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## SPARKS QUARTERLY

December 1989, No. 148, pps. 3483-3501;

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# WILLIAM SAMPLE SPARKS

(BORN ca.1700,  
DIED ca.1765) at p. 3485:

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"(Dr.) Paul E. Sparks and this writer (Dr. Russell E. Bidlack) are now convinced that we have identified the parentage of William Sample Sparks, as well as his siblings and three of his children. We have to admit, however, that our proof for these relationships is based on what in the law is called "a preponderance of evidence" rather than upon a primary source document containing this information. In part, our conclusions have been reached through a process of elimination based on years of study of all members of the Queen Anne's County Sparks family. Much of our difficulty in this research results from the repeated use of the forename "William" by members of this branch of the family. Not only was the grandfather of William Sample Sparks named William (we have his 1709 will probated in Queen Anne's County that same year), but this first William Sparks named his oldest son William, and in turn, not only did that son (William Sparks, Jr.) name a son William, but each of the other three sons of this first William Sparks (who died in 1709) also named a son William, apparently to honor their father. Fortunately, William, son of William Jr., was either given a middle name at his birth or, what is more probable, adopted the middle name "Sample." This helps greatly to distinguish him in the records of the time from his father and from his three first cousins named William Sparks. Unfortunately, there were occasions when "Sample" was omitted from his name when a clerk recorded it in an official record.

"Until about a decade ago, we thought that the William Sparks who died in Surry County, North Carolina, in

1802 was William Sample Sparks. We gradually came to realize, however, that this William Sparks who died in 1802 was actually a son of William Sample Sparks, who had died some 35 years earlier. Unfortunately, this erroneous identification was given in several early issues of THE SPARKS QUARTERLY . A citation for each of these errors will appear at the end of this article.

"In the QUARTERLY of March, 1971, Whole No. 73, pp. 1371-1389, appeared a study of the early Sparks families of Kent, Talbot, and Queen Anne's Counties, Maryland. On pages 3881-3889, we presented a biographical record of the first William Sparks to live in that area and who wrote his will in June 1709 in Queen Anne's County. This will was probated in the County Court when the justices met the following October, which means that he had died in the summer or early autumn of 1709. There we presented documentary proof that this first William Sparks had come to Maryland from the county of Hampshire in England. These same records prove that he had a brother named John Sparks who lived near William Sparks in Maryland, dying in 1700. In his will, John Sparks referred to two sons named John Sparks and George Sparks still in England. Another document proves that in 1716 John and George were living in Christchurch Parish in Hampshire County. From information recently provided us by Susan Sparks LeDuc of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, who also descends from this branch of the family, we believe that the above William and John Sparks may have been sons of Thomas and Joane (Davis) Sparks who were married in Fareham Parish in Hampshire County, England on October 19, 1635. Among their children baptised in that parish were William Sparks, baptised on August 6 , 1646, and John Sparks, baptised on December 3, 1649. While the ages of these two children appear to fit those of William and John Sparks who later appeared in Maryland, we must beg our readers to treat these relationships as speculative until more extensive proof can be obtained. (Thomas Sparks of Fareham Parish had two other sons: Francis Sparks who was aptized on July 20,

1641, and Richard Sparks who was baptized on December 10, 1658.) Baptisms in England in the 1600s were usually performed soon after a child's birth. "William Sparks (died 1709), the first American ancestor of this branch of the Sparks family, came to the colony of Maryland in or about 1663. During the next 45 years, he accumulated a good deal of property which he passed on to his wife, Mary, and to his children under his will. As noted earlier, one of his sons was named William, and while the elder William Sparks was living, this son was called William Sparks, Jr., in official records. We believe that William Sparks, Jr., was the eldest son of William Sparks and that he was born about 1674. He was married twice, his first wife being Margaret Hamilton, daughter of Josiah Hamilton, to whom he had been married no later than March 1696 and who was the mother of William Sample Sparks. (Margaret Hamilton was identified as the wife of William Sparks and the daughter of Josiah Hamilton in a New Castle County, Delaware, deed dated March 31, 1696, and recorded in Deed Book B-1, pp. 101-02; Josiah Hamilton had died by this date and property in New Castle that had been inherited by Margaret was sold in this deed.)" (JS Note: It was later determined that there was no such person as Josiah Hamilton. That deed referred to Josyn Hamilton, formerly Josyn (Boyer) Sample, Widow of William Sample, who were William Sample Sparks' grandparents. See the December 2000 issue of the QUARTERLY, Whole No. 192, pp 5443-5461.)

"Sometime prior to 1729, Margaret (Hamilton) Sparks died, and William Sparks, Jr., then married Anne ---, who died on December 16, 1730. (The Julian Calendar was still used by England and her colonies in 1730, and Anne's date of death under the Gregorian Calendar adopted by England in 1752 would have been on December 27, 1730, according to today's reckoning.) Anne Sparks' death was recorded in St. Luke's Parish Register in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. William Sparks, Jr. died about 1735, we believe, but no probate of his estate has been found among

Queen Anne's County records.

"William Sparks , Jr. had three brothers who, along with himself, were named in their father's will of June 1709. They were George Sparks, born about 1679; John Sparks, born about 1684; and Joseph Sparks ,born about 1689 . The elder William Sparks also mentioned a deceased daughter in his will, who had married a man named Hynson.

"William Sparks, Jr. and each of his brothers had several children, resulting in at least 35 Sparks grandchildren for the elder William Sparks (died 1709). As mentioned earlier, four of these grandchildren were named William in his honor. Dr. Paul E. Sparks, as has been noted, has spent many years studying the records pertaining to this branch of the Sparks family, and in the QUARTERLY of June 1988, Whole No. 142, pp.3229-31, he presented a list of these 35 probable grandchildren, with notes identifying each as best he could. The William Sparks shown as number 32 on this list was, we are convinced, the William Sample Sparks who is the subject of this article. "Middle names were very rarely used before the 19th century, and we suspect that "Sample" was added by our subject to help distinguish himself in official records from his father and his three cousins who were also named William Sparks. When it was that he may have added "Sample" to his name, we do not know, nor do we know why the name "Sample" was chosen. This was a Maryland surname, and it is possible that there was some connection between the Sparks and Sample families . Each time that a record was made that had been initiated by William Sample Sparks, whether in Maryland or later in North Carolina, his full name appeared, but when a clerk recorded his name in a court or church record, his middle name was usually omitted. This was probably because middle names were so rare in the 17th and 18th centuries. (See note above re Whole No. 192 revealing the source of the name Sample.)

"In the several instances where William Sample Sparks signed a document which has been preserved, he signed by mark, as did his father and grandfather. Not everyone in those days who signed by mark, however, was illiterate, and even if they could not write, they could often read.

"Prior to the creation of St. Luke's Parish in Queen Anne's County, the parish which included the area where the Sparks family lived was St. Paul's Parish, the records for which, unfortunately, have not been preserved. In 1728, a petition addressed to the Upper and Lower Houses of the Assembly of the Province of Maryland was circulated for signatures. It requested that a new parish be created because "many souls have to travel as much as twenty to thirty miles to keep the Lord's Day." Among the signers of this petition was "William Sparks, Senr. "This was surely the William Sparks born about 1674 who had been called "William Sparks, Jr." until his father died in 1709. In 1728, with his father having been dead for nearly 20 years and his own son, also named William, having come of age, it was logical that he now be called "Senior."

"Also among the signers of this 1728 petition were two other men whose names appeared simply as "William Sparks." We are confident that one of these was our William Sample Sparks--someone probably obtained his permission to add his name and omitted the middle name "Sample," or it is possible that he had not yet begun using it. The second William Sparks on this petition was probably the son of John Sparks and a first cousin to William Sample Sparks. (William Sparks, son of John, was born about 1706.) John Sparks also signed this petition, as did two men named George Sparks. One of these was doubtless the George Sparks, born about 1679, who was a son of the elder William Sparks who had died in 1709; the other was either George's son or a nephew.

"The petition was successful, and St. Paul's Parish was divided to form St. Luke's Parish. The Sparks family

was included in the new parish. The marriage dated August 24, 1732, which was recorded in St. Luke's Parish register (pg. 41) of a William Sparks and a Mary Courmon (or Corman) may have been that of our William Sample Sparks, but, if so, it must not have been his first marriage. Our reason for believing that there had been an earlier marriage date for William Sample Sparks is the fact that his son, William Sparks (died 1801 in Surry County, North Carolina) obtained his first grant of land in Frederick County, Maryland, on July 11, 1749. He must have been at least 21 years old in order to qualify for a land grant, which would place his birth at least as early as 1728.

"A map showing where the Sparks family of St. Luke's Parish in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, lived, appeared on the cover of the QUARTERLY for March 1971, Whole No. 73.

"We have found no record of William Sample Sparks ever owning any land. He must have been a tradesman, perhaps an inn keeper. (As will be noted later, there are records of his having had a license to operate an "ordinary," a term used for an inn or tavern, after he moved to Rowan County, North Carolina.)

"From our brief records pertaining to William Sample Sparks found in Queen Anne's County and Frederick County, Maryland, it appears that he had both financial and health problems at different times in his life. For example, on page 236 of the register of St. Luke's Parish (this was copied about 1899 from earlier records now in the Library of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore), there is a record dated 1736 indicating that he had moved out of the parish without paying his church tax. In fact, he was called a "Runaway Insolvent" in the parish record. At that time, every adult white male, regardless of his personal religious convictions, was required to pay a yearly tax to the Church of England. William Sample Sparks' tax for 1736 was 6 pence, but he left the parish without paying it. (In this parish record, his middle name was used.)

"It was in or about 1736 that William Sample Sparks left Queen Anne's County with his family and moved to the western part of the Province of Maryland. To do so, he would have crossed the Chesapeake Bay and probably traveled near, or possibly through, the small town of Baltimore, which had been laid out in 1730, to reach the western edge of what is now Carroll County, although at the time it was part of Prince George's County. He settled in the area of Big Pipe and Little Pipe Creeks, perhaps close to where they join to become Double Pipe Creek, which, after about a mile, flows into the Monocacy River just above today's Millers Bridge, about 5 miles north of the town of Woodsboro. (Little Pipe Creek, which flows north and west, now forms the boundary between Carroll and Frederick Counties for several miles.)

"The area in which Sparks settled, which is drained by the Monocacy River and its tributaries, was then commonly called "Monocacy," as the Indians had called it before the appearance of the white man. This area comprised most of what is now Frederick County along with part of today's Carroll County. This area called Monocacy was a true frontier in the 1730s, and William Sample Sparks and his family were true pioneers. He doubtless built his own cabin after his arrival. Record keeping was very limited, except for recording the granting and selling of land. Because Sparks was not a land owner, nor did he become involved in any major lawsuit, his name was rarely recorded during the nearly two decades that he lived there. No church existed there in the 1730's except a small Quaker meeting-house. He did not join this group, nor did he join the Lutheran Church established later by German settlers.

"A map showing the Big and Little Pipe Creeks, along with the other streams flowing into the Monocacy River, is given below.(p. 3488)

"When Frederick County was cut off from Prince George's County in 1748, it contained all of the wester

portion of the province, including Washington County (which was cut off from Frederick in 1776), as well as Allegany County (which was cut off from Washington in 1789) , and Garret County (which was cut off from Allegany in 1872). To the east, Frederick County also included, until 1776, Montgomery County, and from 1748 until 1837, a portion of Carroll County was included in Frederick.

"This large area that became Frederick County in 1748 had been part of Prince George's County from the time that Prince George's County had been cut off from Charles and Calvert Counties in 1695. Between 1695 and 1748, Prince George's County adjoined Baltimore County and comprised the entire western half of the province.

"Our earliest reference to William Sample Sparks among court records of Prince George's County is in the probate file of a man named Allen Farquhar who died in December 1738. Allen Farquhar (he signed his will on November 30, 1738, as "Allen Farquer"), was a miller. He had moved from Chester County, Pennsylvania, sometime after 1726 and settled on either the Big or Little Pipe Creek. He was a man of some means, and his mill served the early settlers for several miles around. Most business was conducted on credit in those days, but all bills came due when a creditor died. As part of the inventory of Allen Farquhar's estate, a list was made of all of those who according to his account book, were in his debt for milling services. Over 60 names were listed, including several Indians. The fourth name on the list was that of William Sparks in the amount of one pound and 14 shillings. It is not surprising that this middle name was omitted in Farquhar's account book since he was the only Sparks in the neighborhood. (The inventory of Farquhar's estate is preserved in the Hall of Records in Baltimore, Prince George's County Inventories, Vol. 24 , pages 8-10; we are grateful to George J. Horvath of Eldersburg, Maryland for discovering this record for us.)

"At some point following his settling in the Monocacy area, William Sample Sparks was joined there by his uncle, Joseph Sparks, with his family. We know that Joseph Sparks was still in Queen Anne's County, Maryland in the spring of 1738 when, on April 27, 1738, his son was baptized in St . Luke's Parish church. Joseph and his wife, Mary, named this son William. It was some time during the decade that followed that Joseph Sparks and his family joined William Sample Sparks in the Monocacy area, and it was there that he died in 1749.

"Joseph Sparks, uncle of William Sample Sparks, died the year following the creation of Frederick County. He was a relatively young man when he died, somewhere in his 50s, and he left his wife, Mary, with a large family. He did not leave a will, which may suggest that he died suddenly. The records pertaining to the settlement of his estate are in the Maryland Hall of Records. As was customary, a detailed inventory of Joseph Sparks' possessions was taken. It was a Maryland law that two relatives of the deceased should certify the accuracy of such an inventory by signing their names to it; the two chief creditors of the estate were also supposed to sign. The children and spouse of the deceased rarely signed such a document, since they would be heirs, so other close relatives were expected to perform this service. So, after the inventory of Joseph Sparks' belongings was completed by two of his neighbors in June 1749, William Sample Sparks signed it (by mark). His full name was given. The other signer was "Rachell Sparks," who likewise signed by mark. In-laws were permitted to sign Maryland inventories and, while we cannot be certain, it would appear that Rachel may have been the wife of William Sample Sparks.

"If, indeed, the Rachel Sparks who signed with William Sample Sparks as kin of Joseph Sparks in 1749 was the wife of William Sample Sparks, we must conclude that she was either a third wife or that the marriage record

cited earlier for a William Sparks and a Mary Courman was not that of William Sample Sparks. It may well be that his one and only wife was named Rachel. There was not a great deal of difference in the ages of William Sample Sparks and his uncle, Joseph Sparks. The latter was born about 1689 while William Sample Sparks was born about 1700. While Joseph's children were first cousins of William Sample, they were nearly a generation younger than he.

"The widow of Joseph Sparks was named Mary - - we have found no clue to reveal her maiden name. She became administratrix of her husband's estate. The two disinterested parties who prepared the inventory were Joseph Wood and William Carmack. From a recent book entitled PIONEERS OF OLD MONOCACY, THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, 1721-1743, by Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dern, we know that Joseph Wood lived on Lingamore Creek about a half-mile south of present day Unionville. William Carmack (1716- 1776) had moved to the Lingamore Creek area after 1733 from Cecil County, Maryland. The two creditors who signed the inventory of the estate of Joseph Sparks in 1749 were David Young, who claimed that Sparks had owed him "one pound and four pence," and Osborn Sprigg. The amount owed to Sprigg was not specified, although in the final settlement he was identified as "Sheriff" and was paid in tobacco valued at 3 pounds, 14 shillings, and 4pence "Recalling that the mother of William Sample Sparks was Margaret (Hamilton) Sparks, it is interesting that a John Hamilton was one of the 1749 creditors of Joseph Sparks in Frederick County. (We have not succeeded as yet in tracing the ancestry of Margaret Hamilton other than knowing her father's name was Josiah Hamilton.)

"The children of Joseph and Mary Sparks were identified in a Frederick County court record dated August 1750 in which Mary was ordered to give to each of her children his/her proper share of Joseph's estate. The children were named as" Solomon, Joseph,

Charles, Jonas , Jonathan, William, George, Merum, Mary, Ann, Rebecka, and Sarah.

"Our next record pertaining to William Sample Sparks is dated 1750 .This was a petition submitted by him to the Frederick County Court at its June 1750 sitting. As recorded in Liber 1748-50 of the Frederick County "Circuit Court Judgments," Folio 557, this petition reads: To the worshipful the Justices of Frederick County Court, now setting, the petition of William Sample Sparks, Pipe Creek One Hundred, humbly sheweth that your petitioner has been afflicted many years with a sore leg that renders him very incapable to maintain his family; that if ye worships would please make an order to set your Petitioner Levy free, your Petitioner as bound shall pray, etc. Upon reading whic petition and consideration thereof had, it is ordered by the Court here that the Petitioner be levy free fo the future.

" From this petition, it appears that William Sample Sparks still had children to support who were still living at home in 1750. "A key source for genealogical research in Maryland are the land records, which are, in some ways, different from those of any other American colony. The period in Maryland's history with which we are concerned here, fell into what is known as the "Second Period of Proprietary Rule, 1716-1776." Prior to 1683, land had been granted to individuals who paid the transportation costs to bring settlers, including them- selves, to the province, but after 1683 individuals could obtain land grants without bringing in settlers. Because the colony was governed by a "Proprietor," however, annual rent had to be paid to him even though an individual held title to his land. This all ended, of course, with the American Revolution. Another peculiar feature of landownership in Maryland was the custom of naming each piece of land when it was initially granted. The first owner chose the name for it by which it would usually be known thereafter, even when sold to another party. This makes tracing of land ownership much easier in

Maryland than in other states. Sometimes the names chosen for the land had genealogical significance. When land was plentiful, as it was when William Sample Sparks moved to what became Frederick County in 1748, individuals often "squatted" on vacant land until they or another party obtained an official grant. This is probably what was done by William Sample Sparks. Joseph Sparks probably did the same, but had he not died in 1749, it is likely that he would have tried to obtain a land grant following the creation of Frederick County in 1748.

"William Sparks, son of William Sample Sparks, (we feel certain that he was the oldest son), began acquiring land in Frederick County in 1749. He left Frederick County in 1764 to join his father and brothers in Rowan County, North Carolina.

"Another son of William Sample Sparks was named Matthew and was born about 1730. We believe he was his father's second son. According to a descendant, he married Sarah Thompson, but whether this marriage took place in Maryland or after he moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, in or about 1754, we do not know. An article devoted to Matthew Sparks and his family appeared in the QUARTERLY of June 1961, Whole No. 34, pp.556-566. At that time, however, we had not identified him as a son of William Sample Sparks and stated simply that the two men were somehow related. We know now that he was the same Matthew Sparks who was shown as a creditor in the inventory of the estate of one Matthew Hopkins who had died in Frederick County a year or two following the death of Joseph Sparks. Although undated, this inventory was taken sometime in 1751; it showed that he owed Matthew 475 pounds of tobacco when he died. (See Frederick County Inventories, Book A, No.2, p. 187.) Tobacco was a common medium of exchange, and this probably meant that young Matthew Sparks had performed some kind of labor for Hopkins for which he had not yet been paid when he died. The other Frederick County record pertaining to Matthew

Sparks is a court record dated November 1752 describing a proposed road in the area of Beaver Dam Branch, Great Pipe Creek, and Little Pipe Creek which "has been lately marked by Matthew Sparks." The person advocating that this road be built, Dr. Charles Carroll, indicated that Matthew Sparks had performed this task at his "instance and charge." It would appear that Matthew Sparks had acquired some surveying skills in order to perform this service for Carroll. The court rejected the proposal, however; Dr. Carroll died in 1755. (See Frederick County Court Judgments, November 1742.)

"Solomon Sparks, son of Joseph Sparks and a first cousin of William Sample Sparks, obtained a grant of 93 acres of land on the east side of Beaver Dam Creek on March 20, 1750. Because, under the old Julian Calendar, the new year did not begin until March 25, it was on March 31, 1751, that Solomon made his purchase according to today's calendar. (England and her colonies adopted our present Gregorian Calendar in 1752 which changed the New Year to January 1 and moved the reckoning of days ahead by eleven.) Solomon Sparks was required to pay a yearly "Rent of Three Shillings and nine pence Sterling in Silver or Golde." (See Frederick County Liber GS #1, Folio 116-118.) He chose the name "Cold Friday" for his tract of land. On June 30, 1753, Solomon Sparks, with the approval of his wife, Sarah, sold this tract for 35 pounds to Matthew Howard. (See Frederick County Deeds, Liber E, Folio 194-95.)

"We believe that the reason Solomon Sparks sold "Cold Friday" in November 1753 was that he, along with several other members of the Sparks family, including William Sample Sparks, were preparing to move from Frederick County, Maryland, to the newly formed county of Rowan in North Carolina. They probably made the journey in the spring of 1754. "The destination of these Sparks emigrants was a the land called "Lord Granville's Domain between the Yadkin and the Catawba Rivers" in North Carolina. North

Carolina had been established originally as a proprietary colony belonging to eight English lords. In 1729, however, seven of these lords sold their rights to the colony to the King, but one, Earl of Granville, refused to part with his share which, in 1744, was set apart with specified boundaries. Part of his "domain" consisted of a vast area which had been organized in 1749 as Anson County, but from which Rowan County had been cut off as a separate county in 1753. Shortly after Rowan County had been created, the county seat was established and named initially Rowan Court House, but this was changed later to Salisbury. "By 1754, the year in which we believe that William Sample Sparks, with two of his sons and three of his cousins (sons of his deceased uncle, Joseph Sparks), set out for North Carolina, a great many other settlers had already made the journey. Agents for Lord Granville had advertised the virtues of this new land, particularly in Ireland and Germany. Thus, many of the early pioneers were Irish and German immigrants. How it was that William Sample Sparks and his sons and cousins learned of "Lord Granville's Domain" we shall probably never know, and we can only guess why they were attracted to it. A possible reason was a growing fear that there would be warfare between England and France and that this would result in Indian uprisings in western Maryland. Indeed, what would be called the French and Indian War in America was about to commence. There was also the fact that desirable vacant land was much less plentiful than had been the case a few years earlier, and owners of good land in Frederick County were demanding high prices. There was the pleasing prospect of being able not only to obtain new land in North Carolina at a much lower cost, but also there were reports that the soil there was unusually rich and that the climate was more mild than in western Maryland.

"Whether other Frederick County families joined the Sparkses in their pioneering venture, we do not know, but it seems likely. The men named Sparks in the group besides William Sample Sparks were his sons

Matthew (about 34 years old) and James (who was still in his teens ); there were also three sons of Joseph Sparks; Solomon Sparks (about 27), Jonas Sparks (about 20); and Jonathan Sparks (about 18). One or more daughters of William Sample Sparks may also have been included as perhaps, also, one or more of the daughters of Joseph Sparks ( died 1749).

"We can only speculate on the route followed by these pioneers. The following paragraphs from James S. Brawley's THE ROWAN STORY, 1753 -1953 (Salisbury, N.C., 1953, pp. 12-13), helps us to imagine what their path may have been.

"At the time Granville's survey was run (1746) people were beginning to fill the valley between the Yadkin and Catawba Rivers. The first settlers seem to have followed the river courses from South Carolina, principally the Pee Dee and Santee, and picked up lands in the southern part of what is now Rowan. Others poured in from Pennsylvania and traveled down the "Great Wagon Road" that led them through the Shenandoah Valley into the North Carolina Piedmont. A record of one German, John Ramsour, showed that he traveled 502 miles from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to Salisbury.

#### William Sample Sparks

spouse: ???, Rachel (\*1702 - )  
 - m. BEF. 1725 in MD  
 -----child: Sparks, William (~1725 - 1801)  
 -----child: Sparks, Matthew (~1730 - 1793)  
 spouse: Courmon, Mary (\*1715 - )  
 - m. 24 AUG 1732 in St. Lukes Parish, Queen Anne's,  
 MD  
 -----child: Sparks, James (>1732 - )  
 -----child: Sparks, George (\*1743 - )  
 -----child: Sparks, Rachel (1757 - 1845)

My note-other places (Sparks Qrtrly) Rachael is shown as child of wife #1-& Matthew is shown as child by #2 wife, Mary Courman-sgs

#### SEE ALSO BELOW

Our first definite record of the William Sparks who di d in 1709 living in the area that is now Queen Anne's County, Maryland, is a deed by which he and a man named Thomas Heather purchased jointly a tract of 100 acres from Richard Pernes on July 17, 1672, for 5,600 pounds of tobacco. This deed was recorded in Talbot County (Deed Book I, p.213). The land was described as "Lying and being on the North Side of St. Michaels River beginning at a marked Oake Standing at the head of a Small branch Running North West & Runing for breadth down the branch East South east 50 poles to a marked gumme tree then North East up the River for Length 320 poles being formerly laid out for Francis Martin." The witnesses were James and Mary Murphy.

"Apparently William Sparks and Thomas Heather were business associates, perhaps even partners, because five years later, on October 16, 1677, Heather publicly acknowledged that he owed Sparks 20,000 pounds of tobacco. In this document, Heather's wife was identified as Anna; the document was witnessed by Ralph Elston, Jr., and Richard Duddley. (Talbot County Deed Book 3, p. 93) Tobacco was the chief medium of currency at that time in Maryland and Virginia and remained as currency until sometime after the Revolutionary War.

"There is no evidence that William Sparks ever lived o the land in St. Michael's River, located in what is now the southern portion of Queen Anne's County. On July 21, 1696, William Sparks (called William Sparks Senr .) and his wife Mary sold this tract to Alexander Ray for 10,000 pounds of tobacco. Apparently he had acquired Thomas Heather's portion of this land earlier. (See Talbot County Deed Book 7, p. 224.)

"When we published the March 1971 article, we had not discovered the Talbot County deed dated September 17, 1677 (Talbot Co. Land Record GG#:85:87) by which Thomas Heather (spelled "Hatherd" in the deed), with the consent of his wife, Anna, sold to William Sparks his share (50 acres) of this 100-acre tract. In this deed, both Sparks (spelled Sparkes) and Heather were described as then being residents of Talbot County, but what is especially interesting about this 1677 deed is that it reveals that it was on this same 100-acre tract that "the said Sparkes now liveth." The tract, as we have noted, was located on "the north side of St. Michaels River. " Today, this river is called "Miles River". It is in what is now the southern portion of Queen Annes County.

"During the years from the early 1670's until his death in 1709, William Sparks's name was frequently recorded in the official records of Kent, Talbot, and Queen Anne's Counties. We cannot, however, make many statements of fact regarding his personal life. H was probably born about 1640 in England.

His wife's name was Mary and they had at least five children, four sons and one daughter. William Sparks gradually acquired a considerable amount of land. At one time he owned nearly 1,000 acres on Island Creek, a tributary of Southeast Creek, which in turn is a tributary of Chester River. He was a member of the Anglican faith.

"On August 16, 1681, William Sparks purchased a tract of 100 acres from Michael Hackett and his wife Mary of Talbot County for 5,000 pounds of tobacco. This tract had originally been granted on October 16, 1670, to John Mitchell at which time it had been given the name "Adventure." Mitchell had later sold it to Hackett, wh sold it to William Sparks. This deed of 1681 (Book 4, p. 68) and the rent rolls describe the tract as lying on the south side of Chester River and on the south-east side of Island Creek, and adjoining land owned by John Hawkins. The deed by which William Sparks purchased this tract was witnessed by Henry Willcockes and John

Parsons. On June 1, 1691, William Sparks sold this tract along with 100 additional acres to Samuel Wither (Book 5, p. 336).

John Hawkins, who owned land adjoining William Sparks's "Adventure ", also owned land on Coursey's Creek; in 1706 the Assembly passed an act to establish the county-seat of Queen Anne's County on a tract of 100 acres "upon the plantation of Major John Hawkins, in Coursey 's Creek to be called Queens-Towne."

"At about the same time that William Sparks purchased "Adventure" from Michael Hackett, he also acquired a tract of 250 acres which had been originally as part of a 450-acre tract for Michael Hackett on July 18, 1681. This 250-acre tract was known as "Sparks Choice" and was located on the "east side of Chester River near the head of a small branch of Island Creek."

Although we have not found the actual patent by which he acquired this important tract, we know from the Rent Rolls and subsequent deeds that this was the land on which William Sparks and his family actually lived. Anthony Ivy owned the remaining 200 acres in the original tract of 450 acres of Michael Hackett.

"On September 10, 1684, William Sparks obtained a patent from the Province of Maryland for another tract of land adjoining his home plantation comprising 100 acres. It had been surveyed for him on June 21, 1683 (Rent Rolls, Queen Anne's County, p. 242). To this new tract, he gave the name "Sparks Own", or "Sparks Oune" as it was first recorded in Talbot County Deed Book A, p. 507, although it had been previously owned by Anthony Ivy and his wife Anne. William Sparks purchased this tract from William Coursey, Jr., assign for Col. Vinceant Lowe who had obtained it as part of a tract of 3,000 acres granted to him on March 20, 1683.

The description of William Sparks's tract reads as follows on the patent dated September 10, 1683: "...all that tract or parcell of land called Sparks Oune lying in the county of Talbott on the east side of Chester River

beginning at a marked oake standing neere the head of a branch on the north side of Island Creeke and running north north-west parallel with a line of a tract of land held by Michaell Hackett to Capt. Hide one hundred perches untill it intersects an east and by south line of a parcell of land formerly laid out for John Mitchell and then running with the said line two hundred perches untill it come to a parcell of land called Sparks Choice and running thence south south-east one hundred perches untill it comes to a parcell of land called Mount Hope lately taken up by Henry Wilcocks and from the end of that said line west and north to the first tree two hundred perches containing ...one hundred acres..."

For this grant William Sparks agreed to pay the Lord Proprietor "Rent of four Shillings Sterling in Silver or Gold." (Talbot County Land Records, Book SD #A, p.507.)

"Island Creek, mentioned in the patent for "Sparks Own", has its source about four miles northeast of Centreville, the county seat of Queen Annes County. It meanders nearly due north as a gentle stream through fairly level land until it reaches Southeast Creek, nearly nine miles away. There, Southeast Creek empties into the Chester River about three miles west of the community of Church Hill. The surrounding area is low and inclined to be marshy. It was, and is, an agricultural area. One of the roads serving the area today is Sparks Mill Road.

"On October 22, 1687, a tract of 114 acres known as "Sparks Outlet "was surveyed for William Sparks. The patent for this tract was issued on June 12, 1688 (Talbot County Deed Book 2, p. 625). According to this patent, this tract was assigned to Sparks by Thomas Smithson who was an assignee of Daniel Walker, all being of Talbot County . Walker had acquired this tract as part of a grant of 1,200 acres on June 13, 1687.

In the patent, it is described as "that tract or parcel of land called Sparkes Outlett lyeing in Talbott County

neare Chester River betwixt the Land of the said William Sparkes and the Land of John Hawkins beginning at a marked Red oake standing in or near the line of John Hawkins and--?-- runs thence south-west most eighty perches to another marked Red oake thence southeast forty perches to a marked blacke oake att the Corner of a little pocoson, thence east and by south one hundred sixty perches, ...and from the end there of Running north and by east towards the Land of John Hawkins one hundred and fourteen perches and from the end of the north and by east line runing west and by north to the first Red Oake Containing within the sd lines and now laid out for one hundred and fourteen Acres be it more or less ..... according to the Certificate of survey thereof taken and Returned into the Land office att the City of St.Maries being date the twenty second day of October one thousand six hundred eighty seaven..." For this tract William Sparks promised to pay the Lord Proprietor "Rent of foure shillings and seven pence sterling in silver or Gold..."

"A near neighbor of William Sparks was John Hamer. On May 12, 1689, William Sparks was named by Hannah Hamer, wife of John Hamer, as her "true and lawful attorney" in connection with the sale of some land.(Tal. Co. Deed Bk 5, p232)

"On June 1, 1691, William Sparks sold lot No. 6 in the Town of West Chester to John Salter, Joyner, "for a valuable consideration by me in hand already received." (Talbot County Deed Book 7, p.53). As on other occasions, William Sparks signed this deed by mark. The witnesses were John Hamer and William Godinge. John Salter appears to have been a close friend of William Sparks. He was a prominent man in the area that became Queen Anne's County in 1707 and was a member of the House of Delegates from 1708 to 1711. He was also a member of the Probate Court and a vestryman of St. Paul's Parish. John Salter was a witness along with John Hamer, Jr., to William Sparks's will when it was probated in 1709. As noted earlier in the sketch on John Sparks who died in 1700,

this same John Salter purchased a lot in West Chester from John Sparks in 1695. There is little doubt that John Sparks (died 1700) and William Sparks (died 1709) were brothers."

"On October 20, 1691, William Sparks purchased from Robert and Ann Smith a tract of 200 acres for 8,500 pounds of tobacco. This tract was part of a larger tract called "Wrights Choyse" and was located on the south side of Chester River "and on the North Side of the South East branch of a Creek in the Said River called Island Creek." In the description of this tract, there is a reference to an adjoining tract "formerly Layde out fo Robert Smith." It must have been located very near William Sparks's other holdings. The witnesses to this deed were Thomas Beckles and Sollomon Wright. (Talbot County Deed Book 5, p. 328) (Robert Smith died about 1703 and Anthony Ivy and Renatus Smith were the executors of his estate. They sold his land o Island Creek (150-acres) to John Fowler and it was noted in the deed that it adjoined land owned by John Hawkins, John Singleton, and Thomas Norris . (See Emory's history of Queen Anne's County, p. 39.) Solomon Wright, whose wife's name was Anna, was a member of a large and prominent family in Queen Anne's County; he was a churchwarden in 1698.

We believe that there were family connection between the Wright and Sparks families.)

"The day following his purchase of this 200-acre tract, William Sparks and his wife Mary sold 200 acres of their other land to Samuel Withers for 8,000 pounds of tobacco.

In all probability, William Sparks increased the value of his other holdings through this purchase and sale. As part of the 200 acres which he sold to Withers was "Sparks Own" which he had acquired in 1684. The other 100 acres was a portion of his 250 acre tract called "Sparks Choice" which he had acquired in 1681. The witnesses to this deed were Solomon Wright, John Salter, and John Chafe.

**I copied the following Court Proceedings from the Maryland Archives, which prove William Sparks was in Maryland, 1661-62 & the following Prerogative Court Records (Original sp. retained-s gs)**

**Proceedings of the Provincial Court, 1658-1662**

**Provincial Court Proceedings, 1661.** 573 Liber P. C. R. Attorney General v. Sharpe et al. p. 1091

Then was Called before the Board Peter Sharpe and John Gary who were suspected to Breake open the Govern" letters and for prooffe thereof was produced theis following papers. Aboute the first weeke of July there came a letter from the Governor directed to Mr Edward LLOYD & the lawes of the Country rowled vp which were both well sealed & deliuered to me Thomas Manning which I safely deliuered the same to James Elton in like manner Sealed

Tho. Manning This I ackknowledge to be the truth James Elton.

And James Elton declares that he delivered the sd letter and Rowle of the lawes well sealed to Henry Kent which Henry Kent ackknowledgeed to be true.

And Henry Kent declared that he deliud the sd letter & Rowle of the lawes well sealed to Thomas Dawbone which Thomas Dawbone ackknowledgeed to be true.

And Thomas Dawbone declared that he deliued the said letter and Rowle of the lawes well sealed to Thomas Evans which **Thomas Evans** ackknowledgees to be true and they were prsently deliued in like good Condicon to **Wm Sparkes of the same howse** which he ackknowledgees to be true.

And the sd **Wm Sparkes** declares that he deliued the sd letter and Rowle of lawes well Sealed to Isaack Abrahams which Isaack Abrahams ackknowledgeed to be true.

And the sd Isaack Abrahams declares that he deliued the said letter and Rowle of lawes well Sealed to Tho: Eldrid which Thomas Eldred accknowledged to be true

And the sd Thomas Eldrid declares he deliued the said letter & Rowle of lawes well sealed to John Boulton .... Boulton accknow- ledged to be true .... that he deliued the ..etc, etc..

Sworne before me this **6t Sepr 1662** Tho. Manning  
The Mayd is Peter Sharpes Servant who when she was from her Masters howse in a manner denied what she tould me there And Robt Harwood tould me that John Gary was fingring the lawes of the Country and sayd he would very fayne reade them, And Francis Riggs tould me that Doctor Stansby would sweare the letter had been sealed with Salue

Tomazin Kent and Martha Carre affirme vpon oathe tht the Seale of the letter & lawes were defaced when they were brought to Nicholas Carrs howse Tomazin T Kent his marke

Sworne before me 6t Sept 1662 Tho. Manning

The depn of ffrancis [Riggs] aged 26 yeares or thereabouts this 27th Sept 1662 Sayth That being at Capt Samson Warings he heard Capt Manning and other people discourse Concerning the breaking open of the Governors letters & by all circumstance they found that they were broke open att Peter Sharpes And that John Gary wisht he could see the Acts of Assembly & that he this depont heard John Stansby say that when the letters that were goeing vp came to their howse he found them sealed with some Salue and further sayth not Francis Riggs Jurat Coram me Philip Calvert

Ordered that Capt Thomas Manning examine vpon oathe Edward Lees or any other person concerning the breakeing open of letters that if they refuse to sweare for to binde them over to the next Co"

Part of Introduction to Court Proceedings:

"John Lemaire (De Le Maire) appears in 1673 as  
 chirurgion in a deed in  
 which he conveys land on Portobacco Creek (pp. 454,  
 456). He was a native of  
 Anjou, France, and was naturalized in 1674 (Arch. Md.  
 II; 400-402). In **1674**  
 the court gave him the custody and care of **William**  
**Sparke, "a lame man"**;  
 if he make a perfect cure he was to receive 2000  
 pounds of tobacco out of the  
 public levy, and if **Sparke** remained sound one whole  
 year longer another 1000  
 pounds; but if the patient died within a half year only  
 1000 pounds was to  
 be paid him (p. 563)."

Charles County Court Proceedings, 1671-1674. 563  
 At a Court held in Charles County on the **ioth day of**  
**June Anno 1674**

Comissioners prsent  
 Mr Thomas Mathewes Mr Jno Stone  
 Mr Jno Bowles Mr Robt Henly  
 Mr Thomas Hussy Mr Wm Barton

P563

Upon peticon made to the Court by **Wm Sparke a lame**  
**man** It was ordred that Jno Lemaire receive him into his  
 Custody and provided that the sd Lemaire doe make a  
 pfect cure of his legg that then he bee pd two  
 thousand poundes of tob out of the County Levye & in  
 case the **sd Sparke** doe remaine Sound one whole  
 yeare & tht Jno Lemaire prsent him So to the Court  
 then the sd Lemaire to be pd one thousand poundes of  
 tob more the next Yeare, and if it Shall Soe happen that  
 the **sd Sparke** Should dye wthin halfe a yeare that then  
 the Sd Lemaire be pd one thousand poundes of tob:

Sept 13, 1675 Robert Harwood Estate-Co. Not shown  
 List of Debts incl: **William Sparcks**

Prerogative Court Records, Talbot Co, Md-Oct. 31,  
1676

Est. of Robert Harwood, List of Debts Incl **William Sparkes**

Prerogative Court Records, Co. Not given, Md Nov 11,  
1676

Thomas Henfrey Est-#4630-List of Debts incl **William Sparkes**

### **Court Proceedings, June, 1679**

**Wm Sparkes**

agt

Philip Lynes

In Ejectmt Henry Hardy Lessor And in the same cause  
itt was ordered by the consent of Robert Ridgely  
Attorney for the plaintiffe & Christopher Rousby  
Attorney for Philip Lynes, ---- very lengty land suit-  
which ends as:

Provincial Court Proceedings, 1679/80. 409 Liber W. C.  
Therefore Comand is given to the Sheriffe of st Maryes  
County that hee Cause to come here Twelve &c. by  
whome &c and who neither &c To Recognize &c,  
because as well &ca

Now here att this day To witt, The Eighteenth day of  
ffebruary in the sixth yeare of the Dominion of the  
Right Honoblc Charles Lord Baltemore &c Annoq  
Dominj One thousand six hundred and eighty came the  
said partyes by their Attorneys aforesaid. And the Jur "  
impannelled being called Likewise Came (to witt)  
Richard lLoyd, Michael Ashford, William Wells, John  
Gray, Edward Abbot, Emanuel Ratliffe, John Evans, John  
Wynn, Edward Morgan, John Martindale, John Browne,  
& Henry Morgan, Who being elected tryed and Sworne  
to say ye truth in the prmises Upon their oathes doe  
say, That the said Philip Lines is guilty of the Tresp se  
and Ejectment above imposed Upon him, Therefore Itt  
is Considered That the said **William Sparkes** as Lessee

to the said Henry Hardy Recover against the said Philip Lynes his said Terme yet to Come of and in the said Messuage and One hundred and fifty Acres of Land called Hardys purchase with the appurtenances Whereof by the Jury aforesaid it is above found the said philip to be guilty of the Trespasse and Ejectment aforesaid, and also the Sume of Nine thousand one hundred sixty & seaven pounds of Tobacco. Costs of Suite, and the Defendt in Mercy &c.

Proceedings of the Provincial Court, 1681-1683

p. 632 October the 19th 1682

**Wm Sparkes**  
Henry Hardy  
agt  
Philip Lynes

Lessee of Comand was given to the Sheriffe of Charles County that whereas at a Provincial Court held at the City of St. Maryes Eighteenth Day of ffebruary, Anno Doni 1680 before the Justices of the same Court in an action of Ejectment then and there Depending between **William Sparkes** Lessee of Henry Hardy plt and Philip Lynes deft Itt was Considered by Our Said Justices that the Said **William Sparkes** Lessee as aforesaid Recover against the said Philip Lynes his terme Yett to come and unexpired of and in One messuage of One hundred and fifty Acres of Land lyeing in Charles County aforesaid Called **Hardyes Purchase** lately in the tenure & occupation of Thomas Peirseay decd wch the Said Henry Hardy to him the said **Sparkes** Demised for a terme wch is not yet past & likewise the Sume of Nine thousand One hundred sixty and Seaven pounds of tobacco for his Costs of suite by him the said **William Sparkes** in that behalfe Layd out and Expended Itt was therefore comanded the said Sheriffe that of the goods and Chattles of the Said Philip Lynes If they should be found in his baliwick he should Cause to be made the aforesaid Sume of Nine

thousand One hundred Sixty and seaven pounds of tobacco: and When he had the same Soe made as aforesaid or any Part thereof the same in his Custody to keepe Soc that he Should have the Same here the Six and twentyeth day of September in the Seaventh yeare of the Dominion of the

Right honoble Charles Lord Baltemore &c Annocp Doni 1682 to render unto the Said **William Sparkes** On wch Said Six & Twentyeth day of September in the yeare aforesaid Collonel William Chandler Sheriffe of the County aforesaid made returne of the writ aforesaid that by vertue thereof he hath made of the goods and Chattles of the Said Philip Lynes the Sume of Nine thousand One hundred Sixty and Seaven pounds of tobacco

Prerogative Court Records, Talbot Co, Md-May 18, 1685-Est of William Bishop, gentleman  
List of Debts incl: **William Sparkes**

Prerogative Court Records-Co Not Given. Date: 1685  
Est of Henry Willcocks, Appraisers: John Elliot, James Ridsey, John Hamer, **William Spark**

Prerogative Court Records-Co. Not given-Dec 11, 1694  
Est of Richard & Sarah Colings (Collins)-Appraisers: James Smith & **William Sparke**

May 6, 1695 Talbot Co., Md-Will of John Ellet Wts: **Wm. Sparks Sr & Wm. Sparks, Jr**

Prerogative Court Records, Co. Not given, 1695  
Est of Mr. William Rosewell, List of Debts: Incl **William Thomas Sparks**

**Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1693-1697**  
An Accot of the Severall persons within this province of Maryland, that Signed to the Association Address presented to his Sacred Maty upon the News here Arriv'd of the horrible intended Conspiracy agt his Royall prson,

The Tenor of the sd Address followes in these words,

Vizt  
 Maryland ss.  
 The humble and Loyall Address of yor Mats Subjects  
 the  
 in yor Mats Province of Maryland.

Dread Sovereign

Tis the Remoteness of our habitations and not the less fervency of our Affections which makes Us (perhaps) later then others in Addressing yor Maty and Joyning with the rest of yor Loyall Subjects in Congratulating yor deliverance from the horrid designed Assassination against yor Sacred person for wch we magnifye Gods mercy and acknowledge his providence Looking upon all Engaged therein, as prodigious monsters of ingratitude and Disloyalty who not Content undr yor Mats most Serene Governmt to Enjoy their proportion of Advantages purchased to yor Subjects by the Toyl and hazard of yor Sacred Person Endeavoured to prostitute them to fforreign Vassalage and Tyranny, It is mannifest our Enemies Dispair of prvailling agt Us undr yor Mats inimitable Conduct which made them attempt by one Single Stroake Levelled at yor Mats person not only to wound and weaken all English hearts, but all Europe in Confederacy with yot Maty

We all therefore in this our lower Station Desiring to Demonstrate our Selves Loyall Subjects to yor Maty and true English men by Concurring with our good patriotts in the Parliamt of England in their Just Resentments o soe flagicious a design doe with thm heartily Sincerely & Solemnly proffess Testifye & declare that yor Maty is rightfull & lawfull King of the Realm of England & all the Dominions thereunto belonging And we doe mutually promise & Engage to Stand by & Assist Each other to the Utmost of our power in the Support and Defence of yor Mats Governmt against the late King James and all his Adherents According to An Act made in the ffirst year of yor Maty and of our late most gracious Queen Mary of Blessed Memory Entituling an Act declaring the rights & Liberty's of the Subjects & settling the succession of the Crown And to the same

shall Ever add our Earnest Prayers tht God would lengthen yor days and Continue you among Us in all happiness to the Joy of yor people and the Terrour of yoT Enemies; and that yor Terrestriall Glory here may be Succeeded by that of Eternity.

Signed:

Signed by the Justices, Grand Jury, and Clerk of the Provll

Signed by the Civill Officers and Magistrates &cca of t Maries County.

Civell Officers & Magistrates &ca of Kent

p. 3° Signed by the Military Officers of **St Maries County.**

Includes name of: **Wm Sparkes**

Signed by the Military Officers of **Kent County.**

Includes: **Wm Sparkes, William Sparkes**

Prerogative Court Records, Co. Not given, April 27, 1696

Est of Col. Phillemon Loyd-List of Debts Incl **William Sparkes**

Prerogative Court Records, Co No Given, Mar. 3, 1700  
Est of Capt Benjamin Dolten, Merchant of London- List of Debts: Incl **William Sparks, SR**

List of Bad Debts: Incl **John Sparks, Jr**

Prerogative Court Records, Queen Anne's Co., May 6, 1714

Est. of Rev. Mr. James Hindman List of Debts Incl: **William Sparkes**

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William Sample SPARKS (William Jr. , William, Sr. , Thomas) was born in Talbot County, Maryland, 1705 est and died After 1764 in Rowan County, North Carolina.

He married twice. He married Rachel LNU. Rachel died Bef. August 24, 1732.

He married Mary CORMAN / COURMAN in St Lukes Parish, Maryland, August 24, 1732.

William Sample SPARKS and Rachel LNU had the following child:

1.. Rachel SPARKS.

William Sample SPARKS and Mary CORMAN OR COURMAN had the following children:

2. William "Z." SPARKS was born 1725 est.

3. **Matthew J. SPARKS** was born est. 1733.

4. James SPARKS was born in Rowan, North Carolina, 1747 est. James

died 1778 at 31 years of age.

In other places, Matthew is shown being born CA 1730, and as child of Wife #1 Rachael.-sgs

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William Sparks, Jr. (William, Sr., Thomas)  
Born Ca  
Died:

(M) Margaret Hamilton, Dtr of Joseph Hamilton

1. **William Sample Sparks** (M) Rachael  
2. Sarah

(M) #2 Anne

-----

William Sparks, Sr. (Thomas)  
Born Aug 6, 1640 England  
Died October 24, 1709 Will prov. Queen Anne's Co.,

Md.  
 (M) Mary  
 Born Ca 1646 Died Dec, 16, 1730 Queen Anne's Co,  
 Md.

1. George

2. Dtr (M) Hynson

3. John

4. **William, Jr. (M) Margaret Hamilton (M) #2 Anne**

5. Joseph died 1749 Frederick Co, Md  
 Prerogative Court Records, Fred. Co., Md 40.227  
 F84.19.10

May 1, 1749-June 21, 1749

Est of Joseph Sparks

Appraisrs: Joseph Wood, William Carmack

Creditors: Donald Young, William Davis

Next of Kin: William Sample Sparks, Rachel Sparks

Administratrix: Mary Sparks

Nov. 20, 1749 Fred. Co., Md-Est. of Joseph Sparks,  
 Mary Sparks, Widow, Admx.

Will of William Spark(s) Queen Anne's Co, Md., dated  
 June 21, 1709, Proved Oct. 24, 1709

To son George, personalty; he and his wife and child.,  
 liberty to live at dwelling plantation with his mother or  
 a term of years.

To grandson, Chas. Hynson, and granddaughter, \_\_\_  
 dau. of son William,

personalty.to son John, land formerly belonging to  
 John Hamer.

to sons, William and Joseph, dwelling plantation and  
 lands "Hills' Adventure", and "Sparks Outlet". In event  
 of death of sd. son Joseph during minority, his share of  
 estate to pass to his brother William and hrs.

Wife Mary and son William joint Executors; wife not to  
 be molested by her sons in use of plantation aforesaid,  
 during widowhood.

Test: John Salter, Jno. Hamer, Jr., Wm. Boulton

-----  
 Thomas Sparks  
 Born Ca 1615 Fareham Par, Hampshire, England  
 (M) Joanna Davis Oct. 19, 1635 Fareham Par.,  
 Hampshire, England

1. **William** Aug 6, 1649 Fareham Par, Hampshire,  
 England Died Will Pro 1709 Quen Anne's Co, Md.  
 (M) Mary

2. Francis Born Ca 1641 England

3. John Born Dec 3, 1649 Fareham Par, Hampshire,  
 England  
 Died 1700 (Will Pro) Kent Co., Maryland  
 Will of John Sparks, Kent Co, Md 2nd Sept., 1699-3rd  
 Jan, 1702 (12.154)  
 To sons John & George, 100 A "Buckslide", provided  
 either comes to enjoy it.  
 Wife, Ellinor, Extx, personal estate  
 Test: Jno. Salter, Eliza. Robinson, Thos. Prestige

4. Richard Born Dec. 10, 1659 Fareham Par,  
 Hampshire, England

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 I copied the following from the Maryland Archives-  
 original spelling has been retained in all documents-  
 sgs

Provincial Court Proceedings, **1657**. 9  
 Parks v.  
 Batchelor p. 370  
 Deposit inter mr Parks & **mr Batchelor**  
 Richard Tarling aged twenty three years or thereabts  
 Sworne and Examined upon his Oath Sayeth  
 Concerning a Servant that **mr Sparks** hyred to mr  
 Batchelor for the time of three weeks he did him Little  
 or no worke, by reason of his nasty diseases the flux  
 and the Scurvey, And farther this Deponent Sayth that  
**mr Sparks** Came to **mr Batchelors** house one day, and

mr Batchelor desired the Said **mr Sparks** to take Some Course with him and gett him away for he had rather give him Six hundred pounds of Tobacco, then be bound to tend on him, by the reason he was So very nasty, And farther this Depont Sayth that it hindered most of this Deponents time and mr Batchelors to tend on him, and farther this Depont Sayeth not.

Signum

Richard X Tarling

My Note-I believe this means the servant was "nasty"-  
sgs

Who is this **Thomas Sparks**?

Talbot County Court Proceedings, 1662-1674. 509

Liber BB No 2

A Courtt held for Talbott County By his Lordpps Justices of the Peace the Nineteenth Day of Septembr I the xlth yeare of the Dominion of Caecilius &c Annoq Doth 1671:

Present

Henry Coursey Esq

Mr Seath Foster

Mr Richard Wolman Mr Tho Hinson

Mr Wm: Coursey Qu& Mr Wm Hambiton Justices

Capt Philemond Lloyd Mr Phil: Steevenson

Mr Rich: Gorssuch

The Informacon of **Thomas Sparkes** on the Behalfe of the Right Honoble the lord propriatery before his lordpps Justicess of the peace at a Courtt holden for Talbott County the fifteenth day of August in the 40th yeare of dominion of Caecilius &c Annoq doth Concerning Certaine goods which was Stolne from the house of Richard Tilghman of Talbott County

**Thomas Sparkes** Saith that he hard that Seauerall goods wass Stolne from his master docter Richard Tilghman and that there wass Search Made for them by the Cunstable walter Rowles and that there Came to Patrick Soulavants house where the **Said Sparkes** his

Master had Ordred to worke fowre women which the  
 said patrik Sopossed to be spies the Said **Sparkes**  
 being Asked by the Courtt hou he knew that Patrick  
 Supossed the women to be Spies the said **Sparkes** Said  
 he harde the Said patrick and his wife say so towards  
 night following patrick Called me In and bad me goe to  
 the landing to See if I saw the women Coming from the  
**Bachelors** And when I Came back againe I tould the  
 said patrick I saw none A Coming  
 and he maid Strainge at it for one of the women had  
 Left her Child with patrick and his wife and After that  
 they Sent me downe Againe to the landing to See if I  
 saw them Coming and as I Came Back againe I hard  
 patrick tell his wife he did not Care when they Came  
 for they Could find nothing And he bad his wife hange  
 the key upon the naile A small time After the Taylor  
 Came and he maid patrick A Coate of black f rise which  
 I suspected to be made of A [p. 189] Coate Which  
 Charles Eggerton lost the taylor Lyned the Saide Cote  
 with Canuis which I did Susspecte wass part of my  
 masters Canuis which wass Stolne and I tolde it to Rice  
 Cookeman and the Said Sould to the taylor A paire of  
 drawers which I knew belonged  
 to one of my masters Tilghmans Servants which wass  
 lost when my masters goods wass Stoulne and I Saw  
 patrick wifes Cote Aboute a quarter of A yard of A pare  
 of Shetes which had my Mistrisses name one them and  
 I allsoe Saw towells and napkins which belonged to my  
 Master And Missteris and allsoe the Saide patrick  
 wOULD haue me to goe to my Masters And fech Some  
 of Curnelias the Carpindars tooles or he said he wold  
 Send the way that Mr Tullys man went and he did Send  
 one Sabboth day for A froo of Curnelias the Carpinder  
 and Sade if I brought it not he would make me An  
 Example to all men in the world And Swore Soe many  
 Oathes to that effect that I durst not goe back againe  
 therefore I told the Millor Geffery of what goods I saw  
 at patricks of my masters and I desired the Millor for  
 tell my Missteris for my Master wass not at whome that  
 Shee might take Some Corse for my Safty and I allsoe  
 told the Millor they might find Some of the goods In A  
 longe tree lying one the South Side Patriks house if n t

there to Search In the tobaco house for one day patrick bad me after I had made an end of weeding in the Cowpen to take A hattchet and goe to A hole In such A tree and Cutt it wider and take oute A box And Carry itt Into the house to his wife which i did the box was Close Stoped with Raggs and In the night when I was In bed patrick and his wife did take oute of the box Some Sheitts And one shirt or two And Some napkins And towels which wass much wett and Spotted and they dryed them by night And I Allsoe tould Cornelius of it and Curneylius tould my Misstaris of it and brought my Missteris to me and After I had tould hir o She told me patrick Should doe me noe hurt Soe upon hir promiss I went back againe to patricks and the next day she Sent for Patrick to Speake with My Master & Patrick

Returned Answer that he would be with him the next Morning butt my Master Coming from the Bachelors to patricks tooke me with him to Richard Hudsons And In Goeing I tould him all as before Soe he tooke me with him whome to patricks face for to knowe the truth but patricke tould my Master that I brought the goods to his house Soe my master bad me goe to worke for I should goe noe more with patrick and Said he did freely forgiue uss all butt I did tell one that wass there that I wold petticon to the Courtt Concerning the bussnis and when the Ouerseear hard of itt he tould me if I stered from Whome he would bast me he Allsoe ordered the Rest of my Fellow Servants if they Saw me goe without the plantacon they should droube me back againe I allsoe hard patrick Shulavant begg hard of my Master and Misstres for to take there goods againe but they neuer tooke them to My knowledge

The depossecon of Geffery Matteccey Aged thirty yeares or thereAbouts taken In open Courtt Saith that **Thomas Sparkes** tould your deponant that the goods which was Stolne from your deponants Master docter Richard Tilghman was at Patrick Shulivants house and that he hard patricks wife Say that She had Rather the goods was borned then they Should be found for to discreditt them and that patrick

Answered no not so for they was worth A greate deale  
of tobacoe And further Saith nott his

Geifry Mattecey  
marke

510 Talbot County Court Proceedings, 1662-1674.  
Liber BB The depossicon of Rogger Weddill Aged 21  
yeares or there  
No.2 Abouts taken in Open Courtt

Saith that yor deponants Master docter Richard  
Tilghman Sent yor deponant to worke at Patrik  
Shuliuants house and for to keepe his house while the  
Said patrick went to yor depont Master Soe when the  
Said patrick Came back he gaue yor depont A bundle  
of Cloathes to Carry to John Chafes and yor deponant  
deliuered them to Mary Chafe and She Opened them  
And there wass one pare of Sheits one Shirt and one  
pare of drawers And Some Napkins but whose the  
Goods wass yor deponant Knowes not and there wass  
two Chisills of Curneylius And Further Saith not.  
Rogger Weddill

The depossicon of Thomas Carman Aged Aboute 35  
yeares or there Abouts taken in open Courtt  
Saith that he had two Shirtts Stolne from docter  
Richard Tilghmans at two Seuerall times and that yor  
deponant found one Shirtt Againe In his Rome where  
he Lyeth And further Saith nott  
Tho: Carman

The Examanacon of Patrick Shuliuant being Accused of  
haueing Stolne goods belonging to docter Richard  
Tilghman found in his Custody being Examaned in  
Open Courtt maketh this Confession that **thomas  
Sparkes** did bring Some goods which he Said he had  
Stolne from his Master Tilghman which Said goods the  
Said **Thomas** had hid in the woods and the Said  
**Thomas** tould this Examener that they were Rotten &  
then he putt them Into the tobacoe house he wass  
further demanded why he did not Reueile it to mr  
Tilghman to that he Answerd that they being rotten the  
were of Litle use to Any and he did forbear Least the  
Said **Thomas** should Run Away and he Loose his Cropp

by itt and likewise that he wass loth to bring the felloe to punnishmt or disgrace

The Courtt hath Ordred that the sheriffe take Pattrack Shulivant Into his Custody & him safe keepe untill he giue Bond with Suf ficient Shewarety that wil be Bound Body for Body for his Parsonall Apearance Before the Justices of the Next Provinciaall Courtt houlden for his Province And there to Answer to Such thinges as there on the Behalfe of the Right Honbl the Lord Proprietary Shalbe Exhibitted against him &c

Who is this Richard Sparks?

May 10, 1681 John Dabridgcourt Estate- Co No given Payments to: Incl **Richard Sparks**

**WHICH JOHN SPARKS WAS A PIRATE?**

Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1694 97. 497 [Apprehension of Pirates.] Lib. H. D.

By the Lords Justices, A Proclamation.

Tho: Cantuar. I. Sufflers C. S. Pembroke C P. S. Shrewsbury.

Lords Jus- Whereas we formerly received Information from the Governr and Company of Merchants of London apprehend- Trading to the East Indies, That one Henry Every, Commander of the Ship called the Phansie alias other Pyrats Charles, of fforty Six Guns, and one hundred and thirty men, had, undr English Colours, committed Severall Acts of Piracy upon the Seas of India or Persia, Where upon we issued a Proclamation, bearing date the 17th day of July last, for the taking and apprehending the sd Henry Every, and such other persons as were with him in the Ship in Ordr to have them punished as Pirates and Common Robbers upon the high Seas; And whereas we have since the Issuing the sd Proclamation received further Information from the sd Governr and Company of Merchants, Trading to the East Indies, That the sd Hen Every hath changed his name, And now goes by the name of Henry Bridgman, and that James Cray, Thomas

Summerton, Edward Kirwood, Wm Down, John Reddy, John Stroger, Nath: Pike, Peter Loanes, Henry Adams, ffran: ffrennier, Thomas Johnson, Jos: Dawson, Samll Dawson, James Lewis, **John Sparks**, Joseph Goss, Charles ffalconer, James Murray, Robert Rich, John Miller, John King, Edward Savill, William Philips, Thomas Jope, and Thomas Belisha, together with severall others whose names are not yet discover'd (amongst whom were ffifty two ifrench men, ifourteen Danes, & others of other Nations) were with the sd Henry Every alias Bridgman in the sd Ship Phansie, When the Severall Acts of Piracy were comitted, and were Aiding and Assisting therein and Shared in the Plunder so by them Pyratically taken, to the Amount of One Thousand pounds a man or thereabouts; And whereas we are Inform'd, That the sd Henry Every alias Bridgman, with Severall other Persons above Named, have since they comitted such Acts of Piracy left the sd Ship in the Island of Providence, and are Arrived in Ireland in tw Small Sloops and have there dispersed themselves, Some of wch persons Remain there and others are Come into this Kingdom and the Kingdom of Scotland, as two of their Accomplices, who are now Taken and in Custody, have Confessed and Declared: We have therefore thought fit (by the Advice of his Mats most honrble Privy Councill) to issue this Proclamation, hereby Declaring That the sd Henry Every alias Bridgman, together with the sd Severall persons above named, and others Englishmen, Scotchmen & fforreignrs to the number of about One hundred and Thirty, did Steal and Runn away with the sd Ship from the Port of Corunna in Spain; and tht neither the sd Henry Every als Bridgman, nor any of the Persons above Nam'd had any Comission or Authority from his Maty to Comand the sd Ship or the men therein; but that the sd Henry Every alias Bridgman, and the Severall other persons above Nam'd and such others as were with them in the sd Ship are Pyrates and Robbers upon the high Seas, And we do hereby Charge and Coniand all his Mats Admiralls, Captains and other Officers at Sea, and all his Mats Governrs and Comandrs of any fforts Castles or other places in his

Mats Plantations and all other Officers and persons whatsoever, to Seize and Apprehend the sd Henry Every alias Bridgman, James Cray, Thomas Summerton, Edward Kerwood, Wm Down, John Reddy, John Stroger, Nathaniell Pike, Peter Loans, Henry Adams, ffrancis ffrennier, Thomas Johnson, Joseph Dawson, Sam" Dawson, James Lewis, **John Sparks**, Joseph Goss, Charles ifalconer, James Murray, Robert Rich, John Miller, John King, Edward Savill, Wm Philips, Thomas Jope, and Thomas Belisha, and such others, as were with them in the sd Ship (who may probably be known and discovered by the great quantities of Gold and Silver of fforreign Comes which they have with them) in order tht they may be brought to Justice and Suffer the Just punishmt of the Law, as Pirates upon the high Seas.

And we do hereby further declare, That in Case any of the Persons above Named (except the sd Henry Every alias Bridgman) or any other persons who were in the sd Ship with the sd Henry Every alias Bridgman shall discover the said Henry Every alias Bridgman or any other of the persons above Named, so as they may be Seized and taken, in Order to be brought to Justice, h and they making such discovery shall have his Mats Gracious pardon for their Offences, And we do hereby further declare, That such person or persons, or any other person or persons who shall discover the sd Henry Every alias Bridgman, so as he may be Seized or taken or Shall be otherwise Instrumentall in Seizing the sd Henry Every als. Bridgman, so as he may be Seized or taken, he or they making such discovery or Seizure, shall have the Reward of ffive hundred Pounds promised in the sd former Proclamation, for the Discovery and Seizure of the sd Henry Every, And that in Case any person or persons shall discover of the other persons above Named, so as they may be Seiz'd or aken, or shall be otherwise Instrumentall in Seizing any of the sd persons, he or they making such discovery or Seizure, shall have a Reward of ffifty pounds for every of the sd persons, whom he or they shall so discover o

Seize, wch Severall Sums of ffive hundred pounds and ffifty pounds, the Lords Commrs of his Mats Treasury are hereby Required and directed to pay accordingly; Given at the Councill Chamber in Whitehall, the **Tenth day of August 1696**. In the Eighth year of his Mats Reign.

God Save the King.

Lords of the After our very hearty Commendations, whereas their Exncy the Lords Justices of England, haveExcy abt Received Information from the Governr & Compa Capt Every & Pyrats &ca of merchants of London Trading to the East Indies, That **Henry Every als Bridgman** with **diverse other Persons** English and fforreignrs having Runaway with the Ship Charles the Second als the Phancy from the Port of Corunna In Spain, had Comitted severall Acts of Pyracy in the Seas of India and Persia, and having afterwards left the sd Ship at the Island of Providence, had shared the Plunder so by them gotten and dispersed themselves Their have thereupon thought fit, by Proclamation in his Mats name, to require all his Mats Admirails, Comanders & other Officrs at Sea, and all Governrs Comanders and other Officers whatsoever in his Mats Plantacons, to Secure and Apprehend the sd Henry Every als Bridgnian, and other persons Nam'd in the sd Proclamacon, and such others as were with them in the Ship, a Copy of which Proclamation you will herewith receive, Andwhereas Information has been likewise given, that divers Pyrates and Sea Robbers have of late years gone from Severall parts of his Mats plantations in America to the Seas of India & Persia and other Remote parts upon the like Piraticall design's and that Some of them have Return'd home again and dispersed themselves in his Mats Plantations, with great quantities of Gold and other Plunder. We do hereby in his Mats name strictly Require and Comand you, forthwith upon Receipt hereof, to Cause the sd Proclamation to be published within yor Governmt and tht for the Suppressing as much as may be all such Evill Practices for the ffuture, whereby the Trade of his

Mats good Subjects in fforreign Parts may be otherwise greatly disturbed, We do hereby in his Mats name Strictly charge and Require you and all his Mats Officers and Loving Subjects within yor Governmt to take all possible Care, and use all due means for the Seizing and Apprehending all such Pyrates and Sea Robbers and such as may be reasonably Suspected for the Same, either by Reason of the Great Quantities of Gold & Silver of fforreign Comes they usually have with them, or by other probable Circumstances, And to Cause them to be Streightly imprisoned, and their Ships Goods and Plunder to be kept in Safe Custody untill upon Returning a full Acct unto Us, of the sd Persons, their Ships, Goods and Plunder, with the Evidences relating to them, His Mats Pleasure shall be known and Signified concerning them, And so we bid you very heartily ffarewell, ffrom the Councill Chambe in Whitehall the **27th of August 1696.**

Yor very Loving ifriends

Capt Genll & Govr in Chief Tankerville Romney  
of Maryland. J BoscawenH: Goodricke

Who is **Edward Sparkes**?

At a Court holden For the Comt of **Kent** at the house of  
mr Tho: Bradnox the **15 day of Nour 1658**  
psent Capt Robt Vaughan Mr Joseph Wickes  
mr Philt Conner mr Henry Morgan Comrs  
Capt Thomas Bradnox Mr Seth Foster

Know all men by these presents tht I Gregory Murell of  
the Isle of Kent Plantr doe binde make ouer & Confirme  
unto Mr Henry Morgan of the sd Island all my Cropp of  
Tob this yeare planted & now hanginge his Heires  
Execrs Adminrs & Assignes for & in Consideracon of a  
Debt due by Bill for six hundred Fifty od Pounds of Tob  
& Caske due to the sd mr Morgan & tht the sd Cropp  
shall not be disposed of untill the sd debt be fully  
satisfyed & Contented as aforesd  
Witnesse my hand this **19th of Oct. 1658** Gregory  
Murell

Acknowledged in Court his marke  
 Testis John Cowsrey  
**Edd Sparke**

142 **Kent County** Court Proceedings, 1656-1662.  
 Know all men by these ptesnts tht I Henry Tailer of the  
 Isle of Kent Plantr doe binde Assigne & make ouer all  
 my Cropp of Tots wch I haue planted & maid this  
 prsent yeare unto mr Henry Morgan of the sd Island his  
 heires & Assignes for & in Consideracon of a debt due  
 unto the said Henry Morgan by Bill & Acc<sup>o</sup> to the vallue  
 of two thousand nine hundred twenty six Pounds of  
 Tob & Caske, & the Cropp to satisfie the said debt soe  
 farr forth as It shall extend to the true Intente &  
 performance here of I binde my self e my Heires Execrs  
 & Adminrs as Witnesse my hand this **4th day of Octr**  
**1658**

Testis John Cowsrey Hen: Tailer  
**Edd Sparkes** his rnarke

Will of Col. Thomas Broadnox, Kent Island 20th Oct.,  
 1661  
 Test: Toby Wells, **Edward Sparks**

424**Talbot County** Court Proceedings, 1662-1674.  
 A Court held for Talbott County By his Lordships  
 Justices of the Peace the **16th day of June** in the xxxvi  
 yeare of the Dominion of Caecilius &c Ann<sup>o</sup> Domini  
**1668**

Present  
 Edward Lloyd Esqr  
 mr Thomas South  
 mr Richard Woollman  
 mr Syrnon Carpenter  
 mr Seth Forster  
 mr Thomas Powell  
 mr Tho: Hynson Justices  
 Mr Simond Carpenter Brought his Saruant **Edw:**  
**Sparkes** to haue Jtzdgmt of this Courtt for his tim Who  
 hath Ajudged him to Sarue Six yeares

Will of William Elleyeot, Co Not given, Md., Pro. 2nd  
 Sept., 1668

Test: John Foard, **Edward Sparks**

Chancery Court Proceedings, **1679-80**. 319

February 9th 1679

Ordered that mandamus issue to the Sheriff of **Kent County**

Commanding him by the Oaths of twelve honest and Lawfull men of ye neighbourhood to Enquire what Lands and Tenements **Edward Sparks** dyed Seized of and to make Return thereof into the Court of Chancery Records with all Convenient Speed

Signed p ord.r John Llewellyn CI Councill