

Prince Georges County (June 15, 2006)

**AQUASCO MILL (8)**

**This was a post office name of 1797; Secretary of State James Monroe visited Aquasco Mills to observe the British fleet on August 20, 1814, *Perilous Fight*, p. 25. See also Wood Windmill. Monroe's letter is dated from Aquasco Mills, which he placed 7 miles from Benedict. He also mentioned Butler's Mill, which was 4 miles from Benedict, *American State Papers* (Washington, D. C., 1834), Class V, Military Affairs, Vol. 1, p. 537. [Aquasco Mills may be the same as Johnson Mill, same as Bowen Mill, but not the same as Boteler Mill.]**

**ADELPHI MILL (17)**

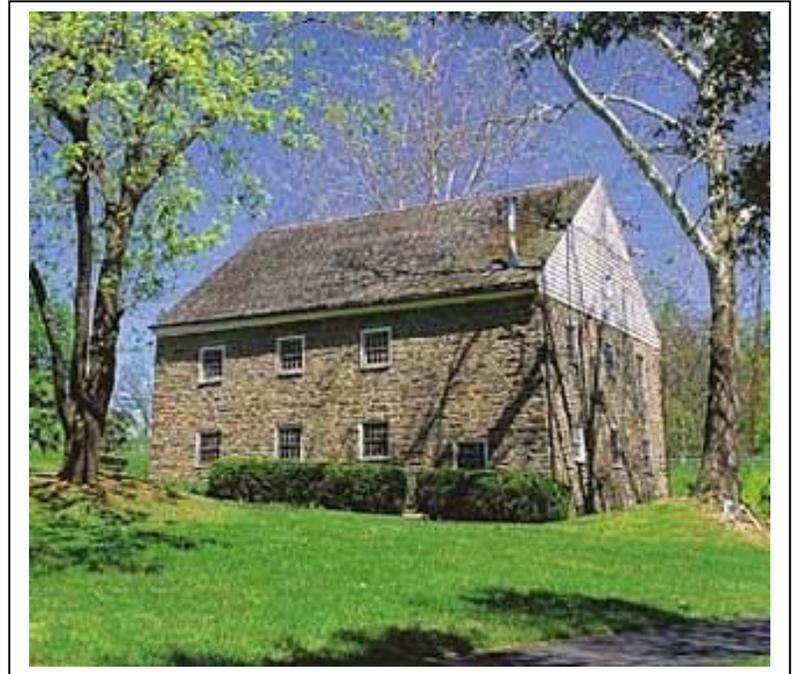
**Also called Riggs Mill, this works was by one account built about 1760, supposedly from English brick unloaded at the site on the North West Branch of Anacostia River; in this version, the builders were said to have been Englishmen named Warfield. However, it is better established that the Quaker brothers, Isaacher and Mahlon Schofield, acquired the tract, June 1, 1796, and named it Adelphi [meaning Brothers] and built the mill.**

**The 1798 tax list showed Adelpia Mills in possession of Phillip Fitzhugh and Beatty, a stone mill house, 55 x 46 feet, a stone house, 30 x 19, and an old smith shop, 24 x 11. The publication called *Agricultural Museum*, 1 (August 29, 1810): 80, reported, "Schofield and Hoofman have lately erected a complete set of Wool Carding Machines at the Adelphi Mills, three and a half miles from Bladensburg, Prince George's County, Maryland."**

**The 1820 census of District 1 showed John Crowe with Adelphi Mill, 3 employees, complete Evans machinery, and output of \$20 to \$22,500 in flour and meal for market.**

**Later, Thomas and Elizabeth Ferrall acquired the place and conveyed to Nancy Logan, May 17, 1839. The mill was said to be the oldest and largest in the vicinity of Washington in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when ships were still able to reach the site.**

**George W. Riggs bought the mill in 1863 and it took his name as did Riggs Mill Road. Later owners were F. Lowrason Riggs, 1884; E. Francis Riggs, 1897. The flour won first prize at the Hyattsville Fair in 1905. H. D. Freeman was the last miller, running it until about 1916, largely as a convenience to the neighbors after the decline of local milling. Freeman's daughter, Mrs. William McKay, was quoted**



**in the *Washington Daily News*, “Years ago they held country dances there. They’d put a platform over the corn hoppers for the musicians to sit on.” The last dance in milling days was about 1910.**

**H. T. Freeman was born in 1857; he estimated that the mill was 150 years old and gave the Schofields as builders and thought they came from England. Miss Tabitha Chew, who was 94 at her death in 1883, told Freeman that British ships were able to sail to the mill, vessels she called “snows,” an archaic word even in 1752, when the *Md. Gazette* mentioned “snow (now called barque).” Mrs. Chew had seen a now-vanished history of the mill painted on the wall.**

**In 1920, the mill was sold to W. Bladen Jackson and in 1928 to Mrs. Leander McCormick-Goodheart, who took down the dam and ended the ice skating but also shored up the mill walls and in 1951 she deeded the 39-acre site, mill, and stone miller’s cottage to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The restored mill, minus most of its machinery, was dedicated as a community center, November 6, 1954, by Governor Theodore R. McKeldin. It is now the site of meetings and receptions.**

**The mill on the present Riggs Avenue is built of blue stone and ironstone, one story underground, two above, a 50 x 50 foot structure. There had been a 10-foot diameter “overshot breast wheel” set on an axle 2 feet in diameter, south side of the mill. There were two burrstones of native material--one marked “Adelphia Mills”**

on the band. The third floor had a corn crusher. The race had been 900 ft long, 6 ft wide by 3 ft deep, of dirt and stone.

#### **SOURCES:**

CHM, 31-32:86ff.

Edward Roberts, "Riggs Mill," thesis presented to Tau Beta Pi, April 28, 1930, in Hyattsville Library.

*Washington Post*, December 6, 1954. *Washington Star*, June 7, 1914. *Washington Herald*, July 13, 1913.

"New Rhythms at Old Mill," *Washington Daily News*, November 16, 1954, p. 27.

James G. Wilfong, "The Adelphi Group," *Laurel News-Leader*, February 10, 1955.

"Planning Commission to Cooperate with Citizens in Restoring Adelphia Mill," *Prince Georges Post*, February 11, 1954, p. 1.

#### **ADELPHIA GRIST MILL (17)**

Variant spelling of Adelphi used in atlas.

#### **ALLEN TANYARD (3)**

Thomas Allen advertised his tanyard in Upper Marlboro and offered goatskins for chair bottoms, *Md. Gazette*, February 11, 1765.

#### **AMMEN MILL (1)**

"The Murder at Beltsville. We are indebted to Captain Wilde, the obliging conductor on the Washington Road, for further information in the above atrocious case . . . Deceased . . . John Smith, 55 years of age . . . He was employed as a miller at Hamilton's Mill, Beltsville, and was killed, it is believed by one of Hamilton's negroes, who was desirous to supplant Smith in the capacity of miller . . .," *Sun*, Baltimore, May 24, 1843, p. 2.

. . . . John Smith, miller at Mr. Hamilton's mill at Beltsville, P. G. County, was murdered by Mr. Hamilton's slave . . . . The slave wanted the position of Mr. Smith . . . Lured him away . . . *Baltimore American*, May 25, 1843.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed the W. F. Ammen custom mill worth \$3000 with 2 run of stones and no hired help. A 15-foot fall on Eastern Branch of Potomac drove a 15 hp overshot wheel, 4.8 ft broad at 12 rpm. Output was 11 bbl flour, 67.5 tons meal, 27 tons feed, and 200 lb hominy (\$2368 per annum).

## ATWOOD MILL ( )

George Atwood took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* for a mill seat on the North East Branch of the Eastern Branch of Potomac River, February 8, 1731. The survey mentioned a previous millrace. The land was entirely that of Atwood. Chancery Records, Liber 5:592, MSA.

## AVALON MILL (2)

Conflicting data is recorded about the foundation of Avalon Mill. By one account, it was founded before 1742 as Jones Mill on “Eastern Branch of Potomack” when Bladensburg was called Garrison’s Landing. The cluster of mills, inns, and stores has variously been called Jones Mill, Smith’s Store, Two Creeks, and Calvert Meadows, and was a shipping point for tobacco. The preface to the 1878 county atlas stated (p. 15) that the then Davidson Mill stood on the site of the extinct powder mill.

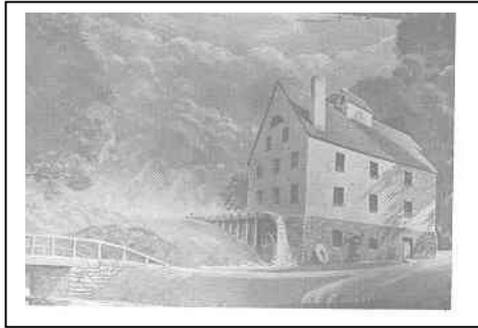
The mill that survived into recent times was said to have been built by the Calverts of Riverdale and named Avalon; it was four stories with an overshot wheel as shown in H. Warren Billings’ mural in the Citizens Bank of Maryland, 6200 Baltimore Avenue, Riverdale [a bank later merged into Crestar]. The mill was a brick mill covered with stucco per CHM, 31-32:91ff.

Charles Calvert advertised Avalon Mill, stating that it was “built about 15 years ago by Richardson,” *Baltimore American*, July 4, 1838.

The 1850 census of manufacturers listed Charles R. Calvert with an output of 10,000 bu meal, 400 of rye, and 2300 bbl flour (\$9850 per annum). There were 5 employees. In 1859, Charles B. And Charlotte Augusta Calvert sold Avalon Mill to George W. Taylor and Albert B. Berry (Deeds CSM 2:184) for \$11,000. Later testimony showed that Calvert and Taylor “both were practical millers and the former an engineer.” The 1861 Martenet map showed Taylor and Berry Mill on the east side of Bladensburg, south of Paint Branch. George W. Taylor advertised a half-interest in the Riversdale Mill and 15 acres in the village of Bladensburg, *Baltimore Sun*, February 4, 1871.

In 1871, Frank G. Davidson bought half shares in Avalon from George W. Taylor and from Samuel H. Berry, and the 1878 county atlas showed Avalon Mill, property of F. G. Davidson, reached from West Street via North Street. The atlas preface stated that Davidson Mill occupied the site of the former powder mill, p. 13. That year, Davidson sold to Catharine L. Dodd (Deeds HB 14:133).

The 1880 census of manufactures listed James H. Dodd mill with \$10,000 capital investment, 100 bu/diem maximum capacity, 10% custom business. Four run of stones were driven by one wood wheel 12 ft broad operating at 6 rpm, developing 50



*Mural in Citizens Bank*



*Avalon Mill*

hp from a 14-foot fall on Eastern Branch of Potomac River. Annual output was 1400 bbl flour, 232 tons meal, and 45.5 tons feed (\$19,440).

In 1880, James E. and Catherine Dodd lost the mill by default and it was purchased by Samuel E. Hill of Baltimore who immediately conveyed it to Henry Franklin Dodd (Deeds JWB 1:455).

The *Baltimore County Union* of December 9, 1882, reported, “Samuel Hill, a member of the firm of Messrs. Thos. Hill & Bro., property agents, has purchased the Avalon mill property, at Bladensburg, Md., for \$5,704.50.

The 1887 State business directory listed H. F. and J. H. Dodd as millers at Bladensburg, although they had lost the mill at a public sale in March 1886, when it was purchased by Charles T. Westcott (Deeds JWB 6:304).

Thomas Hill, Attorney named in the mortgage, advertised the mill in the *Prince George’s Enquirer*, Upper Marlboro, January 22, 1886, offering “all the buildings and improvements among which is a fine Flour and Grist Mill with valuable water power . . . Dwelling, barn, and other out-buildings.”

In 1887, Charles B. Calvert sold some of his remaining land on both sides of the race to the Riverdale Park Company, a real estate developer. Two years later, a freshet washed out the dam, and when Wescott repaired it, “the agents and servants” of the park company attempted to tear it down and Wescott got an injunction, won his case, and also the appeal. The court affirmed his right to all the water. It was mentioned that the overshot wheel had been replaced with a turbine, and rollers had been installed, but production was down to 30 bbl per day from an earlier figure of 50 bbl. See, *Riverdale Park Co. -vs- Charles T. Wescott*, 75 Md. 311 (1891).

The millstream eventually came to be the town water supply, and the Calvert dam was destroyed by a logjam in 1907, *Town of Riverdale*, p. 52. A postcard of “Old

Mill in Historic Bladensburg, Md.“ was published by Alfred Hyatt Wells, Druggist in 1908.

J. A. Wilson wrote “An Historic Mill,” *American Miller*, November 1, 1912, and included a photograph showing a tall chimney. Wilson gave the dimensions as 40 x 50 feet and noted that the mill was not running but had a maximum daily capacity of 75 to 200 bbl/diem.

The mill was last worked prior to World War I by Thompson Brothers and stood until 1931. Going south of Edmondston Road, it was to the right (west) just before reaching Bladensburg. Mrs. Christophane had some of the millstones at Bostwick per Fred S. DeMarr of Hyattsville [1972].

#### **AVONDALE FLOUR MILLS (10)**

The structure that survived until recent years dated from 1845 and was built to make fine cotton cloth and had also been used as a grist and flouring mill, and still later as a lace factory. It was the replacement of the Snowden Mill of 1811 that occupied the same site. The mill’s “Little Dam” was located downstream of the Laurel Cotton Mill dam at the foot of Post Office Avenue; its site back of Dr. John Crommiller’s on Main Street was referred to by the boys as “Backadoccs.”

The Avondale Mfg. Company was a cotton factory when listed in the 1850 census of manufactures. Capital investment was \$25,000, with water and steam power, 15 male and 40 female employees earning \$20 and \$12 per month, respectively. Production was 390,000 yd of cotton, osnaburg, and sheeting worth \$25,000 annually.

Thomas S. Alexander and George W. Dobbin, Trustees, advertised “Cotton Factory at Public Sale,” *Baltimore American*, June 11, 1850:

. . . Under Deed of Trust for the benefit of creditors . . . Executed by the Avondale Manufacturing Company. . . About 15 acres . . . Avonale Factory is situated on the southern branch of the Patuxent River, commonly called the Big Patuxent, near the village of Laurel . . . . The factory is a substantial building, built entirely of stone, about 90 feet by 45, four stories high. The machinery is driven by a water power of six feet fall, acting on four submerged water wheels, three of which are known as “Parker” wheels and one a “Howard” wheel and which are sufficient to drive the mill excepting at times of great scarcity of water. Attached to the water wheels is a 20 horse power steam engine, which is used in very dry seasons to assist the water power. There is besides a small tubular boiler, which is used for sizing, warming the Mill, &c, &c. The machinery is all in good order, a great part of it nearly new, and now running. It consists of 1 willow, 1 double spreader, 7 36 inch breakers, with doubler, 8 36 in. finishers with railway and drawing

had; 1 iron drawing frame, with three bends [?] & 14 bobbin-list speeder; 2 twist speeders; 24 spindles each; 1312 dead spindles; 3 warpers, 2 drawing frames and 44 looms, for weaving 4-4 goods.

There are eleven buildings on the property for the accommodation of the hands, ten of which are double houses, and will accommodate two families. The eleventh is a double house intended for the Manager of the Mill.--five have two-story back buildings, and six have one story. They are all frame buildings, in good order, and surrounded by good fencing. There is also upon the property a large building frame, rough cast, two stories high, 40 by 25 feet, with cellar, &c., built and now occupied for a store.

The Eaton Papers in MHS Special Collections, Ms. 300, include insurance policies on the mill. A policy of 1851 covered Avondale Cotton Factory, a stone, three-story building on the Big Patuxent, about 1 mile below Laurel Factory; it was issued to William E. Mayhew; the building was 95 x 46; shingle roofed and equipped with water wheel. There were 150 spindles.

The *Sun* of November 11, 1854, reported on Laurel's rail connections and industries, including:

“Avondale” stands nearest the railroad. This fine establishment has passed from the ownership of Captain Mason & Son to that of Messrs. Webb, Heath & Co. The machinery is propelled by water. steam power is also introduced--generated by Cumberland coal, which is brought here as cheap as delivered in Georgetown. In operation there are 960 spindles and 23 looms, viz: 12 twill, five osnaburg and six duck. They turn off about 739 pounds of cloth per day. Fifty hands, all told, is about the compliment here. Mr. James Arthur, formerly of the Georgetown, Factory, and Mr. F. A. Heuring, are in charge of “Avalon.” Near the factory are a number of double cottages, neat and comfortable. with fine garden spots.

About 1855, it was converted to a gristmill as an item in the *Planters' Advocate and Southern Maryland Advertiser* of July 1, 1857, reported:

Another item of interest to the farmers within reach of hearing, is, that, the A. Bendale [sic] Factory will cease operations as a cotton factory on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, and will be immediately transformed into a merchant flour mill, with four run of stones. The property has passed into the hands of Mr. S. P. Heath of this place, and Mr. George Wheeler, late of Savage Mill. The Laurel Mill is now conducted by Mr. Mason

**Brown as a country grist mill. The factory is now doing excellent work, turning out daily upwards of 4,000 yards of cloth, of a quality even superior to the old standard “Laurel D,” which always maintained a position in advance of the market.**



*Avondale Mill in Laurel, copied by John C. Brennan*

**On an insurance policy of December 1857, it was called Wheeler and Heath’s Avondale Four Mill; the previous policy of November 1856 was still in the name of Mayhew. The 1867 Hawes *Business Directory* listed G. W. Wheeler’s gristmill at Laurel Factory. Wheeler was also listed in the 1878 county atlas.**

**In 1879, an insurance policy on a mill and dwelling occupied by Wheeler was transferred to Benjamin F. Crabbs from Hooper C. Eaton; also included was a building about 100 yd from the mill occupied by a country store . . . A sawmill, three double frame dwellings 18 x 32 feet with frame additions on the NW side of Avondale Street. The Wheeler house was at the corner of Main Street and Avondale, while the Wheeler store was on the opposite corner.**

**The *American Miller* of January 1, 1884 (12:36) reported, “John McAuley, millwright, . . . Building a 200-barrel mill for the firm of Crabb & Welch, formerly of Georgetown, D. C., at Laurel, Prince Georges County, Md., and that the celebrated Welch brands of flour will soon be in the market again. The mill will have all the latest improved machinery for a first-class merchant mill.”**

**The same journal reported, “Mr. B. F. Crabbs, Laurel, Md., is remodeling his large flouring mill, and has placed his order for shafting and Success Water Wheels with S. Morgan Smith, York, Pa,” *American Miller*, 12 (July 1, 1884): 371.**

**B. F. Crabb was listed in the 1887 State directory as proprietor of a flourmill with capacity of 50 bbl/diem. Avondale Mill used 60 hp of the Patuxent flow in 1911, MGS, P. G. County.**

**“The Avondale flour mill property, owned by Benj. F. Crabs of Laurel, was sold at a mortgagee’s sale to John Gill of Baltimore and Frederick Dallam of Laurel for \$11,300. The property consists of 21 acres and a large four story stone mill,” *Maryland Farmer*, 24 (April 1897): 34.**

**Leigh Bassett wrote in 1992 that the mill was used in 1917-1918 by the Southern Embroidery Company as a lace factory and during the World War I, it produced chevrons for con-commissioned officers’ uniforms. It was later used as a tractor factory.**

**The mill was incorporated into a city park about 1969 and served as the park headquarters. The building once had a cupola; it was a 3-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-storry structure at the foot of Avondale Street, just west of U. S. 1 in the heart of old Laurel.**

**The *Sun* of August 13, 1978, reported that architect James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA, recommended restoration of the mill; at that time the building was being nominated to the National Restaurant.**

**An article by David N. Rubin appeared in the *Laurel Leader*, April 25, 1985, “Empty Avondale Is Rich in History.”**

**The *Sun* of December 20, 1991, reported, “Fire Damages Historic Laurel Mill.” An early morning fire caused \$250,000 damage to the mill and required the services of 100 firefighters hampered by a below-zero wind chill. The city of Laurel had plans for its restoration and it was appraised at \$1 million. The mill interior was burned out, and Andy Markowitz writing in the *Prince George’s Journal* of January 2, 1992, reported, “Homeless Seeking Warmth Blamed for Laurel Mill Blaze.” The mill was ultimately demolished. Harold Goodridge writing in the *Laurel Leader*, September 23, 2004, reported that the Laurel Board of Trade wanted to build a pavilion on the old mill site.**

**See also, John Calder [Brennan], “Rediscovered Views of Laurel’s Mill Town History Are Published Here for the First Time, *Laurel News-Leader*, January 29, 1970.**

***Illustrated Laurel and Directory*, 1874, p. 6.**

**Leigh Bassett, “Fire Destroys Avondale Mill,” *Old Mill News*, Spring, 1992, p. 11.**

**BADEN MILL (4)**

**Mrs. S. Baden's mill appeared on a southern tributary of Rock Creek and west of the Patuxent, near present Croom Road, on 1861 Martenet map.**

**BAITS MILL (5/12)**

**Baits Mill was just above the mouth of Henson Creek, c. 1762, per Margaret Cook's map drawn in 1973 after exhaustive study of the county roads system.**

**BAKER MILL ( )**

**B. Z. W. Baker was listed as miller at Oxen Hill in the 1880 State business directory.**

**BAYNES MILL ( )**

**Joseph H. Baynes owned part of Wades Adventure, Edelens Enlargement, and Pittsburg, one mill house 24 x 28, a miller's house, and a counting room 20 16, on the 1798 tax list of King George and Grubb Hundred.**

**BEALLS MILL ( )**

**Captain Ninian Beall, then of Calvert County, built a mill on the Western Branch of Patuxent on the property of the widow and orphans of Edward Keene without taking out a writ as required by law; prior to 1672. He petitioned the Assembly for relief in 1682 but was refused, *Arch. Md.*, 7:343f, 347, 405.**

**Ninian Beall, Jr., left the water mill, "Bealls Mill" to son Samuel, January 1711, MCW, 3:185. Ninian Beall, Sr., in 1717 left a "water mill on Collington Branch" to grandson Samuel, MCW, 4:135.**

**BEALL SAWMILL ( )**

**The *Sun Magazine* of December 16, 1956, featured Bernard C. Beall's sawmill powered by a portable steam traction engine at Burtonsville, clippings in EPFL VF and MHS Library general clipping file under "Beall" and "Industries," respectively.**

**BELLS MILL (3)**

**See Bealls. See Cool Spring mill.**

**BELT MILL (9)**

**Hiram Belt owned Mill Tracts and a two-story wooden gristmill, 46 x 24 feet, on the 1798 tax list of New Scotland, Oxen, and Bladensburg Hundreds.**

**BELT MILL ( )**

**“A mill dam belonging to Mr. Belt near Upper Marlborough broke down last Sunday as a result of the recent rains,” *Md. Gazette*, March 31, 1757. Joseph Belt in P. G. County wanted to hire a miller, *Md. Gazette*, May 19, 1757. A stray horse from Mr. Belt’s mill near Upper Marlborough was advertised in *Md. Gazette*, September 4, 1760. Joseph Belt, Jr., at Upper Marlborough wanted to hire a miller, *Md. Gazette*, September 11, 1760.**

**BELFONTE MILL (9)**

Same as Calverts.

**BENDALE FACTORY (11)**

Typographical error. Same as Avondale Mill.

**BERRY MILL (6)**

See Walker Mill.

**BERRY SAWMILL (7)**

The 1860 census listed W. Berry with a steam sawmill with \$10,000 capital investment, 4 employees, and annual output of 250,000 ft plank (\$15,000).

**BILLOP MILL ( )**

C. F. Billop was listed as miller at Oak Grove in the 1880 State business directory; the village was 2 miles from Brick Church Station on the B. & P. Railroad (the present Amtrak).

**BINGER BROTHERS INC. (3)**

Arthur Lee Binger, Jr., was manager and president of this feed plant established 1935 at Upper Marlboro, with 8 employees, DMM, 1970.

**BLADENSBURG (2)**

Bladensburg was once a port on the Anacostia and had mills, docks, and warehouses, and about 1812, a ropewalk. There were several powder mills, and one stood on the site later used by the Avalon Mill. Powder Mill Cemetery was “within a convenient distance of the exploded mill,” per 1878 atlas which cited a third explosion some 60 years before. Safety laws were passed against making explosives, *Prince Georges County Past and Present*, p. 21. Cf. Avalon and Carleton Mills.

**BLADENSBURG MILL (2)**

**William Dudley Digges advertised an auction of Bladensburg Mill, *Federal Gazette and Baltimore Advertiser*, June 17, 1813.**

#### **BOND MILL (7)**

**Thomas Bond's mill was on the Patuxent downstream of Green Branch, ca. 1762, per Margaret Cook's map; it was apparently at the mouth of Mill Branch.**

**Richard Jones of Elkridge inquired of the author in 1990 about Bond's Mill in Prince Georges County at the bottom of Rocky Gorge on the Patuxent; some of the sawmill parts had been preserved. Mr. Jones was also related to the colonial miller Peter Bond of Gwynns Falls Valley and to the same Bonds who gave the tract name "Bond's Water Mills" to land on Little Gunpowder Falls, where Baltimore and Harford Counties meet.**

**See interesting family data in, Richard E. Jones, "The History Behind the 'Bonds' and 'Mill' from Bond Mill Road," *Laurel Leader*, May 17, 1990.**

#### **BOND MILL (10) BOND MILL ROAD**

**Charles Bond was milling possibly as early as 1810, per Richard E. Jones' 1990 article. Mr. Jones thinks that Albin Bond acquired an existing mill, "Bond's Mill," by inheritance about 1850. Albin Bond was listed as miller at Laurel in Boyd's *Business Directory*, 1875. The county atlas showed Al. Bond's grist and saw mill on the Patuxent upstream of Laurel. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Albion M. Bond mill with \$7000 capital investment, 2 employees, 3 run of stones, 250 bu/diem maximum capacity, and one-half custom business. A fall of 12 ft on Big Patuxent drove a 60 hp, 6-inch turbine at 92 rpm, 60 hp. Output was 600 bbl flour, 84.5 tons meal, and 27.5 tons feed (\$6743).**

**Bond did all his own logging "near the mill" for his sawmill worth \$1500, aided by 2 employees. A 10-foot fall on Big Patuxent drove a 36-inch turbine at 120 rpm, 15 hp, to cut 100,000 ft worth \$1500. Richard E. Jones wrote that Bonds Mill burned around 1900. "The huge water wheel remained as a relic until it fell in decay and became part of the soil beneath. Today an elementary school, a road, and two housing subdivisions share the namesake 'Bond Mill.'"**

#### **BOTELER MILL (8)**

**Pricilla Boteler owned part of Beal Mill Seat and one mill house 18 x 4, with two pair of stones, in good repair. "The mill stands on the head of Swansons Creek, 5 miles from Benedict," 1798 tax list of Prince Frederick and Washington Hundreds."**

#### **BOTELER MILL ( )**

**Henry Boteler had part of Saucers Green and a mill house (tubb mill and distillery) 24 x 18, occupied by Redmon Grace, 1798 tax list of Prince Frederick and Washington Hundreds.**

#### **BOWEN MILL 98)**

**See Johnson Mill.**

#### **BOWIE MILL (4)**

**The 1861 Martenet map showed the Bowie Mill on north bank of Mataponi Creek, west of present St. Thomas Church Road-Fenno Road. The atlas showed John McKee heirs gristmill on Mataponi Branch near Croome.**

#### **BRADLEYS MILL (15)**

**Bradeys Mill was on Charles Branch between Croom Station and present U. S. 301 per Margaret Cook's map of 1762 roads.**

#### **BRASHEARS MILL ( )**

**In June 1712, Samuel Brashears cited the need for a road to his newly erected mill on a branch of Collington Branch near Mr. Riley's. In 1715, Brashears filed another petition for a road to his mill, Pat Melville, "Roads in Prince George's County, 1696-1765," *The Archivist's Bulldog*, 17 (May 12, 2003): 2.**

#### **BROOKS MILL ROAD ( )**

**The citizens in August 1713 petitioned for a new road leading to Brooks Mill Road in the Piscataway Hundred, Pat Melville, "Roads in Prince George's County, 1696-1765," *The Archivists' Bulldog*, 17 (May 12, 2003): 3.**

#### **BROWN MILL (1)**

**See Van Horns Mill.**

#### **BROWN SAWMILL (11)**

**The 1880 census listed the Isaac W. Brown sawmill with \$4000 capital investment, 3 employees, 2 circular saws, and 40-hp steam engine. No logging was performed. Output was 100,000 ft (\$1500) annually.**

#### **BURNELL MILL (3)**

The 1880 census of manufactures listed George H. Burnell with an 8 hp steam gristmill worth \$1200, 2 employees, 1 run of stones, 100 bu/diem maximum capacity, and all custom business. Output was 252 tons meal and 9 tons feed (\$5500) annually. The 12 hp steam sawmill worth \$1500 cut 60,000 ft (\$900).

#### **BUSSARD MILLS (2)**

The 1820 census of Vansville District showed Daniel Bussard with (1) a saw and grist mill of 1 pair of stones, and (2) a blanket, spinning, weaving, and dyeing establishment equipped with 1 spinning jenny, 1 billy of 48 spindles each, 3 carding machines, and 1 dyeing kettle.

#### **BUSSARD POWDER MILL (2)**

The War Department in 1818 made an agreement to loan \$10,000 to erect a gunpowder works on Paint Branch. The document was signed by Decius Wadsworth, Colonel of Ordnance. There was mention of Stull and Williams, merchants of Georgetown, *American State Papers*, Class V, Vol. II (Washington, D. C., 1834), p. 133.

Davis Bussard's powder mil at Bladensburg experienced various explosions in 1817 and 1819, MHM, 52:198. The 1820 census of manufacturers in Vansville District listed David Bussard with a powder mill producing 180,000 lb powder worth \$45,000 per annum. The works had 1 pounding mill of 24 pounders with 4 barrels; 1 glazing mill with 4 barrels, 1 grinding mill with 1 granulator; a refinery with 2 kettles, 1 cooler, and 1 drying pan; press house with 2 screws; packing house, drying house, and magazine.

#### **BUTLER MILL ( )**

Noble Butler was listed as miller under Cedarville and Brandywine in 1880 State business directory.

#### **CALVERTS MILL (2)**

See Avalon Mill.

#### **CALVERTS MILL (9)**

A mill was shown at Woodyard ca. 1762 by Margaret Cook's 1973 map of early roads. Griffith's map of 1794-1795 showed Calvert's Mill on Piscataway Creek, 1 mile SW of Woodyard. "H. Calvert's Old Mill" was mentioned in a roads authorization, *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1813, Chapter 114.

According to research by John M. Walton, Jr., of Clinton, Md., Edward and George Calvert conveyed the Bellefonte Mill to Richard H. Marshall about 1852. The 1850

census showed Richard M. Marshall water powered grist and sawmill (District 3-8 list) with \$2500 capital investment, 2 employees, and annual output of 900 bu grain (\$600). The Martenet map showed W. W. Marshall Mill on Piscataway Creek at Woodyard. The county atlas indicated J. Walters gristmill on the west bank, SE side of Woodyard Road. James F. Walter appeared in the 1906-07 Polk *Gazetteer* as operator of a saw and grist mill in the Clinton area.

#### CALVERT SAWMILL (2)

Charles B. Calvert was interested in progressive farming and in addition to owning the Avalon Mill, he had a sawmill about 1845 and at one point started a wire fence factory. The steam sawmill was shown near his octagonal barn in a drawing made in 1845 in *Town of Riverdale*, p. 9f. Calvert sold timber to the B. & O. which passed through his land, MHM, 64:113f.

#### CARLETON MILL (2)

This mill was supposedly built about 1720, the first gristmill in that part of the Province. The site was the original road to Washington near the present Peace Cross on the banks of the Anacostia. William Dudley Diggs was a proprietor, and in 1813, the mill was conveyed to Daniel Carroll of Duddington and Daniel Brent. During the Battle of Bladensburg. The only cannon that the U. S. forces had was placed in the mill; after their victory, the British used the mill as a headquarters. A diagram of the situation of August 24, 1814, is shown in Swanson's *The Perilous Fight*, p. 70.



--Library of Congress

#### *Carleton Mill in 1930s*

Nora Digges, widow, conveyed the mill to Hanson Penn in 1837; his nickname was Duck Penn.

The *Sun* of November 23, 1844, carried the following classified ad, "Sale . . . Grist mill, with or without the miller, a valuable Colored Man, of good character, about 47 years of age, a slave for life and well acquainted with the milling business . . . Eastern Branch of the Potomac about 2-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles above the village of Bladensburg--

recently put in good repair; has a substantial dam, which secures a sufficient supply of water the year round. . . Call on Mr. Beckett, Agent, Light Street Wharf . . . or to the subscriber . . . In Bladensburg . . . Henry L. Carlton.”

Penn conveyed to Henry L. Carleton in 1847. The mill was depicted in a woodcut in *Harpers New Monthly Magazine*, 28 (March 1864): 437, in a serialized version of Benson J. Lossing’s guidebook to the War of 1812 battlefields.

Carlton [sic] mill was shown in the 1878 atlas. The 1880 census of manufactures listed H. L. Carleton [sic] mill with \$10,000 capital investment, 7 employees, 4 run of stones, 600 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing 25% custom business. A 16-foot fall on the NW branch drove two 8-foot broad wood wheel at 6 rpm to develop 30 hp. Output was 20 bbl flour, 1 million lb meal, and 48,000 lb feed (\$12,500) annually.

The 1887 State business directory listed Guy Carleton. The mill was three stories clapboarded, and later equipped with a steel overshot wheel of the I. X. L. type. The pond was called Moyers Lake and served for ice-skating. The mill stood until the 1950s, when it was torn down for flood control work. It was on the Cottage City side of the river between the Bladensburg Road Bridge and the B. & O. bridge per Mr. Fred S. DeMarr of Hyattsville (1972).

Also, CHM, 31-32:91f. Also, *Prince Georges County Historic Sites*, p. 23. Sketch of 1861 in Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field Book of War of 1812*, p. 924, showed the mill substantially the same as its late photographs. Carleton Mill was possibly a replacement of the Stoddert Mill of the 1798 tax list.

#### CARNES MILL ( )

Peter Carnes, famous for his balloon ascension and keeper of a store in the Indian Queen Tavern, was on the tax records of ca. 1802 with Belts Choice, 85 acres and a gristmill.

#### CARROLL MILL (3)

Daniel Carroll advertised for a miller to run a merchant mill near Upper Marlborough, *Md. Gazette*, July 15, 1762.

#### CARROLL GRISTMILL ( )

Charles Carroll of Bellevue (1767-1823) advertised a gristmill and distillery in Prince George’s County in the *Ontario Messenger*, November 1819, quoted by the Rev. R. F. McNamara, *Rochester History*, 42 (October 1980): 6.

#### CARROLL POWDER MILL (2)

The Buzzard Cobb powder mill on Paint Branch was sold to Owen Carroll before 1812; it blew up during the Civil War; ruin set in, and the stones were used in other structures. CHM, 31-32:107.

#### CARROLL WOOLEN MILL (1)

Bishop in HAM, 1861, 3:556, listed the Owen Carroll woolen mill at Bladensburg. The 1861 Martenet map showed Owen Carroll's wool factory and sawmill on the north bank of a tributary of Little Falls Branch near Montgomery County line.

The 1850 census of manufactures showed Owen Carroll's woolen mill capitalized at \$2500, run by water, with 8 male and 3 female employees, and output of 6500 yd woolen cloth and blankets (\$4500) annually. The 1867 Hawes *Business Directory* listed John Royds and Owen Carroll as woolen manufacturers at Beltsville.

#### CHANEY LUMBER CO. (7)

This sawmill at the SE corner of Md. 3 (U. S. 301) and Md. 450 was operating in 1970 with 32 employees; partners were Lawrence W. and Lester L. Chaney. The firm was founded in 1938 and was electrified in 1946 when owned by Raymond Chaney, *Power Pictorial*, January 1947, p. 47.

#### CLARK SALTPETRE WORKS ( )

The Convention appointed Daniel Clark to erect a saltpeter works, *Arch. Md.*, 11:131. Cf. the Johnson works.

#### CLARKE MILL (3)

The 1860 census of manufactures listed Daniel Clarke with a water-powered gristmill worth \$2000 with 1 employee and \$1000 annual output of meal. The 1861 Martenet map showed D. Clark [sic] mill on Collington Branch along the proposed route of Baltimore and Potomac Railroad south of Leeland.

#### COALE MILL ( )

L. W. Coale was listed as miller at Mitchelville in Polk's 1915-16-17 State business directory, p. 1082.

#### COBB MILL (1)

Elkanah Cobb was mentioned as a miller in a letter of July 13, 1816, from Christopher Hughes, Jr., of Baltimore to William E. Williams of Ceresville. "I Rode from Washington the other day: I was enquiring of a man in the stage about Servants. He informed me that he had a mulatto man, about 23 years of age--sober,

ingenious, and honest and one of the finest fellows in the world: that his family would not allow him to keep him that they were conscientiously scrupulous about holding such property: and he meant to sell him: that he had 22 years to serve; that he was a \_\_able miller this 3 months, constant attention in a merchant mill, he would be as capable a miller as any in America: that he frequently trusted his mill (a decent Country mill) entirely to him: that he was a complete Fan-maker and millwright and capable in every department of those employments: he was besides an extraordinary genius in the use of all mechanic tools, & I induce a sort of treasure” but he must sell him. I told him I had a friend extremely interested in milling and other occupations and I thought he might buy him. His price is \$1000. I dare say he would take 8 or 900 cash. His name [the owner] is Elkanah Cobb, Vansville.” He says he will take the man up to you if you write to him and produce evidence off his character, that are unexceptional . . . “ MHS Special Collections, Williams Papers, Ms. 962, Vol. 10, No. 990. (Vansville is now Beltsville).

#### COLE AND BROTHER MILL (2)

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Cole and Co. mill with \$600 capital investment, 2 employees, and annual output of \$1000; the mill was idle 3 months of the year.

#### CONTEE FULLING MILL ( )

Thomas Contee, near Nottingham, P. G. County, advertised for the manager of a fulling mill, *Md. Journal*, Baltimore, September 16, 1777.

#### COOL SPRING MILL (3)

Cool Spring Mill was advertised by Thomas Beall as an overshot mill, 3 to 4 miles from Patuxent River on the road from St. Mary's' Courthouse to Annapolis, *Md. Gazette*, May 17, 1764. This was apparently the Bells Mill 35 miles below Long Bridge listed in *The Vade Mecum of America, 1773*, quoted in *Colonial Piscataway in Md.*, p. 49. It was probably between Croom on present Md. 382, near the home of Ninian Beall, who lived 3 miles below Upper Marlboro at Bacon Hall, CHM 42-43:166.

#### CRABBS MILL (10)

See Avondale Mill.

#### CRAWFORDS MILL ( )

Thomas B. Crawford's mill was mentioned on the boundaries of Bladensburg and Spaldings election districts, *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1847, Chapter 8.

#### CROWS MILL (10)

**James Crow left a mill to his wife Mary, January 4, 1776, to be equally divided after her death among James, Thomas, and John Crow (Wills 40:175). Crows Mill Ford was shown in the 1878 county atlas on the Patuxent upstream of Bonds Mill.**

#### **DARNALL MIL ( )**

**J. F. Darnall was listed as miller at Contees Station on the B. & O. in the 1880 State business directory.**

#### **DAVIDSON FLOUR MILL (2)**

**See Avalon Mill.**

#### **DAVIS STILL ( )**

**Charles Davis on Western Branch advertised a 30-gallon copper still, *Md. Gazette*, July 4, 1754.**

#### **DICKERSONS MILL SEAT (5)**

**John Dickerson patented Dickersons Delight, 100 acres. Dickersons Delight Mill Seat was a property of James Brooke assigned to his daughter Elizabeth Pleasant in 1770, Chancery Records, Liber 18:179, MSA. The site was near Piscataway.**

#### **DIGGES MILL (5)**

**This mill was on Tinkers Branch of Piscataway Creek on the estate of Frankland in 1774 and was owned by William Digges, who died 1783. It was near the Digges private chapel. In 1962, the foundation was described as near the present Gallahan Road and Old Fort Road, east of "Old Catholic Graveyard," *Colonial Piscataway*, pp. 15, 17, 20f. No ruins were discernible in 1970 east of St. Mary's Cemetery. The Margaret Cook map of colonial roads showed it in existence ca. 1762.**

#### **DISTRICT BRANCH MILL (3/7)**

**An unnamed mill was at the mouth of District Branch ca. 1762 per Margaret Cook's map of early roads.**

#### **DIXON MILL (2)**

**See Avalon Mill.**

#### **DUDLEY MILL ( )**

The steam flourmill at Croom, Md., owned by W. W. Dudley, was recently destroyed by fire. Loss \$4000," *American Miller*, 22 (June 1894): 455.

#### **DUVALL MILL (14)**

Samuel Duvall's mill was on the Patuxent at present crossing of Duvall's Bridge Road, ca. 1762, per Margaret Cook map. The 1861 Martenet map showed Dr. C. Duvall mill on the Patuxent, 0.7 mile upstream of Horsepen Branch. The atlas showed it as a gristmill east of present Amtrak railroad bridge. The Anne Arundel county atlas showed Dr. C. Duvall mill below Lemmons Bridge. An advertisement in the *American Miller* of March 1, 1895 (23:235) read, "For Sale--Water power grist mill with 1 to 300 acres land. Near Baltimore & Potomac Railroad. Address Dr. Wm. W. Duvall, Bowie, Prince George's County, Md." The 1969 topo map showed both Duval Ponds and Duval Bridge.

#### **DYER MILL (5)**

The 1861 Martenet county map showed Dyer Mill on east bank of Tinkers Creek west of Piscataway Road. The atlas showed John A. Dixon grist and saw mill, listed at a Piscataway postal address. The 1880 census of manufactures listed J. A. Dixon mill worth \$1500 with 2 employees, 2 run of stones, 70 bu/diem maximum capacity, and one-eighth custom trade. A 20-foot fall on Tuckers Run drove one overshot wheel 3 ft broad at 6 rpm to develop 8 hp. Output was 200 bbl flour, 81 tons meal, and 10 tons feed annually (\$3430). The pond still appeared on the 1961/1969 survey map.

#### **EARLY MILL (10)**

The 1880 census listed Wm. H. Early and Co. with a 25 hp steam mill with \$1200 capital investment, 3 employees, 1 run of stones, 300 bu/diem maximum capacity. Located on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad (present Amtrak), the mill had an output of 289 tons meal and 10.4 tons feed (\$7480) annually. The sawmill with \$2000 capital investment had 6 employees, and a 25 hp steam engine, and output of 640,000 ft (\$10,080) annually. The company did all its own logging.

#### **EDELEN AND HARDY MILL (5)**

Near the bridge that carries Piscataway Road across the creek is the site of a mill owned in 1768 by James Edelen and George Hardy, Jr., *Colonial Piscataway*, p. 40. Per Margaret Cook's map of 1762 roads, it was on the present Floral Park Road.

#### **EDLAVITCH MILL ( )**

L. B. Edlavitch was listed as grist miller at Mitchelville in Polk's 1915-16-17 State business directory, p. 1082.

#### **EWELL POWDER MILL (2)**

**Thomas Ewell has a powder mill at Bladensburg in 1811 and patented a wheel for mixing ingredients; he went out of business in 1817, MHM, 52:196-198.**

#### **FREEMANS MILL 917)**

**Same as Adelphi Mill.**

#### **FRISCO SAWMILL ( )**

**A modern sawmill on the east side of Md. 3 just above Upper Marlboro, was operating in 1976, property of G. Frisco.**

#### **FULL MILL BRANCH (4)**

**Full Mill Branch enters the Patuxent near Whites Landing per county atlas of 1878; mill was extinct even in 1976.**

#### **GALLANT MILL (1)**

**The 1878 county atlas showed Mrs. P. Gallant's mill on the south side of Little Paint Branch, west side of the road, near the Montgomery County line. Possibly on present Powder Mill Road. Harry Shannon, who wrote hiking stories as "The Rambler," stated that the mill was used by the Gallants for both gunpowder and wool production and was dismantled to reuse the stone on Randolph Rapleys place about 1895-1900. Shannon found the ruin, a depression in the ground, and also a "mortar" for grinding the powder. It was in the valley of Paint Branch about a mile downstream of Harper's Mill, Washington *Sunday Star*, October 4, 1914. The Rambler found the site very difficult to reach in 1914.**

#### **GALLIMORE SAWMILL (5)**

**M. S. Gallimore sawmill was listed as off Old Marshall Road, Accokeek, producing wood fence materials, DMM, 1967.**

#### **GARDINER MILL (3)**

**The 1860 census of manufactures for Marlborough District listed Francis Gardiner water gristmill with \$2500 capital investment, 1 employee, and annual output of 2000 bbl meal and 1000 bbl flour (\$14,000).**

#### **GARDINER MILL (12)**

**See Temples Mill.**

#### **GATES MILL (8)**

The atlas showed the W. A. Gates steam sawmill on the west side of Md. 381, just north of Horsehead. The 1880 census listed W. A. Gates mill with \$1000 capital, 3 employees, 1 run of stones, and 150 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing 12% custom business. An 18 hp steam engine ground 162,000 lb meal annually (\$2520). The sawmill worth \$1000 had 5 employees and the 18 hp steam engine cut 50,000 ft (\$750) annually; Gates did half the logging for the works. The 1887 State business directory listed William A. Gates as miller at Horse Head 5 miles from Brandywine.

#### **GLENDALE SAWMILL (14)**

The atlas showed Glendale Sawmill on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad at Glendale. The 1887 State business directory listed J. Lynch as miller at Glen Dale and the 1880 census of manufactures had valued the John Lynch sawmill at \$500, listing 21 employees, 4 gang saws, 1 circular saw, and 20 hp steam engine. Lynch did all his own logging, shipping via the B. & P. Railroad (the later Amtrak). Annual output was 500,000 ft (\$9000); labor cost was \$4000 annum.

#### **GIBBONS MILL (11)**

The 1861 Martenet map showed W. T. Gibbons mill east of Brandywine near the headwaters of Rock Creek, NE of the present Ashbox on Route 381. The atlas of 1878 showed a race and building along Hunter Piles Branch on the property of Henry Gibbons.

#### **GREEN MILL (5)**

The 1880 census of manufactures listed the H.M. Green mill with \$1800 capital investment, 2 employees, 1 run of stones, 2 hp engine, 150 bu/diem maximum capacity, and 12% custom work. Output was 135 tons meal (\$3100) annually. The 1887 State business directory listed H. W. Green as miller at Accokeek.

#### **GREEN MILL (7)**

Greens Mill was at the confluence of Greens Branch and Patuxent River, downstream of Governor Bridge Road, ca. 1762 per Margaret Cook's map of early roads.

#### **GREER MILL ( )**

F. M. Greer was listed as miller at Horse Head in the 1880 State business directory.

#### **GUYTON MILL (12)**

See Temple Mill.

#### **GWYNN MILL (5)**

**Gwynn Mill on shop Spring was willed in 1826 by Benentt Gwynn to son William; it was in Piscataway District, ACYPGC, p. 346.**

#### **HALL, DISNEY, AND BOYD MILL (7)**

**Henry Hall and James Disney of Anne Arundel County and Thomas Boyd of Prince Georges County took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* “on Patuxent about a mile and a half above Queen Anne in Prince Georges County,” February 21, 1760. Total value was L 40-10, and the tracts were part of Ample Grange belonging to Henry Hall (14.5 acres) and The Angle, belonging to Turner Wooten. Chancery Records, Liber 9:73, MSA.**

**Thomas Boyd’s heirs had a gristmill occupied by Margaret Boyd on part of Ample Grange; the mill was 32 x 24 feet, on a constant stream, with 2 pair of stones on the 1798 tax list of Patuxent Hundred.**

#### **HALL MILL (7)**

**Richard B. Hall owned part of Partnership, a small undershot mill with one pair of stones, and a miller’s house, 16 x 16 feet, worth \$30, in the 1798 tax list of Collington and Western Branch Hundred.**

#### **HALL MILL (7)**

**Benjamin Hall owned part of Partnership and a small tub mill with one pair of stones and one miller’s house, 1798 tax list of Collington and Western Branch Hundreds.**

#### **HAMILTONS MILL (1)**

**Same as Ammen Mill.**

#### **HAWKINS MILL (8)**

**Hawkins Mill was on Swamp reek and the present Md. 382 at Magruders Bridge about 1762 per Margaret Cook’s map of colonial roads. George Frazer advertised a mill, two years old at the head of Quasco Creek, 2.5 miles from Magruder’s Warehouse on Patuxent River. An overshot, double-gearred gristmill with one pair of stones 3 ft 4 inches, never failing stream, *Md. Gazette*, September 20, 1764.**

#### **HICKS MILL (14)**

**John and Benjamin Hicks had a steam sawmill on the Patuxent near the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad bridge as shown in the 1878 county atlas. The 1880 census of manufactures listed J. W. Hicks and Bros. with a 25 hp steam sawmill with \$3000 capital investment, 6 employees, 3 gang saws, and 1 circular saw. The company did 75% of its own logging and shipped via the B. & P. Railroad. Annual output was 150,000 ft (\$4780).**

**The 1887 State business directory listed J. W. Hicks and Brother; Hicks Mill was also a post office name, with J. W. Hicks as postmaster. It was still listed as a village name of 1941 in GZMD. The mill was shown at Arundel Station just south of Lemmons Bridge in RIOM on the map opposite p. 272. Probably near the Dr. Duvall gristmill of the 1861 Martenet map.**

#### **HILLEARY MILL (13)**

**Hilleary's Mill was on Cattail Branch just east of present Palmer Park and on the present Landover Road per Margaret Cook's map of colonial roads of 1762.**

#### **HODGES MILL (3)**

**Joseph and John Hodges owned part of Higgins Purchase and part of Brock Hall; an old tub mill with one pair of stones, worth \$50; and a miller's house, 12 x 10 feet, worth \$20, on the 1798 tax list of Collington and Western Branch Hundreds. The Margaret Cook map of roads in 1762 placed Hodges Mill on the present Leeland Road at Collington Branch.**

#### **HOXTON MILL (9)**

**Martenet's 1861 map showed J. Hoxton gristmill NW of Surrattsville (now called Clinton) on Pea Hill Branch of Tinkers Creek, east of present Md. 381, or Branch Avenue. No mill appeared on the Hoxton property in the 1878 county atlas.**

#### **HUNTERS MILL BRANCH (5)**

**Hunters Mill Branch empties into Mason Creek near Broad Creek and runs generally parallel to and east of Palmer Road.**

#### **IVES SAWMILL (11)**

**The steam sawmill of R. S. Ives was listed at T. B. village in Hawes *Business Directory*, p. 149 (1867).**

#### **JACKSON MILL ( )**

**Thomas Jackson was listed as miller at Cedarville in 1880 State business directory.**

### **JOHNSONS MILL (8)**

The 1794-1795 Griffith map showed Johnsons Mill on the east side of Swanson Creek, 5 miles from its mouth. The 1798 tax list showed Rinaldo Johnson's 46 x 30 foot frame mill house and a 46 x 30 foot frame distillery on part of the tract Buttington Mill Seat. There was also a 16-foot square tanner's house, all 6 miles from Lower Marlboro, and 2 miles from the Patuxent, in Prince Frederick and Washington Hundred.

The 1878 atlas showed P. A. Bowen's gristmill on Swansons Creek, NW of Aquasco. The 1880 census listed the mill with \$3000 capital investment, 2 employees, 2 run of stones, 100 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing one-eighth custom work. A 20-foot fall drove a 10 hp overshot wheel 4 ft broad at 15 rpm. Output was 100 bbl flour, 135 tons meal, and 8.5 tons feed (\$2586). The mill was idle half the year.

### **JOHNSON SALTPETRE WORKS (3)**

Dr. E. Johnson wrote to the Council of Safety that "the saltpeter Manufactory under my supervisorship" has yielded 15 to 18 pounds of crude nitre. He had been pouring lye over the nitrogen-bearing earth and planned a new works with a matrix of trash tobacco, lime, and brick dust; Upper Marlboro, June 14, 1776, *Arch. Md.*, 11:491.

### **JONES MILL (2)**

See Avalon Mill.

### **JONES MILL (14)**

According to an absurd legend, the first gristmill on the Patuxent was built by a Welshman, Dick Jones, about 1803 [!], six miles below Laurel. There was a further story that his real name was Tasker and he had fled to America to escape marriage to a princess. The mill was the property of Noah Donaldson in 1908. See, "The Big and Little Patuxent," by F. C. Hall, *Sunday Sun*, November 8, 1908, p. 24. The site was probably that of Duvall Mill.

### **KETTERING MILL ( )**

Brooke Rice, a student, reported this mill in 1986. Its existence was confirmed June 5, 1987, by Susan Pearl, historian of the P. G. Historic Preservation Commission. But it was built about 1969 as a decoration or folly, built from old barn timbers in a development. Next to Watkins Regional Park, between Md. 556 and Md. 202, south side of Central Avenue (Md. 214). In a green, grassy area south and east of Park Loop. The wheel actually turned. John McGrain searched in vain for this confection in May 1987.

## LANCASRTER SAWMILL (7)

The 1860 census of manufactures listed C. C. Lancaster's water mill worth \$4000 with 4 employees and \$2000 annual output of lumber.

## LAUREL COTTON MILL (10)

According to *Illustrated Laurel City Directory of 1894*, Nicholas Snowden in 1824 leased his gristmill to a Mr. Johnson, who installed cotton yarn spinning equipment; looms for weaving were added later. Under *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1836, Chapter 26, the Patuxent Company was chartered by Horace Capron, Theodore Jenkins, A. E. Hall, E. Snowden, O. C. Tiffany, W. C. Shaw and associates to manufacture cotton and iron. Maximum capital was set at \$200,000. Laurel Factory was advertised in *Matchett's Baltimore Director of 1837-1838*, p. 23. Colonel Capron was a son-in-law of Nicholas Snowden and he is credited with the earlier reorganization of Savage Manufacturing Company in Howard County. By 1845, Capron had constructed a large manufacturing complex at the head of Main Street in Laurel; at Main and Sixth Streets a four-story machine shop was built to manufacture the cotton production machinery.

The *Baltimore Republican & Argus* of June 17, 1845, reported that a troop of horse from Laurel Factory under Colonel Horace Capron traveled to Baltimore for a parade and dinner. The *American Farmer* reported that Colonel Capron had built 50 blocks of two-story stone houses, each holding four families. The town population was 2,000, and there was a school house, Catholic and Methodist churches. The payroll in 1845 had been \$8000 to \$9000 per month, quoted in *MHM*, 81:308.

The *Howard District Press* of July 3, 1847, carried the following, "The Laurel Factory . . . The place is very attractive--two large manufacturing cotton mills in full operation--a splendid building for the manufacture of machinery called 'Machine Shop' upon a large scale where the newest improvements in the most delicate and intricate machinery is to be found--a grist mill, saw mill, and a fine hotel in course of erection . . ."

Mrs. Louisa Capron died in 1849, and the Colonel after suffering some business reverses, moved to Illinois in 1852 and remarried. After serving in the Civil War, Colonel Capron was appointed Commissioner of Agriculture by President Andrew Johnson. In 1871, he resigned at President Grant's request to become agricultural ambassador to the Emperor of Japan. Capron took a 50-man crew with him, the first international assistance mission undertaken by the United States; his energetic program increased food production on the island of Hokkaido. In 1967, a statue of General Capron was unveiled in the city of Sapporo. In 1968, the Emperor Hirohito observed the centennial of Capron's visit to the imperial palace and attended ceremonies in Hokkaido. Japanese television crews visited Laurel to film the area. Capron is described as the Father of Modern Agriculture in Japanese literature and

his papers are preserved in the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library at Beltsville.

Colonel and Mrs. Capron entertained President Zachary Taylor at the factory in July 1849, quoted from the *American Farmer* in MHM, 81:314n.

The 1850 census of manufactures listed Patuxent Mfg. Co. with \$273,000 capital investment, 200 male and 300 female employees, and annual output of 3 million yd of cotton fabric and sheeting made from 2 million lb cotton; both water and steam power was used. A separate entry listed Laurel Machine Company making equipment for cotton works, with \$65,000 capital investment, 45 male and 25 female hands, and steam-powered operation. That year a dam 27 feet high and 222 ft wide was built across the river and fed the main mill via a 640-foot raceway. The Baltimore *American* of May 12, 1852, contained an advertisement placed by George Peabody Tiffany offering to rent the Mansion House and premises recently occupied by Col. Capron at the village of Laurel and mentioned "the substantial nature of the house."

The *Sun* of November 11, 1854, contained a long description from a correspondent in Laurel:

Passing now to the largest factory, This is also situated on the Patuxent river. The dam is 35 feet high and 12 feet at the base, finished to six feet at top, built in the form of an arch, breadth 200 feet, made of stone bound together with Roman cement. This factory is built of brick, five stories in height, 150 by 45 feet. There are 6,500 spindles and 212 looms. A large cistern of water in the attic, and a hose leading to each room, would at any time enable the officers to float each apartment in water to the depth of three inches.

The number of hands employed in and about this establishment, most of whom are young women, very likely in appearance, and having the bearing of modesty, integrity, and considerable accomplishment. As an evidence of the excellent taste and industry of these young ladies, I noticed in each of their windows specimens of rare flowers cultivated by them, which, with pictures and other decorations, at least exhibit a pretty good idea of housekeeping. The houses are substantially built of brick and stone--the latter appears to be abundant here, and the population of this particular neighborhood is about 1500 souls. The chief manager is Mr. Robert Pilson, and Mr. Joseph A. Luber is the first assistant. . . . No observer can pass the five story machine establishment of S. P. Heath, Esq., without taking a glance at its interior. In length it is 110 feet by 48 feet in width.

**Twenty-two tenements are attached to this great bee-hive, which affords constant employment to one hundred men. from this is furnished the principal machinery required this side of New England, and it is stated by competent judges to be invariably of the first class workmanship.**

The *Baltimore Sun*, April 17, 1855, reported “Strike of Factory Hands,” when the workers at Laurel Machine Company protested working an eleven hour day; they had won a ten-hour day only two years before, but management wanted to extend the working day.

The textile mill took fire and the walls collapsed in spite of flooding the building with hoses laid out throughout the structure. The fire began in the picking house, presumably caused by a nail left in the cotton that passed through the picker. Some 6,500 spindles were lost and damage was placed at \$100,000, with 260 operators put out of work; president was then W. K. Keigler of Baltimore, *American*, June 22, 1855, p. 1.

The ruin, 450 ft by 40 with a million reusable bricks and pits for two large overshot wheels, plus a functioning gristmill, was offered for sale in the *American*, November 3, 1855, p. 3. Surviving the fire were a brick store house, 4 stone and 13 brick containing four tenements each, and three frame and six log houses. The separate agent’s house “would by itself form a beautiful country residence for a private gentleman.”

The *Baltimore American* of December 6, 1855, announced, “Sale of Patuxent Cotton Factory . . . Laurel . . . Brick and stone Grist Mill, 100 aces, four stone and 13 brick tenant houses . . . Sold to George P. Tiffany for \$36,000 subject to claims to amount of \$10,000 . . .”



The *Republican & Argus* of March 19, 1856, reported on “Re-Building of the Laurel Factory,” and stated, “George P. Tiffany, Esq., has purchased the site of the old

factory destroyed by fire a few months since, at Laurel, and has contracted for the immediate construction of a new building of the same description. Its dimension will be a four story stone building with a front of fifty feet and a depth of three hundred feet, and it is designed to possess the advantages of all the modern improvements.”

Other sources give the dimensions of the new building as three stories, 202 by 50 feet, on a stone foundation 17 ft deep. The new building was roofed with slate. The two-story repair shop was 80 by 50 feet, separated by a 52-foot tail race from the main structure. A connecting bridge was designed to be chopped down by a few blows in case of fire. Perforated pipes passed through the rooms, and the picking house was fitted with iron doors and ceilings. There were 7000 spindles and a 44-inch Vanderwater improved wheel. The mill machinery was made by S. P. Heath at Laurel Machine Shop. The factory was designed by Samuel Pilaster, with construction started in the spring of 1856, *Sun*, October 6, 1857, p. 1. The company’s gristmill was mentioned as surviving. Same text in *Planters’ Advocate and Southern Maryland Advertiser*, October 7, 1857.

The *Planters Advocate* of October 21, 1857, reported, “Stopped. We regret to learn that the Laurel Factory, which had just commenced operations in the building erected on the old site, has stopped operations--this is the third factory that has ceased operations in this and adjoining counties, thus throwing out of employment some 600 hands.” The *Planters Advocate* of March 3, 1858, reported that the factory was running again.

The *Maryland Journal* of Towson reported on January 2, 1886, that Towson citizen George Pilson was a brother of the long-time factory manager Robert Pilson, having started at Laurel in 1825 working for the original investors Johnson and Watson when they converted a gristmill into a factory for cotton yarn. Johnson soon died and Watson six years later. Pilson as superintendent introduced the first loom for spinning cotton cloth. Pilson served several different owners, serving fifty years and putting out quality products such as “Laurel D.”

The cotton mill was making standard sheetings with George P. Tiffany as president when listed in *Monumental City*, p. 180 (1873). The 1878 county atlas listed George P. Nye as supt. at Laurel Mills and John P. Edmonston as bookkeeper.

A strange electrostatic phenomenon was reported in the *Gleaner* of Laurel, reprinted in the *Maryland Journal* of Towson, August 31, 1878:

A rapidly revolving belt in the Laurel Mills in this place, may be rightly called an electric belt. So great is the current of electricity that by placing glass upon the floor, then a board on the glass, a person then standing on the board and placing the ends of the fingers of one hand within about half an inch of the revolving belt, and holding a

needle between the fingers of the other hand, the current passing over the body is so great as to rapidly ignite the gas by holding the needle to a burner in close proximity. There is an item for Professor Edison.

Laurel Factory was advertised in *Laurel Review*, April 3, 1885, and the Boyden Turbine wheel was rated at 200 hp, supported by a steam engine built by Delaware Works of New York with four horizontal tubular boilers. The buildings were brick with slate roofing, main mill three stories, 213 by 53; picker building of two stories, 81 x 53; weaving and dressing room, 57 by 49; cotton house, 75 by 28; and boiler house, 60 by 30. The machinery was designed for shortings, drills, and light duck and included 252 looms and 8408 spindles. There was also a powerful force pump with fixed pipes and fire hydrant, plus ten outbuildings. Advertisement also published in the *American*, April 15, 1886:

The real estate comprises about 237 acres of land, with all the necessary improvements of water and steam power, Mill Buildings and Tenements. The dam and raceway are of the most substantial description with a fall of about thirty feet giving a full supply of water most of the year, utilized by a first-class Boyden turbine wheel of over 200 horse power. A steam engine built by Dalamer Works, of New York, with four horizontal tubular boilers capable of driving the entire mill, completes the power.

The mill buildings are substantially built of brick with slate and metal roofs, comprising the main Mill, three stories, about 213 x 53 feet; picker building, two stories, 81 x 53, Weaving and Dressing Room, two stories about 57 x 49, Cotton House about 75 x 28. Boiler house about 60 x 30.

The machinery -- of modern construction -- is arranged for shortings, Drills, Light Duck, &c., and comprises 252 looms and 8408 spindles together with all the necessary preparatory machinery.

There is also a powerful force pump for fire purposes, attached with fixed pipes and hydrant.

There are on the premises 10 buildings of two stories, generally of brick and stone comprising the following:

An assembly Hall, the lower story of which is arranged for three tenements

A commodious building occupied by the Company's store.

**3 of four tenements each**

**3 of two tenements each**

**1 of one tenement**

**There is also a commodious and attractive dwelling house attached to the property and intended for the residence of the proprietor or superintendent. The general character of the entire improvements The healthiness of the location, and the facility of Rail Road connection render this one of the most valuable pieces of manufacturing property in the State.**

**The *Sun* of April 19, 1886, reported “Sale of Cotton Mills” and stated, “Laurel Factory sold for Benjamin Lacy and E. Stanley Gary, Trustees . . . Bought by stockholders’ committee for \$25,000.”**

**The Laurel Company cotton factory was listed in the 1887 State business directory when the entire town was called Laurel Factory. The mill layout was shown in the 1901 *Sanborn Atlas*, Vol. 1, folio 84, as “Mt. Vernon Laurel Mills.”**

**The Laurel Machine Shop was razed in 1894; it had been used as a barracks for Coxey’s Army in 1893. The cotton mill housed World War I troops before the building of Camp Meade. The mill was one of 14 cotton duck works that merged in 1899 to form Mount Vernon-Woodberry Cotton Duck Company with the current owner, David H. Carroll taking a seat on the board. The mill was sold by Mount Vernon-Woodberry in 1921 to the Industrial Power Company for \$70,000. At that time, the building was described as four stories and over 500 feet long and from 55 to 155 feet wide, equipped with 10,000 spindles and 48 dwellings, *Laurel News Leader*, June 10, 1921. The mills were up for sale again the next year, priced at \$52,000, *Ibid.*, August 22, 1922. It was later purchased by Robert Seff and Samuel Speert for about \$100,00. There was a plan by Lapsley Brothers to lease the mill and manufacture curtain material. The mill was razed about 1935, and some 100,000 bricks were reused to form an entrance to the Longwood estate at Olney and about 1940, the dam was dynamited to allow fish to swim upriver.**

**The milldam often froze, but the works was never known to have stopped. The mill bell now hangs in Saint Mary of the Mills Church, which has a design reminiscent of textile mill construction. Some pillars of the mill remain, and some fieldstone workers’ houses survive--the Old Ladies of Main Street, some built from the stones of Snowmen’s Mill of 1811. General Capon was the founder of Saint Philips (Episcopal) Church in Laurel. The Laurel Mills Cemetery was called Greenwood Cemetery before 1885 and is now a section of Ivy Mill Cemetery, from “Notes on**

Laurel's Graveyards," by John Caller, *Laurel News-Leader*, and September 16, 1971.

A news feature on the "All Things Considered" program on NPR (autumn of 1981) reported that Conrad Blade and Helen Harris were performing an excavation at Laurel, Md., in a search for behavioral anthropology at a brick mill worker's house about 150 years old. Mr. Bladey called John McGrain on May 24, 1982, and said he was digging at the Laurel Meat Market on Main Street where new construction had exposed the floor of the old Laurel Foundry. It was shown in the 1878 county atlas. There was a floor that seemed to be made of solidified bits of iron splatterings. Lots of slag was found. Truman and Dixon had been operators of the foundry, which had shut down in the 1880s or 1890s.

See also, "A Capron Returns to Laurel, St. Philip's Church Service is Attended by Great-Grandson of Its Founder," John Calder, *Laurel News-Leader*, May 9, 1968.

Also, *Laurel News-Leader*, Centennial Issue, September 3, 1970.

Also, Warfield, FAACHC, pp. 363-385.

*Laurel, Maryland, Souvenir Historical Booklet*, 1970, which includes numerous photos.

#### LAUREL IRON FOUNDRY (10)

The 1880 State business directory listed Laurel Iron Foundry of William H. Diven & Son. Manufacturers of grain drills and plows, ornamental iron, plumbers supplies, p. 584.

#### LAUREL ROLLER MILL ( )

The *Baltimore American*, April 9, 1892, reported a fire at a mill owned by the Laurel Rolling and Flouring Mill Stock Company. It was a large frame building erected less than two years ago, "Big Blaze at Laurel." Also, "The Laurel Roller Mill Company's big mill at Laurel, Md., was burned at night, April 7, with 800 bushels of wheat, 1,000 bushels of corn, and 500 barrels of flour. Loss \$26,000; insurance \$15,000. Incendiarism is suspected," *American Miller*, 20 (May 1, 1892): 365.

#### LEE MILL ( )

Philip Lee, gent., left a bake house and gristmill to his wife in 1744, MCW, 8:264.

#### LYNCH MILL (14)

See Glendale Sawmill.

**McKEE MILL (4)**

**See Bowie Mill.**

**MAGRUDERS MILL (8)**

**Alexander Magruder's Mill Town in Prince Frederick Hundred was mentioned in *P. G. Heritage*, p. 161.**

**MAGRUDER MILL (13)**

**The 1861 Martenet map showed Mrs. M. Magruder mill on the south side of the road from Upper Marlboro on a tributary of Western Branch, apparently on present Landover Road, NW of White House Road.**

**MANNING MILL (5)**

**The 1861 Martenet map showed J. Manning mill on west branch of Mattawoman Creek, 1.1 mile south of Accokeek, east of present Md. 210.**

**MARRS SAWMILL (3)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed the Benjamin Marr sawmill worth \$2200 with 6 employees and 20 hp engine, with notation, "Says he only saws for his own use." No output data; no wages listed for 6 employees. The 1882 State business directory listed the B. B. Marr sawmill at Croom.**

**MARSHALL MILL (5)**

**The 1850 census of manufactures of Districts 3-8 listed John Marshall's steam gristmill worth \$2500. The atlas showed an "old steam sawmill" on the east side of Old Marshall Road, 0.7 Mile east of Charles County line and 1.5 miles south of Bryan Pont on the Potomac.**

**MARSHALL MILL (9)**

**See Calverts Mill (Woodyard).**

**MARTIN MILL (3)**

**Joseph L. Martin was listed as owner of a gristmill at Upper Marlboro in 1887 State business directory.**

**MATTAPANI SWAMP MILL(1)**

**Brook Rice, a student, reported in 1986 that a mill ruin survived in the swamp near Mattapani Mansion.**

#### **MILL BRANCH (7)**

**Mill Branch enters the Ptuxent east of Mitchellville. Mill Branch Road runs east off U. S. 201 and ends at Queen Anne Bridge Road. Ninian Beall (3d) had land here from his father Charles Beall, ca. 1740, *Beall Family*, p. 253. Cf., Bond Mill.**

#### **MILL DAM ( )**

**There were two tracts called Mill Dam: (1) 18 acres on Hensons Branch patented by Thomas Talbury in 1754; Liber BC & GS 5:163, and (2) 75 acres patented by Jonathan Burch and Thomas Owens in 1764, Liber TI 1:451.**

#### **MILL DAM ENLARGED ( )**

**This tract of 58.75 acres was conveyed by Benjamin Burch to Joseph W. Burch in 1810 and was granted in trust to William R. Hodgerson in 1830. Chancery Records, B151:617, MSA.**

#### **MILL DAMS ( )**

**William Waters had a tract of land laid out called Mill Dams, 6.25 acres running up the bed of Patuxent River, in 1783, Unpatented Certificate No. 216; see adjoining tract, Mill Tale.**

#### **MILL RACE ( )**

**John Jones patented 10 acres called Mill Race in 1747, Liber TI No. 1:118, MSA. He had bought Nathan Jones' certificate for this tract on Snowden's River (Patuxent) near Piney River.**

#### **MILL RUIN (20)**

**At the time of building the Capital Beltway, a mill ruin was obliterated on a branch of Briar Ditch at Princess Garden Parkway at Oak Lane. Letter of Paul T. Lanham of Lanham, Md., September 2, 1972.**

#### **MILL SEAT ( )**

**Two tracts called Mill Seat were patented: (1) by James Halmead, 30 acres, 1747, Liber TI 1:49; (2) by James Townshend, 11.75 acres, 1833, Liber GGB 2:366. Halmead's tract adjoined Rock of Dumbarton and was surveyed 1745; the Townshend tract adjoining Stephens Adventure, Stephens Last Shift, and Addition to Pasture, on the north side of Mattawoman Creek.**

## **MILL TALE ( )**

**William Waters has 3 acres surveyed under the name Mill Tale, 1783, Unpatented Certificate No. 218. Like “Mill Dams,” patented in the same year, the tract was the bed of Patuxent River or Snowdens River, dividing P. G. and A. A. Counties and adjoining the tract Jericho, where the 1798 tax list showed Stephen Waters Mill.**

## **MILL TOWN (8)**

**Mill Town was chartered by the General Assembly in 1706 and was on the Patuxent. The town was to be laid out on the property of William Mills, which may account for the name. However, it failed to flourish, *Prince Georges Heritage*, p. 133. Milltown appears on present topographic maps, 5 miles downriver from Nottingham.**

## **MILLS ( )**

**Mills was a place name of 1941 listed in GZMD.**

## **MILLERS CHOICE (THE) (14)**

**Joshua Clark patented The Millers Choice, 24.75 acres, I 1775, Liber BC & GS 50:211. The tract began on the west side of a draught of Horse Pen Branch, adjoining The Search.**

## **MILL FORD (3)**

**About 1762, Mill Ford was at East Branch and present Old Crain Highway just east of Upper Marlboro per Margaret Cook’s map of colonial roads.**

## **MILFORD ( )**

**William Smith patented the 100-acre tract Millford in 1685 on the east side of Piscataway River near the head of Coles Creek near a swamp; the land was escheated property of the late David Thomas, who had acquired it in 1659, Patents N. S. 2:48, MSA.**

## **(THE) MILLS CONVENIENCY (14)**

**See Roycroft Mill.**

## **MILLWOOD PARKE ( )**

**Millwood Parke was conveyed in a deed of 1749 to Franklin and Dorothy Hall.**

## MORRISON MILL (11)

Edward Morrison was an atlas patron and miller at Brandywine in 1878.

## MOWETT MILL (21)

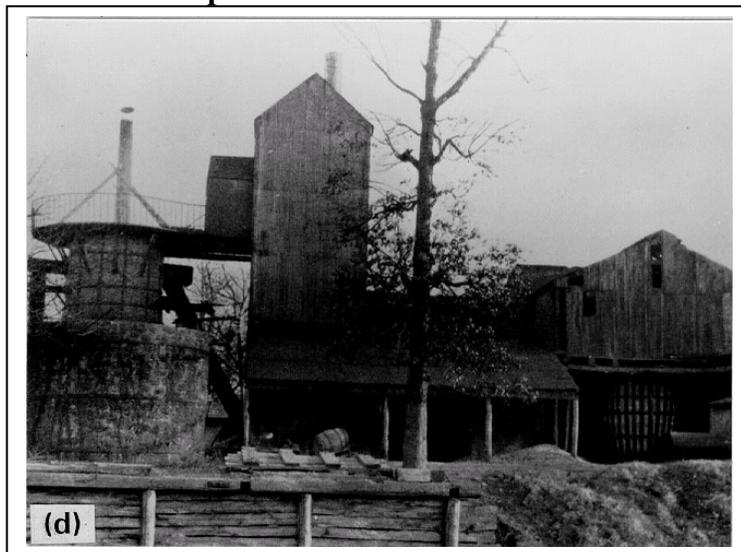
See Stevens Mill.

## MUIRKIRK FURNACE (1)

Muirkirk Manufacturing Company was chartered in *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 186, Chapter 315, for the making of iron; capitalization was \$50,000, and incorporators were John Ellicott, Samuel Shoemaker, James E. Tyson, Henry Handy, P. S. Ellicott, Ellicott O. D. Poor, and Elias Ellicott. The original furnace was built in 1847, 28 ft high by 8.5 ft wide at the bosh. The works was said to have been named for a furnace at Muirkirk, Ayrshire, Scotland, on which it had been modeled--which seems entirely possible. William and Elias Ellicott, owners of Patuxent Furnace, have also been described as the builders.

The 1850 census listed Muirkirk with \$15,000 capital investment, 25 employees, and \$700 monthly payroll; it was operated by “steam blast or power . . . In operation from 1 June 1849 to 24 June 1850.” Output was 1120 tons pig iron (\$27,000).

The works was advertised by J. Glenn, trustee, in *Baltimore American*, March 26, 1853; new machinery, 7 acres, 50 tons pig/week; 100 yards from the turnpike; coal house, store house, 5 dwellings, ore within one mile. The *Sun* of April 4, 1853, reported on the sale of Muirkirk Blast Furnace on the Baltimore and Washington Railroad neat the turnpike.



*Muirkirk Furnace*

In 1855, the furnace was purchased by William E. Coffin and Co. In 1863, it was taken over by George H. Burroughs and Charles E. Coffin. Coffin was sole owner in 1864. The works produced high tensile strength iron which was processed elsewhere for cannon, shot, gun carriages, and car wheels. Production was then 33 tons pig iron/week. Early output reached 1700 tons/annum, a record of 6200 tons in 1864, and a usual output of 140 tons/week.

John C. Brennan in “The Muirkirk Iron Mines and the 1940 WPA Maryland Guidebook,” *News and Notes* of PGCHS, March 1974, disproved the claim that armaments were manufactured by the furnace company.

The 1867 Hawes *Business Directory* listed Picketing and Coffin and the successor of Burroughs and Coffin. The furnace was shown on the B. & O. Railroad north of Beltsville in the county atlas, and the 1887 State business directory listed C. R. Coffin, mfr. Later, C. E. Coffin leased the works to E. F. Coffin and Co. under a conveyance running until 1911. An explosion leveled the plant in 1880, but it was rebuilt and eventually consisted of six bee-hive ovens that were still standing in 1940.

The iron was made from carbonate ore and had a tensile strength of 41,000 psi in the pig. It was employed by the U. S. Government for making steel for torpedo boats. Muirkirk’s exhibition of ore and ordnance products won a gold medal at the St. Louis World’s Fair of 1904, MGS, 6:275. Charles E. Coffin, who had served in Congress, died in 1912.

The ore beds used by the company proved to contain a rich supply of dinosaur bones, which were thoroughly studied in 1887 by John Bell Hatcher of Johns Hopkins University after the project was suggested by John Wesley Powell of the U. S. Geological Survey. The discoveries are held by the Smithsonian Institution.

This was the last Maryland iron works to operate “in the old manner” and about 1917, the furnaces were converted to production of ochre from local ores. Since 1924, the plant has used foreign ore to make pigments. Later, the ovens were used for storage by the Mineral Pigments Company, still operating on the east side of U. S. 1 at Muirkirk in a complex of buildings of various ages [1976].

Excellent photographs of the works in operation in 1872 and a photo of employees outside the company housing on Christmas, 1925, when operated by the Mineral Pigment Company appeared in Warren and Warren, *Maryland Time Exposures*, 1984, p. 236.

The largely African America workforce lived nearby in Rossville where there was a community meeting place called Abraham Hall, a savings cooperative called St. Mary’s Beneficial Society Hall, and Queen’s Chapel. The two halls were restored in recent times and were featured in *Landmarks of Prince George’s County*. The

restored Abraham Hall is located on Old Muirkirk Road in “West Muirkirk” an African American community.

In 1993, there was a new development on the opposite side of the road called Konterra Business Campus. Muirkirk Road now crosses U. S. 1 on a bridge See also, *WPA Guide*, p. 310. RIOM, p. 172. *Principio to Sparrows Point*, p. 5.

Rhett King Barnwell, “The Muirkirk Iron Works,” 1925 ms. In McKeldin Library, College Park.

*Landmarks of Prince George’s County* (Johns Hopkins Press: Baltimore, 1993), p. 116-117.

Eugene L. Meyer, “Maryland Life. Historic Black Community of Rossville Dwindles in Forgotten Corner of P. G.,” *Washington Post*, September 26, 1985.

“Abraham Hall Rededication,” ceremonial program, Beltsville, September 22, 1991.

#### NOTTINGHAM SILK CO. (4)

The Nottingham Silk Co. of Prince Georges County was incorporated by Michael B. Carroll, Thomas Holland, Walter B. C. Worthington, Henry M. Chew, and William Holliday; capital was not to exceed \$50,00; *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1838, Chapter 338.

#### OGLE WINDMILL (7)

Benjamin Ogle had a windmill with one pair of stones on Bellair, 1798 tax list of Horse Pen and Patuxent Hundreds.

#### OLD GRIST MILL (3)

For the “old grist mill” shown on Charles Run in the 1878 county atlas, see Sasscers Mill.

#### OLD MILL (2)

See Steiner Mill on Sligo Branch.

#### OLD MILL ROAD (3)

This road was found in the town of Upper Marlboro.

#### ORME WEAVING HOUSE (1)

A “weaving house” was listed among the outbuildings of the late Pricilla Orme near Vansville, *National Intelligencer*, July 3, 1822.

#### **OXON HILL SORGHUM MILL()**

**“Sweet, black sorghum will be made at Oxon Hill Farm in Maryland sometime in October. The cane growing on the farm will be cut and crushed by a horse-powered mill, and the juice will be cooked in large vats, for about four hours. Oxon Hill Farm is located at 6411 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Md. 20021,” *Old Mill News*, 5 (January 1977): 17.**

#### **PAINT MILL ( )**

**“Paint Mill” was mentioned as a tract of land adjoining the land of Elkanah Cobb (q. v.) in 1813 (Deeds JRM 16:97).**

#### **PATUXENT IRON ORE COMPANY (10)**

**This firm was founded at Laurel in 1736 by Richard Snowden. See Anne Arundel County chapter for the physical installations of the Snowden Iron Works.**

#### **PENN MILL (2)**

**See Carleton Mill.**

#### **PLUMMER MILL (7)**

**The 1860 census of manufactures listed Mordecai Plummer with a water powered gristmill with \$1000 capital investment, 1 employee, and \$500 annual output in meal.**

#### **POWDER MILL ROAD (1)**

**Powder Mill Road of the present times leads from Beltsville toward the Naval Ordnance Laboratory.**

#### **PRITCHARD MILL (10)**

**William D. Pritchard was listed as miller at Laurel in 1875 Boyd’s *Business Directory*.**

#### **RAMBACH MILL ( )**

**J. W. Rambach was listed as miller at Halls on the Pope Creek line, 9 miles from Upper Marlboro in the 1880 State business directory.**

#### **RANDALL SAWMILL (6)**

**J. E. Randall was listed in 1867 Hawes *Business Directory*, p. 534. This steam sawmill appeared NW of Centreville on the 1861 Martenet map and in the 1878 atlas on the Washington and Marlboro Turnpike, the present Md. 4. Charles W. Randall had a sawmill at Forestville per 1887 State business directory.**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed Charles W. Randall with a mill in District 8; \$650 capital investment in a gristmill with 2 employees, 2 run of stones, 100 bu/diem maximum capacity, and a 36 bu/hour elevator. The business was all custom. There was a 25 hp steam engine. Output was 80 bbl flour, 138 tons meal, and 8 tons feed (\$3702) over a six-month season.**

**The 25 hp sawmill had \$900 capital investment and 3 employees; Randall performed no logging. Annual output was 187,000 ft (\$3512).**

#### **RAWLINGS MILL (8)**

**William Rawlings owned part of Anchovy Mills, Mill Seat, and one mill house, with an undershot wheel that ran two pair of stones; it was much out of repair. Location was 3 miles from Lower Marlboro, 1798 tax list of Prince Frederick and Washington Hundreds. Probably upstream of Watson Mill on Black Swamp Creek.**

#### **RAYS MILL ( )**

**Rays Mill stood on Northwest Branch and was mentioned in “Riggs Mill” essay by William E. Roberts, p. 21.**

#### **RIGGLE MILL (11)**

**William Riggle was miller at Brandywine listed in 1887 State business directory.**

#### **RIGGS MILL (17) RIGGS MILL ROAD**

**See Adelphi Mill.**

#### **RINGGOLD TANNERY (2)**

**The 1820 census listed Tench Ringgold’s tannery in Bladensburg district with a bark and hide mill with an output of \$9400 in leather for shoes, harness, bridle coach, bag, bellows, and skirting made from 800 hides of sole leather, 400 hides of upper leather, and 400 calf skins. The works was closed and up for sale.**

#### **RIVERSDALE MILL (2)**

**Same as Avalon Mill.**

## **ROOP MILL (2)**

**David, Horatio, and Archibald Roop owned most of the tract “Charles and Rebecca,” town lots, and a 56 x 12 sawmill on 1798 tax list of Oxon, New Scotland, and Bladensburg Hundreds. It was probably on the fringe of Bladensburg.**

## **ROYCROFT MILL (14)**

**Ignatius Roycroft already had a mill in 1702 when he patented an adjoining 10-ace tract called The Mills Conveniency, which began at the south side of the mill dam on a part of Calverton Manor, Patents DD 5:124 MSA.**

## **ROYDS AND CARROLLS WOOLEN MILL (1)**

**See Carroll Woolen Mill.**

## **SASSCERS MILL (3)**

**The 1861 Martenet map showed Z. Sasscers Mill on Charles Branch, 2 miles south of Upper Marlboro, east of Croom Station Road, north of Mt. Calvert Road. The atlas showed Richard A. Sansbury mill on west side of tracks, south side of Charles Branch.**

## **SAWMILL (7)**

**A sawmill was operating in 1970 on U. S. 301 just north of Md. 214.**

## **SAWMILL (7)**

**A sawmill shown on Martenet’s 1861 and 1885 maps was on a creek, 0.5 mile west of the Patuxent, just south of Priest Bridge.**

## **SCHOFIELD MILL (3)**

**J. S. Schofield was listed as miler at Croom Station in the 1887 State business directory.**

## **SCHOFIELD AND EDMONDSON MILL ( )**

**Andrew Schofield and Thomas Edmondson owned a stone mill, 2 stories, 20 x 45, and a log still house, 24 x 18 feet on the 1798 tax list of Eastern Branch and Rock Creek Hundreds.**

## **SMITH MILL ( )**

W. H. Smith was listed as miller at Halls on Pope Creek Railroad in the 1880 State business directory.

#### SNOWDENS IRON WORKS (-)

See Anne Arundel County chapter.

#### SNOWDEN MILL (10)

Nicholas Snowen built a mill in Laurel in 1811 on the Patuxent at the head of present Main Street. The 1820 census of Vansville district listed Nicholas Snowden's merchant mill with 2 employees and output of \$12,000 to \$18,000 in "wheat for breadstuffs."

In 1824, the mill was leased to a Mr. Johnson, who converted to cotton yarn production; it was purchased by Colonel Horace Capron in 1831 and was replaced by the large Laurel Cotton Mill, *Prince Georges County Historical Sites*, 1963, p. 1. After the factory fire, the company treasurer advertised a brick and stone grist mill with two pair of burrs, *Baltimore American*, November 3, 1855, p. 3. The stone of the old mill was supposedly reused for houses on Main Street and was not shown in the atlas of 1878. Snowden's hilltop home, later the residence of the cotton factory superintendent, was standing in 1938, *U. S. One*, p. 172.

#### SOPER MILL (6)

The Martenet map of 1861 showed J. Soper's gristmill on Hensons Branch, SW of Long Old Fields and about 3 miles from the District of Columbia line, between present Md. 5 and Suitland Parkway. No mill was shown on the Soper property in the 1878 atlas.

#### SPICER MILL ( )

W. J. Spicer, Bladensburg, erected a flour mill of 75 bbl/diem maximum capacity, *Manufacturers' Record*, 10 (January 22, 1887): 850.

#### SPRIGGS MILL (13)

Spriggs Mill of Prince Georges County was mentioned in the will of Clement Hill, 1743, MCW, 8:227. The 1798 tax list of Collington and Western Branch Hundreds showed Osborn Sprigg with part of Northampton and part of Magruders Resurvey, "a very good grist mill with two pair of stones," 30 x 24 feet, two stories.

#### STANSBURYS MILL (6)

The 1860 Martenet map showed this gristmill on a tributary of Western Branch, east side of the road north from Long Old Fields; at the present Ritchie village, east side of Forestville-Ritchie Road.

#### STEAM SAWMILL (11)

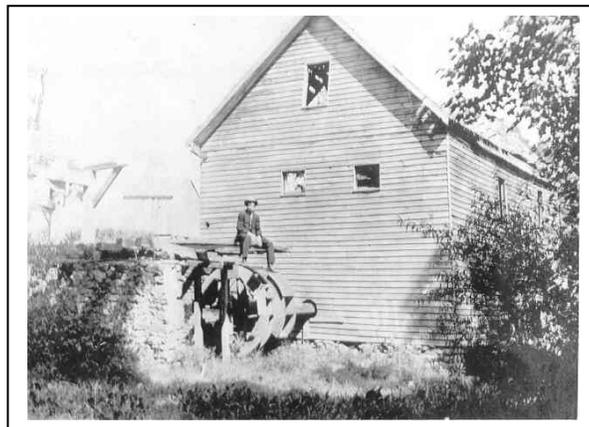
The atlas showed a steam sawmill on the east side of Pope's Creek branch of B. & P. Railroad in Brandywine City.

#### STEINER OLD MILL (2)

John Steiner's old mill was shown on Sligers Branch near the Montgomery County in the 1878 atlas where the 1861 map had just shown "old mill." The stream is now spelled Sligo Branch, seemingly derived from the county and city in Ireland.

#### STEVENS MILL (21)

The 1861 Martenet map showed Walker and Cross mill on the east bank of Paint Branch, north side of Calvert Road, 2.5 miles north of Bladensburg. The atlas showed N. C. Stevens Mill at College Lawn. J. Mowett was listed as miller at Agricultural College in the 1887 State business directory. The mill stood at Goodluck and Edmonston Roads and was destroyed by fire in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A 1905 photograph shows a clapboard mill of about two stories with a steel overshot wheel.



*Stevens Mill., collection of John C. Brennan*

#### STODDERT MILL (2)

Benjamin Stoddert, the Secretary of the Navy, had a 2-story frame gristmill, 20 x20 feet, in Bladensburg per the 1798 tax list. Possibly the predecessor of Carleton Mill.

#### SURRATT MILL (-)

**This family's mill was inside the District of Columbia rather than at Surrattsville [which was renamed Clinton].**

#### **SHANE SAWMILL (7)**

**The 1861 Martenet map showed C. Swane's sawmill near the Patuxent just below Priest's Bridge.**

#### **TALBOTT MILL (5)**

**This mill was on Henson Creek in 1758, mentioned in a petition discovered by William Hollifield in 1984. Thomas Talbott filed a petition for a road to his mill. See, P. G. County Court Docket, 1758, MSA No. 5024. Also mentioned by Pat Melville, "Roads in Prince George's County, 1696-1765," *The Archivists' Bulldog*, 17 (May 12, 2003): 3.**

#### **TANYARD ROAD (4)**

**Tanyard Road on current maps runs from Nottingham to Baden Naylor Road [1976].**

#### **TAYLOR MILL (2)**

**Same as Avalon Mill.**

#### **TAYLOR MILL ( )**

**The 1850 census (Districts 3-8) listed John S. Taylor water mill with 6 employees and an annual output of 2100 bbl plaster, 4500 of flour, and 500 bu meal (\$27,100).**

#### **TEMPLES MILL (12)**

**Temples Mill was mentioned in the district boundary description as near Grimes' Cross-Roads, Laws of Md., Acts of 1874, Chapter 487. The atlas showed Dr. William Gunton mill on a road west of Henson Creek. No mill appeared here on the 1861 map.**

**The 1880 census listed Edward Temple mill with \$2000 capital investment, 1 employee, 1 run of stones, 25 bu/diem maximum capacity, and all custom trade. A 20-foot fall on Hensons Creek drove a 1 hp, 1.3-foot turbine at 442 rpm. Output was 189 tons meal, (\$5810). William F. Gardiner was listed as miller at Camp Springs in the 1887 State business directory.**

#### **THOMPSON SNUFF MILL (2)**

**Richard Thompson advertised in the *Virginia Gazette*, October 8, 1772, that he had removed his tobacco manufactory from Bladensburg to the Falls of Potowmick.**

#### **THOMPSON WINDMILL (4)**

**The 1861 Martenet map showed R. T. Thompson windmill near the Patuxent on the north edge of Nottingham village.**

#### **TRABAND MILL (5)**

**A mill stood at this site ca. 1762 per Margaret Cook's map of early colonial roads. Fielding Lucas in his 1827 drawing book showed on Plate VIII a small, 1-1/2-story mill set on a truncated stone pyramid or base as the "Marlborough Mill."**

**The 1878 county atlas showed John H. Trabband gristmill just north of Upper Marlboro. The 1880 census valued the gristmill at \$2000, listing 5 employees, 2 run of stones, 150 bu/diem maximum capacity, and doing all custom business. A 16-foot fall on Federal Spring drove 12 hp overshot wheel 4 ft broad at 3.5 rpm. Output was 108 tons meal and 4.5 tons feed (\$3280). The sawmill worth \$2000 had 5 employees, 1 circular saw, 16 hp engine, and output of 60,000 ft (\$900) annually.**

**On January 24, 1977, Tyler Bastian, State Archaeologist, asked John McGrain about what might lie in the path of a proposed sewer in Upper Marlboro that would pass near Federal Spring Branch and Western Branch, and School House pond. Bigger Brothers and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission were planning the project.**

#### **TURNER MILL ( )**

**The 1850 census of Districts 3-8 listed George Turner's water gristmill worth \$1500 with 1 employee. The entry is incomplete, and the only employee's monthly salary was listed as \$700!**

#### **VAN HORNS MILL (1)**

**Three brick walls stand [1976] at the entrance to Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The mill was built by the elder Van Horn on the present U. S. 1 at Beltsville next to the tavern. He operated until his death in 1815. His son, Colonel Archibald Van Horn, continued the mill but died in 1817.**

**Both widows, Alithea and Mary Van Horn sold the mill to Colonel Samuel Hamilton of Vansville; he appeared in the census of 1850 as 66 years old; he died in 1857. The mill was acquired briefly by John P. Boteller; in 1862 it was the property of White Horse Tavern or the Brown Plantation House; Brown was a former stagecoach driver, farmer, and operator of Rossborough Tavern.**

The Van Horn Tavern had been mentioned in the travels of Washington and Lafayette, and Rochambeau's army had camped there in 1872. "A Post Script on Van Horn's Tavern," James T. Wilfong, Jr., *Laurel News-Leader*, October 12, 1967.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Richard H. Brown mill with \$2000 capital investment, no hired help, 2 run of stones, 40 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing all custom work. A 3-foot fall on Eastern Branch of Potomac River drove three turbines 4 ft broad at 60 rpm to develop 12 hp. Output was 6 bbl flour, 75.5 tons meal, and 3 tons feed (\$2358) annually. Browns Mill was still standing at Beltsville per Washington *Sunday Star*, March 26, 1916.



*Van Horns Mill, courtesy of James C. Wolfong, Jr.*

#### **WALKER AND CROSS MILL (21)**

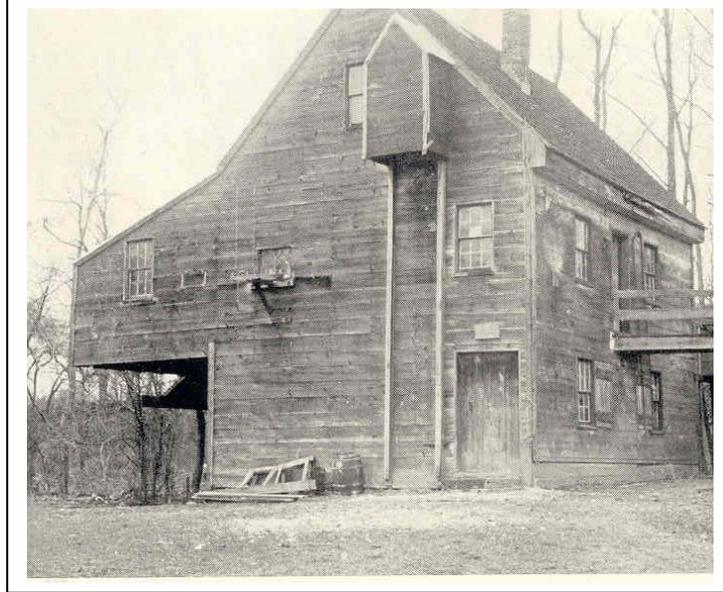
See Sevens Mill.

#### **WALKERS MILL (6) WALKERS MILL ROAD**

The mill was on the Northwest Branch of the Patuxent and was part of the estate Concord, where the house had been built about 1757. It had been owned by three generations of Berrys, starting with Zachariah Berry (1749-1845) and by his son, Zachariah, Jr., (d. 1859). The 1798 tax list showed Berry's Mill on parts of the tracts Outlet and Concord Enlarged; an overshot mill, two stories high with two pair of stones, 30 x 26 ft, a miller's house 20 x 12, located 7 miles from Marlboro in Collington and Western Branch Hundreds.

Berry Mill appeared on the 1861 Martenet map. Thomas Berry sold the mill to Charles H. Walker in 1869 and he ran it 50 years. It was the last mill to function in the Washington area and outlasted Burnt mill in Montgomery County and was still going in the late 1920s when it burned.

The 1889 census of manufactures listed Charles H. Walker mill worth \$5000 with 2 employees, 2 run of stones, and 80 bu/diem maximum capacity. A 17-foot fall on



*Walkers Mill from Columbia Historical Magazine.*

NW Patuxent drove a 12 hp overshot wheel 3.5 ft broad. Output was 108 tons meal and 4 tons feed (\$3320) annually.

It was a 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ -story wooden mill about 30 x 30 feet. There was a one-story extension of the second floor supported by pilings at the rear of the main building. A catwalk went from the second floor to the ground. Walker Mill Road survives near District Heights, inside the Capital Beltway, and it runs from about the 6200 block of Central Avenue south to the Old Marlboro Pike. There is also a Walker Mill Drive. The mill was shown in District 13 of the 1877 atlas and was also listed in the 1887 State business directory.

See, James C. Wilfong, Jr., "Where Are They Now," *The Prince Georges Post*, May 18, 1967, p. 22. Also, CHM 31-32:106, which dated the mill at 1716.

#### WALLS MILL (11)

Martenet's 1861 map showed G. N. Walls Mill east of Brandywine and about 0.5 mile north of Gibbons Mill at the headwaters of Rock Creek, south of Brandywine Martin Road, east of Gibsons Church Road.

#### WALTERS MILL (9)

See Calverts Mill (Woodyard).

**WARING MILL ( )**

**Basil Waring's heir owned "one old gristmill with one pair of stones" occupied by Thomas Waring, on part of Warns Grove; 1798 tax list of Collington and Western Branch Hundred.**

**WARING MILL (4)**

**Waring Mill was at Rock Branch and Rock Branch Road about 1762 per Margaret Cook's map of colonial roads.**

**WARING MILL (18)**

**Thomas Waring's mill was between the present Walker Mill Road and Central Avenue about 1762 per Margaret Cook's map of colonial roads; probably on SW Branch.**

**WASHINGTON BLANKET AND WOOLEN MANUFACTURING COMPANY OF PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY ( )**

**This firm was chartered by the General Assembly, *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1813, Chapter 145. David Bussard and Co. had raised capital of \$64,000 in shares of \$10 each to be held by Elkanah Cobb, a miller of Vansville, who was also a partner of Bussard's in a powder making venture.**

**WATERS MILL ( )**

**Stephen Waters had a "very valuable gristmill 24 ft square with two pair of stones" and a 20 x 16 ft saddlers shop on part of Jericho, 1798 tax list of Horse Pen and Patuxent Hundreds. Cf., Mill Tale tract.**

**WATERS MILL ( )**

**Arnold Waters had "a very valuable gristmill with two pair of stones standing on the Patuxent River adjoining Steven Waters," 1798 tax list of Horse Pen and Patuxent Hundreds.**

**WATKINS FEED MILL (18)**

**F. L. Watkins, Inc., was a feed dealer at 6701 Roosevelt Avenue, Seat Pleasant [1976].**

**WATSON MILL ( )**

**James H. Watson was listed as miller at Cedarville in 1880 State directory.**

#### **WATSON MILL (8)**

**Benjamin Watson owned some part of Trinity [?] and one mill house 16 ft square with two pair of stones, 3 miles from Lower Marlboro; 1798 tax list of Prince Frederick and Washington Hundreds. Probably on Black Swamp Creek downstream of Rawlings Mill.**

#### **WESTS MILL (9)**

**Stephen West's manor at Woodyard had home industries according to Ebenezer Hazard's diary, Mat 21, 1777. "Mr. West has here a manufactory of Linen both flaxen and hempen, Cottons, & Woolens; a small Brewery, Distillery, &c. Among his machines for manufacturing is one for spinning Cotton in which one wheel turns 22 spindles & as many Threads are spun at once," MHM, 46:50.**

**The machine described may be a Hargreaves spinning jenny shipped over before the 1775 ban on exporting cotton machinery from the United Kingdom. The device had been patented 1769. Cf., DNB, s. v., Hargreaves. West was a prosperous tavern keeper and merchant, who issued bills in his own name--"Stephen West's Money," MHM, 14:271. West's spinning jenny may have been the second one recorded in America.**

#### **WESCOTT MILL (2)**

**See Calverts Mill.**

#### **WHEELER MILL (10)**

**See Avondale Mill.**

#### **WILLIAMS AND STULL POWDER MILL (2)**

**This works was at Bladensburg in 1816, MHM, 52: 52:109.**

#### **WILLIAMS MILL (10)**

**George Williams was listed as miller under Laurel in 1880 State business directory.**

#### **WILSON AND THOMPSON SILK MFF ( )**

**"W. Wilson and George Thompson (the former of London, the latter of Frederick County) both of the State of Virginia, intend to carry on the silk manufacture, near the Rivers Potomac and Patuxent" *Md. Gazette*, January 9, 1777. They had a good number of Mulberry trees. Interested parties were to contact Abraham Boyds near Bldensburg or the partners at Alexandria.**

### **WILSON MILL (11)**

**The 1861 Martenet map showed Mrs. Wilsons Mill 3.7 miles NE of Brandywine, east of the present U. S. 301, between Cross Road and Van Brady Road. The 1878 atlas showed Thomas G. Wilson heirs, W. M. Wilson occupant, of gristmill on a tributary of Mattaponi Branch near Cheltenham.**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed William M. Wilson mill with \$1000 capital investment, 6 employees, 2 run of stones, 20 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing 12% custom business. An 18-foot fall on Mattaponi Branch drove one overshot wheel 5 ft broad at 50 rpm to develop 12 hp. Annual output was 95 bbl flour, 10 bbl rye, 78.5 tons meal, and 5.9 tons feed.**

### **WINDMILL (1)**

**A windmill was shown east of the B. & O. between Ammendale and Muirkirk furnace in the 1878 county atlas.**

### **WOODWIND MILL (8)**

**The 1861 Mertenet map showed the J. Wood, Jr., windmill on the north side of Eagle Harbor Road in the village of Woodville (now called Aquasco).**

