

Dedication of Priscilla Lamar Drane's Marker

JULY 4, 1997

James and Priscilla Drane came to this land in about 1801 from Prince George's Co. Traveling with them along the Georgetown Road, Hagerstown Road, Braddock's Road, and finally the Seneca Trail were their 8 children.

They had risked the dangers of travel and abandonment of close family and friends to homestead in this isolated acreage owned by Priscilla's brother William Lamar. When they arrived, they found a small home presumably built by William Lamar and slave labor.

The family grew tobacco and other farm products in Flowery Vale with the assistance of their 6 or more slaves. -An addition was made to the house, an apple orchard planted, and in time, a cemetery was started.

James Drane died on the 27th of October 1828. Marking his grave was a fieldstone with the date and his initials J.D. scraped. Seven and a half years later, on the 29th of February 1836, Priscilla Lamar Drane died and was buried in an unmarked grave beside her husband of 39 years.

In 1943, a more elaborate stone for James Drane, in recognition for his service during the American Revolutionary War, was provided by the U.S. Federal Government. No attention was given to the forgotten grave at his side.

Priscilla Lamar Drane had become an owner of the Flowery Vale/Accident Tract through the Lamar family. When she died, she left half of her land to her sister, Elizabeth Lamar Simpkin. Upon the death of Elizabeth, the land was to belong to Priscilla's son, Richard.

Besides owning this property, Priscilla was a very protective mother. There is the story of her son Marien lifting a bucket of water from the spring and finding himself in the company of a black bear. Priscilla shot the bear while their slave Lucy ensured its death by striking it in the head with an ax.

We don't know why Priscilla's grave has gone unmarked over all these years. Perhaps at one time she too had a fieldstone indicating her resting place. Perhaps each family member assumed another family member would attend to the responsibility. However, no indication has ever been found that her grave was ever designated.

She died over 161 years ago and has lain humbly by her husband's side as he has received recognition, pomp, and circumstance.

Priscilla Lamar Drane, this marker is dedicated to you — wife, mother, defender, partner, and a very patient lady who has served unobtrusively behind the scenes, who has waited 161 years for this day. Priscilla Lamar Drane, we do remember you. May you now rest in peace.

First settlers descendants reunite

ACCIDENT Descendants of Lt. James and Priscilla Lamar Drane, first settlers of Flower Vale, now the town of Accident, gathered recently for a FAMILY reunion at the original log home in Accident. Coming from Colorado, Texas, Nebraska, Montana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kansas, Delaware, Arizona, Virginia, and Maryland, nearly 70 percent were present to eat a catered picnic lunch served on the lawn at the former home of their ancestors.

Quida Butterfield Smith of Burwell, Nebraska, brought with her the rocking chair that had belonged to her great-great grandmother Priscilla Drane, of Priscilla Lamar Drane, daughter of James and Margaret Frazee Drane was born Dec. 25, 1828 in the Drane log house at Accident. She married John Dunn of Stevenson County, Ill on Jan. 13, 1854 in Monroe, Wisconsin where she and her parents had lived since she was 15 years old. She went to Nebraska in 1883 after the death of her husband who had received injuries on his way home from the Civil War. Priscilla Drane Dunn was granted a Homestead near Rosehill, Nebraska, north of Burwell, by the government She moved there in 1884 where she raised three of their five children. Two previous daughters died in early childhood in Wisconsin. She died at the home of her daughter Emma (Dunn) Butterfield near Burwell, Nebraska, on Aug. 21, 1911. She is buried in the Willow Springs (Banner) Cemetery north of Burwell. Her son James Joseph Dunn is buried beside her.

Butterfield donated the chair to the Accident Cultural and Historical Society and the town of Accident in memory of her great-great-grandmother. She stated, "I feel the Drane log house is where her rocking chair belongs."

Butterfield also donated a wall lamp and a framed picture of her grandmother Priscilla Drane Dunn. Mayor Richard Carlson accepted the chair on behalf of the town and the Accident Cultural and Historic Society and expressed gratitude for the Drane family bringing the historic item all the way from Nebraska to its new home.

The Drane family visited the Zion Lutheran Cemetery where Lt. James Drane and his wife Priscilla Lamar Drane are buried side by side. For



Above: Quida Butterfield and Mayor Richard Carlson are shown with the rocking chair she gave to the town of Accident. The rocking chair belonged to her great-great-grandmother, Priscilla Drane. Left: cemetery marker of Priscilla Lamar Drane, who along with her husband, Lt. James were first settlers of Accident.

many, it was the, first time they had seen the new marker for Mrs. Drane that was purchased by the Accident Cultural and Historical Society to honor her memory (Mrs. Drane's grave wasn't marked.) Through the efforts of Sally Schwing, Mrs. Drane's monument is matched in material and design with that of her husband

Larry David Drane of Billings, Mont, presented the Accident Cultural and Historical Society with a thick volume of Drane genealogy. Acting as host to the visitors was the Accident Cultural and Historical Society. Ladies from Zion Lutheran Church Accident served the catered picnic lunch.

The Drane Genealogy is available for public use at the Accident branch of the Ruth Enlow Library Those who want to tour the Drane House free of charge may call Town Hall, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at (301) 746-6346. Souvenirs of Accident are available for purchase at town hall.

Historic Drane House survives elements of past and present

Garrett County's first home to be dedicated in Septem-

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

ACCIDENT (AP) - James Drane Jr. battled the threat of wild animals and tempestuous weather to build the first log cabin in Garrett County in the late 1790s.

Those restoring it today had to overcome about seven years of bureaucracy, red tape and financial problems to get it reconstructed.

It's hard to judge whose road was toughest to hoe.

"A few on the frontier built this home, but to reconstruct it under the guidelines that we were using involved a great deal of bureaucracy, which made it expensive," said Steve Schlosnagle, a member of the Accident Cultural and Historical Society.

"Just developing the specifications for rehabilitation took an enormous amount of time. It's been a very long project and that has led to frustration."

The more than \$100,000 project to save the Drane House began in 1987. It was financed with \$80,000 in grants from the Maryland Historical Trust. Other money came from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the town of Accident, the Garrett County Commission, the state's Program Open Space and dozens of donations from individuals, businesses and civic groups.

On Oct. 25, 1991, after many years of research, report writing,

archaeological digging and discussion, workers from the A.J. Wiley Construction Company of Springs, Pa. began taking the dilapidated house apart piece-by-piece.

"Everybody thought it was oak, but it was chestnut. Every log in that house was chestnut," said Charles Strauss, who helped guide the restoration project along with his wife, Mary, who died in September.

In the winter of 1991-1992, the Drane House was a 200-year-old jigsaw puzzle. Each piece, marked with a number for reassembly, lay on the ground, exposed to the biting winter wind of extreme, western Maryland. Sticks and stones and broken pieces of mud, lime and grass daubing that had survived 200 years in the elements were stuffed in sacks.

When spring broke, it took workers only a few months to get the structure back together and under roof. The chimney stories, however, still lay heaped in a pile. More money will be needed to rebuild the chimney.

But with or without the chimney, the restored house is to be spotlighted in a dedication ceremony September 24.

Initially, the house will be used as gallery space for historical or contemporary photographs of Accident, Schlosnagle said.

Over time, it likely will become a museum.

The value to the town of Accident is that it's the first house. Not many communities have saved their first house," Schlosnagle said. "The value to the state is that it's a first generation frontier home."

James Drane, a native of Prince George's County, settled in Accident about 1800 with his wife and their eight children, according to Mrs. Strauss' book about the history of Accident.

The town in north central Garrett County is believed to have gotten its name when two surveying teams from Frederick "accidentally" surveyed the same tract of land in the 1770s. The land became known as the Accident tract.

"James Drane envisioned himself a country gentleman, raising a large acreage of tobacco with the help of his negro slaves," Mrs. Strauss wrote in her book. "The Drane plantation never became a large prosperous farm. Neither did the other settlements in western Maryland of this period even though they were populated by families of education and wealth.

"Severe winters, distance from markets, poorly constructed dirt roads, lack of schools and loneliness in the isolated settlements created discouragement and nostalgia for (their) former homes."



WHY OUR TOWN IS CALLED "A C C I D E N T"

Following is the legend most frequently told by the local citizens:

About the year 1751, a grant of land was given to Mr. George Deakins by King George II of England in payment of a debt. According to the terms, Mr. Deakins was to receive 600 acres of land anywhere in Western Maryland he chose. Mr. Deakins sent out two corps of engineers, each without knowledge of the other group, to survey the best land in this section that contained 600 acres.

After the survey, the engineers returned with their maps of the plots they had surveyed. To their surprise, they discovered that they had surveyed a tract of land starting at the same tall oak tree and returning to the starting point. Mr. Deakins chose this plot of ground and had it patented "The Accident Tract"—hence, the name of the Town.

It is uncertain whether this story is legendary or factual. The Town's local historian, Mary Miller Strauss, has provided this account on the settlement of Accident.

Hunters and trappers were the first white men to discover what is now the Accident Valley, 'located on the plateau -of the Alleghany Mountains in Maryland's western uplands. The vale and surrounding hills in the year 1800 were an area of gigantic growth of virgin timber. Here was a wilderness of beautiful broad-leaved trees and hemlocks. Under the thick growth of hardwoods and evergreens were the lush bushes of flowering rhododendrons and many species of ferns. The valley is drained by little streams flowing from its southern part into South Bear Creek and from its northern part into the main-stream of Bear Creek.

The Indians hunted here, camped here, and passed through, but never chose the site to build a village. There was one barely passable "road" known as Seneca Trail, a few other Indian trails used for foot travel and pack horses, and a small house that probably was built by the Lamars sometime before 1798.

How did this spot get the name "Accident?" To this very day it remains somewhat of a mystery. There are numerous stories advocating the name's origin, but the following is probably the most nearly correct story of the "accident." At least it checks with the land records.

In 1774 Lord Baltimore, Proprietor of the Maryland Colony, opened his lands "westward of Fort Cumberland" for settlement, and among the speculators

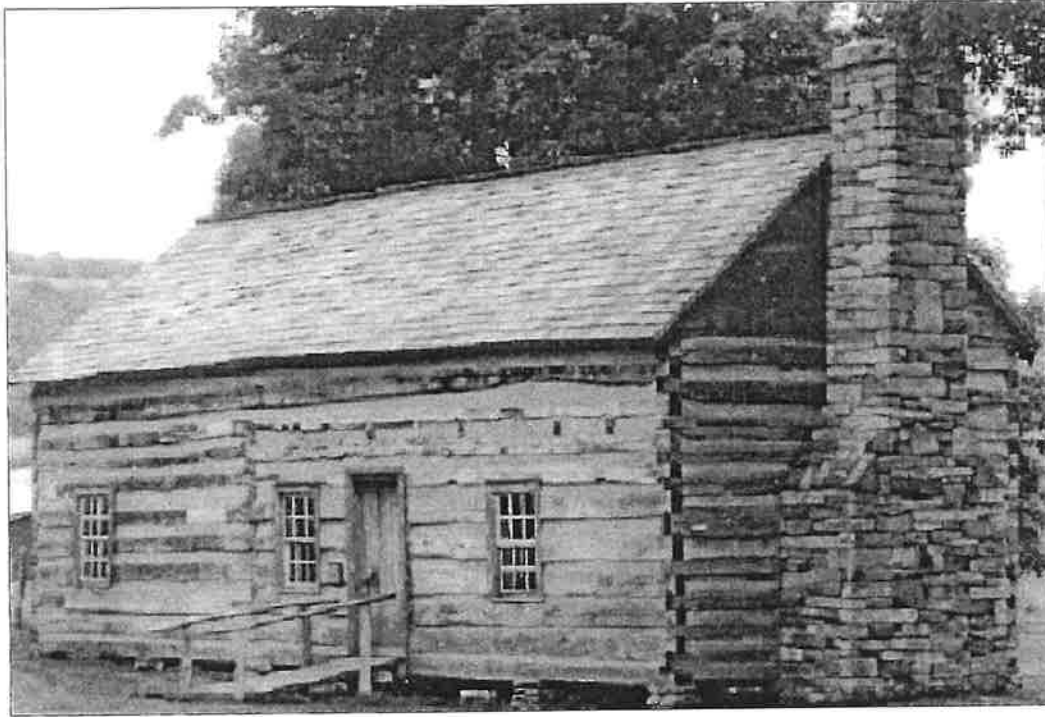
who hastened to western Maryland with their surveyors to secure choice tracts of land were Brooke Beall and William Deakins, Jr., both of Prince George's County. William Deakins and his-brother Francis had warrants for several tracts, and on April 14, 1774, they surveyed a fine tract of 682 acres between the branches of Bear Creek, including an old Indian camp ground on the trail to Braddock's Road. But when the survey was completed Brooke Beall and his party appeared on the scene, and Beall claimed that he had selected the same tract for his survey, calling attention to his axe marks on the trees to prove his claim. Deakins replied that it appeared that they had selected the same land "by accident." Since he and Beall were friends and land was abundant, he proposed that Beall take over the survey already made. To this Beall agreed, although his warrant called for 778 acres. John Hanson, Jr., Deputy County Surveyor, made out the survey to Beall, and they named the tract "Accident."

The following August, Brooke Beall assigned his warrant and survey of Accident to William Deakins, Jr., who secured his patent for the land from the state in 1786. Deakins sold Accident to Captain David Lynn of Cumberland It was later included in a resurvey called "Flowery Vale," 970 acres sold by Captain Lynn to Colonel William Lamar, who appears to have begun to clear' the land prior to 1798 when he was charged with Accident, and assessed there with nineteen cattle and other property. Colonel Lamar settled his sister, Priscilla, wife of James Drane of Prince George's County, their family, and slaves in Accident about the year 1800 or soon thereafter. The Dranes were the first permanent settlers at Accident. Their frontier home is just east of the Town limits, the oldest standing residence in Garrett County.

In conclusion, the present Town of Accident was named after the land grant which lay to the east of the Town's site. Parts of two military lots were chosen for the site of the frontier village, perhaps as early as the 1820's. A record of the Town's earliest history has not been discovered as of the present date (1985).

EVOLUTION OF THE DRANE HOUSE

By: Mary Miller Strauss



Rather extensive research in the Garrett County Courthouse, Allegany County Courthouse, Frederick County Courthouse, and the Hall of Records in Annapolis has uncovered few actual facts about the Drane House.

It is doubtless the oldest standing building in Garrett County. It consists of two adjoining sections, the larger and older probably built by Captain David Lynn or William Lamar. It appears to have been a one-story frame house with a loft beneath the roof. This part had the massive stone fireplace and chimney quite skillfully constructed of field stones, which stood for over 170 years before toppling in 1970.

The house was probably erected to shelter the slaves and workers who were clearing the land. The smaller, or east section, plus the upper half-story over both parts was probably built by the Dranes and Lamars to provide enough room for the eight Drane children and the parents.

In the U.S. Census of 1790 -they are listed with one child and four slaves in Prince George's County. On the assessment roll of Allegany County for 1798, James Drane was assessed with six slaves, two horses, and two cattle but is not included in the census of 1800 in Allegany County. It appears that he began to establish himself at Accident prior to 1798 but did not bring his family -until after 1800.

Apparently the enlargement of the house was being done before and after the table of the century (1800) by the slaves who were clearing the land for the tobacco farming. The second addition has mostly log construction, as does the half-story above the entire ground floor.

The stairway to the loft of the original part (west) was removed and tile floor opening in the loft boarded over. When the second part (east) was added, a small hallway in this part served as a passage to the east room and the stairway, which was built against the inner wall of the added room.

Most of the logs in the tipper or half-story run the full length of the house, hand hewn but lacking skillful finishes since the house was covered with hemlock ships siding.

Short stone pillars support the sills. Sleepers (beams) run the width of the house upon which the floor rests. Joists, left exposed, with the flooring of the half-story form the ceilings of the ground floor rooms. Pole rafters and lathing support the shakes or shingles.

Boarded inside wall exist in all rooms but the west room on the second floor. It is not known when the partition was put up in the big room where the fireplace is located, probably about the time Heinrich Richter and his wife Catharina purchased the property in 1856 and lived there until 1897. During that time the two brick chimneys probably were erected, one in what became their kitchen, the room that one enters from outside, and the other on the east side.

Apparently only minor improvements were made until Frederick and Emma Richter married and decided to live in the Drane House (1901-1908). Extensive work was done on the interior of the first floor. Rooms were papered, wainscoting was placed on the ceiling of the parlor and the first floor bedroom. Linoleum was placed in the parlor and kitchen, New flooring had been placed over the old flooring in all first floor rooms except the little hall. The fireplace was boarded over and covered with wallpaper when the parlor was freshly papered. Only the east bedroom on the second floor was painted and furnished for use while Frederick and Emma lived there. The ranch-style porch was added after removing the latticed entry porch. Renters arrived and departed, It was never vacant from 1901-1952.

In the summer of 1936, Raymond Georg and his wife, Margaret moved to the Drane House. Insulsiding was placed over the ship's siding and a galvanized roof was added over the shingles. A pitcher pump was installed in the kitchen, drawing water from the same spring used by former residents. Margaret die fresh wallpapering and some inside painting. They left in 1944, but returned again in 1948. Electricity was put in the house and a new pitcher pump.

After 1952 the house remained vacant with little or not repairs. In 1987, the Mayor and Town Council, with the assistance of the Accident Cultural and Historical Society, decided the house should be restored for the sake of posterity. The house is the key to Accident's past and the living evidence of the tobacco plantations of Maryland's uplands.

Col. William Lamar

sister

Priscilla (Lamar) Drane—James Drane

8 children

James Drane—Margaret Frazee

Born Dec. 25, **1828** in Drane House
Died 1911

Priscilla Drane—John Dunn

Emma Butterfield

Quida (Butterfield) Smith

Quida donated the rocking chair to the house.
It belonged to her great-great grandmother,
Priscilla Drane

Drane Family Tree

Brochure Notes:

1. Preservation of the Drane House
2. Sponsored by Mayor & Town Council of Accident & Accident Cultural & Historical Society
3. Believed to be the oldest standing structure on its original site in Garrett County
4. Oldest house in Accident
5. Constructed about 1800 by James Lamar and added onto by James Drane
6. James Drane - first permanent settler in Accident area
7. Drane - immigrant from tobacco farming area of Prince Georges Co.
8. One of several early farmers who attempted tobacco culture in Garrett Co.
9. Efforts were thwarted by cool climate and great distance to market
10. Architecture - log and frame construction with of hall and parlor
11. House entered into National Register of Historical Places 11 January 1985
12. When preservation plans began, house was vacant, deteriorating, and imminently endangered by natural causes and neglect
13. 1987, Mayor and Town Council sponsored application to Maryland Historical Trust for State capital grant funds for fiscal year 1989
14. Letters of endorsement received from the Garrett County Historical Society, Board of Garrett County Commissioners, the State Senator, and Delegate.
15. Town of Accident purchased the historic landmark from Kolb Farms, Inc. in 1987/88
16. Accident Cultural and Historical Society formed in October 1987.
17. Members to the Board of Directors are appointed from different area of the community by the Mayor and Town Council
18. The building is preserved on the original site.
19. Public access is from Route 219 via Cemetery Road
20. Originally the project cost for the acquisition, application to and site development was \$80,000.
21. Tours by individuals and groups at specified times and upon request
22. Municipality of Accident has responsibility for operation and maintenance of Drane House property.
23. Contributions are tax deductible.
24. Important is representative of the first generation of settlement in this region of Appalachia
25. Log home last occupied in 1952
26. Architectural and archaeological investigation were completed 1989/90
27. Garrett County Commissioners funded a parking lot and paved entrance road completed in 1989
28. Accident Cultural and Historical Society and Maryland Historical Trust (through Grant Funding) accepted specifications application to rehabilitation in 1991
29. Reconstruction began 1991
30. Building was disassembled, each part painstakingly, tagged so new foundation piers could be put in place
31. Piece by piece the house was reconstructed in its original location
32. The majority of its logs were reused with only a few needing replacement
33. Phase II of the project included chinking daubing, and interior work in 1993
34. Dedication was Saturday, 24th September 1994
35. Home was expanded during first quarter of 19th century by James and Priscilla Drane and their 8 children
36. A. J. Wiley Construction Co. of Springs, PA, executed the building stabilization
37. New foundation piers were installed, decayed subfloor system was replaced, log walls were reassembled, and the roofing system was rehabilitated with new rafters and shingles
38. A. J. Wiley given second contract for chinking and daubing and rehabilitation of the home's interior including windows, doors, finish flooring, wall paneling, and electrical service
39. Funding through grants MHT and matching funds and services contributed by the Town of Accident, Board of Garrett County Commissioners, Program Open Space, Appalachian

Brochure Notes

Regional Commission, and numerous concerned citizens, local organizations, and community businesses

40. The area first contained small house probably built by the Lamars prior to 1798
41. Colonel Lamar settled his sister, Priscilla Drane, her husband Lt- James Drane, their children and slaves in Accident about 1800
42. Dranes, from Prince George's Co., became the first permanent settlers in the Accident area.
43. James Drane, born 1755, Prince George's, and became a 2nd lieutenant during the Revolutionary War.
44. Dranes had eight children'. Thomas Lamar, James E., Robert, George W., Richard Elizabeth Ann, William, and Marien
45. Slaves: John, Peter, Lucy, Nancy Abraham, David, Jeremiah
46. Nearest mills for flour, lumber, and a general store were located Shelbysport, near Friendsville.
47. Farm animals - cows, horses, chickens, pigs, sheep.
48. Crops - tobacco, corn, oats, wheat, and a family garden.
49. Neighbor within 5 miles, Meshack Browning
50. Priscilla Drane's sister, Elizabeth, married Judge John Simkin (Simpkins) and settled at Bear Camp near Keyzers Ridge.
51. Neighbor at Hoyes was Singleton Townshend. Story's told Drane and Townshend were good friends who enjoyed friendly arguments. When deceased they requested to be buried with feet towards each other so when Resurrection Day arrived, they would be facing each other and ready to continue their chats.
52. Lt. James Drane died 27 June 1828.
53. Priscilla Drane died 29 February 1836
54. His grave is marked by a field stone with his initials and date of death. In 1943, his grave was marked by the Federal Government
55. Priscilla's grave is unmarked and is probably beside his.
56. Most of the children had moved away by 1838.
57. Heinrich Richter moved into the home in 1856 - 1897
58. House was then used by Heinrich's son, John Leonard, as a butchering house
59. John Leonard Richter's son, Frederick, married Emma Kahl and made many changes in the home from 1901 - 1908: rooms - papered, wainscoting placed on parlor ceiling, linoleum On parlor and kitchen floors, fireplace enclosed and covered with wallpaper.
60. Their son, Walter Richter, born there, recalls the outside oven located about 20 feet from the porch. Evidence of it has never been located through archaeological studies.
61. George A. Lininger and his father moved into the home in 1910 - 1911
62. Albert and Clara Glass lived in it 1918 - 1922
63. House purchased by Adam Richter, 1923 John and Florence Grove Shoemaker and children resided -1934
64. Farm pond used for ice skating, ice blocks to be stored in ice house for spring and summer
65. Spring house with cooling trough and stone floor
66. 1934 - Luther and Mildred Bowser and sons, Donald and Hobart - 1936
67. 1936 - Raymond and Margaret Richter Georg -1944
68. 1944 - Smith and Margaret Ault Friend and their son Claude and his wife Jean Shoemaker Friend and daughter moved into the home - 19.48.
69. Raymond Georg and family returned 1948 - 1952
70. Blacksmith, "Blacky" Mates
71. 1980, the Drane House portion of the Richter Farm was sold to Clark and Marvin Kolb
72. Area around Accident is laid out in military lots and given to Revolutionary War soldiers in lieu of cash for services rendered.
73. Most soldiers sold their lots and never lived in western Maryland