



Somerset County Historical Trust Tribune

Preserving the Legacy of Somerset County

Contractors & Services Directory

As part of the Trust’s ongoing commitment to historic preservation, we are happy to present one of our newest projects — our **Contractors & Services Directory** — which lists technicians, contractors and services relating to the care of older historically important homes.

The listings in the directory are based on recommendations from Trust and local community members. Though we cannot guarantee any of the work provided, we believe that this roster can be of immense help to our Trust members.

- ◆ You can find the directory in the Resources section of our website — or just go to schtrust.org/directory.
- ◆ It’s presented in ‘magazine’ format where you can conveniently flip through the pages or you can print your own copy.

Contents

- Contractors & Services Directory1
- Wattle Fencing2
- Architectural History of Somerset3-4
- Craftsman’s Corner4
- Featured Property.....5
- Renewback
- Annual Meetingback

Some of the 50+ categories

- Antique Paint Analysis
- Auctions/Appraisers
- Archaeologists
- Beekeeping
- Blacksmiths
- Bricks
- Cabinetry/Carpentry
- Cemeteries
- Clock Repair
- Dendrochronology
- Electricians
- Excavation
- Furniture Repair
- Heating/Air
- Landscaping
- Lumber
- Naturalist
- Painting
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Roofing/Shingles
- Salvage Materials
- Textiles
- Tree Trimming/Removal
- Wallpaper



DIRECTIONS OF CONTRACTORS & SERVICES			
BEEKEEPING			
Crystal Lehman	Westover, MD	a.mellifera@gmail.com	Cornell Master Beekeeper who lovingly cares for her bees and manages colonies on her Westover farm as well as other properties throughout the county
Dean Burroughs	609 Twin Tree Road Salisbury, MD 21801	410-438-3795 22nector@gmail.com	Full time beekeeper since 1998 and sells honey locally. Will remove swarm from an unwanted location and relocate the bees to his farm
Maryland Dept of Agriculture Apiary Inspection Office		410-841-5920 ppwm.mda@maryland.gov	Apiary inspectors annually visit about 2/3 of Maryland's apiaries and examine colonies for diseases and pests; advise beekeepers on treating problems to maintain healthy colonies
BLACKSMITHS/IRON WORK			
Broken Hammer Forge (Dave Collier)	16373 Oakland Road Henderson, MD 21640	410-482-7863 brokenhammerforge@gmail.com brokenhammerforge.com	Reproduction historic ironwork and hardware
Mark E. Williams	114 W Federal Street Snow Hill, MD 21863	410-633-0914 410-726-4415 (cell) williamsiron@comcast.net	Hand-forged ironwork, reproduction hardware (hinges, latches, hasps, shutter dogs) and other items
BRICKS (for Bricklayers, see Masons; also see Mortar)			
Old Carolina Brick Company	475 Majolica Road Salisbury, NC 28147	704-636-8850 info@handmadebrick.com handmadebrick.com	Replica handmade antique bricks; full line of shapes, pavers, and arches; expertise in matching any brick in size, color and texture

Do you have any qualified providers you'd like us to consider adding?
Please send us your recommendations by email to info@schtrust.org.

Wattle Fencing



Wattle Fence, Landauer Twelve Brother's House manuscript Nuremberg City Library, Germanic National Museum

What might be called a systematized brush fence, the wattle fence was known in medieval Europe. Wattle construction, also called hurdle or wickerwork, was well established in 17th century England as a method for infilling the walls of timber-framed buildings.

When wattle was used for fencing, thin vertical staves or stakes were driven into the ground, and flexible willow withes were woven among them. The resulting structure was either left bare or was covered with mud or clay, providing an effective windbreak which also prevented the invasion or escape of small animals.



The wattle fence seems to have made an early appearance in British colonial America. Archaeological evidence at James City County in Virginia shows small post holes which probably outlined wattle fencing in a domestic yard at one of the Martin Hundreds sites at Wolstenholmetown.

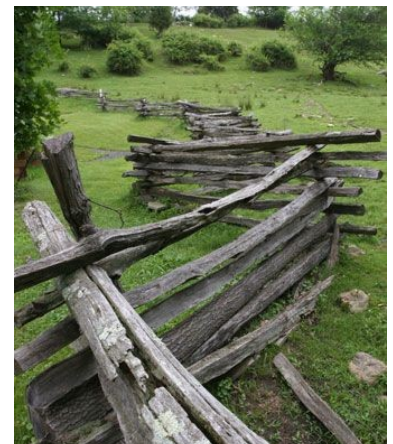
Praised for its durability, especially when constructed with stakes of the cedar or chestnut then abundant in Tidewater, the wattle fence was said to survive for about twenty years with relatively little maintenance.

As late as 1850, *The American Agriculturist* reported that the wattle fence was a common Virginia type. The article provided instructions for assembling a "cedar-brush fence ... first, throw up a ridge of earth about a foot above the level, & in this drive stakes on a line two to three feet apart, three & a half to four feet high, & then wattle in the cedar limbs, beating them down with a maul as compactly as possible."

In Colonial America in the 17th & 18th centuries, fences were mainly built for practical reasons. In the southern colonies, including Maryland, livestock was accommodated in the woods surrounding cultivated fields, and fences were built to keep the animals out. In New England and parts of the middle colonies, livestock was customarily fenced in.

The Virginia worm fence, popular into the 19th century, required no posts and could define larger boundary lines. This was no less labor-intensive to build, requiring hundreds of long hand-split rails, but was easier to remove, repair, and replace.

Along the Chesapeake and in Tidewater Virginia more formal settings called for fences of masonry, almost entirely of brick due to the scarcity of native stone. Masonry fences enclosed churchyards and finer gardens. All fence types co-existed during the colonial period, and the historical record offers no indication that one type completely supplanted another.



- Excerpted from Early American Gardens blogpost Feb 20 2021 - <https://americangardenhistory.blogspot.com/2021/02/wood-fences-in-17c-18c-virginia-wattle.html>
- *Partitioning the Landscape: The Fence in Eighteenth-Century Virginia* by Vanessa E. Patrick. December 6, 1983. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Library Research Report Series - 0134

Architectural History of Somerset

The mid-17th century

The first settlers arrived in the Somerset area in the 1660s, many coming from the lower Eastern Shore counties of Accomac and Northampton in Virginia. The close economic and social ties to this area played a significant role in the history of Somerset County.

The early farming estates, or patents, were granted and later subdivided along the banks of the Nanticoke, Wicomico, Manokin, Great Annemessex, Little Annemessex, and Pocomoke rivers. Because early commerce depended on these waterways, nearly all remaining houses from this period are found near water.

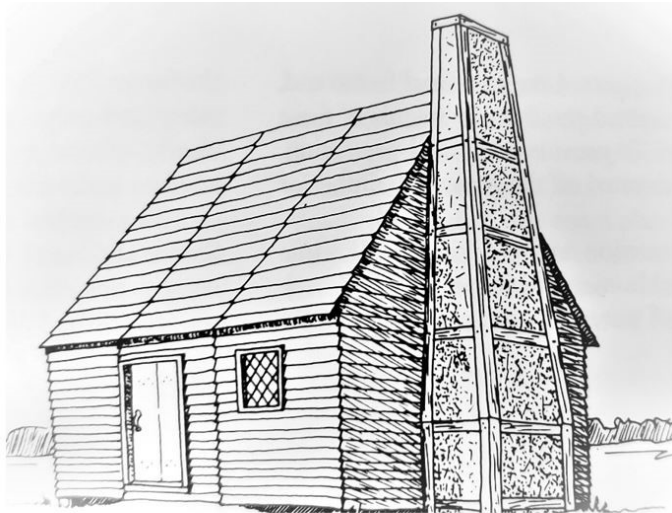
Initially, the Lords Baltimore granted a new planter 50 acres for each person that he brought or “transported” into the Maryland Colony. The process involved the planter’s “demanding” a warrant for an amount of acreage based on his “headright” for the number of persons he brought in to settle the land. After the warrant was issued, a survey of the claimed property was followed by the issuance of a certificate of survey and then a patent. Patented lands were identified by names given them by their new landlords.

For administrative purposes, the Calvert government at St. Mary’s City divided the colony into Counties, and, then into townships called “Hundreds”, where about 100 patentees paid them an annual rent of 3 shillings per 100 acres. The wealthiest merchant-planters held patents for thousands of acres, while most headright settlers held patents for hundreds of acres. The vast majority of persons were either family members of a landholder or lived and worked on land which was not their own.

Early settlers initially erected impermanent structures of logs and lumber. Carpenters, joiners and timber were available locally in the region, though some materials may have been fashioned in the Virginia counties and transported north to Somerset by ship.



*Somerset County map of the five early Hundreds
Paul Touart and Nancy Kurtz*



*Conjectural drawing of an early 15 x 12 one-room frame house
with catted chimney c. 1688, Paul Touart and Nancy Kurtz*

Most early 'settlement' homes were modest, single-story-and-a-half log or frame dwellings with one or two lower rooms and a loft. Their poles were placed directly on the ground or planted into holes. Frame houses were sheathed with riven oak or cypress clapboards, 4 to 5 feet long with feathered edges for weather tightness. Clapboards provided rigidity to the light frame and were also used for interior partitions and roofing.

Roofs were typically very high pitched and sheathed with clapboards, although there are some references to roofs thatched with local sedge grass. First floor ceilings tended to be taller than those found in

northern colonies. Most houses had brick chimneys but there are also records of wooden chimneys, built of four corner posts and horizontal timbers covered with mud daub.

Planters also constructed tobacco barns, granaries, corn cribs, stables, chicken houses, cider houses, carriage houses, smoke houses, milk houses, ice houses, cooper and carpenter shops, blacksmith shops, kitchens, slave quarters, tenant houses, and schoolhouses. This group of outbuildings created the semblance of a village in many of the larger plantation properties. Just as early settlement houses were impermanent, so too these smaller, meaner wooden outbuildings were rudimentary, unadorned, and few examples have survived.



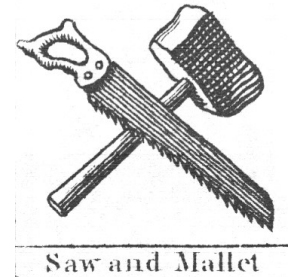
*Log outbuilding on Glebe House property
(example of period log structure)*

Next issue: The late-17th century

CRAFTSMAN'S CORNER

Restoring exterior woodwork is always a challenge on our historic homes, with our humid climate, damage from water, attacks by wasps, carpenter bees and other insects and just plain old ageing of the materials.

Here is a recent example of restoration of decorative trim on an exterior pilaster done by John Orth – showing the before, after and how he got there.



The photo on the left shows the deteriorated condition of the upper part of pilaster, clearly showing damage to the surface and some of the soft wood, probably due to both water penetration and wasps.

John recreated the 3 components of the decorative trim using a router and table saw, assembled to the exact size, and joined them using a pneumatic nailer which is faster and makes for a neater finish.



The restored section was then installed into the framework of the original pilaster. All gaps were caulked with Sherwin Williams painter's caulk and primed with Sherwin Williams exterior wood oil primer to ready for final painting.

Though they may look daunting at first, many restoration projects can be accomplished with fairly basic tools and methods.

Your local hardware store can provide better advice than big box stores. Most pros use DAP products exclusively - Alex painters caulk for interior, Dynamax 230 with some silicone for exterior work both take paint well. Sherwin Williams carries a line of professional grade caulks that are comparable to DAP products.

Featured Property ...

One of the historic properties currently shown on our **Featured Properties** webpage

Bounds Lott

Exquisite property on the Wicomico River



4146 Rivermere Lane, Eden, MD 21822
Built c. 1710
On National Register of Historic Places

4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms
2,888 square feet
2.25 acres

Bounds Lott is one of the oldest surviving dwellings in the tri-county region originally laid out as Somerset County. Its first period of construction in the first half of the 18th century included a hall and parlor, originally with the stair passage in the hall. Its one gable end and chimney stack are built in Flemish bond. The rafters rest on a tilted false-plate, an early framing technique.

Around 1740 a two room addition was added to the framed gable end and was encased by its own brick wall and chimney allowing for two corner fireplaces in the new rooms. At this time a central passage staircase replaced the older stair. Elaborate Georgian woodwork was installed, including raised paneling, pilastered fireplace surrounds, and diamond-shaped overmantel panels. Arched corner cupboards were placed on either side of the original fireplace.

The exact date of construction is unknown, but likely occurred during the time of the Quaker Richard Stevens or his daughter Sarah who married James Bounds. Richard and Sarah patented Sarah's portion of her inheritance along the Wicomico River as Bounds Lott in 1735. Their son Jonathan Bounds likely built the new addition. The home remained in the Bounds family until after the American Revolution, and fortunately has been little altered by subsequent owners.

Its restoration and maintenance have been superb with most of the original early 18th century interior intact. Modern conveniences, such as central heat and air conditioning, do little to mar the beauty of Georgian paneling and numerous fireplace mantels. During the twentieth century, the living space was extended by incorporating structures and materials from other early houses in the vicinity, making for a seamless transition to contemporary living. Any new owners could do no better in steeping themselves in the early history of Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore.

For real estate info: Search for '4146 Rivermere Ln' on Realtor.com or Redfin.com

Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc.

PO Box 863
Princess Anne, MD 21853



<http://schtrust.org>
info@schtrust.org

Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc.

The Somerset County Historical Trust is dedicated to preserving the legacy of Somerset's past through research, education, preservation & restoration.

Through advocacy and active participation in Maryland Historical Trust programs and grants, we continuously seek to promote the stories and rich history of Somerset County.

IF YOU'VE NOT RENEWED

Please help support the Trust with your membership! Go to our Join Us page - schtrust.org/join - for info on how to renew.

PLANS FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

We are enjoying the arrival of spring, and hope that you too are sensing a re-energizing of moods and attitudes after a year of forced hibernation. However, we still find ourselves restrained from having the in-person gatherings where we have traditionally shared ideas and plans.

Last May we were unable to hold our annual Trust Meeting and again this year May seems too early to resume this cherished event.

Our present solution is to have our regular gathering at Williams Conquest on **a weekend in September**, the exact date still to be decided. We will follow all outdoor safety advisories.

Please stay posted and we'll let you know as soon as we firm up the calendar for this event.