

History
of
The Redemptorists

at
Annapolis, Md.,

FROM 1853 TO 1903

WITH
A SHORT HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE PRECEDING ONE HUNDRED AND
FIFTY YEARS OF CATHOLICITY IN THE CAPITAL
OF MARYLAND,

BY

A REDEMPTORIST FATHER.

Buegenberg, Henry

ILLUSTRATED.

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1904.

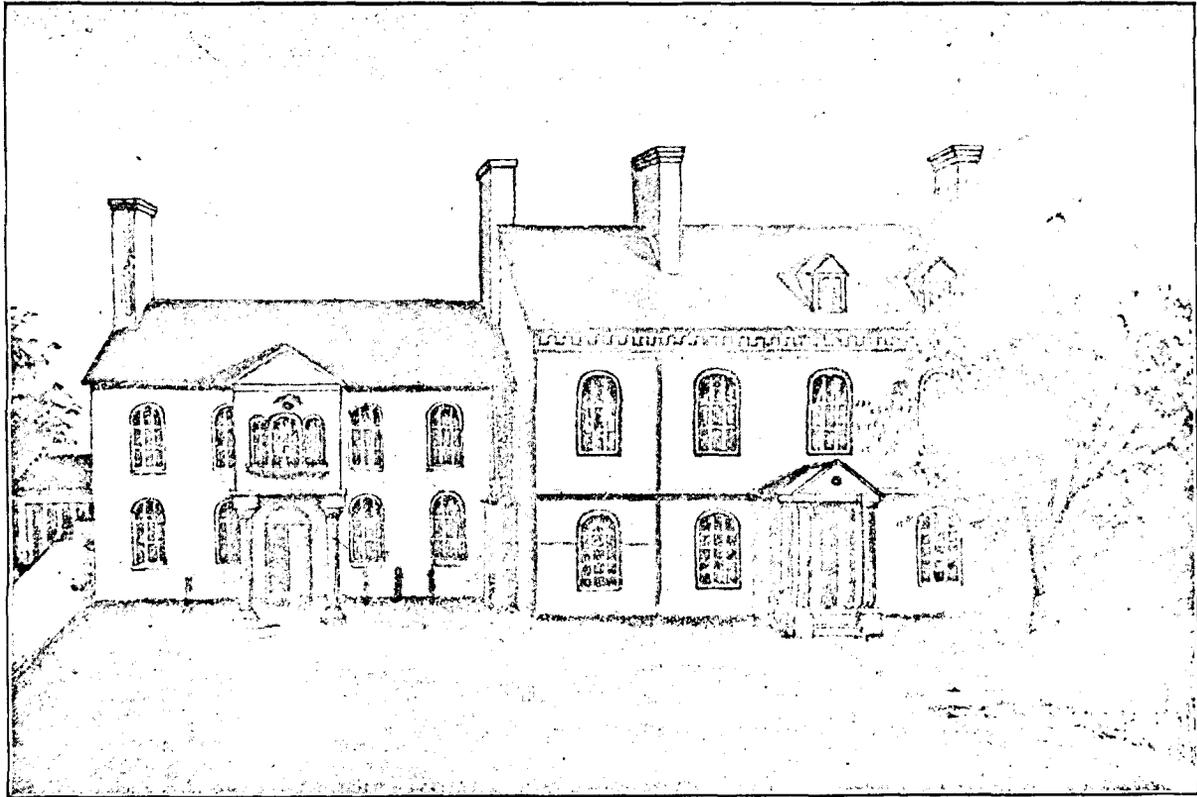
Lord Baltimore, to establish a new colony where English Catholics might, unmolested, practise their Faith.

At the head of the leading Catholic colonists, he set out for France, and petitioned the king for a tract of land on the Arkansas river. The French Minister, startled by the vast extent of land requested, at first hesitated, and then refused to make the grant. Meanwhile, the merchants of England, fearing an exodus from Maryland, urged the government to relent in the enforcement of the penal laws against Catholics.

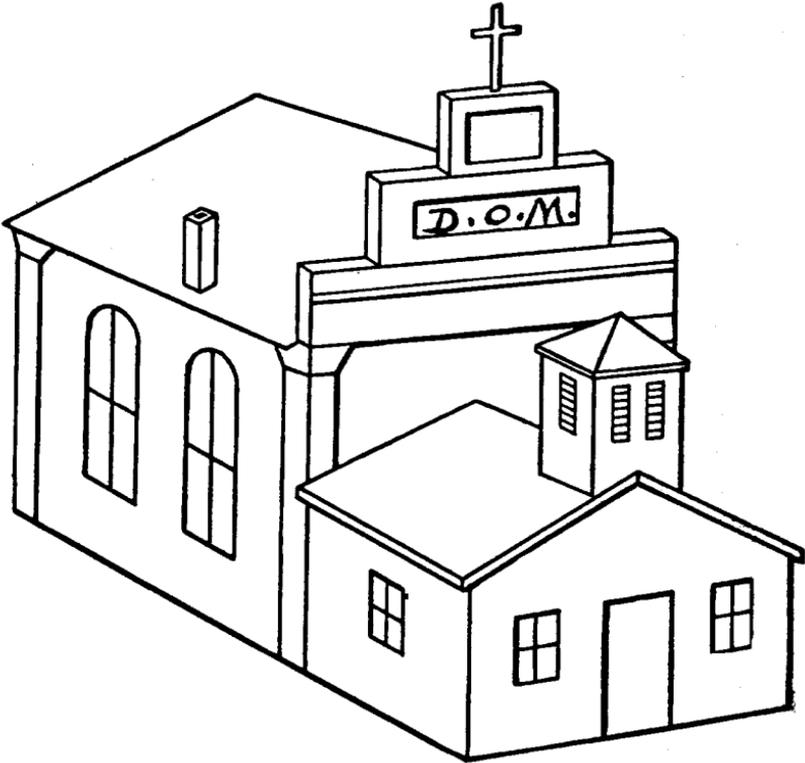
Charles Carroll, having failed to secure land from the French king, returned to Annapolis, where he died in 1720. He had ten children, four of whom, Charles Carroll, of Annapolis; Daniel Carroll, of Duddington; Eleanor, and Mary, survived him. At the time of his father's death, Charles Carroll, of Annapolis, was pursuing his studies in France. Abandoning his intention of studying law, he returned to Annapolis on the death of his father and took charge of the vast estate—some 60,000 acres, which fell to his inheritance. This was the beginning of that immense fortune which made his son, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, the richest man in the colonies at the time of the War of Independence.

Catholics in Maryland.

For years the Catholics in Maryland were left comparatively unmolested. True, they were disfranchised and prevented from holding any office, but with this the party in power was satisfied. Things, however, took a turn for the worse toward the middle of the eighteenth century. The war at this time between England and France had its counterpart in that between the English and French colonists in America, known as the French and Indian war. The French being Catholics, the Catholics of Maryland were made to suffer on that account. Bitter feeling ran high.



Carroll Mansion in 1853.



Old Church with Father Rumpler's Addition.

During the war there arrived at Annapolis six ships crowded with exiled Acadians, who were distributed in various parts of the colony. Catholics were forbidden to harbor them. Charles Carroll, of Annapolis, offered shelter to two families, but was refused. A writer of the time says that many of them were left to perish in the swamp from hunger and exposure. When the war was over, the colonies were expected to defray the expenses entailed. In Maryland, a law was passed increasing the taxes and obliging Catholics to pay double the amount imposed on others. The aim of this law was, to impoverish Catholics and lessen their influence, as many of them were very wealthy and of the best families of England. The tax question, however, soon began to affect all the colonists.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

The dawn of Independence was at hand. The heroes of 1776 began to take a position of prominence throughout the country, and among the foremost was the son of Charles Carroll, of Annapolis, the great patriot and statesman, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton. He was born in the Carroll House at Annapolis, September 19, 1737. He styled himself Carroll of Carrollton, to be distinguished from his father, likewise Charles Carroll.

When only ten years old, he was sent abroad for his education. Returning to Maryland at the age of twenty-eight, he found the colonies in a fever of excitement over the tax question. Governor Eden, of Maryland, forced on the issue by settling the fees of public officials with total disregard of the Assembly. His despotic action was loudly criticized, and Daniel Dulaney undertook, over the signature of Antillon, to defend the Royal Governor.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, signing himself "First Citizen," maintained the rights of the citizens in their complaint against the Governor, and after a short, but decisive, controversy, the

public at the following election declared unanimously against the latter. Thus was the way prepared for Maryland to fall in line with the other colonies for total independence. Carroll now entered upon his public career. In his ninety-first year he declared: "To secure civil, as well as religious liberty, I entered zealously into the Revolution." After the war, he continued in the United States Senate and in the State Legislature.

Then came from Erin's shore a noble son,
Of Carroll's royal line, to Maryland.
His spacious halls he built on Severn's strand;
There soon the fealty of the bravest won.
A true king born was he. More royal none!
His heart faith's altar—yet shorn was his hand
Of power to aid the Catholics withstand
Bold error's course,—or nobly were it done.
Yet was his son's one son, destined to be,—
Carroll of Carrollton,—their spear and shield—
When shrieked the eagle for full liberty,
And red blood bloomed like roses on the field.
Blest be the Carroll name from age to age—
The patriot, the statesman, and the sage!

At the age of sixty-three he withdrew from public life. About twenty years later, he left Annapolis and took up his abode in Baltimore, in the old building, corner of Front and Lombard streets where, at the ripe age of ninety-five, he died, leaving his countrymen the example of a model Christian and patriot. Early in life he had married Mary Darnall. His children were Elizabeth, Mary, Louisa, Rachel, Charles, and Catherine. Mary Carroll married Richard Caton, after whom Catonsville is named. Richard and Mary Caton had four children, Mary Anne, Marchionesse of Wellesley; Elizabeth, Lady Stafford; Louisa Catharine, Duchess of Leeds; and Emily.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton bequeathed his Annapolis house and estate to his daughter Mary, who, in turn, bequeathed the property to her four daughters. Emily married John

McTavish, British Consul to Baltimore. Her generosity to the Catholic cause in Maryland is, perhaps, without equal. The Sisters of Mercy on Poppleton street, Baltimore, were established through her bounty. The House of the Good Shephard on Mount street owes its foundation to her. St. Joseph's School of Industry for girls, and St. Mary's Industrial School for boys, besides many other institutions in and about Baltimore, received from her munificent donations.

The Carroll Property at Annapolis

In 1852, Mrs. McTavish, in union with her three sisters, donated the Carroll house and grounds at Annapolis to the Redemptorist Order for religious purposes, as will be explained below. The house still stands a venerable monument of by-gone times. Like all manors in old Maryland, it is spacious, but unpretentious. It was built in sections—one part, it is believed, was on the grounds at the time of the Carroll purchase. The entire structure, as it now stands, is supposed by some to have been built before 1740. In this house the Carrolls dwelt for over a century. The summer months, however, as may be seen from their numerous letters, were spent at Doughoregan Manor near Ellicott City.

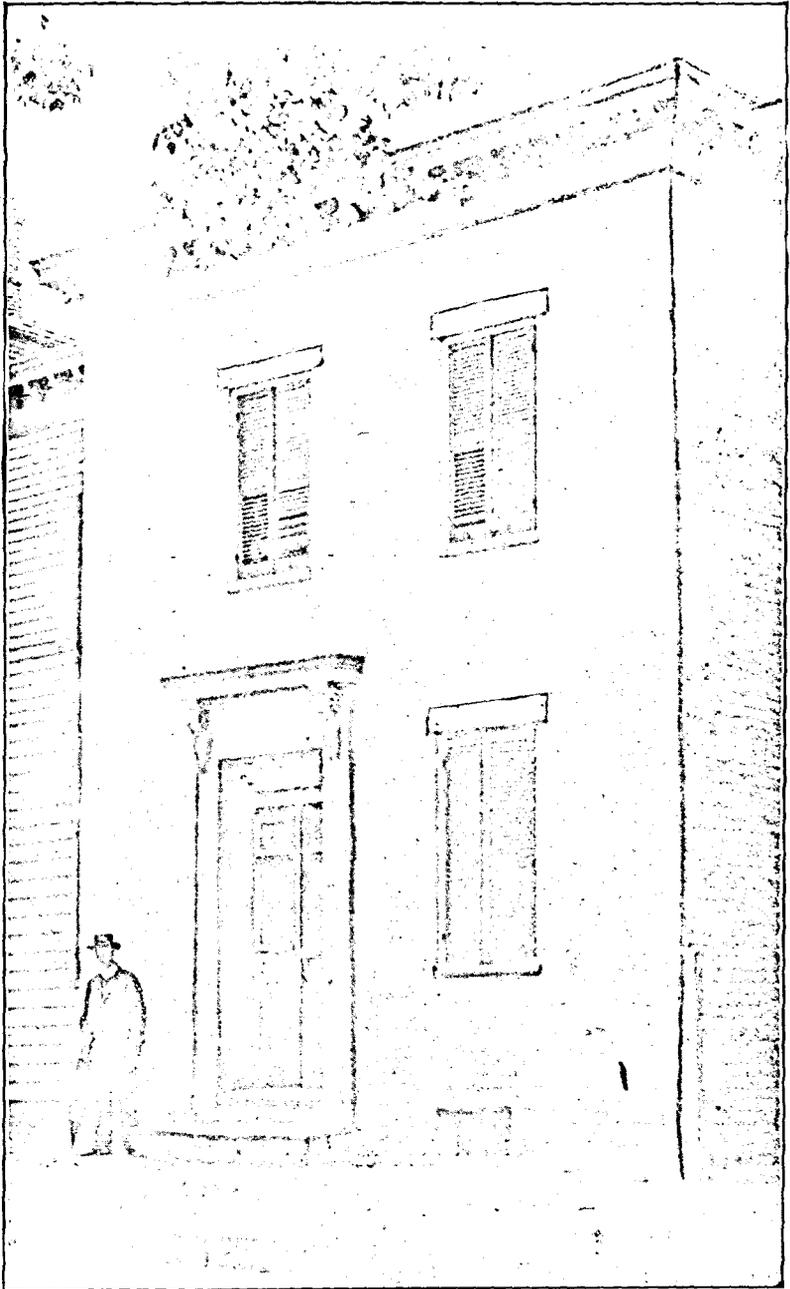
When the Redemptorist Fathers took possession of this property, there was still standing a large frame house, connected with the present building. To the east ran a porch, as may be seen from the picture on the opposite page. The ancient structure was taken down some years ago, being in a decayed condition.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton's grandmother, mother, and wife died in this house at Annapolis, as did, also, most of the family during the century of its occupation. From the east porch, his father fell and was taken up dead. This happened in 1782. He was leaning over the balcony, watching a ship

sail up the Spa, when he fell. The last of the Carrolls to die in the old Annapolis Manor (April 3, 1825), was Charles Carroll of Homewood, son of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. He lies buried in the Carroll cemetery near Annapolis. This cemetery on South River road, is still shown; but most of the tombstones disappeared in the course of the past two centuries. That of Charles Carroll of Homewood is, however, still there.

George Washington, on his visit to Annapolis, dined at the Carroll House. In his diary, under date of September 27, 1771, is the following entry: "Dined at Mr. Carroll's, and went to the ball." Tradition points to an old English walnut-tree on the Carroll grounds as the Washington tree. Rochambeau, after the war, also visited Charles Carroll. The Assembly of Maryland gathered here to thank Charles Carroll of Carrollton for his famous defence of the people's rights, and it was here that the Annapolitans celebrated the Declaration of Independence with bonfires and merrymaking. Thus numerous patriotic memories cluster about the old Carroll Mansion.

The great kitchen hearth still breathes of Carroll's hospitality to the heroes of those stirring times. His office is still in its old condition. The spacious hearths throughout the house remind one of the time when the Carrolls gathered by their cheerful fireside, and discussed the events of the day. The marble slabs around the hearth in the sitting-room are actually worn away. The old homemade hinges still bear the dents of the blacksmith's hammer, and on some of the locks are seen the British coat-of-arms. Spacious, solid, defying the assaults of time and storm, the old manor bids fair to last still many years.



The first Pastoral Residence—built by Charles Carroll of Carrollton.