

Drane House

located in
Accident, MD.

The area around Accident was laid out in military lots that were given to Revolutionary War soldiers in lieu of cash for services rendered. Most soldiers sold their lots and never lived in western Maryland. The Drane House is the oldest house in Accident and believed to be the oldest standing structure on its original site in Garrett County.

- 1) The area first contained a small log house probably built by Colonel William Lamar prior to 1798.
- 2) Colonel Lamar settled his sister, Priscilla Drane, her husband Lt. James Drane and their 8 children and 6 slaves in Accident about 1800. The land was deeded to Priscilla from her brother in 1817.
- 3) The Drane's, who were from Prince George's County, became the first permanent settlers in the Accident area.
- 4) James Drane, born in 1755 in Prince George's County, became a Second Lieutenant during the Revolutionary War.
- 5) James and Priscilla Drane had eight children: Thomas Lamar, James E., Robert, George W., Richard, Elizabeth Ann, William, and Marien.
- 6) Their slaves were: John, Peter, Lucy, Nancy, Abraham, David, and Jeremiah.
- 7) The nearest flour and lumber mills and general store were located in Shelbyport, which is located near Friendsville, MD.
- 8) The Dranes raised cows, horses, chickens, pigs, and sheep.
- 9) Their crops included: tobacco, corn, oats, wheat, and the family garden. They found out tobacco would not grow in this area due to the cool climate.
- 10) Meshack Browning, their closest neighbor, lived approximately five miles away.
- 11) Priscilla Drane's sister, Elizabeth, married Judge John Simkin (Simpkins) and settled at Bear Camp near Keyzers Ridge.
- 12) A good friend of James Drane, Singleton Townshend, lived at Hoyes. The story is told that James Drane and Singleton Townshend enjoyed friendly arguments. When they died, they requested to be buried with feet towards each other so when the Resurrection Day arrived; they would be facing each other and would be ready to continue their chats.
- 13) Lieutenant James Drane died on June 27, 1828.
- 14) Priscilla Drane died on February 29, 1836.
- 15) Lt. Drane's grave is marked by a field stone with his initials and the date of death. In 1943, his grave was marked by the Federal Government.
- 16) Priscilla's grave was unmarked until approximately the year 2000 when the Accident Cultural and Historical Society purchased and installed a headstone for Mrs. Drane.
- 17) Most of the children had moved away by 1838.
- 18) Heinrich Richter moved into the home in 1856 and lived there until 1897.
- 19) The house was then used by Heinrich's son, John Leonard as a butchering house.
- 20) John Leonard Richter's son, Frederick, married Emma Kahl and made many changes to the house from 1901-1908; including, wallpaper, wainscoting placed on parlor ceiling, and linoleum on the parlor and kitchen floors, fireplace enclosed and covered with wallpaper.

- 21) Their son, Walter Richter, who was born there, recalls the outside oven located about 20 feet from the porch. No evidence was ever located through archaeological studies.
- 22) George A. Lininger and his father moved into the house in 1910-1911
- 23) Albert and Clara Glass lived in it from 1918-1922.
- 24) The house was purchased by Adam Richter in 1923.
- 25) John and Florence Grove Shoemaker and children resided in it in 1934.
- 26) The farm pond was used for ice skating, ice blocks were stored in the ice house for spring and summer.
- 27) The spring house had a cooling trough and stone floor.
- 28) Luther and Mildred Bowser and sons, Donald and Hobert lived in the house 1934-1936.
- 29) Raymond and Margaret Richter Georg lived in the house 1936-1944.
- 30) Smith and Margaret Ault Friend ; their son Claude and his wife Jean (Shoemaker) Friend and their daughter lived in the house from 1944-1948.
- 31) Raymond Georg and family returned from 1948-1952.
- 32) Blacksmith, Blacky Mates, also lived in the house; dates unknown.
- 33) The log house was last occupied in 1952.
- 34) In 1980, the Drane House portion of the Richter farm was sold to Clark and Marvin Kolb.
- 35) The house entered into the National Register of Historical Places in January 1985.
- 36) When the preservation plans started, the house was vacant, deteriorating, and endangered by natural causes and neglect.
- 37) In 1987, the Accident Mayor and Town Council sponsored an application to the Maryland Historical Trust for State Capital Grant Funds for the 1989 fiscal year.
- 38) Letters of endorsement were received from the Garrett County Historical Society, the Board of Garrett County Commissioners, the State Senator and the local State Delegate.
- 39) The Accident Cultural and Historical Society was formed in October 1987.
- 40) The Town of Accident purchased the historic landmark from Kolb Farms, Inc. in 1987-1988.
- 41) Architectural and archaeological investigations were completed in 1989-1990.
- 42) The Board of Directors was appointed from different areas of the community by the Mayor and Town Council.
- 43) The public has access to the Drane House via Cemetery Road off of Route 219.
- 44) The Garrett County Commissioners provided money for a parking lot and a paved entrance road in 1989.
- 45) The original cost for the acquisition, restoration and site development was \$80,000.
- 46) The Accident Cultural and Historical Society and the Maryland Historical Trust (through grant funding) accepted specifications for rehabilitation in 1991.
- 47) The reconstruction began in 1991.
- 48) The building was painstakingly disassembled and tagged so new foundation piers could be put into place.
- 49) Piece by piece, the house was reconstructed in its original location.
- 50) The majority of its logs were reused with only a few needing to be replaced.
- 51) Phase II of the project, done in 1993, included chinking, daubing, and interior work.
- 52) The dedication was held on Saturday, September 24, 1994.