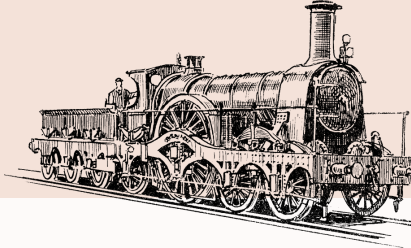


Patapsco Valley Firsts



- **European to explore & map the Chesapeake Bay & parts of the Patapsco River**
1608 Captain John Smith
- **First crowbars in Colonial America**
1761 at Dorsey Forge
- **First two flour mills**
1761 & 1766 John Cornthwaite's & James Hood's mills
- **First successful steamboat in the US**
1789 John Ellicott's boat
- **First black astronomer and publisher of an almanac in America**
1792 Benjamin Banneker of Ellicott's Mills (now Ellicott City)
- **First textile mill in Maryland and the nation's largest cotton works at the time**
1811 The Union Manufacturing Company (later the Dickey Mill)
- **First American woman to spin cotton (also had a community named after her)**
1811 Oella, who worked at the Union Manufacturing Co.
- **First mobile home in America**
1816 Made and used by the Ellicott Brothers. It included a kitchen and supported the building of the National Road
- **First federally-funded interstate road in America**
1818 The National Road ran through Ellicott's Mills and was later moved to what is now Rt. #40
- **First railroad bridge in America**
1829 The Carrollton Viaduct
- **First commercial railroad in America**
1830 The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's Old Main Line ran from Baltimore to Ellicott's Mills
- **First railway depot in the world**
1830 Ellicott City, now a National Historic Monument
- **First town created by an American railroad**
1830s Relay
- **First successful steam engine in the US**
1830 The Tom Thumb, which ran from Baltimore to Relay
- **First sitting US President to ride a train**
1833 Andrew Jackson, who rode from Ellicott City to Baltimore
- **World's first multi-arched, curved, stone railroad bridge**
1835 The Thomas Viaduct is still in regular use today, and is a National Historic Monument
- **Site in the valley of the first telegraph line from Washington DC and Baltimore**
1844 The Thomas Viaduct
- **First US President-elect to ride a train to his inauguration**
1845 James Polk riding from Relay to Washington, D.C.
- **First fish ladder in Maryland**
1856 The Orange Grove Flour Mill
- **First hotel built by a railroad for the exclusive use of railroad patrons**
1873 The Viaduct Hotel in Relay
- **First highway to link Baltimore with Washington, D.C.**
early 1900s, the Washington Turnpike later became U.S. Rt. #1
- **First State Forester in Maryland**
1906 Fred Besley revolutionized forest fire control and encouraged public use of the Patapsco Forest Reserve
- **Maryland's first State Park**
1907 Patapsco Valley State Park. The first 48 acres were donated to the State by then-Catonsville-farmer John Glenn.

- **World's First Underwater Hydro-Electric Plant**

1907 The Bloede Dam located just 0.8 of a mile upriver from the Orange Grove Area

- **Maryland's first summer stock theater**

1930 The Hill Top Theater formerly the Patapsco Female Institute in the mid 1800's and later a World War I veteran's hospital located in Ellicott City

- **Site of the first government-approved CPS Camp for conscientious objectors**

1941 Civilian Public Service Camp for World War II conscientious objectors was in the Avalon Area, where the Civilian Conservation Corp's Camp Tydings was located from the 1930s

- **First major war planned in the valley**

1990, 1991 Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell, met at Belmont and planned Operation Desert Storm

