Mr. R. Cresap Davis
Box 277 A, Route 3
Smithsburg, Md 21783

Summer address: P.O. Box 311, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

17 June 1974

Dear Mr. Davis:

It was kind of you to search your records for Thomas Cresap's ownership of the Conquest/Hazard tract which he sold to John Reiter in 1757 (Frederick Deed F:312), and we are sorry you had no better success than we did.

We have, of course, explored the records at Annapolis a number of times over a period of years, and have spent quite a few days in the courthouses, as well. I spent one whole afternoon in the Prince George's Courthouse, searching indexes for every variation of "James Badeford" I could think of, in trying to find out how he disposed of his 1739 patent for the Conquest/Hazard tract above mentioned.

This tract, just south of Wilson's Bridge on the East side of Conococheague, does not seem to be very close to the earliest Hazard patent, 23 Oct. 1739, (Conquest to James Badeford 11 July, 1739) to Evan Shelby for 200 acres, "beginning on a draft of Conococheague called Toms Run within 21 feet of the Allegheny Road."

Other Hazard Patents include:
1749 Resurvey on Hazard, 790 ac Hugh Gilland
1767 Hazzard (acreage not given) William Murdock Beale
And there are numbers of resarveys. Platting them will be very tedious and perhaps not very rewarding, we think.

But perhaps we can add a little information to your notes of Col. Cresap's land holdings. Besides the portion of Conquest that he sold to John Reiter in 1757, he also sold 65 acres in 1764 to Peter Whitstone and George Shultz, "part of a tract called the Conquest which part is called Hartman's Part...beginning at the original.. for the whole tract called Conquest." (Fred. Deed J:614) This tract appears to have been north of the Reiter portion, with Wilson's bridge probably on it. Witmer's mill was later located about on this tract (Wash Co. Deed 44:511). And of course the road west went right through Conquest, in the great bend of the Conococheague.

Perhaps we will be back to Hagerstown next year, and will be able to accept your kind invitation to look you up.

Sincerely,

R. CRESAP DAVIS
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
P. O. BOX 215
SMITHSBURG, MARYLAND 21783

TELEPHONE (301) 824-2652

June 7, 1974

Mr. & Mrs. Stuart G. Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin, Texas 78746

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kershner:

Thank you for your letter of June 3rd regarding my ancestor, Thomas Cresap. I have looked through my notes, but do not seem to have any information about Cresap owning any "Hazard" tract.

Have you searched the records in Annapolis at the State Hall of Records? As you know, the first obstacle in tracking down land records in Western Maryland lies in the changing county designations. At first, everything was in Prince Georges County, then Frederick County was created, then Washington, and then Allegany-- so that you will find Cresap deeds in all four county records. However, in modern times all county records have been photocopied and can now be found at Annapolis. I believe my old friend and fellow alumnus of St. John's College, Gust Skordas, is in charge of these records.

I'm sorry that I cannot be of more help to you, but whenever you are in the area, please give me a call.

Very sincerely,

R. Cresap Davis

RCD/h

3 June, 1974

Mr. R. Cresap Davis
Box 277A, Route 3
Smithsburg, Md. 21783

Dear Mr. Davis:

Mrs. Hilda Cushwa told us that you have assembled quite a lot of information on Capt. Cresap, and might be able to help us with some land tract puzzles we are working on.

As a contribution to the work of Mary Kershner Maxwell of Colorado Springs, Colo., who is writing a book on the Kershners of Washington Co. Md., my husband and I offered to do some land record research. It has been fascinating, and we have done a lot of platting and have visited the area a number of times.

The part that seems to concern the Cresap holdings is our attempt to trace the land holdings of the Jacob Kershner (1752-1815) who owned Conquest Farm at the time of his death. Present owner is Mr. Harold Snively, whom we have visited.

Conquest was often mentioned in deeds as "alias Hazard". In the patent book in the courthouse, Vol. 1 p 10, Conquest was patented to James Badeford 11 July 1739. We have not located any information as to what happened between then and 12 Sept. 1757. Fred. Co. Deed F:312 of that date shows that Colo. Thomas Cresap sold to John Reiter, for £ 100, a tract of 215 acres in Conickokieg, part of a tract called Hazard containing 275 acres formerly taken up by James Biddeford. Reiter or Ritter willed his land to his sons, and Jacob Kershner was suretor for the execution of the will in 1771. In 1808 (Wash Co Deeds S:1042), John Ritter, heir at law, sold to Jacob Kershner "all the land which he is entitled to as heir...on Conococheague Creek, called the Conquest otherwise Hazard."

However, Jacob Kershner had bought 68½ ac of Hazard alias Conquest from Jacob Beckley (S:614) in 1807, and in the 1803/4 Assessment, was listed as the owner of 167 acres of Conquest. We have not yet located a deed showing the transfer of the 167 acres to him.

In 1773, Peter Whitstone sold 33 acres "in Conicochigue Settlement known by the name of Hazard alias Conquest" to George Shultz Senr (Fred. Co. Deed T:154). Shultz was husband to Jacob Kershner's neice, Elizabeth Kershner, who sold that portion of Conquest to Henry Ash in 1789 (F:453). It lay right in the great bend, where Wilson's Bridge was later erected, and apparently never belonged to Jacob Kershner.

We have a couple of dozen more references to Conquest/Hazard, but have not yet solved the relationship of the 275 acres tract on the east side of the creek to the surveys and resurveys on Hazard, or the relationship of Col. Cresap to either. Could you contribute clues or suggestions?

Sincerely,