

Dear Dave,

8/29/97

As assassination insanities go, that one from Orange county schools is tops!

I do not recall knowing about a Civil War battle at Germantown but that could have involved Early on the way down from here. There are still Smallwoods in the area and if you said Libertytown I'd be able to pinpoint it for you. It is east of here on the road to Baltimore that today is the secondary road there. If you have a map, it is where State Roads 75 and 26 intersect, north of where we used to live, at Hyattstown. Street does not sound familiar ~~xx~~ but the presence of a tavern there does.

Thanks for the use to which you've put your computer! I can use the labels.

Germantown is much larger now. It is past Rockville going from Washington west. It should show on ~~any~~ map but if it does not, it is on State 27 south of State 355 and is also a bit south of I270 on 27.

I do not recall hearing of Middle Plantation.

Thanks and best,

August 24, 1997

Dear Harold:

I thought you might find the enclosed interesting if not disturbing. I will try to work on the Hall assistant information, but it may take some time.

I got a computer for my home about a month ago and I have checked into a newsgroup on JFK. Normally these aren't very enlightening, but it keeps me up on what they are talking about. A guy named McAdams seems to spend a lot of time on them. Once in a while someone who truly wants to know things comes along and I send them your address. You should have gotten an order or request for prices from one recently. Seemed like a nice fellow. He was interested in getting new copies of your books but didn't know where to get them.

I told you a while back that my grandmother's grandmother's grandfather was from the Frederick area, and took the Maryland Oath of Allegiance during the Revolution - apparently fought "on land and sea." He was drafted in the militia in Baltimore, and fought at Germantown and other places under a Captain Cox and General Smallwood. According to the land records, John Sluts (aka Slutts, Slutz) owned 72 acres near Libertyville (?) at a place known as "Stoney Spring." Apparently he had an inn and/or tavern on the premises, but no license to operate it. He moved to Ohio about 1803-05. It had been part of a tract known as "Middle Plantation" owned by George Streat. Any of this sound familiar? Maybe it was *Liberty Town*. I have copies of documents about the survey in 1787, and a resurvey done later.

School starts with students the day after Labor Day in my district. I have teachers' meetings Thursday and Friday of this week. I am not eager to get back, but I had a long and productive summer. I did get a lot of reading done again, finishing biographies on James Dean and Ernest Hemingway, reading some short stories, and now reading David Halberstam's *October 1964* about the Yankees and Cardinals that year. He also wrote one about 1949 earlier on baseball, and of course, *The Brightest and Best* about Vietnam, where he was a reporter. Pretty interesting.

I have to get some other letters written. I hope you and Lillian are doing well. Think of you often. Take care. Sincerely,

Dave Keck