FILE B-8 ENV. #4 WILLIAMSPORT FERRY

COPY OF THE HISTORY OF THE LEMEN FAMILY IN THE HANDS OF MRS. MISH:

Chapter 6. The History of the Williamsport Ferry.
pages 543 and 544

This is perhaps the oldest ferry on the Potomac. In looking up its history the writer finds that the first grants of lands adjacant to the ferry was made to Ralph Lord Hopton and others, the tract being known as The Northern Neck of Virginia, which is described in the second grant of this tract to Earl St Albans and others, as all that tract lying within the heads of the rivers themselves Rappahannock etc. and that the third and last grant was to Thomas Lord Culpepper, in 1736. This title was confirmed to Thomas Lord Fairfax, the heir at law of Lord Culpepper. In 1748 Lord Fairfax, at his own expense, opened a Land Office and disp sed of large tracts of land of waste and ungranted lands, in fee to various persons, among whom was one WATKINS, a son in law? of Fairfax, who became the owner of a large section of land in the vicinity of the above mentioned ferry, of which Watkins was undoubtedly the first owner and operator. This ferry was referred to in Vol 2, page 43 of Penns Archives for the year 1748-56, wherein Thomas Cookson, of Lancaster rep rted under date March 1, 1749 to Gov. Hamilton as to the proper situation for the County Town of Cumberland Co., Pa., mentions the fact that Lord Fairfax was laying out a Town at Watkins Ferry on the Potomac. Watkins sold a large tract of his land, containing several thousand acres, lying in the vicinity of their ferry to one Rolly (Raleigh) Colston, who in turn disposed of a part of his holdings including the Virginia terminus of the ferry to Peter Light, by whose name the ferry afterwards went.

These lands descended to his son Peter, and in 1854 a part of them were purchased, including the ferry, by Robert Lemen, whose wife was a niece of Peter Light Jr. Mr. Lemen managed the ferry most of his life, on his property and managed the ferry until receny years, when his children, being all grown up and married, he rented his farm and went to live with his son-inplaw who had built a house near the ferry landing etc.