

CHARLES COUNTY

ALLENS MILL (4)

"The Sheriff of Saint Mary's County makes retorne of his writ of *ad quod damnum* to him directed in the behalfe of John Allen, Marchant, for his Water Mill," *Archives of Maryland*, 51:395 (1671). In 1672, John Allen patented 50 acres of land called "The Mill Dam," Patents 16:347).

An Act of the General Assembly was passed in 1674 "for making the high wayes passable for horse and foot over Zaciah Swampe, within two miles of the mill," *Archives of Maryland*, 60:564. Still another mention of the site was in *Archives of Maryland*, 2:369, where there was reference to the "road over Saccaia Swampe to Mr. Allen's Mill."

John Allen was in his life seized and possessed of the "Mill Dam" tract of land at the head of Wicomico, a 50-acre parcel, "together with a dwelling house, mill house, and two Grist Mills under one roof." Allen in 1674 conveyed his property to Dominick Bodkin for 3700 pounds of tobacco. Bodkin failed to pay for the property, and Allen's executors had Samuel Raspin run the mill, but Raspin died, and *his* executor, Thomas Marshall, took over the mill. The Court of Chancery dispossessed Marshall in 1682 (Chancery Records, 1:357).

James Bodkin, nephew of the deceased Dominick Bodkin still claimed ownership of a mill when he made his will in August 23, 1683. Bodkin described the location as Westwood Creeke, a name not found on modern maps. Westwood Manor was indeed on the West Side of Wicomico River and near the present village of Newport. There were certainly not multiple mills involving ownership of Dominick Bodkin in such early times. James Bodkin made elaborate recommendations for leaving the mill to various relatives, if living, provided his estate recovered ownership. James Bodkin described himself as a merchant and native of Galloway in the Kingdom of Ireland. (Maryland Calendar of Wills, 1:152-153). James Bodkin died in December 1683; his family never recovered ownership of the mill.

The mill was next rented to Stephen Murty by the executors and following another lawsuit in 1683, the Sheriff restored possession to Murty (*Archives of Maryland*, 70:341, 446). The mills were at the head of Wicomico River on the west side of Zachiah Swamp. Old Mill Creek enters Zekiah Swamp Run above present Maryland Route 234 at Allens Fresh.

Allens Mill was a stop on the firsts post route of John Perry in 1695 (*Archives of Maryland*, 19:161). A mill at the head of Wicomico River was mentioned in the 1697 list of public roads (*Maryland Geological Survey*, 3:122); that study quoted the *Archives of Maryland*, 2:408, that "a road at the head of Wicomico River had

become hardly passable there since the building of the mill and the overflowing of the stream."

The mill site was near the present Allens Fresh according to Paul Wilstach in *Tidewater Maryland*, p. 319. There was a large bakeshop attached to the mill and it supplied ships with biscuit for the return voyage (J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Maryland*, 2:61). William Handsborough, millwright, advertised in the *Maryland Gazette* that a specimen of his work in tub and tide mills could be seen at Allens Fresh, April 17, 1751.

Benjamin Fendall and Robert Yates took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* to build a mill on Allens Fresh, December 15, 1751. Fendall already owned the east ten acres of the proposed mill site, while John Philpot and Thomas Smoote owned the west bank, valued at 14, 15, and 16 Shillings annual rent, respectively. The survey found that a watermill was already in existence (Chancery Records, Liber I.R. No. 5, folio 47). On November 15, 1753, the partners advertised in the *Maryland Gazette* for a miller to "manage two water mills under one roof."

Benjamin Fendall offered to sell the mill, *Maryland Gazette*, October 20, 1763. There was a bake house 30 x 16 feet, which drew 150 pounds of ship bread at a draught; it was near a naval office where the ships were obliged to stop. Benjamin Fendall's advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette* of November 3, 1763, mentioned three water mills on one dam on Allens Fresh. James Swan advertised for a miller and baker for ship's bread, *Maryland Gazette*, September 25, 1766.

AMMON MILL (1)

James S. Ammon advertised his steam grist and saw mill near Cox's Station, *Md. Independent*, La Plata, September 9, 1874. He also ground bone, and on Fridays and Saturdays, corn (*Ibid.*, July 12).

AMMON MILL (1)

James Ammon announced completion of his new steam saw, shingle, and grist mill in Port Tobacco, *Md. Independent*, January 17, 1878. The 1880 census listed the 28-hp sawmill worth \$2750 with 4 employees, 2 circular saws, and output of 100,000 ft (\$1500). He did 60% of the logging himself. The gristmill, worth \$2750, had 2 employees, 1 run of stones, and 150 bu/diem maximum. Output was 1 million lb meal and 36,000 lb feed (\$10,125). Custom work exclusively.

BARNS MILL (2)

Barns Mill was shown on the 1794-1795 Dennis Griffith map on a branch of Nanjemoy River about 3 miles above the confluence, north of present Md. 6 and west of Port Tobacco.

BATE MILL (9)

Dr. James Bate in 1760 purchased the Wilkinson and Wilson Mill (q. v.) and in 1769 patented “The Mill Purchase,” a 10-acre tract (Liber BC & GS No. 40, f. 288. His advertisement in *Md. Gazette*, February 4, 1778 (p. 4) implied that he was building two more mills.

Bate advertised a plantation about 7 miles from Lower Marlboro, 5 from Benedict Town, and 4 from Patuxent River. There was also a “mill seat, within a mile and a quarter of Wilkinson’s Mill, and long esteemed the best mill in this part of the country, on which there is a tub mill, which the subscriber was about converting into a fulling mill, the house and water works suiting that purpose, nothing but the movements are wanting; it has 12 feet of fall of water, and is a larger fall of 19 feet 8 inches, now in great forwardness for an overshot grist mill, provided with two pair of stones, the house is built, the race cut, the pieces for the running gears have been lain two winters to season, and the business only wants for Mr. George Brown, of Wilmington, under whose direction the work has been carried on to be completed”

This works was possibly on Swanson Creek at the crossing of Md. 381 from Patuxent to Aquasco.

BENEDICT STEAM MILLING AND MFG. CO. (9)

This company was chartered by the General Assembly, *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1839, Chapter 264. It was capitalized at \$300,000, and the founders were James F. Sotheron, William Thomas, Joseph F. Shaw, James Morton, William F. Bowling, William C. Dyer, James T. Thomas, Peter Wood, William Morton, George Morton, William R. Barker, James Summerville, and William Hall.

BENEDICT UNION SILK CO. (9)

The General Assembly authorized the books to be opened by John D. Bowling, James Morton, Charles G. Egerton, Charles S. Locke, and 16 others to operate silk farms and factories in St. Marys Prince Georges, and Calvert Counties; maximum capital was set at \$100,000 by *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1838, Chapter 368.

BOWENS MILL ()

Bowens Mill was a place name of 1882 served by Gallant Green post office, *Industries of Md.* It was still carried in GZMD, 1941.

BOWLING TAN YARD ()

John Bowling advertised a tan yard in the village of Benedict, necessary buildings nearly new, *Baltimore American*, February 21, 1843.

BROWN MILL (4)

J. F. Brown was listed as a miller at Wicomico in the 1887 State business directory.

BRUMERS MILL (7)

Brumers Mill was shown on the south branch of Mattawoman Creek, 4.5 miles from the Potomac on the 1794-1795 Dennis Griffith map.

BURCH MILL ()

“Affairs in Charles County” appeared in the *Sun*, November 3, 1862, reporting that James W. Burch’s water mill at Newport was destroyed by fire, the work of an incendiary [an arsonist].

BURCH MILL ()

Edward Burch (1700-1765) left to his son Jesse Burch (1728-1801) “also the water mill and land belonging to it.” Edward Burch was identified as a millwright in a deed made in 1731. Jesse Burch was listed as a millwright in the 1790 census--letter from F. J. Kelly of Millington, N. J., December 5, 1982.

BUTLERS MILL ()

James Monroe’s letter from Aquasco Mills on August 20, 1814, also mentioned the area between Butler’s Mill 4 miles from Benedict. Aquasco Mills was 7 miles from Aquasco village--*American State Papers*, Military Affairs, Class V, Vol. I, p. 537.

CARPENTER MILL (2)

The Ethel [?] Carpenter custom mill on Nanjemoy Creek was valued at \$1200 in the 1880 census and had 1 run of stones and 10 bu/diem maximum. A 12-foot fall drove a 10 hp overshot wheel 5 ft broad at 2 rpm to grind 72 tons meal and 12 tons feed (\$2100).

CARRICOS MILL (4) **CARRICOS MILL ROAD**

Carricos Mill was in Gilbert Swamp near the Oaks. Carricos Mill Road is the extension of Keech Road from Md. 6 to Md. 5. The water mill is extinct but some of the dam is visible [1976].

CHAPEL POINT MILL (1)

The mill was next to the general store at the steamboat wharf. Part of the foundations are standing [1976].

CHAPMAN MILL (1)

The 1880 census listed Andrew G. Chapman gristmill worth \$5000 with 4 employees, 2 run of stones, and 200 bu/diem maximum output, doing custom work exclusively. A 23-foot fall on Keericks Branch of Wicomico drove a 16 hp overshot wheel 4 feet 9 inches broad at 6 rpm.

Annual output was 240 bbl flour, 224 tons meal, and 15.4 tons feed (\$7980). This mill was idle 9-1/2 months of the year. The sawmill, driven by steam power, was worth \$2500 and had 5 employees and 1 circular saw. Output was 100,000 ft (\$1500). The sawmill was idle 6 months annually; Chapman did 83% of the logging himself. The 1880 census listed A. G. Chapman as miller at Port Tobacco.

COFFEY SAWMILL ()

Wade S. Coffey was owner of this sawmill business established at Waysons Corners and at La Plata in 1961. Producer of rough lumber; 8 employees, DMM, 1970.

CONTEE AND MADDOX MILL (5)

The 1880 census valued the 15 hp Contee and Maddox sawmill at \$2500, listing 3 employees, 1 circular saw, and output of 200,000 ft (\$2830). The 1887 State business directory listed Contee and Maddox Mill at Wayside. The mill was on the later Thalow farm; it is now extinct, but the stones were visible in recent years [1976]. The mill was on Ditchley Prong of Piccamaxen Creek.

CONTEE AND MADDOX MIL (5)

A saw and grist mill of Contee and Maddox was listed at Harris' Lot in the 1887 State business directory (7 miles from Popes Creek). The partners also had a steam mill at Wayside.

COX MILL (8)

A news item in the *Sun*, April 6, 1855, mentioned the burning of a building near Captain Cox's mill in the vicinity of Port Tobacco. The 1860 census listed William Cox with a water-powered gristmill worth \$1000 in Bryantown District. There was 1 employee and an output of 100 bu wheat; 100 bu rye, and 2500 of corn (\$2500).

DENT AND BULLETT MILL ()

William Dent and Joseph Bullett petitioned Governor Copely that they had taken out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Mattawoman Run and had almost finished the mill and therefore requested their grant, which was promptly issued, 1692, *Arch. Md.*, 8:449.

DIGGS MILL (10)

Diggs Mill, supposedly built in 1732, was on Md. 275 near Mason Springs. In 1949, it was believed to be the oldest operating mill in the State (Cf. Linchester's claim in Caroline County chapter). The mill run had failed, and E. C. Millard, who had acquired the mill in 1899, converted it to steam, first burning coal, and later petroleum. He processed flour and bran middlings, keeping the middlings as his fee. See, "215-Year Old Diggs Mill Believed Doomed by Modern Industries," *Evening Sun*, April 28, 1942. See also, "217 Year Old Diggs Mill Threatened by Road Plans," *Sun*, September 23, 1949; there was a plan to straighten Md. 225. The mill is now extinct.

An interview in the *Washington Post*, April 3, 1947, stated that Mr. Millard, then 81, arrived in 1893 after having learned the trade at Fairfax Mill "on the pike between Falls Church and Leesburg, Va." Steam was installed in 1907 and a kerosene engine in 1934. About 1897 he had replaced the burrs with six sets of rollers. Mr. Millard complained of the price of flour in 1947, at 7 cents per pound from wheat costing \$3/bushel. His brand was Farmers Best. He ground soft Maryland wheat.

At the age of 87 he closed up the mill. "He was just too tired to run it any more, he said. He and his wife live just north of the old mill," *Waldorf Leaf*, March 22, 1956. The name is pronounced Mil-LARD. The 1732 building date had been told to Mr. Millard by an aged woman in 1893.

DORSEY DISTILLERY ()

Clem Dorsey advertised to sell a new distillery adjoining Port Tobacco; it had 5 stills and capacity of 18 bu of grain, *Federal Gazette*, January 1, 1814.

EDELEN MILL (8, 9)

An internal combustion mill was owned by Ben and Ed Edelen at Hughesville, per letter of Mr. J. A. Chappellear, 1968.

FARRALL MILL (1)

Thomas R. Farrall had a grist and saw mill, hotel, and store at La Plata, 1887 State business directory.

FENDALL AND YATES MILL (4)

See Allens Mill.

FFENDALLS MILL (4)

Josias Ffendall took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* to set a water mill “upon the Runn of water near the wading place in Wicomico River Running Between Charles County and St. Maries County,” November 3, 1669. *Arch. Md.*, 51:336.

FORREST MILL (6, 7)

Harry Forrest was listed as miller at Pomfret in the 1887 State business directory.

FOWKE MILL (4)

See Millbrook Farm Mill.

GARDINERS MILL (10)

Gardiners Mill was operating possibly as early as 1800. The 1860 census of Bryantown district listed Alfred Gardner [sic] water mill with 15 hp steam engine, \$2000 capital investment, 2 employees, and output of 300 bu wheat, 100 rye, and 11,500 corn (\$11,660).

The mill was just off the road to General Smallwood State Park, about 0.5 mile back in the woods on the left. A stone foundation is still standing [1976], and some of the shafting and gears are still in the foundation. The park entrance is a few miles south of Marbury.

GOLDEN AND BARNES SAWMILL (2)

J. W. Golden and Barnes were listed as saw millers at HillTop in the 1887 State business directory.

GRAYS MILL (4)

See Millbrook Farm Gristmill.

GRINDER MILL (2)

Edward W. Grinder’s custom mill on Mattawoman Creek was valued at \$2000 in 1880 census with 2 run of stones, 12 bu/diem maximum. A 20-foot fall drove a 15 hp overshot wheel 4 ft 3 inches broad at 5 rpm to grind 89.5 tons meal and 14.9 tons feed (\$2600).

HANSON POWDER MILL ()

John Hanson, Jr., and Walter Hanson, Jr., were loaned 1000 pounds of tobacco by the Council of Safety, Annapolis, to build a powder mill. The House of Delegates appropriated an additional £ 500 on November 27, 1777, for “compleating their Powder Mill.” The mill was never finished as the Hansons explained in a memorial read to the General Assembly, November 16, 1790, “because there were many calls upon them as militia officers and the five workmen assigned to them quit to join the army, and 3dly, your memorialist & Brother finding that the whole of the Salt Petre and Sulphur belonging to the state was advertised for Sale by the Intendant therefore concluded that it would be needles for them to complete the said Mill and did from that time desist from the undertaking.”

This mill was presumably in Charles County and capable of some powder production. See John and Walter Hanson, Jr. Papers, MHS Special Collections, Ms. 1571, 1579. See also, *Md. Germans*, p. 142. MHM, 52:188. *Arch. Md.*, 11:496.

The *Annals of Baltimore* mentioned that the State voted £ 1000 for one or more saltpeter works and offered half a dollar per pound for the product. Another £ 1000 was voted to build a powder mill. “The tobacco houses in Maryland and Virginia were also dug up, and the earth lixiviated for nitre. It yielded an ounce to the quart, and produced much enthusiasm for a time,” Bishop, HAM, 2:24.

HAYDEN MILL (1)

The Port Tobacco *Md. Independent* of March 2, 1883, mentioned the steam saw and grist mill of C. F. Hayden, along with a wheelwright shop,, blacksmith shop, and newly repaired machinery of Cox’s Station. C. F. Haydon was listed as owner of a smithy and saw and grist mill at Cox’s Station (on the Pennsylvania Railroad at Bel Alton) in 1887 State business directory.

HAYDEN WINDMILL (1)

James E. Hayden was listed in 1860 census of Allens Fresh District with \$1000 capital, 2 employees, and output of 2000 bu corn meal (\$2500) from 2000 bu corn costing \$1500.

HETHINGLY SPEARS SAWMILL (7)

The 1880 State business directory listed this ship timber mill with \$330,000 investment, 75 employees, and \$15,000 annual payroll. No production data.

HIDDEN MILL (4)

The 1880 census listed John T. Higdon mill on Gilbert Swamp with \$1000 capital, 1 employee, 125 bu/diem output, 2 run of stones, and 12.55% custom business. A fall

of 6 feet drove a 15 hp wood wheel 8 ft broad at 5 rpm. Output was 160 bbl flour and 128.6 tons meal (\$3800). The 1880 directory placed Higdon [sic] at Newport.

HOFFMAN SAWMILL (9)

Hoffman's steam sawmill on the railroad near La Plata was destroyed by fire; loss was \$2000, uninsured. Hoffman had only settled there a few years before, *Md. Independent*, April 11, 1878.

HOWARD KILN ()

"J. Camilus Howard of Howard Brothers has built a kiln at Pope's Creek to burn oyster shells . . . inexhaustible supply . . .," *Md. Independent*, October 21, 1881. There was a later editorial about all of Howard's lime being shipped out of the county.

HUNTT SAWMILL (6)

T. J. Huntt was listed as a grocer and operator of a steam sawmill at Mattawoman in the 1880 State business directory. The 1880 census had valued the 18 hp sawmill at \$3000, listing 5 employees, 1 circular saw, and output of 200,000 ft (\$2000) over an 8-month season. All logging was done by Huntt.

ISSUE MILLS (5)

In an article "Issue of Long Standing," John Dorsey, *Sun Magazine*, January 13, 1963, the naming of Issue is described as a title supplied by postal officials in Washington to the issue of finding a name for this crossroads. The first post office was established in 1885 with John T. Halbert s postmaster, succeeded in 1900 by Mary E. Semmes.

An elderly illiterate named Pompey was said to have composed some ballads, c. 1900, to advertise stores or to knock the competition of mill owners. One ballad went:

Old Man So-and-So had two mills,
One couldn't grind and the other stood still.
Old Miz So-and-So's making up dough.
Says "Old Mr. So-and-So, I told you so.
Can't make a living unless we steal
Corn in the mill but can't grind meal.

The village of Issue is on Md. 3 on the road between Tomkinsville and Rock Point [1976].

JENKINS MILL (4)

Edward Jenkins was listed in the State business directory as miller at Newport.

KETCHLEY MILL (2)

See Millbrook Farm Gristmill.

LANCASTER TIDE MILL (5)

A tide mill stood in 1841 when Dr. Joseph B. Lancaster had a survey made of the submerged tracts Mill Bar and South Mill Bar on either side of Neale's Creek, west side of Wicomico River. Mill Bar began "at the post on which the main shaft of the tide mill is fixed," whereas South Mill Bar began "at a stone at the extreme northernmost point of an embankment that is made along the ridge of said bar," Unpatented Certificate 320, MSA. *The American Farmer* of June 21, 1843 (5:40) mentioned the works as near the oyster-shell limekilns of William M. Downing "at Lancaster's Tide Mill, near the mouth of the Wicomico River."

The Lancaster property was shown below Rock Point on a hydrographic map of 1858-68-77. The diary of Joseph L. McWilliams mentioned visits to "my tide mill property" in 1863, continuing to 1875, *Chronicles of St. Marys*, March, 1975. Charles Lancaster was owner of this property on Neale Sound in 1970s, and could point out the mill site.

LINKINS MILL (2/10)

James Linkins was listed as miller at Pisgah in the 1887 State business directory.

LOWELLINS MILL ()

Richard Lowellins took out a writ of *ad quod damnum*, March 10, 1719, on Allen's Fresh. The tract began "at the old Mill Dam." The annual rental was placed at 5 Shillings, but the jury declared the property owners to be unknown. Chancery Records, Liber 3:558.

McGINNIS SAWMILL ()

Forrest McGinnis Luber Co. was established on Rt. 2 at Waldorf in 1958; ten employees; F. B. McGinnis, owner. "Cut log and saw lumber," DMM, 1970.

MARBURY MILL ()

Addison Marbury of Glymount announced his new, portable steam sawmill and thresher which he had set up at the head of Mattawoman Creek, *Md. Independent*, April 4, 1 878.

MARTIN AND HAMILTON SAWMILL (6)

The 1880 census listed this logging firm with a 20 hp steam sawmill worth \$3500, 4 employees, 1 gang of 4 saws, and 1 circular saw. Output was 150,000 ft (\$15,000) over a 6-month active season.

MILL BAR (5)

See Lancaster Tide Mill.

MILLBROOK FARM GRIST MILL (4)

Gerrard Fowke took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Wards Run at the head of Nanjemoy Creek, June 3, 1761. The survey found that Fowke had “lately built a water mill” and awarded damages to Jane Doyne (7 Shillings yearly), to Richard Barnes (3 pence), and Catherine Price (7 Shillings). Some of the tract belonged to Fowke. The grant, issued under the name of Proprietor, Henry Harford, was incomplete and undated. Chancery Records, 12:29. A certificate of survey for 8.25 acres placed the site on Wards Run on the north side of Nanjemoy Main Road, Patents, Liber BC & GS 19:246.

A deed made to Fowke in 1776 mentioned “the mill dam of a mill formerly in the occupation of a certain Madam Dent now deceased (V 3:91). In 1781, Fowke sold land to John Robertson, reserving for his dam the water of Gallows Branch and Burdits Creek; the mill was on the road from Nanjemoy Creek to Nanjemoy Warehouse (V 3:551). Robertson later acquired more of the Fowke property, which passed to son George Robertson in 1818-1820. In 1839, Robertson’s trustee sold to Thomas L. and Henry L. Dent (JB 24:35). Ann M. Gray inherited the place, then called “Mill Brook.”



Photo by Maryland Historical Trust, 1970s.

The 1880 census of District 2 listed William Ketchley, apparently a tenant operator, with a custom mill on Nanjemoy Creek. No employees, 1 run of stones, 16 bu/diem maximum capacity. A 24-foot fall drove a 15 hp overshot wheel 3 feet broad at 3 rpm. Annual output was 170 tons meal (\$2900). Ketchley was listed under Port Tobacco in the 1880 Md. State business directory.

The mill was sold by George T. C. Gray and other heirs of Ann M. Gray to Samuel D. Gray in 1932 (WMA 56:171) and passed to Richard F. and Lieda Gray Elgin in 1937, and in 1943 passed to H. Clay Thompson. The stream was called "Nanjemoy Creek formerly Burdette's Creek but now commonly known as the Trapp Run" (WMA 66:455). James L. Harrison bought the farm in 1959, and the present owners, Mr. and Mr. Albert G. Silbaugh, acquired in 1960.

A small mill built of chestnut planking survived [1976] on the north side of Md. 6, west bank of Nanjemoy Creek, SE of Grayton, at Trappe Bridge. Dated at 1800 by the Maryland Historical Trust, there was once a wooden water wheel, later replaced by one of steel in the mid-19th century. Millstones and wooden gearing were intact in 1974, Historic Sites Inventory, 1:29. This is MHT Site CHAS-193. Cathy Currey Hardy of Charles County Planning informed us in February 2006 that the mill survived but was in need of repair.

(THE) MILL DAM (4)

(The) Mill Dam was patented by John Allen as 50 acres in 1672, Liber 16:347. It was resurveyed in 1793 as Mill Dam Enlarged for William Swain, Patents IC No, C:388; the beginning of the tract was "at three pieces of mill stones and a very large stone lying together," adjoining Courts Palace. See also Allens Mill.

MILL DAM RUN (8)

Mill Dam Run empties into Zekiah Swamp north of Bryantown Bridge and crosses Md. 232 about 0.5 mile north of Bryantown on Gallant Green Road.

MILL HILL ROAD (6)

Mill Hill road runs south off Md. 228 about 1 mile west of Davis Road and west of Berry, near the old Bolton place.

THE MILL LOT ()

Henry Hardy patented The Mill Lot in 1793, 11 acres and 24 perches, Liber IC No. 1:515. The tract was a confiscated British estate in Machia Manor adjoining Widows Pleasure.

MILL LOTT ()

Mill Lott was patented in 1740 by Edward Jenkins as 1 acre, Liber EI 5:523. Jenkins made a deed of trust to James Middleton in April 1789 and Middleton bequeathed Mill Lot to his wife, Frances. Chancery Papers No. 3644. The patent described the lot as between Pyles Friendship and Batchelors Hope.

THE MILL PURCHASE (9)

See Bate Mill.

(THE) MILLRACE ()

George Hargrave had a survey made of The Millrace, a tract of 3 roods and 30 perches, a parcel that adjoined Two Partners and Three Brothers, in 1797; Unpatented Certificate No. 321.

MILL RUN (2)

Mill Run empties into Avon River south of Md. 6.

MILL RUN ROAD (5)

Mill Run Road runs between Md. 257 and Mount Victoria Road on Cobb Neck.

MILL SWAMP (7)

Mill Swamp is the name of the upper stretch of Pomonkey Creek.

THE MILL SEAT ()

In 1786, John Hall had a survey made for the 19-acre tract, The Mill Seat, a parcel adjoining Bonner's Retirement, containing a 12 x 16 log house and 1500 very old fence logs . . . Unpatented Certificate No. 323. The land was adjoining and between the tracts called The Mistake Corrected, Charles's Purchase, and Bonner's Retirement.

MILL SEAT ()

Mrs. H. Robinson, ca. 1976, of A. A. County found a reference in the MSA to "Mill Seat," the estate of John B. Wathen, deceased, Charles County Orphans Court proceedings, June Term, 1817, folio 202.

THE MILL SLIPE ()

Joseph Gray patented The Mill Slipe, 17 acres, in 1797, Liber IC No. O:212.

THE MILLS TRACT ()

The Mills Tract was surveyed for Thomas Owens, 13 acres, 1762, Unpatented Certificate No. 325.

MILLARDS MILL (10)

See Diggs Mill.

MINITREE MILL ()

Rosamund Minitree, executrix, advertised one pair of millstones, 4 feet over, 13 inches thick, and some brass and iron work at the plantation of the late Jacob Andrew Minitree at the head of Cuckold's Creek, *Md. Gazette*, April 2, 1761.

NANGEMY MILL ()

A 1697 enumeration of public roads listed Nangemy Mill between Tobacco Creek and Randolph Hinson's place, MGS, 3:122. Possibly the ancestor of Millbrook Farm Gristmill.

NANJEMOY SAW MILL AND DRY KILN CORP. (3)

This company was manufacturing rough lumber at Nanjemoy with 16 employees; Frank E. Herman, president. DMM, 1970.

NORRIS MILL (4)

Charles Jones, "drinking too freely of tangle foot" while working at Norris Mill below Newport, fell against the circular saw. "Fortunately, he was rescued before he was sawed into hogshead siding," *Md. Independent*, November 21, 1879.

The 1880 census listed Julian E. Norris sawmill worth \$2000 with 5 employees, 1 circular saw, and 15 hp steam engine. Output was 400,000 ft (\$5000); all logging done by Norris. The gristmill worth \$2000 had 3 employees, 1 run of stones, 150 bu/diem maximum capacity; 12.5% of the business was custom. Output was 224 tons meal.

OLD MILL CREEK (1)

Old Mill Creek enters Zekiah Swamp Run above Md. 234 at Allens Fresh. See Allens Mill.

PERMUNKEY MILL ROAD (7)

“... . a very Publick Road out of Charles County to a ferry from Permunkye over into Virginia being a Church Road Market and Mill Road,” was a quote c. 1742 in *Colonial Piscataway*, p. 50.

PORT TOBACCO MILL (1)

Thomas Oston warned persons from hunting with dog or gun on the Port Tobacco Mill tract, *Md. Gazette*, October 29, 1789.

POSEY MILL (4)

Washington A. Posey’s mill on a branch of Wicomico was valued at \$3000 in 1880 census; 1 employee, 3 run of stones, 100 bu/diem maximum capacity; 12.5% of the business was custom. A 4-foot fall drove a 15 hp wood wheel 12 ft broad at 5 rpm. Output was 160 bbl flour, 259 tons meal, and 15.3 tons feed annually (\$6460). The 1880 State business directory listed J. V. Posey as miller at Tomkinsville, while W. A. Posey was listed at Allens Fresh.

PRICE MILL (2)

George W. Price was listed as miller at Hill Top in the 1887 State business directory.

ROBEY MILL ()

“The grist and saw mill of S. D. Robey at Pomfret, Md., was recently burned,” *American Miller*, 12 (June 1, 1891): 414.

ROGERS MILL (1)

Rogers Mill was on Md. 6 between Newtown and Dentsville and appeared on the 1950 survey map as standing on Rogers Mill Branch. The site has been obliterated by highway grading. A sawmill was operating near the site in early 1970.

SHANNON MILL ()

Shannon Mill was to be the site of a Democratic party meeting, *Md. Independent*, Port Tobacco, October 11, 1877.

SMOOT AND CROSS MILL ()

Smoot and Cross were listed as millers at Brentland in the 1887 State business directory

SPALDING MILL (8)

The 1860 census listed Dennis Spalding water mill in Bryantown District with \$1500 investment, 1 employee, and annual output of 150 bu wheat, 100 bu rye, and 3000 bu corn (\$298).

STEAM MILLING AND MANUFACTURING CO. OF CHARLES COUNTY ()

This company was chartered by the General Assembly, *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1833, Chapter 46. It had \$20,000 capitalization and the commissioners were Robert Biggs, Philip King, Washington F. Lancaster, George Brent, and Alexander Penn.

TAYLOR MILL ()

Betty deKeyser of Pasadena, Md., inquired in 1988 about a Taylor Mill that existed in Charles County about 1820, but no data has been found.

TIDE MILL CREEK (9)

Tide Mill Creek was near Benedict and formed a boundary of Calvert Manor when mentioned in a legal notice (n. d.). David J. Plunkett of Southampton, England, a molinologist specializing in tide mills, reported finding the tidal pond near Benedict in September 1988 (personal communication to J. McGrain).

TRAPPE BRIDGE MILL (3)

See Millbrook Farm Gristmill.

TUCKER MILL ()

John Tucker advertised in the Baltimore *American* of May 22, 1835, that he wished to sell a farm at Rum Point, Charles County and also a “farm near town of Benedict . . . On this farm within one quarter of a mile from town is a valuable gristmill, with a never failing stream . . . Being decidedly one of the most profitable mills in the county . . . “

WARLER MILL (2)

The 1880 census listed George Warler mill on Matawoman Creek; \$2000 investment, 2 run of stones, 18 bu/diem maximum capacity, and all custom trade. A 26-foot fall drove a 15 hp overshot wheel 4 ft broad at 3 rpm. Annual output was 67.2 tons meal and 140 tons feed (\$2900).

WATERS FULLING MILL ()

James Waters wanted a fuller for his mill near Bryan-Town, *Md. Gazette*, December 28, 1774.

WATHEN MILL (4)

Following the death in 1816 of John B. Wathen, his real estate included a mill: “Part of the mill seat it is enclosed principally with fence logs upon a good ditch extending mainly around the whole enclosure . . . The Mill Seat has on it a Tub Mill with three pair of stones one pair of which are burr stones and good bolting cloths; the mill house is a framed building about 26 by 20 feet; the lower works of the mill, including the pier head are decayed and in danger of being undermined by the water and want a thorough repairing; the waste gates also wants a thorough repairing. . . . Near the mill is a small framed house about fourteen by twelve feet, for the Millers dwelling. . . .” Orphans Court Proceedings, 1816-1818, f. 202. The Wathen family land lay somewhere at the head of Wicomico River, property resurveyed from St. Thomas Manor.

WATSON MILL (6)

J. H. Watson was listed as miller at Waldorf in the 1887 State business directory.

WAYSIDE MILL (5)

See Contees Mill.

WENCK MILL (1)

The 1880 census listed John C. Wenck 15 hp steam mill worth \$4000 with 2 employees 2 run of stones 200 bu/diem maximum capacity. Annual output was 160 bbl flour, 22.4 tons meal, 6.4 tons feed (\$1520). Custom work only.

WHEELER MILL ()

Richard Wheeler took out a writ of *ad quod damum*, February 9, 1773, for a tract along Mattawoman Creek on the property of the Heirs of William Barton. Rental was set by the jury at 5 bushels of Indian Corn. Chancery Records 3:1081.

WICOMICO FLOUR AND FEED MILL (4)

John F. and Thomas H. Ching were listed as millers at Budds Creek in 1880 and 1887 State business directories. Title search shows reference to Fowler and Yates Mill Plot in 1902 (13:156) and in 1907 to Philip T. Long’s Mill Lot (20:275). Long

sold a flourmill on the tract “Sarum” to Samuel C. Long in 1920 (WMA 36:206) and it passed to Mary E. and Judson Long in 1965, Liber 173:392.

This was a 2-story clapboard mill at Wicomico village, operated by the Long Brothers, believed to be the last mill in Southern Maryland still grinding wheat and corn, per *Chronicles of St, Marys*. November 1970, p. 9. The mill is on a by-passed segment of Md. 234, the road between Allens Fresh and the County line. The



--photo by John McGrain

Wicomico Flour & Feed Mill, 1971.

original road section was renamed Budds Creek Road and is reached off Md. 234 by a short stretch of Jenkins Lane. Burroughs Run furnished the water.

The mill was listed with a Charlotte Hall address in the St. Mary’s County telephone book. In March 1971, the mill was only handling feeds (Red Rose brand) under diesel power. A full-page color photo of the mill by Henry Haditch appeared in *Maryland Magazine*, 4 (Spring 1970): 24.

The old clapboard mill was gone as of October 5, 1986, replaced by Long’s Grain Elevator, Inc., which consisted of metal bins and a small metal mill or office. The installation looked fairly new then.

WILKINSON AND WILSON MILL (9)

William Wilkinson and James Wilson took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Cabin Branch of Swansons Creek, October 30, 1731. Wilkinson owned the north bank, and William Lawson held the land on the south, renting part of the Lord

Proprietor's Calverton Manor. The jury set annual rents of 4 and of 3 Shillings, respectively. Chancery Records, 5:47.

Dr. James Bate bought "Wilkersons Mill" from Susannah Wilkerson et al. in 1766. Wilkinsons Mill was mentioned as 1.25 miles from the Bate Mill Seat, which was in turn 7 miles from Lower Marlboro, 5 from Benedict, and 4 from Patuxent River, Dunlop's *Md. Gazette*, February 3, 1778. Dr. Bate reserved the mill to himself when selling Truman's Place to William Wilkinson in 1779 (Deeds V No. 3:365); the mill was on the south side of the branch and part of the Manor.

WILLETT MILL (6)

The 1880 census reported R. H. Willett custom mill worth \$150 with 2 employees, 2 run of stones, 10 bu/diem maximum capacity. A 1-foot fall drove a 6 hp wheel 16 ft broad at 100 [?] rpm. All work was custom.

WINDMILL POINT (12) WINDMILL POINT ROAD

Windmill Point was on Port Tobacco River opposite Chapel Point on Eldridge's chart of the Chesapeake Bay, 1887. There is no mill on present navigation charts.

WINDMILL POINT (5)

Windmill Point on the Wicomico River was downstream of Woodberry Beach, upstream of Hatton Creek on the 1953 survey map.

YOUNG SAWMILL (6)

The 1880 census listed R. & C. Young with a 25 hp steam sawmill worth \$3700 with 5 employees, 1 circular saw, and output of 400,000 ft (\$400) overran 8-month season.

