

Howard

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arrangement with his owners, said Howard. "Any tract he cleared, he got the first crop and that is how he made his money."

After obtaining freedom for the family he purchased 289 acres of land from their estate for \$3,000 and with additional purchases he owned almost 900 acres. That land is now part of the Patuxent River State Park.

Enoch George was reportedly illiterate though his wife Harriet could read and write and began making notations in the family Bible in 1862. Enoch George believed in education and headed a committee of free blacks who petitioned the County Commissioners for the right to build their own schools.

The petition succeeded, and black leaders provided land and

found teachers for the children. Enoch George and his wife gave land for the Howard School that opened in 1880 and remained functional until the black school system became part of the State Board of Education in 1939.

Although Enoch George accomplished much, his children matched and sometimes exceeded his contributions. The younger daughter, Martha Elizabeth and her husband, John Murphy, founded the Afro-American Newspapers in 1892.

Martha also co-founded the Colored Young Women's Christian Association and served as its national executive director for 17 years. She and her husband were instrumental in the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Howard's grandfather, John Henry, founded the Howard Chapel community and built the

Howard Chapel United Methodist Episcopal Church that remained active until 1951. The road was named after the church. Howard's generation discovered the family members who lived in Canada and now 400 to 600 family members from both countries have biannual reunions.

He has alerted family members about the cemetery dedication and is pleased that the cemetery will finally be preserved. Through the years vandals have destroyed some of the markers, and the state has not always been interested in preserving the site, he said.

"To those who say it's too late, I say it's not too late," said Howard. "This will memorialize the family. Now the people at the Department of Natural Resources have been very agreeable. I am glad to see them here now. I feel very good about it."