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Oden Bowie, farmer, Md. Senate secretary

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Oden Bowie, 97, a longtime Prince George's County farmer who served for many years as secretary of the Maryland Senate and who was the grandson of a former governor, died Oct. 23 at the Arbor at Baywoods, an Annapolis rehabilitation facility.

He had complications from a fall, his daughter Amber Bowie Slabe said.

Mr. Bowie was born in Washington and lived his entire life on his family's ancestral estate, Fairview, near Bowie. He was the sixth generation of his family to live at Fairview.

His grandfather, also named Oden Bowie, was Maryland's governor from 1869 to 1872. The Maryland communities of Bowie and Odenton are named for him.

The younger Mr. Bowie graduated from the Donaldson School, a now-defunct boys' school in Howard County, and he was a 1937 agricultural economics graduate of the University of Maryland.

He was a letterman on Maryland's national champion lacrosse teams of 1936 and 1937. He was honored last year as the university's oldest living lacrosse player.

Mr. Bowie raised cattle and grew tobacco, sod and other crops on his farm. For more than 20 years, he also raised thoroughbred race horses.

In 1954, he joined the office of the secretary of the Maryland Senate and served as journal clerk. As secretary of the Senate from 1969 to 1997, Mr. Bowie managed the distribution of bills, amendments and other official documents while the legislature was in session.

Mr. Bowie was a lifelong member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Bowie. He served on its vestry for many years, including 20 years as senior warden, and he supervised the care of the parish cemetery.

He was a past president of the Southern Maryland Society and the Vansville Farmers Club and was a founding member of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

His wife of 42 years, Laura Brainerd Bowie, died in 1988.

Survivors include two daughters, Ambler Bowie Slabe of Bowie and Maude Bowie Hays of Annapolis; and



two grandsons.

— **Matt Schudel**

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