

**Mehitable (Holland) Pierpoint; neé Larkin**  
*People of London Town, Maryland\**

Though Mehitable Pierpoint died in Frederick County, Maryland around 1754, her involvement with London Town earlier in her life is quite interesting. Mehitable was born in Anne Arundel County, Maryland c1667, the daughter of John and Katherine Larkin. She married Otho Holland in 1684. Otho died by 9 May 1702 and Mehitable married again, this time John Pierpoint, by 1705. By 1712 she had migrated to Queen Anne Town on the Patuxent River and by 1754 was living with her son in Frederick County.<sup>1</sup> If this is correct, then she lived to at least 85 years of age.

As for her connection to London Town and what she did here, Mehitable's father, John, acquired some town land in 1684. This land (one or two town lots) was next to the ferry landing and also had on it the county courthouse (London Town was the county seat from 1684 – 1695). When John Larkin sold the land to John Baldwin (Larkin's son-in-law) in 1699, the transaction indicates that Larkin was an "innholder" and that enough ground for a "twenty-foot house" to be built be kept free next to the river for Mehitable to use during the course of her "natural life." Information in this transaction also shows that Mehitable was married to Otho Holland and that Otho was operating an ordinary out of the old "twenty-five foot" courthouse.<sup>2</sup> This record indicates that Mehitable probably spent some of her youth in a household that operated an ordinary and also undoubtedly helped her husband Otho operate his (their) ordinary.

When the surviving Anne Arundel County Court Judgment Records begin in 1703, Mehitable Holland (widowed by this time), asked for and received a renewal of her ordinary license during the June 1703 session.<sup>3</sup> Also in 1703, at the August court, an interesting case wherein Mehitable sues Captain James Mitchell for nonpayment of debts hints at some of the other activities Mehitable was involved with. In addition to the usual ordinary-related charges of cider, beer, diet, and lodging, Mehitable claimed that Mitchell also owed her for selling him hops, grinding seven bushels of malt, and brewing. In return, Mitchell claimed that Mehitable owed him for malt, cheese, and butter.<sup>4</sup>

By January 1705 Mehitable had remarried and her new husband, John Pierpoint, received the official ordinary license.<sup>5</sup> However, this marriage was not to last for during the March 1708 court session, Mehitable petitioned the court to recover debts owed John Pierpoint in her own name because John had run away. The court granted her request.<sup>6</sup>

Though Mehitable had grown up in or around London Town and had many personal ties to it, that history and her ties did not stop her from migrating to Queen Anne in Ann Arundel

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<sup>1</sup> Donna Valley Russell, *Historic London Town, Maryland*, 2006, page 65.

<sup>2</sup> Maryland State Archives, *Anne Arundel County Land Records*, Liber WH4, Folio 168-169.

<sup>3</sup> MSA, *Anne Arundel County Court Judgment Records (AACCJR)*, June Court 1703, Liber G, Folio 115.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, August Court 1703, Folio 210-212.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, January Court 1705, Folio 672.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, March Court 1708, Folio 687.

County around 1711 to continue her ordinary-keeping through at least 1718.<sup>7</sup> Though Mehitable left London Town, it seems that her son John Holland stayed here through 1717. During that time John Holland operated an ordinary and a ferry across the South River.<sup>8</sup> As for when specifically Mehitable left Queen Anne and arrived in Frederick County, that is unclear at this time.

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\* 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.

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<sup>7</sup> Mike Lucas, *Negotiating Public Landscapes*, Ph.D. dissertation, University of Maryland College Park, 2008, page 159.

<sup>8</sup> MSA, AACCR, June Court & November Court 1717, Liber RC, Folio 3 & 86.