



**OLD TOWN**  
(KING OPESSA'S TOWN)



FORDING PLACE FOR "GREAT WARRIORS  
PATH" OF THE "FIVE NATIONS" FROM  
NEW YORK TO THE SOUTH. THOMAS CRESAP  
BUILT STOCKADE FORT HERE IN 1741.  
USED AS REFUGE DURING FRENCH AND  
INDIAN WAR AFTER BRADDOCK'S DEFEAT.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

WAS HERE ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO MARY-  
LAND 1748 AND OFTEN THEREAFTER.

STATE ROADS COMMISSION

# Underground Railroad

## Old Town, Maryland

In the early 1700s, some Virginia slaves fled to King Opessa's Town in Western Maryland where the Shawnee tribe harbored the runaways. Colonial governors negotiated for the return of the slaves, but the Shawnee resisted. The coming together of these two cultures signaled the early stages of the Underground Railroad.

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/choh](http://www.nps.gov/choh)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE