

## Kent County Mills

### AGWAY, INC. (2)

Agway, Inc., was a grain dealer still active at Kenendyville operating in a wooden building with metal silos and ducting; located west of US 213 and east of the railroad tracks [1976]. Location was apparently at 10-E-2 in the ADC Street Atlas. Not shown in 2002 village plan.

### ALLABY MILL (1)

Peter Allaby's Mill was built on Mill Creek sometime after the American Revolution. There was another mill at Georgetown Cross Roads, the site of the present Galena (*Kent Shoreman*, March 1970, p. 33).

### ANDOVER MILL (1)

See Turner Mill.

### ANTHONY MILL (1)

The 1850 census of manufactures showed Lydia Anthony as miller with \$200 capital investment, 1 employee, and annual output of 666 bu cornmeal and 333 bu of flour worth \$4500 annually. The same figures were given for William Soluway [sic]. According to Mr. Everett S. Lambden, Sollouey was a neighbor and miller who aided Mr. Anthony after she became a widow (Letter of November 7, 1972). The 1877 atlas showed the gristmill of H. Anthony at Crudleys Creek. The 1880 State business directory listed H. A. Anthony as miller at Galena. The MHT assigned Site No. K-293 to the Anthony Mill House and Margaret Q. Fallow wrote in the MHT Inventory form in 1985 that the pond had been used as a commercial fish hatchery from the 1940s to the 1980s. Clinton J. Riley, the owner at the time of the survey, noted that he had found old iron gears and millstones. Location was 5-C-6 in the ADC Street Atlas which also showed Dogwood Mill Lane at the north end of Galena leading to a pond on Mill Creek, which had its outflow at 5-C-6 in the ADC Atlas.

### ANTHONY MIL (3)

The 1850 census of manufactures listed Payn [sic] Anthony with \$2500 capital investment in a water mill with 1 employee and annual output of 772 bu cornmeal and 361 bu flour (\$4900) annually.

### ANTHONY'S MILL (4)

Samuel A. Anthony was listed as miller at Chestertown in *Boyd's Business Directory*, 1867.

#### **ATKINSON MILL (1 or 2)**

The 1850 census of manufactures listed William Atkinson with \$4000 capital investment in a water mill with 1 employee and annual output of 3000 bu corn and wheat. The raw material was worth \$1800 and the owner's income \$500. Payroll was \$9/month.

#### **BACCHUS MILL ( 3 )**

The W. H. Bacchus Mill was shown on the 1860 Martenet map north of Belle Aire [now called Fairlee] and south of Diehls Cross Roads. It belonged to the heirs of William Bacchus on the 1877 atlas map and was at the head of the Mill Creek that drained into Fairlees Creek. The *Baltimore Sun*, July 4, 1929, reported, "State Is Building New Fish Hatchery," and stated that it would be on the old Bacchus Mill tract, purchased from E. P. LeSage, 85 acres, one of the largest millponds on the Eastern Shore. The dam had washed out. The Stratton Mill of the 1880s apparently matches up with this site. Location was 8-B-11 in the ADC Street ATas, on present Fairless Road or Md. 298.

#### **BEAUCHAMP MILL (5)**

J. W. Beauchamp was listed as miller at Edesville in the 1887 State business directory. The 1880 census listed John Beauchamp with \$400 capital investment, 1 employee, 2 run of stones, doing all custom business. A 12-foot fall on Longford Bay drove a 24 hp overshot wheel 9 ft broad at 2 rpm. Annual output was 750 bbl flour and 150 tons meal (\$8163).

#### **BECK MILL (4)**

See Milford.

#### **BEETLES MILL (1)**

The Dennis Griffith State map of 1794-1795 showed Beetles Mill on the present Saw Mill Creek, 3 miles north of Massey near the present Md. 290, SW of Sassafras. No equivalent in the 1877 county atlas.

#### **BOUCHELL MILL (1)**

The mill of Dr. Slyter Bouchell was mentioned as near the Head of Chester about 4 or 5 miles from the Line: State flour was stored there in 1781 (*Arch. Md.*, 47:213). This was at or near Millington.

#### **BRICES MILL ROAD (7)**

Brices Mill Road is east of the East Fork of Chester River and runs from Langford to Pomona. The *American Miller*, 21 (September 1, 1893): 688, reported, "Griscom & Co. & McFeely, Philadelphia, Pa., are furnishing John Brice, Chestertown, Md., two 21-inch Turbine water wheels with flume and necessary connecting material." MMT Site No. is K-286.

#### **BRISCOE MILL (1)**

Same as Higman Mill.

#### **BROOKS MILL (4)**

See Radcliffe Mill.

#### **BUCKS MILL (6)**

The 1880 census of manufactures listed the B. F. Buck, Jr., mill with \$8000 capital investment, 1 employee, 2 run of stones, 75 bu/diem maximum capacity, and annual output of 1000 bbl flour and 35 tons meal (\$9625). A 9-foot fall on Langford Bay drove a 20 hp breast wheel 12 ft broad at 6 rpm.

#### **BUDDS MILL (6)**

Samuel Budd took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on the Main Branch of Worton Creek on February 2, 1750. Budd already owned the 10 acres on the north bank, while Sara Groves, widow, owned the south tract; each landholder was awarded one Shilling in damage and one Shilling yearly rent. The grant was dated July 1, 1754 (Chancery Records, Liber I. R. No. 5:71, MSA). Worton Creek was 3 miles north of Melitota per GZMD, 1941.

#### **CACY MILL ( )**

The 1860 Martenet map of Kent County showed the J. E. Cacy Mill on the north branch of Chester River, east side of the road at Millington. See Millington Mill.

#### **CARVILL MILL (6)**

John Carvill and John Carvill, Jr., took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* at the head of a creek formerly called Fendall Creek and now Farley Creek and upon the most northerly branch of said creek, October 29, 1759. The north side was part of the tract Heaths Land and in possession of Jarvis James, while the south was part of Howells Addition, owned by John Carvill, Jr. (Chancery Records, Liber 9:70, MSA). Carvill Mill Site was assigned MHT Inventory No. K-319.

#### **CHESTERTOWN ARMORY (4)**

**“Private Capital, aided by the government of Maryland, conducted a large armory here (Chestertown) during the Revolutionary War, and an old relic is the shape of a cannon was found . . . the cannon that stood for so many years in front of the Old Market House; then put in the school yard on Cross Street on the site of Davis and Satterfield’s plant.” It was used as a hitching post at John S. Vandergrift’s barber shop and then placed on the grounds of Hope H. Barroll (1916). It weighed 2500 pounds (Usilton, HKC, p. 186).**

**CHESTERTOWN STRAW BOARD CO. (4)**

**This company’s pond on Radcliff Creek was mentioned in *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1848, Chapter 452. Probably the same as Wilbur Eliason’s. Apparently on the same premises with the Radcliffe Roller Mill.**

**CHESTERTOWN PAPER MILL (4)**

**The *Easton Gazette*, May 27, 1882, reported, “Mr. Thomas H. Coburn, of this town, has received the contract for the brick work on the Chestertown Paper Mill.”**

**CLEARYS MILL WHARF (5)**

**Spelling error for Learys Mill Wharf, it was listed as a steamboat landing place in GZMD, 1941. See Leary.**

**COMEGYS MILL (2)**

**See Sparks Mill.**

**CONNELLY MILL (7)**

**Same as Dun’s Mill.**

**CORK MILL (1)**

**Same as Dreka Mill.**

**COX MILLS (2)**

**See Uriesville Mill.**

**CREW FEED CO. (4)**

**Julian Crew Feed Co. was listed at Chestertown (DMM, 1967). The building has been converted to commercial use and still exists in 2006.**

**CRUMPTON SAWMILL (2)**

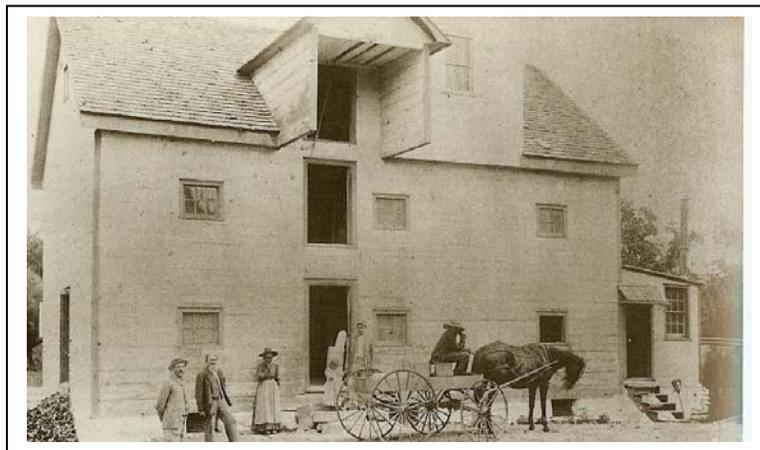
The 1877 atlas showed a steam sawmill on the north bank of Chester River but failed to list its owner. Possibly Slaughter's.

### CULP BASKET WORKS (2)

The 1877 inset map of Kenendyville showed William Culp's basket shop on the east side of US 213, next to and NE of the Methodist Church. Location was 10-E-2 in the ADC Street Atlas.

### DREKA MILL (1)

The 1794-1975 Dennis Griffith map showed the Cork Mill at this location. The 1860 Martenet map of Kent County showed "August Drakes Mill" on the west side of Galena Road, north side of a stream at Head of Sassafras village.



--Maryland State Archives

*Dreka Mill in Kent County*

The 1877 atlas showed the grist mill of A. Dreka near Sassafras Post Office; see detail map of Sassafras P. O. village. The 1880 census of manufactures listed L. H. Dreka Mill with \$3000 capital investment, 1 employee, 2 run of stones, 65 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing one-third custom work. A 9-foot fall on Sassafras River drove a 35 hp overshot wheel 9 ft broad. Annual output was 1300 bbl flour, 5000 lb buckwheat, and 131 tons meal (\$11,110). L. H. Dreka was also listed in the 1880 and 1887 State business directory. The name was pronounced "DREE-ka."

A photo of a 2-1/2-story frame mill building, the Dreka Mil, neat the village of Sasafras, plus a photo the owner's elegant home ca. 1895 appeared in Warren & Warren, *Maryland Time Exposures* (1984), p. 68. *The American Miller*, 29 (May 1, 1901): 410, reported, that the I-X-L Steel Overshot Water Wheel Company of Hanover, Pa., sold a wheel 11 ft in diameter and 7 ft wide to Louis Dreka, Sassafras, Md. The MHT Site No. of this resource is K-296. Location was 6-C-2 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **DUNS MILL (7)**

**In 1765, James Dunn was building a mill at the head of the NW fork of Langfords Bay. Since the millpond would flood the road to the Lower Church, the court allowed Dunn to move the existing road below the dam (Pat Melville, “Roads in Kent County, 1669-1757,” *The Archivists’ Bulldog*, February 11, 2002).**

**Duns Mill was shown on the east bank of Langford Bay at its head on the south side of the road to St. James on the Dennis Griffith 1794-1795 State map. The Mill Farm of Edward Tilden was advertised as adjoining Dunns Mill, Baltimore *American*, July 30, 1822. The 1877 atlas showed O. Connelley’s gristmill on the west bank of Lankford Creek, south of Richards Bridge Road, north bank of the creek. Owen Connelly [sic] was listed as miller at Edesville in the 1880 State business directory. Location was grid 15-E-11 in the ADC Street Atlas, at present Md. 20 and Shipyard Creek.**

#### **DURHAMS MILLS ( )**

**There was a reference to Durhams Mills where provisions for the Continental army were stored, *Executive Miscellanea*, Calendar 940, March 31, 1778). “Durhams Mill on the road from Middle Town [New Castle County, Delaware] to Red Lyon” was mentioned in connection with moving the supplies out of the reach of the British in 1780 (MHM 68:183).**

#### **EASTS MILL ( )**

**Easts Mill was mentioned as existing in 1710 (HKC, p. 350). The clerk of the court was to post a notice at East Mill offering to rent the property of St. Paul’s minister.**

#### **ELIASON MILL (4)**

**Wilbur Eliason was listed as owner of a straw-board mill at Chestertown in the 1887 State business directory.**

#### **ERDMAN MILL (3)**

**M. F. Erdman was shown as a miller at the head of Fairlee Creek on Mill Creek in the 1877 atlas.**

#### **FAIRLEE MILLS (6)**

**Fairlee Mills was a place name listed in Polk’s 1906-1907 State directory. Fairlee Mill was listed as a place name 4 miles east of Tolchester Beach, GZMD, 1941. The *American Miller*, 8 (July 1, 1880): 270, carried an advertisement from Fairlee Miller, Fairlee, Kent County, Md., “Wanted, Agency for Flour and Feed. We are millers**

and cannot supply our custom for Mill Feed, very low grades of flour and the Highest grades. We would like to obtain an agency for some good miller in the West.”

#### FIELD MILL ( )

John Field and Son advertised a gristmill at the head of Sassafras River; two pair of burrstones, Baltimore *Federal Gazette*, December 11, 1797.

#### FLOATING SAWMILL ( )

A photo in M. V. Brewington’s *This Was Chesapeake Bay* (New York, 1953) showed on p. 23, “A floating saw mill, ca. 1900, on Sassafras River, Maryland. Photograph by Thomas P. Hammer.” The photograph showed a long-john boiler and a tall smokestack.

#### FRAZIER MILL (1 or 2)

The 1850 census of manufactures listed Frederick Frazier with a water mill with 2 employees and annual output of 7000 bu of corn and wheat that provided a cash income of \$700.

#### GEORGETOWN CROSS ROADS MILL (1)

A mill was located here at the present site of Galena, sometime after the American Revolution (*Kent Shoreman*, March 1970, p. 33). Possibly predecessor of Anthony Mill.

#### GILPIN MILL (1)

Thomas Gilpin took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Cypress Branch, being one of the head branches of Chester River, January 8, 1762. The inquisition taken at Shrewsbury Parish found that Thomas Gilpin and Daniel Massey would sustain damages of 10 Shillings per acre annually (Chancery Records, Liber 9”139, MSA).

Joshua and Thomas Gilpin advertised two mills, one brick at the main road at Chester River bridge; it had two pair of French burrs and an overshot wheel. The other mill was shortly upstream on the road to Dick Creek, a frame mill plus a fulling mill; it had recently burned; two pair of stones, Baltimore *Federal Gazette*, November 11, 1803. See also .

#### GLEAVES MILL (7)

John Gleaves built a dam on Broad Creek in 1750 (*Kent Shoreman*, March 1970, p. 33). The 1850 census of manufactures listed the Samuel Gleaves water mill,

grinding 5000 bu of corn and wheat annually for an income of \$700; there was 1 employee at \$8/month.

#### **GODWIN IRON FOUNDRY (2)**

William L. Godwin, a miller of Kent County, also owned peach orchards and an iron foundry (Mrs. George P. Martin, "History of Crumpton," *Kent Shoreman*, Earlville, June 1969, p. 57).

#### **GODWIN MILL (1 or 2)**

The 1850 census of manufactures listed William H. Godwin with a mill grinding 4000 bu of corn and wheat for an annual income of \$600. There was one employee. Godwin later became active in milling in Queen Anne's County.

#### **GOODE HILL MILL (2)**

The 1877 atlas showed J. L. Wilmer as proprietor of Goode Hill Mill, 4 miles from Chestertown near Morgans Creek.

#### **HANDS ROPEWALK (4)**

B. Hands and Company made cables and rope at the rope-walk at Chester Town (Annapolis *Md. Gazette*, May 11, 1748).

#### **"HANESVILLE MILL" (3)**

A mill was shown standing on the 1951 topographic map, NE of St. James Church and NE of Hanesville on the Mill Creek that flows into Mortons Creek. The mill is extinct; the site was the estate of Cobb Hill owned in 1971 by John J. Cochran. No mill was shown in the 1877 county atlas. Location was 8-C-6 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **HANNA MILL (1)**

John Hanna's gristmill was listed at Millington in *Hawes Business Directory* in 18677, p. 518.

#### **HARMAN MILL (1)**

See Millington Mill.

#### **HEAD OF CHESTER MILLS (1)**

See Millington Mill.

**HIGMAN GRISTMILL (1)**

See Millington Mill.

**HOLDEN MILL ( )**

William T. Holden was listed as miller at Still Pond in the 1880 State business directory.

**HYLAND MACHINE SHOP ( )**

W. A. Hyland was listed with a machine shop at Galena in the 1867 *Bradstreet Directory*, with a C credit rating.

**HYRONS STEAM SAWMILL (1)**

The 1877 atlas showed Hyrons steam sawmill on the Queen Anne and Kent Railroad at the north end of Millington. The 1880 census of manufactures listed John W. Hyrons with \$2000 capital investment, 6 employees, and annual output of 300,000 ft (\$2225). John W. Hyrons appeared with a sawmill at Millington in the 1880 State business directory. Location was 12-H-10 in the ADC Street Atlas, north of Back Street, east of the railroad.

**JARMAN MILL (1)**

See Millington Mill.

**JEDSON SAWMILL (4)**

The 1880 census listed the 20 hp steam sawmill of A. Jedson and Co., with \$1200 capital investment, 2 employees, 2 boilers, 1 engine, and output of 30,000 ft (\$1200) annually. A. Judson [sic] was listed with a store and sawmill at Pomona in the 1880 State business directory.

**JEWELL GRAIN AND FEED CORP. (3)**

This was a large modern feed mill complex at Lynch, east side of Md. 561, south of the railroad [1076].

**JUSTICES MILL (1)**

See Millington Mill.

**KENT COOP. MILL (1)**

The Kent Coop. Mill was a fairly small 20<sup>th</sup> century feed mill on Md. 313 at Massey [1976].

#### **KENT COOPERATIVE INC. (2)**

This was a modern mill complex supplying Southern States feeds at Kennedyville, [1970] located east of US 213, south of the railroad.

#### **KIBLER MILL (4)**

C. W. Kibler and Sons, Inc., were listed as feed dealers at 204 South Cannon Street, Chestertown, in 1967.

#### **LEARY SAWMILL (5)**

George E. Leary's steam sawmill was shown at Gray's Inn Wharf on Gray's In Creek in the 1877 atlas. It is an alternate spelling of Clearys Mill Wharf that was listed in GZMD in 1941. The works was about 1.2 mile below Rock Hall, east of present Md. 445.

The 1880 census of manufactures showed \$6000 capital investment, 20 employees, 1 boiler, one 10 hp engine, and annual output of 500,000 ft (\$10,000). The 1887 State business directory listed G. E. Leary and Son at Rock Hall.

Robert J. Johnson in *Gravesend* (Rock Hall, 1975), pp. 29-33, reported that George Leary, after lumbering in Minnesota, returned home to Rock Hall in 1870 to Gum Tree on the east bank of Gray's Inn Creek. Logs were brought from as far as North Carolina. A son, Elmer Leary, took over the business. They made thousands of peach baskets. When there was a failure of the peach crop, the Leary business moved to Rock Hall in 1926. In 1936, Elmer Leary opened the Rock Hall Marine Railway, using an old derrick from Grays Inn Creek. Coleman Brothers started a new sawmill. Gray's Inn Wharf was at 18-K-9 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **LEOLA SAWMILL (1)**

Leola Supply Company of Maryland was established at Millington in 1968; 35 employees; president Robert B. Wentz; a sawmill and lumber supplier (DMM, 1970).

#### **LLOYD WINDMILL (6)**

Richard Lloyd advertised family flour at his windmill opposite Pool's Island, *Md. Gazette*, March 8, 1764.

#### **LUMBER MILLS (-)**

The 1931 national survey *Nonutilized Wood* reported the following wood consuming plants: Chestertown, Henry Hughes; Millington, Harvey E. Jackson, John Naecker; Rock Hall, Carroll Creighton; and at Worton, Harry Clark (p. 14).

#### **McKNETT MILL (2)**

Same as Uriesville Flouring Mill.

#### **MANN MILL (3)**

Joseph Mann was listed in the 1850 census of manufactures with \$5000 capital investment in a water mill with 2 employees. Annual output was 722 bu cornmeal and 361 bu of wheat and flour worth \$4910.

#### **MAY WOOLEN FACTORY (3)**

See Swantown Mills.

#### **MILFORD TOWN (5)**

Milford Town was founded in 1686, and a gristmill was standing on Swan Creek in 1724 (*Kent Shoreman*, March 1970, p. 39).

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

Mill Branch was mentioned in the will of Philip Davis, yeoman, in a description of his tract, Dullings Folly, in 1735 (MCW, 8:91). The stream Mills Branch shown on the 1951 topographic map flows south and enters Chester River at Jones Landing, same as shown in the 1877 atlas. (Also mentioned in Chancery Papers No. 4066, MSA). Location was grid 12-D-2 in the ADC Street Atlas where the stream crosses Md. 291.

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

Mill Creek empties into the Sassafras River near Georgetown. The Creek has a Mill Pond on the 1851 topographic map north of Olivet Mill. Confluence with the river is 5-B-4 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **MILL CREEK (3)**

Mill Creek empties into Worton Creek at Bucks Neck Landing. Another Mill Creek empties into Fairlee Creek in Election District 6. The confluence is at 7-J-6 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **MILL FORKE ( )**

**Philip Holleger patented 808 acres called Mill Forke in 1695 (Patents, Liber B:358). In 1715, William Blay patented 820 acres called Mill Forke (Certificate No. 136 and also Patents, Liber EE 6:183, MSA).**

**In 1792, a tract called Mill Fork was devised to Mary Baird by her father, Alexander Baird. Also mentioned in Chancery Proceedings of 1844 (Chancery Records, Liber B165:545, MSA). The 1695 survey began near the Mill Branch of Sassafras River, and adjoining the resurvey called Allebys Branch (Rent Roll, 5:35, 103, MSA). Also listed in Tracts in Chancery, No. 8390, MSA.**

#### **MILL HILL ( )**

**Thomas Harris patented 170 acres called Mill Hill in 1753 (Patents, Liber GS 1:176, MSA). The tract began at the fork of the Main Branch of Wilsons Creek on the south side of Mill Pond, 4 degrees SW of the Mill House, 52 perches distant (Rent Roll, 5:173, MSA).**

#### **MILL HOLLOW LANE ( )**

**Mill Hollow Lane is a cul-de-sac road near Rileys Mill Road at grid 9-G-9 in the ADC Street Atlas.**

#### **MILL POINT (3)**

**John Braown patented 20 acres called Mill Point in 1758 (Patents BC & GS 9:527, MSA). The property passed to William Rassin in 1759 (Rent Roll, 5:183, MSA). Mill Point was mentioned in Chancery Proceedings as a 25- to 30-acres tract in Still Pond at the head of Still Pond Creek. In 1838, the tract was conveyed by Alexander Chancey to Samuel H. Freeman. Freeman sold to Emily Sanders in 1846, and she in turn sold in 1848 to Mary Ann Bell; the tract was mortgaged on the same day to Emily Sanders by Mary Ann Bell and Joshua C. Bell. In 1853 proceedings, Jacob Maslin was substituted as purchaser (Chancery Records, Liber B199:219-225. Also, Chancery Papers No. 10,771, MSA).**

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

**Daniel Perkins patented Mill Pond Fork, a 3-acre tract, in 1797 (Certificate No. 137, MSA). A tract called Mill Pond was mentioned in 1848 in Chancery Records (Liber B174:535, MSA). See also [Daniel] Perkins Mill.**

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

**A mill seat, not indexed as an official tract name in the Land Office records, was mentioned in Chancery Records of 1845 (Liber B168:220, MSA).**

## MILLFORD (7)

William Harris patented Millford (with two L's), a 50-acre tract, in 1686 (Patents, Liber 22:195, MSA). A mill existed when the survey was made in 1685. In 1686, Harris and Colonel Hans Hanson agreed with their partner, William Henry, millwright, to build a water mill within one year.

*Old Kent* (p. 159) noted that Colonel Hans or Hance Hanson was born on Tinicum Island in New Sweden in 1646 and served on the first vestry of St. Paul's Parish and bought Kimbolton estate on the east side of Langford's Bay near the mouth of Northwest Branch and on Broad Neck on Broadnax Branch, 3.5 miles SW of Chestertown. However, modern research has determined that the Hansons were not Swedish.

In 1724, James Harris patented 284 acres under the name Millford Resurvey (Patents, Liber IL No. A:467, MSA). The tract was on North East Creek of Lankfords Bay near the mill and adjoining Rousby's Recovery. The survey certificate showed that Harris acquired the old tobacco house of John Scott in acquiring the vacant land (Also, Rent Roll 5:103, MSA). The Dennis Griffith 1794-1795 State map showed an unidentified mill symbol here. Per the *Kent Shoreman* (November 1966, p. 21), the mill passed into the Perkins family. The 1858 Martenet map showed the John W. Jones mill. The 1877 county atlas showed B. F. Beck mill at the NW intersection of the present Longford and Brice Mill Roads, east side of the stream. The mill passed to John Brice, and his son Joseph was the last operator. In 1964, the "Mill Pond Farm" was acquired by Richard E. Thompson. The mill foundation survived in 1966. Location was 16-G-10 in the ADC Street Atlas, on the East Fork of Langford Creek on the present Langford Road near the southern terminus of Brices Mill Road, near a mill pond that also fits within that grid.

## MILLINGTON MILL (1)

This is the only historic mill left standing in Kent County and was possibly the Head of Chester Mill, because Millington was the farthest a seagoing ship could travel east on Chester River. The colonial post road down the Delmarva peninsula passed just west of the mill and is now designated Md. 313. The mill was at the north end of the bridge. By one account, the mill was built in 1760 by Daniel Massey on a tract originally granted to Josiah Massey. The site was purchased by Tomas Gilpin, who was credited with building the mill in 1764 by the *Kent Shoreman* (October 1967). Head of Chester was renamed Bridgetown in 1818 and then in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century named Millington for local businessman Richard Millington who settled there in 1840.

Charles Blake, The Commissary for Queen Anne's County, wrote to Governor Lee, December 27, 1781, that "Head of Chester Mills" was grinding army wheat (*Arch. Md.*, 47:581). The only mill at Bridgetown on Dennis Griffith's 1794-1795 map was Justices Mill, slightly east of the north-south road, north bank of the river.

[However, Margaret Q. Fallow believes that Justices Mill was father upstream, the same as the Turner mill of 1860; tombstones of the Jester, not Justice, family on Andover Farm support that reading.]

The last of six mills which once stood within 3 miles of the Head of Chester village, it is a three story brick building with beams hewn roughly from tree trunks and fitted with wooden pegs (or tree-nails in Eastern Shore speech). One of the beams in the first floor ceiling shows a long gash down the side, said to have been caused when the second floor was overloaded with grain while in use as a granary during the War of 1812. A large iron strap along the side of the pond side of the mill restrains the portion of the wall that bulged. Lettering scratched on the highway side showed the high water mark of 1804 when Chester River rose to within a few inches of the first floor, 14 feet above normal level.

The mill run, or race, originally wound 0.75 mile around the town to the large ponds near the community baseball diamond and in some places formed the town boundary. “A “Big Mill Pond” appeared on Cypress Branch on current water resources maps. There was a travelers’ story of throwing coins and small objects into the millrace on the way to Massey. The first water wheel was an overshot type. The mill was never stopped by ice or cold. This stream is Cyprus Branch in the 1877 atlas and its tributary was apparently Duck creek or Dick Creek.

The Dennis Griffith 1794-1795 map showed Justices Mill at Bridgetown, as Millington was then called. The 1860 county map by Simon J. Martenet showed the J. E. Cacy Mill on the north bank of Chester River, east side of the main road. The mill burned in 1872 and was rebuilt. The 1877 county atlas showed the mill without a name in the detail map of Millington, but the advertising listed J. Wesley Jarman,



--Author's Collection

*Millington Mill during O'Dell ownership, ca. 1946*

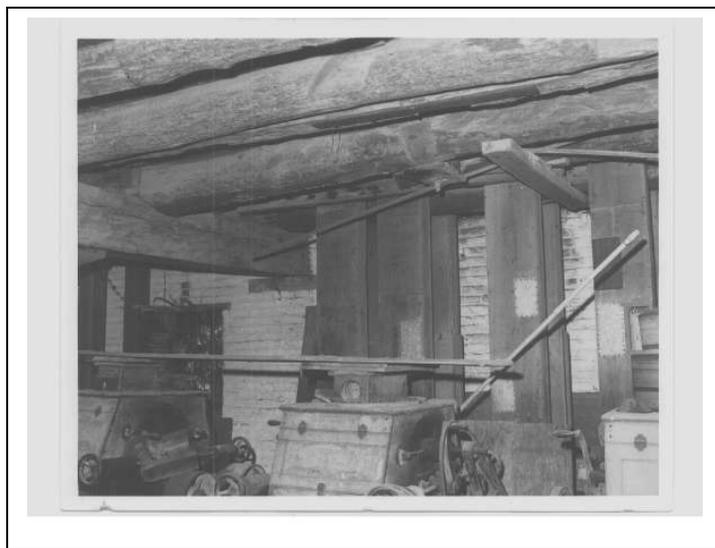
who offered the finest grades of flour and meal; the mill was located on the Queen Anne and Kent County Railroad. Upstream east of Millington, the atlas showed the J. H. Pennington Mill and residence, what had been Turner Mill on Martent's 1860 map.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed J. W. Jarman with \$10,000 capital investment in a mill with 1 employee and 2 run of stones, doing mostly custom work. A fall of 20 feet on Chester River drove a 40 hp 3-foot Leffel turbine at 130 rpm; maximum daily capacity was 60 bu. Annual output was 200 bbl flour and 25 tons meal (\$2926).

The *American Miller*, 11 (March 1, 1883): 128, reported, "J. Wesley Jarman of Willington [sic] Station, Md., has increased and improved his milling facilities by the addition of a Barnard & Leas Smutter." The *American Miller*, 13 (April 1885): 192, reported, "J. E. Biscoe. Millington, Md., has placed his order with the Case Mfg. Co., Columbus, Ohio, for breaks, rolls, purifiers, centrifugal reels, and all necessary machinery for a complete roller mill on the Case system." The 1887 State business directory listed as the millers at Millington: J. Wesley Jarman and J. E. Briscoe [sic].

About 1904, the mill was deeded to James E. Higman and was operated by John and Henry Higman until sold in 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Karl Baur, who were owners of Mill House when researching the mill in 1970. Higman had been miller for Biscoe in Queen Anne's County. Sometime after the 1880 census of manufactures, a steam engine was added for times of low water. Another source stated that a steel water wheel was installed in 1923, apparently an addition to or replacement of the turbine listed in 1880.

The WPA *Guide* (1940), p. 413, stated that milling began to decline in the area after



*Millington interior in 1977 by Marsha L. Fritz.*

the 1872 fire. It was featured in the New York *Herald Tribune*, February 26, 1950, in the story, “186-Year-Old Mill Keeps Grinding in Maryland” and reported Robert O’Dell, an ex-GI is the current owner,” who with his brother Dorn O’Dell were grinding flour. A small photograph discovered by collector William Hollifield in 1976 was apparently an advertising item and it was inscribed on the back, “Millington Mills, Millington,. Md. In continuous operation since 1764. Now owned and operated by Robert G. Odell.” When a new bridge was built in 1962, the mill race was filled in. Mr. O’Dell also operated the more modern Millington Feed and Grain Mills which he sold in 1976; he died at age 73 per Baltimore *Sun*, December 31, 1990.

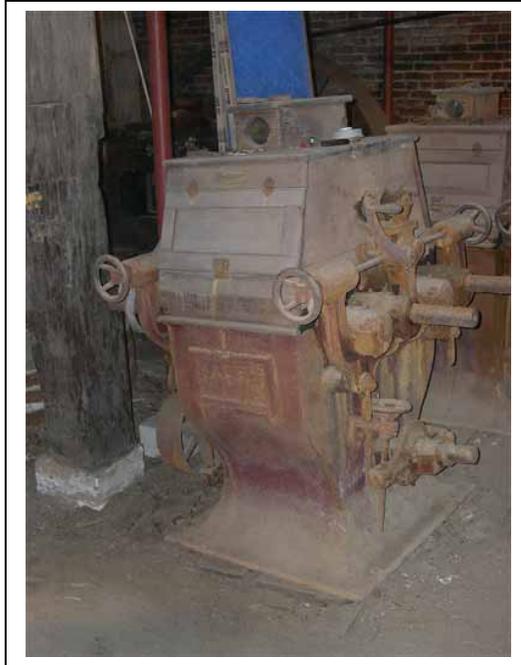
A drawing of the mill appeared in *Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore* by Betty Harrington Macdonald, p. 88, published by the Delaware State Society of Daughters of American Colonists.

In 1966, Mr. and Mrs. Gary H. Mooney purchased the mill, and Mr. Mooney, a cartoonist from California, installed a studio in the mill. The pond as stocked with swans.

This mill was written up for the MHT in 1977 by Marsha L. Fritz and assigned MHT Site No. K-175 and listed as “Gilpins Mill.” Owners at the time of the survey were Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bramble. Lee and Janice Bramble were interviewed in the Baltimore *Evening Sun*, October 5, 1981, when they were interested in selling the mill. Mr. Bramble had hoped to run the mill again but found the cost prohibitive. Mr. Bramble claimed that a basement tunnel was part of the Underground Railroad. The equipment was still present in the mill, and the owner had two paper sacks marked, “Wheat Heart Bleached Flour.” Mr. Bramble remembered when farmers came to the mill in horse-drawn wagons, and “He also remembers workers in the flour-sifting area coming down the stairs ‘looking like ghosts.’” Millington is now an historic district, MHT Site No. K-684, written up by Rita M. Suffness in 1998, available on-line from the MHT.

The “Millington Mills” listed in the 1967 telephone directory was Mr. O’Dell’s commercial feed mill serving poultry growers. An alfalfa drying mill near Millington was shown in *Living in Kent County*, a publication of the State Department of Education, 1964. Location of the historic brick mill is 12-H-10 in the ADC Street Atlas. The Big Mill Pond is at grid 12-K-9 and the Little Mill Pond at 12-J-9.

In February 2007, David Welser and Jeff Greenblatt visited the mill to gather some line shafting for the Tuckahoe steam festival. They observed three roller mill units and a separator in good condition stored in the basement. The mill had been converted to apartments and the stored units probably would not fit through the basement doors to remove. Many chutes and elevators survived the process of adapting to residential use.



--photo by Jeff Greenblatt, 2007

*Millington Roller Unit now in cellar,*

**Sources:**

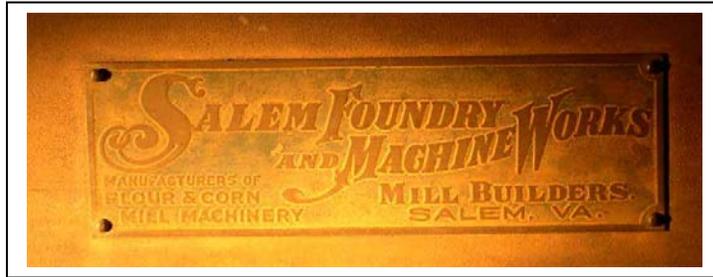
**Douglas Adams, “Only One Grinds of Six Which Stood 100 Years Ago,” *Baltimore Sun*, July 7, 1935.**

**F. C. Martin, “The Old Mill,” *Kent Shoreman*, Earlesville, October 1967.**

**Marsha L. Fritz, “Gilpin’s Mill,” MHT Inventory form, 1980, available on-line.**

**“Robert G. O’Dell, Shore Mill Operator,” obit., *Baltimore Sun*, December 31, 1990.**

**“217-Year-Old Mill, Historic But Impractical, For Sale,” *Baltimore Evening Sun*, October 5, 1981.**



--photo by Jeff Greenblatt, 2007

*Salem Foundry and Machine Works plaque at Millington Mill.*

### MILLINGTON SAWMILLS (1)

Same as Hyrons Sawmill.

### MILLS IN GENERAL (-)

On August 31, 1777, George Washington wrote from Wilmington to Colonel Mordecai Gist at Georgetown on Sassafras. “There is one thing now which I could mention, Viz.—If there should be any mills in the neighborhood of the enemy, and such may be liable to fall into his hands, the Runners should be removed and secured. This can be of injury or but a temporary one to the proprietors, which it will effectively prevent the enemy from using the Mills. Grain too should be carried out of their way as accustomed hands will admit,” (Gist Papers, MHS Special Collections, Ms. 390, Vol. 1, f. 1).

### MILLS END (1)

Mills End was the name of a tract on Swan Creek bequeathed by Darby Cassey to John Moore of Saint Pauls Parish in Kent County, and by Moore to his son John in 1728 (MCW, 6:88).

### MILLSTONE POINT (5)

Millstone Point is on the West Fork of Chester River. Location is 19-G-2 in the ADC Street Atlas.

### MITCHELL MILL (5)

Edward Mitchell took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on land at a branch at the head of Swan Creek, August 7, 1724. The jury awarded 1200 pounds of tobacco to John Rogers, plus 100 pounds of tobacco annually in rent for his 10 acres on the south side; Edward Mitchell’s own tract on the north bank was valued at 100 pounds damages and 10 pounds rental (Chancery Records, Liber 3:1083, MSA).

### **MOFFETT MILL (3)**

**James A. Moffett's mill was shown in the 1877 atlas near Still Pond. The 1850 census of manufactures had shown Moffett's water mill with \$6000 capital investment, 2 employees, grinding 1666 bu corn and 500 bu wheat worth \$9000 annually. Marsha L. Fritz, researching for the MHT ca. 1980, reported that the mill had been a frame construction and it stood "until recent years when, in ruinous condition, it was demolished by the present owner of the property." Owner when Ms. Fritz wrote was Dr. Fred Harbert. Location was 2-B-12 in the ADC Street Atlas on the present Bessicks Corner Road west of Clark Road. The road is a continuation of Still Pond Creek Road. Where the pond water flows out is at ADC 12-A-12. MHT Site No. is K-292, "Still Pond Creek Mill Site."**

### **MURPHY WOOLEN FACTORY ( )**

**At the November Session of 1810, Thomas Murphy of Kent County submitted a petition for a loan to help him start a woolen factory (*Votes and Proceedings of House and Senate*, November 1810, p. 14, in Rare Book Room, Maryland Court of Appeals Library, Annapolis).**

### **NEWELLS MILL ( )**

***Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1794, Chapter 41, authorized John Newell to redirect the existing roads to his gristmill on Still Pond Creek. Newell and other land owners hired Jeremiah Ford to do the work (Pat Melville, "Roads in Kent County, 1765-1794," *The Archivists' Bulldog*, October 17, 2005 Vol. 19, p. 1).**

### **OLD MILL BRANCH ( )**

**Old Mill Branch was mentioned in a road order of 1748 to relocate the road from Chester Town to the River Bridge and public warehouse (Pat Melville, "Roads in Kent County, 1669-1757," *The Archivists' Bulldog*, February 11, 2002).**

### **PAGE TANYARD ( 3 )**

**John Page advertised a tanyard at the head of Denby Creek, 2 miles from Rock Hall. He also gave the address Swan Creek. There was also a stone mill and a blind horse about 11 years old; also a supply of bark (*Baltimore Md. Journal*, September 9, 1783). Page probably used the horse to go in a circle turning a rolling millstone to crush oak bark that could be further processed to produce tannic acid. Page inserted a run-away advertisement in the *Md. Journal & Baltimore Advertiser*, June 14, 1783, giving his address as Swan-Creek, Kent County, seeking the capture of Jack Boyer: "He understands sawing with the pit-saw . . . also cutting and hewing timber."**

### PARSONS MILL (3)

T. C. Parson's gristmill on Church Creek was shown in the 1877 atlas north of Smithville. Location was 8-J-1 in the ADC Street Atlas on Montabello Road and Church Creek near the present Parsons Hill residential area.

### PENNINGTONS MILL (1)

There was no such mill; clerical error in earlier edition. See Turners Mill.

### PERKINS MILL (2)

Ebenezer Perkins took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Horn Bridge Run, May 31, 1749, beginning 10 perches from the Horn Bridge. The tracts belonged to Perkins himself, to William Walls, and to Thomas Perkins, and were valued at 6 pence Sterling per annum (Chancery Records, Liber I. R. 4:649, MSA).

Ebenezer Perkins left "my two grist mills and saw mill" to his son Colonel Isaac Perkins in 1750 (HKC, p 195f.). Colonel Perkins also established a malt and brew house (Kelly, *Brewing in Md.*, p. 72f.). During the American Revolution, Perkins served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Flying Camp and took flour to Valley Forge. Robert Morris and Perkins, who was called "The Flaming Patriot," bought up all the wheat in Kent County to feed the troops at Valley Forge and Perkins ground the grain in his own mill (HKC, p. 196).

Perkins informed the State Council on June 28, 1780, that "my invaluable set of mills were burned to the ground on the 27<sup>th</sup> Instant." He blamed the Tories and stated that he had been manufacturing large quantities of grain for the army and French fleet. "The seizure of the wheat at New Market that was intended to be carried out of the State has caused those villans [sic] to hire some Abandoned Wretch to set those mills on fire." His clerk, John Cooper, an employee of five months, reported that the Negro miller had given him the key at sunset and at one o'clock he was awakened by flames. Also destroyed were a sawmill and fulling mill, "entirely reduced to ashes" with a large quantity of flour (*Arch. Md.*, 43:528).

The main road between New Market and Perkins Mill was mentioned in a petition to the court from Benjamin Riley and John Greenwood in 1782 (Pat Melville, "Roads in Kent County, 1765-1794, *The Archivists' Bulldog*, 19 (October 17, 2005): 2. The *Md. Gazette & Baltimore Advertiser*, May 26, 1789, carried an advertisement that a petition would be presented to the General Assembly to open a road from New-Market to Colonel Perkins Mill in Kent County and to shut up the old one from New Market to March's Lane. New Market is now called Chesterville.

*Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1791, Chapter 44, authorized a survey of the road between New Market and Isaac Perkins mill, continuing the existing road from March's Lane

(Pat Melville, "Roads in Kent County, 1765-1794," *The Archivists Bulldog*, October 17, 2005, Vol. 19:1).

Ebenezer Perkins advertised for a sober miller in the Baltimore Md. Journal, July 24, 1792. Two Perkins Mills were shown close together on Dennis Griffith's 1794-1795 State map, 5.5 miles NE of Chestertown and close to Wilsons Mill on the present US 213 at Morgans Creek. An illustration in a 1952 pamphlet, "What Do You Know About Maryland," p. 18, showed the Isaac Perkins Mill as a 1-1/2 story mill of very small proportions, equipped with an overshot wheel.

Location of the mill was near the present Morgnec, in grid 9-H-12 in the ADC Street Atlas. Rileys Mill Road is found at 9-H-10 in the ADC Street Atlas and it formerly ran to Morgan Creek.

#### PERKINS MILL (2)

Thomas Usher took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* for 20 acres at the head of Morgans Creek, October 28, 1710, and assigned the writ to Daniel Perkins on November 24. The jury found the tract on "the west side of the main branch commonly called Morgans Creek" and set the value at £ 500 for the west bank and £ 200 for the west bank; the owners were unknown (Chancery Records, Liber 2:695. MSA). In 1797, Daniel Perkins patented the tract Mill Pond Fork, q. v. Rileys Mill was shown in the 1877 county atlas and mentioned in an election district boundary description in *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1898, Chapter 289. The 1880 census of manufactures listed Joseph Riley with \$3500 capital investment in a mill with 1 employee, 2 run of stones, and 66% custom trade. A 10-foot fall on Morgans Creek drove a 10 hp, 2.5-foot turbine at 150 rpm to grind 1200 bbl flour, 200 tons meal, and 74 tons feed (\$12,045). The present Rileys Mill Road runs east from US 213 north of Chestertown. No mill symbol was shown on the 1968 General Highway map of the county. Perkins Mill Road runs SW from IS 213 at grid 10-A-5.

#### PERKINS MILL (2)

Thomas Perkins took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Horn Bridge Branch, May 12, 1762. The inquisition taken in Shrewsbury Parish awarded damages of 10 Shillings yearly to William Ringold, Jr., and Isaac Perkins (Chancery Records, Liber 9:164, MSA).

#### PETERS MILL (1)

The 1880 census of manufactures listed F. D. Peters Mill with \$2500 capital investment, 1 employee, and 2 run of stones. The mill was idle 10 months of the year, and although located on Chester River, it was operated by a 12 hp steam engine. Annual output was 60 bbl flour, 9 tons meal, and 2.5 tons feed worth \$780.

#### PIERCES MILL (2)

In 1704, the court ordered William Comegys to build a road from Pricle Pear Mill to the forest. “The court responded to a petition from the inhabitants at the head of Chester River” (Pat Melville, “Roads in Kent County, 1669-1757, *The Archivists’ Bulldog*, February 11, 2002.

Pierces Mill was shown on the Dennis Griffith 1794-1785 State map on the west bank of Prickley Pear Creek, 7 miles east of Chestertown, just north of Chester River, on the present Md. 291. The Priclepare Mill had been left to William Butcher by his father, Edward Butcher in 1742 (MCW, 8:185). William Thomas advertised a merchant mill and an entirely new sawmill on Priclepear Creek (Baltimore *Federal Gazette*, June 9, 1804).

#### POPE GRANARY (1)

The heirs of William Pope of Georgetown listed \$1000 damage from the British burning of the town on May 6, 1813 (HKC, p. 70).

#### PRICES MILL (6)

Prices Mill was mentioned as near Lankford in *Laws of Md., Acts of 1896, Chapter 289*. The *American Miller*, 27 (October 1, 1899): 803, reported, that Price and Topping of Chestertown had purchased a Reif-Frank Double Anchor Bolting Cloth. J. P. Price was listed as a miller under Fairless in the 1902-1903 and 1906-1907 Oilk State directories.

#### PRICLEPARE MILL (2)

Same as Pierces Mill.

#### RADCLIFFE ROLLER MILLS (4)

This was a modern feed mill on High Street Extended, Chestertown. The main structure was a fairly old type of frame commercial mill with a gambrel or Dutch-colonial shingled roof [1976]. “Wanted, White Cob Corn, Any Quantity,” was the

*Radcliffe Roller Mill  
about 1970, photo by  
author.*

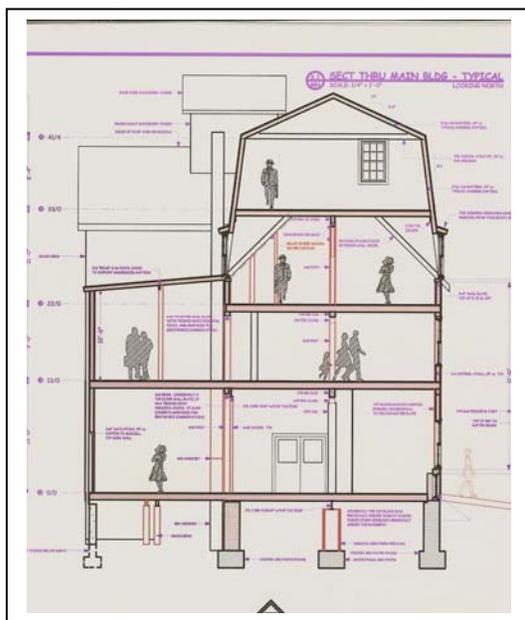


company's advertisement in *The Transcript*, Chestertown, November 25, 1935. The MHT Site No. of this structure is K-287. Photographs were taken for the MHT by Marsha Fritz in September 1980. Location is 17-B-4 in the ADC Street Atlas, present High Street (Md. 20) at Radcliffe Creek.

Radcliffe Roller Mill was founded in 1891 to replace the Old Whaland gristmill. Research in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has found that John Biddle had a water mill at the head of Radcliffe Cross Creek in 1694, the year he both acquired the land and mentioned the works in is will. The 1850 census of manufactures had listed John Whalans as owner of a water mill with 2 employees, grinding 12,000 bu corn and wheat annually for an income of \$1500.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Whaland with a capital investment of \$8000, 3 run of stones, 100 bu/diem maximum capacity, doing all custom work. A 15-foot fall on Radcliffe Creek drove an overshot wheel 9 ft broad at 7.5 rpm to develop 15 hp. Annual output was 1400 bbl flour and 178 tons meal (\$14,850). The 180 State business directory listed Thomas H. Whaland and J. W. Whaland as millers.

The *American Miller*, 19 (May 1, 1891): 344, reported, "Messrs. D. G. Reitz Mfg. Co., Berlin, Pa., have the contract from Wescot, Eliason & Co., Chestertown, Md., for a complete 35-barrel short system mill."



--Chesapeake Associated Architects

Cross-Section, 2003

JULY 1985

**HILLS HOLIDAY**

ORGANIC FORMULA  
FLEA AND TICK SHAMPOO  
FLEA AND TICK DIP  
FLEA AND TICK SPRAY

No other insecticide you can buy offers you more! This natural, Organic Solution to flea and tick control is EPA approved. Holiday products are safe for pets and humans and they are safe to use with Proban and flea and tick collars. 100% Guaranteed!

**RADCLIFFE MILL**  
High Street Extended—Chestertown, MD 21620  
778-2080

Adv. in *Upper Shoreman*, 1985.

The *American Miller*, 21 (March 1, 1893): 226, reported, “J. P. Price will build a flour mill at Chestertown, Md.” The *American Miller*, 21 (June 1, 1893): 462, reported, “Work is progressing on the construction of the new flouring mill at Chestertown, Md.” The same issue also stated that the “contract for this job has been placed with Griscom & Co. & McFeely, Philadelphia, Pa.” The partnership consisted of G. T. Wescott and T. W. Eliason, and in 1898, they conveyed to Price and Topping a firm that also had mills at St. Paul Church and Buck Neck, Chestertown *Transcript*, August 24, 1899. The *American Miller*, 27 (October 1, 1899): 803, reported that Price and Topping of Chestertown purchased a Reif-Frank Double Anchor Bolting Cloth.

In an article entitled, “Maryland and the Penn Central I –Shore Shippers Fight to Keep Rail Service,” James D. Dilts wrote in the *Baltimore Sun*, November 25, 1973, that bulk shippers like mill owner Philip M. Brooks were facing prohibitive new costs. Mr. Brooks was also mayor of Chestertown, and he was photographed with the gambrel-roofed mill and its elevators in the background.

The mill was still advertising in the *Upper Shoreman* in July 1985.

In 2002, the mill was serving as Chester River Art Works. In 2003, the Historical Society of Kent County was seeking funds to restore the mill and the first plan was drawn by Peter Newlin, FAIA, of Chesapeake Associated Architects of Chestertown. In 2005, the property belonged to Radcliffe Investments, LLC, and the mill was a stop on “Three Centuries of Kent Driving Tour” held that October 8. An extensive, multi-year restoration was beginning using State and Federal tax credits. The plan was to create office and retail space. Location is 17-B-4 in the ADC Street Atlas at the junction of Md. 20 and Md. 291 (Leonard M. Adkins, *An Explorer’s Guide to Maryland*, 2002). MHT Site No. is K-287. The project was still in progress in January 2007 with a different plan by architect Greg Torchio of Centreville, Md.

#### **RASIN GRANARY (1)**

Philip F. Rasin listed \$428.75 damage by the British burning of Georgetown on May 6, 1813 (HKC, p. 70).

#### **RILEYS MILL (3) RILEYS MILL ROAD**

Same as Perkins Mill (2).

#### **RINGGOLD SALT WORKS ( )**

The Council of Safety voted £ 500 to Thomas Ringgold “to prosecute a salt works,” on May 24, 1776 (QACM, p. 282). See also Hannah’s Salt Works in Queen Anne’s County.

## **ROBASS MILL ( )**

**James Robass [Roberts] of Queen Anne's County took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on a branch of the Chester River known as Dog Branch or Old Mill Branch, February 17, 1738. The inquisition found the owner of the tract to be Abraham Falkner of Kent County, Planter, and to his damage 5 Shillings Current Money yearly (Chancery Records, Liber 6:16, MSA).**

## **ROCK HALL SILK COMPANY OF KENT COUNTY (5)**

**This silk enterprise was chartered by the General Assembly under *Laws of Md., Acts of 1838, Chapter 348*. Incorporators were Jacob Fisher Burgess, Thomas Miller, Alexander W. Ringgold, Joseph Harris, and Hiram Jones. Capitalization was set at not less than \$4000.**

## **SAWMILL ( 2 )**

**An abandoned sawmill with wrecked trucks and an old diesel engine survived in 1971 on the east side of Md. 298 just below Still Pond and north of the intersection, just before reaching Lynch.**

## **SAWMILL CREEK (1)**

**Sawmill Creek is a branch of Sassafras River with its mouth a quarter mile east of Georgetown (GZMD, 1941). Current topographic maps show it as Mill Creek.**

## **SLAUGHTER SAWMILL ( )**

**The Slaughter and Company steam sawmill was listed in Kent County at Crumpton in the 1867 *Hawes Business Directory*. [Crumpton proper is in Queen Anne's County.]**

## **SMITH GUNWORKS (4)**

**Guns were made by a Mr. Smith during the Revolution in a house on High Street in Chestertown. In 1916, it was the home of William B. Usilton, the historian (HKC, p. 186), with photo on p. 185.**

## **SOLUWAY MILL (3)**

**See Anthony Mill.**

## **SPARKS MILL (2)**

**Comegys Mill was shown on the Dennis Griffith 1794-1795 State map, 3 miles SW of Georgetown at the present Locust Grove area on present US 213. A tract of**

Nathaniel Comegys was mentioned in 1792 (Chancery Records, Liber B24:152, MSA). Cornelius Comegys sold a mill in 1809 to James Wilmer, “Handy Craftsman” and the deed called the tract part of Tolchester Reversion [the word should have been Colchester] (Kent County deeds, BC 6:1).

The 1860 Martenet map showed Thomas E. Gooding’s mill on the west bank of Mill Creek at this spot.

B. F. J. Sparks advertised family flour, cornmeal, and buckwheat in the 1877 county atlas at his mill near Locust Grove. The 1880 census of manufactures listed C. H. Sparks, Jr., with \$5000 capital investment, 6 employees, 2 run of stones. An 11-foot fall on Island Creek drove a 20 hp overshot wheel 6 ft broad at 12 rpm. Annual output was 1075 bbl flour, 168 tons meal, and 2 tons feed (\$9976). The 1880 State business directory listed B. F. Sparks as miller at Locust Grove. The *American Miller*, 10 (October 1, 1882): 470, reported that C. H. J. Sparks’ gristmill at Locust Grove burned “recently” with a loss of \$2000. [The 1880 State business directory also listed C. H. J. Sparks with agricultural implements at Galena although it is not clear whether he was a dealer or a manufacturer.]

The MHT on-line Inventory of the “Miller’s House at Davis Hill Mill Site (Little Dene)” by Margaret Q. Fallow (1985) noted that Charles H. Sparks defaulted on his mortgage, and the mill passed first, in 1893, to Andrew Woodall, and then in 1902 to James Woodland Hurtt and wife Bessie W. Hurtt. Mrs. Hurtt was the granddaughter of Mr. Woodall. Hurtt advertised in the *Chestertown Transcript*, March 21, 1903, that since his taking over the business, he had been pleased with his success and would continue to try to please. Flour, meal, chops, ship stuff, and bran were available. Walter Sparks was listed at Fairless with a saw and flour mill in the 1902-1903 and the 1906-1807 Polk State directories. Information gathered in the 1980s from Julian Hurtt of Georgetown revealed that the mill ceased operations about 1912 or 1913. Location was 4-G-9 in the ADC Street Atlas. The surviving dwelling was assigned MHT Inventory No. K-295 and stands on a by-passed road segment called Davis Mill Road.

#### **SPEAR MILL (1)**

The *American Miller*, 21 (September 1, 1893): 688, reported, “Edward Spear has recently placed a twenty-five horse power engine in his flour mill at Chestertown, Md.” The Polk 1902-1903 State directory listed the flour mill of Edward W. Speak at Millington. Not listed in 1906-1907 directory.

#### **STEVENS WINDMILL (5)**

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, James Stevens operated a windmill at Wind Mill Point on Rock Hall Harbor. The drawing showed a smock mill with a moveable cap and a tail pole. It was equipped with elevators inside (Robert J. Johnson, *Gravesend, Serene But Profound*, 1975, p. 4f). Location was 18-F-7 in the ADC Street Atlas.

## **STILL POND SILK COMPANY (2)**

**The Still Pond Silk Company was chartered by the General Assembly under *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1838, Chapter 340. It was incorporated by Thomas C. Kennard, William Maxwell, William Hayne, and 45 others; capitalization was not to be less than \$5000.**

## **STRATTON MILL (6)**

**Charles T. Stratton was listed as a miller at Fairlee in the 1887 State business directory. The *American Miller*, 16 (June 1, 1888): 36, carried a letter to the editor from Stratton, dated at Fairlee, Kent County, stating that he wished to build a small mill: “We are driven to the wall. Our flour, which our fathers and mothers thought was good, is turned down; we are losing our trade, and our old water wheels will soon cease to turn over, if it goes on this way. Where is the rescue.” Stratton was referring to the onslaught of roller process wheat from the West overwhelming small millers who were still grinding with millstones. Fairlee Lake is on Fish Hatchery Road at grid 7-J-12 in the ADC Street Atlas. This was possibly the same as Bacchus Mill.**

## **SWANTOWN MILLS ( 3 )**

**In 1738, the Society of Friends established a Meeting House at the head of Swan Creek. This was apparently the location of the Yates Mill shown on the Dennis Griffith 1794-1795 State map, south side of the present Md. 291 and slightly NE of Beetles Mill and 3.5 miles north of Massey.**

**An advertisement in the *Kent News*, August 10, 1848, placed by May and Savin offered wool carding and manufacturing at Swan Town Mills.**

**The 1850 census of manufactures listed James May with \$4500 capital investment in a water-powered woolen manufactory with 5 employees and an annual output of 8000 yards of kersey worth \$4400 made from 7000 lb of wool costing \$2200; monthly payroll was \$120. E. M. Fowler advertised on May 27, 1854, that he still carried on the operations of the mill: carding, fulling, spinning, and weaving. Wool left there would be made into blankets, kersey, tweeds, flannel, and Lindsey.**

**Swantown Mills was mentioned as the scene of a brawl and killing, *Baltimore Sun*, July 25, 1855, p. 1.**

**The mill was advertised for sale in June 1865 because a partner, Thomas Woodward of Philadelphia had died. The text stated, “The location is good, while the stream is fully equal to the best in that section of the country. But a few years since this Mill had a fine run of custom which by neglect has been diverted from it. It could be**

proper attention soon be re-established.” The *Kent News*, July 1, 1865, reported that Bronaugh Deringer had purchased the half-interest for \$1200.

Ebenezer Welch had a half-interest when he made his will in 1858 and bequeathed it to his Swan Town property to his sister Ann Trenchard and Sarah Elizabeth Moffet, daughter of William Moffett (Kent Wills, JF 1:121). The 1860 Martenet map showed Moffetts Mill at this location. The 1877 county atlas showed some structures belonging to “Mrs. Deringer” but no mill. Margaret Q. Fallow researched the site in 1985 for the MHT ass assigned “Swantown Mill Site” Inventory No. K-302. Location was 5-H-6 [near the bottom of the grid] in the ADC Street Atlas, south or east side of Galena-Sassafras Road, now designated Md. 290, east of Galena, east of Gregg Neck Road. Owner in 1985 was Udo Buschmann.

#### TALBOTTOWN FOUNDRY ( )

The Talbottown Foundry was operated during the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Evans family; it combined in 1926 with a machine shop (*Tidewater Times*, November 1970, p. 36).

#### TAYLOR MILL (1 or 2)

The 1850 census of manufactures listed Frisby Taylor’s water mill with 1 employee grinding 10,000 bu corn and wheat for an income of \$800.

#### THOMAS MILL (2)

See Pierces Mill.

#### TOADS OLD MILL BRANCH ( )

The county judges in 1717 authorized William Comegys to build a bridge over Toae or Toads Old Mill Branch (Pat Melville, “Roads in Kent County 1669-1757,” *The Archivists Bulldog*, February 11, 2002).

#### TOPPING AND PRICE MILL (1)

See Radcliffe Roller Mill.

#### TRIMBLE SAWMILL (1)

Trimble Brothers were listed as sawmillers at Millington in the 1887 State directory.

#### TURNER MILL (1)

*Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1828, Chapter 108, granted Samuel R. Turner license to cut a new mill race through the lands of his neighbors, Smiths, Masseys, and Turners because “For many years a failure of the water in his pond, during the summer

months, has been so great as nearly to stop his business, for three or four months, annually; he attributes this failure to the expanded surface of said pond.” A plat of the Old Mill Road and the mill site is found in Kent County Deeds APR 4:62, posted on the MHT web site in Margaret Q. Fallow’s 1986 inventory form for Andover Mill (Survey No. K-290).

Turners Mill on the headwaters of the Chester River was shown in the 1860 Martenet map and in the atlas at the present Peacock Corner Road. Chester River was only a local stream at this point and could be crossed by ford at one time. Peacock Corner was formerly Turner’s X Roads. Location was 13-A-12 in the ADC Street Atlas. Owner was probably the E. J. Turner shown in the 1877 atlas. Margaret Q. Fallow, writing for the MHT in 1986, suggested that this was the Justice Mill shown in the 1794-1795 Dennis Griffith map—tombstones of the Jester (not Justice) family were found on the Andover Farm. The Griffith map is difficult to interpret in the Bridgetown area. Ms. Fallow discovered a mill and tailrace but no mill ruin. The basic property stretched over two counties. The concrete dam date to about 1918, built to serve an electric company. The mill could have been built in 1790 and per family traditions closed about 1913 when the dam washed out. [An earlier edition of the molinography called this Pennington Mill due to an error in map reading.] Location was 13-A-12 in the ADC Street Atlas.

### TURNER SAWMILL (3)

The 1867 *Bradstreet Directory* listed R. T. Turner dealing in lumber at Betterton, given an AA credit rating. The 1877 county atlas showed the Turner Brothers steam sawmill at Betterton. Turner Brothers was listed as a flour mill at Still Pond in the 1875 *Boyd’s Business Directory* and also in the 1880 State business directory.

### URIEVILLE FLOURING MILL (2)

The 1860 Martenet map showed a pond but no mill at this site. Samuel S. Hopkins advertised in the 1877 county atlas as proprietor of Urieville Flouring Mills, 2.5 miles from Kenendyville. Yet, the actual atlas plate seemed to show J. Cox and Brother as owners or operators of this mill on Morgans Creek SW of Kennedyville. There were once over 40 buildings housing mill workers; the town reached its peak about 1870 when a branch rail line was built.

The 1880 census of manufactures listed Wm. McKnett with \$5000 capital investment in a mill with 1 employee, 2 run of stones, and a maximum daily capacity of 100 bu. Half the trade was custom. A fall of 12 ft on Morgans Creek drive a 2.5-foot turbine at 150 rpm to develop 10 hp. Annual output was 300 tons meal, 118 tons feed, and 2000 bbl flour (\$19,360).

The *American Miller*, 13 (November 1, 1885): 573, reported that Griscom & Co. & McFeely sold a Diamond Millstone Dresser to William McKnett at Kennedysville, Md. The same journal, 17 (July 1, 1889): 476, contained the editor’s note that he

had received a “sample of broad bran and germ . . . from Wm. W. McKnett of Kenedyville, Md.” The same journal, 18 (January 1, 1890): 53, reported, “W. W. McKnett, Kennedysville, Md., has recently purchased from Griscom & Co. & McFeely, Philadelphia, Pa., double 6 x 16 smooth roller mill with which he is extremely well pleased.” The issue of February 1, 1890 (18:126) also stated “W. W. McKnutt [sic] had added some new machinery to his flour mill in Kenendyville, Md.”

Martha L. Fritz prepared an MHT Inventory form for the Urieville Miller’s House and Mill Site ca. 1980 and discovered an advertisement to auction the mill on November 11, 1902. Trustee Lewis W. Wickes announced that the sale was taking place because it was necessary to settle the estate of William W. McKnett. McKnett and his partner John W. Temple still had an outstanding mortgage. The advertisement appeared in the *Kent News* on October 11, 1902, and offered “Urieville Mill Property,” describing it as ”This property consists of a flour and feed mill, a two-story dwelling with kitchen and stable and carriage house. The dwelling is old and in fair condition. The mill was remodeled last year to the improved system of grinding, scalping, and bolting, and is now almost new throughout. Power is supplied by two turbine wheels under 12 feet head. The water is abundant at all seasons. There is no better water power or more desirable milling property in Kent County. It is situated in one of the finest grain sections of the State, and has local demand for all its product, being close to several thriving towns and villages, and has paid a good profit for many years. The mill is now idle, due to a break in the dam during the recent heavy rains. It can be put in condition for operations in a few days.”

There were pitched battles between Irish and African American laborers (WPA *Guide*, 1940, p. 366). A mill and miller’s house survived when that State guidebook was published. Urieville Pond on Morgans Creek survived on the north side of US 213 and was in 1976 a recreational area. The Urieville Community Lake is located at grid 9-K-6 in the ADC Street Atlas. MHT Site No. of both house and mill site is K-291.

#### VANSANT MILL (1)

Joshua Vansant took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Quigleys Creek or Plumbers Creek on Sassafras River just above Georgetown, December 2, 1749. The jurors found 19 acres in possession of William Rasin and one acre in possession of John and George Browning. Total damages were 3 Shillings yearly (Chancery Records, Liber I. R. 5:43, MSA).

#### VANSANT MILL ( )

Joshua Vansant took out a distinct writ of *ad quod damnum* on a Run of Water called Chester River Branches, April 2, 1762. The inquisition taken in Shrewsbury Parish found yearly rents of 7 Shillings current money for Joshua Vansant himself,

for James Tilghman, and Thomas Gilpin. The beginning of the survey was a red oak standing upon a hill by the road from Joshua Vansants Mill to Queen Ann's Chapel, where the race from Wallis's Branch to said Joshua's Mill Pond crosses said road (Chancery Records, Liber 9:184, MSA).

In 1757, the residents above the Cyprus Bridge complained that Mr. Bordley's tenant had blocked their path to a mill and suggested a new route, which was accepted by the justices. The new road lead from Duck Creek Road past Joshua Vansant's mill to a new bridge below his mill and across the branch to intersect Queen Anns [sic] Road (Pat Melville, "Roads in Kent County, 1669-1757," *The Archivists Bulldog*, February 11, 2020).

#### WAECKER SAWMILL ( )

John Waecker established a sawmill at White Stone Corner near Golts in 1927 and used an antique gasoline tractor for power. Output was 1000 board feet per diem when help was available. Waecker charged customers 1 cent per board foot. Mr. Waecker had an inquiry from the Federal government for cutting 1 million feet but estimated it would take 7 years even with hired help, which was not available during the war (Robert R. Hare, "Sawmill Idle in Woods Despite Lumber Shortage," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, December 2, 1942).

#### WHALAND GRISTMILL (4)

See Radcliffe Roller Mill.

#### WESCOT, EIASON & CO. MILL (4)

See Radcliffe Roller Mill.

#### WHITE HOUSE MILL (4)

This mill was shown on the original plat of the White House Farm, a tobacco plantation patented by Dr. Richard Tilghman in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was owned by generations of Wilmers, and Chestertown grew up on part of the tract (HKC, p. 179ff).

Wilmore's [sic] Mill Race was a point mentioned in a road overseer appointment in regard to making a road from Chestertown and on to the gallows and then to Still Pond Road (Pat Melville, "Roads in Kent County, 1765-1794," *Archivists' Bulldog*, October 17, 2005).

The Denis Griffith 1794-1795 State map showed Wilmers Mill on the east side of the present Radcliffe Creek, 1.5 miles NW of Chestertown. It was distinct from the Wilmers Mill of the 1877 atlas but the same as the Judge C. H. Wickes Mill shown

in the atlas on the east side of the present flatland Road, south bank of Ratcliffe Road. Location was 17-C-2 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### WICKES MILL (4)

Same as Wilmers of 1794-1795.

#### WILLIAMS MILL (1)

Lewis Williams took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* to build a mill on the Main Branch of Chester River a little above the Old Mill Dam, October 17, 1741. The entire tract was in possession of William Ellis and damages of £ 4 were awarded to him plus an annual rental of 4 Shillings (Chancery Records, Liber I. R. 4:724, MSA).

#### WILLIAMS MILL (5)

John Williams took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Herring Creek Branch on the south side of the Main Road, December 20, 1753. The landowners were Frederick Hanson, Simon Wilmer, and Alexander Beard. The total yearly rentals were set at 4 Shillings (Chancery Records, Liber I. R. 5:55, MSA).

#### WILMERS MILL (5)

See Goode Hill Mill.

#### WILMERS MILL (4)

See White House Mill.

#### WILSONS MILL (2)

Mary Wilson, widow of George Wilson, late of Kent County, submitted a petition to the General Assembly to secure 20 acres of land and a water mill thereon built, June 9, 1752 (*Arch. Md.*, 50:8).

Wilsons Mill was mentioned as the adjoining property in the will of George Browning, February 6, 1775 (Wills, 40:187, MSA). The Dennis Griffith 1794-1795 State map showed Wilsons Mill on the present US 213 downstream of the two Perkins Mills on the present Morgans Run, 5 miles NE of Chestertown. John Wilson was authorized to relocate the public road and build a new dam under *Laws of Md.*, Acts of 1791, Chapter 23; his valuable mill had been rendered insecure” by the old dam. Mill is extinct. Location was 17-H-1 in the ADC Street Atlas.

#### **WINDMILL POINT (5)**

**Windmill Point is at Rock hall harbor on present topographic maps and was the site of Stevens Windmill, q. v.**

#### **WINTERS FACTORY (4)**

**Elisha Winters made muskets at Chestertown for the Revolutionary army (HKC, p. 186). His gun-finishers, John Hartley and William Aires, had enlisted into Captain Richardson's regiment in April 1778, putting Winters out of business (QACM, p. 283).**

#### **WOODLAND MILL ( )**

**James Woodland took out a writ of *ad quod damnum* on Horn Bridge Branch, March 14, 1745. The land, valued at 3 pence per acre, belonged to Henry Brooke (19 acres) and to Wallace Walters) 1 acre).**

#### **WORRELL AND LORAIN DISTILERY (4)**

**Worrell and Lorain advertised a distillery at Chestertown, Baltimore *Md. Journal*, February 3, 1778. Worrell and Lorain advertised to sell a distillery of five stills and 949-1/2 gallons capacity in Chester Town, *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, Baltimore, February 3, 1788.**

#### **WRIGHT MILL (4)**

**Joseph W. Wright was listed as a miler at Chestertown in the 1887 State business directory.**

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

**John N. Wright was listed as miller at Worton in the 1880 State directory.**

#### **WROTH SORGHUM MILL ( )**

**Edward T. Wroth "near head of Sassafra, Kent Co." wrote to the editor that he had made Sorgo Syrup in a homemade mill, *American Farmer*, 14 (April 1859): 318.**

#### **YATES MIL (1)**

**Yates Mill was shown on the Dennis Griffith 1794-1795 State map on the south side of the present Md. 290 and slightly NE of Beetles Mill, 3.5 miles north of Massey. Probably the predecessor of Moffet's Mill. See Swantown Mill.**

