

Chase, Samuel - Birthplace



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2 August 1993

Dr. Jim O'Hara
Loyola College
Law Department
4501 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

Dear Dr. O'Hara:

Dr. Papenfuse asked me to address your query about the birthplace of Samuel Chase.

I called Shirley Richards, a local historian in Princess Anne who has for many years worked on the problem of Chase's birthplace. She still thinks the "Chase House" on the outskirts of Princess Anne is the probable birthplace, but she has no evidence. She thinks "Bounds Choice" or "Bounds Lott"--the home of one of Chase's mother's relatives--is unlikely, and I agree with her on that. She says it is possible that the birth occurred at the Walker home, but bases this more on the likelihood that a young woman would want to be under the care of her mother during a first birth than on any specific evidence.

Some years ago Mrs. Richards stripped the Somerset County Judicial Records for any reference to Thomas Chase or the Walker family for the period around Chase's birth, and I reviewed this material today. Relevant references to the Rev. Thomas Chase in the Judicials include:

1739, Aug. 6 Chase takes oath as rector of Somerset Parish

[1740, July 17 Approximate date of Samuel Chase's conception]

1740, Aug. Court

Chase sued by Honor Bow for her clothing and back pay; she had "entered into service by the month" with Chase, presumably as a housekeeper, but due to ill usage had left him.



[1741, April 17 Samuel Chase born]

- 1741, June to
Nov. Chase lives at Heber Whittingham's as a boarder--pays Whittingham nothing, and Whittingham has to sue to recover costs of providing board and room.
- 1742, Aug. Judgment against Thomas Chase for a debt of 50 pounds sterling owed to an Annapolis merchant.
- 1742, Nov. 11 Margaret Lindow dies, leaving her house and land to Somerset Parish. Chase is later sued by her executors for breaking into the house in February and May 1743. This is the "Chase House" just outside Princess Anne today.
- 1744 "Parson Chase's" house is referenced in a deed; Mrs. Richards has traced the property and proved that the house referred to is the same one--or at least on the same site--as today's "Chase House" on the outskirts of Princess Anne.

While the information is sketchy, it is clear that the Rev. Thomas Chase had money problems when he began his religious career in Somerset County. Further, the fact that he had a housekeeper in 1740 and that he moved in with the Whittinghams in 1741 both suggest bachelorhood. Since Samuel Chase was conceived and born during this period, and since the Rev. Thomas Chase is later acknowledged as Samuel's father, it seems probable that Samuel was born out of wedlock.

If this is true, it is most likely that Samuel Chase's mother, Matilda Walker, lived at her father's home during her pregnancy and the birth of Samuel. Matilda's father, Thomas Walker, owned "Last Purchase" on the Wicomico, near present-day Mount Vernon.

So, while there is no certain answer to your question, I think the evidence points to the Thomas Walker home as a "best guess" for the birth site of Samuel Chase. The Rev. Thomas certainly lived in the "Chase House" outside Princess Anne, but not until at least two years after Samuel was born.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Stiverson
Assistant State Archivist

GAS:rm

cc: ECP

located in the entry, and the hall is fitted with floor-to-ceiling raised paneling. The hall is the only fully paneled room to survive in Somerset County. Equally noteworthy features include the remnants of a wood-pin roof over the front pavilion and early finishes in the old kitchen. The conical-roofed brick ice-house is a rare outbuilding and one of a small collection of circular farm structures in Maryland.

Kingston Hall stands on a tract of land known as "Conclusion," which consisted of three separate tracts called "Straights," "Johnson's," and "Everden's Lot." These three tracts were consolidated under a resurvey initiated by Robert King II in 1728/29. Totalling 1,500 acres, the Annessex River lands were specifically mentioned in King's will of 1755:

I give and devise unto my grandson Thomas King and to his heirs and assigns for ever, all my lands situate lying and being on the south side of Great Annessex River and head thereof where his deceased father first settled.

Thomas King occupied the "Conclusion" tract through the remainder of the eighteenth century, and after his death around 1800 the property passed to his only child, Elizabeth Barnes King, who married Colonel Henry James Carroll. The Carrolls lived in the house through the early nineteenth century, and after Henry's death in 1818 their son Thomas King Carroll acquired control of the plantation. Thomas King Carroll held several prominent county and state offices, including a one-year term as governor of Maryland (1830-1831). Carroll began his political career as a state delegate (1816-1817), and then became a judge of the Somerset County Levy Court (1825-1826). Between 1826 and 1829 he presided over the Somerset Orphans Court. The Carrolls' daughter, Anna Ella Carroll (1815-



S-35, Glebe house, east elevation.

1894), was born at Kingston Hall.

The Annessex River plantation did not remain in the Carroll family, however. A suit was filed in Somerset Court against Thomas King Carroll in an effort to retrieve accumulated debts, and a court-appointed sheriff, Samuel G. Holbrook, sold Kingston Hall to John Upshur Dennis in September 1837. With Dennis's death in 1851, the estate passed to his son George Robertson Dennis (1822-1882), a prominent politician who served in the Maryland House of Delegates, the state Senate, and finally the United States Senate.

Following the death of George R. Dennis, Kingston Hall was transferred in a court settlement to Alice J. Wood. Subsequent owners have included Harry T. and Vera B. Phoebus, Charlton and Virginia Gunter, and several others. The current owners purchased the house in 1975.

GLEBE HOUSE

1784
Princess Anne vicinity
Private

Specific dimensions recorded in the vestry minutes of Somerset Parish document the construction of this story-and-a-half brick and frame house south of Princess Anne. On March 5, 1784, the vestry considered the state of the house on the glebe and unanimously agreed,

it is necessary to build on the said Glebe a Dwelling House twenty eight feet long and

thirty feet wide, a meat house ten feet square, a stable eighteen by ten both of sawed logs, a framed milk house eight feet square, ordered that the advertisement be immediately set up in the most public places.

Thirteen days later a contract was struck with William Bowland for the sum of £368.7.6, with the house to be completed by December.

The vestry of Somerset Parish retained ownership of the glebe until December 1799 when the property was transferred to John Byrd for £300. Byrd sold it the following year to John and George Parker. John Parker's estate was settled in 1831, and his heirs sold "Davis's Choice," where the glebe house stood, as well as other tracts "on the main road from Princess Anne to Washington Academy" to Littleton Redden. Redden's son Littleton J. Redden died intestate, and John W. B. Parsons was appointed a trustee to sell the plantation. He did so on June 14, 1838 to Edward Long. The Long family retained possession until 1874, when the "Redden or Parker land," as it was known then, was conveyed to William J. Porter. The 140-acre farm was subsequently transferred to Milton F. Hickman and then to the Kings Creek Canning Company.

The old glebe house stands on land initially known as "Davis's Choice," a 600-acre tract patented to James and Margaret Davis on May 10, 1666. Three years later the Davises sold the land, situated along the



S-34, Beverly, east elevation.

upper fork of the Manokin River, to Henry and John Smith. In 1682 Henry Smith of Sussex County, Pennsylvania (later Delaware), sold 130 acres of "Davis's Choice" to Jacob Waring, who had the property resurveyed as "Turner's Purchase." Waring did not own the property for long but sold it to Reverend Thomas Wilson, minister of Manokin Presbyterian Church from 1685/6 to 1698. Reverend Wilson died circa 1702, and his granddaughter Margaret Lindow eventually inherited "Turner's Purchase." Margaret and her husband, James Lindow, occupied the property during the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Margaret Lindow continued to reside on the plantation until 1742, when she sold "Turner's Purchase" to the vestrymen of Somerset Parish for £280. A confirmatory deed executed in December 1747 by David Wilson of Ephraim states, "the land called Turner's Purchase, containing 130 acres formerly occupied by Reverend Thomas Wilson, deceased, grandfather of said David Wilson, whereon a certain Margaret Lindow formerly lived."

The nearly square (28'4" by 30'3") glebe house consists of three weatherboarded walls and a south gable end of Flemish bond brick with a projecting water table. The current appearance of the house is the result of an extensive restoration that included the removal of a full second floor added during the second quarter of the twentieth century. The

roof pitch as well as the roof construction were restored from evidence taken from the house as well as from a documentary photograph made before the second floor was added. Restoration was accomplished through the efforts of Old Princess Anne Days, Inc.

A large part of the late eighteenth century woodwork in the first floor remains intact, making the interior the most significant aspect of the dwelling. The first floor is divided into four rooms of unequal size, two heated by corner fireplaces and two (those on the north) unheated. The northeast corner room contains a quarter-turn closed stringer stair anchored by a bulbous turned newel post. The molded handrail is supported by a series of turned balusters. Raised panel fireplace walls distinguish the two south rooms.

BEVERLY (NR)

1785-1796

Princess Anne vicinity

Private

Often cited as one of the most impressive houses on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, Beverly is an architectural representation of the highest level of wealth achieved in the region during the post-Revolutionary era. Erected in a similar vein were nearby Workington (1793) and the Palladian style houses on the eastern and western shores of Virginia.

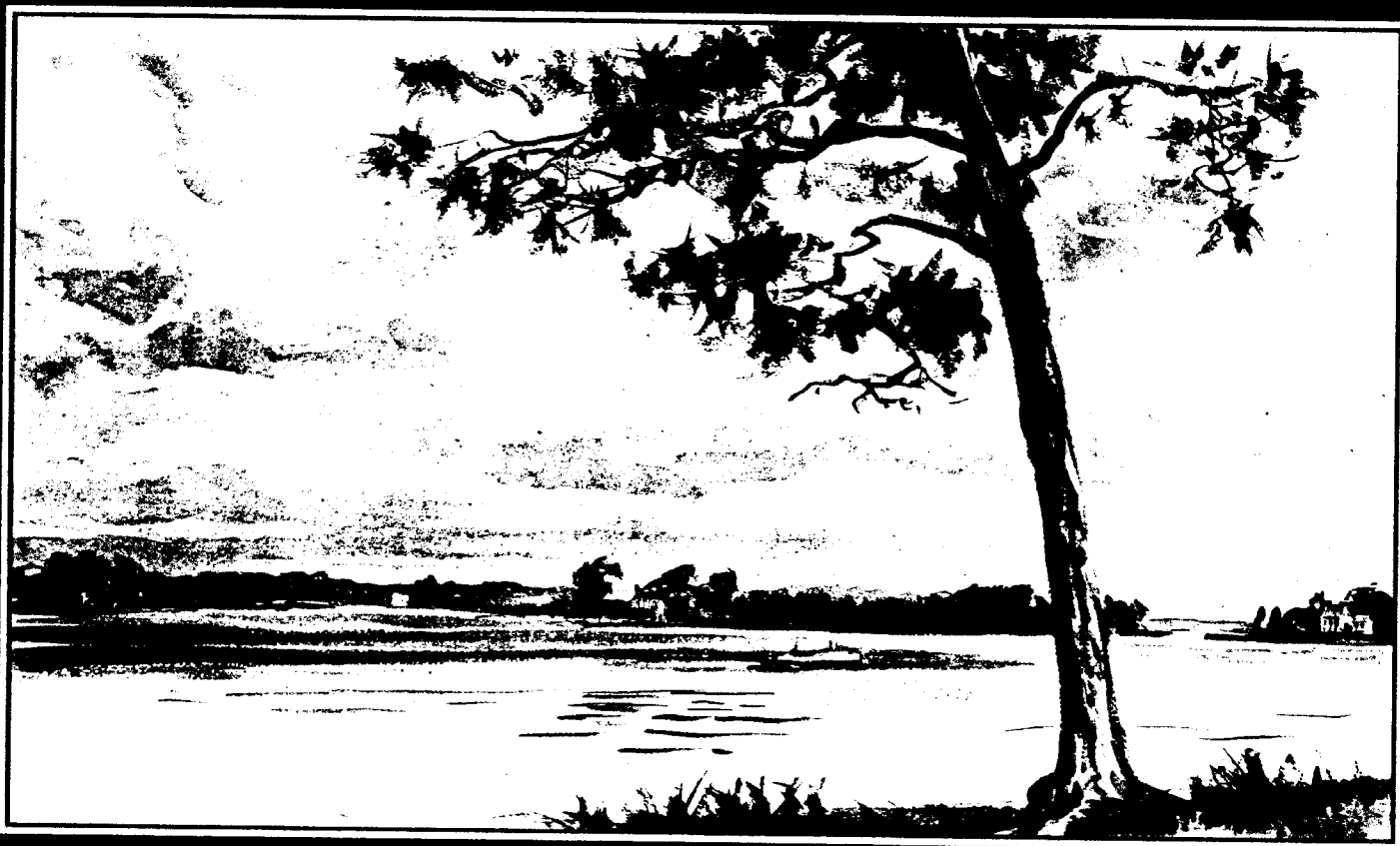
Measuring sixty feet across by forty feet deep, Beverly is distinguished by an impressive two-and-a-half story, five-bay east elevation. Centered on the facade is a two-story, three-sided pavilion capped by a semi-octagonal roof. The steeply pitched hip roof has two gabled dormers, and twin brick chimneys rise from the core of the structure.

As were its aforementioned contemporaries, Beverly was planned on a generous scale with formal interiors enriched with Federal style woodwork. Common to many late eighteenth century houses is its broad center passage, which was often used for entertaining. To keep the passage space unobstructed, the stair was confined to its own room in the northwest corner.

The centerpiece to this King's Creek plantation was the brick dwelling, but estate and tax records describe an extensive complex of domestic and agricultural buildings that accompanied the house. In addition to the "elegant brick dwelling house in good and compleat repair," assessors for the Somerset Orphans Court in August 1804 found another framed dwelling, an old kitchen, one large new quarter, one barn with two side sheds, "one elegant granary," one stable with two side sheds, one new corn house, one old corn house, one smokehouse, one milk house, one lumber house, one meat house, one schoolhouse, one necessary house, one blacksmith shop, one windmill, a poultry house, one

Somerset

An Architectural History



PAUL BAKER TOUART

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O'Hara, Jim

Loyola College
Law Department, 4501 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

Date Received: 07/15/93
Receipt No.
Amount Received: 0.00
Code: PO #:

Staff: ECP Subject: Samuel Chase Homes

Dear Jim:

Copy falls to
me please

I will be leaving on vacation
before I have a chance to do
much more with your enquiry
about the various Chase homes.

I have asked Mr. Stevenson who
has worked closely with the ~~same~~
people in Somerset County
interested in Chase, to see if
he can help nail down the
further place. I will talk to you
when I return at the beginning



4501 North Charles Street Baltimore, MD. 21210

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7/15/93

TO: DR. EDWARD PAPENFUSE

ORGANIZATION: MD ARCHIVES

FAX #: 974-3895

FROM: DR Jim O'Hara

DEPARTMENT: LAW DEPT. - LOYOLA COLLEGE

FAX #: 410-617-2117 TELEPHONE #: 617-2273

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 7

MESSAGE:
THE SAMUEL CHASE HOUSES NEAR PRINCESS ANNE
① ROUTE 529 NEAR MD R 13
② "BOUNDS CHOICE" OR "BOUNDS LOTT"
of Papenfuse Maryland p 187
③ Walker House on Wicomico Rd, n. of
DASHEL'S CREEK of How Swampy Patriot p. 3

NOTE: What do we know about Bustplan

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Historic Houses - Chase, Samuel - Somerset Co

Signer controversial again

Sunday Sun
9-28-75

Derelict frame house becomes Somerset's 3d Chase landmark

By MARY CORDDRY
Salisbury Bureau of The Sun

Princess Anne—Samuel Chase, a Maryland signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was a center of controversy during much of his lifetime, still is generating it 200 years later in his native county of Somerset.

A derelict two-story white frame house in the middle of a soybean field has recently been recognized officially by the Board of County Commissioners as the early home of Samuel Chase. It has been designated a bicentennial landmark and project.

The elevation of the neglected house to historical significance makes it the third "Chase house" in this rural Shore county.

Behind its recognition and restoration is a Somerset county native, Maud Jeffries, who is president of Olde Princess Anne Days, Inc. She is better known from here to Annapolis as a poet.

The house is located just off U.S. 13 south of Princess Anne. It is shaded by sycamore, pecan and walnut trees and has the date 1713 marked on one of its bricks.

It is owned by a canoeing company that farms the land around it and was occupied by tenants rent-free until a few months ago when Olde Princess Anne Days, Inc., acquired a 25-year lease for \$1 a year.

The organization was formed 17 years ago by Mrs. Jeffries, an energetic woman with red hair, who has a determination to protect the historic resources of this community that few can withstand.

Since 1960 when her organization acquired the town's most familiar landmark, an 1881 manor house called the Yeackle Mansion, she has been mainly preoccupied with its restoration, furnishing and

The mansion is supported by an annual tour of Princess Anne's historic town houses and Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century country homes on the county's isolated waterfronts. Olde Princess Anne Days are scheduled this year for the weekend of October 11 and 12.

Mrs. Jeffries has wanted for years to acquire and tackle the restoration of the house on U.S. 13 that has been identified by some historians as the birthplace of Samuel Chase.

Its simple listing on the tour guide this year as "Chase house . . . under restoration," is the climax of months of research and physical drudgery.

Last week Mrs. Jeffries, her husband John, who is retired, and her sister, Mary Catherine Ricketts, were scrubbing the grime that has collected for years on walls, woodwork and floors.

They were inspired in their task by original wide planking in the floors, corner fireplaces with the original paneling, a paneled staircase and wide decorative hinges beneath dingy, flaking paint.

By the end of the week new paint in one of the downstairs rooms showed off its long-bid-den assets.

The three workers also have been rewarded by the discovery behind the bricks of an original fireplace worked in Flemish bond (a distinctive means of laying the bricks). An architectural expert has

In her research Mrs. Jeffries was similarly rewarded by discovery in the Hall of Records in Annapolis of a legal document proving that Thomas Chase, Samuel's father, was living in the house in 1742 and 1743, the year after Samuel was born.

Thomas Chase was the Church of England rector in Somerset county at the time and the property was the glebe (parsonage) of the Somerset parish.

Samuel Chase's political

attacks on Jeffersonians tried under the Alien and Sedition Act led to his impeachment as a Supreme Court justice. He was the only justice ever to be impeached but was acquitted. He was known as a "foul-mouthed and inflammatory Son of Discard and Passion," and was attacked throughout his life for volatile conduct.

It still is not clear where Samuel Chase, now one of the state's major bicentennial year figures, actually was born.

His mother was Matilda Walker, who belonged to a Somerset county family and is said to have gone to the home of her parents for the birth of Samuel in 1741. Her family's farm is one known today as the Daniel White farm at Mount Vernon on the Wicomico River, but the original house is gone.

Swepton Earle, a Maryland historian whose books

are prized in Eastern Shore libraries, included a picture captioned "Birthplace of Samuel Chase" in a 1916 volume called "Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore."

The picture is of a house on the Wicomico River near Allen called Bounds Lott. The house is dated late Seventeenth Century and is being carefully and authentically restored by Robert Withey, a Salisbury decorator and antique dealer.

In another Swepton Earle history, "Chesapeake Bay Country," dated 1923, a picture of the glebe house now being restored by Mrs. Jeffries is captioned "Birthplace of Samuel Chase."

It is a reproduction of this house that is engraved on the gravy boat in the famous silver dinner set crafted for the U.S. Navy for the battleship Maryland and displayed in the State House in Annapolis.

Wherever the Chase birth-

place might have been, Maud Jeffries is excited about the glebe house for itself.

She hopes eventually to remove a porch and a third story and rear wing of the house that were added in 1920, to replace and relocate windows to their original appearance and to reconstruct a kitchen wing, now gone, that gave the house its original lines.

To do this she must raise \$56,000, the estimated cost of restoring the existing structure, to say nothing of the added cost of reconstructing the vanished wing.

So determined is Mrs. Jeffries to see the project through that she is now going to her antique shop, Nutters Purchase, by appointment only. She is spending more time at the Chase house, she said last week, than in her own home, Tunstall Cottage, which is, predictably, the oldest inhabited dwelling in Princess Anne.

U.S. 13 S of Princess Anne

SEP 18/1971
 'ans' unit helps put Chase's home on historic list

CORONRY

of The Sun
 The most recent his-
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Anne Days, Inc., with an additional \$10,000 last February toward work on a long-neglected clapboard-and-brick house here identified as the boyhood home and possible birthplace of Chase, one of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The group decided to support the project after some of its officers read about it in *The Sun* about two years ago and then drove down to see it, said William R. McCartin, of Baltimore, chairman of the Disabled Veterans' Finance Committee.

Mr. McCartin said his organization has between 25 and 28 chapters in Maryland and gets its money solely from dues and

profits from two salvage stores in the Baltimore area that solicit and sell discarded items. The national organization is financed separately, he explained.

His group, Mr. McCartin said, provides services to veterans and their families. It recently contributed a special lodge for handicapped Boy Scouts to the Broad Creek Camp in Harford county, the first lodge of its kind in the country.

The disabled veterans organization also likes to support patriotic projects, Mr. McCartin said.

The houses associated with the other three Marylanders who signed the declaration are well known: Doughoregan Man-

or in Howard county, the home of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Thomas Stone's Habre de Venture in Charles county, and the Paca House in Annapolis, among others, of William Paca. But this early home of Samuel Chase in Princess Anne was not well known.

His group was impressed, Mr. McCartin said, by the "total dedication" of the people working on the restoration in Princess Anne. "We liked the way they were doing it and putting themselves into it."

The Chase house is at the end of a dirt lane leading off of U.S. 13 just south of Princess Anne. It is believed to have been built about 1713.

The house as it is supposed to have looked when Samuel Chase's father, a Church of England rector, lived there is one of the scenes of Maryland history engraved on a gravy boat in an elaborate silver dinner service presented by the state in 1906 to the USS Maryland, a cruiser, and later transferred to the battleship Maryland. The silver is now on display in the State House in Annapolis.

The original Chase home was altered through the years until almost no one except Mrs. John H. Jeffries, a one-woman force behind the restoration, would have recognized the possibilities that are beginning to be visible after two years of work.

THE LITTLE OLD WOMAN OF LEXINGTON ST. MEMORIES

WHAT memories you would have, what sights you would have seen, if you had lived for just a little short of 7 years across the corner from Lexington Market.

If you were born there and had lived your childhood there with your parents, you would have not only your own memories but, entangled with them and seeming to really belong to you, many, many reminiscences of our parents, so that your knowledge of happenings in your neighborhood would go back and back until you seemed actually to have memory of things that happened before you were born.

THUS it is with the oldest resident of that once-fine residential section about Lexington Market—a quaint old-fashioned little lady of so shy a spirit that her name must be a secret, and of so gentle a soul that hurt to an animal or trouble and poverty to a fellow man moves her even to tears.

There is in the eye of the mind a picture of her as a solemn little black-eyed dame with rosy cheeks in blue frock of quaint night bodice and flaring skirt getting off in the morning to school, swinging her bonnet by its strings and stopping a moment on the sidewalk to smell the lilacs in the garden of the Chase mansion across the street.

Later the picture changes and she is a maiden in her teens, seated demurely in a corner of the immense old sofa in her father's parlor, her head in the curve of the high stately back and her skirts spread wide upon the sombre horsehair covering of the seat.

Years go by and she is a matron with basket on arm making her ellipse of deliveries from the stalls of the market across the way and carrying with special care some dainty for the sturdy black-haired son, who goes far toward filling the empty places left in her heart by the loss of parents and husband.

So from year to year she lives on in the big old house with its beautiful doorways leading from spacious parlors to spacious rooms and back to the rough-hewn marks of the market and the neighborhood those gradual changes that make of a residence section a bustling market corner.

The Chase Mansion

Her earliest memory is of the Chase Mansion opposite her own home. This house was built in 1789 by Samuel Chase, who was later a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, on a square of ground running from Butaw street to Pace and from Lexington street to Fayette. The ground was presented to him by Col. John Roger Howard, his very good friend, in order to induce him to move from Annapolis to Baltimore.

When built the house was in open country and even in the time of the delightful old resident who prompted this story there was much country land found about it. It must, in its palmy days, have been a magnificent home with gardens extending, as they did, over what is now an entire city block.

Samuel Chase died in 1811, but there is record of the occupancy of the Chase home by his widow until 1838 and it was probably shortly after that time that it was torn down or remodelled. Before this, however, the city directories list persons named Chase living all along Lexington, Fayette and Pace streets so it is likely that the property was divided into smaller tracts after his death and some of the large garden land as building sites for members of the Chase family.

Lexington Market, even in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, has "always been there." Col. John Roger Howard owned the ground on which Lexington Market stands, as well as the ground which he presented to Samuel Chase, and the section roundabout was called Howard's Hill. Colonel Howard in 1782 laid off the market on his own land, but it was many years before the market house was erected.

Efforts were made in 1790 by the inhabitants of the western section of the city to have Hazardet Market moved to the present site of Lexington Market. The committee appointed to consider the petition of Samuel Chase to

STREETS

LEXINGTON

BALTO.

SUN — 21, 19



THE OLD CHASE MANSION

This building was opposite the present home of the old lady

of this story. However Market moved, recommended its removal farther west, but reported that they were unable to fix upon a suitable locality and another committee was appointed to consider the matter of selecting a locality, but it does not appear that this committee took any definite action.

Working For A Market.

The citizens of what was then known as Western Prichard, however, continued their efforts to have a market-place built upon the lot laid off by Colonel Howard, and finally in 1808 a committee was appointed to memorialize the Legislature for the establishment of the Lexington Market.

Plans were soon raised and the market proceeded rapidly to completion. The market-house then erected extended only from Eutaw to Pace street on Lexington street. In 1826 a resolution passed the City Council appropriating the sum of \$2,500 to be used to repair Lexington Market west of Pace street and to erect a new house for the sale of fish.

In 1855 that part of the market between Pace and Greene streets was reconstructed, and in January, 1859, the building was completed and ready for use. After the close of the Civil War the whole market was rebuilt.

It was not so very many years ago that on market days farmers' wagons filled both sides of Lexington street between Eutaw and Howard streets just as they now fill Lexington street and Lochiana avenue about Eutaw street—only there were more of them, for more farmers came to market than there could be accommodated. There were fewer com-

mercial establishments and the farmers brought their produce to market and sold it direct to the consumers and were engaged to make something out of their sales when buying at prices that would be incredibly small now.

Lexington street came gradually to fill up with shops and the shops got finer and finer and the shopkeepers more and more particular about what filled the street in front of their shops, and so finally the market wagons were pushed farther and farther back until Lexington street below Eutaw was entirely cleared of them.

Changes Brought By Time.

It was through many slow years that the Western Prichard changed from a residential section well on the outskirts of the city to the busiest shopping section almost directly in the middle of the city.

That sturdy black-haired son of the old lady found many playmates near his own home, and what is now the alley behind Ford's Opera House was a street of residences occupied by prosperous German families, members, most of them, of the parish of St. Alphonsus' German Catholic Church. Even at that time the character of the neighborhood was rapidly changing, growing nearer and nearer to its present aspect of busy commercial life, of shop fronts and plate-glass windows. It is hard to believe that up a single flight of stairs can be found a quiet parlor of the "antebellum period" and a shy old housewife holding steadfastly to traditions and ideals of the same period—a real old-fashioned mother, as the sturdy black-haired son, now grown up, says.



BIRTHPLACE OF SAMUEL CHASE
OPPOSITE "GREEN HILL"

THE "Chase House," built of wood, stands on the south side of the Wicomico River, nearly opposite "Green Hill," and is well preserved. Tradition gives the date of its building as about the same time as that of "Pemberton Hall." Here Rev. Thomas Chase lived while rector of Somerset Parish, and here his son, Samuel Chase, among the greatest of American lawyers, was born, April 17, 1741. Rev. Thomas Chase, for the last thirty-four years of his life, was rector of St. Paul's Parish, in Baltimore City, being appointed by Governor Bladen, February 11, 1745. He died April 4, 1779, when his son had attained high rank at the bar, and as a leader in the Revolution.

Taught the classics and English branches by his father. Samuel Chase studied law at Annapolis, where he made his home. He was elected to the Assembly repeatedly from 1764 to 1784; sat in the Continental Congress in 1774-1778; went with Benjamin Franklin and Charles Carroll on a special mission to Canada in 1774; signed the Declaration of Independence; removed to Baltimore in 1786, after another term in Congress; was appointed Judge of the Baltimore Criminal Court, 1788, and Chief Judge of the General Court of

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*Swepton Earle Maryland Colonial
Eastern Shore, p 192*

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MARYLAND'S COLONIAL EASTERN SHORE

Maryland. 1701; President Washington named him an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1796, and he served as such until his death in Washington, June 10, 1811. Boldest among the Maryland patriots, he early counseled independence, and in the Congress declared, "by the God of Heaven, I owe no allegiance to the King of Great Britain!"

Of the nine impeachment trials before the United States Senate, that of Judge Chase, in 1805, is, next to the impeachment of President Johnson, the most notable. Johnson's acquittal was made possible by the vote of an Eastern Shore Senator, George Vickers, of Kent, and Chase, an Eastern Shoreman by birth, was defended in his trial by an Eastern Shoreman by adoption, Luther Martin. Martin learned his first law in the library of Judge Solomon Wright at "Blakeford," while he was teaching school at Queenstown, and attained his first eminence at the bar in Somerset. On the advice of Chase, he was made Attorney-General of Maryland, and after twenty-seven years in this office appeared before the Senate as Chase's chief advocate. Goddard says:

Judge Chase had been most injudicious in his remarks concerning President Jefferson's official course. Yet that he was not deserving of impeachment the result of a trial before a body containing a majority politically opposed to him, clearly indicates. The impeachment was not sustained, only three of the eight articles receiving even a majority of the votes of the Senators, none the requisite two-thirds.

Delisle writes:

No man ever stood higher for honesty of purpose and integrity of motive than Judge Chase. Notwithstanding the rancor of such party feeling as dared to charge President Washington with appropriating the public money to his private use did all in its power to pluck the ermine from his shoulders, yet his purity beamed the brighter as the clouds grew darker and he lived to hear the last whisper of calumny flit by like a bat in the morning twilight.

At this trial Aaron Burr, whom Martin was two years later to so effectively defend at Richmond on the indictment for treason, presided. Judge Chase built the "Chase House" at Annapolis in 1770—the only colonial three-story dwelling in "The Ancient City."

One of the recent owners of the Somerset ancestral Chase homestead was Henry J. Dashiell, the grandfather of Congressman Jesse D. Price, of the First District. Mr. Dashiell sold it to Col. Lemuel Malone, and the present owner is Ephraim Bounds.

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July 19, 1993

Dr. Jim O'Hara
Loyola College
Law Department
4501 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

Dear Jim:

I will be leaving on vacation before I have a chance to do much more with your inquiry about the various Chase houses.

I have asked Dr. Stiverson who has worked closely with the people in Somerset County interested in Chase, to see if he can help nail down the birth place.

I will talk to you when I return at the beginning of September.

Sincerely yours,

Edward C. Papenfuse
State Archivist and
Commissioner of Land Patents

ECP/sb

cc: Gregory A. Stiverson

K₂ 12/8^h/11

ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND 1746, folio 293

Mr. Chase and I went to visit the Shomakin Indians.....

ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND 1746, folio 370 - 376

Encounter of CHASE and James Richards, Sheriff, Baltimore.

SOMERSET COUNTY DEED BOOK X, folio 124, date 1744

Deed of Elzey guardian, and refers on the seventh line from the bottom, "between the dwelling house and PARSON CHASE'S on the point in the fork of the Creek." (I checked the Fisher ⁶property and it is the house presently called the CHASE HOUSE outside of Princess Anne.

ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND, 1744

SOMERSET COUNTY DEED BOOK X, folio 286

David Wilson to Somerset Parish, "glebe land" (Mrs. Lindow's) which was ordered by the Assembly in Annapolis.

SOMERSET COUNTY JUDICIALS, 1740, folio 28

Lycense to THOMAS WALKER (Grandfather of Samuel Chase) to operate an "ordinary or house of entertainment" at his dwelling house on the Wicomico ("Last Purchase", Mount Vernon, Maryland).

SOMERSET COUNTY JUDICIALS, 1740, folio 29

Lycense to Heber Whittingham (who took Chase to Court in 1744 for room and board) to operate an "ordinary or house of entertainment" at his dwelling house at Manokin in Princess Anne Town (presently store of C. H. Hayman & Company, on land where Customs House is located in Princess Anne.)

THOMAS CHASE

SOMERSET COUNTY JUDICIALS

1738-1740, folio 187 - Oath as Rector of Somerset Parish before William Stoughton of "Almodington", dated 1739, *Aug. 6* - "entered into service"

1740-1742, folio 303 - Petition of Honor Bow suffering much abuse from hands of Thomas Chase whom he pretended to be his hireling, *1740.* *by the mill*

1740-1742, folio 298 - Suit of Onorio Rosalini (of Annapolis), 1742. *August Court* - *Chase and Rosalini £50.*

3 AUG
-1744, folio 19 - Suit of Heber Whittingham stating he received THOMAS CHASE in his home for five months, etc., beginning June 1, 1741 (two months after SAMUEL CHASE was born) and CHASE owed him for his room and board. *meat, drink, & washing*

143 MARCH 15
-1742, folio 112 - Suit of Samuel Wilson and George Gale against CHASE and property of Margaret Lindow, Widow. *judgment against him £10*

Mrs. Margaret Lindow was the granddaughter of the Reverend Thomas Wilson, first Pastor of Manokin Presbyterian Church in Princess Anne. CHASE is accused of entering her property twice, once with "force and arms" in February, 1742, and then again in *May the 29th,* 1742. May 28, 1742 Mrs. Lindow has deeded the property to the Vestry of the Somerset Parish for the usage of the Church of England ministers. In November on the 11, 1742, Mrs. Lindow died. Her deed to the Church of England was filed for record on the 16th, 4 days after her death. *1st entry*

This property remained the property of the Vestry until 1799 when it was sold to a John Bird. It is presently the property leased as the CHASE HOUSE in Princess Anne.

-1743, folio 207 - Command given to Sheriff to take THOMAS CHASE in custody and fine him twenty pounds.

-1743, folio 183 - Suit against THOMAS CHASE for libeling Samuel Wilson (cousin of Mrs. Margaret Wilson Lindow, and who fought CHASE to get the property back). (Notice the name of Robert King which appears to be written over.)

- Mrs. Lindow's mother was Elizabeth Ballard who married three times - first to a John King, secondly to Margaret's father, Thomas Wilson, and third to Peter Dent. (Torrence, Old Somerset)