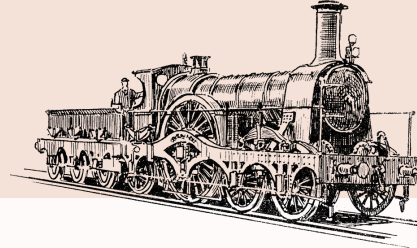


Patapsco Valley Firsts



→ **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

