

NOTE TO FILE 10/1/81

*about 4 yrs ago
from Cutshaw, 11/5/77*

Mr. Cutshaw never return to the park to see the material gathered in this file but he did contact Architect Franzen, late September, 1981 asking about a Currier & Ives print. Print was supposed to be a view upstream the Potomac River.

HEStaubs telephone Mr. Cutshaw to inquire about the print (park doesn't have such a copy). Mr. Cutshaw was looking for a view that would show the house his relative lived in (see HF-787).

After the telephone conversation, copy of the material in this folder was mailed to Mr. Cutshaw. Mr. Cutshaw will contact the park if he wants a copy of the print (HF-787).

HILDA E. STAUBS

FRANK C(utshaw) CROXTON
1921 COLLINGSWOOD RD.
COLUMBUS OHIO 43221
614-488-5527

WANTS C.R.

A Currier and Ives print showing
Harpers Ferry looking upstream?

INFO - 614-488-5527
Telephone - 614-488-5527
FIS - 943-6600

over

9/18/81

1921 COLLINGSWOOD ROAD

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43221

November 5, 1981

Mrs. Hilda E. Staubs
Harpers Ferry NHP
P. O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry WV 25425

Dear Mrs. Staubs:

I am most grateful to you for the family-history material that you sent me on October 1. Thank you not only for sending it but also for collecting it and keeping it so safely for these many months.

I think that I had not known before that my great-grandfather, George Washington Cutshaw, had been in partnership with Mr. Skeggs. Further, as agent for the canal packet line, he was doing his official duty in escorting the lady across the river shortly before he became a prisoner of John Brown and his men. I had thought that the lady had been a friend of the Cutshaw family and had been visiting from Washington.

The efforts of you and your colleagues at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park are most commendable. They are especially appreciated by people like me who have family ties to the town and region.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Croxton

Frank C. Croxton

HF-601

RY.



George W. Cutshaw House

HF-787

5/29/1886
photo

copy of print
has been ordered
10/2/75

HFR-601

EXCERPT ON:
GEO. W. CUTSHAW

A
History of Jefferson County
West Virginia

BY

Millard Kessler Bushong, A.M., Ph.D.

Professor of History and Government
Shepherd State Teachers College

JEFFERSON PUBLISHING COMPANY
Charles Town, West Virginia
1941

Floyd doubtless considered this letter too fantastic for reality as there is no record of his having paid any attention to it.

In the meantime, Brown had been assembling his men. As it would not do for too many to be seen by the prying eyes of curious neighbors, he kept most of his followers indoors in the loft of the farmhouse. Twenty men, five of whom were Negroes, comprised the band. Work of the household was done by the leader's daughter, Annie, and his son Oliver's wife. All the cooking, washing, and scrubbing for the entire group was done without a complaint by these two faithful women.

ATTACK ON HARPERS FERRY.

Finally, the time for action arrived. Events had been planned to the last detail. Cook had met his leader from time to time and had furnished information obtained while he was traversing the country as a book-agent. Maps of the vicinity were drawn and carefully studied. The number of slaves on each neighboring plantation, the names of their owners, and other pertinent information were in the hands of the raiders.

As a consequence, Brown did not have the slightest doubt that the ignorant Negroes in the neighborhood would hail him as a savior and would rally around his banner. He had a thousand pikes with which to arm them. He had even organized a provisional government with himself as commander in chief of the armies and had adopted a constitution.

All of this had been accomplished without arousing the suspicions of any of the inhabitants of the peaceful town of Harpers Ferry. Their position was comparable to that of lambs grazing contentedly while the hungry wolf licked his chops in anticipation of pouncing upon his unsuspecting prey.

About eight o'clock on Sunday night, October 16, 1859, Brown and eighteen of his men left the farmhouse for Harpers Ferry. Three others, Owen Brown, Barclay Coppoc [or Coppie], and F. J. Merriam, remained behind to guard the headquarters of the raiders. A wagon loaded with crowbars, sledge hammers, pikes, and oil-soaked faggots was driven along the road. All of the men were heavily armed and ready for any emergency.

Brown had picked a good night for his villainous deed, as he

had learned that the Methodists were holding revival services at the Ferry and few people would be on the streets.¹⁰

The first person encountered by the raiders was William Williams, one of the watchmen on the railroad bridge. Before the surprised Williams could gather his senses, he was captured by a group of armed men and taken to the armory enclosure. Another watchman, Daniel Whelan, on duty at the Government plant, was also taken into custody. Part of the raiders remained with the prisoners, while another group went to Hall's Rifle Works and captured its watchman, Samuel Williams, the father of William Williams.

Leaving some of their own men in possession of the rifle works, the remainder of this group brought their prisoner back to the main body. These seizures were made about eleven o'clock and so far everything had taken place as planned. Not a shot had been fired and the raiders were in possession of the armory with its huge supply of arms, the rifle works, and the bridges across the two rivers. The telegraph wires had been cut and communication with the outside world severed.

About an hour later Patrick Higgins of Sandy Hook arrived on the railroad bridge across the Potomac to relieve Williams as watchman. When he was unable to find him, he called, and to his surprise two men confronted him with guns in hand and told him that he was a prisoner. One of the captors endeavored to conduct the prisoner to the armory, but the Irishman struck him a stunning blow with his fist and escaped to Fouke's Hotel. Several shots were fired at the escaped watchman, but none took effect.¹¹

The express from Wheeling thundered into Harpers Ferry at midnight and was immediately stopped on the bridge by armed men. Conductor Phelps contacted the leader of the raiders, talked with him, and finally succeeded in having his train released at five o'clock. Phelps supposed that the arches or timbers of the wooden bridge had been cut and hence he was at first afraid to cross the Potomac. He gave the order, though, and the train moved slowly away. It reached Baltimore at twelve o'clock noon.

During this delay the passengers had remained in their seats, too frightened to move. A free Negro porter, Hayward Shepherd, employed by the railroad, walked to the bridge some

time in the night and was ordered by the guards to halt. Shepherd was seized with a panic and did not stop. The resulting shot entered his body and caused his death the following day. Thus the first person killed in John Brown's raid was an innocent Negro porter.¹²

Meanwhile, Brown had sent a detachment into the country to capture prominent persons as hostages. One of these, Colonel Lewis Washington, was taken, along with several of his slaves. From his home were also brought the famous sword and pistols which Brown desired for moral effect. Then, about three o'clock in the morning the raiders went to the home of John Allstadt and made him prisoner, together with his eighteen-year old son and the Allstadt slaves.

These prisoners were brought in a wagon to the armory, where they met the leader of their captors. He introduced himself as "Osawatomie Brown of Kansas" and then arming his prisoners' slaves with pikes, he told them to stand guard over their masters.

A short while before daylight James Darrell, the bellringer at the armory, appeared on the scene and was captured. As the armorers came to work they, too, were surprised and made prisoners. Another local resident taken in the same manner was George W. Cutshaw, who had just escorted a lady across the river to a canal packet boat. About seven o'clock firing broke out between residents of the town and the raiders, and it soon became unsafe for anyone to appear on the streets. Thomas Boerly approached the corner of High and Shenandoah streets and discharged his gun at the raiders near the arsenal gate, when one of them crouching behind the arsenal fence shot him. The bullet inflicted a ghastly wound in his groin and he died a few hours later, the first white person killed by the invaders.¹³

News of the attack soon spread throughout the neighborhood. Before long companies of Virginia militia from Charles Town, Shepherdstown, Martinsburg, and Winchester were on the march to aid their friends whose homes were menaced. The Jefferson Guards of Charles Town, 100 strong, left the county seat at nine-thirty under command of Colonel John T. Gibson, assisted by Captain John W. Rowan. When they arrived at the scene, it was decided that they should cross the Potomac and take possession

THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND COMMERCIAL

DEVELOPMENT OF HARPERS FERRY'S LOWER

TOWN AREA, 1803 to 1861

* * * * *
* * *
*

By

CHARLES W. SNELL

April 9, 1973

HOUSE ON WAGER LOT 54B

(Non-Extant Building)

Location: On the west side of High Street, on the south (left) portion of Wager Lot 54, and opposite to Building No. 16.

Ownership in 1859: Michael Doran (1843-1865)

Use in 1859: Residence of Patrick Carroll, a grocery keeper.

Appearance in 1859: Built by Richard D. Doran in 1849, the house on Wager Lot 54B was a 3½-story brick house with a gable roof and an end chimney built within the walls at the south (left) side. There was not any cellar. One dormer was located in the front (east) slope of the roof and there was probably another dormer in the rear slope. Fronting on High Street, the house was about 20 feet, or three bays wide and 20 feet deep. Its rear walls were set about 9 feet from the cliff behind the house, thus creating an areaway there. Its third story rose above the cliff in the rear.

The doors in the first and second stories of the High Street facade were located in the center bays and there was an iron ornamental balcony set at the second floor level. Windows had six over six lights and were topped by flat brick arches.

Historical Use: Used as a dwelling house from 1849 to 1861. In 1860, it was apparently occupied by Patrick Carroll, a grocery keeper. His shop may have been located on the first floor. In 1894, the first floor was being used as a cobbler's shop.

Historical Photos of the Building:

1. HF-64, 1859 photo: Made from Maryland Shore, the view shows the south end chimney and single dormer in the front slope of roof.
2. HF-49, 1861 photo: Made from Maryland Shore, shows same features as item 1.
3. HF-648, circa 1882 photo: Looking north (up) High Street, shows front elevation of house, closeup.

4. HF-787, circa 1882 photo: Excellent closeup view of the High Street front of the house.
5. HF-79, circa 1880 photo: The East Public Walk in front of Marmion Row. Shows area at the top of the cliff in the rear of the third story of the house on Lot 54B.
6. HF-99, 1892-96 photo: View made from Loudoun Heights. Shows south gable end chimney, roof and front and rear dormers.
7. HF-96, 1896 photo: View made from Maryland Heights. Shows front (east) dormer.

Sources of Information:

Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Survey Report for Building No. 2, Lot No. 54, High Street. The George W. Cutshaw and Michael Doran Lots," dated July 30, 1858, 13 pages, 1 map. (HF-37)

No. 47

THE CUTSHAW TAILOR SHOP

(Non-Extant Building, Wager Lot 54A)

Location: On the west side of High Street, on the north (right-hand) portion of Wager Lot No. 54, and opposite to Wager Lots 16 and 17 (Jones Alley).

Ownership in 1859: George W. Cutshaw (from 1843 until after 1865).

Use in 1859: The tailor shop and dwelling of George W. Cutshaw.

Physical Appearance in 1859: Built by George W. Cutshaw in 1839, the house on Wager Lot No. 54B was a 3½-story brick structure with gable roof and a pair of end chimneys located in the north (right-hand) side wall. Two dormers were situated in the front (east) slope of the roof and the third story of the house rose above the cliff in the rear. Fronting on High Street, the building was about 21 feet or three bays wide and about 20 feet deep. The rear walls were set about nine feet from the face of the cliff, thus creating an area way behind the building. There was not any cellar.

Doors in the first and second stories of the High Street (front) elevation were located in the left-hand (south) bay and an ornamental iron balcony, one-bay wide, was set before the door in the second story. Windows had six over six lights and were topped by flat brick arches. The first story contained a shop or storeroom and the upper 2½ floors had the living quarters.

Use, 1840-1865: The house on Wager Lot 54A was the tailor shop and residence of George W. Cutshaw during the period 1840 to 1865. In 1894 the house contained a barber shop.

Historical Photos Showing the Building:

1. HF-64, 1859 photo: Made from the Maryland shore, this view shows the north twin end chimney and two dormers in the front slope of the roof.
2. HF-49, 1861 photo: Made from the Maryland shore, it shows the same features as item 1.

3. HF-648, circa 1882 photo: Looking north (up) High Street, this is a closeup of the front elevation.
4. HF-787, circa 1882 photo: Excellent closeup view of the High Street elevation.
5. HF-79, circa 1880 photo: The east Public Walk in front of Marmion Row. Shows the area at the top of the cliff in rear of the third story of the Lot 54A house.
6. HF-99, 1892-96 photo: View made from the top of Loudoun Heights, this shows the north gable chimneys and front roof dormers.
7. HF-92, 1896 photo: Made from Maryland Heights, this view shows the front (east) roof and dormers.

Sources of Information:

Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Survey Report for Building No. 2, Lot No. 54, High Street. The George W. Cutshaw and Michael Doran Lots," dated July 3, 1958, 13 pages, 1 map. (HF-37).

THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND COMMERCIAL

DEVELOPMENT OF HARPERS FERRY'S LOWER

TOWN AREA, 1803 to 1861

* * * * *
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By

CHARLES W. SNELL

April 9, 1973

This photo dates
May 29, 1886
(HF. 787)



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G W Cutshaw - Tailor 1831

L. F. S. Hogg

Bulky no 12-14? AA-1?

High Street

Virginia Free Press
September 1, 1931
Page 3 C 4

TAILORING

G.W. Cutshaw takes this method of informing his friends and the public of Harpers-Ferry and its vicinity that he has taken the room adjoining K.C. MacFate's law office, formerly occupied by Dr. Garrison, where he intends carrying on the above business in all its branches. Having, for the last four or five years, been working in all the principal cities, he flatters himself that those who may favor him with their custom may rest assured of having their work done as well as at any other shop in the country.

He would also inform the public, that he has taken into copartnership, L.F. S. HOGG, who has been cutting for the last three years in New York, and who served his apprenticeship in Philadelphia, and has been employed as foreman in one of the most extensive merchant tailoring establishments in the city of New York.

Cutshaw and Hogg therefore flatter themselves that, with the knowledge they possess of the business, and with punctuality and strict application, to merit a liberal share of the public patronage.

... presents out on the strictest notice, and in the most fashionable manner.

Sept. 1, 1931

George W. Cutshaw &
Miss Maratha Jane Moxley, *ef*
Alexandria, married, 1831
3rd Oct.

AA-1

Oct. 13, 1831, p. 3 Virginia Free Press

High Street - AA-1?

James B. Skeggs, 1832

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS

April 19, 1832, p. 3

Adam Whip, New Establishment, Saddle & Harness

Trading started in the shop formerly occupied by Cutshaw & Skeggs, Tailors,
Joining & P.C. McCabe's law office on High Street

NG 157 10
Cutshaw & Skeggs, 1832
(A. Gibson, Russell)

Virginia Free Press, April 5, 1832, p.3

REMOVAL, MESSERS CUTSHAW & SKEGGS.

They have removed their shop to the building opposite Mr. Russell's store,
formerly occupied by A. Gibson

Change 12

Tailors. Harpers Ferry, April 5, 1832

November
By 1836 CUTSHAW in 10
V. F. P. Nov. 24, 1836 P. 3, C 5

NG 157 10
George W. Cutshaw
, 1836

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS

Nov. 24, 1836, p. 3, c. 5

Tailoring

Bridge St, Opposite the National Hotel. Nov. 24, 1836

TAILORING.
TASTE AND FASHION.

George W. Cutshaw most respectfully begs leave to return his grateful acknowledgements to the citizens of Harpers-Ferry and vicinity, for the very liberal patronage heretofore extended to him, and requests a continuation of their favours, as he flatters himself that an earnest desire to please, and an unremitting attention to business, will enable him to give the utmost satisfaction to all who may patronise his shop. His friends, acquaintances, and the public generally, are earnestly invited to call on him for the manufacture of all articles in his line, satisfied that his knowledge of the business is sufficient to please even the most fastidious.

Bridge-St., opposite the National Hotel,

Harpers-Ferry, Nov. 24, 1836.

N. B.—Three or four Journeymen Tailors, of steady and industrious habits.

Lat No 54 Part A

The Constitutionalist, Sept. 11, 1839, p. 4

NOTICE: GEORGE W. CUTSHAW gives notice, that the co-partnership heretofore advertised between R. Ward and himself, no longer exists.

Harpers Ferry, August 7, 1839.

Lat No 54

The Constitutionalist, January 8, 1840, p. 3 Part A

REMOVAL. The subscriber respectfully informs the public that he has removed the TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT TO THE basement story of his dwelling house, on High Street, and only a few doors above the Apothecary Store of Dr. P.P.W. Stephenson, and the Dry Goods Store of Messrs. ~~Bain~~ Breitenbaugh & Kirby.....

[Lat No 373]

GEORGE W. CUTSHAW

Harpers Ferry, January 8, 1840

Way M# ~~545~~ 54, Part A

G. W. Cutshaw, 1851

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS

Oct. 16, 1851, p. 3, c. 1

C & O Canal, 1851

The splendid Packet Boats FASHION, Capt. Pettie and BELLE, Capt. Singer, now make regular trips between Alexandria, Georgetown and Cumberland, Schedule given. also rates

refer to Cutshaw, Harpers Ferry, Oct. 16, 1851

G. W. Cutshaw, 1852

Way M# ~~545~~ 54-A

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS

Aug. 12, 1852, p. 3, c. 4

Daily Packet Line on C & O Canal.

Agent for, Harpers Ferry July 22, 1852

Wm. Cutshaw
G. W. Cutshaw, Agent for

R. H. Brown

1853

FREE PRESS
April 21, 1853, p. 3, c. 2

Harpers Ferry Clothing Store

Ready Made Clothing. Cloths, Cassimeres and Vestings

opened in a new store at the junction of the W. & P. R.R.

and the B & O.R.R....

April 21, 1853

HARPERS* FERRY CLOTHING STORE

The undersigned has just received from the Eastern Cities an entirely new stock of READY*MADE CLOTHING, of all styles and qualities. Also, a complete assortment of CLOTHS, CASSIMERES AND VESTINGS, which will be made to order at the shortest notice. The above goods are opened in the new store at the junction of the Winchester and Potomac and the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Roads, and are offered to the public on as low terms as can be purchased in the cities, and respectfully invite the public to call and examine for themselves. R. H. BROWN, G. W. CUTSHAW, AGENT.