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March 31, 2000

Ms. Emily Squires  
Maryland Archives  
350 Rowe Blvd.  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Emily:

I brought my copy of Jones History of Dorchester County, Maryland and copied the attached pages about the Steele family. I didn't know if any of these pages would be of some help to you.

Come see us. We are open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 to 3:00. It was nice talking with you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

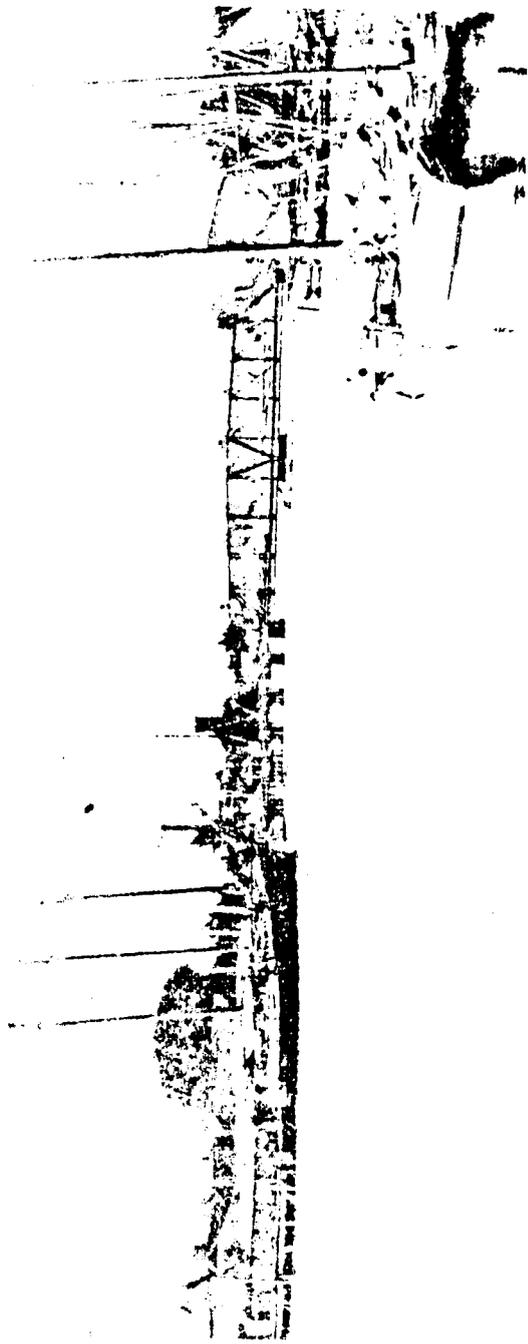


Irene Harper  
Secretary

Enclosure



Steele



Cambridge Inner Harbor (1896), Looking South, Showing Steel Pivot Draw

my Body and to my sonne Charles all my lande, only Four Hundred Acres, I give to my sonne George Stapleford at the head of the Creeke and to my Daughter, Mary, I give one hundred acres of Lande Called by the name of Stapleford Lott att Charles is Creeke side and my Debts being paid I give all the rest of my estate to be divided to every one, Wife and Children a share of all my Goods and Chattels and to See it equally divided I leave Major Thomas Taylor and my Brother George Thompson, and soe I rest in God and all his Saints and Angels, Amen.

August 11th., Anno Domm. 1684. (Seal).

RAYD. STAPLEFORD.

Signed, sealed and delivered  
in the presence of us.

WILLIAM ROBSON.

WILLIAM ROBSON, JR.

JOHN PHILIPS.

September the 3d. 1687.

#### ON THE BACK OF WILL THE FOLLOWING:

Then was this within written Will proved by William Robson, Senr. & William Robson Junr. and John Phillips all of them the witnesses to the said Will before me.

HENRY HOOPER.

True Copy: ELIE NALLETTE

Per C.

#### STEELE FAMILY.

The Steele family of Dorchester County had its first representative in the person of Henry Steele, a native of White Haven, in the County of Cumberland, England. Little is known of Mr. Steele's life in England before emigrating to this country beyond the fact that he was a gentleman of standing and means as shown by a number of letters written by him while a native of Dorchester County to his Agent at White Haven, England, giving orders as to the collection of rents and the disposition of monies arising from the rental of prop-

erties, which he is still possessed in White Haven. Among other things mentioned is his iron ware-house and his pew in the Transept in the Church of England. Mr. Steele himself was a staunch member of the Church of England and his descendants have without exception been adherents to and members of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Mr. Steele first settled at Oxford, Talbot County, but shortly moved to Dorchester County and resided at or near Vienna. Just at what time is not definitely known, but it must have been at an early age, as he was born in 1720 and letters and deeds still in the possession of the family and dated in 1749 show that he and Colonel John Henry, father of the Honorable John Henry, purchased jointly some lots in Vienna in that year. It is thus shown that the Steele and Henry families, afterwards related by marriage, were at this early date closely related by the ties of business and friendship.

Mr. Steele married Sarah, the eldest daughter of Mr. James Billings, who also at one time had resided at Oxford. Mr. Henry Steele died in 1782, aged sixty-two years. He purchased an estate adjoining Weston near Vienna on the Nanticoke River and built one of the largest and most pretentious houses in Dorchester County, where he resided at the time of his death in 1782. He was buried at Weston and his remains with his tomb-stone were afterwards removed to Christ P. E. Church Cemetery by his great, great, grand-son, Dr. Guy Steele.

Mr. Steele left a large personal and landed estate. The section called Steele's Neck was owned by him and named after him, and he and his heirs owned many farms on the Chickanacomigo River extending from Vienna towards Salem, and also the large tract of land known as the Indian Town Purchase. The original indenture showing the division of this land, which was a part of the estate of Thomas Nevett was made in 1779, the division being to John Ryder Nevett, Col. John Henry and Henry Steele. This land was originally occupied by the Nanticoke Indians and by an Act of the Colonial Legislature in 1724, these Indians were removed from Indian Town to a tract of land near Cambridge, where the Eastern Shore State

Hospital now stands. Mr. Steele bought of the other heirs-at-law and became the sole owner of the Indian Town Purchase, which originally extended from the Chicawan Creek to the Junction of the northwest fork of the Nanticoke near Walnut Landing to near Reid's Grove, containing what is known as the Hansel or Thompson Farm, the Goldsborough Farm and the original Indian Town Farm, now owned by Mr. Frazee, the former home of the Honorable John Nevett Steele.

Henry Steele left four sons: James, Isaac, Harry and Peter. Of these, Harry and Peter died before reaching manhood, and Isaac when a young man. Isaac bought Hambrooks and in 1807 built the original brick dwelling now on that farm, which was enlarged by John Campbell Henry and Mrs. F. M. Dick. Mr. James Steele, the eldest son, by the law of primo geniture, inherited the greater portion of his father's estate, and by the early death of his brothers, came into possession of their share of Mr. Henry Steele's estate as well. He was one of the wealthiest men of Dorchester County and of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He possessed a large fortune in those days in real estate, slaves and other personal property. He married Mary Nevett, daughter of John Ryder Nevett and Sarah Maynadier, daughter of the Reverend Daniel Maynadier, a minister of the Church of England, and for many years Rector of Great Choptank Parish. Daniel Maynadier was a son of the Rev. Mr. Maynadier, a French Huguenot, who fled from Landguedoc after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, first to England and then to this country. John Ryder Nevett was unfortunately drowned April 13th, 1772, at the age of twenty-five years, by the capsizing of a schooner in the Choptank River near Castle Haven, while on his way to Annapolis to attend Court. Mr. Nevett's widow, Mary Nevett, married Dr. James Murray and moved to Annapolis. By this marriage, the Steele family became related to many of the most prominent families of Maryland and Virginia. Dr. Murray and Mrs. Murray, nee Nevett, left two sons, Daniel and James, and three daughters. One of the daughters married Governor and United States Senator Edward Lloyd of Talbot County, Maryland, and was a grandmother of the Honorable Henry Lloyd, Governor of

Maryland. Another became the wife of the Honorable Richard Rush of Philadelphia, whose distinguished career during the Revolutionary War and afterwards was so well known. The other became the wife of the Honorable John Mason of Virginia and was the mother of Senator Mason and the grandmother of the late Fitzhugh Lee, Governor of Virginia.

Mr. James Steele, shortly after his marriage to Mary Nevett, purchased "The Point" in Cambridge from Mr. Robert Goldsborough, where he resided until he moved to Annapolis about 1820, selling "The Point" to Mr. Washington Eccleston, whose daughter, Mrs. Richard Hayward, inherited it from her father. He and his wife resided in Annapolis until the time of their deaths and are now buried in old St. Anne's Cemetery.

James Steele and Mary Nevett, his wife, left the following children:

1. James Billings, who married Milcah Gale of Somerset County, Maryland, and had:

1. James, who married a Miss Richardson of Denton, where he resided for many years, and left the following children:

- (1) Zebulon Potter,
- (2) Gale and
- (3) Cora.

Mr. James Steele married as his second wife, Miss Sarah Yeabury Goldsborough, daughter of Robert Goldsborough and Mary Nixon of Delaware. By this marriage, he had:

(1) Louise N., who married Mr. Joseph Henry Hooper of Dorchester County:

(2) Wilhelmina Goldsborough, who married Mr. Van Rensselaer Dickinson of Talbot County, Maryland.

(3) Nellie, who married Joseph D. Richards of Pittsburgh.

(4) Sarah, who married Mr. Buck of England.

(5) Clarence Hutchins, who died unmarried.

2. John Nevett, who was noted for being one of the most erudite men who lived in Dorchester County. Mr. Steele was a member of Congress from the First Congressional District of Maryland, and Wig candidate for Governor, being defeated

for that office by Governor Grason of Queen Anne's County. He married Anne Ogle Buchanan, daughter of Judge Thomas Buchanan of Washington County, Maryland. She was a niece of Chief Justice Buchanan of the Maryland Court of Appeals. In Browning's Pedigree of Americans of Royal descent, the following genealogy of Anne Ogle Buchanan, wife of John Nevett Steele, was given :

1. Edward 1st, King of England, had :

1. Prince Thomas, Earl of Norfolk, who had :

Margaret, Duchess of Norfolk, married John, Lord Seagrave, and had :

Lady Elizabeth Seagrave ; married John, Lord Mowbray, and had :

Thomas Mowbray, K. G., Duke of Norfolk, who had Lady Margaret Mowbray, married Sir John Howard and had :

John Howard, K. G., Duke of Norfolk, who had :

Thomas Howard, K. G., who had :

William Howard, K. G., created in 1551 Lord Howard of Effingham, Lord High Admiral of England, Lord Chamberlain and Lord of the Privy Seal, who by his second wife, Lady Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Gomage, Knight of Cosby, had :

Lady Douglas Howard, who by her second marriage with Lord Sheffield, had :

Sir Edmund, third Lord Sheffield, K. G., who had :

Lady Frances Sheffield, married Sir Philip Fairfax, had :

Lady Isabella Fairfax, who married Nathaniel Bladen of Henesworth and had :

Ane Bladen, who married Benjamin Tasker, President of the Council and Deputy Governor of Maryland, who had :

Anne Tasker, who married Samuel Ogle, thrice Governor of Maryland, who died in 1762, aged fifty-eight years, and had :

Benjamin Ogle of Mayland, who married Margaret Hill, and had :

Benjamin Ogle, Governor of Maryland, who had :

1st. Mary Ogle, who married John Ridout, Member of the Council of Maryland.

2nd. Anne Ogle, who married John Tayloe of Mt. Airey, in King Georges County, Virginia.

3rd. Meliora Ogle, who married James Anderson of Maryland and had:

Rebecca, who married Judge Thomas Buchanan of Washington County, Maryland, and had:

Anne Ogle Buchanan, who married John Nevett Steele of Dorchester County, Maryland. Mrs. Steele was a woman of splendid education with a poetic turn of mind, and some of her verses still extant, show talent of a high degree. She was a noted conversationalist and in every respect a highly accomplished, versatile and attractive woman. She died at Annapolis in 1834 and her remains are interred in St. Anne's P. E. Church-yard.

The children of John Nevett Steele and his wife are:

1. James, who was Lieutenant of Maryland Infantry and saw active service during the Mexican War. He died in 1862 in the service of the Confederate States of America and was buried near Fredericksburg, Virginia. He married Miss Mattie Cunningham, daughter of Commodore Cunningham, U. S. Navy, of Norfolk, Virginia, and had:

(I) Hattie, who married Admiral John B. Milton, U. S. Navy, and is now a resident of California. Admiral and Mrs. Milton had two children:

(I) Maxwell, a prominent mining engineer of California;

(II) Mattie, who married Captain George B. Neal of the U. S. Navy.

The second daughter of James Steele, Miss Nannie Buchanan, unmarried, is living now in San Francisco, California.

The second son of John Nevett and Anne Ogle Buchanan Steele was Dr. Thomas Buchanan Steele, who was born April 1st, 1822, in Cambridge, Maryland. Dr. Steele graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Maryland in 1844. At the outbreak of the Mexican War in 1846, he was appointed an Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Navy, and was engaged in active and arduous service during the war in various parts of the Gulf of Mexico, taking part in the Battles of Tuspan and Tobasco. After the close of the

Mexican War and short service on shore, he became a member of Perry's Expedition to Japan. His ship, the U. S. S. Saratoga, being one of the squadron of Commodore Perry present when the Treaty with Japan was signed. Dr. Steele was a member of the official landing party of Commodore Perry at that ceremony, and one of the first citizens of the United States to set foot on this land hitherto forbidden to foreigners. On returning to the United States by the way of Cape Horn, Dr. Steele was assigned to the U. S. Coast Survey for a tour of duty, following which, he was stationed at the U. S. Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, Virginia, and was executive officer and next in command of this Institution during the terrible yellow fever epidemic which visited the communities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia, in 1857. For the highly distinguished and eminent services, which he rendered during this trying period, he received a letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy, and a gold medal from the grateful citizens of Portsmouth, Virginia. His next service was on the U. S. S. Macedonia in the Mediterranean. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was surgeon of the U. S. S. Allegheny Receiving Ship at Baltimore. Being a man of Southern birth and sympathy, he resigned his commission in the U. S. Navy in 1861. At the close of the War, Dr. Steele practiced for a short time in Hagerstown and Mt. Washington, then removed to Cambridge, Maryland, where he resided in active practice until the time of his death June the 22nd, 1904.

Dr. Steele was a man of distinguished presence, courtly manners and address, eminently skilled and accomplished in his profession, and no man who ever had lived in this community more thoroughly earned and enjoyed the respect and affection of its citizens. In 1852, Dr. Steele married Isabella Elizabeth Henry, daughter of John Campbell Henry, son of Governor and U. S. Senator John Henry and Mary Nevett Steele, his wife of Hambrooks, and had:

- (1) Ogle, who died in 1918, age sixty-three, unmarried;
- (2) Campbell, who died in 1884, unmarried, at the age of twenty-seven. Mr. Campbell Steele was one of the most accom

plished and highly talented younger members of the Dorchester County Bar;

(3) Mary Isabella, who married Mr. Louis W. Trail of Prospect Hall, Frederick County, Maryland. Mr. Trail rendered distinguished service to the Confederacy during the Civil War. At the close of the War, he became one of the most prominent grain exporters in Baltimore. In 1881, he retired and moved to Talbot County, Maryland, and resided for many years at Wheatlands, his beautiful estate on Miles River. He moved from there to Easton, where he resided at the time of his death. Mr. Trail was a man of unusually forceful personality, sterling character and remarkable business ability. Mr. and Mrs. Trail had the following children:

I. Lewis, who died in infancy;

II. Thomas Steele, who married Katherine Davidson, daughter of Percy and Marjory Travers Davidson, and grand-daughter of the late Captain Hunter Davidson, formerly of the United States and Confederate Navies. One child survives this union.

III. Lottie, unmarried.

IV. Reginald, who died in infancy.

V. Oscar, who married Gertrude Brown of Wilmington, N. C. One child, Oscar Steele, was the result of this union.

(4) Dr. Guy Steele, born June 23rd, 1861, at Hambrooks. Dr. Steele after a brief commercial life in Baltimore and North Carolina, was made Vice-Principal of the Cambridge High School and afterwards Principal of the Grammar School, resigning this latter position, he served a tour of duty as Pay Clerk of the U. S. S. Mohican at Mare Island, Navy Yard, California. He was shortly afterwards appointed Fleet Pay Clerk of the Asiatic Station, and served in this capacity on the U. S. S. Flagship Lancaster from April, 1891, to July, 1894. The Lancaster had one of the last memorable old-fashioned cruises under steam and sail of the U. S. Navy, going to the Asiatic Station by way of Madeira and Cape Town, South Africa, and returning to New York by the Suez Canal and Mediterranean. On returning from sea, Dr. Steele entered the Medical Department of the University of Maryland and gradu-

ated in 1897, and from that day, he has been practicing his profession in Cambridge.

Dr. Steele has received a number of honors from the profession, having been the President of the Medical and Surgical Faculty of Maryland in 1897, President of the Dorchester County Medical Society, Health Officer of Dorchester County and the City of Cambridge, and a member of and Chief Examiner Surgeon of the United States Drafting Board for Dorchester County during the World War. Since the organization of the Cambridge Maryland Hospital, Dr. Steele has been a member of its Medical and Surgical Staff. In 1902, he married Miss Elsie Hughes, daughter of the late Hugh H. Hughes and Sarah A. Hughes of Lynchburg, Virginia. One child of this union Thomas Buchanan Steele, died in infancy.

3. John Nevett Steele, third son of John Nevett and Anne Ogle Buchanan Steele, married Anne Ogle Buchanan Henry daughter of Colonel Francis J. and Wilhelmina Goldsborough his wife, and had:

(1) James, unmarried, an attorney of Baltimore;

(2) Harry, who died in infancy:

(3) Hampton, who married Katherine Horsey of Baltimore.

Mr. Steele resides in Baltimore and is a member of the firm of D. F. Foote & Company, prominent packers and canners of that city, and had:

I. Nevett, deceased, and

II. Anne.

(4) Charles Aubury, who married Mabel Detrich of Baltimore. Mr. Steele holds a prominent position with the firm of H. K. Mulford Company of Philadelphia.

(5) Kate, who died in infancy.

3. Henry, third son of James and Mary Nevett Steele, married Maria, daughter of Francis Scott Key, the author of the "Star Spangled Banner," and lived and died in Annapolis.

4. Charles, the fourth child of James and Mary Nevett Steele, married Katherine Murray, sister of Surgeon General Robert Murray, U. S. Army, and of Pay Director James Murray, U. S. Navy. Mr. Steele was the father of Nevett Steele, U. S. Navy

retired, and of Commander John M. Steele, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy retired.

5. Isaac Nevett, the fifth son of James and Mary Nevett Steele, married Mrs. Rosa Davis, nee Nelson. Mr. Steele was for years one of the recognized leaders of the Maryland Bar, and a man of erudition and varied accomplishments. He lived and died in Baltimore.

The daughters of James and Mary Nevett Steele were:

(1) Mary Nevett, who married John Campbell Henry of Hambrooks, the son of United States Senator and Governor John Henry. Her daughter, Elizabeth E. Henry, married Dr. Thomas B. Steele. Another daughter, Kate, married Daniel Lloyd of Wye Heights, Talbot County, Maryland, son of the Honorable Edward Lloyd, and was the mother of Governor Henry Lloyd.

(2) Anne, who married Mr. Upshur of Accomac County, Virginia, and

(3) Kate, who married Dr. Charles Ray, Surgeon U. S. Navy, and lived and died in Annapolis.

#### THE STEVENS FAMILY.

William Stevens came to Maryland in 1651 with his family. He entered his rights 15th July, 1651, for himself, Magdalen, his wife; John and William, his sons, and Margaret Aylin, William Hardin, Daniel Elsmore and John Mark "this present year." (Land Office Lib. A. B. H., fol. 141.) The entry is made among the "demands of land made by the inhabitants of Patuxent River," showing that he first settled in what is now Calvert County. Subsequently, however, he removed to Dorchester County, of which he was one of the Justices in 1669. (Md. Archives, v, 52.) He died in 1684; Magdalen died in 1678. By Magdalen, his wife, he had issue:

1. John Stevens, of whom further.
2. William Stevens, settled in Calvert County and left descendants.

John Stevens, son of William and Magdalen, came to Maryland with his parents in 1651, as shown by the entry of rights