

Edward Rumney Jr.
*People of London Town, Maryland*¹

Edward Rumney Jr. was born in 1710² and was a ship carpenter by trade. When his father died in 1718, Rumney Jr. inherited his land, wealth, and shipwright business. It is not clear whether the younger Rumney apprenticed under his father or was sent to friend or relatives to learn the ship carpentry trade, but he worked in that capacity as an adult before assuming his father's wealth.³ Rumney Jr. does not seem to have been as litigious as his father, who was well known in London Town for the dozens of cases he was involved in. In the elder Rumney's case, most of these court proceedings surrounded unpaid debts at his inn and tavern. Eventually, Rumney's tavern at London Town was sold to Stephen West, so perhaps the family was increasingly in need of money. New merchants and businessmen like Stephen West, James Dick, and later William Brown were increasingly in a state of financial and social ascendancy while some older families like the Rumneys seem to have been in a state of decline. Compared to his father, Rumney Jr. appears infrequently in contemporary documents and may have sought a less visible existence than his father. Ultimately, the elder Rumney's death marked a turning point in London Town's history as land, inns, and ferry-keeping duties began to pass to Stephen West and his friends and relatives and Rumney Jr. was either unwilling or unable to reverse this trend.

¹ As the research into colonial London Town's inhabitants is an ongoing process, the caveat is offered that additional information may be found at any time and that a correction of information might also occur at any time.

² Wright, F. Edgar. *Anne Arundel County Church Records of the 17th and 18th Centuries*. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, p. 69.

³ Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts.
<http://research.oldsalemonline.org/ProficioPublicSearch/ShowImageView.aspx?52709>. accessed 24 June 2014.