

## Wicomico County Mills

### ACWORTH MILL (1)

Richard Acworth of Somerset County took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Little Creek running into Bachren Creek, August 6, 1763. The inquisition at which Benjamin Venables was a juror spelled it Baron Creek and awarded the Lord Proprietor 4 pence Sterling for 6 acres of His Lordships Commons, and awarded 4 Shillings to George Gillis for 4 acres. Richard Acworth already possessed the other 10 acres (Chancery Records, Liber (9:221, MSA).

### ADAMS MILL (7)

See Somerset County.

### ADAMS SAWMILL ( )

Andrew Adams had a second sawmill near the head of Wicomico Creek on a very indifferent stream, 1798 tax list of Wicomico Hundred.

### ADKINS SAWMILL (2)

The 1880 census of manufactures listed John W. Adkins with \$1500 capital investment in a 25 hp steam sawmill, cutting 300,000 ft (\$2000) annually with 5 employees.

### ADKINS SAWMILL (6)

Stanton Adkins was listed at Powellville in the 1867 *Hawes Business Directory*, p. 535. The sawmills were established in 1861 and inherited by Adkins' son Eijah Stanton Adkins, in 1871. The mill was run by water power of Powellville Pond.

E. S. Adkins sawmill was listed in 1880 with \$1000 capital investment, 2 employees, And annual output of 100,000 ft (\$1000). A 6-foot fall of water drove a Hotchkiss wheel 16 ft broad at 100 rpm to develop 10 hp. Adkins did half his own logging. His gristmill represented \$1000 capital investment and had 2 run of stones; a 6-foot fall drove two Colliak [sic] and Fisher wheels of 20 hp to produce 30 tons of meal (\$2800); 2 employees, and 80 bu/diem maximum capacity.

Stanton Adkins ran the old water-power mill until 1883 when he installed a steam circular sawmill. Later he started the manufacture of building supplies. Because Powellville was not on a railroad, E. S. Adkins moved his operation to Salisbury in 1893 to the junction of the N. Y. P. & N. and B. C. and A. Railroads. The company expanded throughout the Eastern Shore and is still active [1976] in 10 locations. (E. S. Adkins was once in partnership with Charles R. Disharoon, MWC.). An 1898 Sketch of the works appeared in *Historic Salisbury Illustrated*, p. 22.

**“Old Rider Atkisons Mill Dam” was mentioned in *Laws of Md., Acts of 1906, Chapter 190*. The pond was described as being drained in 1945 after 150 years, A. V. P. Smith, *Drained Mill Ponds of the Eastern Shore*, p. 23. It had covered 90 acres and stood 25 ft above sea level.**

**Adkins Pond still exists [1976] on Md. 354 at Powellville and is now [1976] filled with water chestnuts and pond lilies; no ruins were observed. Location of the pond is 25-D-4 in the ADC Street Atlas. Adkins Race drains from the pond to enter Pocomoke River at 25-H-6.**

#### **AGWAY, INC. (9)**

**Agway was a modern feed mill on North Salisbury Boulevard, Salisbury noted in 1976,**

#### **ALLEN MILL (7)**

**The village of Allen had a gristmill and cannery “yesteryear” per *What’s Past Is Prologue*, p. 33. Presumably Murrell’s Mill.**

#### **ANDERSON MILL (2)**

**John Anderson had a sawmill house of wood, 38 x 14 ft, and a wooden gristmill, 10 x 12 ft, on Quantico Branch per 1798 tax list of Rewastico Hundred.**

#### **ANDERSON MILL (9)**

**The atlas showed the grist and saw mill of H. W. Anderson on present Rockawalkin Road, south side of Pemberton Drive (formerly Anderson Mill Road), the gristmill on the west bank, sawmill on east. The property had been Isaac Anderson’s and passed to Henry W. Anderson (See plat, Wicomico deeds, FMS 6:45),**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed the Henry W. Anderson mill with \$1000 capital investment 1 employee, and 60 bu/diem maximum capacity. All the trade was custom. A 7-foot fall on Wicomico River drove one iron wheel 2.5 ft broad at 100 rpm to develop 12 hp [the wheel was probably a turbine if it ran at that speed]. Annual output was 79 tons meal (\$2484).**

**On Henry Anderson’s death the mill was described by Isaac Anderson in a deposition made in 1902 as a gristmill, cording [machine], and lathe mill in good repair. Cadmus Taylor deposed that it was “a mill known as the Rockawalkin or Anderson Mill,” (Wicomico Equity Liber, EAT 13:30. The grist and carding mills were advertised in *Wicomico News* before the sale of November 7, 1902. [This seems very late in history for a carding mill.]**

**Thomas W. H. White was purchaser (Wicomico deeds, JTT 37:304) and sold in 1911 to Francis M. Mitchell. Mitchell's widow conveyed the mill in 1918 to Samuel B. Tingle (Wicomico deeds, EAT 98:503) and Tingle conveyed to Charles L. Tingle in 1924 (Wicomico deeds, JKC 134:292). The "Anderson Mill Property" passed to Gardner T. White (1929), Claude C. Brown (1937), William H. Hutchins (1938), and John A. Hull (1952). Nancy R. Fulton, in MWC, 1942, recalled the Isaac Anderson mill near Anderson Road. The mill was extinct by the late 1960s but the Rockawalkin Pond survived. The mills were very close to the dam. The falls on the south side of Pemberton Drive was considerable for a Wicomico County mill. The former Anderson Mill Road ran from Upper Ferry on Wicomico River to Pemberton Road, crossing both Rockawalkin Creek and Mill Creek. Location was 11-H-12 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

#### **AUSTINS MILL ( )**

**George Austin took out a writ to build a mill in 1761 but sold his right to Joseph Dashiell and George Smith, possibly before building it. See Dashiell and Smith Mill.**

#### **AUSTINS MILL (13)**

**See Tony Tank Mill.**

#### **BACON MILLS (1)**

**See Double Mills.**

#### **BACON STEAM SAWMILL (1)**

**Bacon Steam Sawmill was on the south side of Barren Creek on the road to the village of Barren Creek (now called Mardella Springs) near Sawmill. J. H. Bacon was an 1877 atlas patron, listing his ownership of 150 acres and giving his birthplace as Sussex County, Delaware, and his date of settlement in Wicomico as 1844.**

**The 1850 and 1860 censuses of manufactures showed \$1000 capital investment, 2 to 3 employees, and annual output of 125,000 ft lumber (\$1000) in the name of William Bacon. The 1880 census of manufactures showed \$8000 capital investment, two boilers, and a 40 hp engine cutting 800,000 ft annually; the owner did all his own logging and had his own vessels to ship via Nanticoke River; there were 11 employees. Location was 4-G-H in the ADC Street Atlas.**

#### **BAILEY AND PHILLIPS SAWMILL (2)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed this works with \$1000 capital investment doing half its own logging with an 8-foot fall on Nanticoke River. One Hutchell wheel 3 ft broad ran at 100 rpm to develop 12 hp to produce 100,000 ft (\$1000) annually; 2 employees.**

## **BAILEYS MILL (9)**

See Johnson Mill.

## **BANKS SAWMILL (7/9)**

Henry Banks had half a sawmill worth \$100 a half mile from Wicomico Rive and 1.5 miles above Upper Ferry, “on a bad winter stream,” in the 1798 tax list of Wicomico Hundred.

## **BARNES SAWMILL ( )**

The 1860 census of manufactures for Somerset County listed Isaac Barnes steam sawmill with \$4000 capital investment and an annual output of 100,000 ft lumber (\$6000).

## **BARREN CREEK MILL (1)**

Benjamin Venables, Gent., of Somerset County, took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* for a mill seat “where Barran Creek Mill now stands lying on a Pocossen or Barren Creek that issueth out of Nanticoke River,” March 8, 1735. Venable already owned the south 10 acres, valued at 6 pence annually. The north 10 acres belonged to the Lord Proprietor (Chancery Records, 5:809, MSA). J. Howard Adkins in his ms., “The History of Barren Creek Mills,” 1988, reported that Somerset Deed Boo No. EI:180, contained the mention on June 21, 1737, of a point, “Beginning where the south by west lines cross the road that leads from Barren Creek Mill to Broad Creek and known by the name of Horkill Road.”

Mr. Adkins also discovered that Benjamin Venables was mentioned as owner of a sawmill in *Arch. Md.*, 46:285 on June 19, 1749. The Adkins paper continues, “The Transpeninsular Survey of 1751, to determine the middle point between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, mentions that the line of survey came within one foot of Mr. Venable’s gristmill house. Also mentioned in the daily survey report of 27 May 1751 is the road from Vienna by Venables Mill to Handy’s Ferry over (the) Wicomico, the mineral spring, and John Huffington’s house.”



**Joseph Venables owned all 200 acres of the tract Wilsons Lot in the 1783 tax list and 406 acres of Miles End, which would have encompassed the mill site. Joseph Venables died between December 15 and 29, 1788, leaving grandson Samuel Venables all his real estate. The will specifically mentioned Barren Creek Mills.**

***Laws of Md., Acts of 1791, Chapter 14, was “An Act to open a road from Venable’s Mills, on Barren Creek, in Someset County, to Dean’s Landing on Nanticoke River.”***

**The Barren Creek Mill was shown on the south side of that creek, 1.5 miles from the Delaware line on the 1794-1795 Dennis Griffith map; however, the Barren Pond on mid-20<sup>th</sup> century topographic maps is 3 miles from the State line. Joseph Bowman’s heirs and James Bratton’s heirs owned halves of a gristmill “situate at Barren Creek Mills,” a frame gristmill, 1 story, 20 x 20 ft, described as occupied by William William Bowland; also a sawmill, framed, 43 x 20 ft, per the 1798 tax list of Bread Creek Hundred, Somerset County. James Bratton and William Russum had been the executors of Joseph Venables; in the intervening decade, James Bratton had inherited a half-share of the mill. A share destined for Joshua Bratton was held in trust until his majority.**

**Mr. Adkins found further that William Russum, former executor, bought shares of the Bozman place in deeds of 1801 and 1802. The Orphans Court allowed Joseph Bozman 9 pounds plus for the loss of a slave named Durham who had been carried off by the British during the Revolution. William Russum’s will left his half of the mill property to his son Joseph in 1821. In 1823, Joseph Russum sold the share to Jesse Walter. By 1827, Walter had acquired all the other shares. In the 1827 deed, Joshua Bratton granted Jesse Walter liberty of building a new mill at or near the place the old mill formerly stood.**

**The Barren Creek Mill that survived until 1970 was said to antedate the Revolution, although it was much larger than the 20 x 20 foot dimensions found in 1798. In fact, the 1827 deed seems to prove that the original mill had perished some time after the 1798 tax list. The site had been a place for Indian medicinal baths, and the water was later piped to Mardella Springs. An 1851 plat showed Judge J. A. Bailey as owner.**

**Jesse Walter was in financial straits in 1843 and the Sheriff sold the property to William Williams and Adeline Williams, who acquired the Walter cemetery,**

residence, and mills. Elisha Bennett bought a half-share in the mill and pond area in November 1847. In 1850, John B. Taylor bought the Williams share.

The 1850 census of manufactures listed Elisha Bennett and Company mill with 2 pair of runners. Presumably, Bennetts's partner was John B. Taylor. Taylor sold out to Bennett in 1852. In 1856, Bennett bought the 2-5/8 acre lot that contained the mill dwelling, probably to house his hired miller. Elisha Bennett died in 1857, leaving his assets to his six sons. In 1859, the property was surveyed and distributed among the sons, the eldest getting the miller's dwelling, and eventually the mill. In 1860, the census of manufactures listed Bennett Brothers with \$8100 capital investment, 5 employees, and annual production of 440 bbl flour, 2700 bu meal, and 500,000 ft lumber by water power, total value of \$5545. The 1877 atlas showed the grist and saw mill of William Bennett and Wilson, downstream of Bacon Mill.

The 1880 census of manufactures showed Bennett, Wilson and Co. as owners, grinding 300 bbl flour and 10 tons meal per annum. A 6-foot fall on Barren Creek drove 3 Risdon wheels 4 ft broad at 100 rpm [a type of turbine]. All work was custom trade. The mill had a 60 bu/diem maximum capacity and 2 employees. In the sawmill, the partners did 66% of their own logging; the same fall "on Nanticoke" drove a Risdon wheel 8 ft broad running at 60 rpm to develop 20 hp. Annual output was 200,000ft (\$3450); 2 employees.

There had previously been an overshot water wheel. The turbines lasted until the mill shut down in 1960.

The mill was owned by many share holders until 1900 when Earl Alexander bought out all the owners, ending 52 years of Bennett control. The Alexanders traded the mill properties for a farm the same year to Fannie and Elizabeth Dorman, who also assumed the \$3000 mortgage on the Barren Creek Mill. The Dormans sold in 1904 to George D. Cooper. When Cooper applied for fire insurance, he described the building as a three story mill, 24 x 30 ft with all the necessary machinery. In 1914, the Coopers conveyed the place to their son William Cooper for \$1. This deed was the last one to mention a sawmill. William Cooper moved the old miller's dwelling and substituted a new bungalow. The old dwelling was tacked onto a new extension of the mill and used for storage. Cooper also abandoned the sawmill. Mr. Cooper about 1925 poured a concrete wall along the north side of the pond and acquired new French burr millstones [which had been obsolete since the 1880s]. Harold Adkins' father helped on that project. Henry Hearn was the hired miller under Mr. Cooper. Cooper died in 1928, and Wade Furbush bought it for \$8025. Furbush had learned milling under his uncle, Henry Hearn. In 1929, Furbush and his new bride Nellie Lewis Furbush, gave a square dance in their spacious front room. The Furbushes left in 1931, succeeded by a string of milling owners, recalled by Harold Adkins as Shelly[?], J. G. Sanders, Tennessee Thomas, and ultimately J. A. "Dee" Bailey.

The mill was described as doing a large flour business in 1934 by the Cambridge *Daily Banner*. The last owners (and non-millers) were Mr. and Mrs. David R. Estlow, who lived across the road. Located on Md. 313 at Barren Pond just east of US 50, the mill was a large red clapboard structure practically perched on the dam in the typical Eastern Shore placement of mills.

The owners tore it down in March 1970 to protect fishermen and children. The working parts were preserved for the Maryland Historical Trust on the advice of historians Marion Blades and Paul Lomax. "Historical Items Saved from Old Mill in County," *Salisbury Times*, March 15, 1970, by Mel Todavine.

The location bears MHT Site No. WCMC-12, *Historic Sites Inventory, Lower Eastern Shore*, 2:12. Location was grid 4-K-6 in the ADC Street Atlas.

Howard J. and Louise H. Adkins wrote in the Salisbury newspaper ca, 1989, "The Mystery of the Stumpless Mill Pond" that there were no stumps at the bottom of the pond because it was originally a tidal area where Major Venable plugged up the opening to create a pond. The earth was taken from the grounds of the houses that now stand near the mill site. Mr. Adkins recalled an island "in the back of the mill" where Harry Hearn the miller grew strawberries and celery. The vegetable patch later grew up into pine trees.

Robert M. Vogel of the Smithsonian Institution listed the elements rescued from Barren Creek Mill at the time of its demolition:

**First Floor:**

Two iron pulleys  
One wooden pulleys  
One wooden pulley  
One iron shaft  
Two baggers  
One millstone housing  
Two hoppers  
One cradle  
Two oak cranes  
One wooden hominy machine  
One corn sheller  
Two wooden pulleys on iron shaft  
One set platform scales  
Chutes

**Second Floor:**

One grain cleaning machine  
One blower chute

Chutes

**Third Floor:**

Two wooden pulleys on iron shaft plus one iron  
Three iron pulleys plus one wooden pulley on iron shaft  
One hopper  
Two wooden pulleys (loose)  
Chutes.

George M. Suggs, Jr., became owner of the mill set and pond via inheritance from his parents about 1997. In 2001 he wrote to the author about obtaining copies of the 1968 photographs. Mr. Suggs noted that the rescued mill equipment had never been displayed but reposed in a private barn and was strictly guarded by the barn owner.

**BEAUCHAMP MILL (9)**

Same as Leonard Mills.

**BENENTT AND WILSON MILLS (1)**

See Barren Creek Mill.

**BENNETT SAWMILL (10)**

The 1880 census of manufacturers showed Bennett and Co. with \$500 capital investment in a sawmill with a 4-foot fall on Marrowbone Creek driving a flutter wheel 1 ft broad at 60 rpm to develop 4 hp; 2 employees; no logging performed by the company. Annual output was 35,000 ft lumber (\$525). The works was idle 9 months of the year; monthly labor cost was \$15. Ebenezer T. Bennett was listed as miller at Riverton in the 1887 State business directory.

**BENNETT SAWMILL (1)**

See Porter Mill.

**BENENTT WILSON AND CO. MILL (1)**

See Barren Creek Mill.

**BONWELLS MILLS ( )**

Bonwell's Mills Church was mentioned in HSM, p. 36.

**BOUNDS AND COOPER SAWMILL (1)**

**The 1908 Polk peninsula directory listed Bounds and Cooper sawmill at Athel.**

**BOUNDS MILL ( )**

**The 1850 Worcester census of manufactures listed Jones Bounds water mill with \$2000 capital investment with 2 employees and an annual output of 100,000 ft of 4/4 and 2/4 board from 1000 logs; 1000 bu of corn produced 170 bu toll for the miller.**

**BOUNDS STEAM SAWMILL (2)**

**The atlas showed this steam mill just NW of Quantico, property of G. A. Bounds; an atlas patron, Bounds owned 100 acres and had been born in 1836. Location was 10-H-8 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

**BOZMAN-BARNTON MILL (1)**

**See Barren Creek Mill.**

**BRADLEY AND CO. SAWMILL (10)**

**The 1877 atlas showed C. Bradley and Co. sawmill south of the present Cooper Mill Road, upstream of Cooper and Bennett Mill or Barren Creek Mill.**

**BRADLEY AND ROBINSON SAWMILL (10)**

**The atlas showed Bradley and Robinson sawmill on Plumb Creek on a pond upstream of Twiford Sawmill, 1 mile south of Sharptown.**

**BRADLEY SAWMILL (10)**

**Eli Bradley and James Bradley's heirs owned a frame sawmill on Plumbs Creek, occupied by Thomas Wallis; 14 x 14 ft, per 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred.**

**BRADLEY SAWMILL (1)**

**The A. H. and J. W. Bradley sawmill was shown on Owens Creek, east side of Riverton Road, 0.5 mile from the confluence with the Nanticoke. The 1880 census of manufactures listed a 6-foot fall on Nanticoke River that drove 3 Rich wheels 6 ft broad at 72 rpm to develop 15 hp. There were 2 employees, \$1400 capital investment, and an annual output of 125,000 ft (\$1525). The owners did all their own logging and had their own shipping vessels.**

**BREWINGTON MILLS (9)**

**See Leonard Mill.**

### **BRINKLEY TANNERY ( )**

The 1820 census of Somerset District 3 showed Joseph B. Brinkley and Co. with \$2700 investment, 5 hands, 1 cog wheel, and, annual output of sole and side leather made from 800 raw hides. Only in Somerset county did the census taker mention “cog wheels,” which were toothed millstones that rolled over oak bark to reduce the matter to powder to obtain tannic acid for curing hides. An illustration is found in Edwin Tunis, *Colonial Craftsmen and the Beginning of American Industry* (1965), p. 33.

### **BRITTINGHAM & PARSONS MILL (2)**

A front page article described the increase of manufacturing in Salisbury, especially on Mill Street, where Brittingham and Parsons was expanding their grain mill, which produced two grades of flour and several kinds of feed, including bran, meal, table hominy, and buckwheat; the company was building a 16 x 40-foot addition, *Salisbury Advertiser*, October 14, 1905.

### **BROOKS KINDLING MILL (9)**

See Miller Kindling Mill.

### **BURNT MILL (14) BURNT MILL ROAD, BRANCH**

Burnt Mill was mentioned in *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1906, Chapter 190; it was also called New Mill and was on Radcliff Farlow Road. The mill road runs between Poplar Neck Road and New Hope Road NE of Pittsville. The Burnt Mill Branch as well as its tributary, Mill Branch, crossed the road. It was Aydelotte Branch in the 1877 county atlas.

### **BYRD MILL (9)**

See Rockawalkin Mill.

### **CRAINS CREEK MILL ( )**

See Moor Mill,

### **CALDWELL MILL (9)**

See Winder Mill.

### **CAMBELL MILL (4)**

**George P. Campbell was an atlas patron, a farmer, and miller with 100 acres; he gave his birth date as 1827 and his address as Pittsville. The mill was advertised as in Baltimore Hundred, Delaware; all kinds of lumber was offered.**

#### **CAPER ACRES, INC. (9)**

**Caper Acres was a feed mill listed on Naylor Mill Road, Salisbury, in DMM, ca. 1970.**

#### **CATHIAL MILL ( )**

**The 1783 tax list of Wicomico Hundred showed John Cathell with the tract Mill Lot (1 acres) and a mill, plus the tracts Long Arm and Safeguard, then in Worcester County.**

#### **COLBOURN MILL (9) COBOURNS MILL ROAD**

**A mill on the northernmost branch of Tondatank Creek was mentioned in John Roach's patent of Long Acres in 1713. The tract was on Mill Branch and Mill Neck per Roach's will (Somerset Wills, 19:208, MSA). Long Acre passed to Benjamin Fouk [Fooks] in 1726 and became the site of Fooks Pond, *Fooks Family*, pp. 56, 60, 441.**

**If the above data is true, the site of the present Fooks Pond passed out of that family for more than a century. The present Fooks Pond on South Division Street at Tony Tank Creek was the site of the former Careys Mill that belonged to Joseph A. Disharoon at his death in 1869. The former Carey's Grist and Saw Mill was described as deteriorating in a court proceeding (Wicomico Chancery Liber SPT 3:300); the mill was sold to William H. H. Colbourn in 1875 (folio 303). W. H. Colbourn was an atlas patron in 1877; a farmer and miller, he had 130 acres and had been born in Worcester County and settled in Wicomico in 1874, giving Salisbury as his postal address.**

**According to Nancy R. Fulton in MWC, 1942, Colbourn sued Josiah Fookes for building a mill nearby; however, land records show that Colbourn sold Careys Mill, "the first mill on the north branch of Tony Tank Stream above the mill known as Tony tank Mills" to Mary M. Fooks in 1885 for \$700 (Wicomico deeds, SPT 6:521). Mary and Josiah Fooks made a mortgage to Colbourn but paid it off in 1888.**

**The 1887 State business directory listed Josiah Forke with a saw and grist mill at Fruitland. In 1942, per Nancy R. Fulton, one building remained and was used as a barn, MWC. The pond is still [1976] called Fooke Pond, but the road is called Colbourns Mill Road, a route that runs from St. Lukes in Worcester County to Fruitland along Tony Tank Creek. The pond is NE of Morris Pond but on a different branch.**

#### **CONNELLY MILL BRANCH (11)**

**Connelly Mill Branch empties into Leonard Pond Run north of Salisbury.**

#### **CONNELLYS SAWMILLS (11) CONNELLY MILL ROAD**

**Connelys Sawmills were on the road to Delmar on Connelys Pond near Little Burnt Branch, built by William Wood, per Nancy R. Fulton writing in MWC. 1942. The mill later passed to Edward T. Mills but was destroyed by fire, no date given by Ms. Fulton, but she credits the name Little Burnt Branch to the never rebuilt mill. Ms. Fulton noted that that Wood was the grandfather of Miss Maria Ellegood [writer of a 1923 memoir] and Mrs. Harry Freeny. The road runs from Jersey Road to US 13. Hastings Sawmill was shown in the 1877 county atlas. Location was 7-A-5 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

#### **CONWAY SAWMILL ( )**

**The W. A. and C. C. Conway steam sawmill was listed at Salisbury in the 1887 State business directory.**

#### **COOPER AND BENNETT SAWMILL (10) COOPER MILL ROAD**

**The 1877 atlas showed this mill on a creek emptying into Nanticoke River NE of Riverton post office, owned by S. E. and L. Cooper. Cooper Mill Road runs NE from Sharptown-Mardella Springs Road to San Domingo Road on the 1971 survey map. Mill extinct.**

#### **CRAWFORD BARK MILL (15)**

**Henry Crawford owned a frame tan house, 20 x 20 ft, and shed to same, 12 x 14 ft; also a bark house “on posts” and one bark mill house, 2 stories, 18 x 18 ft, “weather-boarded with plank Edge to Edge.” All these assets were at Quantico Mills per the 1798 tax list.**

#### **CROPPER SAWMILL (14)**

**The Cropper Bros. Lumber Co. manufactured chips and litter for chickens at Willards with William G. Cropper as president; 30 employees. DMM, 1970.**

#### **CROUCH SAWMILL (7)**

The 1880 census of manufactures listed the 20 hp sawmill of Henry J. Crouch with \$1500 capital investment; 5 employees; annual output of 600,000 ft (\$4835). No logging was performed by the company; the site was on Wicomico River.

#### **CULVER SAWMILL ( )**

The 1798 tax list of Worcester County's Wicomico Hundred showed John Culver with the tracts Parkers Chance and Mill Lot (65 acres) with half a sawmill; the other half was owned by Nathan Culver.

#### **DASHIEL AND SMITH MILL (5)**

Joseph Dashill [sic] and George Smith purchased the writ of *ad quod damnum* taken out by George Austin on April 15, 1761. The tract was on Beaver Dam or Cyprus Branch. The south bank was in possession of the Lord Proprietor, who was awarded 5 pence yearly. The north bank was in possession of Durnall Nibless and valued at a yearly 5 pence Sterling and 5 Shillings Current Money. The beginning was a marked sassafras in Wicomico Forrist. The grant confirming the Austin writ "for land to build a water mill" was dated October 17, 1766 (Chancery Records, Liber 10:13, MSA).

The 1783 tax list of Wicomico Hundred in Worcester County showed Col. Joseph Dashiell with Mill Lands (20 acres) and a mill, plus the tract Addition to Milford (160 acres), and the tracts Arrabiah and Security.

#### **DASHIELL TIDE MILL (3)**

*Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1827, Chapter 3, passed February 1, 1828, was "An Act to Provide for the Valuation and condemnation of water at the mouth of Windsor's Creek, in Somerset county, for the erection of and establishment of a Tide Mill" in response of a petition from Arthur Dashiell, of Somerset County. This site passed into Wicomico County in 1867 and is found on the U. S. G. S. Quad Sheet "Nanticoke." The tidal inlet was at grid 17-E-12 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **DASHIELL MILL ( )**

Major John Dashiell of Jesse in 1818 bequeathed Valley Bogar and a mill to son George, providing that his widow and daughter would have toll-free grinding and sawing as long as they contributed to the repair of the dam, Dashell Family Records, 1:82. This estate was at the head of Wicomico River.

#### **DASHIELL MILL (5)**

In 1782, Colonel Joseph Dashiell [sic] had Mill Lot, 114 acres, surveyed on the south side of Rum Ridge Branch. He also bought a 19-acre certificate issued to Joshua Hill in 1776, and in 1782 received a patent for Mill Lot, adjoining the tracts Handy's

Security and Rum Ridge (Patents, Liber IC No. A:54, and BC & GS 50:306, MSA). The 1783 tax list of Wicomico Hundred of Worcester County showed Cath. Handey with 19 acres called Mill Lot. The present Rum Ridge Road runs from Dagsboro Road NE to the Delaware line.

#### **DASHIELL MILL (16)**

A saw and grist mill owned by Disharoon and Vance [?] and occupied by Captain Robert Dashiell was erected on 20 acres on Tondo Tank Creek and had a granary 16 x 20 ft, a smith shop of slabs, 14 x 12 ft, the whole valued at \$2000 on the 1798 tax list of Wicomico Hundred.

The 1850 census of manufactures listed James Dashiell with \$1500 capital investment in a water mill with 1 saw, 1 pair of runners, 3 employees, and annual output of 100,000 ft sawed lumber (\$1000) and 3000 bu meal (\$1800).

#### **DASHIELL MILL (7)**

See Disharoon Mill on Passerdyke Creek.

#### **DAUGHERTY MILLING CO. ( )**

This modern feed mill was listed on Snow Hill Road in the 1967 telephone book.

#### **DAVIS MILL (4)**

The gristmill of J. B. Davis was shown in the 1877 atlas on a pond along Aydelotte Branch just west of Pocomoke River, south side of present Md. 364 at Burnt Mill Branch.

#### **DAVIS MILL (14)**

The 1783 tax list of Acquango Hundredd showed John Davis with Hog Quarter and a mill; possibly near Davis Swamp. John Davis' account book covered store and shipping transactions from 1750 to 1782; the mill was first mentioned on December 17, 1759. Davis also advanced £ 1-5/10 to Isaac Murray in 1756 "To Laying your writ of *ad quod damnum*." (Cf., Murray Mill in Worcester County.)

An entry made in 1762 gave credit for half a bushel of flax seed. Mr. Andrew Simpler, Millwright, was paid in 1767 for dressing the mill and mending the gates and is also credited with £ 24 entered as "By building your mill." In 1792, William Franklin was credited with work on a cider mill.

Davis made a memorandum showing that from January 1, 1777, to February, 1778, the toll taken at the mill was 200 bu of corn and 15 bu wheat. Corn had risen in price from 3/6 per bu to £ 7-10, a price that held all through 1780. Wheat began at

7/6 per bushel, shot up to £ 7.10/0 but then fell back to £ 3 per bushel in 1779—and was “wevil eaten.” The reason of her grinding so little was the dryness of the year, & her being much out of repair,” MHS Special Collections, Ms. 1475. Also, MHM, 71:255. [Note one of the many uses of feminine terminology for mills, like that used for ships.]

#### DENNEY MILL ( )

The 1850 census of manufactures listed Johnson Denney with \$4000 capital investment in a water mill with 5 employees and annual output of 170,000 ft of 4/4 board made from 1700 logs; 3000 bu corn that provided 500 bu of toll worth \$225. Possibly the same as Davis Mill above.

#### DENNIS AND POLK FORGE (9)

Littleton Dennis of Worcester County and Josiah Polk of Somerset County took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on the Main Branch of Wicomico River above the bridge (the area of present Salisbury) in Stepney Parish. The tracts belonged to Isaac Nimson and William Winder, parts of Cockland and Lumbertons Good Will. The writ was taken out September 27, 1765, and the grant issued 1770. None of the literature on iron mentioned that the forge and furnace authorized were ever built.

#### DENNIS AND POLK MILL 99)

Littleton Dennis and Thomas Polk took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on the Head of Wicomico River and on the Main Branch above the bridge nigh to the town of Salisbury in Somerset County, October 13, 1763. The inquisition made at the main road above the bridge in Stepney Parish, found that the 10 acres on the west side were in possession of Isaac Nimson, part of Cockland, and valued at 40 Shillings yearly.

The east bank was 2.5 acres of vacant land and was to the Lord Proprietor's damage by 2/6 Sterling plus 9 pence Sterling yearly. The other 7.5 acres on the east were William Winder's, part of Pemberton's Good Will, and assessed at 25 Shillings in immediate damages and subject to an annual payment of 3/9. The grant was dated August 23, 1771 (Chancery Records, Liber 11:23).

John Hogskin was occupant of a mill at the head of Wicomico River, 0.5 mile from Salisbury, owned by Essma and Hanna Polk. The sawmill was framed, 44 x 18 ft, very rotten, and the gristmill was framed, 2 stories, 32 x 34 ft, and out of repair on the 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred. It was “approximately 3 miles from the Bay.”

#### DISHAROON AND CO. SAWMILL ( )

**The 1860 census of manufactures listed Disharoon and Company with \$3000 capital investment in a water-powered sawmill that cut 400,000 ft lumber annually (\$3600).**

#### **DISHAROON AND VANCE MILL (16)**

**See Dashiell Mill (16) for Disharoon and Vance or Vanee.**

#### **DISHAROON MILL (7)**

**The 1798 tax list of Wicomico Hundred listed a sawmill worth \$150 on Passerdyke Creek that was owned by the heirs of Stephen Disharoon and occupied by John W. Adams. The Disharoon Mill on that creek was also called Dashiells per HSM, p. 93. The various heirs of George A. Dashiell deeded Mill Lot and Mill Pond at the head of Passerdyke Creek, originally property of the heirs of John Jones, to Sarah B. Dashiell in 1844 (Somerset deeds, BH 3:365:8).**

#### **DISHAROON MILL (9)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed James K. Disharoon with \$800 capital investment in a mill with a 6-foot fall on Wicomico River, with 3 run of stones, two 3-foot Rich wheels running at 40 rpm to develop 8 hp, 2 employees, and daily maximum capacity of 100 bu. All trade was custom. Annual output was 66 tons meal worth \$2490. The mill was idle 8 months of the year.**

#### **DISHAROON SAWMILL ( )**

**The 1860 census of manufactures reported Walter Disharoon with \$4000 capital investment in a water-powered sawmill that cut 400,000 ft lumber annually (\$3500).**

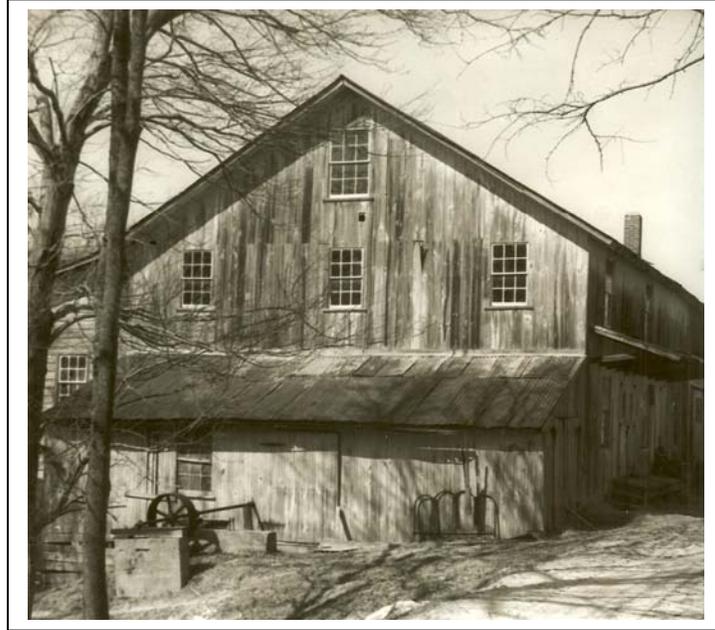
#### **DONOHO SAWMILL (1)**

**The 1850 census listed Alexander Donoho with \$2000 capital investment in a steam sawmill with 1 saw and 3 employees; annual output was 100,000 ft lumber worth \$1000. The 1880 census of manufactures showed a \$3000 capital investment in the Donoho Sawmill with a 6-foot fall on "Nanticoke River" that drove four 8-foot Risdon wheels at 60 rpm to develop 20 hp. There were 3 employees. Production was 150,000 ft (\$1900). The owner cut all his own lumber.**

#### **DOUBLE MILLS (1)**

**This ground was patented to Benjamin Venables in 1766, but the origin of a mill on this pond is uncertain. Venables already owned the Barren creek Mill down stream. Double Mills was owned by John Waller and George Williams, Jr., per the 1798 tax list, which listed a wood sawmill house, 30 x 46. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century a mill was operated here by Levin and Elizabeth Wright, who sold to Joseph Wright on July 30, 1856. The 1877 atlas showed the site as J. H. Bacon and Company with grist and**

saw mills on a pond along Barren Creek, downstream of I. J. Wright & Bro. Mill, upstream of Barren Pond.



*Double Mills, March 1968*

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Double Mills, Bacon & Co., with \$1400 capital investment in a saw mill using a 6-foot fall on “Nanticoke” to drive 4 Rison wheels 8 ft broad at 60 rpm to develop 20 hp to cut 200,000 ft timber (\$2825). There were 2 employees.

The gristmill represented \$1800 capital investment, and had 1 employee and daily maximum capacity of 60/bu. The mill used 3 Risdon wheels of 4-foot breadth running at 100 rpm to develop 15 hp from a fall on Barren Creek. Annual output was 25 bbl flour and 10 tons meal (\$5000). All the trade was custom business.

Samuel P. Wilson operated the mill between 1899 and 1920.

The mill was standing in 1968 on Mockingbird Pond, owned by Richard W. and E. C. Wright and operated by Sherman E. and Beulah T. Cooper. The works had been built about 1880 by some accounts. Mr. Cooper remembered the miller there at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Mr. Samuel Wilson. About 1933, the mill was remodeled as a turbine-powered feed works. The previous owner had been W. C. Thomas.

The author visited the mill in March 1968 and found no one around but the signs offered custom grinding and stone-ground cornmeal; the works was located on a sand road south off Md. 467, the first farm road east of Grapevine Road, and near the first Mason-Dixon stone marking the SW corner of Delaware. Mockingbird Pond was large and deep, surrounded by pine woods. Mr. Cooper was a farmer rather than a born-and-bred miller; he studied the art with Frank S. Langrell of

Linchester Mill in Caroline County. He was interviewed by Frank Megargee in the *Baltimore Evening Sun*, April 11, 1968, under the headline, “Got Hankering for Some Real Corn Meal—Old Grist Mill Operated as Hobby by Shoreman.” There was another interview by John E. Goslee in a Lancaster, Pa., publication, “An Old Gent and the Wheels of Progress,” *The Iron Man Album*, 29 (November-December 1974): 24.

Glen Tolbert, writing in the *Salisbury Sunday Times*, Pail 27, 1975, described Mr. Cooper and his African American assistant, Lawrence “Bo” Hooper, an old friend from their former employment in a lumber company on Taylor Island in 1928. The article was entitled, “Miller Wonders Who’ll Run His Grist Mill Someday. Faithful Old Helper Can’t Talk or Hear.” Mr. Cooper was 81, Mr. Hooper, 75.

Glen Tolbert reported that in the 1930s, the mill was operated by J. P. Bennett and Sons who kept two trucks busy bringing in grain and shipping out meal. In his and Lawrence Hooper’s youth, the steam mills they worked on provided much of the timber in the rebuilt parts of the Double Mills. Mr. Cooper had a poem he wrote tacked up on a post inside reading, “As long as the water runs down hill, I want to run old Double Mill” and he expressed the hope, speaking in the voice of the mill itself, that:

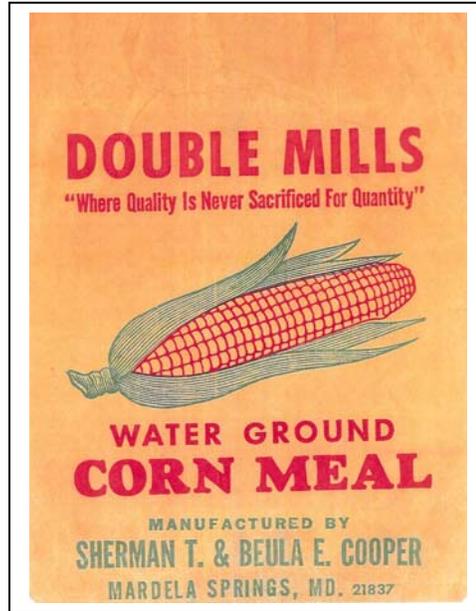
Some good man will come by,  
Unlock the door and give me a try  
Just as he did in days gone by  
Just fill the hopper and sweep the floor  
Pull the gates, put water on the wheel  
And I will give you some Double Mills Meal.  
And if these things do not come to pass  
And I the old mill, am left here to die at last  
You won’ hear the rumbling of my wheels anymore  
For my dear old miller is on the other Shore.

Everett Powers of the SPOOM organization wrote to the author on May 27, 1976, from Glenside, Pa., saying that he found no one around at the mill earlier in the month and has also heard from Bob Glessner of Linchester Mill that Lawrence Hooper had died a week before his visit.

Sylvia Bradley traced the title and published an article in the *Old Mill News*, 17 (Fall 1989): 11-12. She noted the extensive improvements made in the 1930s by the Bennetts. By the time of her article, Mr. Cooper had died (in 1977) and his “apprentice” Herbert Wright, actually the mill owner who had learned the technique, carried on making meal and hominy until the flood of 1979 washed out the dam and the road across its crest.

There had been interest in restoring the mill and the *Salisbury News*, March 22, 1990, reported, “Double Mills Restoration Proposed.” The Double Mills

Foundation presented the idea to the Wicomico County Council seeking a private/public partnership. Mr. Harold Adkins presented background material noting that Mr. Cooper's guest book contained signatures from visitors from 38 States and 41 foreign countries. The mill was written up in full by Paul B. Touart for the MHT in 1998, at which time it was the only historic mill in the three lower counties. This resource bears MHT Site No. WI-12.



--Westside Historical Society, Inc.

*A Sherman Cooper flour sack scanned by Sylvia Bradley.*

The mill was still standing in early 2007 per messages from Sylvia Bradley, founder of the Edward Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University. The mill was deteriorating, and most of its surroundings had been overrun by suburban sprawl. The pond had not been rebuilt because of new environmental regulations that militated against building mills and flooding wetlands.

See also, Norman Peregoy, "The Double Mills," research paper on MHT website, also filed in Edward McNabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury State University. Also, "DoubleMills," a MHT Inventrioy form by Paul B. Touart, MHS web site.

#### **DULANEY MILL (15)**

The 1887 State business directory listed H. A. Dulaney and Sons with a steam mill at Fruitland. Isaac H. A. Dulany [sic] and Sons, were listed with a general store and a saw and corn mill at Fruitland, in the 1908 Polk State directory.

#### **DUNN MILL ( )**

**Richard Dunn owned a mill and house, 10 x 12 ft, all out of repair, valued at \$60 in the 1798 tax list of Nanticoke Hundred.**

#### **DYKES SAWMILL (8)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed Dykes and Company with a 10 hp steam sawmill of 280 rpm cutting 334,000 ft (\$2338) annually with 5 employees; the works did no logging and was idle 6 months of the year.**

#### **ELLIOTT SAWMILL (3)**

**The D. J. Elliott steam sawmill was listed at Green Hill in the 1887 State business directory. The Baltimore *Sun*, December 4, 1931, reported that Matthew Williams, was lynched by a mob for the murder of Daniel J. Elliott, “prominent box manufacturer.” The event took place the very day of the murder. A mob of 2000 witnessed the burning of Williams’ body on a pyre.**

#### **ELLIOTT SAWMILL (5)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed J. W. Elliott and Company with \$800 capital investment in a 25 hp steam saw mill, 4 employees, and annual output of 800,000 ft (\$4800); no logging was performed by the company.**

#### **FARMERS AND PLANTERS CO. (9)**

**This large mill complex at 202 Mill Street, Salisbury, supplied Red Letter Fertilizers, other brands, and lime. Some of the buildings were fairly old; it apparently occupied the site of H. Humphreys Wicomico Flour Mill [1976].**

#### **FAW SAWMILL (6)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed James Faw and Brothers with \$1000 capital investment in a 20 hp steam sawmill doing 66% of their own logging to cut 300,000 ft (\$3000). There were 4 employees.**

#### **FLETCHER AND JAMES MILL (9)**

**Thomas Fletcher and Ezekiel James of Somerset took out a writ of *ad quod damnun* on Keens Creek on the north side of Wicomico River, June 12, 1762. The inquisition awarded £ 1-2/6 damages yearly to Thomas Gillis and 20 Shillings yearly to John Leon of the Island of Bermudas (Chancery Records, Liber 9:158, MSA). Keens Branch was about 0.5 mile from the mouth of Rockawalkin Creek near the tract “What You Please,” *Old Somerset*, p. 254.**

#### **FOOKS MILL ( )**

**The 1850 Worcester County census of manufacturers listed Henry Fooks with \$2000 capital investment in a water mill with 2 employees, sawing 1000 logs into 100,000 ft of 4/4 boards; grinding 1200 bu of cornmeal to collect 200 bu of meal in toll worth \$100.**

**FOOKS MILL (4)**

**The 1850 Worcester County census listed William Fooks with \$1000 capital investment in a water mill with 2 employees and annual output of 90,000 ft of 4/3 board cut from 900 logs. Also 600 bu cornmeal that provided 100 bu in toll worth \$50 annually. Fooks Mill was shown in the 1877 atlas north of Pittsville, north bank of Mill branch, west side of Md. 353, the Pittsville-Delaware Line Road.**

**FOOKS MILL (5)**

**See Parker Mill.**

**FOOKS MILL (9)**

**See Colbourn Mill.**

**FOOKS SAWMILL ( )**

**The 1850 Worcester census listed Ritchie Fooks water sawmill worth \$2000 with 2 employees, cutting 1000 logs into 100,000 ft of 4/4, 5/4, and 2/4 board annually.**

**FORKS MILL (9)**

**Same as Fooks; see Colbourn Mill.**

**FREENEY SAWMILL ( )**

**The 1860 census listed Elijah Freeney with \$1000 capital investment in a water-powered sawmill cutting 500,000 ft lumber annually \$3000.**

**FRUIT DISTILLERIES ( )**

**The 1880 census listed a number of fruit distilleries which were stricken by the auditor as too small to list as manufacturers. They included E. J. Adkins, William Adkins, A. B. Howard, and William R. Gills, who produced \$600 annually with 2 employees at his works on Nanticoke River.**

**FULTON MILL ( )**

**The 4-story frame steam mill of Fulton Milling Co. was shown in *Wicomico News*, Industrial Supplement, August 1908, p. 33. It was near the B. C. & A. Railroad**

tracks in Salisbury and had been in business 3 years, founded by Brittingham and Parsons; Thomas H. Tilghman was president. This roller mill was the best equipped in town and produced flour, feed, meal, and hominy. Brands were Cream of Wheat, Farmers Delight, and Ideal. Sanborn's 1911 insurance atlas showed Fulton Milling Company Flour & Corn Mill on the west side of Mill Street east of the Wicomico River (North); it was also downstream of the electric light plant and had 5 stands of rolls.

#### **GALE MILL (9)**

See Rockawalkin Mill for Levin Gale's works.

#### **GALES MILL (15)**

Gales Mill was shown on the south side of Quantico Creek, 5 miles from its mouth, on the 1795 Griffith map. The 1798 tax list of Rewastico Hundred showed Captain Henry Gale at Quantico Mills with:

- 1 wood saw mill house, 44 x 20
- 1 frame grist mill house, 20 x 16
- 1 new framed wood house, 2 stories, 42 x 42, with a cellar flush of brick, not yet occupied but intended for a Grist Mill house.

The Quantico Mills post office was established 1807. The town grew up around two gristmills per ESMV, p. 1141. Kirkpatrick Mill appeared at Quantico in the 1877 atlas. The mill was in the village, on a pond on the east side of present Catchpenny Road. Mill extinct in or before 1960s.

#### **GALES MILL ( )**

Captain Henry Gale also had a mill listed in Nanticoke Hundred in the 1798 tax list, also on Quantico Creek.

#### **GALE MILL (DEL.)**

Levin Gale took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* for a mill seat at the Indian Bridge on the Northernmost Branch of Broad Creek in the Nanticoke River, March 23, 1733. The tract belonged to Robert Goven, Sr., John Winsor, and John Noble. The tracts were worth a total of 14 Shillings Maryland money or 2 Shillings Sterling (Chancery Records, Liber 5:608, MSA). The tract laid out by the surveyor of Somerset County turned out to be in Sussex County, Delaware after the Mason-Dixon survey.

#### **GODDARD SAWMILL ( )**

**William Goddard had a sawmill house, 41 x 15 ft, near Wicomico River in Rewastico Hundred, in the 1798 tax list.**

#### **GORDY AND WILLIAMS MILLS (5)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed Gordy and Williams Mills on Rum Ridge upstream of Williams Mills, south side of Gordy Mill Road. The stream is now called Andrews Branch. B. S. Gordy owned 350 acres and had been born 1823. The 1860 census of manufactures had shown a Gordy and Pusey steam sawmill cutting 250,000 ft annually (\$1500). The present Gordy Mill Road runs from Old Stage Road to Rum Ridge Road.**

#### **GORDY MILLS (14)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed the grist and saw mills of G. Gordy on the present Gordys Branch, east side of Bent Pine Road, just south of present US 50. L. D. Gordy was listed as a farmer and miller at a Whaleysville address, owner of 30 acres and born in 1839.**

#### **GRAIN HOUSE (4)**

**The atlas of 1877 showed a grain house on the Wicomico and Pocomoke Railroad opposite the depot at Pittsville.**

#### **GRAVENOR SAWMILL (10)**

**The 1908 Polk peninsula directory listed Gravenor and Company sawmill at Sharptown.**

#### **GRIER & SON FOUNDRY ( )**

**Painted signs identified an historic building as the F. A. Grier & Son Foundry or Salisbury Foundry and Machine Co., on the river at Salisbury, ca. 1900, in a photo in the collection assembled by photographer Marion Warren for a Hall of Records project and displayed in the Baltimore County Public Library, Towson, October-November 1985. A line drawing of this iron and brass foundry was shown in Richard W. Cooper, Profile of a *Colonial Community* (1986), p. 260. Another photo appeared in Warren and Warren's *Maryland Time Exposures*, p. 19, which notes that Grier first visited Salisbury as a firefighter in the blaze of 1886. Sanborn's insurance atlas for 1899, Sheet 8, showed Grier Brothers Salisbury Machine Works on Railroad Avenue.**

#### **GUM MILLS (2)**

**The Gum Mills where Dr. James Goslee lived were for rent, *Somerset Herald*, July 23, 1839. Gum Mill Creek enters Quantico Creek north of Md. 349.**

#### **GUNBY STEAM SAWMILL (16)**

According to Nancy R. Fulton in MWC, 1942, John and William Gunby operated a steam sawmill near Forktown in the 1840s; they also had a water-powered gristmill on Slab Bridge Branch. As Ms. Fulton learned from a family descendant, Louis W. Gunby, that the steam mill was operated by two Negroes, Tom and James Harmon. The works burned before the Civil War and was not rebuilt. A great oak tree with spreading branches was the scene of summer parties.

The 1850 census of manufactures of then Worcester County listed John Grundy [sic] with \$2000 capital investment in a mill sawing 3000 logs into 300,000 ft of 4/4 board worth \$3000 annually; 2 employees.

The 1860 census of manufactures showed William and John Gumby cutting 250,000 ft lumber and grinding 1050 bu meal for a total output of \$2800.

#### **HANCOCK AND WILLIAMS (9)**

This modern feed mill was listed in the 1867 telephone directory at 917 Isabella Street, Salisbury.

#### **HANDY AND ADAMS MILL (13/16)**

George Handy and William Adams took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on a creek called Toney Tank issuing out of the easternmost side of Wicomico River a little below the Forke of the said creek, July 16, 1757. The inquisition made in 1758 found the 10 acres on the west to be part of the Lord Proprietor's manor and in possession of Alexander Adams; damages of 10 Shillings yearly were awarded to Adams and also an annual rent of 1/3 to the Proprietor [i. e., Lord Baltimore]. The east bank was also belonged to the Proprietor's manor and was in possession of Nicholas Crouch who was awarded immediate damages of 5 Shillings; the jurors also awarded immediate damages of 5 Shillings and 1 Shilling 3 pence yearly to the Lord Proprietor (Chancery Records, Liber 9:10, MSA). The grant to Handy and Adams was dated October 1, 1758. Handy sold the grist and saw mill to Adams in 1761 (Somerset Deeds, C:89, MSA). [On a Proprietary manor, the residents were merely tenants rather than fee simple owners, part of the Land System in Maryland that kept fees and rents flowing to the Calvert family rather than funding public improvements.]

#### **HANDY BARK MILL ( )**

Henry Handy had a 2-story wood tan house, 18 x 16 ft, on Wicomico River and a frame bark house, 23 x 20 ft, 1 story, on the 1798 tax list of Rewastico Hundred.

#### **HANDY SAWMILL ( )**

**Isaac Handy's heirs and William Horsey (minor) jointly owned a sawmill house, 36 x 16 ft, near Salisbury; it was occupied by William Anderson per the 1798 tax list.**

#### **HANDY TANNERY (9)**

**Henry Handy, Jr., after 1787, added a tannery to the Pemberton Hal plantation. He also had a cider distillery, per Susan B. Langley, "Tongues in Trees: Archaeology, Dendrology, and the Mulberry Landing Wharf," MHM, 95 (Fall 2000): 338-348. This property was on Md. 349 5 miles west of Salisbury.**

#### **HARRIS MILL ( )**

**The 1850 Somerset County census of manufactures listed William E. Harris mill with \$1500 capital investment, 1 pair of runners, 1 saw, and 2 employees. Annual output was 80,000 ft lumber (\$720) and 1200 bu meal (\$720).**

#### **HASTINGS SAWMILL (5)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed the grist and saw mills of W. Hastings on either side of Beaverdam Creek, south side of present Airport Road. The creek is the extension of Tony tank Creek. The 1880 census of manufactures showed Winder Hastings with a 10 hp steam engine cutting 150,000 ft (\$750) annually in a sawmill with \$750 capital investment and 3 employees. The gristmill represented \$750 capital investment and had 1 employee and one-sixth custom business. A 6-foot fall on a pond flowing to Parkers Pond drove a 2.5-foot, 6 hp turbine at 75 rpm. Annual output was 18,000 lb meal (\$1830). The road was shown on some maps as Merritt Mill Road (q. v.). The mill was not to be found in the late 1960s, and had probably been extinct well before that.**

#### **HASTINGS SAWMILL (11)**

**William N. Hastings sawmill was shown in the 1877 county atlas on a branch emptying into Wicomico River, 4.75 miles north of Salisbury on the south side of the present Connelly Mill Rod at the present Connelly Mill Branch.**

#### **HAYNAY SAWMILL ( )**

**Luther Martin Haynay had a frame sawmill, 40 x 16, occupied by Richard Waller, "situate in the parish about 6 miles from Salisbury," in the 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred.**

#### **HEARN MILL ( )**

A road was authorized from John and Isaac Hearn's mill in Worcester County, to intersect the main-road leading from Salisbury to Blackfoot, *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1801, Chapter 5.

#### **HEARN PARKER AND CO. SAWMILL (5)**

The 1880 census of manufactures listed the 25 hp steam sawmill of Hearn Parker and Co. with \$1200 capital investment, doing its own logging, and cutting 700,000 ft (\$4900) annually with 4 employees.

#### **HEARN SAWMILL (11)**

J. Hearn sawmill was shown in the 1877 atlas on a pond and creek west of Wicomico River, a location now called Burnt Pond and Little Burnt Branch, upstream of George H. W. Ruark Mills.

#### **HEATCHES MILL (9)**

See Rockawalkin Mills.

#### **HEBRON MILL (15)**

See (Bounds) PhillipsMill.

#### **HEBRON STEAM MILL (15)**

The first industry in Hebron was a steam mill that burned and was never rebuilt, possibly about the time that the railroad was constructed in 1890. A shirt factory opened in 1896. The cross roads had belonged to J. L. Nelson and the site was called Nelson's before the railroad arrived. *What's Past Is Prologue*, p. 33. Polk's 1908 peninsula directory listed J. G. Wilson and Bro. flour mill at Hebron.

#### **HELLMAN SAWMILL ( )**

Joshua Hellman's heirs owned half of a sawmill valued at \$100 and occupied by William Callahan in the 1798 tax list of Wicomico Hundred.

#### **HEMING SAWMILL ( )**

The 1860 census of manufactures for Somerset County reported William T. Heming with \$3000 capital investment in a water-powered sawmill cutting 500,000 ft lumber annually (\$4000).

#### **HENRYS MILL ( )**

**The 1783 tax list of Wicomico Hundred (of Worcester County) showed Arnold Todavine with Henry's Mill, 70 acres, plus the tracts Oak Ridge and Todavines Choice.**

#### **HICKORY MILL ROAD (1)**

**Hickory Mill Road runs north from Log Cabin Road to Waller Road per 1970 election district map.**

#### **HITCHES MILL (9)**

**See Rockawalkin Mill.**

#### **HITCH MILL (7)**

**Polk's 1908 peninsula directory listed the B. T. Hitch gristmill at Allen, 8 miles SW of Salisbury.**

#### **HOGSKIN MILL (9)**

**John Hogskin was tenant of the Dennis and Polk Mill, q. v.**

#### **HOLBROOK MILL (3)**

**Thomas Holbrook had a sawmill of no value a small distance from Wicomico River, 2 miles above the Lower Ferry on the 1798 tax list of Wicomico Hundred.**

#### **HOLLOWAY AND MEZICK MILL (4)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed this lumberyard at Pittsville; its mill was near Salisbury and supplied pine lumber.**

#### **HOLLOWAY PARSONS AND RILEY SAWMILL (5)**

**The steam sawmill was shown in the atlas near Nancy Onger Creek south of Parsonsburg. J. A. D. Holloway, an atlas patron, was listed as a sawyer, born 1850. The site was east of present Forest Grove Road, just south of Shavox Road. The 1850 census of manufactures listed Joshua Holloway with \$2500 capital investment in a water mill with 3 employees and an annual output of 130,000 ft lumber from 1300 logs; 3000 bu corn providing 500 bu in toll (\$250).**

**The 1880 census of manufactures showed the mill working from a 6-foot fall on Parkers Pond—apparently a second location—with one 2.5 foot turbine running at 75 rpm, to develop 26 hp; annual output was 800,000 ft (\$4800). The works represented a \$750 capital investment; there were 4 employees, and no logging was performed by the company.**

### **HORNTOWN POND (15)**

**See S. B. Phillips Mill.**

### **HORSEY SAWMILL (3)**

**The A. J. Horsey steam sawmill was shown in the 1877 county atlas on Quantico Creek, 0.3 mile downstream from the mouth of Teagues (now Dennis) Creek, 0.4 mile north of Royal Oak Road.**

### **HOWARD, CORDY, AND PHILLIPS SAWMILL (12)**

**The 1877 atlas showed Howard, Cordy, and Phillips sawmill on Rewastico Creek upstream of the Thomas Bennett mill pond, on the present Porters Mill Road, north side. The 1850 census of manufactures had listed Noah Howard with \$1800 capital investment in a water-powered sawmill with 2 employees, and annual output of 270,000 ft sawn lumber (\$1875). The 1860 census of manufactures listed Howard Nelson and Company sawmill cutting 272,000 ft, plus an associated gristmill producing 370 bbl flour and 20000 bu meal (\$2590).**

**The 1880 census of manufactures in District 2 listed Howard, Philip [sic] and Company with \$1000 capital investment in a sawmill with 2 employees, and annual output of 100,000 ft (\$1000). A 5-foot fall on “Nanticoke River” drove 1 Rich wheel 2 ft broad at 100 rpm to develop 8 hp. The partners did half their own logging.**

### **HUMPHREYS AND TILGHMAN STEAM SAWMILL (9)**

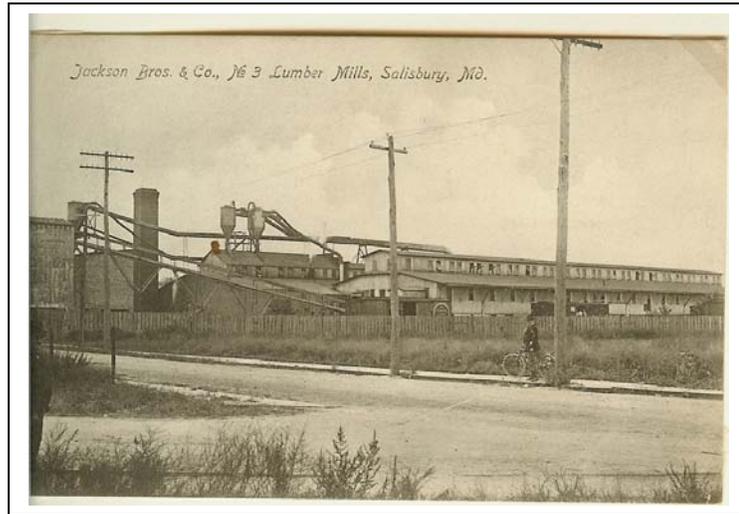
**The 1877 county atlas showed this steam sawmill on the west side of the road north from Salisbury, 0.5 mile above the city line.**

### **HUMPHREYS MILL (8)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed T. Humphreys with \$1000 capital investment in a mill in Nutters District. A 7-foot fall on Wicomico River drove 2 run of stones with the power of two 20-foot [inch’] turbines running at 200 rpm to develop 10 hp. There was 1 employee. Annual output was 45 tons meal (\$1680). The mill had a maximum daily capacity of 50 bu. All trade was custom.**

### **HUMPHREYS MILL (9)**

**See Johnson Mill (H. Humphreys-Wicomico Falls Mill) and Winder Mill (T. Humphreys –Wicomico Flour Mill).**



*Jackson Mill in vintage postcard.*

### JACKSONS MILL (9)

The 1877 atlas showed Jackson Brothers Mill, a steam saw and planing mill on Wicomico River near M. E. Williams lumber yard in Salisbury. “Mills of Wicomico County” gave the founding as 1870 by Elihu and William H. Jackson; the mill burned in 1879 and was rebuilt.

The 1880 census of manufactures showed the works with \$30,000 capital investment, employing 25, with 2 boilers, an 80 hp steam engine, and an annual payroll of \$6000. Annual output was 8.5 million ft lumber worth \$90,000. The company had its own vessels for shipping. It was idle 2 months of the year.

The *Baltimore American*, Tuesday, October 19, 1886, p. 5, published, “Salisbury in Ashes,” presenting the story of the fire of Sunday night:

The mill and lumber yard of Messrs. E. E. Jackson & Co., in which one million feet of lumber and effects were destroyed were except for the reality of the distress, a scene magnificent to witness. The high pile of sawdust are still burning, and will smoke for two weeks . . . . The mills and yards of L. G. Williams & Co. and G. H. Todavine were in imminent danger, and but for constant labor would have been burned.

That article included a map of Salisbury, stating that the area burned was a peninsula between two forks of the Wicomico River. Also, “Fire Devoured Jackson’s Mill,” *American*, October 20, 1886. Location was 12-K-10 in the ADC Street Atlas.

### JACKSON MILL ( )

Jackson Brothers have completed a number of improvements on the flour mill at Blythedale, Md. A large grain elevator and warehouse was built on the site of the old saw mill,” *American Miller*, 23 (October 1, 1895): 765.

In 1898, the mill was Salisbury's largest manufacturer, a stock company with \$500,000 capital and three plants. The company made 4.2 million shipping cases for Standard Oil Company in 1897, using 28 million square feet of yellow pine. A total of 32 million ft of all kinds of lumber was consumed for all kinds of work. *Historic Salisbury Illustrated*, pp. 19ff, including illustrations of the three separate sites on pp. 20, 39, and 45. The main plant on the east bank of Wicomico River below West Chestnut Street was later the site of Berlin Milling Company. In present-day terms, it was on the north side of US 50.

#### **JOHNSONS MILL (4)**

James Johnson of Worcester County took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Truitts Branch, March 8, 1758. The inquisition taken at Allhallows Parish found the ten acres on the north already in Johnson's possession and awarded him nothing; the 10 acres on the south were in possession of William Dennis, who was awarded immediate damages of £ 3 and a yearly rent of 4 pence (Chancery Records, (Liber 9:97, MSA).

Truitts Branch on the west side of Pocomoke River had been mentioned in 1751 patent of the tract Brittinghams Choice; it is now the NE prong of the present Adkins Pond at Powellville. A petition of 1771 to build chapel of ease at or near Johnsons Mill in All Hallows Parish was mentioned in *Laws of Md., Acts of 1771, Chapter 10*. William Wooton advertised the tract Batchellors Adventure on Johnsons Mill Branch, *Md. Gazette*, March 9, 1775. Also, *Old Somerset*, p. 191.

#### **JOHNSON MILL (9)**

The J. Johnson mill was shown in the 1877 atlas on a pond emptying into Beaverdam Creek, slightly downstream of L. W. Parker's mill, 3.5 miles SE of Salisbury. On current topographical maps, the stream is Walston Branch, and the mill was on the north side of the present Johnson Road, west bank of the creek, just south of Tony Tank Creek.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Joshua Johnson with \$500 capital investment in a mill with a 7-foot fall on Silver Lake, driving two 16-foot broad tub wheels at 200 rpm to develop 10 hp. There was 1 employee, 50 bu/diem maximum capacity, and annual output of 67 tons meal (\$2520). All the work was custom trade.

#### **JOHNSONS MILL (9) JOHNSON POND**

This mill was built in a grove called Bailey's Woods about 1750 on the North Branch of the old Somerset-Worcester Road, the present Isabella Street near

**Division Street in Salisbury.** At the east end of the dam there was a gristmill, carding mill, and planing mill; at the west end, a large sawmill, HSM, p. 61.

**Nancy R. Fulton** put the date at 1743 and stated that the dam was built on the east prong of the River at Division Street by William Venables. The adjoining residence was called Mill Grove. The William Venables mill was mentioned in the vicinity of the chapel of ease for Stepney Parish in 1768, *Old Somerset*, p. 188.

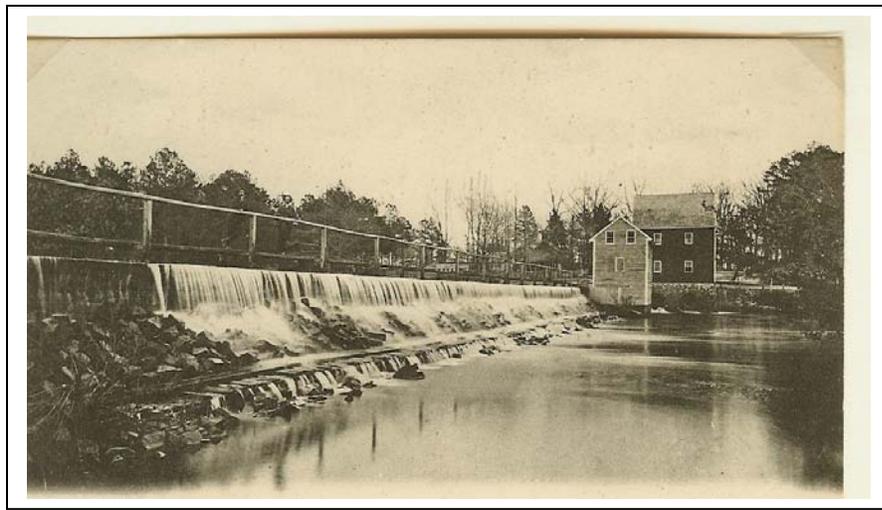
The 1850 census of manufactures listed C. and H. Humphreys with \$25,000 capital investment, 3 saws, 3 pair of runners, 15 employees, and annual output of 1 million ft sawn lumber (\$12,000), 8000 bu meal (\$4800), and 40 tons flour (\$2650). The 1960 census of manufactures showed the capital investment dropping to \$5000 and production at \$10,400. *Bradstreet's Directory* of 1867 listed Humphreys as a Worcester County village place name and listed Cathel & Humphreys as millers with a credit rating of AB, meaning a well established house of undoubted reliability [That issue of *Bradstreet's* was issued before the formation of Wicomico County].

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Humphrey Humphreys mill with \$3500 capital investment, 4 employees, and 200 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing all custom business. A 7-foot fall on the Wicomico drove 3 turbines 4.6 ft broad at 142 rpm to develop 20 hp. Annual output was 800 bbl flour and 216 tons meal (\$12,000).

The same census listed H. Humphreys with two sawmills of 7.5-foot fall on the Wicomico, both turbine driven by wheels of 4.5 and 5-foot breadth at 60 and 45 rpm, and a rating of 25 and 20 hp. The firm did some of its own logging and had its own shipping vessels. Total output was 2 million feet (\$18,500). Total capital investment was \$45,000 and employment 35.

The 1877 county atlas showed the Wicomico Falls Mills at No. 2 Mill Street, on H. Humphreys pond at Isabella Street. H. Humphreys advertised lumber, flour, meal, and feed stuff; wool was also carded from July 1 to October 31. All four mills were south of Isabella Street, the planing mill was slightly downstream of the wool and grist mills, east bank.

The *American Miller*, 14 (November 1, 1886): 546, reported, "S. F. Todavine's grist mill at Salisbury, Md., was among the buildings destroyed by the fire which swept over that town on the night of October 18." That item actually referred to the H. Humphrey Mill on Mill Street. See also *Baltimore American*, October 19, 1886, p. 5, "Salisbury in Ashes." An excellent photo of the site of the mill with little surviving but a chimney and a millstone appeared in *MHM*, 94 (Summer 1994): 243-243, "The Maryland Picture Puzzle."



*H. Humphreys or Johnson Mill at Wicomico Falls, pre-1907 postcard.*

The 1888 issue of Sanborns insurance atlas, Sheet 2, showed the Humphreys Flour Mills on Division Street.

The *American Miller*, 22 (May 1, 1894): 356, carried a letter to the editor from the owners, stating, “R. M. and W. F. Johnson, Salisbury, Md., have recently purchased the Wisconsin [sic] Mills and water power and electric light property that was burned down last year. The 1894 Sanborn insurance atlas, Sheet 7, showed R. M. and W. T. Johnson Water Power and Electric Light Plant.

We have combined the mill and electric plant and rebuilt both, putting up a large dynamo building We will install four dynamos . . . We rather expect to put in a 50 barrel roller mill soon. Our water power is second only to the Brandywine River at Wilmington in the Delaware and Maryland peninsula. We have a stone dam 400 feet long, backed by solid dirt dam 50 feet wide. Fall of water is ten feet . . . .”

Johnson’s Ford was shown on recent maps as the site of Bailey’s Pond and as Dr. Cathell Humphrey’s Pond of 1868 (See *What’s Past Is Prologue*, p. 7); the pond was then crossed by the Eastern Shore Railroad. The mill provided access to Salisbury over the crest of the tumbling dam, which vehicles had to cross through the flowing water. Location was 12-K-11 in the ADC Street Atlas.

JONES MILL ( )

See Tony Tank Mill.

JONES POND (5)

Jones Pond was near Mt. Herman in the Salisbury area per MWC. Possibly same as Hastings.

JONES SMITHY (6)

**Hargis E. Jones, 62, was the last blacksmith in the area with a smithy and welding and general repair shop in Powellville. He learned the business by watching the local smith after school; he then ordered his anvil and \$60 worth of tools by mail, "Village Smithy Still Stands at Cross Roads in Wicomico," by Frank Megargee, Baltimore *Evening Sun*, February 23, 1968.**

#### **JONES STEAM MILL ( )**

**The 1850 census of manufactures listed Benjamin I. Jones steam mill with \$1200 capital investment, 1 saw, 1 pair of runners, 2 employees, and annual output of 2500 bu meal (\$1500), 6000 lb flour (\$2400), and 60,000 ft sawn lumber.**

#### **JONES, WILLIAMS AND COMPANY (6)**

**The 1877 county atlas listed Jones, Williams and Company as owners of a steam sawmill dealing in hard and soft lumber. The 1880 census of manufacturers listed \$1000 capital investment, 2 boilers and one 35 hp engine cutting 300,000 ft (\$2500) annually. The company had 4 employees and did 66% of its own logging.**

#### **KELLY MILL ( )**

**The 1880 Somerset census listed George Kelly with \$1500 capital investment in a water mill with 1 saw, 2 pair of runners, 3 employees, and annual output of 75,000 ft lumber (\$750) and 1800 bu meal (\$1080).**

#### **KENNERLY SAWMILL ( )**

**The 1860 census of manufactures showed William A. Kennerly with \$5000 capital investment in a sawmill cutting 500,000 ft lumber worth \$5000 annually and grinding 700 bu meal; raw material was 600 bu corn and 100 tons of lumber. Total value of product \$1000/annum.**

#### **KIRKPATRICK MILL (2)**

**Same as Gales Mill.**

#### **KNOWLES MILL (10)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed C. Knowles sawmill upstream of Wetherly Mill, east side of the present Norris Twilley Road, 0.2 mile south of San Domingo Road. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Cannon Knowles with \$600 capital investment in a sawmill with a 4-foot fall on Plumb Creek driving 2 double Risdon wheels 2 ft broad at 220 rpm to develop 6 hp. Output was 40,000 ft lumber worth \$900 annually. There were 2 employees. No logging was done by the owner. Knowles Gravenor & Company was listed in the 1908 Polk peninsula directory.**

## **LAKE HUMHREYS (9)**

See Johnson Mill in Salisbury.

## **LANGSDALE MILL (1)**

See Rewastico Mill.

## **LENARD SAWMILL (5)**

The 1877 county atlas showed J. Lenard steam sawmill on the north side of present Md. 363, at that time the road to Walston Station, 0.4 mile west of the present Walston Switch Road.

## **LEONARD MILLS (9/11)**

Parkers Mill, 9 miles from Salisbury, had been the gathering place of troops in 1777, *Arch. Md.*, 16:122. Parkers Mill was shown on the 1794-1795 Dennis Griffith map 4 miles NE of Salisbury. The 1798 tax list of Wicomico Hundred showed George W. Parker with a saw and grist mill “on a valuable stream,” second quality, valued at \$1000. The mill was on the Worcester-Somerset boundary and the road to Broad Creek, then within Somerset County. The mill was on the east side of the colonial road.

The mill was that of Theodore Brewington in the 1830s per Nancy R. Fulton writing in MWC, 1942; its date of building was given as 1838 in *The Ocean Highway*, p. 47. The 1850 census of manufactures listed Theodore Brewington with \$2400 capital investment, 1 saw, 2 pair of runners driven by water, 3 employees; annual output was 250,000 ft sawn lumber (\$1880) and 1200 bu meal (\$710). The 1860 census of manufactures listed \$2000 in lumber.

The atlas showed George W. Leonard as a farmer and gristmill operator, residence and mill 4.5 miles north of Salisbury. The mill appeared upstream of George Ruark on the present Leonard Pond Run, west side of the old Delmar Road that was later designated US 13. The gristmill on the north bank was in District 11, the sawmill on the south bank in District 9, and the pond across the road in District 5. Also mentioned in HSM, p. 32.

The 1880 census of manufactures showed the gristmill worth \$1000 with 1 employee, all custom trade, and 6-month operating season. A 6-foot fall “on Wicomico River” drove one Callback wheel 2.5 ft broad at 100 rpm to develop 5 hp. Annual output was \$2070 in meal. The sawmill cut 60,000 ft annually (\$600) using a 2-foot Hodson wheel of 8 hp, 100 rpm, driven by a 7-foot fall. Leonard did all his own logging.

The Leonard Mill stood on Parkers Conclusion and Parkers Security tracts as shown in William J. Leonard's deed of trust to Walter Stevens and William Freeny in 1911 (EAT 71:442). The trustees in 1913 sold to Fred. W. Hassler and Furhman T. Howard, who defaulted. Charles Robinson bought the mill in 1920, Louis T. Cannon in 1925, and John J. Beauchamp in 1929, and Clarence W. Beauchamp in 1940, Cecil D. Cline in 1943, J. Russell Hopkins 1946, Carleton W. James 1948, and Leonard T. Hull in May 1962 (Wicomico deeds, 539:283). A plat made in March 1962 showed the mill east of the old county road and west of US 13 (Wicomico County deeds, 539:283). Clarence W. Beauchamp was still operating when Nancy R. Fulton published MWC in 1942.

The dam washed out in heavy rains in early January 1962, taking the road with it. The County Commissioners found that they had lost the power to compel mill owners to provide roads over mill dams, *Salisbury Times*, January 10, 1962, by Jim Nelson, "County Faces Dilemma in Restoration of Mill Pond." The creation of a county roads agency in 1953 resulted in the repeal of a number of old laws including the right to force a mill owner to provide a road. The property was being used by Leonard T. Hull and Carter James in a waste paper salvage business. Finally, the county commissioner bought the property from Hull on December 18, 1962 (Wicomico deeds, 553:157).

The mill has since disappeared in dualizing US 13, but Leonard Pond survives as a Wicomico County park. The works was described as still grinding flour and feed in 1938 by *Ocean Highway*, p. 47.

#### M'BRYDE MILL ( )

The real estate of Wm. M'Bryde in Worcester County, including Consolidation Mill Lot, was advertised by James Ritchie, trustee, in the *Easton Herald*, November 16, 1802. A William McBride had patented Mill Lot, 65 acres, in 1774; that tract was on the south side of Cabin Neck Branch adjoining Parkers Chance,. Mill Lot and Gibbons [sic] Liberty tracts were mentioned as part of Consolidation tract in a Chancery case, (Liber B55:18, MSA). The 1783 had shown the 65-acre Mill Lot in Wicomico Hundred, charged to John Culver, who owned half a sawmill. Present Givens Branch flows to Adkins Pond near Powellville.

#### McGORDY SORGHUM MILL (10)

J. McGordy started up an old pre-Civil War sorghum mill near Sharptown. "One acres of cane will make 200 gallons of sorghum," *Union News*, Towson, July 17, 1920.

#### MAGRUDER MILL ( )

**James A. Magruder's Account Book from 1852-1860 for a mill located in Salisbury mentioned flour, plaster, millstones, guano (MHS Library, Special Collections, Ms. 1079).**

#### **MARDELLA SPRINGS MILL (1)**

**See Barren Creek Mill.**

#### **MASTERS MILL (6)**

**Masters Mill was marked on a Photostat of a map showing Worcester County ca. 1852; it was on the road to Libertytown between Nassawango Creek and Pocomoke River; west bank of present Adkins Race, apparently at present Powellville Pond. [The map had been made by Judge James C. Robins, recopied 1927, with typewritten names added by Mrs. David W. Glass in 1946, MHS map case, Baltimore.]**

#### **MERRITT MILL ROAD (5)**

**This road runs from Md. 350 to US 50, originating east of Mount Herman, passing the Hastings Mill site shown in the 1877 county atlas. Merritts Mill was a place name listed in GAMD of 1941 as 0.5 mile NW of Minksville.**

#### **MEZECK WINDMILL (3)**

**Elihu Mezeck had a windmill in tolerable repair" and worth \$120 at the mouth of Tippquin Creek in the 1798 tax list of Nanticoke Hundred.**

#### **MILFORD ( )**

**James Fooks of Daniel patented Milford [one "L"], a 210 acre tract, in 1831 (Patents CG No. D:276, MSA). The tract, a resurvey of Long delay, began near the fork of Sockum and Mitchells Roads and contained a number of log cabins but no mill; probably in Acquango Hundred.**

#### **MILFORD ( )**

**Milford, 50 acres, was surveyed for Johnson Dennis in 1794 (Unpatented Certificate No. 883, MSA). The tract was on the west side of Pocomoke River, adjoining Colliers Delight, probably in Acquango Hundred.**

#### **MILL BRANCH (1)**

**Mill Branch enters Barren Creek south of Mardella Springs and is paralleled by Mill Branch Road which runs south from Athol Road. The branch powered Venables Sawmill.**

#### **MILL BRANCH (14)**

**The Mill Branch NW of Willards is crossed by Burnt Mill Road; it powered the Fooks Sawmill.**

#### **MILL CHANCE (4)**

**Mill Chance was patented by Whittington Johnson in 1762 as 9 acres (Patents, Liber BC & GS 21:651, MSA). The tract was on the north side of the Great Branch in Grubby Neck. A 1754 patent placed Grubby Neck near Round Glade and Breen Branch.**

#### **MILL CREEK (9)**

**Mill Creek enters Wicomico River via Rockawalkin Creek and was the site of Andersons Mill and possibly of a Winder Mill.**

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

**The 1783 tax list of Worcester County showed Benjamin Ryley with the 80-acre tract Milldam in Wicomico County.**

#### **MILL FORK ( )**

**Mill Fork was patented in 1760 by Joshua Robinson, Jr., as 85 acres (Patents, Liber BC & GS 19:100, MSA). Millfork was “near the head of the sound . . . on . . . North Fork of a Branch called Mill Branch, and in a neck of Land called Richard’s Neck near the head thereof.”**

#### **MILL FORTUNE ( )**

**In 1802, Benjamin Johnson had 116 acres of Security resurveyed as Mill Fortune (Unpatented Certificate No. 887, MSA).**

#### **MILL FRAME RIDGE ( )**

**Middleton Adkins patented 25 acres called Mill Frame Ridge in 1782 (Patents, Liber BC & GS No. 50:314, MSA). The tract surveyed in 1771 began on the brow of a hill on the west side of Washtank Branch making out of the head of Nassaong Creek.**

#### **MILL GROVE (9)**

**See Winder Mill.**

## MILL LANDING ( )

Thomas Clarkson patented Mill Landing, 3 acres, in 1757 (Patents, Liber BC & GS No. 9:342, MSA). The tract began on the “south side of Green Branch a little below the lowest going over.”

## MILL LOT (-)

Ten tracts called (The) Mill Lot were patented or surveyed in the Wicomico area in the books referenced:

1. 1695 Lambrooke Thomas	100 acres	Liber C No. 3:202
2. 1759 Joseph Collins	10 acres	Liber BC & GS No. 14:190
3. 1671 James Vance	20 acres	Liber BC & GS No. 21:611
4. 1762 Nathan Culver	2 acres	Liber BC & GS No. 24:218
5. 1770 Nathan Culver	64 acres	Liber BC & GS No. 40:427
(same site as No. 4)		
6. 1771 Stephen Todavine	126.5 ac,	Unpatented Certificate 434
7. 1782 Joseph Dashiell	19 acres	Liber BC & GS No. 50:306
8. 1801 David Cathell	327.5 ac.	Liber IC No. B:11
9. 1800 Zepheniah Parsons	65 acres	Unpatented Certificate 889
10. 1803 Zachariah Parsons	376 acres	Patented Certificate 1706

(2) Joseph Collins’ Mill Lot began near the south side of a branch known by the name of Chipmans Mill Branch and near the mouth of South East Branch issuing out of the afd branch and near a tract of land called Coxes Performance.

(3) George Vance’s Mill Lot adjoined Good Encrease in Wicomico Forest.

(4) Nathan Culver’s two grants called Mill Lot, one a resurvey of the other, were on the Main Branch of Wicomicco in the Manor of Somerset.

(6) See Todavine Mill.

(7) See Dashiell Mill in Election District 5 for Colonel Joseph Dashiell’s Mill Lot.

(8) Zepeniah [sic] Parsons’ tract of 1801 was a resurvey beginning about 0.25 mile east of Parsons Mill, adjoining Beaver Dam Ridge; an old log house stood there.

(10) Zachariah Parsons’ tract of 1803 was west of Parsons Mill, near Sockon Road and the road from Purnell Johnson’s to St. James Chapel, then in Acquango Hundred.

## **MILL POND ( )**

**Mill Pond was patented by Benjamin Jackson in 1796 as 25.5 acres (Patents, Liber IC No. K:490, MSA). The tract was a resurvey of Securitys Addition sold by Samuel Davis to Joseph Dashiell, probably containing no mill.**

## **MILL RIGHTS GOOD INTENT ( )**

**George Parker patented the tract Mill Rights Good Intent, 30 acres, in 1759 (Patents, Liber BC & GS 19:95, MSA). Parker was a millwright and his tract was “back in Wicomico Forest . . . beginning at a marked Pine standing on a hill near Lango’s Swamp on the south side thereof and on the west side of Pocomoke River.”**

## **MILL SECURITY (9)**

**See Winders Mill.**

## **MILL SUPPLY ( )**

**Mill Supply was patented by John Caldwell in 1794, some 75.5 acres (Patents, Liber IC No. K:64, MSA). It was bequeathed by Charles Fookes (of Worcester County) to son James in 1819; the location was on the north side of the county road from Salisbury to Snow Hill, *Fooks Family*, p. 61.**

## **MILL SUPPORT (-)**

**Three tracts called Mill Support were surveyed:**

- (1) In 1794 by Edward N. Nelm, 20 acres, Unpatented Certificate 896. The tract adjoined Georges Lott, Turners Chance, and Alderberry. The 1783 tax list of Wicomico Hundred (of Worcester County) had shown Edmund N. Nelmns with Kirkminster plus Mill Land (6 acres) and a mill.**
- (2) In 1795 by Mathias Miles, 112.5 acres, Liber IC No. K:150. The tract, adjoining Hog Quarter, was on the west side of the main road from Salisbury to Stevens Ferry [the present Pocomoke City].**
- (3) In 1803 by William Pollitt, Nancy and Priskey Austen, 1.25 acre, Liber IC No. B:155. This tract in Wicomico Manor adjoined Hunger and Thirst tract.**

## **MILLFORD ( )**

**Millford (two “L”s) was patented in 1753 by Peter Gordy, Jr., as 50 acres (Patents, Liber BC & GS No. 51:418, MSA).**

### **MILLER KINDLING MILL (9)**

**Walter Brooks had a kindling mill in east Salisbury between the N. Y. P. & N. Railroad and Lake Humphrey; it used waste lumber from other mills to cut up into neat bundles of kindling, ca. 1882, MWC.**

**William B. Miller was listed as owner of a kindling mill at Salisbury in the 1887 State business directory. Walter Miller, a former resident of Baltimore, was also recalled by Nancy R. Fulton in MWC, 1942, who placed the mill “between the railroad and Lake Humphreys near the route of the present by-pass.” The atlas had shown a nameless “kindling mill” on the east side of the tracts south of East Church Street, approximately at grid 13-A-10 in the ADC Street Atlas. The Sanborn atlas of 1888 showed the W. B. Miller Company kindling wood factory on the railroad. The 1899 Sanborn, Sheet 10, showed it on Division Street, while the 1904 issued, Sheet 10, placed it on Vine Street.**

### **MILLER SAWMILL (3)**

**The 1880 census listed George R. Miller with \$3000 capital investment in a 40 hp steam sawmill cutting 360,000 ft worth \$3602 with 6 employees. No logging was performed by the owner.**

### **MILTON MILL ROAD (16)**

**Milton Mill Road begins 3.1 mile SE of Fruitland at Lukes Road and runs SW for 0.6 mile to Meadow Bridge Road.**

### **MITCHELL AND FRANKLIN FURNACE ( )**

**This furnace was established in 1763 by Abraham, Thomas, and William Mitchell of Philadelphia and Samuel Franklin of New York. The company held 4000 acres in three counties. Operations were suspended in 1775 or so, and an attempt was made about 1812 to reopen the furnace, ESMV, p. 1132. Not mentioned in the iron industry studies of either Alexander or Singewald.**

### **MITCHELL AND MURRELL SAWMILL (9)**

**Mitchell and Murrell’s sawmill was on the west bank, across the river from Jackson Mill in Salisbury about 1880 per Nancy R. Fulton writing in MWC, 1942. Shown in the 1895 Sanborn atlas as Mitchell & Murrell’s Salisbury Woods Works.**

### **MITCHELL MILL (9)**

**See Winder Mill at Salisbury.**

## **MOOR MILL ( )**

**William Moor of Somerset County took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on the Main Branch of Quantico Creek, January 26, 1763. The tract was on the south belonged to William Green and on the north to Charles Leatherbury; both owners were awarded 7/6 current money yearly rent; 6 acres belonged to the Lord Proprietor and were valued at 4 pence Sterling yearly. The grant was not issued until March 9, 1774 (Chancery Records, Liber 12:11, MSA).**

**William Moor, Sr., was charged with the tract “Cains Creek Mill” and 20 acres on the 1783 tax list of Rewastico Hundred (old Somerset District 2). The 1798 tax list of that hundred showed Sarah Moore [sic] with a wood sawmill, 38 x 16, and one “wood grist mill room (being shed to sawmill house) 12 x 14” near Wicomico River.**

## **MORRIS MILLS (16)**

**The 1850 census listed James Morris with \$800 capital investment in a water mill with 1 pair of runners, 1 saw, 2 employees, and output of 50,000 ft sawn lumber (\$450) and 600 bu meal (\$360). The atlas showed J. and W. P. Morris grist and saw mill on the west and east banks of Slab Bridge Branch, respectively, on Morris Pond, which no longer appeared on the 1971 topographic map. Morris Mill Road runs from Division Street in Salisbury to Colbourne Mill Road. The mills were upstream of Tony Tank Pond. Morris Pond was listed in 1941 in GZMD as a place name 0.75 mile east of Fruitland.**

## **MORRIS MILL (8)**

**The 1850 census of manufactures showed James Morris water mill with \$750 capital, 2 employees, and output of 100,000 ft of 4/4 lumber cut from 1000 logs; the gristmill ground 1800 bu meal which provided \$150 in tolls (300 bu). The 1877 atlas showed the J. L. Morris sawmill on a western branch of Nassawango Creek, 0.4 mile north of Johnson Road, 0.3 mile west of Nassawango Creek.**

## **MORRIS SAWMILL (9)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed J. J. Morris with \$1600 capital investment in a steam sawmill cutting 1 million ft of lumber worth \$11,000 annually; 9 employees; no logging was performed by the owner.**

## **MUNGRUMS MILLS (5)**

**See Parker Mill,**

## **NAYLOR MILL (11) NAYLOR MILL ROAD**

**Naylor Mill Road runs north from US 50 west of Salisbury and ends at US 13. Naylor's Pond is on Leonard's Pond Run below the confluence with Connelly Mill Branch and Little Burnt Branch. Apparently same as George H. W. Ruark Mill of the 1877 atlas. The junction of Naylor Mill Road and US 50 is 12-F-5 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

#### **NELSON MILL ( )**

**John Nelson had a wood sawmill house 40 x 18 ft at Quantico Branch and a 2-story gristmill, 20 x 30, on the 1798 tax list of Rewastico Hundred.**

#### **OLIPHANT MILL (5)**

**See Parsons Mill.**

#### **OLIPHANT SAWMILL (5)**

**The atlas showed James P. Oliphant sawmill on a pond across Rum Ridge Branch upstream of Gordy and Williams Mill, 1.3 miles west of Rum Ridge Road, 0.5 mile south of Nelson Road. Oliphant also had a steam sawmill on the south side of Melson Road, 1.1 mile west of Melson village, north bank of the branch.**

#### **OTIS MILL (5)**

**Esham G. Otis had a feed mill on Melson Road with a Parsonsburg address; listed in DMM, 1967-1968.**

#### **OWINS MILL (1)**

**Elija Owins owned a half sawmill house, 15 x 37 ft, on Darbys Creek near the Nanticoke on the 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred. Possibly on the present Owings Creek.**

#### **OYSTER HOUSE OF MRS. DUNN (3)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed the "Oyster House of Mrs. Dunn" at Waltersville on Nanticoke River.**

#### **PARIS MILL (9)**

**See Rockawalkin Mill.**

#### **PARKER MILL ( )**

**Elisha Parker had patented Parkers Delight in 1760, back in Wicomico Forest at the head of Wilkins Branch. The 1783 tax list showed him still in possession with a saw and grist mill.**

**Another Elisha Parker appeared in the 1850 census of manufactures of Worcester County with \$1600 capital investment, 1 employee, and annual output of 100,000 ft of 4/4 and 5/4 board cut from 1000 logs. Some 450 bu of corn was also ground, providing the miller with 75 bu of toll worth \$37.**

**PARKER MILL ( )**

**The 1850 Worcester County census of manufactures listed John T. Parker with \$2500 capital investment in a water mill worth \$2500, with 2 employees, and output of 60,000 ft of 5/4 and 4/4 board and 700 bu of corn that provided 120 bu in tolls worth \$53.**

**PARKER MILL ( )**

**The 1850 census of manufactures listed Samuel Parker water mill with \$2000 capital investment with 2 employees and annual output of 70,000 ft of 4/4 and 5/4 boards; 600 bu of corn was ground, providing 100 bu toll (\$50).**

**PARKER MILL ( )**

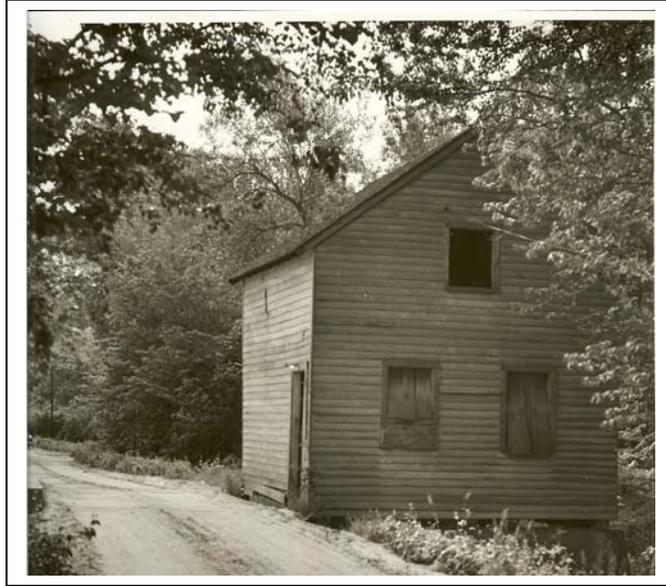
**The 1850 census of manufactures listed Thomas H. Parker with \$4000 capital investment in a mill with 3 employees, and annual output of 80,000 ft of 4/4 board worth \$1000 cut from 600 logs. The gristmill collected 700 bu of toll (\$350) for grinding 4200 bu corn.**

**PARKER MILL (4)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed the M. E. Parker grist and saw mill NW of Pittsville on Aydelotte Branch, south side of present Henry Rounds Road. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Minos F. Parker mill worth \$600 using a 6-foot fall to drive a 12 hp tub wheel of 3 ft 2 inch breadth at 25 rpm. There was 1 employee, 30 bu/diem maximum capacity, an annual output of 46 tons feed and 10 tons meal (\$1680). One-eighth of the business was custom.**

**PARKERS MILL (5)**

**The 1783 tax list of Wicomico Hundred of Worcester County showed William Horsey reporting for brother Isaac Horsey the 75-acre tract “New Holland with mills.” In 1799, Jams B. Robins had a resurvey made of the tract “Concluded” originally granted to Isaac Horsey in 1789, and of Driskils Industry patented by William Driskil in 1765. The tract began “a quarter mile below Robins Mill on the northwest side of the main branch of Wicomico River. Improvements**



*Parker Mill in 1952, U. S. Geological Survey photo.*

consisted of an old sawmill house and an old gristmill house, each valued at £ 1-10/0 (Patented Certificate Worcester County, No. 1133, MSA, Annapolis). Other deeds described the Robbins site as on Beaver Dam Branch.

The site, also called Mungrums Mill, belonged to Ebenezer Fooks, who was listed in the 1850 Worcester census of manufactures with \$1200 capital investment in a water sawmill, 1 employee, and annual output of 70,000 ft of 4/4 and 5/4 lumber cut from 700 logs.

In 1872, Henry Fooks sold the Mungrum saw and grist mills to Levin W. Parker (Wicomico County deeds, TFJR 3:100). Parker conveyed the mills to Joshua D. Pollitt in 1871 and bought them back in 1874 (Deeds STP 1:86,142, 265). The 1877 county atlas showed Parker's grist and saw mill downstream of Hastings Mill, west bank of Tony Tank-Beaverdam Creek, south side of present Shumaker Road, 3.3 miles SE of downtown Salisbury. Parker had been born 1817 and owned 56 acres.

The 1880 census of manufactures showed Levin W. Parker with \$650 capital in a gristmill, using a 6-foot fall on a stream flowing "into T. Humphrey's" to drive one 4-foot Hood wheel at 50 pm, to develop 7 hp. Annual output was 18,000 lb meal (\$1830) annually. The mill had 2 employees, 2 run of stones, 60 bu/diem maximum capacity. One-eighth of the trade was custom business.

Parker died in 1880 and the mill was sold to Ebenezer Q. Walston in 1889 (Deeds JTT 26:62). A plat showed the mill perched on the east end of the dam, north side of the road, with the waste gate on the west end of the dam (Deeds, EAT 47:424).

Walston conveyed to Alice J. Wood in 1905 for \$425. In 1906, Alice Wood sold to Karl L. Sheldon, whose heirs in 1943 sold to Wise A. Hinman (Deeds, 255:116).

Parkers Mill and spillway appeared close to the road in a June 1952 photograph by the U. S. Geological Survey. The road was the present South Schumaker Road as spelled by some maps. The mill was 1-1/2 stories of frame and clapboard, perched over the east spillway; it appeared to have been about 16 x 20 ft. The mill was extinct, but a sheet-metal sawmill shed survived in 1973. Hinman rented out boats for fishing in Parkers Pond; the water wheel was at one time set up in the city park at Salisbury.

A number of Eastern Shore mills were perched on their dams, such as the Rewastico Mill [now extinct]. This was possibly the Scottish method of locating mills but there is no known literature on the subject. Location was probably at 22H-1 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **PARKERS MILL (9/10)**

See Leonard Mill.

#### **PARSONS, LAWS AND CO. SAWMILL (6)**

This steam sawmill was shown in the 1877 atlas east of Nassawango Creek and west of Powellville, dealing in all kinds of lumber. The works was near the SE corner of present Lake Road and Wango Road. Polk's 1908 peninsula directory listed Adkins and Laws steam sawmill at Wango.

#### **PARSONS MILLS (-)**

There were several Parsons Mills: (1) For the Z. Parsons Mill in Acquango Hundred (east end of the county), see Mill Lots No. 9 and 10. (2) William Parsons Mill was 50 yards north of the beginning tree of the tract Saw Mill Lot surveyed in 1796 for William Parsons and resurveyed in 1799 for John Parker. This 53-1/2-acre tract on the south side of Aydellots Branch was in Acquango Hundred but did not include the mill (Worcester Unpatented Certificate 1156, MSA). The William Parsons Mill Branch was mentioned in the 1828 patent of the tract Williams Choice, and was probably in Wicomico Hundred of Worcester County (Worcester County deeds, CC No. D:274).

#### **PARSONS MILL ( )**

George Parsons was listed with \$800 capital investment in a water mill in the 1850 census of manufactures in Worcester County. There were 2 employees and an annual output of 70,000 ft of 4/4 lumber (\$630) and 300 bu corn, which provided 50 bu in tolls.

#### **PARSONS MILL (4)**

**S. P. Parsons, miller and farmer, was an atlas patron; born in 1845, he listed 0.6 acre at Parsonsburg. Also listed as millers there were: Isaac H. Parsons, 80 acres, born 1819; and John J. Parsons, 330 acres, born 1832. The Parsonsburg post office was established 1867.**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed M. H. Parsons with \$800 capital investment in a steam sawmill with a 20 hp engine and an annual output of 1 million ft (\$3850); 4 employees; no logging performed by the owner. Minos H. Parsons was listed as miller in 1887 State business directory. Polk's 1908 peninsula directory listed E. H. and E. W. Parsons as millers at Parsonsburg (along with non family member E. M. Oliphant).**

**The *Salisbury Advertiser*, May 15, 1897, reported, "Messrs. F. H. and E. W. Parsons are having a new grist mill attached to their splinter mill and will be ready for grinding corn in a few days."**

#### **PARSONS SAWMILL (9)**

**The 1850 census listed John Parsons water-powered sawmill with \$800 capital investment, 1 saw, 1 employee, and annual output of 60,000 ft lumber (\$600). The atlas showed Parsons Sawmill below Main Street Bridge at the peninsula formed by Wicomico River and Parsons Mill Pond, a part of town called California, west side of the Wicomico, in Salisbury.**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed George W. Parsons with \$3000 capital investment in a sawmill, doing all his own logging, using two turbine wheels, 2 and 3 ft broad, running at 110 rpm to develop 23 hp, driven by an 8-foot fall on Wicomico River. Employment stood at 7. Annual output was 75,000 ft lumber (\$1465). By 1938, the site was occupied by a shipyard. Nancy R. Fulton in MWC, 1942, mentioned that a shipyard had replaced the Parsons sawmill; the works had stood on the old original land grant of Isaac Handy ca. 1695 where the town was started.**

#### **PARSONS SAWMILL (9)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed the M. A. Parsons steam sawmill 2 miles SW of downtown Salisbury on the west bank of the Wicomico, between Harbor Point and Shad Point. There was also a marine railway. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Milton A. Parsons doing all the logging for a sawmill with \$3000 capital investment 10 employees, and 25 hp engine. Annual output was 520,000 ft (\$4750). It was downstream of the George W. Parsons mill. Nancy R. Fulton in MWC, 1942, mentioned this works as standing on the 17<sup>th</sup> century land grant to Isaac Hardy where the town of Salisbury took root.**

#### **PARSONS STEAM SAW AND PLANING MILL (5)**

The 1877 county atlas showed George W. Parsons steam saw and planning mill on the Wicomico and Pocomoke Railroad at Parsonsburg.

#### **PATTERSON WINDMILL ( )**

The 1850 census of manufactures for Somerset County listed the Robert Patterson windmill with \$300 capital investment, 1 employee, 1 pair of runners, and annual output of 1200 bu meal (\$720).

#### **PENNEWILL, BRITTINGHAM AND CO. (4)**

This sawmill at Parsonsburgh [sic] was listed in 1887 State business directory.

#### **PERDUE AND SON INC. ( )**

The A. W. Perdue and Son. Inc., company was listed as a feed dealership on Ocean City Road (US 50), Salisbury, DMM, 1967. A photo of this soybean crushing plant was shown in the Baltimore *Sun Magazine*, October 22, 1967, "Wonder Crop of the World," by James F. Waesche. Beans were turned into protein by a German process that involved blanching in hexane. Output included both bean meal and oil.

Perdue was started in 1920 with 50 White Leghorn chickens. Expected gross sales in 1967 were estimated at \$35 million, *What's Past Is Prologue*, p. 93. Sales doubled between 1968 and 1973. A computer controlled feed mill produced 300,000 tons of poultry feed per annum to feed a chicken population of as many as 11.5 million fowl alive at a time. The home office was on Merritt Mill Road, *Sun Magazine*, March 4, 1973, p. 5.

#### **PERDUE BROTHERS SAWMILL (9)**

This plant was listed at Salisbury in the 1887 State business directory; Perdue and Bro. sawmill appeared under Parsonsburg (4) in the 1908 Polk peninsula directory.

#### **PERRY AND COOPER STAVE FACTORY (1)**

Perry & Cooper's stave factory was listed at Mardella Springs in the *Md., Del., and D. C. State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, 1906-1907, p. 689.

#### **PETHEY MILL ( )**

The 1908 Polk peninsula directory listed Petey Mfg. Company flour mill and crate factory at Pittsville.

## **PHILIPS AND BAILEYS MILL (9)**

See Salisbury Milling Company.

## **PHILLIPS MILL (15)**

**Bounds Phillips, Inc., with C. Bounds Phillips of Quantico as owner, was operating at Hebron as a modern commercial feed mill located at Walnut Street (Md. 670) and Chestnut Tree Station south of US 50.**

## **PHILLIPS MILLS (15)**

**The 1850 and 1860 censuses of manufactures listed Samuel Phillips water mill with \$2500 capital investment with 2 to 3 employees, 1 pair of runners, and 1 saw. The 1860 output was 100 bbl flour, 1600 bu corn meal, and 175,000 ft lumber, total value of \$3600; no flour had been produced in 1850.**

**The 1877 county atlas showed two grist and saw mills of S. B. Phillips on the headwaters of Barren Creek on what is now called Horntown Pond by some recent topographic maps, south of the Delaware line, 0.4 mile south of Barren Creek Road (Md. 54).**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed Horntown Sawmill as property of Philip [sic] & Company with \$800 capital investment, 2 employees, and annual output of 50,000 ft lumber (\$1425). A 6-foot fall drove 4 Risdon wheels 8 ft broad at 60 rpm to develop 20 hp. The owners did all their own logging. [A Risdon wheel was a brand of turbine.]**

**The same census listed Samuel Phillips as owner of a gristmill with \$1000 capital investment, 1 employee, and 30 bu/diem maximum capacity. A 4-foot fall on Barren Creek drove 3 Risdon wheels at 60 rpm to develop 12 hp to produce 1250 bbl flour and 5 tons of meal (\$2000), all custom work. Location of Horntown Pond is 5-H-7 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

## **PHILLIPS MILL (1)**

**The 1860 census of manufactures listed Hiram Phillips with \$5500 capital investment in a water mill with 3 employees and annual output of 350 bbl flour, 2000 bu corn, and 200,000 ft lumber (\$5950) annually. The 1877 atlas showed I. J. Phillips sawmill on a now extinct pond on Barren Creek upstream of J. H. Bacon Mill (Double Mills) and the C. M. Wright sawmill. The location was present Old Railroad Road, grid 5-E-7 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

## **PHILLIPS SAWMILL (2)**

The 1850 census listed Joseph Phillips with \$1600 capital investment in a water mill with 1 pair of runners, 1 saw, 2 employees, and annual output of 1600 bu corn meal (\$800) and 100,000 ft sawn lumber (\$800). The atlas showed J. A. Phillips sawmill on the headwaters of Quantico Creek, 1.3 miles NE of Quantico village, 0.4 mile from Quantico Road (Md. 347).

#### **PHIPPS SAWMILL (16)**

George T. Phipps and Son established a sawmill at Fruitland in 1952; 21 employees; rough and dressed lumber; DMM, 1970. Two of Phipps' saw mills, a mile apart, were destroyed by black rioters before the National Guard was called out to occupy Salisbury. See, "750 Guardsmen In Salisbury After Arson," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, May 20, 1968.

#### **PINELAND LUMBER CO. (16)**

This old-style sawmill and lumber yard was operating just north of Fruitland on US 13 in 1967.

#### **PLUMB CREEK MILL (10)**

An old milldam on Plumb Creek on the SE side of Nanticoke River was mentioned in John Robertson's certificate of survey for the tract "Long Delay" in Somerset Manor, 1746 (Patents, Liber BC & GS 5:25, MSA).

#### **POLK MILL (9)**

See Dennis and Polk Mill.

#### **PORTER MILL (1) PORTER MILL ROAD**

Mackinney Porter of Somerset County took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Rewastico Branch, August 21, 1762. The inquisition found the south bank in possession of John Tayler and awarded him 7/6 yearly. The north bank belonged to the Lord Proprietor (1 acre) and to Mackinney Porter himself (9 acres) with awards set at one half penny Sterling and of 7 Shillings, respectively. The grant was issued May 1, 1768 (Chancery Records, Liber 10:37, MSA).

The 1798 tax list showed McKenneys Porter as 2/3 owner of a mill rented to John Smith; also a sawmill 42 x 16 ft, plus a wooden gristmill, 1 story, 16 x 16 ft.

The 1877 county atlas showed the Th. Bennett estate's sawmill on the north bank of Rewastico Creek, south side of Porter Mill Road, 2 miles west of Hebron. The 1880 census of manufactures listed E. P. Bennett with \$1200 capital investment in

the Porter Sawmill with 2 employees, and annual output of 50,000 ft (\$1480). A 6-foot fall drove 4 Risdon wheels 8 ft broad at 60 rpm to develop 20 hp.

Porters Mill Road runs SW from US 50 to Athol Road. Porter Mill Creek is on current topographic maps as an upper branch of Rewastico Creek. Mill extinct at least as far back as the late 1960s. Porter Mill Creek meets Rewastico Creek at grid 5-B-13 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **POWELL MILL (12)**

Henry D. Powell was listed as miller at Nanticoke in the 1887 State business directory.

#### **POWELLVILLE (6)**

The village of Powellville south of Willard once housed grist, lumber, and sugar cane mills, ESMV, p. 1142. See also Adkins Mill.

#### **QUANTICO MILLS (15)**

See Gales Mill.

#### **REWASTICO MILL (1)**

The Rewstico Mill was mentioned in the will of William Weatherly (Weatherlee) of Stepney Parish, Rowastoco, in 1736 (MCW 7:133). The valuable mills, former property of Edmund Weatherly, on Rewostico Creek were offered by a rental agent, *Somerset Herald*, November 19, 1839.

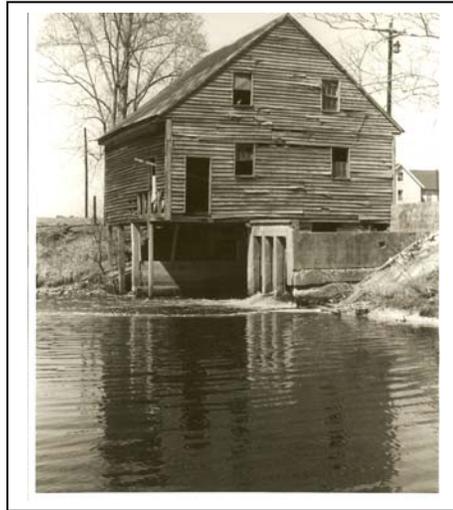
The Sheriff advertised he had taken possession of a mill and stream at a place called Williams Town under a writ against Joshua Hitch, John S. Crockett, Edmund Weatherly, and Alex. S. Jones, also the tracts Come By Chance and High Suffolk, *Somerset Herald*, March 16, 1841.

In mid-century, James Robertson sold Rewastico Mills to Henry J. Langsdale and Thomas R. Bounds. The 1877 county atlas showed the H. J. Langsdale gristmill on Rewastico Creek, downstream of the T. Bennett sawmill. Langsdale, an atlas patron, listed 215 acres, had been born in Somerset, and had settled in Wicomico in 1835.

In 1880, James R. Bounds sold his share in Rewastico Mills to Levin M. Wilson for \$640 (Wicomico deeds, SPT 4:100). Wilson sued the heirs of his partner Langsdale in 1890 and the mill was purchased by Augustus Woolley (Wicomico deeds, JTT 13:287). Woolley sold in 1901 to Minos B. Watson, who deeded in 1912 to Reuben C. Watson. The mills passed to Karl Howard Johnson (1945), to

**Walter B. Worth (1951), to Thomas F. Madden (1952), and Granville C. Williamson (1960).**

**The 1973 survey of the Lower Eastern Shore by the MHT listed the mill as Site No. WCMC-67, describing it as in the last stages of decay. The author photographed the mill in color in July 1973. The mill was then in use as a storage building. It was perched over the spillway; the clapboard siding was unpainted, and the wheel had been dismantled. The mill stood on the present Rewastico Pond, north bank of the creek, west side of Athol Road, just SE of the terminus of Porter Mill Road.**



**Sharon Jones in 1982 informed the author that the mill had tumbled off the dam and smashed in 1979. The last owner said that, with all the sheet metal roofing, it sounded like an airplane crashing. Only a concrete spillway survived on a visit in the autumn of 1987. Location of the mill was grid 10-G-2 in the ADC Street Atlas, the pond in grid 10-G & H-2.**

#### **RILEY PARSONS AND CO. SAWMILL (4)**

**This sawmill firm was listed at Parsosburg in the 1887 State business directory.**

#### **RIDER SAWMILL ( )**

**Charles Rider owned half a sawmill at Qunatico Creek occupied by Jeremiah Bayley; value was \$80 in the 1798 tax list of Nanticoke Hundred.**

#### **RIVERTON SAWMILLS (10)**

**In the 1870s there were sawmills active at Riverton, *What's Past Is Prologue*, p. 37. They included Bradleys and Coopers.**

#### **ROBERTS MILL (8)**

**H. W. Roberts was listed as a canner and miller at Clara, 20 miles from Salisbury and 10 miles from Princess Anne in the 1908 Polk peninsula directory.**

#### **ROBERTSON AND CONNER MILL (1)**

**The 1860 census of manufactures listed this water mill with \$1200 capital investment with 1 employee and annual output of 768 bu cornmeal (\$768) annually.**

#### **ROBERTSON MILLS (10)**

**William Robertson of John owned a frame gristmill, 1 story, 15 x 16 ft, and a frame sawmill, 13 x 38 ft, at the head of Plumb Creek, on the 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred.**

#### **ROBINS MILL (5)**

**Same as Parkers.**

#### **ROBINSON AND BRADLEY MILL (10)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed Bradley and Robinson sawmill on Plumb Creek on a pond upstream of Twiford Sawmill, 1 mile south of Sharptown. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Robinson and Bradley mill with \$800 capital investment, 1 employee, and 25 bu/diem maximum capacity. A 6-foot fall on Plumb Creek drove a 3-foot Risdon wheel at 125 rpm to develop 8 hp to drive 2 run of stones. Annual output was 54 tons meal (\$970). Location was approximately 2-B-8 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

#### **ROBINSON AND BROTHER (10)**

**John Robinson and Brother advertised in the 1877 county atlas as manufacturers at Sharptown, producing fruit crates and baskets, deck plugs, trunnel wedged, wood and iron turning, and scroll sawing. Location was the SE corner of Church and Ferry Streets in the 1877 inset map, and at grid 2-B-5 in the ADC Street atlas. The *Salisbury Advertiser*, February 2, 1902, carried a story entitled "The Growth of a Business," noting that the old basket making house on Main Street where John Robinson started the enterprise had just been torn down.**

#### **ROCKAWALKIN MILLS (9)**

**Rockawakin or Rockawalkin Mill had a long history that can be traced by fragments. In 1694, Lambrook Thomas patented 100 acres called Mill Lot on the**

north side of Rockawalkin [sic], west side of Cottinghams Branch (Patents, Liber C No. 3:202, MSA).

Adam Hatch took out a writ of *ad quod damnum*, October 14, 1720, on Cottinghams Creek on Wicomico River; some of the site belonged to the Lord Proprietor, the rest to William Elgate, who was to receive 50 pounds of tobacco annually. The area was then in Somerset County (Chancery Records, Liber 3:587f).

*Old Somerset*, p. 254, stated that Hitches Mill and Rockawalkin Mill were the same. In 1730 and after, Levin Gale purchased property on Cottinghams Creek from Mary Cordy and from William Elagte (Somerset County deeds, O19:36, MSA). Gale sold the mill in 1743 to Captain George Paris or Pares, who was already tenant miller (Somerset deeds, O21:73, MSA). The deed from Levin Gale to the trustees for the Wicomico Presbyterian Church on August 19, 1742, described the one-acre lot as “on the west side of the head of a creek called Mill Creek, about one fourth of a mile above Captain George Paris’ Grist Mill.” Captain Paris’ mill was also mentioned as standing on Mill Creek in 1745.

Caleb Ross at Rockawalkin Mills advertised that Joseph Ellingsworth was carding wool there near Upper Ferry, *Village Herald*, Princess Anne, June 25, 1835. The mill was in 1849 owned by John B. Slemons and Joseph Ellingsworth and was called Slemons Mills or Roackawalking Mills. Slemons died in 1850, and his brother James deposed that the mills needed considerable repairs. In addition Slemons had owned “the old mill seat at the head of the mill pond, a property that had formerly belonged to Purnall Todavine (Somerset County Chancery Records, LW 1:77-84). A plat in Somerset Judgment Records WP 2:449 showed the second pond at the branching of Cottinghams Creek and Mill Branch.

The 1850 census of manufactures listed Josiah Ellingsworth with \$1500 capital investment in a water mill with 1 saw, 2 pair runners, 2 employees, and annual output of 70,000 ft sawn lumber (\$525), 700 bu meal (\$420) , and 5 tons flour (\$325).

Following a suit by Ellingsworth against Mrs. Slemons, the Rockawalking Mill near the Presbyterian Church, the old mill seat and the tract New Berry were sold to William R. Byrd in 1855 (Somerset Deeds, LW 4:107).

William R. Byrd’s water mill had already been listed in the 1850 census of manufactures with \$2000 capital investment, 1 saw, 2 employees, and annual output of 85,000 ft lumber (\$950) and 5700 rolls wool costing \$1800. The atlas showed a sawmill owned by Mrs. Byrd on the east bank of Rockawalkin Creek, south side of present Nanticoke Road (Md. 349) at the village of Rockawalkin Mills, upstream of Andersons Mill, and near the church. Per Nancy R. Fulton in MWC, 1942, the dam was covered with loose pebbles, and buggy wheels used to crunch while passing across.

Harold T. Pinkett writing in, "A Brothers' Fight for Freedom," noted that four slaves, all brothers, belonged to George Byrd and they all enlisted in the U. S. Colored Troops, 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment; they has presumably worked at Byrd's grist and sawmill. Their names were Sandy, Stephen, Adam, and Wilson Pinkett, residents of Somerset County, MHM, 86 (Spring 1991): 39:40.

Aimee Parker in "Money Growing on Trees: Forestry Surrounding the Wicomico," stated that Rockawalkin was possibly the first sawmill on Wicomico River starting as early as 1720; the source cited was the Sharon Jones Revell Collection, Box I, Accession No. 94.10.01-32, Nabb Research center, Salisbury University.

The plat WP 2:449 in the courthouse at Princess Anne suggests that the name Rockawalkin Mills migrated from the "old mill seat" at the branching of Mill Creek (just south of Pemberton Drive and just east of Anderson Mill) to the vicinity of the Presbyterian Church on present Nanticoke Road. A shallow pond survived on the north side of Pemberton Drive at the presumed old mill seat on Mill Creek. [Andersons Mill was also referred to as Rockawalkin Mill in depositions taken in 1902.] Location of the old mill seat was grid 11-J-13 in the ADC Street Atlas. Location of Rockawalkin Mill on Nanticoke Road (Md. 349) was 11-J-10.

#### **ROWASTOCO MILL (1)**

Same as Rewastico.

#### **RUARK MILL (9)**

This mill was built by James Wilson and was inherited by George W. Ruark. The 1850 census of manufactures listed James Wilson with \$6000 capital investment in a water mill with 2 saws, 5 employees, and annual output of 400,000 ft sawn lumber (\$3200), 3500 bu meal (\$2000), 40 tons flour (\$2650), and 4750 lb of rolled wool made from 5000 lb raw wool.

The 1860 census of manufactures listed Major T. Ruark's water-powered sawmill and wool factory with an annual output of 150,000 ft lumber (\$1500) and 1800 rolls of wool (\$600).

The 1877 county atlas showed George H. W. Ruark's grist and saw mill on Wicomico River on the south side of the present Naylor's Mill Road, gristmill on the west bank, sawmill on the east. The site was reached by going north from Isabella Street dam in Salisbury. The pond, shown only as a swamp on the 1971 topographic map, was named for Dr. Naylor. An atlas patron, George H. W. Ruark had been born in 1840 and owned 291 acres; he listed himself as a farmer and miller, giving a Salisbury postal address although the mill was 4 miles to the

north of downtown. Nancy R. Fulton in MWC, 1941, recalled Naylor's Pond and how to reach it by going north from the Isabella Street dam on the west side of the river. Naylor's Pond is shown below the confluence of Little Burnt Branch and Naylor Mill Road at grid 13-A-3 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **RUARK MILL (8)**

The 1877 county atlas showed Captain William M. Ruark's grist and saw mill east of Fruitland on Tony Tank creek upstream of Colbourn Mill, the sawmill on the north bank, gristmill on the south. The site was approximately where the 1971 topographic map showed the projected route of US 13 bypass over Tony Tank Creek, 0.3 mile south of the intersection of Todavine Road and Vincent Dykes Road. Location was grid 22-C-5 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **SALISBURY MILLS, PONDS (9)**

In addition to the Johnson, Winder-Venables, Humphreys and other mills in Salisbury, there were 9 ponds in the surrounding area and 3 saw and planning mills listed in the 1887 State business directory.

#### **The ponds near Salisbury were:**

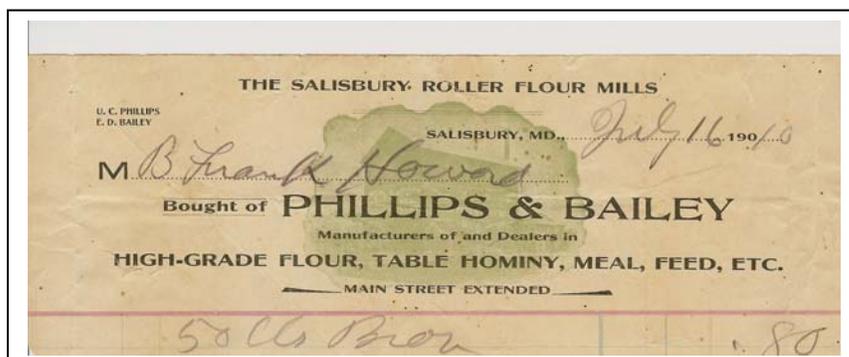
- . Johnsons
- . Tony Tank
- . Fooks
- . Schumakers
- . Parkers (Hinman)
- . Leonards
- . Mockingbird
- . Barren
- . Andrews

#### **Saw and planning mills:**

- E. E. Jackson and Co.
- G. H. Todavine
- L. E. Williams and Co.

#### **SALISBURY MILLING CO. (9)**

The *American Miller*, 28 (February 1, 1900): 162, reported, "Phillips & Mitchell have erected a flour mill at Salisbury, Md. The main building is of frame, 30 x 50 feet, three stories. The engine room is of brick and detached. The engine is 50 horsepower and boiler 60 horse. Machinery will be installed for a 50-barrel mill & Hominy mill."



**The 3-story frame steam mill of Phillips and Bailey was shown in *Wicomico News* industrial supplement, August 1908, p. 31. It was in Salisbury on Wicomico River near High Street and was founded by Phillips Brothers in 1900. Output was 50 bbl flour/diem and 100 bu meal, also buckwheat. The company letterhead dated July 16, 1910, called the works the Salisbury Roller Flour Mill, producing high grade flour, table hominy, meal. Feeds, etc.; location was Main Street Extended. Owners were listed as U. C. Phillips and E. D. Bailey.**

**The 1904 Sanborn insurance atlas, Sheet 13, showed Salisbury Roller Flour Mills on Main Street Extended near the Peninsula General Hospital and listed it with 3 stand of rolls, gyrator, reels, and purifier. The 1911 Sanborn, Sheet 14, called the works Phillips and Bailey Flour Mill.**

**“The Salisbury Milling Company’s plant was destroyed by fire Wednesday night. Wheat, flour, and feed to the value of \$7,000 were destroyed with the building. The loss was \$18,000,” *Jeffersonian*, Towson, March 6, 1915, p. 2.**

#### **SAWMILL SUPPLY ( )**

**The 1783 tax list of Wicomico Hundred (of Worcester County) showed Josias Dennis and Stephen Dikes with parts of the tract Saw Mill Supply. There was also a Sawmill Supply tract in Rewastico Hundred, shown with various owners in the 1783 Somerset County tax list.**

#### **SHARKEY SAWMILL (6)**

**The 1908 Polk peninsula directory listed E. J. Sharkey with a sawmill at Whiton.**

#### **SHARPTOWN MILL (10)**

**The 1933 issue of the Sanborn insurance atlas showed a mill and sawmill on the bend of the Nanticoke River at the northwest corner of Main and Water Streets. Not in the 1877 atlas. Location was grid 2-B-4 in the ADC Street Atlas. This corner was a vacant lot in March 1989.**

#### **SHARPTOWN POND (10)**

**Sharptown Pond was built in 1861 and was drained in 1931 per A. V. P. Smith in *Drained mill Ponds of the Eastern Shore*, p. 23. It had been 154 acres, 8 ft above sea level, and emptied into Nanticoke River. In the 1877 atlas, the nearest pond was Twiford’s, q. v. Location was approximately 1-K-7 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

### **SHINGLE MILLS (-)**

See Whaleysville in Worcester County for an account of the shingle industry which was carried on in eastern Wicomico County.

### **SHIRT FACTORY (9)**

The *Md. Farmer*, 34 (July 1897): 35, announced, "A forty-five thousand dollar shirt factory is being built at Salisbury, Md." A long article about the opening of the new shirt factory, a 34 x 280-foot building, appeared under the title, "Shirt Factory Starts Up," *Salisbury Advertiser*, July 31, 1897.

### **SHOCKLEY SAWMILL (6)**

The S. E. Shockley sawmill was listed at Whiton in the 1908 Polk peninsula directory.

### **SHUMAKERS DAM (9/10)**

Shumakers Dam was near Salisbury, MWC. The 1971 topographic map showed Schumaker [sic] Pond across Beaverdam Creek, upstream of Salisbury's golf course. Location was grid 22-E & F-1 in the ADC Street Atlas.

### **SILK COMPANY OF SALISBURY (9)**

The Silk Company of Salisbury in Somerset and Worcester Counties was chartered, *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1838, Chapter 341. Incorporators were John Parsons, Elijah Parsons, Levin G. Irving, James W. Daugherty, Levin D. Collier, Humprey Humphreys, Cathell Humphreys, Isaac Nichols, Purnell Todavine, and 15 others; capitalization was to be not less than \$5000.

### **SIRMAN AND CARVER MILL (DEL.)**

The 1877 atlas showed this works, a planning mill, in Delmar, across the line from Wicomico Election District 9, west side of the railroad. Location was grid 7-C-1 in the ADC Street Atlas of Wicomico County.

### **SIRMAN SAWMILL (5)**

The 1877 county atlas showed George Sirman with a sawmill on Middle Neck Branch NE of Salisbury, east side of Business US 13. Location was grid 13-C-7 in the ADC Atlas.

### **SIRMAN STEAM SAWMILL (9)**

The atlas of 1877 showed W. L. Sirman with a steam sawmill just west of Hastings Mill, 5 miles north of Salisbury. The 1880 census of manufactures listed William L. Sirmon [sic] with \$2200 capital investment in a sawmill with 6 employees, 25 hp engine, and annual output of 800,000 ft (\$6000). Sirmon did half of his own logging. The site was east of present Jersey Road. Location was approximately 6-J-7 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **SMITH CANE MILL (4)**

The cane mill of J. W. Smith was shown in the atlas just below the Delaware line, north of Pittsville, west side of present Whitesville Road below South Fork, Green Run. Location was grid 7-J-8 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **SMITH STEAM SAWMILL (4)**

The 1877 county atlas showed Robert Smith with a steam sawmill NW of Pittsville west of the present Esham Road and north of Bob Smith Road. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Smith with \$1000 capital investment, 6 employees, and 25 hp engine; annual output was 1.2 million ft (\$5875). Location was approximately grid 15-C-1 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **SMITH STEAM SAWMILL (5)**

In the 1877 county atlas, A. C. Smith and Company advertised wholesale lumber; their works was near the fair grounds east of Salisbury, close to the A. C. Smith dwelling. Location was approximately 13-C-10 in the ADC Street Atlas in an area south of East Church Street, now an urbanized neighborhood.

#### **STEAM SAWMILL (2)**

A steam sawmill was shown in the 1877 atlas south of Rewastico Creek, The nearest residence was that of John E. Harris, a farmer with 472 acres, born in 1812 per the atlas patron list. Location was grid 5-F-4 in the ADC Street Atlas in the present Hebron Park.

#### **STEAM SAWMILL (6)**

The 1877 atlas showed a steam sawmill on the east side of present Massey Crossing Road, just inside the election district line, NE of Powellville and west of Pocomoke River. Location was approximately 25-K-1.

#### **SPENCER MILL ( )**

The Thomas A. Spencer mill was listed in the 1850 census of manufactures with \$5000 capital investment, 3 employees, and annual output of 200,000 ft of 4/4

board from 1500 logs; 6000 bu cornmeal was ground, providing 1000 bu toll (\$500).

#### **STURGIS MILL (9)**

The 1887 State business directory listed John W. Sturgis as manufacturer of lumber with a Salisbury address.

#### **SUGAR CANE MILLS (-)**

Farmers in Wicomico County once grew enough cane for home supply. The cane mills were powered by a horse or an ox, HSM, p. 60. One mill was at Powellville, another (Smiths) was north of Pittsville.

#### **TAYLOR SAWMILL (1)**

Mary Taylor owned a frame sawmill, 38 x 14 ft, in Barren Quarter between Barron Creek and Nanticoke River, 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred.

#### **TAYLOR AND MELSON SAWMILL (10)**

The 1850 census of manufactures listed Isaac Taylor with \$800 investment in a water-powered sawmill, with 1 saw, 1-1/2 employees, and annual output of 90,000 ft sawn lumber (\$675). The 10<sup>th</sup> Election District census of manufactures of 1880 showed Taylor and Melson sawmill worth \$200, idle 7 months of the year, with 2 employees and annual output of 35,000 ft lumber (\$525). A 4-foot fall on Plumb Creek drove a 6 hp flutter wheel at 15 rpm. The company did all its own logging.

#### **TAYLOR SAWMILL (10)**

The 1877 county atlas showed J. B. Taylor sawmill upstream of C. Bradley and Company mill at San Domingo village, south side of the road. The 1880 census of manufactures showed Taylor with \$3000 capital investment, 3 employees, and annual output of 35,000 ft (\$525). A 4.5-foot fall on Marrowbone Creek drove 2 Risdon wheels 2 ft broad at 240 rpm to develop 7 hp. The works was idle 7 months of the year, did none of its own logging, but had its own shipping vessels. Location was 2-B-11 in the ADC Street Atlas.

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

The 1850 census of manufactures of Somerset County listed John W. Taylor water mill with \$1800 capital, 3 employees, 2 pair of runners, 1 saw, and annual output of 150,000 ft lumber (\$1650) and 3000 bu meal (\$1800). Also listed in 1860, cutting \$1000 in lumber.

#### **TILGHMAN SAWMILL (7)**

See Tyaskin Mill.

#### **TILGHMAN STEAM MILL (5)**

**“A steam mill belonging to Mr. Merrill H. Tilghman on Rum Ridge, Wicomico County . . . burned Wednesday . . . boilers and engine not damaged,” Baltimore Gazette, Tuesday, July 29, 1873.**

#### **TODD MILL ( )**

**The 1860 Somerset census of manufactures listed George Todd with \$3500 capital investment in a steam mill with annual production of 75 bu meal and 15.000 ft lumber (\$1750).**

#### **TODAVINE MILL ( )**

**Stephen Todavine had 126.5 acres surveyed in 1761 under the name Mill Lott, a tract then embracing both Somerset and Worcester Counties, beginning at an oak on the west side of the road from Todavine Mill to the head of Wicomico River; no mill stood on the tract itself. Todavine lived in Wicomico Hundred of Somerset County in 1783 (Somerset Unpatented Certificate No. 434, MSA). See also, Somerset Wills, 1772, Liber 38:782, MSA.**

#### **TONY TANK MILL (13/16)**

**Tony Tank was the name of a creek that separated election districts 13 and 16, Several writs were taken out to build mills along the stream, but Tony Tank Mill stood on the west side of present Camden Street, once the main road from Salisbury to Princess Anne, now replaced by US 13 to the east.**

**Richard W. Cooper in *Profile of a Community* (Baltimore, 1986), p. 164, wrote that an early road now called Camden Avenue Extended crossed Tony Tank Creek on the crest of an earthen dam. “The adjacent mill lot referred to on patents and plats dated back to the early 1700’s. In the Somerset County Records, Liber C, folio 89/90, dated June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1761, George Handy conveyed to William Adams 10 acres on each side of Tony Tank Creek (total of 20 acres) on which they had built a grist mill and a saw mill during their partnership. The consideration was 150 pounds Sterling.” Mr. Cooper, a professional surveyor, also noted that Handy and Adams had taken out a writ to build a forge mill, which apparently never materialized.**

**Austins Mill was shown on the Dennis Griffith 1794-1795 map 3 miles south of Salisbury. The 1798 tax list of Wicomico Hundred showed the heirs of Elijah Austin as owners, William Pollitt was occupant, of a saw and grist mill on a branch of Tondo Tank Creek.**

Mill Lot at the head of Tony-Tank Creek adjoining the lands of Captain Robert Dashiell, late property of William Adams, was advertised in the *Easton Herald*, August 7, 1804. In 1806, Peter Dashiell had Mill Lot, originally granted to William Adams for 61.2 acres, plus some other tracts, resurveyed into Tony's Plank. The tract began "on the south side of Wicomico River . . . at a red oak standing on the north side of Toney Tank Creek . . . on the north side of a Valley leading out of the said Toney Tank Creek . . . ." 171 acres (Somerset patented Certificate No. 2324, MSA).

The Tony Tank Mill that survived into recent times was according to MWC built before 1838 as Jones Mill. Noah Rider bought Toney Tank Mills from the executor of Peter Dashiell, ca. 1845. The 1850 census of manufactures showed Noah Rider with 2 saws, 2 pair of runners, 4 employees, and annual output of 300,000 ft sawed lumber (\$2700) and 4000 bu meal (\$2400). Rider sold to Purnell Todavine in 1853 (Somerset Deeds, LN 2:439). Todavine made extensive improvements to the mill and channel and in 1854 sold to Levin M. Dashiell (Somerset Deeds, LW 3:180) for \$12,084.

A totally new mill was built in 1856 as reported by Richard W. Cooper in *Profile of a Colonial Community, Salisbury Towne and Wicomico County on Maryland's Eastern Shore* (Gateway Press: Baltimore, 1986), p. 165. Following a fire in 1953, there was local interest in restoring the mill, which was believed to date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Experts from the Dupont Foundation's Elutherian Mills in Wilmington, Delaware, estimated that the mill could not be more than a century old—[and at that time, only the colonial era carried any antiquarian interest]. When the mill was ultimately demolished, a stone was recovered from the foundation with the initials PT for Purnell Todavine and TB for \_\_\_\_ and the date 1856. [Yet, ownership had passed from Purnell Todavine two years before 1856.]

The 1860 census of manufactures showed Levin M. Dashiell with \$1800 capital investment in a mill, cutting 200,000 ft lumber and grinding 2500 bu meal worth \$3800 total. The 1877 county atlas showed L. M. Dasheill saw and grist mills upstream of Shad Point. Dashiell had been born at Forktown in 1822 and began as a merchant, then went into the milling, lumber, and cordwood business at Tony Tank and had three large schooners plying the bay. In 1893, he became deputy Register of Wills for Wicomico County, Dashiell Family records, 2:436. He died in 1907.

Tony tank had been the greatest shipping point on the river when Dashiell took over, with 6 or 7 vessels making regular stops there; in colonial times an extensive trade had been carried on with the West Indies. (See also, Richard W. Cooper, *Profile of a Community*, 1986, p. 163. Also, Maria Louise Ellegood, "A Sketch, etc., 1923).

Dashiell's trustee, Joseph A. Graham, conveyed to E. Stanley Todavine and the 1880 census of manufactures of District 7 showed E. S. Todavine with \$3000 investment in a mill with a 7-foot fall on Tony tank, 3 run of stones, 1 employee, 100 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing 75% custom trade. Three 4-foot broad breast wheels developed 18 hp. Annual output was 40 bbl flour and 43,200 lb meal (\$894).

E. Stanley Todavine conveyed to S. Frank Todavine in December 1880 (Wicomico County deeds, STP 4:81). *The American Miller*, 12 (April 1, 1884): 196, reported, "S. Frank Todavine, Salisbury, Md., is refitting his mill and has placed his order for bolting cloth, belting, shafting, pulleys, etc., with C. K. Bullock, Philadelphia, PA."

*The American Miller*, 18 (September 1, 1884): 486, reported, "Griscom & Co. & McFeely of Philadelphia, have the order of F. S. Todavine, of Salisbury, Wicomico Co., Md., for a smut machine, a 42-inch portable mill, leather and cotton belting and elevator cups." *The Baltimore American*, May 24, 1886, p. 24, reported the sighting of "an amphibious varmint 6 to 7 feet long in G. H. Todavine's mill pond . . . bullets bounced off its hide . . . possibly an escaped alligator . . . ."

*The American Miller*, 18 (December 1890): 856, contained an advertisement placed by A. G. Todavine, Salisbury, Md., "GRIST MILL. Unfailing water power, nine foot head 200-horsepower. Merchant and custom grist mill, three sets stones. Good wheat country. Also sawmill and wool carding mill for custom work. This property is situated on the B. & O. & Pennsylvania R. R.'s. Full description with



*Tony Tank mill from 1920s postcard.*

a photograph.” [The works was not described as a roller mill although the trend to roller mills had started in 1882 in this State.] The same advertisement appeared again, *Ibid.*, 19 (February 1, 1891): 136.

Other sources stated that it was S. F. Todavine who built falls in the stream, but they were washed away in the 1890s. Todavine’s administrators conveyed the grist and saw mills to William T. Banks in 1897 [Wicomico County deeds, JTT 29:176]. Banks sold to William F. Presgrave in 1904 (Wicomico deeds, SAT 39:442). Presgrave sold in 1914 to John W. Dunn (ETA 89:217). The mills passed to Margaret J. Vanderbogart in 1916 (Deeds, JKC 102:175).

The mill was restored a few years before 1932, HSM, p. 199f. It still stood in 1938, on the property of Mrs. Alvin J. Vanderbogart, and had only recently closed, *The Ocean Highway*, p. 49. It suffered a fire, not entirely fatal in 1954. The mill was depicted on the front page of the *Salisbury Times*, May 3, 1954, the picture showing firefighters dousing the ruins (data from Rebecca Miller, Director of Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury, 2007). The adjoining property was suburbanized in 1954. Restoration efforts failed and the mill was demolished. Tourism promoters were and still are unaware that most colonial mills were modernized beyond recognition in the 1880s and the years after, many mills doing away with grinding stones altogether.

A photograph of the mill appeared in *Wicomico News*, industrial supplement, August 1908, p. 2. The mill was 2-1/2 stories of frame, set on a stone foundation in which there were three rounded arches opening on the pond waters. The article mentioned “Mr. S, Frank Todavine, a big bug of his day.”

Tony Tank lake survives between US 13 and Md. 529 (Camden Avenue) between Fruitland and Salisbury. Richard W. Cooper in 1986 writing in *Profile of a Community*, p. 164, stated that “only the arches of the stone foundations of the old mill are still barely visible at the south end of the dam, along Camden Avenue Extended. Tony Tank declined as a port after the railroad reached Fruitland and a channel was deepened to Salisbury, well before 1898. James Kent was also listed as an early owner by MWC. See also, *Historical Salisbury Illustrated*, p. 46. By early 2007, there were no visible ruins per local resident Jim Trader. Location was at grid 21-H-3 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **TWIFORD MILL (10)**

Alfred W. Twiford’s sawmill was shown in the 1877 atlas on a creek and pond near the Nanticoke River downstream of Bradley and Robinson Mill, 0.1 mile east of present Mardella Springs-Sharptown Road, north bank. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Alfred W. Twiford sawmill with \$300 capital investment, with a 4.5-foot fall on Plumb Creek, 2 Risdon wheels 2 ft broad, running at 230 rpm to

develop 6 hp to cut 40,000 ft annually (\$600). The mill did no logging and was idle 4 months of the year; 2 employees. Location was 1-H-10 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **TWILLEY SAWMILL (5)**

William Twilley's sawmill was shown in the 1877 county atlas on Nancy Onger [Nassawango] Creek south of Parsonsburg. An atlas patron, Twilley gave his birthdate as 1821 and listed 625 acres. The mill stream is now called Horsebridge Creek. The mill stood on the west bank, north side of present Twilleys Bridge Road. Location was 233-K-6 in the ADC Street atlas.

#### **TYASKIN MILLS (3)**

Noah J. Tilghman was listed as proprietor of Tyaskin Mills and he advertised in the 1877 county atlas, offering cornmeal, hominy, custom grinding, lumber and custom sawing. The mill was shown on Tyaskin Creek east of Waltersville and Nanticoke River, south side of present Md. 349. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Noah J. Tilghman with \$1200 capital investment in a steam sawmill, with 6 employees, 2 boilers, and a 30 hp engine. Annual output was 400,00 ft (\$4000) over a 6-month season. No logging was performed.

#### **VANCE MILL (5)**

George Vance took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Middle Neck Branch, January 22, 1762. The jury found that the ten acres on the north were in possession of the Lord Proprietor and to his damage 5 pence Sterling annually. The 10 acres on the south were in possession of William Caldwell and to his damage 5 pence Sterling immediate damage plus a yearly rent of 10 Shillings. The land was Be Holden of the Manor of Worcester (Chancery Records, Liber 9:15, MSA).

#### **VENABLES MILL (9)**

See Winder Mill.

#### **VENABLES MILL (1)**

See Barren Creek Mill for the ancient Venables Mill on that stream.

#### **VENABLES SAWMILL (1)**

Venables Sawmill was mentioned in 1749 in an act dividing Stepney Parish, Arch. Md., 46:285f. The 1860 census of manufactures listed Richard Venables Sawmill with \$1000 capital investment, water power, 2 employees, and annual output of 200,000 ft lumber (\$240). The 1877 county atlas showed the sawmill on the west side of the present Mill Branch, west or north side of Athol Road, near Barren

Creek, south of Barren Creek village [now called Mardella Springs]. An atlas patron, Richard Venables gave his birth date as 1820 and listed 334 acres and gave a Barren Creek postal address. Location was 4-G-8 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### VINCENT STEAM SAWMILL (5)

J. Vincent's steam sawmill was shown in the 1877 county atlas south of Walston Station near the election district line at the present intersection of Md. 350 and Walston Switch Road. Location was 14-D-3 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### WAGGAMAN MILL (9)

William Waggaman was owner of a wood gristmill house, 2 stories and 24 x 20 ft, on Rockawalkin Creek per the 1798 tax list of Rewastico Hundred. Henry Wagagman advertised a gristmill on Wicomico River near Upper Ferry, *Easton Herald*, September 3, 1803.

#### WAILES SAWMILL (15)

Benjamin Wailes owned a frame sawmill, 44 x 25 ft, on Black Water, 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred. Possibly the predecessor of S. B. Phillips (Horntown) Mill.

#### WAILES TANNERY ( )

Sarah A. Wailes was listed in the 1850 Worcester County census of manufactures with \$2500 capital investment in a tannery with 6 employees who worked by hand power to produce 1500 skins worth \$4000 per annum.

#### WALLER AND WILLSON MILL (1)

See Double Mill.

#### WALLER MILL ( )

Richard Waller took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Caldwell's Branch, June 8, 1765. The inquisition showed that Waller owned the east bank of the stream and Richard Stevens Bounds owned the west bank and was to his damage 40 Shillings plus a yearly rent of 4 pence 3 farthings. The grant was made 10 years later, August 3, 1775 (Chancery Records, Liber 12:21, MSA, including a plat).

#### WALLER MILL (1)

Jonathan Waller owned a gristmill 19 x 20 ft and a sawmill 40 x 16 ft, both frame and occupied by Daniel Cosse, on a branch of Barron Creek, 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred.

#### **WALLER MILL (9)**

**Elmer Marshall Waller and James W. Waller owned a sawmill, 18 x 18 ft, and a gristmill, 16 x 18 ft, on a branch of Wicomico River about 3 miles from Salisbury, on the 1798 tax list of Broad Creek Hundred.**

#### **WALLER SAWMILL (11)**

**Waller Sawmill was on what is now Little Burnt Branch upstream of Naylor's Pod, a lumber mill built and operated by George Waller. It was later owned by Edward T. Mills, then torn down and not replaced by George W. Ruark, MWC. Possibly same as the Hearn sawmill in the 1877 county atlas. The 1880 census of manufactures showed Waller with \$1000 capital investment, doing all his own logging, using a 2 hp steam engine to cut 287,000 ft (\$3450); 5 employees.**

#### **WARD MILL (5)**

**William F. Ward was an atlas patron, a farmer and miller, who gave a Salisbury postal address and an 1838 birth date. He owned 100.5 acres.**

#### **WARREN AND WORKMAN SAWMILL (4)**

**This works was listed at Pittsville in the 1908 Polk peninsula directory.**

#### **WEST SAWMILL (4)**

**J. M. West advertised all kinds of lumber in the 1877 county atlas. His mill and yard were on the Maryland and Delaware line near West's Corner, but his postal address was Pittsville. The 1880 census of manufactures showed West with \$1000 capital investment and 4 employees. He did his own logging and used a 25 hp steam engine to cut 1 million ft (annually \$5175). He was also listed in the 1887 State business directory. Location was 8A-A-8 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

#### **WEST SIDE FEED COMPANY (9)**

**The West Side Feed Company was a modern commercial feed mill supplying Purina products at West Isabella Street, Salisbury [1976].**

#### **WETHERLY SAWMILL (10)**

**The 1877 county atlas showed the sawmill of the Wetherly Heirs on a creek upstream of Bradley and Robinson mill pond. The site was 0.3 mile west of San Domingo Road, 0.3 mile from the sharp bend in Md. 348, south bank of Plumb Creek. Location was 2-D-9 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

### **WETIPQUIN STEAM MILL (3)**

**John J. Dashiell advertised for a good miller at Wetipquin Steam Mill, *Somerset Herald*, November 27, 1838. Possibly same as Tyaskin Mill.**

### **WHALEY AND BROTHER GRANARY (14)**

**The J. Whaley and Brother granary was shown in the 1877 county atlas on the Wicomico and Pocomoke Railroad NE of a mill pond and west of Pocomoke River. Location was approximately 16-K-6 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

### **WHITE BRICK KILN (5)**

**The brick kiln of J. White was shown on the Wicomico and Pocomoke Railroad at Waslton Station in the 1877 county atlas. Location was approximately 14-E-7 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

### **WHITE LUMBER MILL (16)**

**Thomas W. H. White was listed as a lumber supplier at Fruitland in the 1880 State business directory.**

### **WHITE MILL (6)**

**Edward White was listed as a miller at Whiton in the 1887 State business directory.**

### **WHITE MILL (4)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed King V. White with \$1000 capital investment in a mill doing 1/8<sup>th</sup> custom business with 1 employee and a daily maximum capacity of 50 bu. A 7-foot fall drove a 5-foot turbine at 100 rpm to develop 30 hp. Annual output was 92 tons meal and 20 tons feed (\$3360).**

### **WHITE SAWMILL (4)**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed William B. White with \$1000 capital investment in a 20 hp steam sawmill, 4 employees, and annual output of 1 million ft (\$3850); no logging was performed by the owner.**

### **WHITE OYSTER SHELL MILL (9)**

**Gustavus H. White's oyster shell mill was across the river from Jackson Mill in Salisbury, MWC. Also mentioned in Nancy R. Fulton's 1938 article, reprinted in George H. Corrdry, *Wicomico County History* (Salisbury, 1981), p. 18. The 1894 Sanborn insurance atlas, Sheet 5, showed the G. H. White Hominy Mill; it was shown on Lake Street in the 1904 edition, Sheet 13.**

## WICOMICO FALLS MILL (9)

See Johnson Mill.

## WICOMICO FLOUR MILL (9)

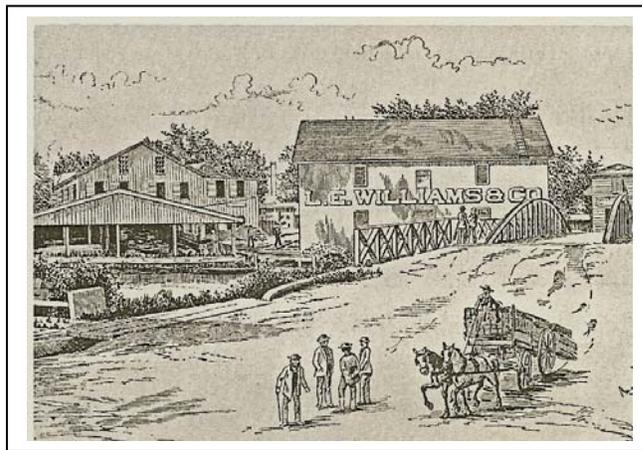
See Winder Mill.

## WILLARDS SAWMILL (14)

The Willards Sawmill was established in 1895 or 1896 as a rival to Whaleysville in Worcester County. The industry had faded out by 1950. Ebenezer G. Davis, a local merchant and lumberman, founded the town and first called it Grover, but there was already a town of that name within Maryland. *What's Past Is Prologue*, p. 30.

Following an ecological study, A. V. P. Smith in *Drained Millponds of the Eastern Shore*, p. 23, gave the date of ponding as 1814 and the date of draining as 1914; the pond was 100 acres and was 35 ft above sea level. The works was presumably the site of Davis Mill shown in the atlas on present Burnt Mill Branch. A record-setting loblolly pine was sawn here; it was 109 ft high by 52 inches in diameter at the butt and produced 4204 board ft, *Baltimore, Sun*, January 31, 1942. Location was 16-K-6 in the ADC Street Atlas.

## WILLIAMS LUMBER YARD (9)



Williams Lumberyard was at Camden Bridge at Wicomico River per the 1877 county atlas, the steam saw and planing mill of E. Williams. The 1887 State business directory listed the owner as L. E. Williams and Co. The owner was given as John D. Williams in MWC, which described it as a sawmill where the river was filled with tree trunks chained together. Nancy R. Fulton's article of July 1938, stated of the accumulated logs, "The Camden boys would cross the river on these,

much preferring this method to walking on the bridge, even if they did occasionally slip off into the water.”

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Mary E. Williams with \$20,000 capital investment, 30 employees, shipping vessels, 3 boilers, 60 hp engine, and annual output of 1 million ft lumber and 2 million laths (\$15,000). Both 1888 and 1895 issues of the Sanborn insurance atlas showed the L. E. Williams saw and planning mill. Location was 12-K-11 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### WILLIAMS MILLS ( )

The 1850 Somerset County census of manufactures listed John Williams with \$300 capital investment in a water mill with 1 run of stones, 1 employee, and annual output of 2000 bu meal (\$1200).

#### WILLIAMS MILLS (8) WILLIAMS MILL POND ROAD

The 1850 Worcester County census of manufactures listed John Williams with \$2000 capital investment in a mill with 2 employees, and annual output of 140,000 ft of 2/4 and 4/4 lumber cut from 1580 logs. The mill collected 200 bu in toll (\$100) from grinding 1200 bu corn for customers.

The atlas showed the saw and grist mills of John Williams at a pond along Rum Ridge upstream of Leonard Mill, 0.5 mile east of the present US 13, on a branch now called Andrews Branch.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed L. Catharine Williams with \$900 capital investment in a sawmill at Leonards Pond with 1 employee who also did the logging. A 4-foot fall drove a 5 hp turbine to cut 68,000 ft (\$540). A drawing of the works appeared in *Historical Salisbury Illustrated*, p. 41. Location was 7-G-5 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### WILLS SAWMILL (6)

The 1880 census of manufactures listed George W. Wills with \$600 capital investment in an 18 hp steam sawmill with 4 employees and an annual output of 300,000 ft (\$1500); no logging was performed by the owner.

#### WILSON MILL (8)

See Ruarks Mill.

#### WIMBROW MILL (4)

The R. S. Wimbrow crate and basket works was listed at Pittsville in the 1908 Polk peninsula directory.

#### WIMBROW MILL (6)

The 1908 Polk peninsular directory listed C. F. Wimbrow with a sawmill and J. T. Wimbrow with a flour mill at Wango.

#### WIMBROW SAWMILL (6)

The atlas showed two steam sawmills south of present Swamp Road near the properties of William J. Wimbrow; one east of Nassawango Creek, SW of Powellville; the other at the southern line of District 6, also SW of that town.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed J. J. Wimbrow with \$1000 capital investment in a sawmill with 4 employees, 2 boilers, 30 hp steam engine, and annual output of 150,000 ft (\$1500),. Wimbrow did all his own logging. The 1887 State business directory listed J. T. Wimbrow as miller at Wango. Location was 24-B-9 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### WINDERS MILL (5)

Captain William Winder's mill on Vine Branch was mentioned in 1761 in the patent of the tract New Holland in Wicomico Forest (Patents, Liber BC & GS 19:58, MSA). Captain Winder's Mill Branch issuing out of Wicomico River was mentioned in the 1758 patent of the tract Robson Choice in Davis Neck (Patents, Liber BC & GS 11:147) and was probably near the present Parker Road.

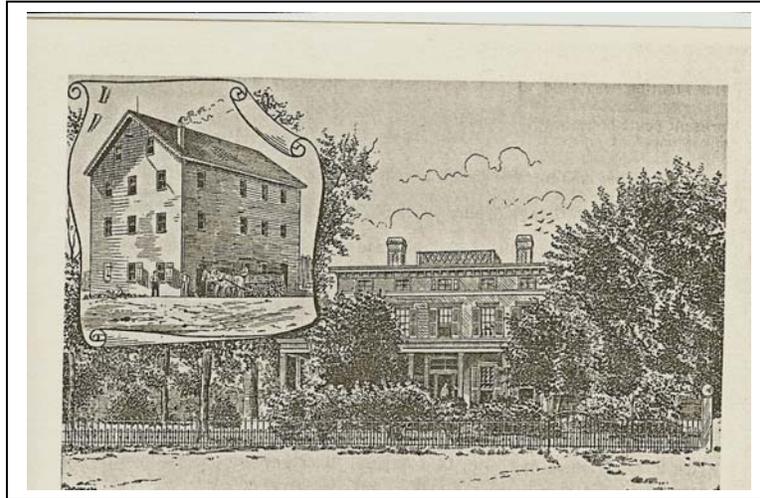
#### WINDERS MILLS (9)

Winders Mills was a place name on the 1798 tax list of Rewastico Hundred and Captain William Winder had a wood sawmill house 42 x 16 ft and a frame gristmill house 20 x 20 on Rewastico Creek. This was apparently the William Winder born about 1770, whose father of the same name had died 1793. William Winder offered to rent the farm where he resided on Rewastico, with or without the saw and grist mill adjoining, 10 miles from Vienna, *Eastern Shore Intelligencer*, June 23, 1801.

“William Winder by industry, frugality, and providence accumulated considerable property . . . he removed to Rewastico, or as my Father afterwards called it, ‘Bower Mill,’ where he had purchased mills and an executive tract of land,” becoming Chief Judge of Somerset County and living until 1795, “Some Records of the Winder Family of Md.,” by Hon. Philip D. Laird, *Md. Original Research Society*, Bulletin No. 3 (1913).

#### WINDER MILL (9)

**John Caldwell took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* for a mill seat at the head of Wicomico River on the Eastern Shore near Long Bridge, March 8, 1735. The entire site belonged to the Lord Proprietor, and yearly rent of 2 Shillings was set by the Jury (Chancery Records, Liber 5:705, MSA).**



*Wicomico Mills and the Thomas Humphreys House*

**John Caldwell, Senior's sawmill was mentioned as on Parahawkin Road, *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1742, Chapter 19. In 1744, John Caldwell patented 70 acres called Mill Security. The late John Caldwell's sawmill was mentioned in the division of Stepney Parish in 1749, *Arch. Md.*, 46:285f. The mill had already passed to William Venables, whose sawmill had been mentioned in a 1748 record, *Old Somerset*, p. 271.**

**William Venables's land was on the south side of the head of Wicomico, and "Venable" Mill stood where the bridge today (1935) crosses the head of the river in**



*Locust Grove and the Humphrey Mill from post-1907 postcard*

Salisbury on Division Street,” *Ibid.*, footnote 7. Venables’s will of 1775 mentioned the mill as located near “Salsberry,” (Somerset Wills, 41:56, MSA). The adjoining house was Mill Grove.

John Venables released all his right to the land and mills to John Mitchell of Sussex County in February 1785 (Somerset deeds, H:2, MSA). An Act of Assembly in 1789 allowed the Chancellor to sell the late John Mitchell’s property, and the estate was advertised in the *Md. Herald and Eastern Shore Intelligencer*, Easton, November 6, 1790.

A clipping from the *Easton Gazette* prior to the sale of November 22, 1790, described the mill as on the easternmost branch of the head of Wicomico River, with a pair of Cologne stones, nearly worn, neither of the mills are fit for use being out of repair; also 22 x 16 dwelling house, “one story high, built with logg of weatherboard with Plank, covered with shingles” (Chancery Papers No. 3337, MSA).

William Winder, Jr., purchased the mills and 50 acres of the tracts Friends Good Will and Poor Chance, lands embracing both counties (Somerset Deeds, J:235, MSA) and also 30.5 acres of the tract Mill Security.

In 1795, Winder had Mill Grove resurveyed from the tracts Poore Chance, Friends Good Will, Sandy Plains, and Mill Security, “beginning at the fork of Wicomico River about one pole below the bridge at Salisbury.” The 1798 tax list showed William Winder, Sr., owner of a saw and grist mill worth \$25000 and occupied by William Winder and John Culver, adjoining Salisbury in Wicomico Hundred.

This works became the Thomas Humphreys mill or Wicomico Flour Mill and it appeared in the 1877 atlas under that name on Humphrey’s Lake at Division Street or Dividing Street. [In distinction, the Wicomico Falls Mill stood on the H. Humhpreys or Johnson Pond, which impounded the main, north-going branch of Wicomico River between Bridge and Isabella Streets.]

The 1880 census listed T. Humphreys gristmill and elevator with \$40,000 capital, 2 employees, 5 run of stones 75% market business, 25% custom trade, and 300 bu/diem maximum capacity. A 7-foot fall on Wicomico drove two 4-foot 2-inch turbines at 150 rpm to develop 30 hp. Annual output was 2000 bbl flour, 189 tons meal, and 77 tons feed worth \$22,000.

The 1899 Sanborn insurance atlas showed the W. C. Humphreys Flour Mill, T. Humphreys Pond, and W. C. Humphreys Shirt Factory.

*Historical Salisbury Illustrated*, p. 13, showed the mill as frame, 3-1/2 stories high. Mill Grove, home of the late Major Thomas Humphreys also appeared. The Locust

Grove mill in 1897 was the property of Phillips and Legg, turning out 8000 bbl/annum plus 6000 bu corn, p. 32. Most of the flour was sold wholesale.

At one time the mill served as a shirt factory operated by a Mr. Wilson. Humphreys Lake, the mill pond, was said to date from 1743, but was probably older. The lake extended from Upton Street to the present Library building, and the water covered what is now East Main Street and backed up behind the Court House.

The mill dam had been the bed of an oyster shell road running along the crest and provided the main access to Salisbury from Nutters District out of South Division Street and Snow Hill Road.

Marie Louise Ellegood in her 1923 "Sketch of the Early History of Wicomico County and Salisbury," stated, "In my early childhood days our treasured Sunday after noon diversion was to stand on the narrow boardwalk over the waterway and see the Falls dash on the broken stone buttress below as the water merrily and ceaselessly journeyed on." The dam was recalled as faced with great slabs of stone. Nancy R. Fulton wrote, "As a child, I was accustomed to seeing the flour mill operated by Thos. H. Humphrey. The flour being packed in barrels by a roller process. The mill stood where the armory [library] is today, but suddenly one day in 1909 the dam gave way, the water rushed through with an awful roar, emptying the lake, and a great change in our town resulted. There was no longer a beautiful lake on which to skate in winter and boat in summer, and the Baptists had no shallow water at the foot of Baptist Street for their immersion," (quoted in George H. Corddry, *Wicomico County History* (Peninsula Press: Salisbury, 1981), pp. 19-20.

The *Baltimore Sun*, May 20, 1909, reported the breaking of the dam at Lake Humphreys. The mill dam had broken after an estimated 166 years, and Mr. Humphreys was unable to rebuild it. This put an end to ice skating and Baptisms by total immersion. The headwaters reached up to Beaverdam Creek to Schumaker Pond through the valley that had become a municipal park. *Drained Millponds of the Eastern Shore* gave conflicting dates of impounding and draining but cited the pond area as 40 acres and gave its elevation as 25 ft above sea level.

The *Baltimore Sun*, November 12, 1909, reported that the Humphreys estate and its lake in Salisbury had been sold. The home place was Mill Grove. The pond would probably be drained. The mill is extinct. Location was 12-K-9 in the ADC Street Atlas.

See also HSM, p. 44. See also *What's Past Is Prologue*, pp. 25, 58, 103, 172, and p. 59, with an illustration.

#### WISCONSIN MILLS (9)

Probably a typographical error for Wicomico Mills. See Johnson Mill.

### **WOOD SAWMILL (6)**

**The 1850 census of manufactures of Somerset, 2<sup>nd</sup> Census District, listed William T. Wood with \$1500 capital investment in a sawmill with 2 employees; annual output was 100,000 ft sawn lumber (\$885). The 1880 census of manufactures for Wicomico County Election District 6 listed A. J. Wood with \$1000 capital investment in a sawmill with 25 employees, one 20 hp steam engine of 120 rpm; annual output was 450,000 ft lumber (\$3150); the mill was idle 7 months of the year; no logging was performed by the owner.**

### **WRIGHT MILL (10)**

**The 1887 State business directory listed B. A. Wright as miller at Riverton.**

### **WRIGHT SAWMILL (1)**

**The 1850 census of manufactures listed Isaac K. Wright with a water-powered sawmill with 1 saw, 1-1/2 employees, and annual output of 80,000 ft lumber (\$650). The 1860 census of manufactures listed Wright and Brother cutting 90,000 ft (\$10070). The 1877 county atlas showed the C. M. Wright sawmill on a pond across Mockingbird Creek that emptied into Barren Creek between Bacon [Double] Mills and the I. J. Phillips and Brothers sawmill.**

**The 1880 census of manufactures listed Wrights Mill with \$1400 capital investment, 2 employees, and annual output of 125,000 ft (\$1225) from logging entirely done by the owner. A 5-foot fall on "Nanticoke" drove a 6-foot wooden wheel at 30 rpm to develop 20 hp. Location was 5-D-6 in the ADC Street Atlas, apparently on the north side of present MD 54, Delmar Road.**

