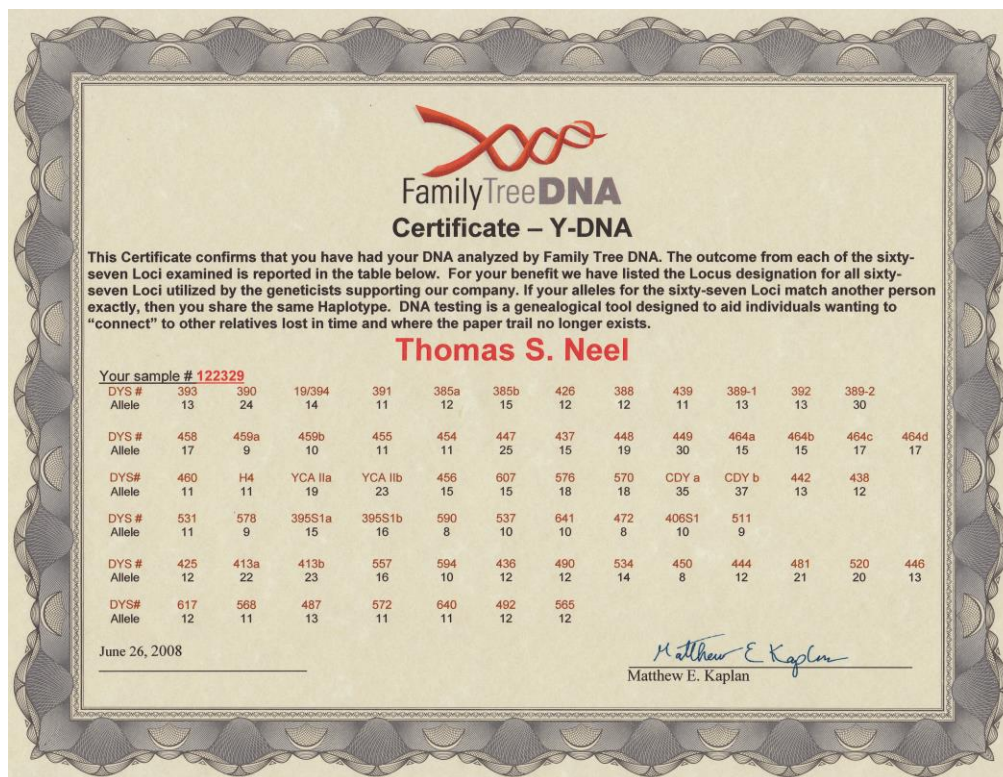
³ MS 1675, Joseph L. Hughes Collection, File 7, Plats of Charles' Neighbor, Oneal's Chance, Onion's Angle, Pilgrim's Neighbor, on the north side of Broad Creek, not sure if tracts are contiguous. Maryland Historical Society.

⁴ Weeks, Christopher. *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, p. 36.

⁵ Davis, John. *Baltimore County, Maryland Deed Records, Volume One, 1659-1737*. Heritage Books, Inc., p. 117.

⁶ FamilyTreeDNA Certificate, Y-DNA, sample #122329, issued 26 Jun 2008. Tested to verify results by two other companies, Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation and 23andMe.

seven generations.⁷ We also match an O’Neill family that originated near Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland, and migrated to Philadelphia PA in the 1790s, at least fifty years after our family emigrated.⁸



Our haplotype, R1b1b2, has been termed “The O’Neill Variety” [ON], a group descended from a member of the royal O’Neill line of Tyrone, Ireland, whose line was interrupted by a Non-Paternal Event (NPE), that is, the intermixing of a different surname as a father, sometime prior to the 1500s. This O’Neill clan “per history/legend/myth” descends from Niall of the Nine Hostages (380-405), the 127th King of Ireland, and genetically, our Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) is Conn Bacach O’Neill (1519-1559), King of Tir Eoghain and 1st Earl of Tyrone.⁹ Descendants repeatedly name their children Constantine (Conn), Brian (Barnet, Barnabas, Bernard, Bennett), Hugh, and Phelim (Felix).

Traditionally, our O’Neal family is said to be from Inver, County Donegal, Ireland, on the coast, some seventy miles west of Dungannon.¹⁰ Family genealogist Thomas Hughes wrote “My Family Memoirs,” in 1874 and revised it in 1918. He says:

“The motive that sent our first ancestor to this country from his native Irish home was of this character, i.e., a desire for religious freedom; he was a devout Catholic. Settling in the Valley of Virginia,

⁷ Daun Marrs to Tom Neel, email “RE: Exact DNA match!” with her uncle, Wesley Neel, sent 24 Jun 2008.

⁸ Josephine Mandeville to Tom Neel, email “RE: O’Neil DNA” on match with Peter Michael O’Neill, sent 8 Aug 2008.

⁹ O’Neill, Edwin B. and John D. McLaughlin, “Insights into the O’Neills of Ireland from DNA Testing,” in *Journal of Genetic Genealogy*, 2006:2, pp. 18-26.

¹⁰ Hughes, Thomas. *My Family Memoirs*. Baltimore: John Murphy & Co., 1880.

in Loudoun county, before the year 1739, Thomas Hughes, son of Felime or Phelime Hughes, and his wife, and with his brother Felime or Felix Hughes, all from Inver in Donegal, Ulster, first laid the foundation of his family in this country. Thomas Hughes in early life had married his cousin Bridget O'Neill, unto whom were born three children.... The children of Thomas Hughes and his wife Bridget, were: 1st, Phelime; 2nd, John; 3rd, Thomas.... Phelime or Felix [1723-1805], the eldest son, married Cintha Kaighn, an only daughter, and had four sons and two daughters."¹¹

It is difficult to know how much of the traditional story is true. The Loudoun County reference threw off Neel/O'Neal, Hughes, and Cain (Kaighn) researchers for years, as these families were originally from Baltimore (Harford) Co MD, and migrated to Frederick Co VA just prior to the Revolutionary War, and soon after, to Greene Co PA.

I have not located our earliest ancestor Henry O'Neal on a passenger list. My current theory is that his passage might be related to the following three documents:

Indenture, 14 Dec 1732, between Charles Carroll, John Digges, and Charles Carroll, acting executors of the last will and testament of James Carroll of Anne Arundel Co MD, gentleman, of the one part, and Thomas Shea of Baltimore Co MD, planter, of the other part, in consideration of the sum of 42 pounds 3 shillings sterling money of Great Britain, do grant to Shea 200 acres, part of a tract of land called The Out Quarter, on the draughts of Deer Creek in Baltimore County.¹²

Act of the Upper House, 12 Apr 1735, read the second time the bill entitled a Supplementary Act to the Act Entitled an Act Laying an Imposition on Negroes & Several Sorts of Liquors Imported and Also on Irish Servants, to prevent the importing too great a number of Irish Papists into this Province.¹³

Instructions to Saml. Ogle, Lt. Governor, 26 May 1735, whereas Mr. John Diggs hath made application for a quantity of land on the border and frontiers of our province in order to settle several families or inhabitants thereon, and promote and carry on an Indian trade and other improvements, and as we are willing to encourage settlement on the remote parts of our province, we hereby direct, that a warrant may issue to the said John Diggs for the quantity of 5000 acres of land, to be laid out where he shall think fit on the remote borders and parts of our province.¹⁴

John Digges and Thomas Shea were Catholics, specifically promoters of the Jesuit sect at Deer Creek, and I believe they promoted the importation of Irish "Papists" to settle these lands, now located in Harford County, Maryland (formed 1773). Perhaps Henry O'Neal, a valued blacksmith, was one of these immigrants to Deer Creek.

Deer Creek and its mission at Priest's Ford (ca. 1750 - still standing) was a project of the Jesuits or Society of Jesus. They had established several Catholic schools throughout Maryland and it is believed that John Diggs, Thomas Shea, and possibly Charles Carroll, were all trained in its principles. The group had a history of dealing directly with Rome in regard to the acquisition of land and struggled with Maryland's

¹¹ Hughes, Thomas. *My Family Memoirs*. Baltimore: King Brothers, 1918, pp. 7-9.

¹² Baltimore County, Maryland Deeds, TB C, p. 129-130, Maryland State Archives.

¹³ Steiner, Bernard Christian, ed. *Archives of Maryland: Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland 1733-1736*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1919, p. 185.

¹⁴ Steiner, Bernard Christian, ed. *Archives of Maryland: Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland 1733-1736*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1919, pp. 510-511.

leader, Cecilius Lord Baltimore, who got them to execute a release to land they had claimed from the Indians, in order to avert expulsion from Maryland.¹⁵

It was apparently while the future of Catholicity looked so dark that, about 1747 the missionaries in Maryland purchased a tract of land on Deer Creek, near a spot still called Priest's Ford, in Harford County. Here they established the Mission of St. Joseph and erected a house such as the laws then permitted, embracing a Chapel under the roof of the priest's house. The first missionary stationed here of whom we have any note, was the Rev. Benedict Neale [son of Anthony Neale and Mary Elizabeth Diggs], in 1747, and he is probably the one who erected the building which is still standing, and which was referred to about the time we mention as Priest Neale's Mass House.¹⁶



Priest Neale's Mass House – Cool Spring Road, Churchville, Harford Co MD

The Mission of St. Joseph (Society of Jesus) was actually probably organized by 1743 by Rev. John Digges, Jr. (ca. 1712-1746), the predecessor to Rev. Bennet Neale (3 Aug 1709-20 Mar 1787). Bennet and his brother, Rev. Henry Neale (29 Jul 1702-5 May 1748), as well as Digges, were descended from the Neales of Charles Co MD, and no relation to our Barnet and Henry O'Neal, despite the similarity of names and the close association of both families to Thomas Shea and John Cretin (1715/20-1784) of the Society of Jesus. I think there is a high probability that Henry O'Neal was associated with the Jesuits in the facility picture above, just three miles west of his home, although it was being constructed just as he died. The Mass House was likely "the Chappel at Deer Creek," being built on land donated by James Phillips, Esq., according to the vestry

¹⁵ Andrew, G. W., M.D. "History of the old Catholic Chapel at Priest's Ford in Harford County, MD", in *United States Catholic Historical Magazine*, vol. 3, 1890, p. 41-64.

¹⁶ Shea, John Gilmary. *History of the Catholic Church in Colonial Days, 1521-1763*. New York: John G. Shea, 1886, p. 413.

minutes (16 Sep 1750) of St. George's Parish. It was to be 57 ft. x 35 ft., brick 12 ft. high and 4 ft. thick.¹⁷

A history of the Mass House at Priest's Ford and of Rev. John Digges, Jr., Rev. Bennet Neale, and Rev. Henry Neale, may be pieced together from the following sources, mostly available online:

Andrew, G.W., "History of the Old Catholic Chapel at Priest's Ford in Harford County, MD," in *United States Catholic Historical Magazine*. New York, NY: United States Catholic Historical Society, 1890, Vol. 3, pp. 41-64.

Archives, Maryland Province, Society of Jesus, Box 37, Folder 3 [108 A1-A8] and Box 37, Folder 4 [108 A9-A19], Lavinger Library, Special Collections, Georgetown University, Washington DC.

Browne, William Hand, ed., *Archives of Maryland, Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, August 10, 1753 – March 20, 1761*. Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1911, p. 161-179.

Collection of Mathematical Treatises and Notes in Latin & English, ca. 1729, Associated with Rev. Henry Neale, S.J., a Talented Mathematician, who died at Philadelphia in 1748. Lavinger Library, Special Collections, Georgetown University, Washington DC.

Griffin, Martin I.J., *History of Old St. Joseph's, Philadelphia*. Philadelphia, PA: I.C.B.U. Journal Print, 1882, p. 3

Hughes, Thomas, *History of the Society of Jesus in North America, Colonial and Federal*. Cleveland, OH: The Burrow Brothers Co., 1908, p. 82-83, 236, 257, 265-266, 274-275, 284-285, 288-290, 343-344.

National Register of Historic Places, *Registration Form, Paradise Farm, Priest Neale's Mass House*, HA-138 (1990).

O'Neal Genealogy Association, *Descendants of Captain James Neale*, at www.onealwebsite.com/CapJasNeale.htm, accessed 27 Jan 2010, 17 pages.

Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, PA: American Catholic Historical Society, 1898, Vol. IX, p. 197-200.

Rev. John Digges, Jr., SJ, Papers [1734-1746], Lavinger Library, Special Collections, Georgetown University, Washington DC.

Scharf, J. Thomas and Thompson Westcott, *History of Philadelphia 1609-1884*. Philadelphia, PA: L.H. Everts & Co., 1884, pp. 1366-1369.

Returning to the existing historical record, there are minor mentions of our ancestor Henry Oneal in the court records of Baltimore County. In settling the estate of John Crow, 14 Feb 1745, a payment is made to Henry Oneal.¹⁸ Robert Barnes notes in *Baltimore County Families 1659-1759* that court records indicate that John Crow was raising a boy John Royon in the Roman Catholic faith in Aug 1754 when Royon's godfather, Isaac Wood, petitioned the court to have the boy bound to him.¹⁹ This Isaac Wood is affiliated with Henry O'Neal in many records. In John Durbin's administration account, 17 May 1746, Isaac Wood, Thomas Gash, and Henry Neal, were among those to

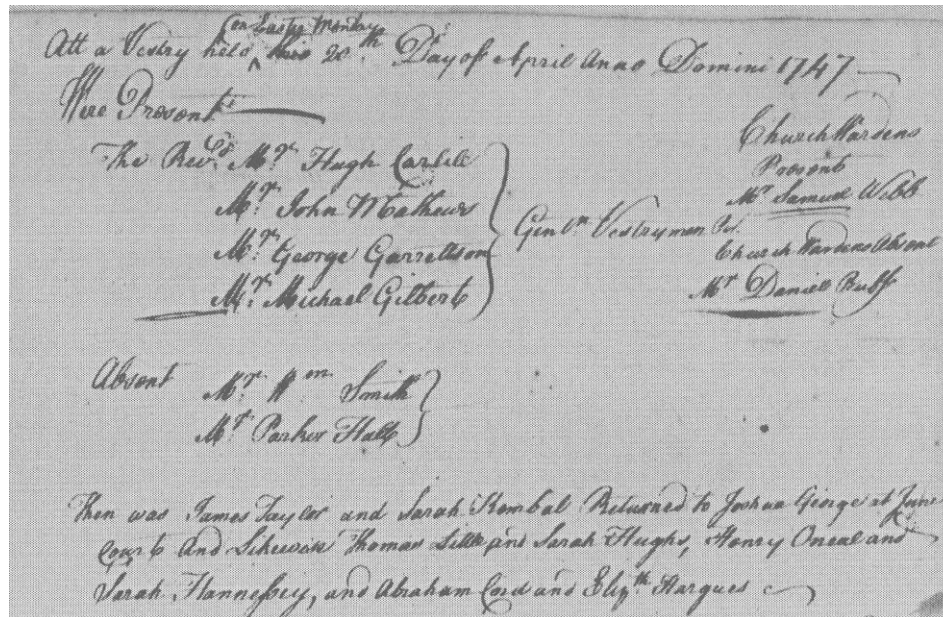
¹⁷ SCM1158, St. George's Parish Vestry Minutes, Vol. A, 1718-1771, p. 20 (16 Sep 1750), Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD [A petition to levy a tax to purchase three acres on which to build a new brick church was initiated at the 2 Aug 1745 Vestry – *ibid.*, p. 6].

¹⁸ Skinner, V. L., Jr. Abstracts of the Administration Accounts of the Prerogative Court, Libers 1 through 28, 1744-1750. Brookeville, MD: V. L. Skinner, Jr., 1997, p. 36 – Liber 22, folio 62.

¹⁹ Barnes, Robert L., *Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., p. 559 [30:306]. CHECK SOURCE

whom payments were made.²⁰ This is one of the few places he is noted without the “O” prefix.

The marriage of Henry O’Neal to Sarah Hennesy was recorded in the vestry minutes of St. George’s Parish (Spesutia Road, Perryman MD), on Easter Monday, 20 Apr 1747. Rev. Hugh Carlile, Church Warden Samuel Webb, and three Gentlemen Vestrymen – John Mathews, George Garrettson, and Michael Gilbert – were present, viz.: “Then was James Taylor and Sarah Kembal returned to Joshua George at June Court and likewise Thomas Little and Sarah Hughs, Henry ONeal and Sarah Hennesey, and Abraham Cox and Elizth. Hargues.”^{21,22}



However, the entries leading up to this marriage return are what lead to answers to several inconsistencies in later records that have troubled me for years, particularly a land deed to Henry’s five-year old son, Barnet. At the 3 Jun 1746 vestry meeting, “there was a summons issued for Henry Oneal and Sarah Henneyse to appear at the next vestry to be held the first Tuesday in July.” Vestrymen present were John Matthews, George Carrollton, Parker Hall, and Michael Gilbert.²³ At the 5 Aug 1746 vestry meeting, “then Henry Oneal appeared to his Summons and was discharged by putting Sarah Hennesey away.” Mr. Francis Holland was also present as a Gentleman Vestryman in addition to the aforementioned four names.²⁴ Little and Cox, whose returns were filed on the same

²⁰ Skinner, V. L., Jr. Abstracts of the Administration Accounts of the Prerogative Court, Libers 1 through 28, 1744-1750. Brookeville, MD: V. L. Skinner, Jr., 1997, p. 54 – Liber 22, folio 328.

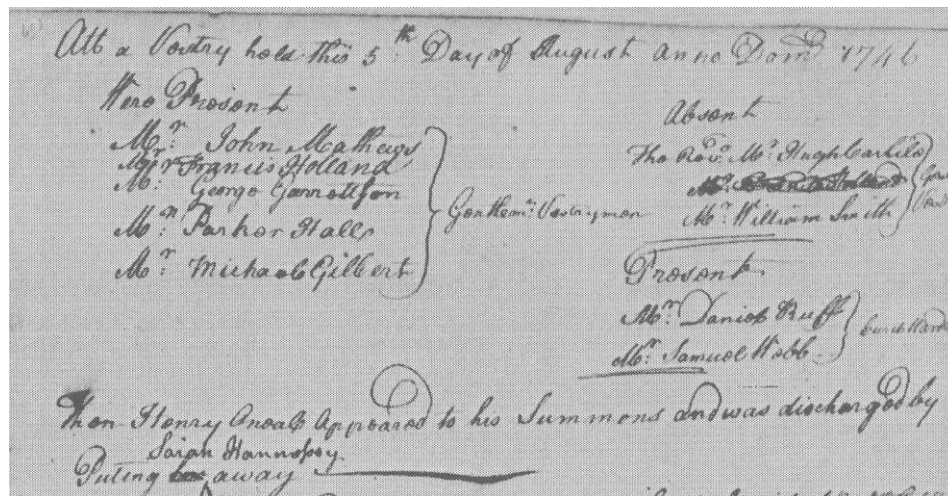
²¹ SCM1158, St. George’s Parish Vestry Minutes, Vol. A, 1718-1771, p. 11 (20 Apr 1747).

²² Reamy, Bill and Martha, *St. George’s Parish Registers 1689-1793*. Silver Spring, MD: Family Line Publications, 1988, p. v (intro) – states that Rev. Hugh Carlisle served from May 1744 through Aug 1749.

²³ SCM 1158, St. George’s Parish Vestry Minutes, Vol. A, 1718-1771, p. 8A (3 Jun 1746). [Robert W. Barnes has the vestry meeting date as 6 May 1746 in *Baltimore County Marriage Evidences and Family Relationships 1659-1800*, p. 285, but he overlooked the June section heading in the original].

²⁴ SCM 1158, St. George’s Parish Vestry Minutes, Vol. A, 1718-1771, p. 8B (5 Aug 1746).

day as Oneal, also were discharged for “putting away” their respective companions.²⁵ One would suspect that this phrase suggests that these ladies were pregnant and not yet married, a situation not in keeping with the regulations of the established church.



To complicate matters, a bastardy case was discovered in Baltimore Co., MD court records; however, it wasn't easily found in Peden's court abstracts, because the spelling given for Hennessy was Sarah Annis or Annisee.²⁶ The “presentment against Sarah Annisee for Bastardy” was entered in the November 1746 court proceedings, but laid out at the following March 1746 term, now thought of as March 1747, the Julian calendar still being used in the Colonies at that time.²⁷ The case reads as follows:

Lord Propry against Sarah Annisee
Bastardy Convict by Confession

In this Case there issued a capias directed to the Sheriff of Baltimore County, against the said Sarah Annisee, to answer unto his Lordship concerning a Bastard Child lately born of her Body. Whereupon now at this Day to wit this third Day of March Anno Domini seventeen hundred and forty six at the Town of Joppa here comes the said Sheriff to wit James Richard Gent., who returns that he hath Taken the body of the said Sarah and the said Sarah According Appears and being Demanded as the manner is, how she would argue the self of the matter whereof she Stands presented Confesses that she is guilty thereof and humbly prays that the sum of thirty shillings may be anopted off as a fine in mitigation of the punishment whereto the Laws of this province doth inflict on such offenders. Therefore it is Considered and adjudged by the Court here that the said Sarah be fined the sum of thirty shillings for the Offence afd., and that she Said Sarah be taken cr. [?] which fine is received by the afd. Sheriff for use of County. Thereupon the said Sarah is Discharged paying to the several officers of this Court their Several and respective fees due to them from her by occasion of the Premises afd., and it is ordered that she give Security for the payment thereof. Thereupon Thomas Shea here present in Court undertakes to pay the same in Case the said Sarah doth not.”²⁸

²⁵ SCM 1158, St. George's Parish Vestry Minutes, Vol. A, 1718-1771, p. 10 (3 Nov 1746).

²⁶ Peden, Henry C., *Bastardy Cases in Baltimore County, Maryland, 1673-1783*. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2001, p. 1. [Also listed in Robert W. Barnes, *Baltimore County Families 1659-1759*, p. 7.]

²⁷ Baltimore County Court (Proceedings), TB & TR 1, p. 220 [MSA C400-22; 02/14/12/020].

²⁸ Baltimore County Court (Proceedings), TB & TR 1, pp. 378, 394 [MSA C400-22; 02/14/12/020].

Lord Propcy }
Against }
Sarah Annissee } Bastardy Convict by Confession }
In This Case there issued a Capias Directed to the
Sheriff of Baltimore County, Against the said Sarah Annissee, to answer unto
his Lordship Concerning a Bastard Child lately born of her Body.

Lord Propry against Sarah Annis [sic]
Bastardy Discharged

In this Case there issued a capias, Directed to the Sheriff of Baltimore County against the said Sarah Annis, to answer unto his Lordship Concerning a Bastard Child lately born of her body. Whereupon now as this Day to wit this third Day of March Anno Dom Seventeen hundred and forty six, at the Town of Joppa, here comes the said Sheriff to wit James Richard Gent., who returns that he hath taken the body of her said Sarah and the said Sarah appears and is accordingly Discharged paying the several officers of this Court their Several and respective fees due to them from her by Occasion of the premises, afd. Also it is ordered that she give Security for the payment thereof. Thereupon Thomas Shea, here present in court undertakes to pay the sum in case the said Sarah doth not.”²⁹

Although this bastardy case, in itself, does not name Henry O’Neal as the father, nor with any certainty tie this mother Sarah Annissee specifically to the Sarah Hennessey in the St. George vestry minutes, later records will confirm that it is our Henry O’Neal who is now married (ca. 20 Apr 1747) and who apparently had a child (born between the summons in the church records of 3 Jun 1746 and the entry of the bastardy case at the Nov 1746 court term).

But life goes on for Henry and Sarah (Hennessey) O’Neal. Through a Baltimore County deed from Daniel Murdock, weaver, Henry Oneal, blacksmith, further acquired a 100-acre tract called “Murdock’s Chance” on “the draughts of Deer Creek” on 3 Dec 1748 for 70 pounds.³⁰ The description is as follows:

Beginning at a bounded red oak standing upon a level and running thence south twenty one degrees east ten perches then east forty three perches then north eighty four perches then north fifty degrees west fourteen perches then north thirty three degrees west seventy four perches then north by west one hundred and twenty perches then north sixty seven degrees thirty minutes west fifty two perches then south seventy nine perches and then by a straight line to the first beginning tree laid out for one hundred acres of land more or less.

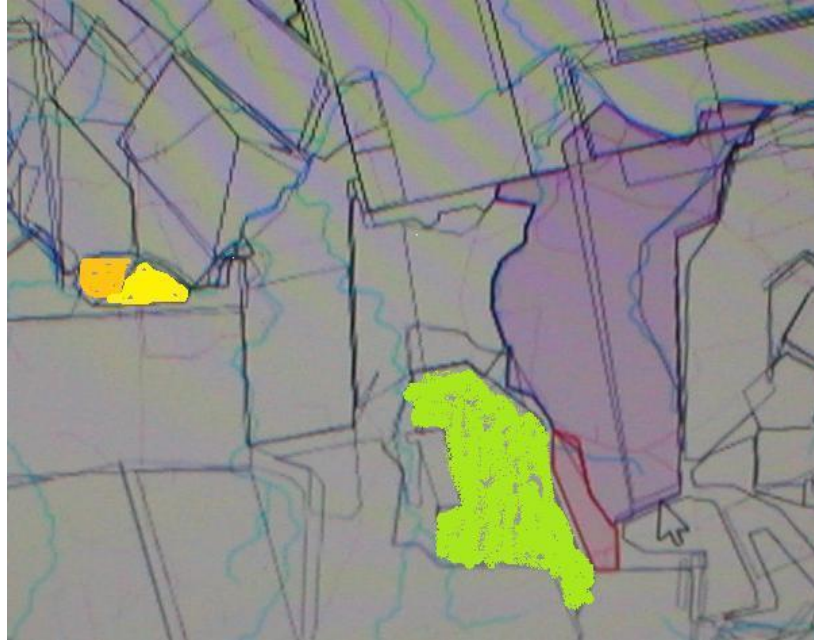
Witnesses were Willm. Smith and Richd. Ruff. Daniel “Murdagh” signed off the same day; an alienation fine of four shillings sterling was paid 10 Dec 1748 for the use of lands of the Lord Baltimore, and the document was recorded 27 Dec 1748. I do not have a drawing of “Murdock’s Chance”, but a 1771 Baltimore County deed (to be referenced later) refers to it as 94 ³/₄ acres, being part of Green Spring Forest.³¹ Mike Pierce has been

²⁹ Baltimore County Court (Proceedings), TB & TR 1, pp. 399-400 [MSA C400-22; 02/14/12/020].

³⁰ Baltimore County Deed TR C, p. 134-137. Maryland State Archives.

³¹ Baltimore Co MD Deeds, Liber AL, No. D, pp. 325-329.

plating these original parcels online [<http://map-maker.org/Harford/tax-maps.html>] for Harford County and is familiar with Green Spring Forest, a tract of 1430 acres patented to John Hall on 16 Nov 1737. It overlaps grids 28 and 36 on his map. This is located just west of Glenville and along the Darlington Road on the south side of Deer Creek. Mr. Pierce states that Murdagh's Chance, previously not located, "has a n33w 74 p line, the same as Green Spring Forest a couple years earlier."³² His map for this area is now online and ties the O'Neal tracts to a location on current Harford County maps as well as showing how far O'Neal was from other associates such as Thomas Shea at Priest's Ford.³³



Pink: #1867—Murdagh's Chance, 100.4 acres, BA-P:3415—patented certificate, 16 Aug 1742; EI #6:498; LG#C: 268; 15 Aug 1742, Daniel Murdaugh.

Purple: #1060—Green Spring Forest, 1438.2 acres, BA-P:2075—patented certificate, 16 Nov 1737; EI #2:534; EI #5:212; 16 Nov 1732, John Hall.

Green: #1915—New Westwood, 698.7 acres, BA-P:3519—patented certificate, 18 Dec 1739; LG #B:025; EI #5:449; 20 Dec 1737, Robert West.

Location of Mass House at Priest's Ford:

Orange: #62 – Addition to Thomas' Beginning, 75.7 acres, BA-P: 246 – patented certificate, 27 Oct 1725; PL#6:125; IL#A:631; 19 Jul 1721, Thomas Shea.

Yellow: #2638 – Thomas' Beginning, 50.3 acres, PL#4:300 – patent, 6 Sep 1717; EE#6:319; 14 Sep 1715, Thomas Shea.

³² Email, Mike Pierce to Tom Neel, re: Harford County maps, dated 8 Mar 2013.

³³ Pierce, Mike, author of website Map-maker.org/DM/Harford, showing tracts above – accessed 15 Oct 2014 [shaded in by this article compiler].

There are additional mentions of Henry O'Neal. On 9 May 1749, to settle the estate of Rachel Paca, payments were made to bills submitted by Nathan Rigbie, Col. John Hall, Mathew Wood, Felix Hughs, Henry Oneal, and others.³⁴ The Baltimore County Rent Rolls for 1750 (referred to as Debt Books on an identical film roll), list Henry O'Neal with Murdough's Chance, 100 acres, taxed 4 shillings. He is listed between James Gallion (Argument) and Henry Moore's Heirs (Good Speed).³⁵ However, Henry O'Neal was deceased by the time both of these actions were recorded.

Henry O'Neal left a will, made 19 Dec 1748, and witnesses, Hugh Caine, Isaac Wood, and Mathew Wood "made oath on the Holy Evangelist that they saw Henry O'Neal sign the above Instrument of writing & heard him acknowledge the same as his Deed of Gift about thirty hours before he departed." This would put his death date most likely on 20 Dec 1748 in what was then Baltimore Co MD. This will is not identified in any index, nor is it yet digitized online. It is hidden in the testamentary papers of the Prerogative Court, who, on 30 Nov 1752, at a Special Commission, "are hereby authorized and impowered to pass the account of Thomas Shea, Admr., deceased."³⁶

Upon yo^r that I Henry O'Neal for an in^{te}nd^{ed} be^{ne}fit
of the love and good will and affection which I bear and
doe bear towards Sarah O'Neal and many O'Neal daugh
ters of Sarah O'Neal alies Henesy I doe hereby as
a free gift bequeath to each of them that is to say
the sd Sarah Henesy fifteteen pound as also to
to Mary Henesy fifteteen pound out of my estate the
same to be lured to sd. Thoms^{on} of his — and
his discretion to make use of the same to put to
duy for the sd Sarah and Mary as also in case of mortality
the sd Thoms^{on} shal^l to deliv^{er} up sd^{ed} p^{er} money to any
person he shall think proper and in testimony I have
herinto set my hand this 19th of Decr 1748 —
his
Henry O'Neal
wrote

Hugh Caine
John Hughs
Isaac Wood
Mathew Wood

³⁴ Skinner, V. L., Jr. Abstracts of the Administration Accounts of the Prerogative Court, Libers 1 through 28, 1744-1750. Brookeville, MD: V. L. Skinner, Jr., 1997, p. 123 – Liber 26, folio 101.

³⁵ Calvert Papers, Item 44, No. 904, on Roll 676, p. 19, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

³⁶ Testamentary Papers, MSA 5541-56, Box 49, Folder 41.

Know ye that I Henry ONail for an in consideration of the love and good will and affection which I have and doe bear towards Saragh Henesy and Mary Henesy daughters of Saragh ONail alies Henesy I doe hereby as a free gift bequeath to each of them that is to say the said Saragh henesy nineteen pound and also to to [sic] Mary Henesy fifeteen pound out of my Estate the same to delivered [sic] to Mr. Thomas Shy – and his discretion to make use of the same to put to intrest for the sd. Sarrag and Mary as also in case of mortality the sd. Mr. Thomes Shea – to deliver up sd. Patrimony to any person he shall think proper and in testimony I have her unto set my hand this 19th of Debr. 1748.

Henry his
 N ONail
 mark

Testr.
Hugh Caine
John Hughes
Isaac Wood
[obverse] Matthew Woods

Baltimore Cty. C. Decr. 15th, 1749 [sic]. Then came Hugh Caine, Isaac Wood & Mathew Wood three of the subscribing witnesses and made oath on the Holy Evangelist that they saw Henry Oneal sign the above Instrument of writing & heard him acknowledge the same as his Deed of Gift about thirty hours before he departed.

W. Young

[side] Henry ONeal, Deed of Gift, 2 sides, Exhd. 21st Febry. 1749.

This document identifies the heirs of Henry O’Neal as Sarah and Mary Henesy, daughters of Sarah O’Neal alias Henesy. However, there is more to the story, as the surname Henesy/Hennesey/Annisee is not mentioned anywhere in the administration records - which do appear in published abstracts and indexes – and the two daughters are not “the heirs” to the O’Neal estate. In addition, this document raises another question – were both daughters born to the single Sarah Hennesey or was the first born child that of a “Mr.” Hennesey and the second a baseborn child by Henry O’Neal?

Henry Oneal’s inventory was taken 17 Jan 1748/49 in Baltimore County by Michael Gilbert and Isaac Wood.³⁷ Thomas Shea was administrator of the estate. The inventory included 26 lbs of old pewter, 9 old locks, 1 sword and belt, a parcel of old axes and iron wedges, a set of smith’s tools, 37 lbs of old iron, 89 lbs of old iron, 54 lbs of new iron – all further evidence of Henry’s trade as a blacksmith. The value was set at 72 pounds, 10 shillings, 10 pence, and debts due the estate amounted to another 114 pounds, 1 shilling, 5 pence.³⁸

Although it will take up some space, a portion of the estate material will be presented here – inventory, debtors, creditors, etc., as these possible relatives, friends, and neighbors may give clues to further research. Comments in brackets in the list of those indebted to the estate have been added.

INVENTORY

Jani. 17th Day 1748/9. An Inventory of the goods and Chattles Rights and Credits of Henry Oneal Late of Balt. County Deceased appraised in Current Money, vizt.

³⁷ Baltimore County Inventories 41, p. 354-357. FHL #12876.

³⁸ Baltimore County Testamentary Proceedings, Vol. 33, p. 85. FHL #12937.

To his wearing apparel and bridle, saddle and leather bags .. 6.5.0
To 1 feather bed and furniture...5.12.0
To 5 lb. of worsted yarn & 11 lb of linen, 6 ½ of tow thread and flax...1.13.10
To 26 lb. of old pewter, 1 cedar can and parcels of old bowls...1.15.0
To 3 cedar washing tubs & pail, 1 butr. churn...0.12.0
To 1 brass candlestick & a parcel of stone ware and 1 box iron...0.9.0
To 1 iron pot and 1 frying pan and iron ladle...0.15.6
To 2 old tables and 1 old bedstead and bed, 2 old chaff beds & furnishings...0.16.0
To 1 old chest, 1 box, d.o., and 3 old Cyder Bowls and 3 old tubs...1.8.6
To 2 old cows and year olds 1 young, d.o., and 2 year old small...7.5.0
To 3 old weeding harrow hoes...0.2.6
To a cow at ??yr old, 1 old ??, 1 small heifer ?? 2 yr old...5.10.0
To 9 old locks...0.2.6
To 1 cow about 3 yrs old and a young calf...2.0.0
To 1 stallion horse about 2 yrs old, d.o., abt. 2 yrs. old...7.0.0
To 1 old mare and colt and pr of small stallions...2.16.0
To 7 horses abt. 2 yrs old, 5 d.o. abt. 1 yr old, 7 d.o. yr olds, 11 pigs ?? months old...6.0.0
To 1 sword and belt and 1 old sickle and 2 old sythes and a spade...0.13.0
To a parcel of old axes and iron wedges, 1 lock & old stock...0.8.0
To a set of smith's tools and 2 ??? and 1 pr of hand irons...14.1.0
To 1 Case of razors and 1 pr of silver ??? and a pr of buttons, d.o....0.7.0
To 37 lb of old iron at 2 ??...0.6.0
To 1 pr of old books and a pr ??? d.o. and 1 raw hide...0.13.0
To 89 lb of old iron and 1 ???...0.7.5
To 1 Sifter and 1 milk strainer and a parcel of old ???...0.2.0
To 54 lb of new iron and 10 lbs of new steel, to 1 old hachet...1.10.6
L 69.4.11

Michl. Gilbert & Isaac Wood, appraisers.

The Deceased left no ??? as the Admr. knows of

As two of the greatest creditors we approve of the appraisalment, Edwd. Wakeman, Jacob Gilles.

A plow share and bolter, a ??? hackle, 2 linen bags & stock lock...0.3.0

Crock about...2.10.0

1 water wheel...0.8.0

L 72.10.11

Michl. Gilbert, Isaac Wood

Jan. 26, 1749, came Thomas Shea, admr of Henry Oneal and made oath that the foregoing is a just and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods and chattels which were of the Deceased that came to his hands at the time of the making hereof and that what hath since be shall hereafter come to your hands or possession you will return in an additional inventory that you know of no concealment of any part or parcel there of by any Person Whatsoever and if you shall discover any concealment or suspect any to be you will acquaint the Commissary General for the time being or his Deputy with such Discovery or cause of Suspicion that it may be Enquired and you shall Well and Truly give an account of all and Every part of the Deceased's personal Estate that shall hereafter Come to your hands possession or knowledge. Sworn before W. Young, Dept. Comsy.

DEBTS

A list of Sperate debts due to the estate of Henry Oneal late of Baltimore County deceased.³⁹

Thomas Litten [married Sarah Hughes at St. George 1746, d/o Samuel Hughes]

John Woody

Reuben Perkins [to Ten Mile, Washington Co PA in 1774 & sells Harford land to John Hughes]

³⁹ Material in brackets notes of author from a variety of sources to try to identify neighborhood.

Thomas Horner [1755 overseer road accounts Susquehanna where Lower Ferry crosses it]
George Jones
Aquila Jones
Wm. Hopkins
Rachel Heagan
Mr. Packr. Hall [Parker Hall was appointed a Land Commissioner in Baltimore Co 10 Dec 1742]
Moses Paris [lived on Arabia Petrea in 1754]
Jno Cowen, Junr. [on Great Road from Thomas Shea's to the church in 1737 Overseer of Roads]
Michael Gash [married Eliza Gilbert]
Gregory Farmer [wife Sarah Hughes; sold Deer Creek land to Samuel Hughes in 1739]
Thomas Burchfield [married 1736 Sarah Gash]
Edward Moore
Sam. Smith
Phil. Carr
Jno. Hughes [witness to O'Neal's will]
Robert Dobbins
Pollard Keene
Geo. Garrison
Robt. Harkins [affiliated with Henry Beach who sold Deer Creek land 1750 to Bennett Neale]
Chas. Gilbert
Thos. Boudby
Aquilla Hall [wife Sophia White, daughter of Thomas; became Sheriff of Baltimore Co 1763-64]
Jno. Little
James Gallion [wife Phebe Johnson; listed next to O'Neal on 1750 Rent Roll]
Jno. Ross
Robert Stanford
Arthur Brownly
Edwd. Flannigan [witness 1767 will of Thomas Shea]
Hugh Cain [witness to O'Neal will]
Jno. Cain
Isaac Bowden
Edwd. Morgan [part owner of Arabia Petrea on Deer Creek]
James Cain [married Ann Spicer at St. George 1746; overseer roads 1745 near Gilbert & Gallion]
Jno. Hampton
Steph. Scarlett [witnessed 1754 Deer Creek deed from Thomas Gash to Barnet O'Neal]
Geo. Huse
Jno. Hall [store owner uncle of Aquilla Hall; had patent to Green Spring Forest]
Robt. West [owner of New Westwood of which Gash's Purchase was a part; wife Johannah Gash]
Geo Davis
Ephriam Green
Jno. Mann
Mathew Woods [witness to O'Neal will]
Dennis Caine
Robert Jeffery
Thos. Shea [adm. of O'Neal estate; deeded Priest's Ford land to Bennett Neale, John Diggs Jr]
Henry Davis
Jno. Cambell
Wm. Cox [bought land from Barnet O'Neal]
Michl. Gilbert [inventoried O'Neal estate; witness 1739 Deer Creek deed Farmer to Hughes]
Pal. Archer
Jno. Critchell
Phil. Clark
Miles Foy [will 1751 Deer Creek – to be “buried at the Roman Chapel”]
Parr Johnson

Total L 114.1.5

ADMINISTRATOR'S ACCOUNTS:

Baltimore County ss. The amount of Thomas Shea, admin. of Henry Oneal late of sd. County Deceased. This accountant chargeth himself with an Inventory of the Deceased's estate herewith exhibited into the sd. Prerogative office amount to the same of L 72-10-11, also with a list of separate Debts due to sd. Estate L 114.1.5 – L 186.12.16 – and he humbly craves an allowance of the following payments and disbursements.

Due to Mathew Wood 4.16.11
Due to Jno. Haven 3.6.7
Due to Michael Webster 0.7.1
Due to Isaac Needin 2.11.16
Due to Daniel Murdaugh, assigned to Mathew Wood 1.6.6
Due to David Mortimer 0.6.7
Carried over L 12.15.4 ½

Paid Will Young for drawing & rating this acco. 0.5.0
Paid Will Young for passing this acco. 0.10.0

Baltimore County, January 26, 1749. Came Thomas Shea the foregoing accountant & made oath on the Holy Evangelist of almighty God that the articles mentioned in the foregoing are or is just & true to the best of his knowledge wk after Due, examination is past. By W. Young, County Ba. Co.

The additional acct. of Thos. Shea admr. of Henry Oneal late of Baltimore County, Decd. This accountant chargest himself with the Balance of the Decdt. Estate past Jany. 26, 1749 and transmitted to the prerogative office and he humbly craves allowance of the following payment.

732 lb of inspected tobacco due to Edward Wakeman 7.6.4
294 ½ lb due to Roger Boyce, sheriff 2.18.9
320 lb due to Steph. Bordley for attorneys fees and pd by this accountant to Ro. Boyce 2.17.7
154 lb due to Honble. Daniel Dulaney Esq. as pr recpt of Rogr. Boyce, sheriff, 2.5.9
400 lb due to Henry Danial for his fees in commencing actions ags. Sundry persons indebted to the estate 3.12.0
300 lb due to call Jno. Hall as pr his amo. provd. 3.0.0
37 ½ lb due from Talbot Risteau and paid to Roger Boyce, sheriff, as per Receipt 0.6.9
150 lb pd. Wm. Young per Letter of Adm. to Ro. Boyce, Sheriff 1.10.0
78 ¾ pd due from the recpt. of this accountant as admr. to Roger Boyce, Sheriff 14.3
Curr. money pd. by this accountant to George Hollandworth for a judgm. past agd. him in the recovery of the Defd. debt from Susannah Mason 2.6
Due to Rd. Rull 5.6
50 lb to fee pd. W. Young for passing this act. 15.0
The estate accounted for 171.14.4

Baltimore Coty. June 1, 1751. Thos. Shea makes oath on the Holy Evangelist of almighty God that the foregoing acct. is just & True whc. after due Examination is past by virtue of a power from the Commissary General. W. Young, D. Comm. Esq. of Baltimore County.

Baltimore County. The second additional acct. of Thos. Shea admr. of Henry Oneal late of Baltimore County deceased. This accountant chargeth himself with the ballc. of the Decd. estate past June 1, 1751 and sent to the prerogative office amt. 142.14.9 and with currt. money recd due

to the Estate 15.6 – 143.10.3 – and he humbly craves allowance of the following payments & disbursements:

Of a bail of a bond due from the Defd. to Jacob Giles 70.15.7 ½
Of a judgmt. ag. this accountant for receiving a debt supp of d [supposed of deceased] to be Due from Susannah Brown 2.6
163 1/5 lbs paid to Daniel Dulany, Esq., for commissary's fees 1.16.9
Curt. money due from do. pd. to Michl. Gilbert 0.10.6
80 lbs pd. to Steph. Bordley, Esq., attorney at law for a nonsuit as pr Zoffel Durbin for a debt supp of to be due to the decd 0.18.0
Curt. money pd by this accountant to Isaac Wood one of his appraisers 5.0
Do. Michl. Gilbert the other appraiser 5.0
Expenses all d [due] this accountant for his charge in bringing back Daniel Murdaugh who had received 40 curt. money of the Defd. given no credit on sd decd bond for hire and horses with other expenses 5.00
50 lb tobacco to be pd Wm Young Depty Com Esq for pass amo drawing & stateing for same 0.18.0
Funeral expenses alld this accountant 3.0.0
This act commd on payment of 78.11.49 at 10 pr cent 7.17.0 ½; paymt of disbursmts 91.8.5
Ball. due to Neel [sic] Estate 51.2.10 – 143.10.3
The Defd left three children, Eliza about 6 yr; Mary d.o. 5 d.o.; Barnet d.o. 3. d.o
This account. prays longer to pass another acct.

Jan. 23, 1752 – came Thos. Shea adm of Henry Oneal late of Baltimore County and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of almighty God that that [sic] the foregoing acct is just and true wch after due examination is past by virtue of a power from the Commissary general. W. Young, Comm. Of Baltimore County

Baltimore County. The third additional acct. of Thos. Shea adm of Henry Oneal late of sd. Co. Decd. he chargeth himself with the Ball. of the Decds. estate past January 23, 1752 amounting to the sume of 52.1.10; also with curt. money and from sd. recpt. 1.0.0 – 53.1.10; and he craves allowance of the following paymts.

148 lb tobacco recd ag this accountant by Jno. Durbin for a bill of last with a judgmt thereon 1.7.2
194 lb due to the commissary general 1.4.6
50 lb to be pd to Wm Young, D Com Esq for passing the acct 0.7.0
Curt. money pd for drawing & by stateing this acct 4.6
10 pr ct allowd this accountant 6.4
Payments 3.9.6; ball due 49.12.11; the estate alld fee 53.1.10
This is a final acct.

Baltimore Co., July 20, 1752. Thos. Shea admr of Henry Oneal late of sd Co Decd made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the foregoing acct is just & true wch after due examination is past by virtue of a power from the commissary general. W. Young, D. Com. Esq.⁴⁰

Obviously, the second additional account noted above from Prerogative Court, dated 23 Jan 1752 (pictured here), and the same entry copied in the Baltimore County Balance Books, are extremely important to the family history. They name Henry Oneal's "three children", Eliza., about 6 years old; Mary, about 5 years old; and Barnet, about 3

⁴⁰ Baltimore County Register of Wills, Administrator's Accounts (originals) 1749-50, MdHR 8894-9-21/70; MSA C263-13, location 2/35/14/17; Box 9, folder 47 [8 pages – this IS NOT a complete transcription].

years old.⁴¹ This allows computed birthdates of 1746, 1747, and 1749. Remember that we had a bastard child born to Sarah Hennessey in late 1746, a marriage to Henry Oneal in early 1747, and a late 1748 Oneal will which names Sarah and Mary Hennessey. Here we have an Elizabeth (not Sarah) and a Mary Oneal (not Hennessey), and we have a first born son, Barnet, who certainly appears to have entered this world after the death of his father. “About 6 years” could mean “in the 6th year” with a late 1746 birth for Elizabeth, and perhaps she was named Sarah Elizabeth, being called Elizabeth since her mother was called Sarah. All we can do is guess unless church records someday are located. I have not located any Oneal (or Seal) births at St. George, the Episcopal church on Deer Creek, that was charged with keeping vital registers.⁴²

The Deceased Left Three Children,
 Eliz^a about 6 y^{rs}
 Mary D^o 5 D^o
 Barnet D^o 3 D^o }

Janry 23. 1752, Came Thomas Aze Sheriff of Maryland
 Late of Baltimore County Deceased and made out
 the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that, that the
 account is Just and True Which after due hearing
 is past by Virtue of a power from the Hon^{ble}
 General
 P^r M^r Young

What do the estate papers tell the reader? The inventory, taken 17 Jan 1749, with its smith’s tools, hand irons, boxes of irons, and multiple pounds of old pewter, old iron, new iron, and new steel, is no surprise, as generations of Neels were blacksmiths.

To 1 sword and Belt and old sickle	} . . . 0 13 6
and 2 old Sythes and 1 Spade . . .	
To a parcel of old axes and Iron Widges	} . . . 0 8
1 Lock & 6 Old Stools . . .	
To a sett of Smiths Tools and 2 Wigs	} . . . 14 1 6
and 1 lb ^o of hand Iron . . .	

⁴¹ Baltimore County Balance Book, Liber 1, p. 21; and Baltimore County Accounts, Liber 32, pp. 13-15. FHL #12861 and #12908.

⁴² St. George’s Parish Vestry Minutes SCM1158, v. A, 1718-1771, p. 5 [mentions that on 7 May 1745, Aquila Hall was appointed Clerk of Vestry to register births, burials & marriages. Thomas White was discharged.]

The sword and belt could signify some type of military service in Maryland or in Ireland. I was surprised at the large amount of livestock. I count 12 cows, 23 horses, and 11 pigs. “Two of the greatest creditors,” Edwd. Wakeman and Jacob Gilles, approve the appraisal of Michl. Gilbert and Isaac Wood. No explanation is given, but the accounts filed later show that Wakeman was due 732 pounds of tobacco and Jacob Gilles, the bail of a bond amounting to L 70.15.7 ½. One might presume that tobacco was being raised or perhaps this is a measure of monetary exchange. In the list of debtors to the estate, one cannot tell the subject of each debt. I see many members of the Hughes and Caine families, so intertwined with the son Barnet O’Neal later on in Greene Co PA. Thomas White’s son-in-law Aquilla Hall is listed. Deer Creek neighbors West, Shea, Archer, Gilbert, Gallion, and Farmer, are all among the families included. There are those tied to the O’Neal family in deed records – Thomas Gash and William Cox; and those mentioned as Catholics at Priest’s Ford – Shea, Flannigan, and Foy. [Miles Foy – wife Frances - is actually an old name from past research, connected via deeds with another of my lines, the Spurgeons, along Catocin Creek.] There is apparently no vendue or sale list so one cannot tell who purchased the Family Bible if there was one. There are several disbursement accounts listing the creditors of the estate that ran through July 1752.⁴³ Of interest is that Daniel Murdaugh (of Murdaugh’s Chance) was assigned to Mathew Wood. The notes says “bringing back Daniel Murdaugh” in regard to a bond for hire and horses. Murdaugh/Murdock was tied to the Neel’s in Greene Co PA as well. These final accounts mention apparent judgments in debt cases with Susannah Brown and Zoffel Durbin. They may or may not tell some additional story. However, the administration file did not close the story of the Henry O’Neal estate, and two documents are of great interest.

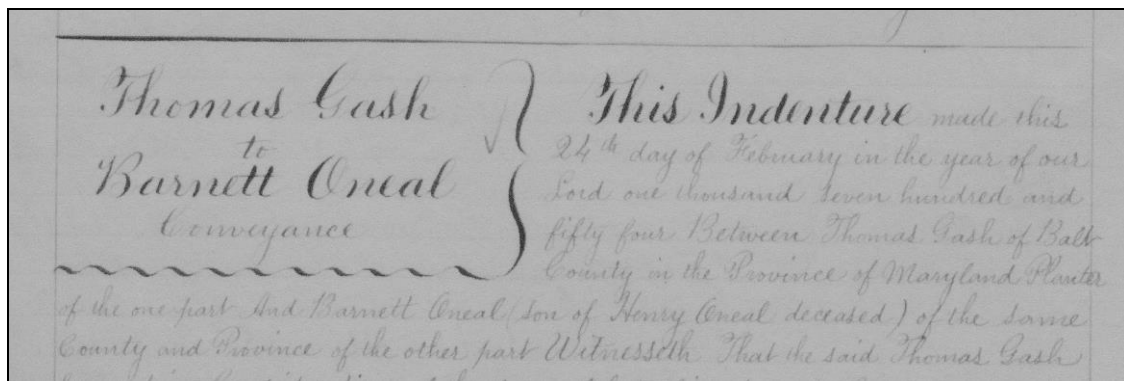
In a Baltimore County deed, 12 Jun 1753, Thomas Shea, administrator of Henry Oneal, conveyed 16 pounds, 5 shillings to James Seal. Signed, Sarah (her X mark) Seal. John Cretin was the witness.⁴⁴ This suggests that the widow had remarried by this time, some four and a half years after her husband had died, and more importantly, a stepfather to her children, James Seal, was now in the picture. By law, the widow’s property was now his.

James Seal & Sarah Seal
 Thomas Shea
 I do hereby certify that I have this 12th 1753 then received of Thomas Shea administrator of Henry Oneal the sum of sixteen pounds ten shillings & eight pence which is the proportionable part due to me of the sum of forty nine pounds twelve shillings being the balance of the estate of Henry Oneal deceased by me James Seal Sarah Seal
 Testes John Cretin
 Witness & day of March then received of Seal & Seal

⁴³ Skinner, V.L., Jr., Abstracts of the Administration Accounts of the Prerogative Court, Libers 29 through 36, 1750-1754. Brookeville, MD: V.L. Skinner, Jr., 1997, p. 71 [mentions estate of Rev. Hugh Carlisle, 15 May 1752, Baltimore Co., with payment to “estate of Henry Oneal paid to Thomas Shea” – this name not found in Oneal estate record; however this is the Episcopal minister who married Henry O’Neal and Sarah Hennessey at St. George’s Parish in 1747].

⁴⁴ Baltimore County Deeds, TR E, p. 122. Maryland State Archives.

A mere eight months after Thomas Shea's payment of O'Neal estate money to James Seal, there is an interesting conveyance to Barnet O'Neal, apparently just five years old at the time. This may have been necessary to protect his right to primogeniture, so to speak, as the first born son. The small child had a stepfather involved now as well as his father's will which did not mention him. On 24 Feb 1754, Thomas Gash, planter, deeds to Barnett Oneal, "son of Henry Oneal deceased", 40 acres, "Gashes Purchase", part of a larger tract called "Westwood" on a draft of Deer Creek, adjoining "Murdagh's Chance", witnessed by Michael Gilbert, among others.⁴⁵ Gash had acquired 100 acres of Westwood from Robert West on 7 Apr 1740.⁴⁶ West had married Johannah Gash 22 Jan 1732 at St. George's Parish. If this indeed is a five-year old Barnet Oneal acquiring land (paid 45 pounds), one wonders if there was not some relationship with Thomas Gash.



Sarah, a daughter of Thomas and Johannah (Gilbert) Gash⁴⁷, was born 16 June 1719 in St. George's Parish, and this would be a candidate for Barnet's mother Sarah. However, Gash researchers point out that a Sarah Gash married 13 Jul 1736 to Thomas Burchfield in St. George's Parish. It is not known when this Thomas Burchfield died, but he was on the list of debts due the estate of Henry Oneal 26 Jan 1749.^{48,49} And we have already established our Sarah as a Hennessey. Gilbert, Shea, and Cretin may just have been looking out for the best interest of the child and invested the estate money in land in the neighboring portion of the Westwood tract that was owned by Gash, a relative of Michael Gilbert. It is quite evident from the administration account filings that everyone in the community was going for the estate money. I have been told that land for a minor in Maryland was generally entrusted to a guardian.⁵⁰ Perhaps Thomas Gash or Michael Gilbert or someone else had charge of the young Barnet Oneal.

⁴⁵ Baltimore County Deeds, BB I, pp. 158-160. Maryland State Archives.

⁴⁶ Baltimore County Deeds, HWS 1 A, p. 411. Maryland State Archives.

⁴⁷ Note: Johanna Ashford was actually married first 1 Apr 1703 to Thomas Gilbert, who died 24 Oct 1713, and then as Johanna Gilbert, she was married second to Thomas Gash on 22 Dec 1715, all in St. George's Parish records.

⁴⁸ Baltimore County Inventories, Liber 41, folio 354-357; FHL #12876.

⁴⁹ Peden, Henry C., Jr., Abstracts of the Baltimore County Land Commissions 1727-1762. Baltimore, MD: Baltimore County Genealogical Society, 1989, p. 25 [includes deposition of Thomas Burchfield, of Adam, on 19 Oct 1744, aged about 32].

⁵⁰ Personal conversation, 2014, with ???, archivist at reference desk, Maryland State Archives, who said he had worked at WRHS, Cleveland, about 20-30 years ago.

Relationships are further confirmed in a much later deed when the child Barnett reaches the age of majority (21 years). By an indenture filed 21 Oct 1771, Barnett O'Neale and wife Mary, of Frederick Co., Virginia, sell to William Cox of Baltimore Co., Maryland, the tract "Murdaugh's Chance" originally granted 16 Aug 1742 to Daniel Murdaugh, deceased, and by him conveyed 3 Nov 1748 to Henry O'Neal, deceased, "the aforesaid Barnett O'Neal is Eldest son and Heir-at-Law". The parcel was in the beginning 100 acres, but "being foul of Green Spring Forrest" contains only 94 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. Witnesses were James Cox and Richard Morris.⁵¹ "Also came James Seals and Sarah Seals his wife which said Sarah Seals was formerly wife of Henry O'Neale deceased and has her third of said Land during her Natural Life and which said James Seals & Sarah Seals did now acknowledge and surrender all their right" as did "Mary wife of the aforesaid Barnett O'Neal". John Harris and Jeremiah Sheredine were witnesses to this affidavit. The "plantation Murdaugh's Chance and tract 40 acres West Wood or New West Wood both under tenure to James Ellis" are noted as a bequest to minor son Isreal Cox in the will of William Cox, made 13 Apr 1781 and proved 16 May 1782.⁵²

of the within mentioned William Cox his Heir and Assigns for
Ever at the same time also came James Seals and Sarah Seals
his wife which said Sarah Seals was formerly wife of Henry
O'Neale deceased and has her third of said Land during her
Natural Life and which said James Seals & Sarah Seals did

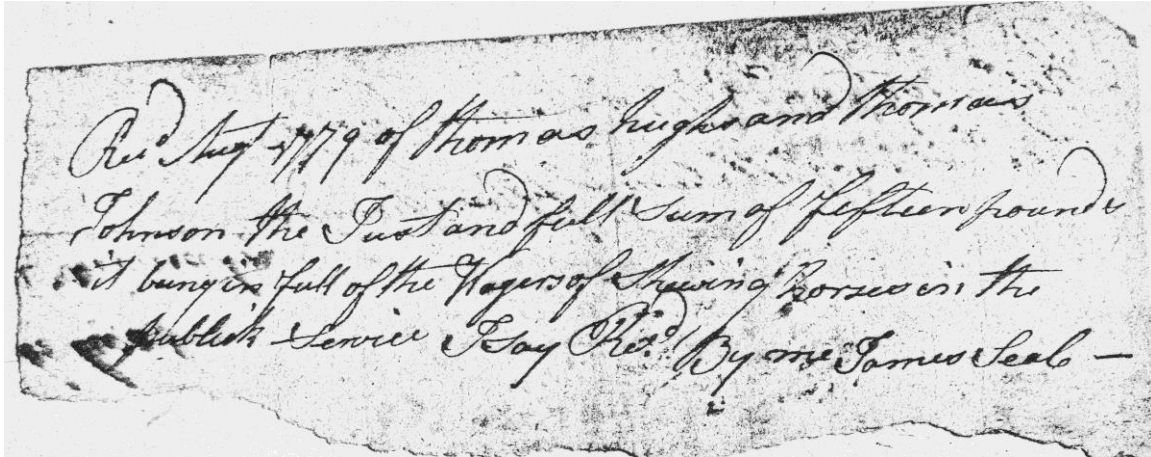
It should be noted here that I have not located a deed of sale for the original O'Neals Chance, the 50 acres assigned by Thomas White to Henry O'Neal in 1742. Murdoch's Chance was 100 acres (acquired 1748) and the son Barnett had acquired the 40-acre Gash's Purchase (part of New Westwood) in 1754. The 1771 deed of sale actually only mentions Daniel Murdock's land, but the 1781/82 will of William Cox suggests that he had Gash's Purchase too. This leaves the 50 acres. Sarah (Henessee) O'Neal-Seal had released her right to the third of Murdoch's Chance but what about the other parcels? The search is never over!

Like Henry O'Neal and his son Barnett O'Neal, James Seal was a blacksmith. Receipts in the Barnett O'Neal estate file in Greene Co PA suggest that his stepfather James Seal might have at least temporarily handled customers after Barnett's sudden death. An historical lecturer once told me that the blacksmith was the most valued person in the 18th century community, rated above the priest and the politician. Oneal also could have been involved with ironworks although history does not state how early they were in operation in what is now Harford County, Maryland. Colonel Thomas White, whose family had an impressive home (Sophia's Diary) in the Deer Creek region, was connected

⁵¹ Baltimore County Deeds, AL D, pp. 325-329. Maryland State Archives.

⁵² Morgan, Ralph H., Jr. *Harford County Wills 1774-1800*. Silver Spring, MD: Family Line Publications, 1990 - Wills, AJ 2, pp. 92-95.

with the Bush River Iron Works prior to 1776.⁵³ Lancaster Forge operated on Deer Creek near Priest's Ford just prior to the Revolutionary War, and during the war, ironworks were initiated all along Deer Creek with names such as Redrum, Lancaster, Rock, Cumberland, Nottingham, and Lebanon.⁵⁴ The blacksmith trade continued to be followed for generations in the Neel family.



James Seals, Sr., was born ca. 1730 (one web site says 22 Feb 1724/25) in Collin Hundred, Prince George's County, Maryland. The Seal family must have moved to Virginia the year of the last Baltimore County deed (October 1771 from Frederick Co VA) as James Seal Sr.'s debt of 6.18.7 pounds was noted 1 Jan 1771 at the Rock Run store in Maryland.⁵⁵ He died in May 1797 in Morgan Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, as his estate was entered for probate 13 May 1797. In the will, James Sealls, Sr., of Morgan Twp., Greene Co PA, gives his wife Sarah the use of the tenement house and household goods for life. Son Samuel is to receive 5 shillings. Son Joseph is to be the executor. No other children are mentioned. James Sealls, Sr., makes his X mark on 1 Mar 1796. There were four witnesses: Joseph Sealls, David Smith, Samuel Hook, and John Kennedy. The will was brought in for probate on 13 May 1797.⁵⁶ In Sept Term 1803 Orphans Court, Greene Co PA, executor Joseph Seals reported that he had filed an accounting of his father's estate in the Register's Office, but that it was being contested by Sarah Seals "relict of the said deceased". The court referred Sarah to William Wells and John Kimberlen to try to solve the issue. On 4 Jun 1804, William Lee, James Wilson, and Reuben Mickle met as third parties and filed a Referee's Report in December. They came up with a balance of sixty-nine pounds, eight shillings, and nine pence. Jesse Vanmeter, on behalf of the widow Sarah Seals, filed a Bond of Indemnity with the Executor on 4 Dec 1804.⁵⁷ I have not worked extensively on the Seal family yet, but a Jonathan Seale was identified as being of St. Mary's Co MD on 3 Dec 1734 in Thomas

⁵³ Preston, Walter Wilkes. *Harford County History*, 1901, p. 33.

⁵⁴ Preston, Walter Wilkes. *Harford County History*, 1901, p. 264.

⁵⁵ Peden, Henry C., Jr. *Abstracts of the Ledgers and Accounts of the Bush Store and Rock Run Store 1759-1771*, Harford County Genealogical Society Special Publication, No. 21, 1999, p. 38.

⁵⁶ *Greene Co PA Wills*, Vol. 1, p. 4.

⁵⁷ *Greene Co PA Orphan's Court Docket*, Vol. 1, p. 13.

White's survey field book with a Baltimore Co parcel bordering "Paradise" and others.⁵⁸ I did not spot James Seals on the 1750 Rent Roll (Debt Book) and the land purchased of Daniel Murdock was still listed under Henry O'Neal at that time, so Seals had not yet married the widow Sarah.⁵⁹ "Ledger A, 1750, Aquilla Hall", noted as a store ledger actually kept by his uncle Col. John Hall, has an entry for James Seals: "1750, Sept. 11, James Seals, Dr., to Sundrys as per day book fol. 45, 0.5.0; to d.o., 2.17.6; to 1 ivory comb, 0.2.0; [total] 3.4.6; Cr., Ball. card. To ledger B, fol. 33, 3.4.6." It is interesting that there is an account for "Indian Nanny" in the same ledger.⁶⁰ James Seal was among those ordered in 1755 to assist in keeping up the Quaker Road, Isaac Wood continuing as overseer, "from Durbin's old plantation to Susquehanna Lower Ferry crosses it by Thomas Horner's until it intersects the road by John Critchet's". William Cox succeeded Wood.⁶¹ James Seals appears in the store account books of Aquilla Hall – (1756) "Dr., Jan. 1, to Balance Brot from Ledger 8.0.3.4" and "May 8 – To 1 Boys Felt Hat d.o. ye wife 0.2.0" and "Cr., May 1, By cash 0.3.4".⁶² The hat entry (could be for Barnet O'Neal?) is actually in a second ledger in the collection: "1756 May 1st – posted James Seals Cr. By cash 0.3.4" and "6 May 1756, James Seals, Dr. for and ye wife, 1 boys felt hat 0.2.0."⁶³ William Cox, Thomas Shea, John Hughs, Thomas Gash, Michael Gilbert, Rev. Bennett Neal, Ignatious Wheeler, John Hall, and other familiar names from the Deer Creek neighborhood are in this book, but the accounts unfortunately begin after Henry O'Neal died. James Seals (father or son?) is taxed in Susquehanna Hundred, Harford County, in 1774, 1775, and 1783.⁶⁴ James Seals, as well as Daniel Murdock, are mentioned in Barnet O'Neal's Greene Co PA estate records (1778/9. There is a Priscilla Seals mentioned in 1785 in a conveyance from Samuel G. Osborn.⁶⁵ Both James Jr and James Sr should have had wives named Sarah at that time. Some Seal researchers believe that this Priscilla was another wife of James Sr and that the Sarah mentioned in his 1797 will was yet a later wife.

The children of Henry and Sarah Hennessey Oneal were:

1. Elizabeth (aka Sarah) Hennessee, b. ca. 1746; no further record.
2. Mary O'Neal, b. ca. 1747; died 15 Nov 1836 Pickaway Co OH; married Ezekiel Morris, b. ca. 1743; d 30 Sep 1823, age 80 Pickaway Co OH; both buried Montilius-Evans Cemetery.
3. Barnet O'Neal, b. ca. 1749; died ca. 11 Nov 1778 [will made 10 Nov 1778 Monongalia Co VA (Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA); estate included bill 12

⁵⁸ *Notes from Thomas White, his Field Book*, p. 87, in John J. Tierney Collection, MSA SC 1158-2-5, notebook 1, location 00/10/01/16.

⁵⁹ Baltimore County Debt Book, 1750, in Calvert Papers, Item 44, No. 904, p. 19 (MHS Roll 676)

⁶⁰ Hall, John. Account book labeled "Ledger A, 1750, Aquilla Hall", MS 1516, Box 8, Maryland Historical Society.

⁶¹ Peden, Henry C., Jr., *Baltimore County Overseers of Roads 1693-1793*. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1992, p. 43.

⁶² Hall, Aquilla. Account book labeled "Sophia Hall Ledger, 1756" in Joseph Hughes Collection MS1675, Box 2.

⁶³ Hall, Aquilla. Account book labeled "Ledger 2, 1756, Baltimore County, Bush Town", pp. 49, 53.

⁶⁴ Peden, Henry C., Jr. *Early Harford Countians*. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 1999, Vol. 2, p. 418; Vol. 3, p. 604.

⁶⁵ Peden, Henry C., Jr. *Early Harford Countians*. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 1999, Vol. 2, p. 418.

Nov 1778 “to makin a coffin for a pack horse marster”; wife Mary (surname unknown), died Feb 1780 [estate packet bill – “for bailing in two graves for said O’Neel”]. Augusta Co Militia, Rev War; owned “Turkey Flat”.

The children of James Seals, and therefore children of our ancestor Sarah (Henessee) Oneal – Seals and half siblings of our ancestor Barnet Oneal, from a variety of unverified sources⁶⁶⁶⁷, were:

1. Mary Seals, b. ca. 19 Feb 1750 (computed from age at death), d. 19 Dec 1811 Pickaway Co OH; married Richard Morris, who married second to Nancy (Seals) Vanmeter. (Note: named sons Ignatius and Benedict).

2. Samuel Seals, b. 5 Jun 1752 Harford Co MD, d. ca. 1797 Mason Co KY; married before 1780 to Mary McCormick, b. ca. 1758; she married second to John Wiley, Sr. He was in Capt. Benjamin Stites Militia Company, Revolutionary War, from Morgan Twp., Greene Co PA.

3. James Seals, Jr., b. 14 Nov 1755, d. 6 Nov 1832 at his stone house, Greene Co PA; ; married first to Hannah Cowen prior to 1781⁶⁸; married second in Jul 1784 by Rev. John Corbly to Sarah Brown; her estate was settled 1 Mar 1847 in Greene Co PA. Revolutionary War pension, filed 10 Sep 1832, gives his Harford Co MD birth date and states that he left MD at age 18, going to Berkeley Co VA and then to Greene Co PA in 1774.⁶⁹ Served in David Owens’ Company; same David Owens for whom Barney O’Neal spoke up when Owens killed his Indian wife.⁷⁰ James Seal and Hannah his wife of Harford Co MD on 14 Dec 1782, convey land to Moses Wood, within the 10 acres left by Isaac Wood to his “four daughters” [see note] – that is, part of “Wood’s Meadow Inlarged”, to be laid out in four lots of 2.5 acres each.⁷¹

4. Nancy Seals, b. 7 Feb 1760; married Jesse Vanmeter, who died about 1814 “at the old stone house near the Dry Tavern” in Greene Co PA; she then married second to Richard Morris. She died 27 Jan 1852.

⁶⁶ Leckey, Howard L. *The Tenmile Country and Its Pioneer Families: A Genealogical History of the Upper Monongahela Valley*. Waynesburg, PA: Greene County Historical Society, 1977, pp. 354-356.

⁶⁷ Downey, Melody, *Patton, Baker, Graham, Downey, Garner & Petino Website*, 2004, accessed Oct 2014 [This shows marriage 29 Jan 1747/48 Collins Hundred, Prince George’s Co MD of James Seals to Sarah Rendon, with birth and death dates of most of the children. References indicate only downloads from other researchers – no real sources mentioned, and the marriage date is prior to the death of Henry O’Neal. With all these early birthdates, one wonders if there is a Bible out there somewhere. In addition, Mrs. Downey has an unknown Seals son listed for 1758 who fathered two children who actually belong to James Seals Jr and his first wife Hannah Cowen. The dates for the Seals children should remain highly suspect until further research can be done. Other researchers do not give a source for this Rendon surname.]

⁶⁸ Morgan, Ralph H., Jr., *Harford County Maryland Wills 1774-1800*. Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2011, p. 12, 81 [Will of John Cowen AJ-2-090 undated, but proved 14 Aug 1781, mentions “daughter, Hannah, wife of James Seal; as well as his wife Elizabeth Cowen, and mother-in-law Elizabeth Wood; Hannah Cowen also mentioned in will of grandfather Isaac Wood AJ-R-154, made 29 Apr 1776, probate 23 Jun 1777, which names wife Elizabeth Wood].

⁶⁹ Greene Co PA Court of Common Pleas, 10 Sep 1832 and 13 Jun 1839 [need v/p – in James Seal pension papers on Fold3.com].

⁷⁰ *Draper Manuscripts*, 4 NN 30-31.

⁷¹ Peden, Henry C., Jr., *Early Harford Countians*. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 1999, p. 418; Harford Co Deeds, Vol. E, pp. 291-292; and Vol. G, p. 401. [Isaac Wood’s will, 29 Apr 1776/23 Jun 1777, actually conveys the 10 acres to two daughters, Hannah and Mary, and two “grand” daughters, Hannah [Cowan] and Elizabeth [Hayes].

5. Joseph Seals, b. 6 Sep 1762, d. ca. Jan 1814 Greene Co PA; widow Elizabeth. There is an entry in the Greene Co PA Wills for the Estate of Joseph Seals, deceased. Letters of administration were granted to Elizabeth Seals and James Seals on 6 Jan 1814. Bond was set with Conrad Devalt and Elizabeth Seals “Junior”.⁷² No further entry was found in the will volumes.

6. Sarah Elizabeth Seals, b. 22 Jan 1765; d. 12 Jan 1802 Mason Co KY; m. 10 Jun 1787 Eli Wiley.

7. Martha Seals, b. 22 Jul 1769 Harford Co MD; m. 19 May 1790 to Elijah Wiley, b. ca. 1767 PA; d. 8 Oct 1844 Bracken Co KY.

The Greene Co PA suit Richard and Mary (Seals) Morris vs Heirs of James Seals Sr is a valuable resource for piecing together this family.⁷³

Traditionally, the son and our ancestor Barnet O’Neal (1749-1778) came to Greene Co PA with his cousin Felix Hughes as a part of the celebrated Swan-Hughes-Vanmeter party as early as 1767.⁷⁴ There is a Felix Hughes who is noted in the Frederick Co VA “Early Troop Record” of 1755-1761. “At a court martial held for Frederick County on Friday the 9th day of October 1761 ... Felix Hughes of Capt. Thomas Canton’s Company be fined ten Shillings for absenting himself from the last General [muster].”⁷⁵ If Barnet was raised by the Hughes family, they may have moved west prior to his mother Sarah (Hennessey) O’Neal-Seals and stepfather James Seals, who seem to have left Maryland in 1771.

Was our ancestor Henry Oneal a part of the Jesuit colony at Deer Creek? The original parcels Oneals Chance, Murdagh’s Chance, and Gashes Purchase (Westwood) are all physically located near the Deer Creek Mass House tract (Mission of St. Joseph), that was sold by John Diggs, a Jesuit⁷⁶, on 14 Dec 1732 (aforementioned) to Thomas Shea, a Jesuit; then sold by Shea back to Diggs on 14 Mar 1753⁷⁷; then willed by Diggs to Priest Bennett Neale 14 Mar 1743 (recorded 1746)⁷⁸; and further conveyed by Shea to the Priest Neale on 8 Oct 1764.⁷⁹ Since Thomas Shea is the same man who administered our Henry Oneal’s estate, and since John Cretin, a known Jesuit, was a witness to the administration, it is very likely that our ancestor was indeed a participant in the Society of Jesus at Deer Creek and a practicing Catholic. As early as 1771, a supposed nephew, Felix Hughes (ca. 1727-1807), headed a group of Catholics centered at Carmichaels, Greene Co PA, who petitioned the church in Philadelphia for a Catholic priest to serve

⁷² *Greene Co PA Wills*, Vol. 1, p. 119.

⁷³ *Greene Co PA Appearance Docket*, Vol. 1, p. 50.

⁷⁴ Leckey, Howard L., *The Tenmile Country and its Pioneer Families*. Waynesburg, PA: Greene County Historical Society; reprint 1977 by The Bookmark, Knightstown, IN, p. 169-170, 192-194, 205-206, 225.

⁷⁵ Little, Barbara Vines, *Frederick County, Virginia Militia Records 1755-1761*. Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007, p. 45 [p. 47-A in original document found in Virginia State Archives Microfilm Reel 9, Frederick Co., following Deed Book 18].

⁷⁶ Note: The Papers of Rev. John Digges, Jr., consisting of Catholic devotional manuscripts and spiritual dialogues from 1734 to 1746 at St. Joseph’s Mission (Deer Creek) are located at Georgetown University Libraries, Special Collections (Lavinger Library), Washington DC.

⁷⁷ Baltimore County Deeds, TB C, p. 465. Maryland State Archives.

⁷⁸ Hughes, Thomas. *History of the Society of Jesus in North America*. Cleveland: Burrows Brothers Co., 1908, p. 265, 288.

⁷⁹ *United States Catholic Historical Magazine*, No. 9, p. 50.

western Pennsylvania.⁸⁰ Another interesting tidbit besides the “Indian Nanny” being at Deer Creek at the time our ancestor Henry O’Neal lived there, is that this was a tobacco region where African slaves were used. Barnet O’Neal was an owner of four slaves in Greene Co PA (1779 estate inventory) but there is no indication that his father Henry O’Neal owned slaves. The Mass House at Priest’s Ford (Thomas Shea land), on the other hand, was operated by African Americans. The Report of Maryland Missions, 1765, lists: “Missio St Josephi, vulgo Deer Creek, plantation 127 acres, 7 slaves, of which 1 in the house, 4 in the fields, the rest children.”⁸¹

There are other unconnected O’Neal families in the area. St. George Parish registers indicate that one Daniell Oneall and Susannah Lacy were married on 12 Jun 1743.⁸² Susannah O’Neal, widow of Daniel, married 19 Jul 1756 St. George’s Parish to William Ashmore.⁸³ Thomas Cox Arrison leases Lot 80 on the west side of Jones Falls to Felix O’Neill in 1769.⁸⁴ Mary and Elizabeth O’Neill, daughters of Bernard O’Neill of Georgetown, Montgomery Co MD, merchant, are assigned part of Lot 62 from James Lyston and wife in 1790.⁸⁵ Bernard O’Neil was in Baltimore County as early as 1783, when Edward Nicholls sold him several Negro slaves.⁸⁶ He is identified as being of Montgomery Co MD in a 1781 action where Bernard O’Neil, Francis Deakins, and William Deakins are “bound unto Maryland for 2080 pounds gold currency.”⁸⁷ Two indentures place him in St. Mary’s Co MD in 1770.⁸⁸ There are marriages for one Bernard O’Neill to Margaret O’Brian, of Fell’s Point, license 21 Mar 1796, and for Felix O’Neale to Rose Morgan, by license 9 Oct 1798, both in St. Peter’s Catholic Church in Baltimore.⁸⁹ Not to be omitted are “the other Neel family” who reside in Huron Co OH where I live. They descend from William Neel who was born 9 Apr 1776 in Harford Co MD and died 4 Apr 1842 in Guernsey Co OH. William Neill was married at St. John’s Parish, Joppa, Harford Co MD on 2 Nov 1797 to Mary Sheredine, b. 1 Mar 1781 MD; d. 1874 Guernsey Co OH; both bur. Birmingham Cemetery. Mary Ann was the aunt of General Phillip H. Sheridan of Ohio.⁹⁰ There is no reason currently to suspect that any of these O’Neal/Neel families are connected to my ancestor Henry O’Neal of Deer Creek.

The Annis and Hennesey surnames are also found in the area. William Annis left a Baltimore County administration 14 Nov 1744 with receipts from George Cheney, William Osborne, Daniel Ruff, John Jackson, Christopher Sheppard, George Lester,

⁸⁰ Lambing, A. A., “Felix Hughes, the Pioneer Catholic of Western Pennsylvania,” in *The American Catholic Historical Researches for 1887-1888*. Philadelphia, PA: Martin I. J. Griffin, 1888, pp. 43-45.

⁸¹ Hughes, Thomas, *Society of Jesus in North America*, Vol. 1, p. 336.

⁸² Peden, Henry C., *St. John’s and St. George’s Parish Registers, Baltimore & Harford County, Maryland 1696-1851*, p. 126.

⁸³ Reamy, Bill and Martha, *St. George’s Parish Registers 1689-1793*. Silver Spring, MD: Family Line Publications, 1988, p. 84.

⁸⁴ Baltimore Co MD Deeds, AL No. A, p. 529.

⁸⁵ Baltimore Co MD Deeds, WG, No. FF, p. 96.

⁸⁶ General Court of the Western Shore, Land Records 1783-1786, Vol. 728, pp. 64-65.

⁸⁷ General Court of the Western Shore, Land Records 1783-1786, Vol. 728, p. 129, from Vol TBH1, 1783-1786, MSA SM93-2, accession no. SR2321-2.

⁸⁸ Provincial Court Records 1770-1774 (Land), in Vol. DD5, 1770-1774, MSA SM22-29, 30.

⁸⁹ Barnes, Robert W., *Baltimore County Marriage Evidences and Family Relationships 1659-1800*. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2014, p. 285.

⁹⁰ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Muskingum County, Ohio*. Chicago, Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1892, p. 388.

Hudson Davidge, Samuel Hughs, James Stewart, William Hollis, Richard Tuckerman, and James Butter.⁹¹ A bond, dated 9 Dec 1743, surety John Matthews, was exhibited at the 17 Mar 1743 court session [maybe 1744 because of calendar change].⁹² An inventory of William Annis was exhibited 31 Jan 1744 by Thomas White, gentleman of Baltimore, as well as accounts of John Hall, the administrator.⁹³ Appraisers were Peregrine Frisby and George Lester, and creditors: Edward Wakeman and Thomas White – date 14 Nov 1744.⁹⁴ ⁹⁵This is probably the William Anns [sic] who married Ruth Kerksey on 26 Dec 1734 and had a son John, born 7 Nov 1737.⁹⁶ There is a bastardy case for a Susanna Annis (Ennis) in November Court 1750 Baltimore Co MD.⁹⁷ A report of the Irish House of Commons into Enforced Emigration to America shows a Henry Neal who committed grand larceny in Queens County, Ireland, 7 Nov 1740 (Commission of Oyer & Terminer) and was transported. There was also a convicted felon, John Henessy, who was presented as a vagabond at an assizes held 31 Mar 1742 (City and County of Corke, Ireland) and another felon John Hennessey reported as a vagabond from the City and County of Limerick, Ireland, in Dec 1743 and transported. Destinations are not provided.⁹⁸ A more likely Hennessey relative is the following fellow, mentioned in the Maryland Gazette, 6 June, 13 June, and 20 June 1750:

Ran away from the Subscriber in Baltimore County, the 24th of April last, a Servant Man named John Hennisse, by Trade a Shoemaker, born in Ireland, is about 30 Years of Age, middle siz'd, full faced, and is a very bold saucy Fellow, very much addicted to Drink; had on an old Lead-colour'd Broad Cloth Coat, a Country Linnen Jacket, Leather Breeches with Brass Buttons, large Sailor's Trowsers, two Pair grey Worsted Stockings, old Pumps, a black Wig, and sometimes wears a double Silk Cap; He took with him a Bay Mare with a Star in her Forehead, trots well; a Hunting Saddle, and a Snaffle Bridle; He was seen at Gunpowder on the same Day he absconded. Whoever secures the said Servant, so as he may be had again, if taken in Baltimore County, shall have Forty Shillings Reward; and if taken in any other Place, Five Pounds of the Currency where taken; paid by John Paca, Junior.⁹⁹

Much more work needs to be done in the early Maryland records on these families to see if any additional clues may be found. It would be good to know if there is any familial connection to the Wood, Cox, Murdock, or Gash families. Despite the early

⁹¹ Skinner, V.L., Jr., *Abstracts of the Administration Accounts of the Prerogative Court of Maryland*, Libers 21-28, 1744-1750. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1997, p. 3.

⁹² Skinner, V.L., Jr., *Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland*, Vol. XXIII, 1741-1744, Liber 31. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2010, p. 173.

⁹³ Skinner, V.L., Jr., *Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland*, Vol. XXIV, 1744-1746, Libers 31, 32. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2010, Vol. 31, p. 558.

⁹⁴ Skinner, V.L., Jr., *Abstracts of the Inventories of the Prerogative Court of Maryland*, Libers 29-36, 1744-1748. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1990, p. 18.

⁹⁵ William Annis citations, viz., Baltimore County Court, 1744, Accounts, Box 8, Folder 3; Accounts, Liber 21, Folio 37; Inventories, Box 10, Folder 5; also Liber 30, Folio 137.

⁹⁶ Barnes, Robert W., *Baltimore County Families 1659-1759*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989, p. (not noted); Register of St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church, p. 83, 104.

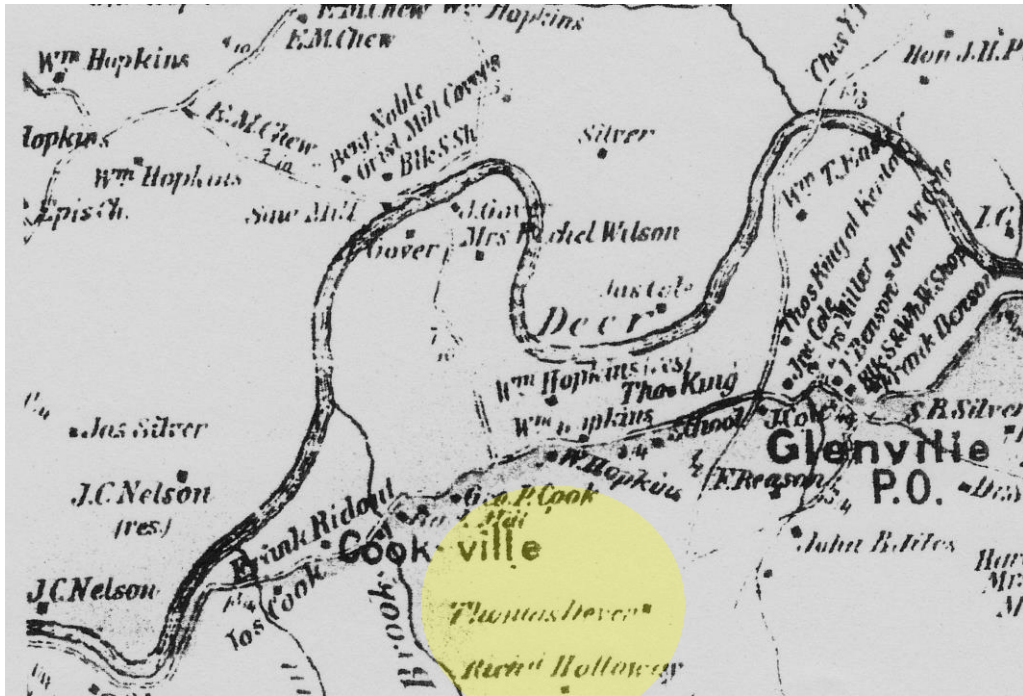
⁹⁷ Peden, Henry C., Jr., *Bastardy Cases in Baltimore County, Maryland, 1673-1783*. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2001, p. 2 [Court Proceedings, Liber TR No. 6, p. 1].

⁹⁸ McDonnell, Frances, *Emigrants from Ireland to America 1735-1743*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2010, pp. 28, 49-51.

⁹⁹ Boyle, Joseph Lee, *White Maryland Runaways, 1720-1762*. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2014, pp. 195-196.

published family history, the Hughes family really has not been explored. They were connected to the O'Neal family at the start and Barnet's son Barnet married back into this line. Barnet O'Neal Sr's wife Mary has not yet been identified. Both Henry O'Neal and his son Barnet O'Neal were landed and had quite a bit of personal property for being so young when they died. This might be indicative of a network of relatives and friends yet to be explored.

Region where Henry O'Neal properties were located:¹⁰⁰



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NOTE: This is an addendum to a previous work:

Neel, Thomas Stephen, *The Neel Family: a Line of Descent from Henry to Henry*. New London, OH: Thomas Stephen Neel, 2011. [Narrow distribution to family; PDF available on www.thomasstepheneel.com]

¹⁰⁰ *Index to Martenet's 1878 Map of Harford County, Maryland* (compiled by Society members), Special Publication No. 29. Belle Air, MD: Harford County Genealogical Society, 2003.