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Castle Thunder, The Catons, and Catonsville's Historical Myths

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Castle Thunder. (Baltimore American newspaper, May 5, 1895.)



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Numerous sources, including Dr. George C. Keidel, Emily Emerson Lantz, Kate Mason Roland, several unidentified writers for the *Sun*, the *American*, the *Argus*, and an historic roadside marker describe an extinct structure titled 'Castle Thunder' as the early home of Richard and Mary Caton – for whom the town of Catonsville, Maryland is named. The sources repeat a legend that Castle Thunder was the Catons' home before completion of their residence Brooklandwood in 1793 in the Lutherville-Timonium area. A July 19, 1896 story in the *Baltimore American* also suggests prior to Castle Thunder the Catons lived at 825 Frederick Road, a two-story log house – a structure that operated as Catonsville's Friendly Frammer shop in 2001, subsequently served as a cigar shop, and presently houses the A. W. O. L. skate board business. These stories about the Catons' residences at both Castle Thunder and 825 Frederick Road are suspect for various reasons. Contrary to the roadside marker and other sources, facts and primary source evidence suggests something entirely different - that Castle Thunder was neither the Catons' early home, nor did it even exist in the eighteenth century. Hence, the myths regarding Castle Thunder and the Catons are long overdue for some careful factual scrutiny and reconsideration.

The Catons needed a home from the date of their marriage in 1787 to the completion of Brooklandwood in 1793. Dawn F. Thomas, in *The Green Spring Valley*, cited invoices for the construction of Brooklandwood from 1790 to 1793; she also found the estate name mentioned in records of 1793.¹



Catonsville's roadside marker under scrutiny. (Baltimore County Public Library Legacy Web, hereafter BCPL.)

The first hint suggesting the Catons' residence on Frederick Road before Brooklandwood is little more than a myth is that Mary Carroll Caton's father, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was only a one-fifth owner of the land around present-day Catonsville. He was in partnership with more than 29 heirs of the original investors in the Baltimore Ironworks Company. In the late 1700s, the Catonsville area was the timber reserve of the ironworks, where employees cut trees and burned charcoal to feed the fires of the furnace at the mouth of Gwynns Falls. Therefore, it is difficult to believe that the businessman, Charles Carroll, would have unilaterally invested in a structure as large as Castle Thunder on land he did not own free and clear, let alone have the rights to offer the structure as a gift to his daughter and son-in-law.

It was not until 1810 when Catonsville's properties were divided into individual lots. West of present day Winters Lane was lot 105, allotted to Charles Carroll of Carrollton. East of that street was lot 106, which passed to Daniel Carroll of Duddington. Richard Caton, acting for his father-in-law, cut lots 104 and 105 into many small house subdivisions under the name of Caton Ville. Lot 17, of Caton's subdivision, can be traced to the present-day A.W.O.L Skate Shop at 825 Frederick Road.

Although Richard Caton was a distinguished Englishman, he was not wealthy. Nevertheless, it is difficult to believe he began his married life in a log structure at 825 Frederick Road, or that he and Mary's wealthy and distinguished father would be satisfied with Castle Thunder as a home. The "castle" was very close to the turnpike road and looks much more like an inn for wagon drivers and cattle herders than a house suitable for a notable Briton and his new bride.



Brooklandwood - now home to St. Paul's School. (Historical Society of Baltimore County, hereafter HSBC.)



Castle Thunder. (BCPL, Catonsville Room.)

Wagon trains and flocks of cattle and sheep passed the structure only a few feet from the front porch.² There was no landscaped approach to the roadside structure; and, if Castle Thunder was an inn, instead of a residential home, it does not appear on Dennis Griffith's 1795 map of Maryland which reveals most of the State's inns and mills. In fact, Griffith showed no inns in the area that is now Catonsville at all. Griffith himself lived in Elkridge, and no doubt would have known if there was such a business at the location, being not too far from his own residence.

None of the advertisements to sell the assets of the Baltimore Ironworks suggest an inn or structure fitting Castle Thunder's description on Frederick Road came with the property. Moreover, the 1798 tax list of Patapsco Upper Hundred reveals neither Charles Carroll of Carrollton nor Richard Caton as owners of property in the district. The only structures owned by the Baltimore Company consisted of two separate one-story brick houses: one was a frame house, and the other a 24-foot square log house, all occupied by tenants whose names were recorded.³

The 1813 tax list reveals the land recently allotted Charles Carroll of Carrollton, which was carved from the former ironworks property. It included lots 104 and 105; this property amounted to 2,313 - 1/4 acres, but contained only \$300 worth of improvements. In the same 1813 tax list, Richard Caton was listed in possession of lots 1 and 5, and the old furnace - property probably located in the vicinity of lower Gwynns Falls. The improvements on Caton's portion only amounted to \$200.⁴

A reputable writer who wrote of Castle Thunder as the Caton's home was George C. Keidel. However, Keidel's book, *Colonial History of Catonsville*, also noted that the furnace lands were not divided until after a decree of April 23, 1810, making the late 1700s far too early for the building to be owned by either Charles Carroll or Richard Caton.⁵

Ed H. Parkison's plat of the original ironworks lots, published in Keidel's book, reveals Beaumont Avenue was the dividing line between lot 104 and lot 105. By the 1818

Assessment, the newly created Caton lots were listed, and remarkably enough there were no assessable improvements on the lots owned by Caton. Shortly thereafter, Caton sold a subdivided lot (lot 17) on the south side of the road to Francis Feelmyer.⁶

Conceivably, Feelmyer's house is the core structure of the A.W.O.L skate shop in-place today at 825 Frederick Road. Transfer books show the transfer of 10 acres, worth \$40, from Richard Caton to Francis Feelmyer in 1818; at that low assessment, there was probably no structure included in the deal, making it highly unlikely that Caton could have resided at 825 Frederick Road in the 1700s.⁷ The conveyance was a lease from Charles Carroll of Carrollton to Francis Feelmyer; Carroll inserted a clause into the lease requiring Feelmyer to erect a house of wood, brick or stone within one year, or else the annual ground rent would increase by \$10.⁸ Thus, further suggesting 825 Frederick Road (Caton's lot 17), not only did not serve as an early Caton residence, but that there were actually no structures on it before its conveyance to Francis Feelmyer in 1818.

More than one decade later, Francis Feelmyer is recorded as being appointed the first postmaster of Catonsville on January 20, 1831, serving until November 20 that same year. Given that, it is likely Feelmyer's post office was located in the structure he erected to fulfill the terms of the clause and avoid the \$10 ground rent increase. It is also likely Feelmyer's structure operated as both his home and place of business. Feelmyer's place was mentioned in an advertisement for a pro-Polk election rally in 1844, and he was listed as a member of the sponsoring committee of that rally.⁹ A public notice for election registration in 1878 instructed First District voters to go to "Feelmyers, Catonsville."¹⁰



Richard Caton c1830s or 1840s. (BCPL.)

Again regarding Castle Thunder, evidence suggests that even 1818 may be too early for its existence. Charles Carroll of Carrollton did not have any assets in the 1818 list.¹¹ The castle would probably lie on lot 104 of the ironworks lands, and then on lots 3 and 4 of Caton's subdivisions, having been on the northwest corner of Frederick Turnpike Road and what became Beaumont Avenue in 1893. Interestingly, the transfer books covering 1814 to 1823, 1828 to 1832, and 1842 to 1845 reveal no improvements added to either the Caton or Carroll properties located in District 1.¹²

Moreover, neither Charles Carroll's will nor his 1832 inventory listed any structure at Castle Thunder's location. Carroll actually owned all the properties nominally belonging to his sons-in-law, and the inventory accounted for the contents of Doughoregan Manor, Brooklandwood, and the Lombard Street House, but no structure in Catonsville. The inventory went into minute detail, such as counting 68 desert knives and the sifters ("riddles") in the gristmill, as well as many pages of slaves listed by name, but there was no roadside inn or mansion in Catonsville to enumerate.¹³ Thus, it would appear that "Castle Thunder" was built even after 1832, but some time before 1845 as the following paragraphs demonstrate.

Myth Resolved?

One clue in the mystery of Castle Thunder is available in the Baltimore *Sun* archives. The *Sun* of August 4, 1838 carried an advertisement placed by Ruth Timanus to sell a small farm 7-1/2 miles from the city on the Frederick Turnpike Road. Ms. Timanus stated that her property was "a short distance above the Tavern formerly occupied by Abraham Degrofft." Castle Thunder, if it was indeed a tavern as suspected - though not built until the 1800s - may have been about two blocks from the 7 mile stone on that turnpike road according to Ms. Timanus' advertisement.

Lending more credibility to the suspicion that Castle Thunder was a tavern is the fact that there was no family home on that stretch of Frederick Road on J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne's 1850 map of Baltimore City and County. Sidney and Browne showed the John Ruff house (now A.W.O.L. skate shop), and slightly west of that they exhibited "J. McCarroll Tavern," which could plausibly be Castle Thunder itself.

"McCarroll," at first glance, looks like a scrambling of the names Carroll and McTavish, but it is more likely a clerical error for Catonsville's third postmaster, John McGarrell, appointed July 14, 1845, replaced by Joseph P. Fusting in 1849. The 1840 census of District 1 listed John McGarrell, who was between ages 30 and 40. John McGarrell placed a small advertisement in the *Sun* on June 26, 1847, seeking the return of a run-away sorrel horse; he

gave his address as "living in Catonsville, Baltimore Co., seven miles from Baltimore, on the Frederick Road."¹⁴

Given the clues at hand, it seems Castle Thunder likely existed as a roadside inn by at least 1845 when McGarrell was appointed postmaster. Far from being an eighteenth century structure as the myth implies, it is more likely the construction date was closer to 1840, shortly after McGarrell took a 99-year-lease on three lots on the north side of Frederick Turnpike Road from John McTavish.¹⁵ McGarrell is shown in the 1843 updates to the 1842-1845 Transfer Book getting his assessment reduced on a 45-3/4 acre property—the very acreage of the McTavish-McGarrell lots leased in 1840.¹⁶ McGarrell is listed in the 1853 Transfer Book in the updates made in 1859, being assessed for a new frame dwelling worth \$200, a very modest valuation. The name John McGarrell, correctly spelled, appears at approximately the "castle" location on Frederick Road on J. Rogerson's 1856 map of Baltimore and environs. That same year, McGarrell assigned his 99-year-lease to William McPherson.¹⁷

Robert Taylor's 1857 illustrated county map shows merely the word "Tavern," while James Slade's 1853 water-supply map showed the name 'Carroll' [McCarroll?] and a rectangular house symbol at what was probably the castle location. A plat of the turnpike road made in 1859 showed "Caton's Corner" but did not show a house symbol.¹⁸

In 1856, William McPherson executed a mortgage on the improvements standing on the Frederick Road property to the prior owner, John McGarrell; two years later, McPherson gave another mortgage to Francis McDowell.¹⁹ McPherson made a number of mortgages of the structures on this ground-rented property, and also subleased some of the tract. He was ultimately deep in debt. On July 3, 1863 McPherson transferred assets of \$5,000 on the leasehold property to Emily McTavish. Thus, Mrs. McTavish reunited the ownership of the land and the ownership of the physical improvements into one package.

In common real estate practice in Maryland, it is impossible for a tenant to mortgage the property he or she inhabits via ground-rent, because the ground itself legally belongs to someone else. Only the structures on a leasehold (ground-rent) property can be mortgaged by the ground's tenant; if there were no structures, there would be no assets to mortgage.²⁰

William McPherson cannot be found in the index to the 1860 census, but he was listed under Catonsville post office in the 1870 census, where his age was given as 73, his profession "retired hotel keeper."

A mention of the house appeared in the *Baltimore Gazette* of July 26, 1872:

The old McTavish mansion where John McTavish died, near the far end of the village is kept as a boarding house by Ezra Dorsey, one of the family, who seems naturally to take to hotel keeping.²¹

Ezra Dorsey advertised in the *Sun*, July 9, 1872, stating:

The undersigned has leased the Old McTavish Mansion, at Catonsville for the purpose of a summer boarding house. He has a few choice rooms suitable for families, not engaged. Terms moderate. Cars hourly from Baltimore. Ezra Dorsey, formerly at Poplar Springs.

When John McTavish died in 1852, it was not at this inn, but at his city residence as reported in the *Sun*.²² His widow, Emily McTavish, was the one Caton daughter who did not marry a titled Briton and leave the country. The 1877 G. M. Hopkins atlas showed the place merely as "McTavish," no label as a castle. Mrs. McTavish died on January 26, 1867, age 74, at her townhouse on Cathedral Street, listed as No. 84 Cathedral in the 1867 Woods Directory, as No. 86 in her obituary. That house was probably replaced by the Medical Arts Building in the late 1920s.²³

Origins of the Myth

The unfounded legends about Castle Thunder in the 1700s probably started with Scharf's 1881 city-county history, which reported Charles Carroll's gift in 1786 of "a splendid estate which embraced the present site of Catonsville" - entirely untrue.²⁴ Fueling Scharf's claim, the 1898 G. W. Bromley atlas named the structure the "Old Caton Mansion," owned by the "Caton Heirs." When the house was sold, the *Baltimore Sun* called it "Castle Thunder, the home of the Three Graces," and claimed the place was visited by General Winfield Scott.²⁵ There was indeed a Scott connection: the General's daughter, Marcella Scott, married Charles Carroll McTavish.

When McTavish died on March 12, 1868, the obituary in the *Gazette* noted that his remains would be taken to the Cathedral "from his late residence (Catonsville)." The *Baltimore County Union* of March 16, 1907, noted that "Thunder Castle" was both the Richard Caton house and a former inn and it was facing demolition.

The house was by no means the main dwelling of Emily McTavish. For the first three years of her marriage to John Lovet McTavish, 1816 to 1819, the couple lived in Montreal, then later in Baltimore City. As the favorite granddaughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, she was

bequeathed land and a new house in western Howard County upon the Signer's death in 1832.²⁶

Another newspaper article that contributed to the Caton-McTavish Mansion confusion appeared in the *Catonsville Argus* in 1893. The piece reported that George Washington met the three Caton daughters and declared them the most beautiful ladies he had ever encountered.²⁷ Likely another fabrication, considering a meeting between the first President and the "Three Graces" in their adult years would have been a chronological impossibility. The daughters would have been children at the time of the General's death in 1799.²⁸ Moreover, *The George Washington Atlas*, which debunked many mythologized George Washington visits, does not support the claim either.²⁹

The *Baltimore American* published a line drawing of Castle Thunder in suburban feature stories in both 1895 and 1896. The first article stated that the castle was a specimen of the home of a wealthy planter and noted that Lafayette had stopped there on his 1824 tour. The article quoted Scharf's county history verbatim regarding Charles Carroll of Carrollton's alleged presentation of an estate to Mary Carroll Caton. In 1896, the house was "in an excellent state of preservation."³⁰ The 1896 feature captioned the drawing, "Castle Thunder, the Home of Richard Caton," and mentioned the weather-boarded log house on Richard Caton's estate that was visited by his daughters the "Three Graces."³¹

In May 1896, John Hubner, an ex-State Senator, purchased the Castle Thunder property from the estate of Lady Stafford of England, heiress of her sister Emily McTavish. Hubner acquired 32 acres and his intent was to demolish the Castle and its outbuildings to construct suburban villas.³²

A *Catonsville Argus* article, in 1897, apparently started the legend of the Catons living in an 825 Frederick Road log house, and added to the nonsensical information about Castle Thunder including the statement that "many people have thought that it belonged to General Scott." The item also noted:

'Castle Thunder,' tradition says, was at one time the leading hostelry of Catonsville, and there the stages used to leave many a weary traveler westward who desired a night of rest before continuing on, it may be, to the Ohio River, which was then the 'Far West.'³³

In 1898, Kate Mason Rowland published a biography that included edited letters of Charles Carroll of Carrollton and stated that Mary Carroll Caton lived in "an old mansion given her by her father on her marriage."³⁴ Emily Emerson Lantz, in a *Sunday Sun* feature story in 1905, called the place a "dower of a magnificent estate six miles

west of Baltimore,” at the corner of Frederick Road and Beaumont.³⁵ Both of these writers failed to realize that Carroll was not able to convey the Baltimore Company’s land by himself. Emily Emerson Lantz also noted that the Catons lived for various periods at Doughoregan Manor, Annapolis, and Brooklandwood. In a 1942 biography, Ellen Hart Smith stated that Charles Carroll gave “a handsome brick house in Baltimore” to the Catons as a wedding present.³⁶ A few pages later, the Smith biography presents a photograph of the Carroll-Caton house on East Lombard Street and elsewhere she mentions the first residence at the corner of Front and Lombard Streets; but this house cannot be the wedding present dwelling, because recent research shows that Richard Caton bought his town house third hand; it was not built until 1808 and was originally the home of Henry Wilson.³⁷ The myth of the gift of a Catonsville mansion was also repeated in a 1948 article by architect Robert Erskine Lewis in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*.³⁸

John Hubner was a major suburban developer when he acquired the corner property through lease in 1904, then by two deeds in 1907. Alfred Jenkins Shriver was the trustee of Mrs. McTavish’s estate, overseeing the interests of various descendants, including Emily McTavish, a granddaughter of the late owner and a Visitation sister at Mount De Sales.

An article published in early 1907 reported the Hubner purchase and also claimed that tradition called it Richard Caton’s home as well as “the leading hostelry of Catonsville,” where the stages used to leave travelers headed for the West - the same verbiage published in the April 10, 1897 *Argus*. The item also noted:

Before the Civil War a private school was conducted at Thunder Castle by Mrs. Carrie Coale and her daughter. Since the war, it has been occupied as a private dwelling.³⁹

This article further reported that the house was of stone with a recent frame addition. Unfortunately, the same article included the usual matter about the “Three Graces.”⁴⁰

Hubner eventually demolished the house on October 5, 1907. The actual work was performed by August Peters who used 25 sticks of dynamite.⁴¹ The suburban replacement house belonged to Helen Reily in 1959, 1100 Frederick Road, when the local Boy Scouts erected a commemorative plaque attached to a large stone.⁴² The Catonsville Room of the Catonsville Public Library preserves a rose red brick from the mansion and a couple of hardware items.

This corner had become part of lot 2 in the breakup of Emily McTavish’s estate in 1869, following her will made

in 1863. The decree to divide the property was issued by the Baltimore City Circuit Court on November 20, 1869. Beaumont Avenue was laid out in 1893 between the McTavish and Farber properties, Beaumont being the name of the Farber house, which survives as the Knights of Columbus clubhouse.⁴³

About a decade after Castle Thunder disappeared from the records, Dr. George C. Keidel wrote a serialized history of Catonsville published in the *Catonsville Argus* between 1912 and 1913, later collected in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, and posthumously republished in two books. Keidel noted:

The writer of this sketch in his boyhood frequently passed by Castle Thunder, and once at least entered it to survey the interior dilapidation resulting from many years of neglect. As he remembered it after the lapse of many years, it was a two-story yellow brick house (stucco say others, which is probably correct) with mansard roof, narrow windows, and a frame back building.⁴⁴

Keidel would have been about 15 years old in 1883. However, the known illustrations show a gable roof, not a Mansard design.

The best photograph of the house portrays it with floor-to-ceiling windows on the main facade, a building technique not found in the 18th century. There is also a square cupola, a feature of the Italianate style and also of the Greek Revival style. The gable ends of the main block are windowless except for the twin attic windows, a characteristic of 19th century rural building. The building in the photograph seems to be stucco-coated, or covered with what was called “rough cast,” another 19th century technique. An advertisement placed by Mrs. McMechen in the *Baltimore American*, April 28, 1835, offered to sell Pot Spring near Timonium and stated that the house was built “in the modern style of stone, rough cast.”⁴⁵ An 1838 deed to the Franklin House Hotel at Franklinton described it as “stone, rough casted.”⁴⁶ The line drawing of the McTavish house also seemed to show floor to ceiling windows opening on the front porch. The porch deck was but one step above grade. The porch roof appeared flat and conceivably had been a deck for the second story front rooms.

This author failed to find that Castle Thunder had served as a polling place in some mid-19th Century election. There is an Alfred Jacob Miller painting of an election scene at Catonsville in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the participants are shown on the porch of a country store or inn that could possibly represent the “Castle,” although the other possibility is that the scene could be in front of Fusting’s store at Frederick Road and

Ingleside Avenue. Possibly it was the election of 1844, the Polk campaign.

In 2010, Jehanne Wake published *Sisters of Fortune, America's Caton Sisters at Home and Abroad*, biographies of the Caton daughters and their launch into society. Ms. Wake was the first person to link the name of the "Castle" to Voltaire's satiric novel *Candide*. In the first sentence of that book, Voltaire introduced the "Baron of Thunder-ten-tronckh" as the owner of "the best of all possible castles." Voltaire actually used the English word 'thunder.' The paragraph starts, "*Il y avait en Westphalie, dans le chateau de M. baron de Thunder-ten-tronckh.*" That translates to, "Once upon a time in Westphalia in the castle of his lordship, Baron of Thunder etc." The imaginary castle was a land of pleasant living until an endless cascade of misfortunes erupted. Westphalia is still a recognizable part of southwestern Germany. Unfortunately, Ms. Wake mentioned Castle Thunder as one of the Caton homes, apparently relying on the usual vertical file materials; her footnotes fail to name the sources, so the myth lives on in an otherwise splendid account of the family.

As recently as June 2001, Dr. Mary Jeske, curator of the Carroll papers at the Maryland Historical Society noted in a letter to the author that the Catons never lived in Catonsville nor inhabited the Castle Thunder house.

Summary

Tax data fails to show the existence of Castle Thunder, 1798-1818. If this building were merely a roadside inn, it could conceivably have existed in 1840 when the census found John McGarrell a resident of Catonsville. McGarrell acquired a leasehold interest in a large parcel on the north side of Frederick Road in 1840 from John McTavish, owner via his wife Emily McTavish, to some of the Carroll property. McGarrell probably invested his own money building the inn; then in 1856, McGarrell conveyed his structures on the leased lot to William McPherson. McPherson sub-leased this property and took out a number of mortgages; obviously in dire straits, McPherson sold the structures on the leased lot to Emily McTavish on July 3, 1863. Thus, Mrs. McTavish had reacquired ownership of the lease. The \$5,000 worth of improvements she received from the inn-keeper became part of her property. The 1870 census named William McPherson as a retired hotel keeper. Following the death of Mrs. McTavish, her executor was able to convey the entire property in fee (land plus buildings) to developer John Hubner, the ultimate destroyer of the inn. The extreme lack of style of this house suggests a merely functional use as an income producing improvement on the McTavish property. If the house can be said to have any style it would be Federal, but as interpreted by Maryland-Pennsylvania-German builders.

Notes

¹ Dawn F. Thomas, *The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage*, vol. 1 (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978), p. 222-3.

² *Catonsville Argus*, February 8, 1890. Further data on cattle herding in reprint of same news item by Jean Walsh, *Catonsville Times*, February 7, 1990. The name of Castle Thunder apparently derives from Lancashire and was the name of the residence of Dr. Richard Caton, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, per George Keidel's *Colonial History of Catonsville*, p. 108. That Caton was elected in 1907, and his house was painted by the pre-Raphaelite artist John Roddam Spencer-Stanhope. However, Castle Thunder was also the name of an overcrowded warehouse on Cary Street in Richmond, Va., used as an auxiliary prison by the Confederate government. Possibly there is some literary source for all these usages.

³ Federal Direct Tax List, Baltimore County, Patapsco Upper Hundred, Maryland Historical Society Microfilm No. 606.

⁴ Assessment Records, Baltimore County, old Election District 1, 1813, Maryland State Archives, CR 42857.

⁵ George C. Keidel, Ed H. Parkison, ed., *Colonial History of Catonsville* (Catonsville, Md.: American Bicentennial Committee of Catonsville, 1976), pp. 131-2.

⁶ Assessor's Field Book, Baltimore County, Old District 1, 1818, MSA, HR No. 8276.

⁷ Transfer Book, 1814-1823, MSA Md HR No. 8355.

⁸ Baltimore City Deeds, WG 141:46.

⁹ *Baltimore Republican & Argus*, August 3, 1844.

¹⁰ *Baltimore County Union*, August 17, 1878.

¹¹ Assessor's Field Book, Baltimore County, Old District 1, 1818, MSA, HR No. 8276.

¹² Transfer Book 1814-1823, Md. HR 8355 2 59-11, 45, and Transfer Book, 1828 - 1832, Md. HR 8356 (C432).

¹³ Carroll Will, Carroll inventory, MS 205, MHS, Microfilm No. 1276.

¹⁴ *Baltimore Sun*, June 26, 1847.

¹⁵ Baltimore City Deeds, TK (302:40).

¹⁶ Transfer Book, 1842-1845, entries for 1842, folio 1, MSA No. 8359.

¹⁷ Baltimore County Deeds, HMF (6:321).

¹⁸ James Slade's 1853 water-supply map showed the name Carrroll [McCarroll?] and a rectangular house symbol at what was probably the castle location. A plat of the turnpike road made in 1859 showed "Caton's Corner" but did not show a house symbol. (20)

¹⁹ Baltimore County Mortgages, HMF 7:544 and Mortgages GHC 10:350.

²⁰ Baltimore County Deeds, GHC (38:403). William McPherson was still a resident of the Catonsville Precinct in a list of voters published in the *Maryland Journal*, October 9, 1869. The return of the fee simple interest to Emily McTavish is not found in the 1853 Transfer Book at MSA.

²¹ *Baltimore Gazette*, July 26, 1872.

²² "Death of Prominent Citizens, *Sun*, June 23, 1852, p. 1)

- ²³ Baltimore *Gazette*, January 29, 30, 1867.
- ²⁴ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County* (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 821.
- ²⁵ Baltimore *Sun*, January 14, 1907.
- ²⁶ Celia M. Holland, *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland* (University Park, Md., 1987), pp. 373-374.
- ²⁷ "The McTavish Mansion," *Catonsville Argus*, November 25, 1893.
- ²⁸ Peter Kumpa, "Three Caton Sisters, the 'American Graces,' Woo and Wed British Titles," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, May 9, 1988.
- ²⁹ Lawrence Martin, ed., *The George Washington Atlas* (Washington D.C.: U.S. George Washington Bicentennial Commission, 1932).
- ³⁰ "Catons of Catonsville," *Baltimore American*, May 5, 1895. This article reported a visit by Lafayette, which if true, would have had to take place on December 29, 1824, after starting from Baltimore City; the *Baltimore American* reported the reception of the General by the citizens of New Lisbon on the Frederick Turnpike Road and by the citizens of Frederick on that one-day trip (*American*, January 5, 1825). Other sources report that Lafayette had stopped at Robert's Inn in Cooksville, Howard County, on the same turnpike. Following Lafayette's visit to Frederick, he returned to Washington, probably via Rockville. Lafayette's travels were fully reported in the *Baltimore American*; on an earlier trip, he went from the Fountain Inn in the city to the Maryland Inn at the third milestone on Frederick Road to attend the agricultural fair on November 25, 1824 (*American*, November 26, 1824).
- ³¹ "Delightful Old Homes," *Baltimore American*, July 19, 1896.
- ³² *Sun*, May 8, 1896.
- ³³ "Old Buildings, Several Houses Built Over 100 Years Ago, Still in Good State of Preservation in Catonsville," *Catonsville Argus*, April 10, 1897.
- ³⁴ Kate Rowland Mason, *Life and Correspondence of Charles Carroll of Carrollton* (New York, 1898), p. 2:106.
- ³⁵ Emily Emerson Lantz, "Suburban Baltimore, Catonsville and Vicinity, Beautiful Residences And Cultured People—'American Graces'," *Sunday Sun*, November 26, 1905, p. 8.
- ³⁶ Ellen Hart Smith, *Charles Carroll of Carrollton* (Cambridge, Mass., 1942), pp. 222, 299; photo opposite p. 226.
- ³⁷ John Dorsey and James Dilts, *A Guide to Baltimore Architecture*, 3d ed. (Baltimore, 1997), p. 184.
- ³⁸ Robert Erskine Lewis, "Brooklandwood, Baltimore County," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 43 (December 1948):281-2. Lewis cited the Kate Mason Rowland statement.
- ³⁹ "Thunder Castle Sold. Ex-Sentor Hubner Buys Old Home of Richard Caton," *Sun*, January 14, 1907.
- ⁴⁰ *Ibid.*
- ⁴¹ Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 311:383 and WPC 312:441; *Sun*, December 14, 1907; also, "Destroying Castle Thunder," *Sun*, October 6, 1907; *Democrat and Journal*, Towson, October 5, 1907.
- ⁴² "Scouts Mark 'Castle Thunder' Site," unidentified clipping, 1959, Catonsville Room, Baltimore County Public Library.
- ⁴³ *Argus*, Catonsville. March 18, 1893.
- ⁴⁴ *Maryland Historical Magazine* 17, no. 1 (March 1922): p. 74; George Keidel, *Early Catonsville and the Caton Family* (Baltimore: n.p., 1944), p. 130; George Keidel, Ed. H. Parkinson, ed., *Colonial History of Catonsville* (Catonsville, Md.: American Bicentennial Committee of Catonsville, 1976), 132.
- ⁴⁵ Jean S. Walsh, "Guard Rail Will Make Road Safer," *Catonsville Times*, November 10, 1993. The election painting was reproduced in Barry A. Lanman, *Baltimore County, Celebrating a Legacy, 1659-2009* (Cockeysville, 2009), p. 211, and also in Edward Orser and Joseph Arnold, *Catonsville 1880 to 1940, From Village to Suburb* (Catonsville, 1989), p. 14.
- ⁴⁶ Baltimore County Deeds, TK 278:254, Item 2 in list.

Acknowledgments

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Submissions

While *History Trails'* subject matter has traditionally focused almost entirely on local concerns, we are interested in expanding its scope into new areas. For example, where one article might focus on a single historic building, person, or event in the county, others may develop and defend a historic argument, compare and contrast Baltimore County topics to other locales, or tie seemingly confined local topics to larger events.

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