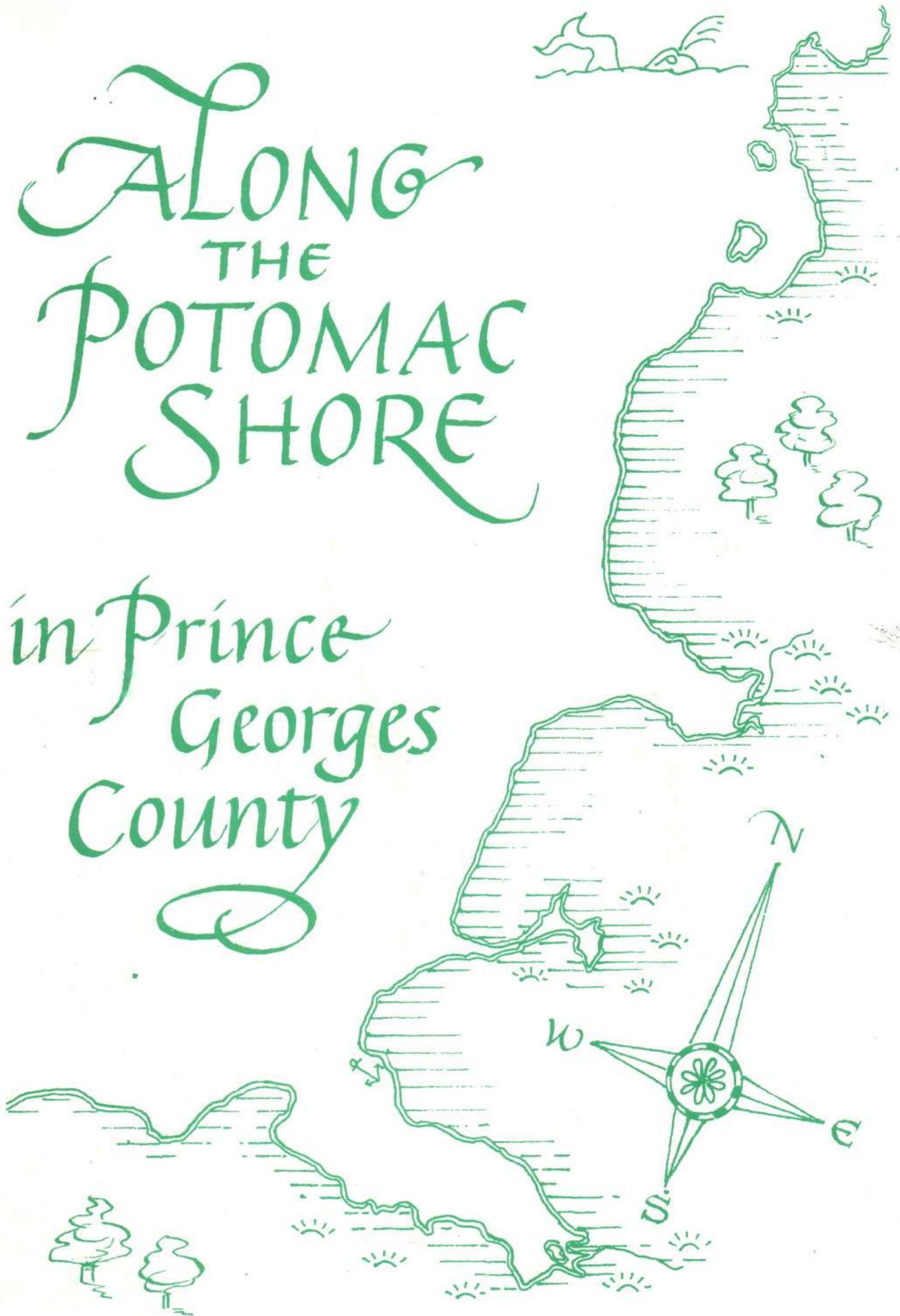


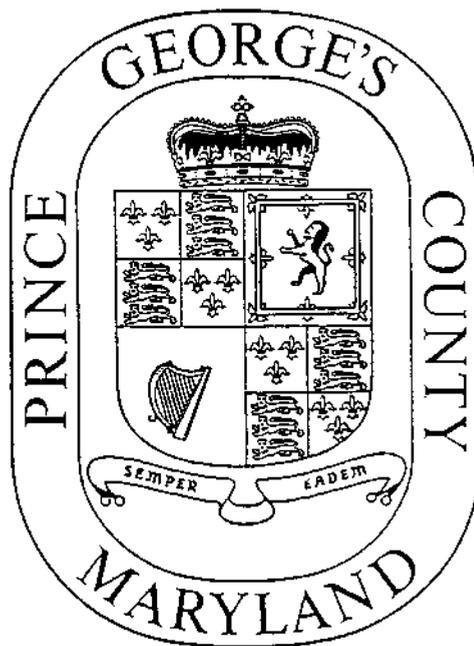
ALONG THE POTOMAC SHORE

in Prince
Georges
County



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ALONG
THE POTOMAC
SHORE
in Prince George's County

A LOCAL HISTORY FROM
TANTA-COVE GARDEN CLUB



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Tanta-Cove Garden Club

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SOUTHERN MARYLAND

By

Louis P. Ranft

God was good to old Virginia
As a father to his child;
But he made our dear old Maryland,
And just looked at her and smiled.

Then He made the Chesapeake
Circling through this land so fair;
As a mother hugs her baby
To her heart with tender care.

Yes, God went to Virginia
And He blessed each hill and glade;
But He came to Southern Maryland
And sat down here and stayed.

We believe our God will tell you
Though forever you may roam
That the nearest place to Heaven
Is your Southern Maryland home.

It is just as clear as can be,
That God loves and freely gives
To the other states His blessings
But Southern Maryland's where he lives.

Copied from *Yesteryear in Old Saint Mary's County*
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FOREWORD

The Tanta-Cove Garden Club is proud to present the second edition of *Along the Potomac Shore*. The first edition of this award-winning book was written to support the successful campaign to establish the Broad Creek Historic District. Since its original publication almost ten years ago, new research at Harmony Hall and other important sites in our area have revealed information included in the new edition of this well-received history.

Chapter One remains essentially as in the first edition while Chapter Two arranges the historic sites geographically beginning in the north with Oxon Hill Manor. Each property or area can be referenced by number on the map at the beginning of the chapter. Chapter Three includes information on our area of Prince George's County from the mid-nineteenth century and includes recent developments in the neighborhood.

Thanks are in order to all who have aided in one way or another the production of this second edition of *Along the Potomac Shore*. Special thanks go to Poss Tarpley who redrew the maps and edited the sentences of the "run-on Queen" and the historic book committee composed of Becky Burkhalter, Penny Ichord, Peggy Jones and Gail Wachsmuth.

Barbara Kirkconnell
Editor, 1992

PREFACE

Tanta-Cove Garden Club researched and wrote this book as a service to the community to generate interest in the history and cultural background of the Piscataway-Fort Washington-Silesia-Broad Creek area. We feel that people informed about their local history can develop a sense of pride about where they live, which in turn creates greater community spirit.

The region is roughly bounded by Oxon Hill and Old Fort Roads to the north, Indian Head Highway to the east, Piscataway Bay to the south, and the Potomac River to the west. In presenting this history, however, information is also given about several communities and buildings outside these boundaries because of their relationship to the local history. A brief background on the settling of Maryland and Prince George's County is also included for the newcomers to the county.

The reader may wonder how a garden club came to write a history. As stated in our by-laws, one of the objectives of Tanta-Cove Garden Club is "... to promote conservation of natural and wildlife resources to the end that the community and its surrounding areas may be preserved and protected for the enjoyment of all." This aim describes what evolved as a dominant purpose of this book: to gain historic designation for the Broad Creek area, filled as it is with historic buildings. James Wilfong, in the Prince George's Post of July, 1976, points out that "Probably no smaller circumscribed area in the county presents such an offering of antiquity and diversified interest as does this home (Piscataway-Collins House) plus Harmony Hall plus Want Water."¹ St. John's Church, already on the Historic Register, can be added to Wilfong's list. Research on the long-since-gone port town of Aire further shows how developed the Broad Creek area was in Early American times. It became evident that the Historic Broad Creek area was very worthy of being "preserved and protected for the enjoyment of all."

As you will see, the part our locale played in the growth and history of Southern Maryland is important to us all. May this book help you learn why.

Anne H. Aberg, Editor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Along the Potomac Shore was written, illustrated, and printed with generous assistance and gestures of encouragement from many of Tanta-Cove's members and neighbors. At the risk of omitting a name or two, we would like to express our gratitude to Caroline Carbaugh, Mary Beth Dority, Regina Malsh, Judy Murphy, Judy Neimeyer, Shirley Nicolai, Mickey Patterson and Gail Wachsmuth. We thank Beverly Stearns, Sevilla Shinn, Rose Ward and Fay Wolfgang for their research.

The attractiveness of the book was improved greatly by the illustrations of Sally Parker, the cover design and calligraphy of Lynn McFadden, and the typing of Ferebee Lewis. The drawing by R. Ewing of Christ Church as been included with permission of Christ Church, Accokeek.

When we did not know where to look for a detail of history which we needed, we turned to Fred DeMarr, President of the Prince George's County Historical Society, and to Susan Pearl at the History Division of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission for help.

Irene Robb and Judy Meade, our neighbors interested in local history, read the manuscript in its many stages and offered welcome suggestions.

We most especially thank our husbands for their understanding, tolerance and sense of humor, and our thanks to all who have helped in the production of this book.

The Committee

ABOUT TANTA-COVE GARDEN CLUB

Well known throughout gardening circles in the Greater Washington area, Tanta-Cove Garden Club derives its name from the combination of Tantallon and Captain's Cove. Club membership is drawn from the Potomac River shoreline, which includes Captain's Cove, Tantallon, and Hatton Point, through the south side of Broad Creek Bay.

Since its inception in 1965, Tanta-Cove has made an impact on the Fort Washington area it serves. First known for its flower shows and Christmas boutiques. Tanta-Cove went on to present Christmas home tours of great popularity in the area. Its first big service project, landscaping the inner courtyard at Harmony Hall Elementary School, brought an award from the National Capital Area Federated Garden Club's in 1974, as did its next project of designing a sitting garden at the Silesia firehouse in 1978.

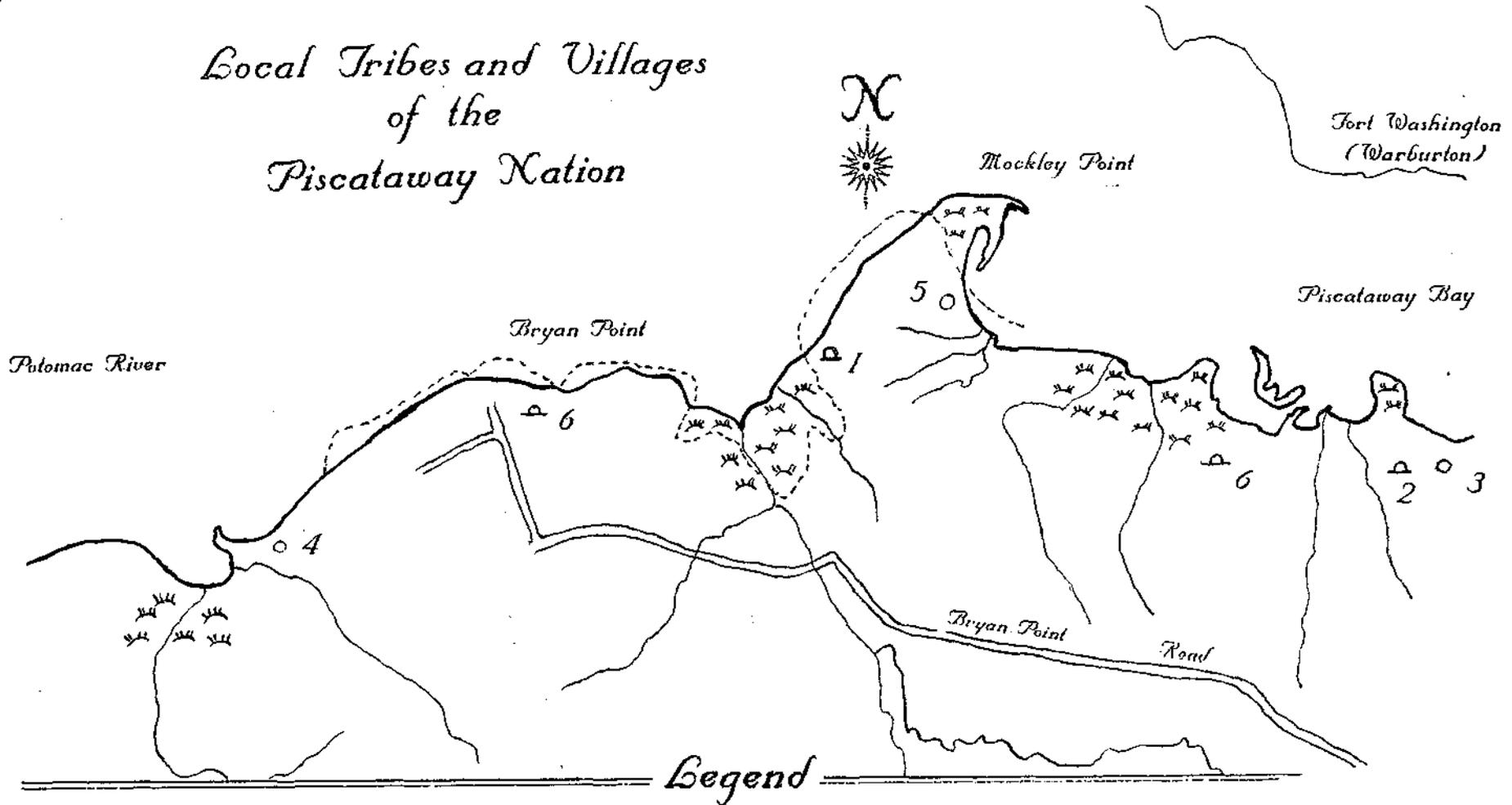
In the past five years, Tanta-Cove has been raising money, primarily with its fresh wreath sales at Christmas time, to finance its current projects. The projects include: protective planting at St. John's Church on Livingston Road, completed in the fall of 1982; restoration of the gardens at Oxon Hill Manor, an ongoing proposition; and the writing and printing of this book.

For the past ten years Tanta-Cove has received an outstanding achievement award from the Federation for its work in gardening and community beautification. In addition, in 1981 and 1982 Tanta-Cove Members received the Romig Award for presenting the most outstanding garden club program of the year.

Chapter

I

Local Tribes and Villages of the Piscataway Nation



Legend

- Inferred shoreline, early 17th century
- ☞ Marshland
- ~ Inland streams and creeks
- Present main road
- Approx. locations of villages 1608
- Villages 1620, Handbook of North

American Indians, Vol. 15

*Piscataway: "High Passable Bank
around Bend in River"*

1. Moyaon Stockade, AD 1200-1634
2. Tessamatuck, approx. 2 miles
from river near...
3. Piscataway or Kittamaquundi,
AD 1632-1680, most important
Piscataway town
4. Accokeek
5. Susquehannock Fort, AD 1675
from Iroquois nation (final
indians in area)
6. No name given, just location

CHAPTER I

BEFORE THE ARK AND THE DOVE

The Creator smiled on many areas of this great Nation, but he certainly concentrated a few extras on Southern Maryland, which resulted in making this a land of pleasant living. There are four distinct seasons which blend into each other, with neither extreme hot nor cold weather. We have just enough uncomfortable days of heat and freezing to make us appreciate the days that are not. We have the great Potomac River and its network of numerous creeks and bays which add to pleasure and provide restful views for peace of mind.

We no longer have the wild buffalo and wolves recorded in earliest records of the Colonists, but deer, rabbits, ducks, geese, swans, herons, quail, doves and numerous fish still thrive in this area. Oysters, crabs, and clams abound nearby wherever the water becomes salty. Small crabs and mussels wash up as far north as Broad Creek Bay. Herring come to shallow streams to spawn as the water temperature warms after the winter freezes. When the service berry tree (also known as the Shad Bush) blooms in the woods in March, the shad fish arrive, following the herring run.

Captain Smith explored the Potomac River as far as the fall line and wrote about the abundant fish. Today huge shad fish, weighing 75 pounds or so, still swim in circles, six or seven strong, making the appearance of small whirlpools, their huge red mouths open at the surface. There is no splashing, but in the silence there is an atmosphere of Nature's importance in this annual event -- along with a strong fish aroma.

With this abundant supply of fish and wildlife for hunting, as well as the many berries and nuts available, it was easier to survive in this area than in less fruitful and harsher climates. There was not much missing, actually. This was what attracted people almost 10 thousand years ago.

The Original Residents

There are remains of three settlements of prehistoric peoples on the south shore of Piscataway Bay between Mockley Point and Bryan Point; early people lived there intermittently from around 3000 B.C. until the time of the Colonists. These are divided into six time periods.

From approximately 3000 B.C. to 100 B.C. there is evidence that the Archaic People lived in the Potomac River Valley. They hunted, fished and gathered nature's crops of nuts and berries. The strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, hickory nuts, walnuts, and acorns which we see today would also have been plentiful in those times. The Archaic People were nomads, no doubt following the changing weather and its accompanying food, necessary for survival. The area provided many opportunities for this lifestyle. "Most important is the fact that these ingenious people subsisted totally off what nature offered them. The development of agriculture was still thousands of years away."¹

Artifacts found at Mockley Point indicate the Archaic People lived in small family groups, moving frequently. They did not use bows and arrows. Their containers were made of soapstone, which was found at Great Falls on the Potomac. This is a soft stone, easy to carve and hollow. They also made baskets. Their tools were the stone axe, and the stone mortar and pestle for grinding food. Scrapers of chipped stone, awls, and needles indicate animal skins were used as clothing. For weapons, there were spears and darts from chipped stone. Sometimes polished stone weights were used to increase the range of a spear, a technique still used by some primitive peoples.

The Marcey Creek People lived in this area from about 500 B.C. to 100 B.C. They probably descended from Archaic People, as their lifestyle was similar. They used more pottery, however, and made it out of clay which was heavy and coarse. Soapstone was mixed with the clay before baking to make the pottery less fragile.

The Pope's Creek People lived from about 100 B.C. to 300 A.D. Theirs was an early woodland period; their culture was similar to that of the Marcey Creek People, but they were an entirely different group, as shown by their pottery. Their pottery, found at Mockley Point at the end of Piscataway Bay, was made of coiled clay ropes, the clay being tempered with crushed sandstone. The Pope's Creek People advanced their container size from approximately one to three gallon capacities. These pots were conical with a pointed bottom. The Pope's Creek People marked them by pressing netting into the clay while wet. It is similar to pottery found in New York State from the same period.

The Accokeek People lived from 300 A.D. to 900 A.D. during a middle woodland period; their culture evolved from the Pope's Creek People. Their skill with pottery developed to the point where certain individuals were designated as the potters for the group. Agriculture was more the focus with this group, however.

Maize developed horticulturally to the corn we grow today. The Colonists were introduced to corn; they did not bring it. Maize grows on a short ear, but unlike corn, each kernel is wrapped in a small husk.

The next group in the area was the Mockley People, who lived from about 900 A.D. to 1200 A.D., a middle woodland period. Their culture was similar to the Accokeek People, but their pottery was tempered with crushed shell.

The Potomac Creek People, or the Piscataway Indians, lived here from 300 A.D. to 1700 A.D. The Piscataway were members of Algonquin-speaking tribes, who occupied much of the present northeastern United States and parts of Canada. They were migrants from the North with a knowledge of farming.

The Piscataway built houses of poles and mat construction, some mats being twenty to thirty feet long. Their large villages were surrounded by stockades.

Women raised the crops of corn, beans, squash, tobacco, and melons; the men hunted and fished when they were not waging war. The pottery of the Piscataway was high quality and more elaborately decorated than that of the earlier peoples. They used fine clay, tempered with crushed quartz and fired high, which resulted in a hard, durable pot of rich brown or black color. They replaced the spear with the bow and arrow. Tobacco smoking was a part of daily life, judging by the number of elbowed pipes found at the site of the former village.

The head chief, or Tayac, lived in the main village, and ruled over a number of sub-chiefs, called Werowances, who lived in smaller villages along the nearby river and creeks. When the Tayac died, his oldest brother took his place, who in turn was replaced by his oldest brother, until all males of the family had served as Tayac and died. Then the oldest son of the oldest sister became Tayac. The lineage of the Tayacs was thus retained on the maternal side.

A man had several wives, increasing the chances of survival of his lineage. With the war-like Seneca in the north, one of the Five Nations of the Iroquois, and a Susquehannah tribe at Bryan's Point, there were often raids on the Piscataway. After a raid, things came up missing, including young women who insured the future of a tribe. Therefore a man had several wives, but the first wife was considered to be in charge of the home.

The Piscataway were headquartered at Moyaone when Captain John Smith arrived in 1608. He made his estimate of a census by counting the Indian braves on the shore and multiplying by three. It is estimated that in 1634 there were 8400 Algonquin-speaking Indians living in settlements in Southern Maryland, from the Anacostia River to St. Mary's River.

The Piscataway looked to the Maryland colonists primarily for protection from their raiding neighbors, the Seneca. In their dependence on this protection, however, the Piscataway began to lose their Indian culture and way of life. Initially, the settlers did not intend to take advantage of the Piscataway; they proposed a give and take of helping one another in the new land. By contrast, in Virginia, the Indians were considered an enemy and were killed off or scattered by the colonists. It was Virginians who burned the Piscataway's fort at Moyaone in 1628. In 1630, the Seneca burned the Moyaone fort, and the survivors abandoned the fort and moved to a safer site up Piscataway Creek. Small wonder these new people who proposed friendship made the Piscataway feel safer.

As the Maryland colony's population grew, the Piscataway were eventually forced off their land. Although the Indians lived in an established area, they considered the world to be theirs as far as hunting and trespassing were concerned. It is obvious that the new settlers would not agree to this. The settlers used the advantages of trading -- offering wonders such as guns, rakes, iron tools and clothing -- in exchange for land. Since the Indians preferred the shoreline, one such trade gave the Indians land rights to the shoreline, measured by how far inland an arrow could be shot three

consecutive times. The settlers preferred their farmland to be away from the shore, but did retain ports.

In 1652, the Piscataway were placed on a reservation near Chaptico in Charles County and subjected to a land tax. By 1666, they signed a treaty, again in hopes of protection, which gave the colonial government control over the tribe. The Indians renewed the treaty in 1670.

Concern for the Piscataway tribe diminished as the need for the Indians' economy dwindled. It was rumored that the Seneca were preparing to exterminate the Piscataway tribe, and the colonial government did not live up to its treaty. It was another treaty between the Seneca and the Maryland government, however, which dealt the final blow. This agreement traded protection to the settlers for the abandonment of the Piscataway. Foreign diseases such as smallpox, tuberculosis and alcoholism also took their toll. By 1697, the Piscataway population was about eighty, down from the original 8,400 people in 1634.

The Piscataway finally made peace with the Seneca in 1697. A murder took place involving a young colonist boy, and the Indians felt an accusing finger pointing at them. The Piscataway moved to the Virginia woods, north of Warrenton, and could not be persuaded to return. In 1699, they re-entered Maryland and settled in the Upper Potomac region, first on Harrison Island, then on Heater's Island. An epidemic further decimated the Piscataway population in 1704 and in 1712, they moved to Pennsylvania. In 1785, some of the Piscataway had joined the Delaware in the Ohio Valley, and others had migrated into Canada where they lived among various remnants of the Five Nations tribes. "After this, for all practical purposes, the Piscataway simply disappeared from the historical record." This was a sad ending to a great relationship which was such an asset to the early settlers of Maryland.

The Piscataway were heard of again in 1974, when Turkey Tayac, born Phillip Sheridan Proctor, a 27th generation chief and head of the Wild Turkey clan of the Piscataway, began proceedings to allow himself to be buried at the site of his ancestors' graves in Piscataway Park. In November 1977, Representative Gladys Spellman obtained permission from the National Park Service for Turkey Tayac to be buried there. He died in 1978.

In the past five years his son, Billy Tayac, and others of Indian ancestry in Southern Maryland have been renewing interest in the Piscataway tribe, its heritage and traditions among young people of the tribe with Indian festivals. Through lobbying they are also hoping for recognition of the place the Indian holds in history and society today.

Charlotte Temerario

MARYLAND, THE CROWN GRANT

When Cecil Calvert, titled, "Lord Baltimore," advertised in the early 1630's for applicants to settle in the new colony of Maryland, he said, "The situation of the country is excellent and very convenient and is in a location not unlike Spain, Sicily (sic), Jerusalem, and the best parts of Arabia. The climate is serene and mild, not oppressively hot like that of Florida and Old Virginia nor bitter cold like that of New England, but preserves, so to speak, a middle temperature between the two, and so enjoys the advantages and escapes the evils of each... On the east this land is washed by the ocean, on the west it borders upon an almost boundless continent, which extends into the Chinese Sea (Pacific Ocean)."¹

The Calverts' effort at acquiring land in the New World began in 1620 when Sir George Calvert, the father of Cecil and Leonard, applied to King James I for a land grant. His desire for the profits of colonization had been stimulated by prior involvement in American colonization. At each stage of his experience he learned a valuable lesson. He invested in the Virginia Company of London and was secretary of Virginia affairs to the King. From the 1607 Jamestown settlement he learned the importance of choosing a site with good water and a healthy location. The first Jamestown was near a swampy area which we know today was a cause of diseases which contributed to the failure of the settlement. In addition, the Virginia Company forced the colonists to adopt a communal system of agriculture, contrary to the idea that the incentive inherent in owning land was needed for successful colonization.

Sir George also served on the Council for New England and learned from the "Plymouth Plantation" settlement the importance of timing one's arrival. The Plymouth settlers arrived on a rocky, freezing shore in December of 1620. He also had firsthand experience from his own abortive attempt in Newfoundland with a colony named Avalon.

When James I died in 1625, his son Charles I, came to the throne. Sir George Calvert refused the new King's offer to continue to serve the crown after Calvert embraced Catholicism and could no longer take the oath of office. Nevertheless, King Charles thanked Calvert for the service he had given to his father and to himself in negotiating his Spanish marriage to Henrietta Maria. He gave George Calvert the title of Baron Baltimore and an estate in Ireland.

Sir George Calvert died in 1630, before his application for a charter was accomplished. It fell to his son Cecil, the new Lord Baltimore, to reapply. His attempt was surprisingly successful, netting him more land than the unsealed charter of his father. The Calverts' investment in colonization would be counted in the millions today. At that time it was estimated to be between 10,000 and 40,000 pounds. According to the charter, one-fifth of all the silver and gold found in Maryland belonged to the King. This was to be delivered each year along with two Indian arrows to symbolize allegiance to the King. The name, Maryland, was chosen to honor Queen Henrietta Maria.

Lord Baltimore's colony differed from those in Virginia, New York and Massachusetts in several ways. Baltimore received a royal grant and was a proprietor with the right to adjust relations between himself and his settlers. He could create courts, appoint judges, and pardon criminals. The office was hereditary. Most important, the English could not assess or levy taxes on the Baltimores' colony.

New York and Virginia were crown governments, subject to the King's rule. Virginia's Governor and Council were appointed by the King. In 1619 the Virginians were given the right to hold a General Assembly. Thus representative government was established with the governor, council, and assembly elected by the colonists, rather than being under a proprietor.

Lord Baltimore, as the proprietor, received compensation for all land grants to colonial settlers. Relative to the other colonies, the cost of owning land in Maryland was high, thus discouraging speculators. The price of 100 acres of land in 1717 was 480 pounds of tobacco. When the medium of exchange became British currency, the price was quoted at 40 shillings sterling for 100 acres. For comparison, in the Northern Neck of Virginia, land was priced at 5 shillings for 100 acres in a tract up to 600 acres and 10 shillings for each hundred acres in a tract of over 600 acres. In addition to the purchase price, buyers paid quit rent (compensation in lieu of providing feudal services) and export duty on tobacco and other commodities. Usually a person granted 2000 acres or more received from Lord Baltimore "manorial rights" by which the "Lord" or owner could decree punishment after holding court, accept rent, and carry out the other privileges of this position. The Calverts, in effect, ran a semi-feudal system and reserved the right to reclaim any land they sold, if there was no male heir.

Setting Sail for the New World

This beautiful state which we love and call home had its actual beginning in March of 1634, when Leonard Calvert landed with his settlers in two ships, the Ark and the Dove, on the shore of St. Clement's Island. We know from a letter Calvert sent to England two months after his arrival that they found this island haven after sailing some 30 miles up from the mouth of the Potomac River. The two ships carrying the 220 colonists set sail in November of 1633 from the English seaport of Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

Leonard Calvert was appointed governor of the Province of Maryland by his brother Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore. When Leonard Calvert and his expedition entered the Chesapeake Bay, they stopped at Point Comfort, Virginia, where they were warned that permission would be needed from the Indians to settle their province. This was not a surprise since they had heard the widely circulated accounts sent to England by Captain John Smith, Henry Fleet, and Captain Samuel Argall from Virginia.

Smith was the first historian of the Potomac region. He wrote glowingly of the Potomac in 1608 when he explored and mapped the river in his quest for mines and a passage to the China Sea. Smith described the fish, "lying so thicke with their heads above the water, as for want of nets (our barge driving amongst them) we attempted to catch them with a frying pan."²

Argall was a Virginia trader, interpreter and confidante of the Indians. He wrote a letter in 1613 to England describing how he acquired custody of the Indian princess Pocohontas, daughter of Powhatan, who was the "great King Patowomeck", for the ransoming of so many Englishmen as were prisoners with Powhatan. He delivered the Princess to her father and "...this King sent home seven of our men, who seemed to be very joyful for that they were freed from slavery and feared of cruel murther, which they daily before lived in."³

But it was Henry Fleet who played the largest role in the selection of the first site for the Maryland colonists. He was an astute trader and interpreter, who lived for some years as a captive of the Potomac Indians near the present National Capitol site. He kept a diary and described it thus: "This place without question is the most pleasant and healthful in all this country, and most convenient for habitation, the air temperate in summer, and not violent in winter. It aboundeth in all manner of fish. The Indians in one night will commonly catch thirty sturgeons in a place where the river is not above three fathom broad. (A fathom is a unit of measure equaling six feet.) As for deer, buffaloes, bears, turkeys, the woods do swarm with them, and the soil is exceedingly fertile, but above this place the country is rocky and mountainous like Canada."⁴

Permission to Settle

The caution permeating all the Calverts' planning resulted in a trip up the Potomac to the Piscataway Indian settlement seeking permission from Tayac Uwanne, chief of the Piscataway and head Tayac to settle in Southern Maryland. For the trip, Calvert took two pinnaces (small ship's boats outfitted with sails) and a small armed company. Either by chance or design, Captain Henry Fleet met the group near the mouth of Piscataway Creek and accompanied the Calvert party up the creek to Moyaone, the Tayac's home, where he acted as interpreter in the negotiation.

The Tayac reportedly was a majestic figure, tall and lean, standing like a statue to greet the Calvert pinnaces. The contrast must have been startling! In the interesting boats were men wearing colored coats, pants, boots and hats with plumes, while the Indians wore aprons of deerskin and capes of fur over their shoulders. The Tayac's response to Calvert's request for settlement was typical of his Indian diplomacy. Maintaining his dignity and position as Emperor, Uwanne said he "would not bid them go, neither would he bid them stay, but they might do as they think well."

According to Frank Graham, Jr., in *Potomac, the Nation's River*,⁵ it was under a huge mulberry tree that Calvert bargained with the Piscataway Indians for part of the land around a soon-to-

be-abandoned village in what is now St. Mary's County. For a collection of cloth, rakes, and axes, the colonists received permission to take over the village and neighboring countryside after the next harvest. This Indian village became the first town in the new colony, St. Mary's City. From several other accounts, we know that the Calvert company moved into a ready-made village and were spared the work of land clearing. A fort was built to protect not only the colonists, but the Indians who feared attack from their Seneca, Susquehanna, and Delaware enemies to the north.

Relations with the Indians

As long as the Calverts were in charge of Maryland there were few problems in the new settlers' relationship with the Indians. The Indians appreciated the military guardianship the settlers provided against their enemies. In turn the Indians taught the early settlers much about plants and available foods, about grinding corn and other skills. The early settlers proposed friendly relations with the Indians in every respect. They sought "to induce them to civility and to teach them the use of husbandry and mechanics trades, which in turn would be useful to the English. The intention was to civilize, to cherish, and to preserve to eternity the Indians' manners, bodies and souls, and to take nothing from them but barbarous Nakedness." ⁶The settlers also looked into the future, knowing the value of fur trading and other economic advantages of dealing with the Indians.

The success of the first Maryland colony rested heavily on the careful planning of the Calverts, based on what they learned of other settlements in the new world. Besides timing their arrival correctly and providing adequate supplies for the trip, the settlers worked at their relations with the original residents. The prospects for growth and development were great indeed!

Cynthia H. Heerwagen,
Maryland History, and
Charlotte Temerario, Indians

FATHER WHITE AND THE INDIANS

The Calvert's document from the Crown grant provided for the establishment of the Church of England. The Calverts were Catholic, however, and about half of the immigrants aboard the Ark and the Dove were of that faith. There were several Jesuit priests among them, including Father Andrew White, who wrote an early history of Maryland, entitled "A Relation of the Voyage to Maryland," in 1638. In 1639, five years after the settlement of St. Mary's, Father White returned to Piscataway to do missionary work and to see the Tayac, Uwanno, who had first received the colonists. White discovered that Uwanno had been murdered by another Indian and found a new Tayac, Kittamaquand, in his place. Kittamaquand was ill and attended by tribal medicine men. According to Pogue in *Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County*, these medicine men were dancing, beating their drums, and administering their native remedies. Father White persuaded the Tayac to try some of his medicine. In several days he recovered, and Father White became his friend.

Father White and the Jesuits worked as missionaries among the Indians, trying to convert them. When the Tayac agreed to become a Catholic convert and be married in the Church, Father White suggested the leaders of the new settlers attend the important ceremony. The Tayac agreed, and felt that he should wear the same clothes as the settlers since he was adopting their religion. He and his wife wore the clothes but remained barefoot, as they were accustomed to doing.

Bible stories were of great interest to the Tayac. Pogue relates that when Father White "came to the part about Noah and the great flood, the Tayac held up his hand to interrupt. He remarked calmly that he knew all about the great flood! It was included in his Indian legends.

Father White remained in the colony until the age of 66. He was removed in chains by Captain Richard Ingle who invaded St. Mary's City in a move to suppress the practice of the Catholic faith. This action coincided with Clayborn's Rebellion in England in 1645.

Cynthia H. Heerwagen
Charlotte Temerario

THE FOUNDING OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Within 30 years after establishing the colony at Saint Mary's in Calvert County and while enjoying peaceful relations with the neighboring Indian tribes, the colonists left the confines of the original settlement and established farms and plantations along the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers.

The first people who came to these unsettled, desolate areas of Maryland were of a great variety. Lord Baltimore was able to attract Catholic gentlemen of fortune who had fallen out of favor in England. There were some yeomen, or skilled workers, but the greatest number of settlers were indentured servants, convicts, political prisoners, and captured slaves. The indentured servants as well as those who rose to prominence through politics helped to develop a new class in Maryland, the gentry, or middle class. ¹

The many prisoners shipped out of England to the colonies fared well, as they had needed abilities, education and trade skills.² The majority of the prisoners had been convicted of crimes which involved a difference of opinion with the government, such as in politics and religion.

By 1695 approximately 1,700 people lived in our county's area and the Governor, Francis Nicholson, and the General Assembly agreed that the people deserved the right of self government. On April 23, 1696, a new county was established, Prince George's County, named after Prince George of Denmark, husband of the heir to the throne of England, Princess Anne.

County Symbols

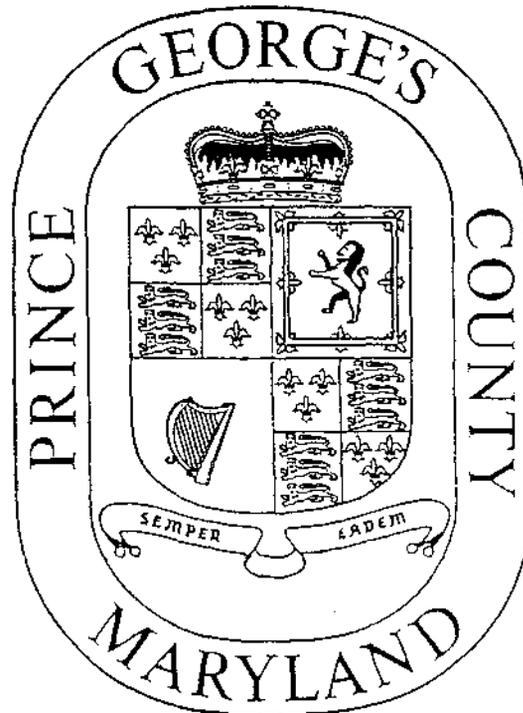
The county was granted the colors of red and white for horse and foot soldiers and for the county flag. These colors were given to John Addison, who was then named Colonel of the Prince George's County Militia.

A symbol of Christian martyrdom since its use in the Great Crusades in the Holy Land, St. George's Cross in red on a white field was adopted as the flag. The English had used the colors of St. George in their battle flag for many centuries, and it flew over the ship of Sir Francis Drake when he sailed around the world, as well as over John Cabot's ship during his search for an Oriental trade route to Asia in 1498.³

The county seal in the flag's left hand quadrant was designed in 1696 by Charles Beckwith of Patuxent. Its crest is England's Imperial Crown. The four quarters of the coat of arms symbolize Queen Anne's heritage: the first and fourth quarters representing France and England, the second, Scotland, and the third, Ireland. Ribboned beneath is the motto, "Semper Eadem," meaning "Ever the Same."

The seal did not officially become part of the flag until 1963 when a special committee was commissioned to recommend and definitely establish the colors as uniquely those of Prince George's County. At that time the flag was recommended to be three

The Seal of Prince George's County



Prince George's County was granted the colors of red and white for horse and foot soldiers and for the county flag. These colors were given to John Addison, a Colonel in the Prince George's County Militia.

A symbol of Christian martyrdom since its use in the Great Crusades in the Holy Land, St. George's Cross in red on a white field was adopted as the flag.⁴ The county seal in the flag's left quadrant was designed in 1696 by Charles Beckwith of Patuxent. Its crest is England's Imperial Crown. The four quarters of the coat of arms symbolize Queen Anne's heritage: the first and fourth quarters representing France and England, the second, Scotland, and the third, Ireland. Ribboned beneath is the motto, "Semper Eadem," meaning "Ever the Same."

The seal officially became part of the flag in 1963 when a specially appointed committee recommended establishing the colors as uniquely those of Prince George's County. At that time the flag was recommended to be three feet by five feet in size, divided in equal quadrants by four inch wide red stripes, with the official county seal in the top left corner.

feet by five feet in size, divided into equal quadrants by four inch wide red stripes, with the official county seal in the left hand corner.

County Boundaries

The territory of the new county was originally part of old Calvert and Charles counties. The boundaries were the Potomac River on the west, the Patuxent River on the east, Mattowoman and Swanson Creeks on the south, and the Pennsylvania border on the north. The original square mileage is unavailable, but today the county is 500 square miles. It remained the frontier county until 1748, when the western most regions were granted their own government, and Prince George's County's northern boundary became basically what it is today, with Howard, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel as neighbors. "Charles Town" at Mt. Calvert, located near the junction of the Patuxent River and its western branch, was selected as the county seat, with a population of approximately 1,650 people.

With time, other trading centers along the rivers grew into towns. Marlborough, named after the Duke of Marlborough of Blenheim, England, was established in 1706. Nottingham, on the Patuxent River, Bladensburg, Queen Anne, Aire at Broadcreek, and Piscataway were other important towns. In 1718 the Assembly directed the removal of the courthouse from Charles Town to Marlborough. The county seat was officially established there in 1721, and there it has remained. Marlborough later was referred to as "Upper Marlborough," as there is a second town named "Lower Marlborough" further south across from the Full Mill Branch of the Patuxent River. The original Charles Town has since disappeared. (On a boat tour of the Patuxent River Park on Jug Bay in 1982, several of this book committee were able to see the location of the town at Mt. Calvert as well as view the ships sunk at the time of the British Invasion in 1814.)

The county was spared extensive military action during the Revolutionary War, but it contributed many soldiers who fought for the cause of independence. John Rogers of Upper Marlborough sat in the Continental Congress in July, 1776, when it voted to make the colonies free and independent states. Daniel Carroll of Prince George's County was one of the authors of the U.S. Constitution.

In 1790 the Congress in Philadelphia voted to locate a new federal capital somewhere along the Potomac River. When the site was selected, Prince George's County ceded most of the land necessary to establish the District of Columbia. This important event had a lasting impact on our county as the federal government expanded.

The early years of the 19th century witnessed the country's continued growth. Agriculturalists Charles Calvert and John Bayne received national attention with their agricultural experiments. Calvert provided land for the nation's first agricultural research college was established in 1850, now the University of Maryland at College Park. The Industrial Revolution had started in Europe, and its impact was felt in America as well.

The first rail line across the county was built in the 1830's, and a telegraph line was built soon after. The county was prosperous, and industries developed, such as the fisheries in the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers, and the steamboats connecting Baltimore and Washington, carrying freight as well as travelers. Tobacco remained its most important commodity, however. More tobacco was grown in Prince George's County than in any other county in Maryland, and more slaves tilled the fields than in any other county in the state.

Agriculture remained the predominant way of life with tobacco still being the most important economic crop. Between the end of the Civil War in 1865 and the turn of the century, the number of farms in the county doubled, while the average farm size decreased. Many of these farms were operated by freed blacks as well as newcomers to the county. The growth resulted in better roads and rail service, and in new towns.

By 1900 the county had increased in size to a total of 30,000 inhabitants. The federal government was also expanding. With job opportunities available in Washington, D.C., Prince George's County continued to grow because of its proximity to the Nation's Capital. Agriculture declined as the suburban population grew. The federal government established large installations in the county, such as Andrews Air Force Base and the Census Bureau in Suitland. By 1960, the population was 350,000; 661,000 in 1970.⁵ And in 1980 the population had grown to 665,071.⁶ Much of the county lives in an urban setting today, but there is also a large portion that retains the rural character of yesterday and appears as the county did 350 years ago. As of the 1990 census, the county population had reached 729,268.⁷

Gloria Meder

THE BEGINNINGS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S ECONOMY

The same features which attracted the original peoples to this area also attracted the colonial settlers. Fertile lands, with open ranges for livestock, plentiful trees and plants and bountiful fish and wildlife shaped the way of life in Southern Prince's George's County.

Agriculture was the basis of the economy, the primary source of livelihood because the crops and livestock provided a majority of the settlers' needs.

Of the kitchen garden crops, corn with its myriad uses was very important. Fruit trees were planted, for fresh fruit and also for making fruit brandy. Cattle and hogs provided the colonists with fresh meat. They grew one crop for outside sale: tobacco. Tobacco was the cash crop. By 1850, Prince George's County grew 80 per cent of Maryland's tobacco.

Because tobacco needed to be exported to pay for imported goods from England, the Potomac River and its tributaries became an all important link between the colonial settlements and England. Rivers served as highways and were the distribution network for the money crops of tobacco and furs. The private wharves or landings and the official ports all played their part in transporting the goods to the English merchants.

The tobacco and other crops were grown on plantations, the label applied to settlers' holdings in Maryland. The plantation was the cultivated part of one's land, the manor being where the house was located. One owner might have several plantations, with field workers living near each one, while the owner resided at his manor house, possibly at a distance from the plantation(s).

A small planter might live right on his plantation and his entire family work in the fields as well as a slave or two. Both types of farmers used the same management method. When the soil was exhausted, they just moved on to previously uncultivated land in their holdings.

During the 1700's, as the value of tobacco increased, the size of the county's slave population expanded dramatically. In 1700, slaves comprised 11 per cent of the total population of the county. In 1776, the total county population was 8,441, consisting of 3,400 slaves (41 per cent), 55 free blacks. and 4,986 whites. The 1776 figures represent the census of the western half of the county, which, at that time, was a considerably larger area than now. By 1790, slaves comprised 52 per cent of the total population. At the end of the eighteenth century, most plantations in the county were actually small farms with only one or two slaves. There were only twenty or so plantations with fifteen or more slaves, and the single largest plantation had a slave population of around 200.¹

Many large estates also had apprentices and bonded or indentured servants in their work force. Both groups, including political prisoners and second sons, tied themselves to a master in return for training and subsistence. Usually educated, the

apprentices and indentured servants only lacked money. When their term of service was up, they provided much needed trades and services to the colonists. Often the plantation owner would give the bonded servant land, as much as 50 acres, after his indenture period was over. The apprentice made a legal agreement to work a specified length of time for a master craftsman in a craft or trade in return for instruction and support. An indentured servant usually did not receive formal training, but made the agreement in exchange for ship passage to the colonies. At the end of his indenture, he was free, unlike a slave.

These diverse labor groups made a big contribution to Maryland's economy and growth as they formed the basis of Maryland's population.

Ann H. Aberg

LIFE IN THE SOUTH COUNTY-IT WASN'T ALL WORK

Research files on this part of southern Prince George's County in the 18th century reveal many facts and legends concerning the relationship of the church to social, business, educational and political aspects of life, in addition to its part in colonist's religious welfare.

The visit of a priest or minister became a community event. People traveled great distances for the infrequent church services and much visiting among families took place on those special Sundays. Most of the planter's households attended, including wives, children, indentured servants and slaves. When one man was invited to a noon meal, he brought his family, coachman, footman, body servant, lady's maid, and nursemaid - a total of 19! Congregations included tradesmen and people involved in fishing and shipping businesses along the rivers and creeks. Tournaments, fairs, music, dancing, games and courting offered rare opportunities for meeting neighbors. Church activities were everyone's opportunity for a good time.

Arrival at church was usually on horseback, in horse drawn carts or by boat. Horses and horse racing were an important part of colonist's lives in Maryland. Drivers competed to arrive first at the church doors, with the best turned out rig and magnificent horses. One legend states that the sheriff and the minister locked a group of arguing men in the church without heat, light, food, or drink until the winner of the day's race was agreed upon.¹

Racing, betting, fights, hard drinking and arguing were all a part of church Sundays. Fairs and tournaments took place on church grounds, where horse racing, nine-pins, cock fighting, card games and dice provided betting opportunities. Even innocent parlor games such as hide-the-thimble were an excuse for betting.

Horse racing and visiting were not the only activities accompanying church services. The church was also a center for business. In early churches the pulpit served three uses, with the pulpit at the top, a clerk's desk midway down and a lectern at floor level. Recording of horse lineages was most important. Records of human births, marriages and deaths were also kept by the clerk of the parish.

The clerk or registrar kept the records of church members. The clerk was an appointed member of the Vestry, the governing body of the local church. As a result of the Maryland Vestry Act of 1692, a part of the Assembly bill establishing the Church of England in Maryland, the Vestry was elected by the congregation and had the status of state official.² A quasicivil servant, the clerk was not paid a salary, but reimbursed for expenses.

The clerk received and distributed business letters, read advertisements and quoted grain and tobacco prices. The role of early postman was important, as there was no official mail service in Maryland until 1695. When John Perry became postman for the entire state, he promised eight deliveries a year between

Philadelphia and the Potomac River/Bay area. The fine for delaying a letter was 100 pounds of tobacco. This was a stiff fine, considering a minister was paid 450 pounds of tobacco a year. In spite of this insurance, people sometimes sent letters to England and Europe in triplicate, by three different ships' captains. Letters were a precious commodity in the colonies and passed from house to house so all could read the news.

The clerk was also responsible for calling the men into church when services were to start. They entered according to their rank, which was based on how much land they owned. Those who could afford pew rent had family box pews. Benches were provided for the others. Slaves had a separate entrance and sat in the gallery or balcony.

The clerk also collected and kept accounts for the various fees charged by the clergy: marriage -- 2 shillings (a shilling today is worth approximately 12 cents); churching of women after childbirth -- 1 shilling; burial -- 1 shilling. Baptisms were free, as was the publishing of marriage banns. (Banns are the announcement of the intention of two people to marry one another, and are given on three successive Sundays before the date set for the ceremony.)

Most support for the church came from a percentage of the parishioners' crops, usually tobacco. The priest or minister was then free to sell his share or trade for needed goods. Later on, people contributed in the form of animals, such as calves, pigs, and goats.

In the very earliest days of Maryland, the church provided most of the education. The first private school was established at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Baden, in 1744. Education, like organized religion, was on a "when available" basis. If the parents could read and write, they would teach their children. Often young educated men from England who did not want to farm would hire out as tutors, as would the priests and ministers. Some families held an indentured servant as a tutor. Paul Wilstach, in his book, *Tidewater Maryland*, described an advertisement for tutoring in the Gazette of September, 1771, by Peter Egerton of Piscataway: "The descendant and heir of Sir Ralf Egerton, who was Standard-bearer to King Henry the Eighth; Elder brother of Sir Thomas Egerton, after Baron Elsmere, Chancellor at Oxford and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England under Queen Elizabeth: from whom Francis Egerton, the present Duke of Bridgewater is descended."³ Hopefully, his teaching abilities were on par with his lineage!

Education for the poor in the 1700's was virtually nonexistent, despite good intentions. A county school board was formed in 1696, and schools were to be erected as soon as possible, funding to come from an export duty on furs, beef, and bacon, and an import tax on liquor. In 1701, one school had been built in Annapolis. The only other public school was in Bladensburg in 1770, although Prince George's County developed district schools after the Revolutionary War (1778-1783). (Free Public schools were not available until the mid-1800's -- see "After the Civil War.")

Even though some schools were available in the 1700's, they were far apart and consequently, inaccessible to most. The small planter relied on his family to work the land, and children were not sent to school when needed at home. Lack of money as well as distance would also make getting to school difficult for the very poor. Many indentured servants were already educated, but it was considered unwise to teach slaves to read, although a few were instructed by their masters to help in the administration of the plantations. Girls fared the worst of all. One schoolmaster, married to an Addison, stated of his wife's background, that she had been raised with every advantage but no education. If this was said of an Addison, other girls would not have fared better.

When children passed the grammar school stage, available schools were few and far between until the establishment of Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, in 1782, and St. John's College in Annapolis in 1784. (The first free public high school opened in 1899 in Laurel.) Richer planters sent their sons to the universities of England, to William and Mary in Virginia, or Princeton in New Jersey.

Besides the religious, social, business and educational influences of the churches, they were also involved increasingly in politics as the conflict grew between the colonists and the Crown. Until the Revolutionary War, and even during the conflict, patriot and Tory existed side by side. Those wishing to remain loyal to the Crown eventually had their land holdings taken away, and some returned to England for the duration of the War. In the meantime, much arguing went on between the two factions. One priest at Christ Church-Accoceek had to preach with pistols on the pulpit to keep the peace.

No doubt the changing status of the county and local militias caused further controversy. Militia (a military force) had been formed even before the establishment of Prince George's County in 1696, for protection and emergency purposes. It consisted of all able-bodied men who were mustered or assembled periodically for training in their local area by their leaders.

As strife with England became more inevitable, pressure to join up grew stronger. Those with Tory leanings were less and less tolerated as they refused to help the cause. The role of the militia in colonial times can be appreciated when it is realized how little training the patriots had and how willing they were to fight for what they believed in.

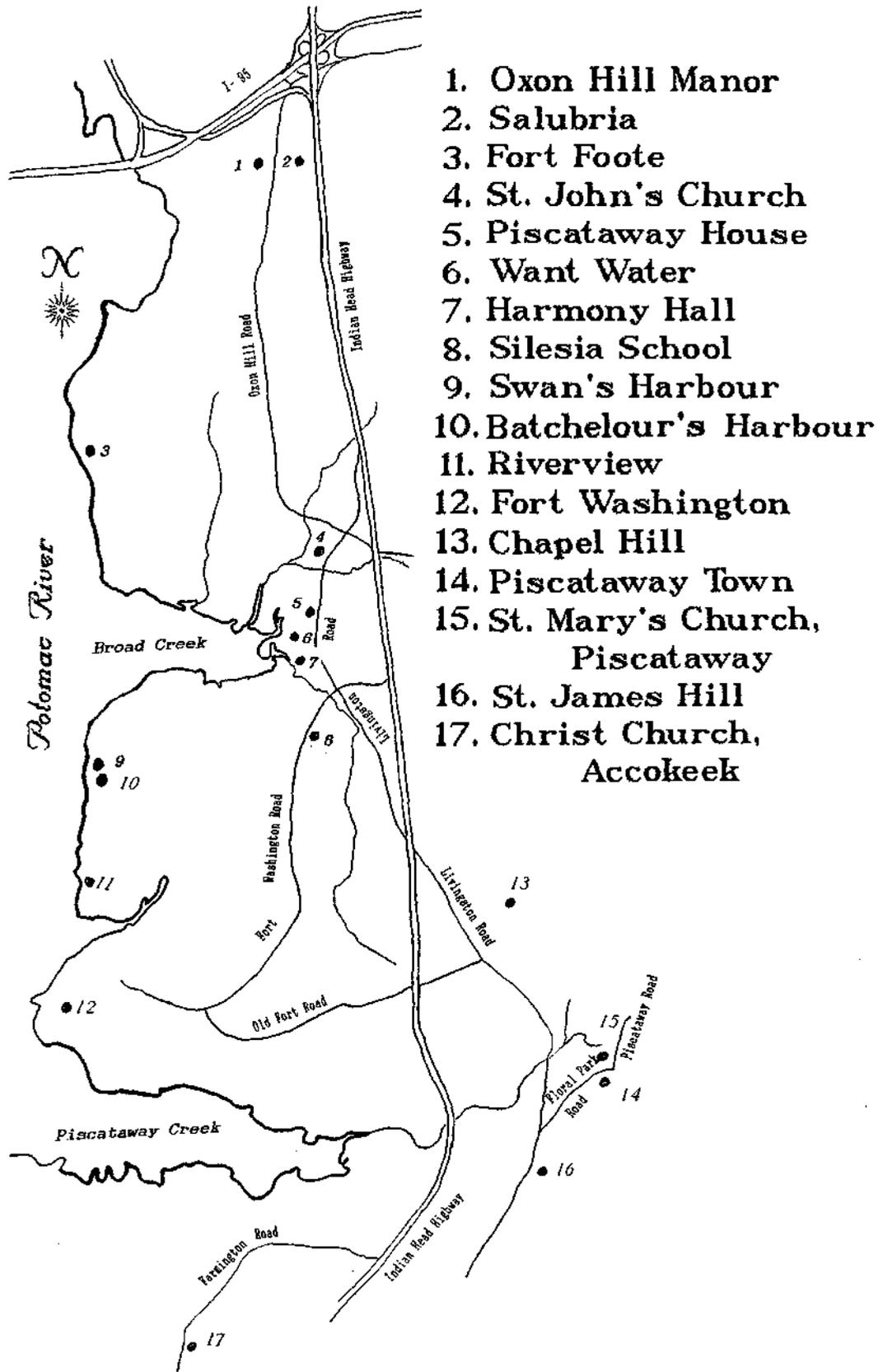
Churches provided the important focus of life in Southern Prince George's County, as they still do. Although there was no television, movies, or automobiles, there were plenty of exciting activities to fill what leisure time was afforded the settlers of our area.

Anne H. Aberg

Chapter

II

Historic Landmarks



1. Oxon Hill Manor
2. Salubria
3. Fort Foote
4. St. John's Church
5. Piscataway House
6. Want Water
7. Harmony Hall
8. Silesia School
9. Swan's Harbour
10. Batchelour's Harbour
11. Riverview
12. Fort Washington
13. Chapel Hill
14. Piscataway Town
15. St. Mary's Church,
Piscataway
16. St. James Hill
17. Christ Church,
Accokeek

CHAPTER II

THE ADDISON FAMILY AND OXON HILL MANOR

To mention all the names of the famous descendants of colonial residents of Southern Prince George's County is beyond the scope of this endeavor. We will, however, take the time to trace a few descendants from one of the most noted colonial families, the Addisons. This family played an important part in the history of Maryland, especially the southern portion of Prince George's County.

The Addison family name appears frequently in the 18th century history of this area. There were five Addison brothers in England in the latter part of the 17th century. Two were highly placed churchmen, Lancelot and Anthony. Lancelot served King Charles II, Anthony, the Duke of Marlborough. Two other brothers were tobacco importers at Whitehaven.

The fifth brother, John, came to Maryland around 1675 to serve as an agent for his brothers in Whitehaven and to seek his fortune. He formed John Addison and Company in St. Mary's City, which exported furs and tobacco and imported liquor and manufactured goods. In 1688, he moved from St. Mary's City to the Potomac's Eastern Branch, now called the Anacostia River, where he was licensed to trade with the Indians.

John Addison arrived in the colony after many of the best pieces of land in the Piscataway Hundred had been patented.¹ He had, however, gained the right to tracts of land from Lord Baltimore by providing overseas passages for colonists.² He patented 345 acres called Swan's Harbour in 1687, and acquired another small piece, perhaps a surplusage from Clarkson's purchase, called Addison's Expedition. (Surplusage was land lying between two large estates which had not been accurately surveyed originally. If the owners forfeited these extra pieces of land, they went up for sale.) In 1689, he was assigned an additional piece called Addison's Folly by William Hutchinson.

In 1692, Addison added to his land holdings through estate sales. John Charmon, who originally patented a piece called St. Elizabeth, had assigned it to his "Loving Kinsman, John Meeke, Chysurgeon," in 1663.³ Upon Meeke's death, Addison bought this tract as well as those called Chichester, Horsham, and St. John's.⁴

This St. Elizabeth tract, on which all of the Addison homes were built, is not to be confused with the other tract of land, called St. Elizabeth's, further north where the psychiatric hospital is located. Originally called the Hospital for the Mentally Insane, it came to have the name St. Elizabeth's during the Civil War, when wounded soldiers were hospitalized there. Not wanting to write home from an insane asylum, the soldiers called it St. Elizabeth's, as it was built on the second, more northern St. Elizabeth's. Congress finally changed the name officially in the early 1900's.

The manor house for John Addison's plantation, St. Elizabeth's, was located on the Potomac River, just below the mouth of Oxon Run, overlooking Alexandria. He married Rebecca Dent, widow of Thomas Dent Esquire, another large land owner in the Piscataway Hundred.

Addison prospered in his political dealings also, sitting as Justice of the Provincial Court and serving as a privy Councillor to the Governor. In 1695, he was appointed Colonel of Prince George's County, which gave him the right to select all the first military and civil officials. He was also one of the founders of St. John's Church at Broad Creek and the King William School in Annapolis.

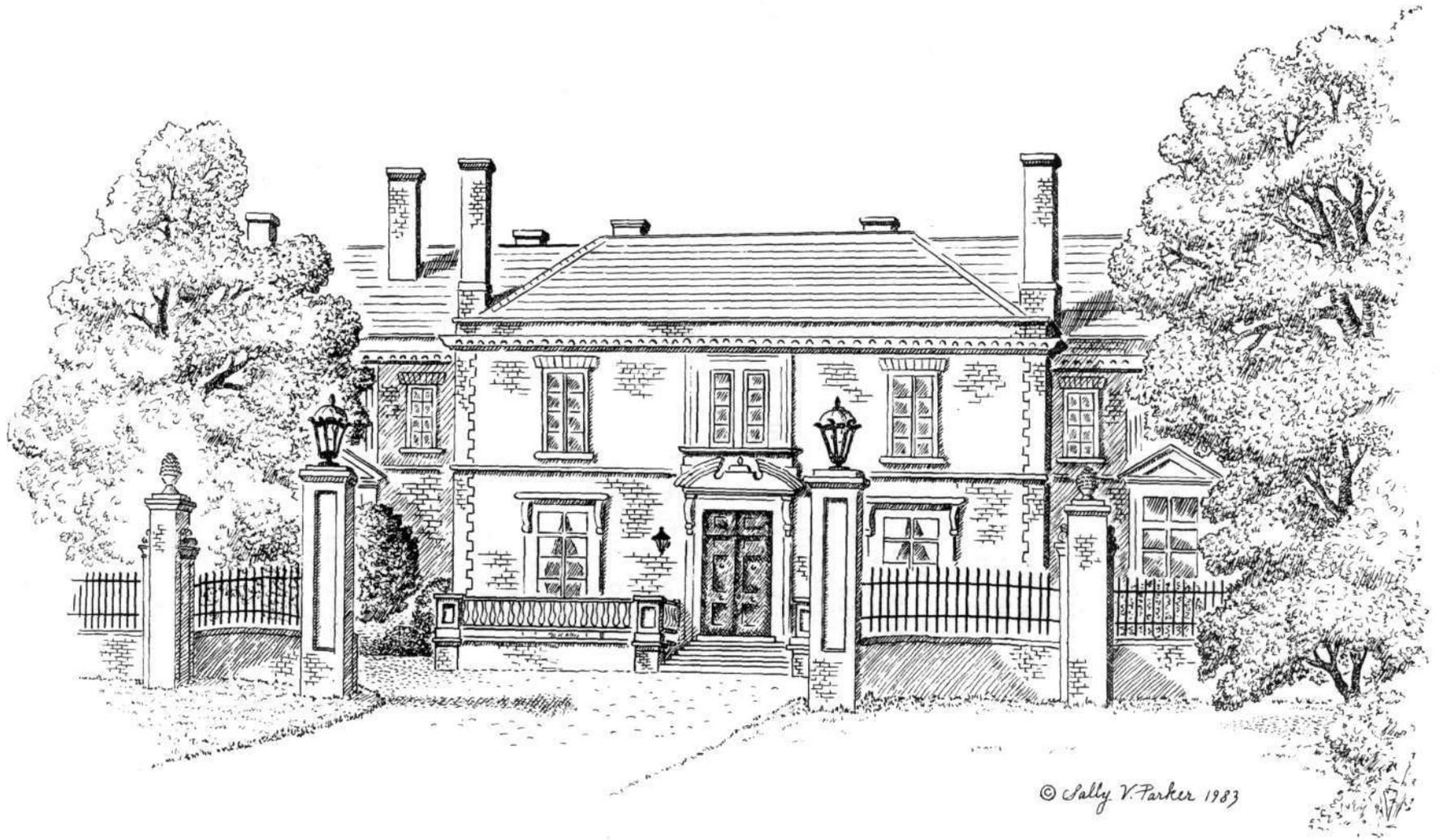
Upon his death in 1706, John Addison's only son, Thomas Addison, inherited his extensive land holdings, and command of the county militia. He continued to acquire land with as much zeal as his father. In 1708, he was issued a land patent for 35 acres on Wide Water Cove on Broad Creek. He wanted this additional tract because it provided another good access to water. Colonel Addison needed this natural harbour for his tobacco trade with Europe. As will be detailed in a following chapter, Addison also purchased the Turner plantation at Broad Creek, or Batchelour's Harbour, to add to the Swan Harbour tract and other adjacent pieces of property inherited from his father.

Colonel Thomas Addison added to the Addison family fortunes and prospered as greatly as his father. In 1710, Thomas, built a brick house to replace his father's frame dwelling. The new house was located on a ridge several hundred yards north of the location of the present Oxon Hill Manor, a little south of the present Beltway. He called it "Oxford on the Hill" in memory of his pleasant years at Oxford University.

Operating nine large plantations including the one near his Oxon Hill Great House, he raised cattle and pigs as well as tobacco, fruit, oats and corn. Addison owned a mill and operated a store at the landing below the Manor House. He rose in public service, serving in some of his father's positions, surveyor and high sheriff of the county at different times. He was appointed an Assistant Naval Officer of the Potomac at eighteen.

Colonel Thomas Addison married well. His first wife was Elizabeth Tasker, daughter of Thomas Tasker of the Privy Council, Justice of the High Provincial Court, and Treasurer of the Province. They had two daughters, Rebecca and Elinor. After Elizabeth died in 1706, he married Eleanor Smith in 1709. They had five children: John, Thomas, Ann, Henry, and Antony.

Colonel Addison died in 1727. Under the terms of his will, Batchelour's Harbour and Swan's Harbour were divided equally between his daughters from his first marriage, Elinor and Rebecca. Elinor's share was willed to her young son, John Addison Smith, from her marriage to Colonel Richard Smith. John grew up to become a merchant in Baltimore, and when he died in 1776, these "lands on Potowmack," as he called them, were left to his eldest son, Richard.



Oxon Hill Manor

The other heiress, Rebecca, married George Plater and became mistress of Sotterly, a great plantation on the Patuxent River. (Sotterly is still standing and open to the public.) Rebecca died about 1748, and her shares came under her husband's control. George Plater was a Colonel in St. Mary's County Militia, and all of his 13,650 acres of land, which included the nearly 600 acres of shares in Batchelour's Harbour and Swan's Harbour, went to his son, George.

Young George Plater graduated from William and Mary College, and became a lawyer and a naval officer. During the American Revolution, he was on a committee chosen to prepare a declaration and Charter of Rights to form a Government for Maryland. Elected a member of the Continental Congress in 1778, he served until 1781. He represented St. Mary's County in the State Senate and had the honor of presiding over the Maryland Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States in 1788 when he cast his vote for George Washington in 1789, as a Presidential Elector. George Plater was elected Governor of Maryland in 1791.

The descendants of Thomas Addison and his second wife, Eleanor, were prominent in the local scene, especially John, Thomas, and Henry. Henry was rector of St. John's Church, Broad Creek, from 1751 until his death in 1789, although he had spent the years of the Revolutionary War in England, loyal to the Crown. Thomas was a Major in His Majesty's 35th Artillery of Foot for 25 years and died in 1770. The oldest son and second John Addison ran the family estates until his death in 1764.

When John's son, the third Thomas, inherited the Addison holdings the land was resurveyed and combined under the single tract named Oxon Hill Manor. In 1767, a land patent was issued in this name by the proprietary government of Maryland.⁵ This third Thomas married Rebecca Dulaney in 1767. Their children were the Reverend Walter Dulaney Addison; John Addison of Cole Brook, whose daughter married Dr. John Bayne; Mary Grafton; Thomas Grafton, who married Henrietta Paca; and Henry, who married Elizabeth Clagett, daughter of Thomas Clagett, an inn keeper from Piscataway.

After the death of Thomas Addison, his widow, Rebecca Dulaney Addison, continued to live at the manor house. In 1778, she married Thomas Hanson. Thomas Hanson's uncle was John Hanson, who was elected President under the Articles of the Confederation for a one year term on November 5, 1781. In 1782, tired and ill, he completed his term as President. In 1783, he visited his nephew, Thomas Hanson, who was at the time the squire of Oxon Hill Manor. While there, he became ill and died. It is believed that John Hanson was buried in the family cemetery on the grounds, although efforts through the years to locate his grave have been fruitless.

Mrs. Rebecca Addison Hanson and her husband lived at Oxon Hill until the mid 1780's, when they leased the Manor to Nathaniel Washington, a relative of George Washington, who placed his two orphaned nephews, George S. Washington and Lawrence A. Washington, there as boarders. While the Washington relatives were living at Oxon Hill Manor, various locations for the Capital of the United

States were being explored. One of the sites under consideration in 1780 was a tract on this side of the Potomac, which would have included Oxon Hill Manor.⁶

The last Addison owner of Oxon Hill Manor was the son of Thomas Addison the third, the Reverend Walter Dulaney Addison, who took control in 1793, although he had inherited it in 1774. Reverend Addison was born in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1769, and educated in England. When he returned to the Piscataway-Oxon Hill area, he found his native town to be a pleasure-loving place more brilliant than that of New York and Philadelphia. He turned to the ministry and, fearing the wealth which he had inherited from his father would interfere with his religious work, gave the majority of it to his family.

In 1794, Reverend Addison was 26 years old and rector of Broad Creek Parish in Prince George's County. He was one of the first clergymen ordained in this country by Bishop John Clagett of Maryland. His duties also took him to Georgetown, a rapidly growing Scottish village at the fall line of the Potomac River. It had been settled by merchants from England and Scotland and wealthy tobacco growers and exporters from rural Southern Maryland. Reverend Addison discovered a handful of Episcopal families and organized a small congregation which he ministered to at irregular intervals whenever weather permitted him to travel. The congregation was able to provide monies to build a church St. John's Church-Georgetown and was ready for a rector by 1804. The Vestry requested Reverend Addison head the church in 1809, and again in 1823. Reverend Addison officiated at the funeral of George Washington.⁷ He died in January, 1848, and was buried in the Oxon Hill area, but not at the Manor.

Reverend Addison's wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Hesselius, a celebrated portrait painter from the Tidewater area. One of Hesselius' paintings hangs in St. Barnabas-Leland Episcopal Church, located on Oak Grove Road near Central Avenue. He also painted portraits of the Darnall family which now belong to the Maryland Historical Society. Elizabeth H. Addison is buried in the family cemetery near the original Manor House. There is also a gravestone there for John Addison, the brother of Walter Dulaney Addison.

In 1798, Reverend Addison leased the lands and buildings of Oxon Hill Manor to John and Ellsworth Bayne for the length of their lives. In 1810, however he sold Oxon Hill Manor to Zacharia Berry of Concord, except for 328 acres he sold to Ellsworth Bayne in 1811. By 1879, trustees for the Berry family had sold off the property by lots. In 1895, the brick Oxon Hill Great House built so lovingly in 1710 by the first Thomas Addison was destroyed by fire.

The present Oxon Hill mansion was built for Sumner Welles in 1928, on 245 acres of the original estate. He purchased the land in the mid-1920's for \$110 an acre, including the site of the burned mansion. In 1933, Sumner Welles became Assistant Secretary of State, and in 1937, Under-Secretary of State for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a frequent visitor at Oxon Hill Manor.

Early residents of the area say that during the Welles' ownership, Washington society met regularly at Oxon Hill Manor, and the estate was the scene of many fabulous parties.

Pauline Collins

After his wife's death in the late forties, Sumner Welles sold Oxon Hill Manor and moved to New York. It was purchased by Fred N. Maloof in 1952, the last of the private owners. As well as being a major collector of everything from paintings to antiquities, Maloof had an eccentric personality. The mansion was overly full of all sorts of valuable items stuffed everywhere; paintings were stacked against the walls. The ballroom was like a warehouse where one had to tiptoe and step over things in order to get around. His collection of valuable books, old jade, Chinese vases and old porcelain was outstanding. Old porcelain was piled on huge shelves in the kitchen where he hosted small dinners on Sunday evenings. Although the dining room could easily seat 50 to 75 people, everyone ate in the kitchen with good talk and comradeship.

His collection included original paintings by Peale, Stuart, Copley, and Audubon Junior and Senior. At one time the White House was interested in acquiring some of his Gilbert Stuart paintings, but as this was during the Lyndon Johnson administration and Maloof was a staunch conservative, he would not consent to part with the paintings. His collection was to go to the University of Tennessee, but after his death it was auctioned off to pay his debts.

In 1976, the 55 acre parcel and the Manor were purchased and deeded to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Oxon Hill Manor was entered on the historic register in June, 1978. In 1979, the Commission leased a portion of the property to the Oxon Hill Manor Foundation, Inc., a non-profit community foundation for the purpose of restoration, operation and maintenance of the Manor. The lease covers the mansion and about fifteen surrounding acres, including the pool and gardens. Renovation was finished late in Spring, 1982, and public use began in May, 1982.

The Addison Plantation was the subject of two major archeological investigations in the late 1980's: one for the expansion of the Beltway and the other for the Port America development. Excavation along the upper ridge of the property included the main house and out buildings. Artifacts found were from the 17th century up to deposits from Sumner Wells time. Wells used an old utility building as a trash dump and many items were found. Also of interest was an earthen cellar lined with wood and an exterior staircase about 20 feet long. All of this was burned in the 1740's, but the stairs and cellar were preserved.

Physical evidence of Col. Addison's involvement with the County militia was gun parts and arms concentrated near the house. It is surmised that when the militia was called he was the one dispensing weapons.

In addition to the main house other structures were investigated, including one filled with beef bones. Cattle were important to the economy of the time: they grazed in the marshes in the area. Wells from the 18th and 19 centuries were found, the older well contained glass bottles with the Addison seal.

Archaeologists found two cabins built before the Civil War located between the Addison Plantation and the present Oxon Hill Manor. A subfloor pit was found in each cabin containing coins, ceramics, tools and roots. The pits are a feature attributed to African influence as there is no indication of such pits in European culture. The American cellar is felt to have evolved from the introduction of pits by African slaves.

The Addison family cemetery is located near the present Oxon Hill Manor and it is quite possible that John Hanson is buried there. It would entail digging up the cemetery and matching the age, sex and race of each individual buried at the site, but Addison descendants do not want any of the graves disturbed. There are three to four grave stones, but additional unmarked graves total about 20, including possible servants. When the Addison property was transferred to the second owner, Mr. Zacharia Berry, in 1810, he declared the cemetery would remain in perpetuity.⁸

The cemetery is currently located on Port America property and can be seen as one drives south on Oxon Hill Road toward the Manor. It is on the right hand side behind wire fencing, perched atop a 30 foot hill left by construction crews. The little cemetery with its few trees stand out against the sky and raw earth. Tip your hat and say hello to history each time you drive by.

There was a sizable Woodland Period Indian village discovered down by the bay. The Woodland Period label is applied to the years 1000 BC to 1000 AD. The early dates are characterized by ceramics and the later ones by agriculture. The survey also found small sites such as field huts for processing things. The sites yielded ceramics that had not been seen in Maryland before.⁹

Penny Ichord



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Salubria-A Maryland Plantation Home

SALUBRIA-A MARYLAND PLANTATION HOME

Located across Oxon Hill Road from the Oxon Hill Manor, slightly to the north of the present Manor entrance is the plantation home Salubria. Salubria was the home of the Bayne, Addison, Breckinridge, and Castle families, and had been occupied by members of these families from the early 1800's until 1989.

The Bayne family arrived in America on the Ark in 1634. In *Out of the past, Prince Georgians and Their Land*¹, by R. Lee Van Horn, many references were made to the ancestors of the Dr. Bayne who built Salubria. In 1695, a John Bayne was a delegate to the General Assembly in Annapolis from Charles County. A later John Bayne was appointed postmaster in 1761 and 1766. This John Bayne was also awarded a contract to build a bridge over the lower Piscataway Creek in 1762. In 1776 references were made to a Captain Samuel Hawkins Bayne and a Lieutenant William Bayne in connection with their orders for the Revolutionary War. The main hall at St. John's Church is called Bayne Hall.

The plantation home was built in 1827 by John H. Bayne, an 1825 graduate of the University of Maryland Medical School. At the time of Dr. Bayne's marriage to Mary Frances McDaniel, his father deeded 64 acres of his land to him across the road from Oxon Hill Manor. Ellsworth Bayne had purchased 328 acres of Oxon Hill Manor from Reverend Walter Dulaney Addison in 1811.² Because Dr. John Bayne maintained his office in the south wing of the home, he called the plantation Salubria, which is from the word salubrious, meaning healthful. After the death of his first wife, Dr. Bayne married Harriet Addison in 1841. She was the daughter of John Addison of Cole Brook.

Tragedy struck the Bayne family in the 1830,s when Dr. Bayne's two sons, George and John, seven and five years of age, were poisoned by their young slave nursemaid, fourteen year old Juda. She also confessed to setting fire to Salubria in 1833 and the year before had poisoned the doctor's baby daughter, Catherine. She was tried and hanged in Upper Marlborough, thereby earning the dubious distinction of being the youngest female ever executed in American legal history.³

Dr. Bayne was not only a prominent doctor, but an active participant in horticulture and politics. He farmed his own land and his father's lands and is credited with taking the tomato out of the garden curiosity class and making it a field crop. He was also a close associate of Charles B. Calvert of Riverdale, and assisted him in the planning of the College of Agriculture at the University of Maryland. President Lincoln gave Dr. Bayne a commission as a high-ranking surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Three successive generations of the Bayne family were physicians. These three Baynes earned the highest esteem of their patients, many of whom were prominent in their day. Dr. J. Breckinridge Bayne received the highest award of Rumania from Queen Marie for his work in her country during the First World War.

Salubria is a long frame house, painted white, with graceful two story porch columns. It is considered a good example of southern architecture of the antebellum period. The property is also noted for its particularly fine specimens of boxwood and holly. The boxwood from Salubria was used to establish the shrub in the plantings at the present Oxon Hill Manor. Two large stone tablets presented to the family by the Queen of Rumania are still on the front veranda.

Salubria was in good condition until the late 1970's. It caught fire in 1981 and is no longer occupied. The house and surrounding property were offered for sale and the family had hoped it would be purchased and restored by M-NCPPC. But in September of 1989, Ronald Cohan Investments announced development plans that included an office park and hotel north of historic Salubria. Cohen's plans included rebuilding the old house for use as a restaurant and/or small convention center. Phase I, the five story Salubria Office Park is evident at the intersection of Indian Head Highway and Oxon Hill Road directly across from the proposed Port America site.⁴

Pauline Collins

FORT FOOTE

Fort Foote, named for Rear Admiral Andrew Hull Foote (1806-1863), was a true Civil War fort and constituted one of the formal Civil War defenses of Washington. Of the 68 major forts and batteries, Fort Foote was the most southern. Most Civil War forts were earthen and Fort Foote was no exception. Built with the latest naval defense technology, it is located on Rozier's Bluff, approximately eight miles below Washington. Construction started in May, 1863, but troops were withdrawn soon after with little accomplished.

The neighboring inhabitants called it the graveyard of Prince George's County as the area was very malarial; half of the officers and men were on sick call at any given time. (The swamp, north of the fort, was drained by 1876.) But the troops enjoyed the luscious fruits and melons of the countryside especially since almost a peck of peaches cost only 12 1/2 cents.¹

The fort had a perimeter of 472 yards and mounted two 15-inch Rodman guns (the originals still to be seen at the fort), four 200-pound rifled Parrotts, and six 30 pound Parrotts. Each Rodman weighed 49,000 lbs. and fired a 433 lb. solid cannon ball three miles down river. They were transported from Washington to Fort Foote by boat; 300 to 400 men were required to move them from the river to the bluffs.²

Less than 200 officers and men were garrisoned at the fort during the Civil War. On August 20, 1863, President Lincoln, Secretary of War Stanton and Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs visited Fort Foote. They toured the fort, had dinner and returned to Washington. While the fort and the surrounding facilities were not completed until 1865, the fort was dedicated and named on October 1, 1863, by Secretary Seward. Late in October, \$300,000 was authorized for building obstructions to be moored in the Potomac River. A year later, these obstructions, apparently a series of floats holding up a 400 foot long chain with 23 anchors, had been designed and were being built. In 1879, a final reference to the chain was made, but no evidence exists that the chain was every moored and tested.³

Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles did not particularly think much of Fort Foote. In his wartime diary, he said the position was a strong one but it was all a waste of money and labor. "In going over the works a melancholy feeling came over me that there should have been so much waste, for the fort is not wanted, and will never fire a hostile gun," he noted.⁴

Fort Foote was finally abandoned in 1878. The site fell into decay, was briefly reactivated during World War I, then again returned to quiet. The site has been restored and is maintained by the National Park Service. Fort Foote is the most well preserved of all the defenses built around Washington in the Civil War.⁵

Ben Kirkconnell

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH-BROAD CREEK

St. John's Church was one of thirty parishes established in the province of Maryland by a bill drawn up by the Assembly and signed by the Royal Governor, Sir Lionel Copley, in June, 1692. The bill provided for making parish boundaries and assessing each taxable person forty pounds of tobacco to build a church in each parish. The sheriff collected the tax and delivered it to the Vestry, any remaining money after construction was to be paid to the minister.

In 1694, John Addison of Oxon Hill, representing St. John's Vestry, negotiated with George Aithey to purchase part of one of the pieces of land of the Piscataway Hundred known as Little Hall. On December 3, 1694, 78 acres of Little Hall were sold to the Vestry of St. John's Church and the first log church was completed in 1695. When it was destroyed by fire, a second structure was built in 1707-08 with dimensions of 50 feet by 24 feet with a gallery 13 feet deep.

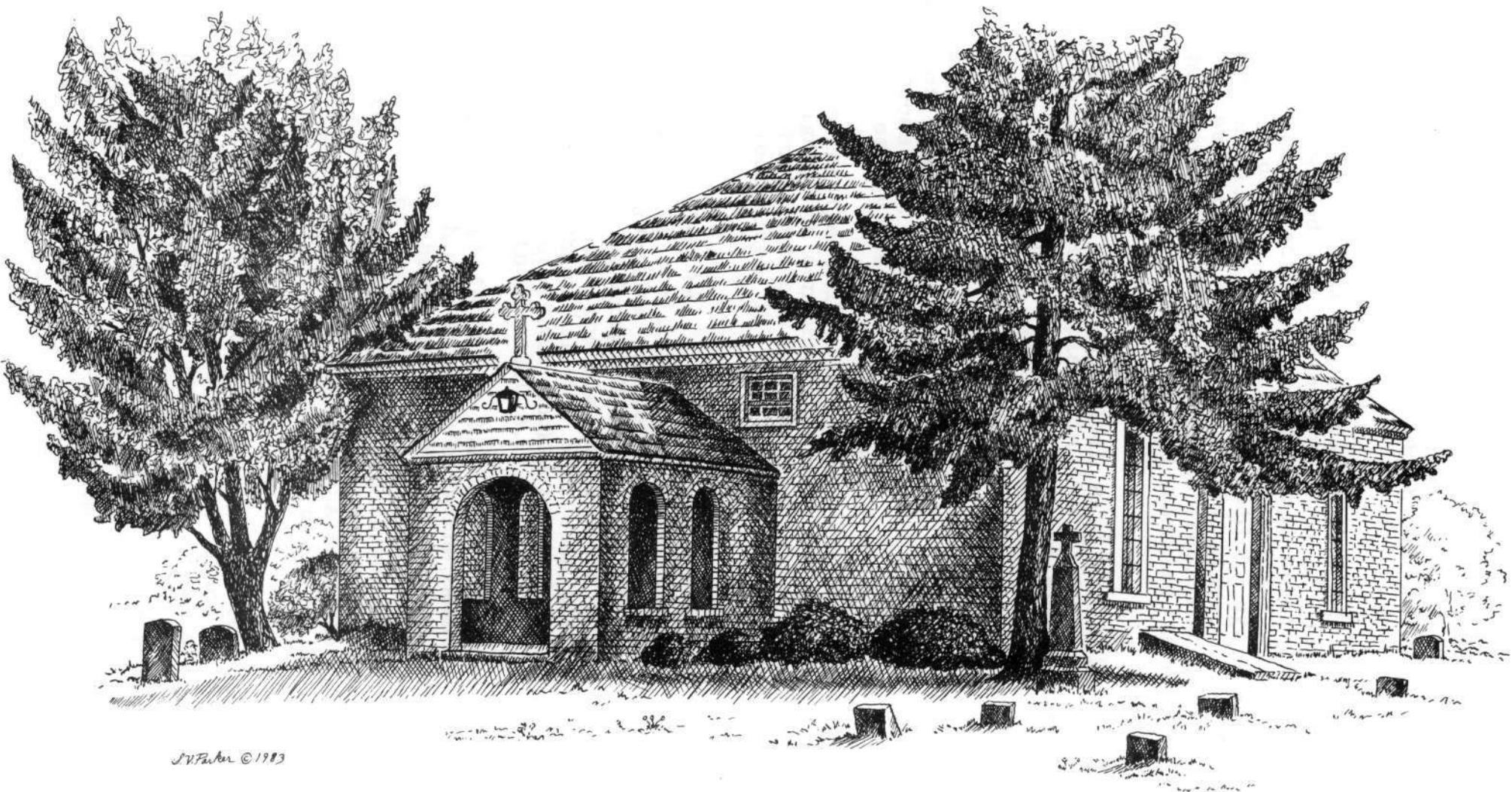
Vestry minutes, written in 1722, deemed this frame structure dilapidated and on January 14, 1722, negotiations opened with John Lane to build a brick church. A contract to build a church with a porch was signed with Mr. Lane on January 26, 1722, for 16,000 pounds of tobacco, the commodity of exchange.¹

This contract covered the brickwork only; Vestry minutes noted a separate agreement for carpentry and woodwork with John Redford. On January 22, 1723, John Lane was awarded an additional contract to do the interior plastering and white washing.

Bricks used in the construction were made on the property. For many years it was believed that the bricks had been ballast from the sailing ships coming from England. In the 1960's, however, a brick kiln was found during the construction of the parish hall. The Smithsonian Institution authenticated its origin as dating back to the 1722-23 construction a year after Harmony Hall was built of bricks. The vestry members were assigned to count the bricks in the finished building, as Lane had been allotted 40,000. The minutes give the following totals: 36,863 used and 3130 lost or broken. No speculation was made about the seven missing from the count.

In 1765, the church was to be enlarged. But in 1766, the builder, Thomas Cleland, was authorized "to have the whole of the old brick taken down"² and to build a completely new building. This structure, completed in 1768, is the one now standing. During foundation repair in 1976, it was discovered Cleland had used the lowest courses of the then old north and west walls as a foundation for the new walls.

The date 1766 and various initials can be seen carved at the east corner of the north inside wall of the church. These were found when wallboard covering the brick, part of a renovation done in the early 1900's, was removed when restoration was started in the late 1960's. More dates and initials were found on the east wall behind the altar when further restoration revealed them in



J.V. Parker © 1983

St. John's Church—Broad Creek

1977. It is speculated that carpenters or bricklayers carved these initials during construction, which further authenticates the building dates.

Since 1968, extensive restoration has been going on, both to repair where needed and restore as much of the original style as possible. Where practical, the original materials, such as beams, lumber, pews, doors, and bricks, were reused. A notable project was the installation of windows which are replicas of the originals, even to the colonial style glass. In the summer of 1982, the church interior was replastered. The initials carved on the bricks have been left exposed and are covered with plastic boxes for viewing.

In addition to its historical site and building, St. John's Church has an important place in the history of Maryland. Its vestry minutes date from the year 1693 and are on file in the State House in Annapolis. The church retains the chalice and paten given by George I, who sent a communion set to each of the New World parishes. St. John's communion set is similar to the one in Jamestown, Virginia, and was marked in 1729 by its maker John Edwards of London. Stored in a bank, the set is used only on special occasions, as much due to its design (the chalice lip spills over easily) as to its value.

Surrounding the church is a graveyard with graves dating from the early eighteenth century. The earliest grave is dated 1760 and has a small rose bush one hundred years old. On these graves are many names recognized in the South County: Hatton, Kerby, and Thorne.

The church also has a ghost in its history. When Jackson Kerby was closing up the church around the turn of the last century after the annual jousting tourney, he saw a figure in the church. Dressed in clothes of George Washington's time, and sporting a peg leg, the man walked out the big south doors into the graveyard and disappeared. The ghost has not been seen since, but a story has been circulating about silver buckle being found when the floor was taken up for repair in the 1950's.

At times St. John's Church has also been known as Broad Creek or Piscataway Church, or St. John's in the Meadow. Many well-known persons worshipped there, among them the Digges of Warburton Manor and the Addisons of Oxon Hill. George Washington may have attended services often. This is possible, as it was easier to pole a barge across the river from Mount Vernon than to go by coach over muddy potholed roads up to Christ Church in Alexandria. The church has a pew named for him, the only one left of the original box-style pews.

St. John's is the oldest Episcopal church in the Washington area which has been in continual use since 1695. In colonial times, however, there was a shortage of priests, and services were not held weekly. Many priests covered several churches over a large area. The original parish of St. John's extended north to the Pennsylvania border, east to the Patuxent River, south to Mattawoman Creek, and west to the Potomac River. In 1726, as there

were enough taxpayers in the northern part of the parish to support two churches, the eastern branch of Rock Creek, running east to the Patuxent River, became the northern boundary of St. John's. The colonists also bridged the distance by establishing chapels of "ease" (or convenience) at centers of population too far from the "mother" church for regular attendance. (Reportedly, there is a Maryland law which states that no citizen of Maryland must go further than five miles to attend Chapel.)³

As a result, services were held sometimes only once a month. In addition, a priest contracted to give so many sermons a year. In 1723, St. John's records show that eight sermons were given and that the minister was paid 450 pounds of tobacco. In 1724, this was increased to 600 pounds of tobacco.

The church is located on Livingston Road and can be reached either by Old St. John's Way or by Broad Creek Church Road, formerly Oxon Hill Road, which branches off Oxon Hill Road just before it reaches Livingston Road. All of the property from Livingston Road to Broad Creek at one point, and approximately 15 feet away from the Creek at another point (due to a park and planning easement for the floodplain) north to Old St. John's Way, and south to the other side of the graveyard is owned by the church. This represents two acres of the original 78 acre purchase and six and one-half acres purchased later. The two acres are the traditional church yard, the rest having been sold off in 1819 by the Vestry. In 1905, two acres were purchased which now hold the parish hall and parking lot. The approximate four acres which contain the rectory, the ball field, and the nursery playground were bought in 1951. The one-half acre parcel created by the abandonment of that part of Oxon Hill Road in 1965, lying south beyond the rectory, is also owned by the church.

Besides the church, buildings on the property include the parish hall and the rectory, built in 1961. When the first church was built in 1695, a rectory was built, but rarely used. This has been attributed to the lowness of the land, which made the area humid and buggy even then. Rectors of St. John's have lived at some of the other historical landmarks in the area, such as Harmony Hall and St. James Hill, near Piscataway.

The property has a field for the local Little League (Mitch Fletcher Baseball Field) and a playground for the nursery school which meets in the Parish Hall. The church is a center for many community activities, such as Girl Scouts, Lions, Red Cross classes, and Ft Washington Food Pantry. It is particularly known for its Annual Country Fair which takes place in the hall and on the surrounding grounds in late September. St. John's continues to be a focal point of the area just as it was in colonial times and will celebrate its Tercentennial in 1992.

Anne H. Aberg



Piscataway House

PISCATAWAY HOUSE

Traveling south along Livingston Road after leaving the area of St. John's Church, is another historical residence known as Piscataway House. Piscataway House was originally a house in the town of Piscataway and sat next to Hardy's Tavern on the south side. Not much is known about previous land owners, although Colonel William Lyles was said to have purchased the property for his daughter in 1732.

When it was threatened by a road widening project in the 1930's, Charles Collins moved Piscataway House to its present site on Livingston Road. Mr. Collins meticulously rebuilt this house on the grounds of his estate, Harmony Hall. According to Mr. James Wilfong, who has written many newspaper articles and researched most of the historical residences in the Maryland area, "The home is clearly of the eighteenth century and is representative of Southern Maryland building in its purest primitive form, because of the double chimneys with windowless panes on both sides of the house, and due to its long sloping roof line with its finely proportioned dormers."¹

Piscataway House, or Collins House as it was sometimes known, is now separate from Harmony Hall and a private residence. Mr. Collins acquired the property on which it stands, consisting of nine and one-half acres, in January, 1932, from Mr. and Mrs. Sellner. General George Brown, Air Force Chief of Staff, bought the property in 1956. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Savage presently own and have made many additions to the property. Immediately upon entering the driveway to the house, one is struck by the peaceful vista. The Savages have arranged the land into three separate areas by cross fencing. The first area consists of the original house and its additions. The addition to the right was apparently made after the house was relocated and is a converted garage or carriage house with several bedrooms. A Georgetown style enclosed courtyard leads to the main house. A connecting wing to the left of the house has been added more recently. There is also a swimming pool at the back of the house, which faces Livingston Road. The historical front of the house faces the river.

Sitting on the front porch of Piscataway House, one views the land, the beautiful trees surrounding the house, an orchard and vegetable garden. The third area includes a barn and a field for horseback riding and a pasture. The field runs down to an old canal at the end of the property; the canal winds around until it empties into the Potomac River.

Mr. Savage, a Washington attorney, said that in the past Piscataway House was known as the old haunted Marshall House, and some visitors to the house have stated that they have heard odd noises. Piscataway House is another important link in the historic chain to the past along Livingston Road in Southern Prince George's County.

Pauline Collins

HARMONY HALL/BATTERSEA

One of the houses remaining in the original Piscataway Hundred is on the 500 acre tract called Battersea (referred to throughout this text as Harmony Hall), later named Harmony Hall. Battersea was surveyed in October of 1662, for Humphry Haggett, a young lawyer practicing in the provincial court. Haggett made no improvements and by the time the patent was granted he had sold the land. In 1688, the property was divided in half and by 1692, a 100 acre tract containing the site of the present 18th century structure was owned by Thomas Lewis.

Archaeological work done at Harmony Hall between 1985 and 1989 by the National Park Service revealed charred remains of a 17th century earthfast house, believed to be the former home of the Lewis family. An earthfast house is a wooden house, usually unpainted and built directly on the ground. Stone was scarce in the region and skilled brick layers few and far between. Posts sunk into the ground supported the rafters; and the floors were either tamped earth or rough planking. Though cedar and cypress were often used; deterioration was inevitable. Dampness and termites took their toll, public as well as private buildings were in constant need of repair. Open hearths and wattle chimneys made for a real danger to any wooden building.¹

One hundred acres and the earthfast house were sold in 1709 to a carpenter named William Tyler. Archaeological evidence concluded that the 17th century house occupied by Tyler and his family was destroyed by fire between 1715 and 1720; the present brick structure seen from Livingston Road was finished by Tyler before his death in 1721. Ceramics and clay tobacco pipes common to the period 1692-1720 were unearthed within the burn stain of the original wood-frame dwelling house.

Overlying the burn stain is a layer of construction debris containing the remains of the brick kiln used to fire the bricks needed for William Tyler's new home, Battersea. When Tyler died in 1721, his wife Elizabeth inherited the property and new brick dwelling.²

Harmony Hall is a classic two and one-half story Georgian country house of red brick set in Flemish bond, with its original interior woodwork basically intact. In conformance with the Georgian architectural order, the house fronts on Broad Creek and ranks with the early Potomac River plantation houses in style and elegance.

Harmony Hall is also one of the ancestral homes of the Magruder family. Enoch Magruder purchased the house between 1760 and 1769 and left it to his daughter, Sarah Magruder Lyles, who lent it for periods of time to her brother Dennis. Dennis Magruder inherited another Magruder home, Mount Lubentia or Castle Magruder but used Harmony Hall at times to house part of his family of 21 children by his four wives. Reverend Joseph Messenger also used Harmony Hall in 1785 as a rectory of St John's Church.

In 1792 Harmony Hall was occupied for a year by two sons of the third Thomas Addison, Walter Dulany and John, and their two brides. The two brothers rented the brick mansion from Dennis Magruder while their estate Oxon Hill Manor, was rented to relatives of George Washington. So harmonious was the experience of the two couples living together that Mrs. Walter Dulaney Addison named the place "Harmony Hall". The name and the romantic story surrounding the house outlived the legal name of Battersea, and the house has been known as Harmony Hall ever since.

The next reference to the ownership of Harmony Hall was its sale in 1850 by Arianna Lyles to an Edelen. Harmony Hall appeared on the delinquent tax rolls in the early 1870's and was purchased in 1873 for the taxes by George Wilson from Francis Kerby. In 1879, George Wilson sold the property to "trustees," M. C. Stephen and Joseph Robert, Jr., a well known Prince George's County lawyer. It was acquired by Domenico Christofanie in 1886.

In 1892 Robert and Richard Stein purchased Harmony Hall and surrounding 320 acres from Christofanie; they established a family enclave at the junction of Livingston Road and Fort Washington Road named Silesia. Richard owned all the property by 1894. A member of the Walzel family purchased part of the land from Richard Stein in 1914. Mrs. Fieda Tilch Robey of Silesia, niece of Richard Stein remembers as a child practicing on his piano under the stairs in the entry at Harmony Hall.³

Mrs. Robey was interviewed in 1985 when the National Park Service work began at the house. Her reminiscences are especially important as the next owner, Mr. Charles Collins made extensive changes in the property. Mrs. Robey remembers the main entrance road leading east from the front door to Livingston Road and no steps existing on the river side of the house. On the south side a wooden porch led from the kitchen to a privy that seemed far away to a small girl in a hurry. Mrs. Robey stated that the first floor room to the left of the front door was a kitchen/dining room with a gravity fed water supply piped from across Livingston Road; she remembered no well on the property. The room to the right of the door was used as a bedroom. Upstairs were three more bedrooms. She remembers as a child being frightened of the cellar and the attic.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Collins bought the house and surrounding land from the Stein and Walzels on April 29, 1929.⁴ Mr. Collins restored the then-deteriorated mansion and built additions and out buildings. Crossing an open space between the house and the river is an English "ha-ha," built by Collins in the 1930's and commonly used by 18th century plantation owners. A ha-ha is a retaining wall, set in the lawn vista and unseen from the house, to keep stock from wandering up to the house. It supposedly acquired its name when unsuspecting guests fell off the lawn area to the ground below, causing others to laugh. These open vistas give the house its historic setting and contribute greatly to the beauty and charm of the site.

Mr. Collins died in 1964 and in August 1966 Mrs. Sue Spenser Collins sold the buildings and 65.7 acres of the property to the

National Park Service, retaining a life occupancy. Mr. Collins was associated with New Deal legislation during the Depression and his papers are in the archives at the University of Maryland. He is remembered by the people in the neighborhood as a benefactor during the Depression who contributed to the well being of many families during the hard times. When Mrs. Collins died in May 1983, the house was vacated by the family and occupied by Park Service personnel for security. The house is now leased to the Battersea Corporation under a National Park Service program. All interested parties submitted proposals for use of the property and the Park Service chose the lessees for appropriate use and ability to follow through. The tenants are responsible for restoring the house and upkeep of the grounds. Morgan horses and a carriage driving school now occupy the property.

Over 65 acres surround the house today and provide a wooded setting, with an open vista from the mansion to Broad Creek and the Potomac River.

Barbara Kirkconnell
Pauline Collins



Harmony Hall - Battersea

SILESIA

In 1875, a gentleman named Robert Stein emigrated from the Silesia region of Prussia to America. He became a well-known translator, explorer, and author. He was employed by the National Geological Survey as a translator and accompanied Admiral Perry's expedition to Greenland and to the North Pole. The "Robert Stein Collection" can be seen at the Smithsonian Institution.¹

While Mr. Stein was studying at Georgetown College, he decided to bring his family here from Glatz in Silesia, Prussia. The year was 1885. This 320-acre parcel of land included the manor house, Harmony Hall, and the White Horse Sign Inn at what is now the intersection of Livingston and Fort Washington Roads.

The White Horse Sign Inn had been a stop on the old coach and ferry road to Alexandria, and no doubt, a gathering spot for the local citizenry. The inn derived its name from its sign, a painting of a white horse which hung on a panel in front of the inn. According to Elizabeth Hutchinson in her 1969 paper on "Silesia," the sign was painted by "one Billy Leo," a relative of White Horse Harry Lee of Virginia.²

According to the 1850 Piscataway District census, Henry Culver Thorn was the innkeeper for the coach stop during the mid-century. (Occupations were not listed in the 1840 census.) The inn was located to the north of the present Silesia Liquor Store, between the current feed store (the old liquor store) and the office building (formerly a family residence), now housing some business offices.

In 1889, Robert Stein successfully petitioned the courts to name the area Silesia in remembrance of the family ties in Prussia. Other German families were encouraged to immigrate to America. Mr. Stein's brother, Richard, and a Mr. Joseph Adler were the first settlers to join Robert Stein in the Broad Creek area. They took up residence at Harmony Hall and started farming on Broadcreek Farms.

Mr. Adler then returned to Prussia in 1894, married Selma, Richard and Robert Stein's sister, and returned to Silesia. The next year, another sister, Ann Stein Tilch, and her family immigrated to this country and moved into Harmony Hall. By the end of the century several other German families had emigrated from Prussia, including the Walzels and the Rudsits.

By 1903, the old White Horse Sign Inn had seriously deteriorated. Richard Stein built a new grocery and feed store next to it, using the inn section as the family laundry. Prior to 1907, both the Adler and Rudsit families operated the store; then, Joseph Tilch, another cousin, took over as proprietor. His son, Robert, became storekeeper when he was eighteen and managed the business for 63 years, almost until his death in January, 1974.

In his later years Robert became known as "Papa Tilch." His was the only grocery or general store in the area and he supplied nearby farmers with such necessities as lime, fertilizer, cement,

groceries, etc. His nearest competition for hardware was Perrygo's Hardware, formerly on the corner of Fort Washington Road and Indian Head Highway on the site of the Long and Foster Building.

Papa Tilch's store became a local landmark, famous for its barbeque sandwiches, sold from a back window on the side of the old liquor store building (now the feed store). Construction workers, housewives, teenagers and postmen flocked there at lunch time, much as they do now. When Harmony Hall Elementary School was opened for the school year 1965-66, the children bought penny candy and gum at Tilch's.³

During Robert Tilch's lifetime, the White Horse Sign Inn was torn down, although when is not known. According to Mr. Tilch's son, Edwin, "There is no living family member who remembers that date."⁴ The first feed store was replaced in 1929 by the cinderblock building which housed the Tilch grocery business. The family liquor store or "Bar Room," opened in 1933 after prohibition ended. The cinderblock building was demolished in the 1970's.

The Tilch family business continues in the new liquor store which opened in 1979, and in the animal feed and supply center which opened in 1981 in the original liquor store. The Silesia enterprise is also still widely known for its barbeque sandwiches, available at its adjoining carry-out. Much of the family lives in the immediate area, among them, the Walzels, who still farm their property, which is particularly known for growing strawberries.

Cynthia H. Heerwagen
Gloria Meder
Anne H. Aberg



Want Water

WANT WATER-THE HOUSE ON THE COVE

Located on Wide Water Cove, a tributary of Broad Creek, and to the northwest of Harmony Hall are the ruins of a house called Want Water. The 35 acres on which Want Water stands were patented by Colonel Thomas Addison on October 17, 1708.¹ It is said that the name, "Want Water," was derived from Thomas Addison's "wanting the water" which the house faces as access to transportation routes.

The house appears to date from the first half of the 18th century. In the July 1, 1976, issue of the *Prince George's Post*, James C. Wilfong states "...it is well over 250 years in age."² Who first had the house built seems to be unrecorded, but between 1760 and 1764, it was purchased by Enoch Magruder, who also owned Harmony Hall. It is conjectured that Enoch Magruder's daughter, Sarah Magruder Lyles, lived in Want Water, giving it the additional name of Lyles House.

The house was still standing in the 1930's when it was recorded by the Historic American Building Survey. About 20 years later, Charles Collins, the owner of Harmony Hall, started restoration of the structure, but his death in 1964 halted the work.

Want Water, a one and one-half story rectangular building with frame sides, was noted for the odd spacing of the three dormers on each side of the gambrel roof, the heavy cornices of these dormers and the principle roof.³ At one time there was rich interior paneling.

Today the only remains of the original house are two end brick walls with chimneys and the fieldstone foundations. A part of the Harmony Hall property, it is now under the authority of the National Park Service. Lack of maintenance has resulted in significant deterioration since 1983. Stabilization plans are being considered by the Park Service and encouraged with monetary contributions by Tanta-Cove, but no proposal has emerged.

Anne H. Aberg

THE TOWN OF AIRE

Little is known about Aire or Broad Creek, but references to it have been found in several places. It was located along Broad Creek, maybe as far south as Piscataway House and as far north as Livingston Square is today, but too little evidence remains to place it accurately.

The port town of Aire on Broad Creek was authorized in 1708 by an Assembly Act for the Advancement of Trade. It was established at the landing (wharf) of Thomas Lewis, owner of Harmony Hall until 1709. According to the Maryland Archives, "one at broad Creek... s. side of sd. creek at Thomas Lewis' Landing."¹ In *Colonial Piscataway*, Katherine Kellock commented, that Thomas Lewis must have had some influence to have a port established at Aire, as Piscataway Town had a greater population at the time, yet was not designated as a port on the Potomac River until 1707.² An elaborate town plan was also specified in the Act of 1706, with directions for chapel and public building sites as well as how the lots were to be laid out. It is not known if the Act's instructions were carried out, but St. John's Church stood and still stands on an adjoining tract.

From reports of following Acts we know which of these towns was succeeding. For example, in 1716, a pair of stocks and a whipping post were ordered by the County Court for Aire, Nottingham, Queen Anne, and Piscataway. Other evidence that Aire at Broad Creek was a population center comes from *The Maryland Gazette*, December 15, 1774. Maryland delegates to the Continental Congress of December 1774 recommended that men between the ages of 16 and 50 form companies of militia. Prince George's County was expected to raise 833 pounds by subscription (pledges of money by patriotic citizens.) The companies of militia were to be placed: one in Broad Creek, two in Piscataway, one in Marlborough, two in Queen Anne, two in Bladensburg, one in Nottingham, and one in Magruder's Landing.

By reading through the index of *Out of the Past* by R. Lee Van Horn, one can find other references to activity in Aire.³ George Wallingham of Broad Creek, the more common name given to the town of Aire, was issued a license to operate an ordinary on August 28, 1770. On February 2, 1807, the County Court, which was the government at that time in the county, heard reports from the tobacco inspectors, one being Giles Dyer of the Broad Creek port. Another license to operate an ordinary was granted on April 18, 1818, to Mary Moorling of Broad Creek.

More is known about the business activity of the town. Humphrey Batt operated a shipbuilding business nearby.⁴ In the tax records Batt was listed as a taxable of the Piscataway Hundred in 1733, and as a ship's carpenter in 1735. In 1747, an inspection warehouse for the export tobacco trade was erected on his land. Other tax records show that Humphrey Batt was paid 2000 pounds of tobacco for cutting a channel to this warehouse.

Reverend Henry Addison was also known to have stores in both Broad Creek and Piscataway. Incidentally, this member of the famous

Addison family was not a patriot, but was loyal to the Crown and returned to England in 1775 with his younger son, returning after the War.

In the late 1700's Mr. Stephan West operated a store at Aire. This enterprising Scot had ten stores at one time, including stores at Upper Marlborough and Piscataway and a Revolutionary War supply factory at the Wood Yard near Clinton. He devised a system of paper money to make change, as sixpence, shillings, and half-crowns were in short supply (a wonderful way to get repeat business).

The town of Aire did not survive. Of the five towns established by the Assembly, only Upper Marlborough was a success. It was already a population center when it was designated. Most importantly, its population increase was assured by the Courthouse and the Standard of Weights and Measures being moved to Marlborough from Charles Town.

There is no known trace of the Town of Aire today. The Department of the Interior now owns Harmony Hall and Want Water, two of the most significant historic sites in the Broad Creek area. A National Park Service archeologist has expressed an interest in doing some digging in this area. Perhaps the outline of the town will reappear.

In the meantime, the historical properties told of here, Harmony Hall, Want Water, Piscataway House, and St. John's Church, all front on a Broad Creek vastly changed from the days when it carried the ships of the tobacco trade. The silting in of the centuries has made the surrounding region a flood plain. In times of heavy rainfall St. John's Church barely escapes damage. It is incumbent upon us all to make provisions to protect these valuable legacies of our county's history from the infringements of today's society.

Cynthia H. Heerwagen

BATCHELOUR'S HARBOUR AND SWAN'S HARBOUR

During the colonial period, there were two adjacent land grants on the Potomac River known as Batchelour's Harbour and Swan's Harbour. These areas, north of Fort Washington, today contain the Tantallon development, the U.S. Government Communications installation off Riverview Road, two cattle farms and a private airplane runway, as well as residences along the waterfronts in the area of Riverview and Hatton Point Roads.

The 800 acres called Batchelour's Harbour were granted by Lord Baltimore in 1663 to Jeremiah Dickeson and Stephen Montague as partners. (Montague later served as a Delegate to the Lower House of the Maryland General Assembly.) Dickeson sold his half interest in the property to Montague, a planter, in 1667, for 3,200 pounds of tobacco. In 1670, Montague sold the entire Batchelour's Harbour tract to Hugh French, another planter, for 10,000 pounds of tobacco. French renamed his tract "Hatton Point," for William Hatton who had transported him to Maryland in 1663. In 1680-81, Hugh French sold one-half of his property, the upper northern section, to Alexander Smith, also a planter, for 15,000 pounds of tobacco. French then sold the southern half in 1683-84 to a merchant, Philip Lynes, for 8,000 pounds of tobacco. In 1700, the southern half of Batchelour's Harbour was purchased from Lynes by Hickford Leman. Leman was paid to read the Divine Service at St. John's Church, Broad Creek, since there was no regular minister at the time.

Alexander Smith died in 1689 and left his section of Batchelour's Harbour to his daughter, Mary, who married a planter, Edward Turner. The Turners built a house on the land, but due to Indian attacks in the area and the scalping and stabbing of some of their neighbors on the frontier, the Turners moved to Westmoreland County, Virginia in 1694. When the Turners left the area they leased the land to Gilbert Marsh for 11 years. Mr. Marsh paid a token of one ear of Indian corn on the Feast of the Nativity every year.²

Many tracts of land along the Piscataway and the Potomac Rivers were owned but not occupied by their owners, due to the danger from Indians. The owners lived further south, sending slaves to tend their land. There was much intermarriage among the land owners for the purpose of land accumulation.

Colonel Thomas Addison of Oxon Hill added Batchelour's Harbour to 345 acres of Swan's Harbour which had been patented in 1688 to his father, Colonel John Addison. That area began at the mouth of Swan Creek and spread inland. Addison was afraid that Gilbert Marsh would renew the Turner lease, so he purchased this land outright between 1705 and 1708 from Arthur Turner for 300 pounds of tobacco. He bought the southern half in 1704 from Hickford Leman for 285 pounds. By 1718 Colonel Addison owned all the original 800 acres of Batchelour's Harbour plus 41 vacant contiguous acres repatented to himself. Addison now owned Swan's Harbour and Batchelour's Harbour.

Pauline Collins

RIVER VIEW

Before automobiles became common in the Washington Metropolitan area, excursion boats ferried day trippers to summer resorts and amusement parks along the Potomac River shores. Leaving the heat of the city for a cool boat ride and a picnic, families spent a day of recreation at a reasonable cost. Round trip fares ranged between 15 and 25 cents for each adult.

A popular resort, River View was located on Hatton Point, less than ten miles down river from the Capital City. Built and owned by Captain Ephriam S. Randall in 1886 as a destination for his steamship company, the park was located on 250 acres formerly called Swan Harbour or Batchelour's Harbour. Randall constructed a large white pavilion featuring a cafe, dance floor, covered porches and a massive brick fireplace.

Inland from the pavilion Randall constructed a carousel, water flume ride and roller coaster. The flume built by Ezra Thompson, was called the "Shoot the Chute." A steep wooden chute carried boats down to a small lake where spectators watched the fun from a wooden boardwalk surrounding the water. Evidence of the lake can still be seen on the property. The roller coaster ran along metal tracks laid on the ground among the trees. Other activities included a shooting gallery, bowling alley and paddle wheel boats. Visitors organized baseball games, swam, rode horses or strolled on the lawns and paths.

It has been told that one summer evening as the excursion boat left "Riverview" for its return trip to Washington, an incident aboard caused tempers to flare and razors to appear. A storm was brewing, clouds obscured the moon, and lightning began to flash. The captain, suddenly inspired, announced that any person carrying metal was in danger of being struck by lightning. Heeding the warning, the passengers tossed their razors and knives into the water as the boat was passing the mouth of Broad Creek. In the ensuing months the weapons washed up on shore, thereafter known as "Razor Beach."

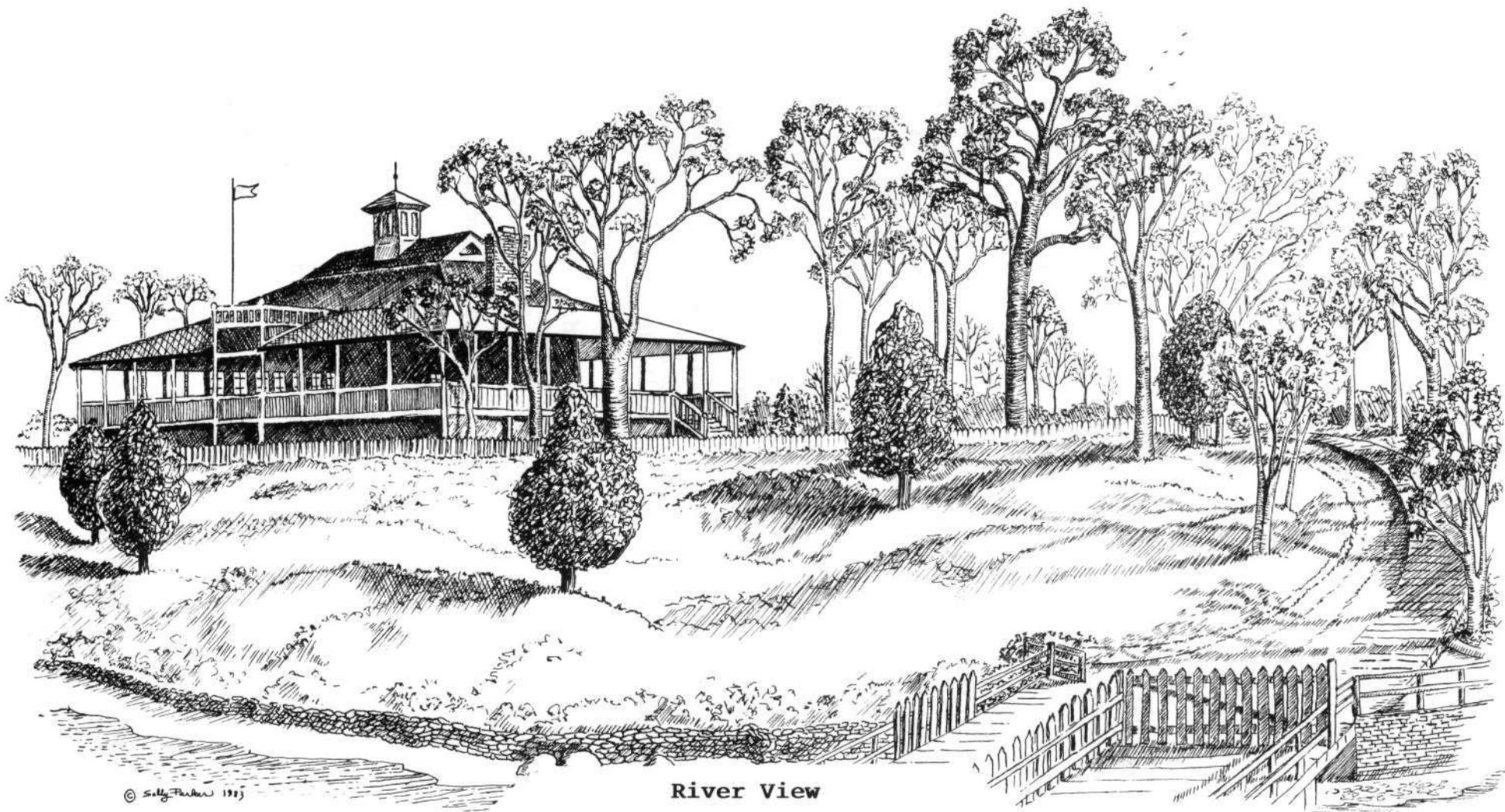
Randall owned River View for 23 years before losing it in 1909 to pay his debts. It was purchased at auction by William B. Emmert for \$23,000. With the advent of the car, the excursion boat business declined and by 1920 River View amusement park was closed.¹

River View history is vague between 1920 and 1930 when Army Colonel James Gillespie bought the property. Gillespie, Quartermaster at Fort Washington, renovated the pavilion for use as a residence and removed the cupola. He put in new plumbing and divided the building in half horizontally to add a second floor. A local story relates the burning of the carousel horses in the fireplace. A depression in the yard between the house and Hatton Point Road is all that remains of the flume pool.

Since the 1950's three families have changed the River View pavilion to suit their needs. The present owners restored the outdoor porches and walks to their original configuration.²

Above "Riverview" is "Hatton House," built by Mrs. Ada R. Donohue. Determined to construct an eighteenth century house in the twentieth century, she collected building materials from "Hatton House," the original eighteenth century home of William Hatton, nephew of Thomas Hatton, who served as one of the first General Assemblymen from Prince George's County, 1696 - 1697. The original Hatton House was in the Piscataway district. Materials also came from "White Hall," a 1727 house also in the Piscataway district, and from "Hard Bargain" at Bryan Point.

Barbara Kirkconnell



River View

THE DIGGES FAMILY AND WARBURTON MANOR

Prominent in the history of Southern Maryland and especially the Lower Piscataway Hundred is the area located around Fort Washington, from the present Indian Head Highway to the Potomac River; it became the home of the Digges family for nearly 200 years. The tract was first surveyed for Dr. Luke Barber in 1658 and patented on October 27, 1661, as Barberton. At that time it was a home and hunting ground for the Piscataway Indians who hunted the abundant wildlife and fished in the Potomac River. The next recorded owner was Luke Gardner. There is no evidence to indicate that he or his family ever lived there.¹

In 1717, Charles Digges purchased this tract. He was descended from an educated and wealthy family very active in colonial and revolutionary affairs in Maryland and Virginia. Edward Digges, the first member of the family to emigrate to the colonies, was Governor of Virginia from 1654 to 1656.²

The Digges family called the plantation Warburton Manor. An adjoining tract, Frankland, was added in 1742-43. Charles died in 1742, entailing the property to his eldest son, William, who began farming on an increasing scale. The manor house with its formal gardens faced the Potomac River with a vista of the Virginia shore and their neighbor George Washington's home, Mount Vernon.

All of William Digges' older sons, Charles, Thomas, George, and Joseph, were sent abroad for an education. Charles, the eldest son, died suddenly in 1769 and Thomas inherited the manor. Charles had been a partner of a London merchant, Thomas Philpot, in charge of their store in Upper Marlborough. George, the third son, and the administrator of the estate, spent much time in England doing business for his family and for the master of Mount Vernon.³ Joseph, the fourth son, studied medicine at Edinburgh and returned in 1771.

It was during the third quarter of the 18th century that the friendship developed between the families living at Warburton Manor and Mount Vernon. George Washington frequently stopped at Warburton Manor on his way back and forth between Annapolis or Philadelphia and Mount Vernon.

When Washington was about to start a trip, either east or north, he often sent his coach and horses across the Potomac River to Warburton the night before he planned to leave in order to get an early uninterrupted start after he had crossed by small boat the next morning. When the Digges' family had a house party at Warburton, they sometimes brought the whole party over to dinner with the Mount Vernon family, and the Washingtons frequently did the same. This has been recounted in Washington's diary for December, 1771.⁴

Signals were often sent between the two homes of Mount Vernon and Warburton. When there was to be an exchange of visits or guests, long boats manned by liveried slaves in checkered shirts and black velvet caps set out from each side for the middle of the river, where they met and the passengers switched boats.

THOMAS ATTWOOD DIGGES

Thomas Attwood Digges (1742-1821), William's second son, is of special interest to us as he was the last of the family to live at Warburton Manor and recent research has revealed interesting information about his life, politics and family relationships. He was banished at age 24 for some unknown misconduct in 1767 and left the colonies for Europe. When his older brother Charles died two years later he inherited Warburton Manor, but continued to live abroad. Thomas was described as being of dubious repute and some wondered if he was a double agent during the Revolutionary War. These questions about his character and patriotism remain unresolved.

While in Europe, Thomas Digges is said to have written a somewhat autobiographical novel entitled *Adventure of Alonzo*. This novel, attributed to Digges, is considered the first novel written by a person born in the American Colonies.⁶ Thomas returned to Maryland in 1798.⁶ On February 8, 1799, George Washington recorded in his diary: "Mr. Thom. Digges dined here and returned."⁷ (George Washington died on December 14, 1799 at age 67.) Digges continued to live at Warburton Manor and was host to Pierre L'Enfant when he was assigned by President Madison to draw the plans for Fort Washington after the War of 1812. New construction at Fort Washington disturbed his gardens and fisheries and apparently he moved to Washington, D.C. where he died in 1821. Since Thomas Digges died without issue and his younger brother, George had died in 1792, Warburton was inherited by George's son, William Dudley Digges of Green Hill.

Eventually Warburton Manor was divided and sold to various families, many of whom still live on the original land. George Washington also selected a portion of Warburton Manor which the government purchased to become Fort Warburton, eventually named Fort Washington.

Pauline Collins
Barbara Kirkconnell

FORT WASHINGTON

Everybody seems to know where Fort Washington is, and they know what it is. Not as many know why it is there, and how it got there.

What we see as we walk up the path to the immense drawbridge, set into high masonry walls and surrounded by a dry moat, is not the same fort that was built to protect the new Capital City. The original fort, called Fort Warburton, was on land acquired from the Digges family, a location selected by George Washington. The fort, finished in 1809, was described "as an 'inclosed work of Masonry' having a semi-elliptical face with circular flanks enclosed by a perpendicular wall suitable for defense by small arms."¹

The height of the rampart wall, which had earthen retaining walls, was commonly 14 feet above the bottom of the ditch. The main fort was commanded by a "Tower of Masonry calculated to contain one company and six cannon."² But Fort Warburton lasted only five years. It was destroyed in August, 1814, when the British successfully attacked the new Capital.

BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG

In August, 1814, the British fleet appeared in Chesapeake Bay and on August 19 and 20, 1814, the British landed at the small seaport town of Benedict in Charles County, Maryland. Reports of their landing quickly reached Washington, but there was no clear understanding of their destination or their route. A flotilla of American ships commanded by Commodore Joshua Barney had been trapped in the Patuxent River by the British for several months, and it was thought that the Capital was the major objective of the British invasion force. Baltimore and Annapolis were also possible destinations.

British forces under General Robert Ross camped at Nottingham, Maryland, the night of August 21 and left the next morning. American forces under General Winder waited for them at the intersection of the road to Upper Marlborough and the road leading west to the Wood Yard, Washington and Fort Washington. Winder thought the British might march west and link up with forces sailing up the Potomac River and invade the Capital from the southern approach either by water or overland to the Eastern Branch bridges. Indeed, General Ross and his men feinted west onto Wood Yard Road, but retraced their steps and turned north to Upper Marlborough. Winder, upon receiving the news that the British had turned west and unaware of the change of direction, ordered a retreat to Long Old Fields (near Forestville) and then onto Washington to defend the Eastern Branch bridges. A message was sent to Fort Washington about the British movements with orders to the fort commander, Capt. Sam Dyson, to destroy the Fort and retreat if attacked from the land or eastern side of the Fort.³

When the British entered Upper Marlborough on August 22, and were joined by Admiral Cockburn's sailors and marines, the village was practically deserted except for Dr. William Beane, its leading citizen, who was taken hostage. This event resulted in Francis

Scott Key's writing our National Anthem. He was on a British warship in the Baltimore Harbor in mid-September negotiating Beane's release when he was inspired to compose the *Star-Spangled Banner*.

After leaving Upper Marlborough on August 23rd, the British camped at Melwood (Woodyard Road and Route 4). Their headquarters still stands. There were only small skirmishes here between the British and the American forces under General Winder as the British moved north.

On August 24, the British broke camp at Melwood and moved on to Bladensburg. The American forces established their battle positions west of the river in the area of present day Cottage City, Colmar Manor, and the Fort Lincoln Cemetery. They saved the guns and ammunition from their ships which they had sunk at Pig Point in the Patuxent and carried them over land for use in defending the city. The British marched along the river road paralleling present day Kenilworth Avenue and attacked around 1:00 p.m. After a brief battle, badly fought on both sides, the British outflanked and eventually routed the American forces.

The British then marched into Washington, sacked and burned much of the city, including the Capitol and the White House. They set a great bonfire in the Capitol by piling desks, carpets, books, paintings and everything else movable, sprinkling gunpowder over the pile and setting the torch to both wings. Late in the evening, a violent thunderstorm drenched the burning buildings, saving them from total destruction. Under cover of darkness, the British withdrew from the city, leaving most of their wounded in Bladensburg, and returned to Upper Marlborough (along what is now Route 202), on August 26th. By August 30th they were back at Benedict aboard their ships on the Patuxent. Their campaign lasted a total of 12 days.⁴

Meanwhile a British naval squadron, delayed by river shoals and ill winds, sailed up the Potomac River from the Chesapeake Bay. The squadron approached Fort Washington on August 27, 1814, eight days after the initial landing at Benedict. After shelling the Fort for only two hours the British were surprised to see the 60 man American unit retreat and hear the blast of the powder magazine. With Fort Washington neutralized, the enemy ships sailed into Alexandria where, to the merchants' dismay, they spent three days helping themselves to stores in the city's warehouses.⁵ After loading supplies they sailed back to the Chesapeake on August 31. Capt. Sam Dyson was later court martialed and convicted for abandoning his post at Fort Washington.

Fearing the British might move up the river again, plans for immediate reconstruction of the Fort began. Monroe asked his friend, Major Pierre L'Enfant, the controversial designer of the 1791 plan for the Capital City, to redesign the Fort. The British fleet sailed for Jamaica in October, 1814 and the Treaty of Ghent was signed in February, 1815. The end of the war, coupled with disagreements between L'Enfant and the War Department, led to L'Enfant's dismissal after 11 months.

Lt. Col. Walker K. Armstead was appointed to superintend the project and presented the first complete set of plans. The Fort was completed in 1824, at a cost of more than \$426,000 and is "an excellent example of nineteenth century coastal defense with ramparts, bastions, gun ports, towers and a draw bridge."⁶ During the 1840's extensive repairs and alterations were made to strengthen the Fort.

Fort Washington regained importance during the Civil War, but its prominence decreased as attack by water became less probable and new ordnance was introduced to the Army's arsenal.⁷ A network of forts was built surrounding the Capital City that would withstand attack by the new ordnance. Fort Washington was of little military importance after construction of the new forts.⁸

POST CIVIL WAR ERA

From 1896 to 1921 the headquarters for Defenses of the Potomac were assigned to Fort Washington and eight concrete bunkers were built. The bunkers coordinated with others at Fort Hunt across the river in Virginia to fire at passing ships from both sides. After World War I, Fort Washington became head-quarters for the 12th Infantry and in 1939 became part of the Department of the Interior. During World War II the War Department again used the Fort, returning it to recreational purposes in 1946.

Until 1896, the only buildings on the grounds were the commandant's house, the fort, and the small building down the hill from the house. A large number of buildings were erected between 1896 and 1921. Many late Victorian style houses lined the parade ground, batchelor officer and Non-Commissioned Officers quarters were built and other support structures dotted the landscape. Until 1954, families of government employees lived on post in houses maintained by the Government Services Administration. The current superintendent's house occupies the site of the early swimming pool. By 1954 most structures were in need of extensive maintenance and GSA turned the problems over to the Park Service to solve. Demolition was the answer and 300 structures of various description were deemed beyond economical repair.

The buildings left today near the existing flagpole were in the best condition and include the columned Post Exchange with its movie theatre and gym and the NCO quarters next door. The maintenance area includes a mule barn that now houses lawnmowers and other equipment. The commandant's house has been restored to its original yellow ochre wash and taken on new life as the visitors center, book store and administrative office.

The first lighthouse on the point below the Fort where Piscataway Creek enters the Potomac River was built in 1855. The present one is the third to occupy the site.

Visitors to Fort Washington Park enjoy a tour through history, seeing an outstanding example of an early 19th century coastal defense. Tourists see original bastions overlooking the Potomac River and Piscataway Creek, stroll through surrounding woods, picnic on the lawns and fish below the water battery begun by Pierre L'Enfant in 1814.

Pauline Collins
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CHAPEL HILL

Research on Chapel Hill by scholars and interested residents within the last ten years has revealed a rich history of black community and family life. Located along Old Fort Road and Livingston Road between Friendly and Fort Washington Forest development, settlement and land ownership by free blacks has been documented as early as an 1830 census.¹

The year 1868 was a watershed one for Chapel Hill when its first school building for area children began on June 20. Completed in October of that year with materials and aid from the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, it was referred to as "Johnson's Hill School House." Located five miles from Fort Washington, it was presumably named for Mr. Charles Johnson, an early active trustee of the school during reconstruction.²

The first teacher, Mary A. Davinger, a black woman from Philadelphia, arrived by the steamer "Arrow" at Fort Washington and was escorted to her school by Mr. Johnson. She boarded in the area and opened her classes in November, 1868.³

Much was required of Mrs. Davinger. In addition to teaching children, she was billed for supplies which she then sold to parents of the school children. Monthly reports were sent to the Freedmen's Bureau and Rev. John Kimball, Superintendent for Education, encouraged her to start a night school for men and women, if it would "not be too hard" on her.⁴

Mrs. Davinger started classes supplied with 30 readers, a geography book, 30 slates, pencils for the slates, 10 writing books, some crayons, six readers for various levels, an alphabet card, five ink wells, a bottle of ink, pens and a quire (24 sheets of loose paper folded once and shaped like a book) of writing paper.⁵ A tuition fee of 50 cents a month per child paid board for the teacher. The trustees were responsible for raising money to heat the school and seeing that the school was full of children.⁶

Furniture included 21 benches, a desk and a stove. Mrs. Davinger reported in answer to Kimball's inquiry "the names of the most friendly white men," Mr. William Griffin of Piscataway, Mr. William Golaham (Gallahan?), Joseph Frazer, James Iglan (Edelen?), William Whitmore and William Thorn.⁷ By February Mrs. Davinger listed 57 scholars on her roll book and reported that attendance was good.⁸

Efforts were made to acquire supplies for a Sunday school to be located in the new school house. Correspondence noted that 200 of the people at Piscataway were Catholic, but would come to Sunday school.⁹

Mrs. Davinger taught the school year of 1868-1869. The next fall, Mr. Thomas G. Douglas was assigned to teach. He went house to house, recruiting students, and expected to begin classes in the winter of 1870.¹⁰ The school house remained in use and in 1921 an addition was made to the 53 year old building. The old building continued to serve as the classroom for 35 primary grade pupils.¹¹

Sojourner Truth School opened in Oxon Hill in 1942 and Chapel Hill students began attending the consolidated school. Chapel Hill school closed in 1952. The old school buildings were used for a time as a community center, but were eventually razed by the fire department and are no longer standing.¹²

At the turn of the century a new church was built near the site of the Chapel Hill school. Chapel Hill Methodist Episcopal Church (today named Grace Methodist) began when Reverend Jeremiah Brown, a black man from Petersburg, Virginia, organized a Methodist congregation. For years church services were held in homes and at the Chapel Hill school. In 1902 the first church building was erected on land donated by William Shorter. The property had been deeded to Mr. Shorter in 1883 by Jesse Edelen. Like other rural churches in Prince George's County, the minister was shared with other parishes. Chapel Hill's minister rotated between Little Asbury at T.B. and St. Paul in Oxon Hill. Two more remodelings and building projects have evolved to the present Grace Methodist Church. The old school buildings were located south of the church graveyard.¹³

Agriculture was the primary source of income for Chapel Hill residents; they sold produce from their truck farms at Eastern Market and the O Street Market in Washington, D.C. Wreaths of running cedar, holly and other greenery were made by the women of the community for sale at the markets during the Christmas season. Recreation activities included trips to Butler's Grove in Oxon Hill.¹⁴

Barbara Kirkconnell

PISCATAWAY TOWN

An important area in southern Prince George's County evolved when the county divided its land into "hundreds." A hundred represented an electoral and physical district, with a constable who collected taxes for elections, judgeships, roads and militia. The constable was directed by the County Court to make these collections. The "Piscataway Hundred" included the western part of what was then Maryland along the Potomac River, north of Mattawoman Creek, up to current District of Columbia.

In 1706, the Colonial Assembly passed an Act for the Advancement of Trade and named five Maryland towns as official ports. Aire at Broad Creek was the only port authorized on the Potomac River. The other four were on the Patuxent River: Upper Marlborough, Milltown, Nottingham and Queen Anne. The main purpose of the Act was to create ports through which all imports and exports should pass.

The Piscataway area was more built up than Aire at this time, and residents there felt it, too, should have official status. They petitioned the Assembly, and in 1707, Piscataway was named as an official port. Sixty acres were set aside on the south side of Piscataway Creek, near the present Piscataway Road and Route 223, for the town. It was not until 1735, that this land was finally acquired from the original owners for public use.

The area grew slowly despite frequent traffic on the roads and water surrounding it. The town developed chiefly along the road paralleling the south side of the creek, although at some distance from the creek. This road, now known as Floral Park Road, ran directly to Nottingham, a port on the Patuxent. For a short distance, it was also part of an important route between Port Tobacco and Upper Marlborough. This route entered Piscataway Town from the south end and exited from the northeast, where Piscataway Road crosses the bridge today. Port Tobacco Road, now Livingston Road, developed a branch northward to Broad Creek Church (St. John's Episcopal Church), and later to the Addison Ferry to Alexandria. At that time the branch was called Alexandria Ferry Road. Livingston Road meanders in so many directions, because it was originally a series of paths connecting the Indian villages in the Potomac shoreline area. Settlers also used these Indian paths to go to their neighbors and various settlements.

There was heavy river traffic on the Potomac, but freight from Piscataway Town had to be transported first to the estuary of Piscataway Creek, then a mile wide, on scows or flat-bottomed boats because the water was not deep enough for large vessels to reach the town itself.¹ At that time "creek" meant a bay or cove, as in Piscataway Creek, or Broad Creek. The small stream emptying into it was the main "fresh" (not salty) or "run," as in Oxon Run. The tributaries of the fresh or run were called "branches." Today freshes are more apt to be called creeks or streams and small bays are bays or coves. A branch is now more often referred to as a brook.

The passage of the Tobacco Inspection Act in 1747, designating Piscataway Town an official inspection point, resulted in more rapid growth. Most planters continued to ship tobacco from their own wharves to avoid paying taxes. Factors, men who bought and stored tobacco at key geographical sites until the arrival of the tobacco ships, established stores to sell goods to the local population, helping the town realize a healthy economy. Historical records show that the first storehouse was built shortly after 1700. Most of the stores were in these warehouses.

John Glassford opened a branch store in Piscataway and sold a wide range of goods, such as velvet, fine china, rich carpets, plows and books. The Prince George's History Division of the M-NCPPC has lists of Glassford's debtors and creditors as well as volumes of his other business records. In the mid 1700's, Thomas Clagett operated a store in the town and imported some of his goods through Glassford's company.

Two remaining structures from the old Piscataway Town were at one time "ordinaries," early Maryland inns. These served as resting places as well as social and communication centers for early settlers. One of the inns, located on the east side of Floral Park Road, south of Route 223, is still referred to as the Hardy House or Hardie's Tavern. The Hardy family maintained a tavern there from 1790 to 1840. Since the Civil War, it has been a private residence. Further south, on the west side of Floral Park Road, is the Piscataway Tavern, another of Thomas Clagett's business enterprises in colonial Piscataway. More detailed information regarding the buildings of Piscataway may be found in a booklet titled *Colonial Piscataway in Maryland* by Katharine A. Kellock.²

In time, the town of Piscataway declined. The emergence of the railroad as a new mode of transportation made river and stagecoach travel less important. Since no tracks were laid to Piscataway, the town was "up a creek without a railroad," one could say. Another factor contributing to the town's decline was the gradual silting-in of the creek, which affected many other waterways along the river as well.

When Piscataway Creek silted in, the inspection point was transferred in 1856 to Farmington Landing further downstream. With the removal of the inspection depot, the factors moved, and the services they provided were no longer available. People shopped elsewhere; they gathered in other inns in other places. Activity in Piscataway dwindled as the years passed, but the Church of St. Mary's, near the wharves since 1838, and the Hardy House remain, silent witnesses to Piscataway's life for many generations.

Gloria Meder

ST. MARY'S CHURCH-PISCATAWAY

It could be said that the Roman Catholic congregation of St. Mary's Piscataway began when Father White baptized Piscataway Indians in July, 1840. Early growth of the Roman Catholic Church in colonial America was slow because of repressive policies toward the faith. The practice of the Catholic faith was banned and Catholic schools closed. With the easing of restrictions in 1702, the Catholic community met in private homes where Mass was offered when a priest was available. A room was set aside and designated a "Chapel Room," when possible. Some of these locations later became well known, such as Boone's Chapel in Rosaryville and Reeves' Chapel in Waldorf. These names refer to the owners of the property where congregations met.

With independence from England in 1776, religious freedom encouraged the creation of congregations. Because records vary between sparse and non-existent, very little is known about where the Piscataway congregation met, but it has been concluded that chapels at Waldorf and Port Tobacco had a close relationship with Piscataway, as letters of Bishop John Carroll, first Bishop of the United States in 1789, refer to this group.¹ Priests from St. Ignatius Church, at Chapel Point, Port Tobacco, provided Mass at Piscataway on a fairly regular basis.²

Archives at Georgetown University include a handwritten sermon delivered in Piscataway in 1778, and William Digges' will of 1780 referred to a chapel on Digges' land, Frankland. The site is described by Katherine Kellock in her book, *Colonial Piscataway*, as being on Gallahan and Old Fort Roads, the area known today as Chapel Hill. As with many churches in early American times, the church was called a mission instead of a parish, and was more often named for its location. Piscataway mission acquired the name of St. Mary's years after it was built.

Interesting facts about the early church include: Catholic priests were called Mister until the end of the 19th century and thereafter Father. They wore lay clothes until that time and like other religious leaders of the time, they traveled 50 miles, making their pastoral round on horseback. As a result, a priest said Mass only once or twice a month. Everything was accomplished on that Sunday: confessions, mass, instruction of the children, conferences with the leaders, baptisms, marriages and banns, and prayers for the dead.

After 200 years of meeting in scattered chapels and in private homes, the first church of the port parish of Piscataway was built in 1838. It was located in the center of the town, a few hundred feet from Piscataway Creek and its wharf. Constructed of brick, the floor plan featured a main aisle leading to the sanctuary and the altar, with pews on either side. To the left and right of the altar were rooms for the priest's parlor and the sacristy, with living quarters above for the clergy. Above the front entrance inside was the choir loft with side galleries running the length of the church. A small steeple with a cross completed the outside silhouette.

This church was listed for the first time in the 1839 National Catholic Directory. It was the second Roman Catholic church in the County, preceded by Sacred Heart-Whitemarsh, in Bowie, established in 1741. References were made to various clergy, but St. Mary's was administered to by traveling priests.

In 1891, St. Mary's became a mission of St. John the Evangelist's in Clinton, due to St. John's growing prominence in the area. Father Patrick G. Minnehan, pastor from 1891 to 1922, presided over the services. He lived at the rectory at St. John's in Clinton. It was under the leadership of Father Minnehan that the present church building was constructed in 1904. He deemed the old building unsafe due to its prior construction. The new church, on the site of the 1838 structure was larger, had no galleries, and had stained glass windows in the new mode.

When Father John Horstkamp arrived after Father Minnehan's death in 1922, he came to a Piscataway much reduced in population and having the appearance of a deserted village. The attitude of the parishioners, however, did not reflect this point of view. They were proud of their community and deeply attached to it. Their church held regular services and sponsored social activities such as jousting tournaments and festivals, which were an integral part of the community. A stroll through the grave-yard recalls the names familiar to many in the South County: Barry, Boswell, Bryan, Digges, Dyer, Edelen, Gallahan, Gardiner, Gwynn, Hurtt, Jenkins, Murphy, Mudd, Parker, Queen, Underwood, and Waring.

Changes came after World War II when development of the surrounding areas brought rapid growth. In 1955, the first resident pastor, Father R. Paul Repetti, was appointed. The church was renovated; a rectory was built in 1956, and a school and convent opened in the early 1960's. After the old parish hall was destroyed by fire in January, 1964, a new hall and church were built to accommodate the growing congregation. Today, St. Mary's parish serves approximately 1,300 families³ and is the largest geographic parish in the Archdiocese, larger than the City of Washington Diocese.

The church and other parish buildings are located on Piscataway Road, Maryland Route 223, arrived at by Floral Park Road, which gently winds through the village of Piscataway. Serene in its setting of the beautiful Piscataway Valley, St. Mary's Church has been a landmark in the community for 150 years, through the turbulence of wars and other changes for the nation and the Church.

Anne H. Aberg

ST. JAMES HILL-A PISCATAWAY LANDMARK

St. James Hill, located on Livingston Road southwest of the small town of Piscataway, is on a tract of land taken from the Indians by Captain James Neale, who had it surveyed between 1661 and 1663. Captain Neale at that time was also in possession of other tracts of land amounting to 1,500 acres.

There are several interesting stories about Captain Neale. One involved Captain Neale's suing three former servants in 1669 for killing and eating several of his hogs. Other servants who had joined in the fracas gained possession of the key to the "Wine-House" and carried off 20 or so pails of wine in the next few weeks. When discovered, several attempted to escape down Piscataway Creek. The guilty servants were captured, beaten and fed to the hogs.¹ Later inhabitants of the house were said to hear their screams in the dead of the night.

Allegedly, after several other unpleasant incidents Captain Neale disappeared for 15 years. He did return, however, to the area and became a fur trader for Commissioner Jerome Hawley, using his own sailing vessel.

When Captain Neale's son, James, Jr., married Elizabeth Calvert in 1681, Captain Neale gave the tract, St. James, to his son. Young Neale and his wife bought a house in Port Tobacco after acquiring St. James, and they sold the tract to Giles Blizzard of London to finance furnishings for their new home.

Blizzard and his wife, Mary, lived at St. James until their daughter, Anne, married Reverend John Fraser in 1710. Reverend Fraser was rector of Piscataway parish (St. John's Church-Broad Creek) at that time. There is no record of the type of dwelling on the property, but it was not the same frame structure later built. It is thought the original dwelling was destroyed before 1798.² There is much information about how and when the acreage of the property changed hands, but virtually nothing about buildings on it until the mid 1800's.

St. James was deeded to George Fraser, son of Anne and Reverend John Fraser, on June 18, 1739. Then Robert Wade, Jr., and his wife, Elizabeth, became sole owners of St. James and an adjoining tract called Wade's Adventure. It remains a mystery as to how Robert Wade acquired the properties of St. James and Wade's Adventure. There is also the question of whether the Wades had the property before George Fraser, son of Reverend Fraser, or whether they were intervening owners between George Fraser and Allen Bowie and his wife, Anne Fraser Bowie.

According to the deeds on file, on July 1, 1767, Allen and Anne Fraser Bowie sold the tract to Anne's sister, Verlinda Fraser. In the following 67 years the land was divided and owned by Frasers, Bowies, and Thomas Mundell before being sold to Dr. Benedict Joseph Semmes in 1834. This sale included all of St. James, part of Wade's Adventure, and part of the tract called Edelen's Hog pen, plus buildings and improvements, but excluding the Mundell graveyard.

Dr. Semmes was born in Charles County, Maryland, in November, 1789. He graduated from Baltimore Medical School in 1811, and started his medical practice in Piscataway. Later he also became a farmer. He was a member of the State House of Delegates from 1818 to 1825 and served as Speaker. He was elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Congresses (March 4, 1829 to March 3, 1833.) After serving again as a member of the State House of Delegates in 1842-1843, he abandoned public life and lived in retirement at St. James until his death in February 1863.

After Benedict Semmes died intestate, the land was divided between his daughter, Celestia C. Semmes, and Pembroke A. Brawner, a relative of Semmes, and his wife, Matilda. Celestia Semmes eventually became the owner of St. James and the adjoining tracts. On November 16, 1869, she sold it to Joseph Hostetter of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

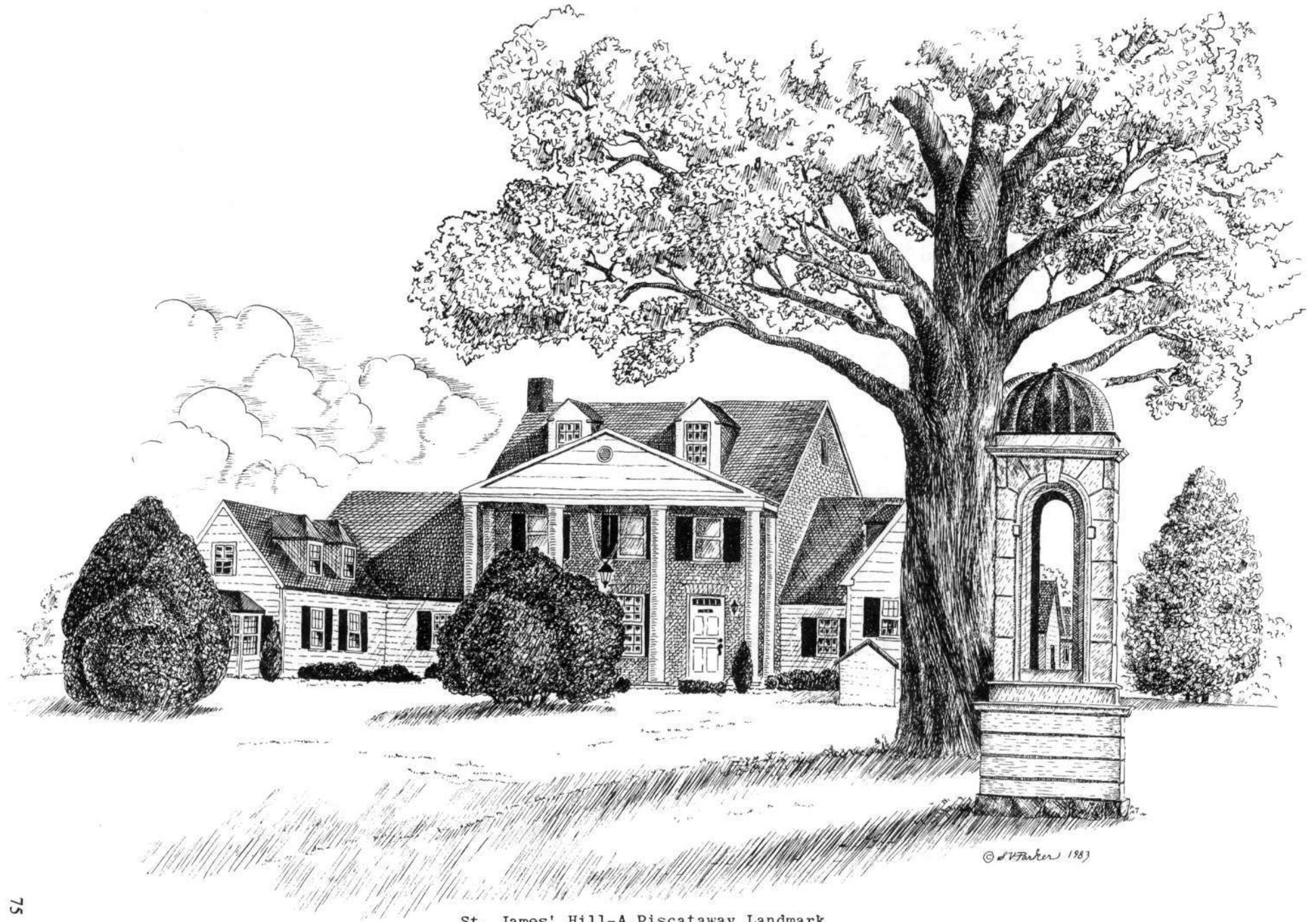
The Hostettters were said to have added the brick portion to the existing frame structure, although it could have been added between the time Semmes acquired it and before the Hostettters arrived. It has also been dated as built in 1815 before John Fraser Bowie's death and St. James' subsequent sale to Thomas Mundell.³ Hostettters were Pennsylvania Dutch and according to some, were shunned from their Pennsylvania home because Annie Hostetter was not married to Joseph until they arrived in Prince George's County. They rebuilt their lives in Piscataway with their two sons, Horace and Milton, and their daughter, Emma.

A second daughter, Alice, was born in 1870 at St. James. After Alice grew up, she either moved or was sent away and only visited on weekends to attend church with her sister Emma. Around 1901 Alice Hostetter was stricken with tuberculosis and died at St. James on October 13, 1903. There were legends that she committed suicide but her death certificate claimed otherwise.

Dr. Hurtt of Piscataway Village was Alice's physician through the two years of her illness. He was known to make diagnoses on the street when a patient asked, and would reach into his pockets and take out a pill to give to the patient. History does not record whether anyone complained of any negative reactions from such casual medical care.

Emma and her two brothers, Horace and Milton, grew up on the farm. Inscribed for posterity upon a tree not far from the graveyard site are the names of the Hostettters. Milton and Horace often claimed to have heard the ghosts of the tortured slaves and mistreated servants from the days of Captain Neale.

Horace and Milton lost St. James on July 16, 1935, due to accumulated debts. Phillip G. Miller and his wife, Cora, of Prince George's County, became owners and put it up for auction along with 130 acres. It was sold to Emma Hostetter, sister of Milton and Horace, and her husband, William Streater. Other tracts, totalling 113.38 acres, including the present day Plantation Farm, and tracts divided by Livingston Road, were sold to Richard Boswell and his wife Florence on January 24, 1936. Milton and Horace moved to a



St. James' Hill-A Piscataway Landmark

small brick house on the property adjoining St. James, where Milton lived until his death on January 9, 1946, at the age of 77.

In the meantime, Emma and William Streater moved to Anacostia and rented St. James to a family named Woods. Due to absentee ownership and misuse by the tenants, St. James Hill deteriorated rapidly. When workers for the *Historic American Buildings Survey* came to see St. James Hill in 1936, they found it in a state of near destruction. Later that year it was purchased by Lorena Boswell, a sister of Richard Boswell, from the Streeters. She and her brother, H. Curly Boswell, restored it. The frame section, built after 1798, was moved a short distance to the southeast and a "hyphen" was built to connect it to the south end of the brick structure.

The house was used primarily as a summer place for the extended family of the Boswells. According to the records, on March 24, 1958, it was left to a number of heirs, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, with no clear title. Since it was left vacant a good deal of the time, the house was again vandalized to such an extent that it was no longer habitable. Mr. H. Curly Boswell, one of the original restorers, had moved to the District of Columbia where he restored homes on Capitol Hill and in Georgetown until his death. The numerous heirs tied up the land for many years, which discouraged buyers who wanted to purchase and restore this historic site.

Finally, title was cleared in 1976, and the home and land were purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Briesmaster, Jr., who had been trying for several years to obtain the property. The Briesmasters have worked on the restoration of the house and succeeded admirably in keeping the original brick two-story section, the hyphen, and the frame sections intact. A connecting wing has been added to the left to accommodate the Briesmaster family. The end result is a beautiful and imposing structure on the top of the Hill.

The original boxwood and holly trees have been pruned to their former elegance and a swimming pool built in the rear of the property, as well as a house for the caretaker. A small gazebo-like structure was restored on the front lawn and the land is enclosed by white fencing. In one area to the left of the house, horses graze, as the Briesmasters raise and train them for harness racing.

We are all thankful that through persistence, hard work, and dedication, Mr. and Mrs. Briesmaster have added much beauty and provided historic continuity to our community with the restoration of this lovely and gracious house.

Pauline Collins

CHRIST CHURCH-ACCOKEEK

Three years after the establishment of St. John's Church, Broad Creek in 1695, Episcopalians organized a "Chapel of Ease" in Accokeek in 1698. Though not authorized by the Church of England, a "chapel of ease" offered convenient worship services without the peril of travel to St. John's. This offshoot met in the homes of members until a frame building was constructed around 1700.

In 1745 the original frame building was torn down and rebuilt in brick. The 24 inch thick walls were made of locally made brick and laid directly on the ground with no footings or foundation. The design of the early church was dictated by the theology of the times, which did not permit music during Holy Services nor did it allow colored or stained glass church windows.

Christ Church became a separate congregation in 1823 and in 1869 a separate parish named St. John's was formed for it. Its boundaries run from Piscataway Creek on the north to Mattawoman Creek on the south. This parish remained on private land, the southern section of the Lyle's family farm, "Cherrymount," until December, 1843, when the Vestry paid the family \$75 for the deed to the property.

The brick building was gutted by fire in 1856 and rebuilt by the congregation in 1857, using the original brick walls left standing. Theological and liturgical beliefs had changed by the mid-19th century; stain glass windows were installed and music became part of the service. The entrances and chancel were changed to the present location and pews all faced east toward the altar.

The growth of Christ Church paralleled the population increases of the Accokeek area. A rectory was built on the property in 1932. A multipurpose room was added in 1961, primarily for use by Canterbury School students. In 1968, restoration returned the building to the 1857 style while using the hexagonal brick floor of 1745.¹

Christ Church, with its low brick wall, surrounding a graveyard, and tree-shaded rectory, reflects the stability of organized religion in Southern Maryland. Its school and community activities, such as its annual Ham and Oyster Dinner, provides the Accokeek community with a social and spiritual center.

Anne H. Aberg



Chapter

III

CHAPTER III

BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

After spending the 1700's becoming settled in this new land and fighting for its freedom, residents of Prince George's County started getting on with what was important to them: land sales, horse sales, slave sales, horse races, political meetings, horse breeding, and the other business necessary to run a county. All of this was faithfully reported by the main newspaper of the 19th century, *The National Intelligenser*. Based in Washington City, D.C., the *Intelligenser* covered much of the news of Prince George's County.

In the early 1800's, the county population centers continued to be Upper Marlborough and Bladensburg, with Laurel growing as a result of its milling industry. As the century progressed, other towns grew up along the railroad line from Washington to Baltimore. In addition to the railroad, transportation was aided by a documented system of roads, each county district having its own set of numbered roads. District 5, Piscataway, had 21 roads. A description of these roads can be found in the book entitled *1828 Tax List, Prince George's County*, published by the Prince George's County Genealogical Society in the early 1980's. Personal names, tract names, land marks, etc. are included, but a researcher needs to know the land owners of the time to use the compilation successfully. For instance, Road #1 is described as starting at Bealls Ford on Mattawoman Run and running through the lands of Dr. Thomas Marshall and others to Piscataway and then on through part of Calvert Manor to the District 5 line, between Districts 5 and 3, where it meets Road #21 in District 3. This explains the many references in the *Intelligenser* made by disgruntled property owners complaining about travelers not closing the gates as they passed through their lands. Even though there were marked roads, this part of the county had no major system of transportation available in the early 1800's.

Transportation was important to the people as most advertisements describing property for sale gave its distance from centers of population and ferry landings. On April 10, 1801, Blue Plains, an Addison holding, went up for sale for \$40,000. As in real estate advertisements, the features of the 300 acre property were detailed, including information about the buildings on the property, the resources of fish, wildlife, and timber available, but the most space in this advertisement was given to describing the public ferry on the premises, its buildings and the potential for income. Later that year, in December, this piece of property, now combined with Addison's Good Will to make 500 acres, went up for public sale to the highest bidder. It was noted that the property could be subdivided. The description of terms for purchasing property seemed to be based on how anxious the seller was to move the property, although a bonded down-payment always was required. There was no further notice as to whether or not this property sold, or for what price.

On September 26, 1804, a public auction was announced for November 1, 1804, in Piscataway. All the real estate of Thomas

Clagett, Esquire, deceased, totalling 1800 acres including an improved lot in Piscataway was to be sold. Interestingly enough, many times women were the administratrices of these estates.

When pieces of property were marked and bounded, the owners announced this in the paper. Thomas A. Digges on April 1, 1803, gave notice that he was applying for an order to mark and bound two pieces of land, Warburton Manor and Frankland. Personal property also was of great value to the Southern Marylanders. Many advertisements appeared for horses that were lost, stolen, or strayed, as well as for those which had been found. The finder required the owner to pay for the ad and for the hay consumed by the horse, as well as to prove ownership.

But the most ads appeared offering champion stallions for breeding purposes. The owners went into great detail about the qualifications of their steed. Equally detailed were the arrangements for owners of mares requiring the services of the stallion. Pasturage was to be provided for any mares sent, at fifty cents a week. It was advised that handlers be sent with the mares and that they would also be boarded at reasonable rates. No exact prices were mentioned, so it is assumed they were negotiable.

With all the interest in horses, it was inevitable that races would be major local events. On October 7, 1807, there was a big announcement about the forthcoming Upper Marlborough races, to be run by the Washington Jockey Club rules. Entrance fees were to be ten dollars the first day and five dollars for each of the other two days for nonsubscribers. No details were given, so it is not known if the fee was for the horse or the bettor.

Equal in number were ads concerning slaves, both runaway and for sale. Complete descriptions of the slave in question were given, and usually a reward was offered for runaways. History books have covered the slavery question in detail, so it is the intent here to bring out some interesting facts about the black population in the South County area.

In the early 19th century, an area called Chapel Hill, named presumably because of its proximity to an early Catholic chapel, attracted many free blacks and runaway slaves.¹ This community developed into one of the county neighborhoods originated by blacks and became widely settled after the Civil War. Located along Livingston Road, above Fort Washington Ambulatory Care Center to the Fort Washington Forest development and along Old Fort Road to the Friendly area, this community still thrives today.

At a time when more than a half of the county's residents were slaves, settlement also took place in the Oxon Hill area. In 1850 the Butler House was built on Oxon Hill Road by and for blacks. Descendants of the Butlers still live there and are doing research on their family history. The History Division of the M-NCPPC recently published a complete history of the black communities and their heritage in Prince George's County; they continue to compile information on black history and historical sites.²

Other facts gleaned from the *Intelligenser* include one from April, 1803, stating that Colonel William Lyles would be nominated to run on the Republican ticket in the place of Major Stephan West, Esquire, who was in ill health. This is the same Stephan West who operated many stores during colonial times.

An advertisement solicited proposals from potential mail carriers. Applicants were given a description of the routes involved, called Post Roads, and were to turn in their proposals to the general post office in Washington City. Route 23 was as follows: from Washington City by Piscataway, Port Tobacco, Allen's Fresh, Newport, Chaptico, Leonardtown, Great Mill, and St. Innigoes to the Ridge. The carrier would leave Washington City every Monday and Friday at 7:00 AM, arriving at Port Tobacco by 5:00 PM. He would leave Port Tobacco every Tuesday at 4:00 AM, arriving at Leonardtown by 4:00 PM and would leave there at 4:30 AM Wednesday, arriving at the Ridge at 4:00 PM.

Even teachers used the paper to announce the opening of their schools with particulars about courses and fees spelled out carefully. One professor from St. John's College in Annapolis, Hugh Maguire, ran this ad in the September, 1806, *Intelligenser*: "... will open a school in Annapolis on Monday, September 22, for the education of Young Gentlemen who will be instructed in the different Greek and Latin authors, Roman and Greek History, English Grammar, Reading. Writing and Arithmetic, etc." From his long experience as a teacher, he "hopes to meet with the support of a generous public." Mr. Maguire's fees were to cover room, board, and tuition. He charged \$100 a year for the student staying five days a week and \$120 for the seven day a week boarder. The parents were to provide the student's bed and bedding, a half-cord of fire wood, and one dollar for house rent. The annual tuition for Greek and Latin was ten guineas, and ten pounds for the other subjects.

Life proceeded pretty much along these lines all through the 19th century. As the conflict between the states came closer, no doubt friction arose among neighbors in this border state. Most of this history is well-documented in any book about the Civil War, a war which would result in a great change—the coming of the Industrial Revolution to the United States.

Anne H. Aberg

THE CIVIL WAR IN SOUTHERN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

In April, 1861, it appeared that Maryland's pro-secessionist voice was that of the majority and that Maryland would secede from the Union. If Maryland did secede, Washington, D.C. would be surrounded by rebel states, an untenable position for the capital of the United States.

In the Presidential election of 1860, Lincoln's opponent, Stephen Douglas, was far more popular with Maryland voters. Abraham Lincoln received less than 3,000 of all the 92,000 votes cast in Maryland. Baltimore gave Lincoln a few more than 1,000 of its votes. Many people felt the die was cast. Tremendous pressure was brought to bear upon the state by the Lincoln government. Many historians feel that the quick occupation by Federal troops, the suspension of habeus corpus and the movement of the Maryland Legislature to Frederick, Maryland, prevented Maryland from joining the South. Further investigation, however, reveals that left on its own, Maryland probably would not have seceded. The vast majority, though vocal minority, were pro-Union and came to believe it was in their best economic interest to remain with the Union. The Lincoln administration, however, continued to distrust Maryland and thousands of Federal troops were stationed throughout Maryland for the duration of the War.

Residents of Southern Maryland were notoriously sympathetic with their rebellious neighbors across the river in Virginia. *The Planters Advocate* of Upper Marlboro, on Wednesday, April 24, 1861, reported that "Friday last was more of a gala day in our village than any it has witnessed for a long period -- it having been arranged for the presentation to the Planter's Guard, Captain John Contee, of a flag, by the ladies of the county. At an early hour the different military companies who had been invited began to enter the village and gave it quite a martial appearance. One of the first to arrive was the "Piscataway Rifles," Captain George R.H. Marshall, (infantry) in a gray uniform of Virginia cloth, handsomely trimmed, and armed with Minie muskets. Though the ranks were not full, the company made a fine appearance, and were capitally drilled."¹

Little is known about the Piscataway Rifles. Another source refers to them as the Piscataway Rangers. Either way, the Piscataway Rifles/Rangers probably numbered 50 or less men and were a local militia unit that disbanded early in the Civil War. (The flag presented that day is on display in the Prince George's Historical Society Library at Marietta Mansion on Route 193.)

While the majority of action along the Potomac River took place above Washington, the Prince George's side of the river provided some interesting sidelights during the Civil War. In the fall of 1861, thousands of Confederate soldiers prepared winter quarters across the Potomac from Southern Maryland. To counter an attack from Virginia, President Lincoln stationed over 14,000 Union troops, under the command of "Fighting Joe" Hooker, in Southern Maryland, primarily Charles County. These troops spent a cold, miserable winter headquartered at Chicamuxen Church and Budd's

Ferry. They departed to participate in the Peninsular Campaign in March 1862.

Prior to the arrival of Hooker's command, numerous Union patrols criss-crossed Southern Maryland. On September 29, 1861, Brigadier General Daniel Sickles and his troops were camped at Piscataway awaiting orders. He was ordered "to break camp and move to Good Hope."²

Except for patrols, no major actions or troop movements were conducted throughout Southern Maryland from March, 1861, to December, 1862. In early December, 1862, over 100,000 Union troops were massing at Fredericksburg, Virginia. Large portions of these units were stationed in and around Washington and had to be transported to the battle site. Trains, boats and shank's mare were the alternatives.

Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania troops crossed Southern Maryland on their way to Fredericksburg. They marched from Washington, then to Uniontown (Anacostia, near the 11th St. Bridge) and near the Asylum (St. Elizabeth's).

The next leg took them near Piscataway where the scene was recorded in a Rhode Island Regimental History.³ A New Hampshire Regimental recorded the same evening camp on December 2, 1862: "Our Brigade bivouacs at 6pm on the south side of a large hill, 4,000 men on a few acres, and very crowded together. The roads are magnificent, the country rich, with pigs, chickens, and other small 'fruits' in plenty." The next day the march south was continued. "We pass Fort Washington (or Foote) (sic) and the men strain their eyes to catch a glimpse of Mount Vernon, said to be in view. The men are heavily loaded with guns, knapsacks, blankets, rations, cooking utensils, shelter tents and a multitude of things which more experienced soldiers never carry --- a heavy marching order indeed."⁴

The large hill south of the Edelen/Bailey house is the only place near Piscataway from which Mount Vernon can be seen. Evidence has been found that some Union troops camped west of the Edelen/Bailey house near the present Parkers' Market.

The New Hampshire and Rhode Island troops marched 20 miles on December 3 and camped six miles north of Port Tobacco. The next day they crossed the Potomac River at Liverpool Point to Aquia Creek, Virginia, and within ten days met the Confederate Army at Fredericksburg where Federals sustained nearly 13,000 casualties.

Except for infrequent patrols and occasional smugglers, Southern Maryland's role in the Civil War was over. Today, the two most prominent reminders of the War in our area are Fort Washington and Fort Foote, both preserved by the National Park Service.

Fort Washington, the sole guardian of Washington's Potomac River southern approaches in 1860-61, was an obsolete masonry holdover from the War of 1812 era (1824). It was not a formal part of the Civil War defenses ringing Washington, D.C., but was

regarrisoned by 40 Marines on January 5, 1861. Captain A. S. Taylor, Commander, did not consider the defenses adequate.⁵

On May 5, 1861, the Commandant of Fort Washington complained to Lt. J.G. Sproston, commanding the armed steamer Powhatan, that he was in want of a serviceable battery at the fort, the guns being few and old. Help was not far off. On May 6, 1862. Lt. W.N. Jeffers, Commander of the Steamer "Philadelphia," delivered, in two trips, eleven cannon with their carriages, and a large quantity of ammunition and other stores to Fort Washington. The eleven cannon were never fired in anger.

Not all the "action" around Fort Washington took place on land. Between July 30 and August 1, 1861, Master's Mate A.G. Harris, of the U.S./Schooner "Scout," captured the "Morning Star," the "Richard Lacy" and the "Jane Wright," between Fort Washington and Marbury's Landing on the Potomac, for running the blockade. He took them all to Fort Washington to await further orders. They were later towed to the Navy Yard to be subjected to the decision of the Navy Department. Two weeks later (August 13), the ships were released to their owners as no grounds or reason for their detention could be found. So much for the aggressiveness of Master's Mate Harris.⁶

Later, small detachments of the 4th U.S. Artillery Regimental Staff occupied the works for the remainder of the war. The strong earthworks of Fort Foote plus experience with rifled guns against masonry forts relegated Fort Washington to a very minor role in the Civil War.

Ben Kirkconnell

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

The end of the Civil War brought many changes to Prince George's agrarian economy, the most dramatic of which was the freeing of the slaves. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the population was black at this time. While agriculture continued to be the predominant part of the economy, there was a difference. Because the plantations were sold off, the number of farms in the county had doubled by the turn of the century. Many of the newly-freed slaves purchased land or were given land by their former owners. Others became tenant farmers for some of the larger property owners. Agriculture was the way of life in this part of the county.

Small farmers still grew tobacco, but they increasingly turned their land over to truck farming and took the produce to markets in Alexandria and Washington. These crops included potatoes, corn, spinach and other greens, beans, and tomatoes. Because of the large chicken population, providing feed for them and for other domestic animals was also profitable.

Farm produce was taken into the city by horse carts, using old stage coach routes and Indian trails that formed the basis for the numbered system of roads developed by the end of the 18th century. Farmers crossed into the city over the Eleventh Street Bridge. Fertilizer for the fields was purchased from the livery stables of the District, transported down the Potomac River by barge, and held at the shore where the farmers picked it up as needed. One old-timer remembers that these barges made a good place to sit and fish.

Although most of Prince George's County was rural in the last half of the 19th century, population centers continued to develop along major transportation routes. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad ran up through Bladensburg, Hyattsville, College Lawn and Laurel on its way to Baltimore, bringing Hyattsville growth and making Laurel the largest town in the county in 1878. The B & O had another branch coming from Alexandria, where it joined its Washington branch at Hyattsville. The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad came from the Anacostia area of the District to Huntington City (now Bowie) and had a branch running south to Pope's Creek Landing on the Potomac River. These areas as well as the "streetcar suburbs" in Seat Pleasant, Capital Heights, and Central Avenue, developed in the early 1900's, grew because there was transportation available. The southern part of the county had no public transportation system; this has not changed. People there traveled on gravel roads.

In addition to the dramatic change in the economy, Prince George's County experienced change in its educational system after the Civil War. Free public schools were mandated on October 12, 1864, and Dr. John Bayne of Salubria became the first county school superintendent. By November, 1865, there were 43 primary schools which were open ten months of the year. The first public high school opened in 1899 in Laurel. Attendance was not constant, however, as children were needed at home to help with the farms.

The first public elementary school in the South County opened in Accokeek, circa 1868-70. In the 1890's, the Old Friendly school, which is still standing on Old Fort Road at Roland Lane, opened its doors.

A tall, red-boarded, gabled building can still be seen in the Fort Foote area on the left as one is going south on Oxon Hill Road, was the first Fort Foote Elementary School, opened in the early 1900's. The Oxon Hill one-room school was located where the Ranch House restaurant stands today. This was sold in 1900 so that a new two-room building could be built nearby.

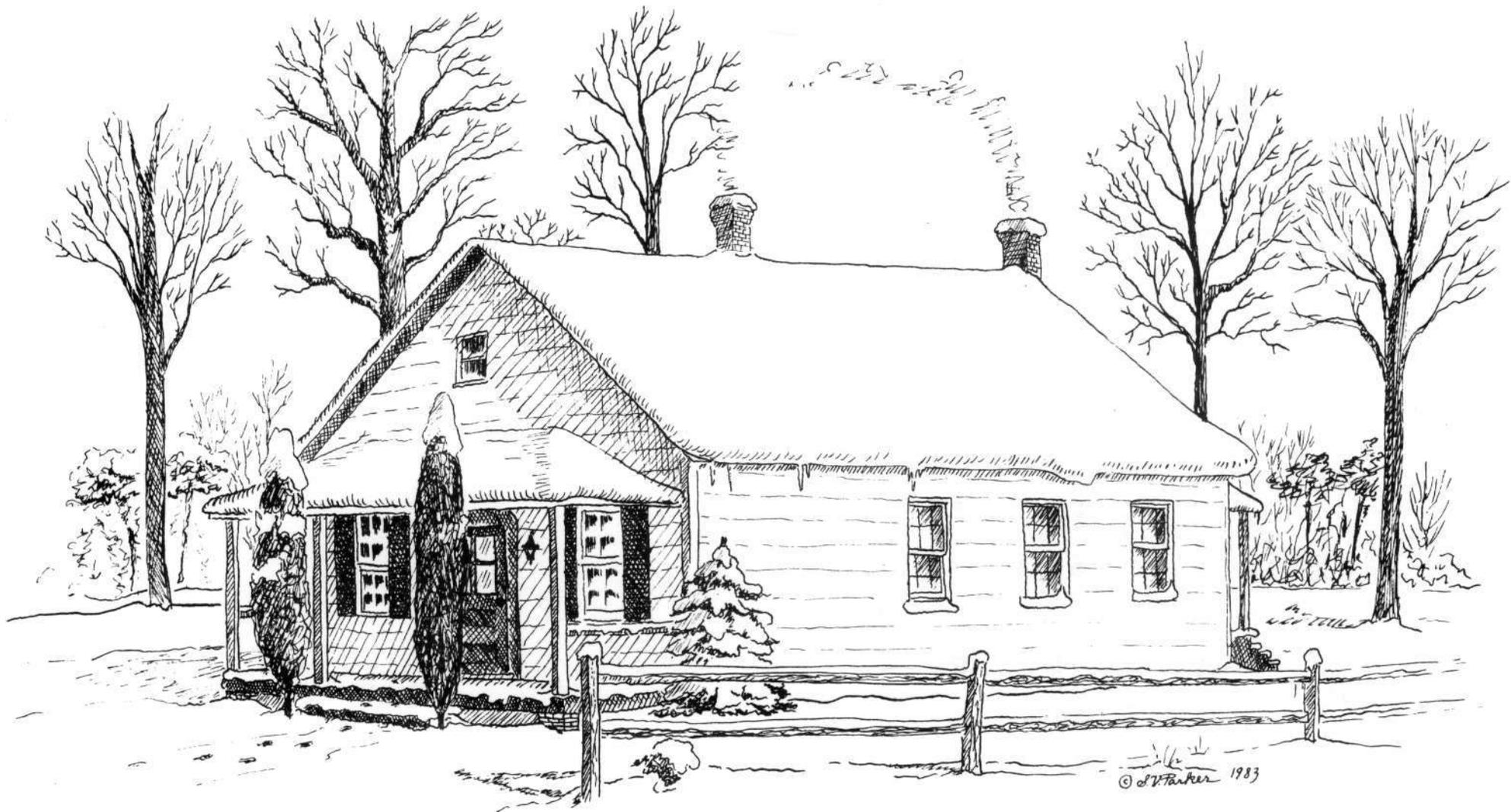
In 1903, Silesia School opened with grades one through eight. Located at Fort Washington Road and Warburton Oaks Drive, next to the Fort Washington Baptist Church, this is one of several surviving turn-of-the-century school buildings. On December 31, 1902, the Prince George's County School Board bought one acre of land from Mrs. James Edelen to build a one-story, gable-roofed school building. The entrance was at the west gable end with an interior chimney at the east gable end and another chimney approximately in the center of the ridge formed when an addition was made after the school was closed.

Silesia School held classes for a quarter of a century until the Oxon Hill Consolidated School opened in 1925. The students were then transported to Oxon Hill. An enormous old oak tree which was used as first base is still standing in the front yard.

When the school closed, the Board of Education sold it and the surrounding one acre of land to James P. R. Edelen and Gustavus Edelen, who used it as a residence. It was at this time that an addition was made. On April 22, 1959, the Edelens sold the building and .688 acre of the land to the Congress Heights Baptist Church, which established a mission there. In April, 1966, the trustees of the Congress Heights Church sold all this to the trustees of the new Fort Washington Baptist Church. After the sanctuary was built in 1968, the old school building was used as a Boy Scout meeting place.

The Board of Education also provided educational opportunities for black children, but on a separate basis. Until 1895, there was very little or no tax support to schools in counties though there was a large black population.¹ Support was received from private donations and churches.² There were schools in Accokeek, Fort Foote near Broad Creek, Chapel Hill, and Oxon Hill. The Oxon Hill School on Old Alexandria Ferry Road (now St. Barnabas Road), was purchased by the Oxon Hill Baptist Church when the small black schools were consolidated with the opening of Sojourner Truth School in 1942. Previous to the opening of the small black public schools, the Black Union Methodist Church in Upper Marlborough operated a school as early as 1863.

While researching schools in the South County, a two-page report of the state of education in Prince George's County for the year 1886 was found.³ The report detailed the types of buildings and furnishings, the teachers, pupils, subjects, and costs. Some of the most interesting facts are listed here: at that time there



Silesia School-The First One

were 68 frame buildings and one brick building, none of log or stone. Of the 69 buildings, five had fenced lots, 63 had outbuildings, 67 had good furniture, and 69 had blackboards. There was a total of 79 teachers, with the men being principals as well as teachers, 12 white and 12 black. There were 34 white female teachers, 16 black female teachers, and five female assistants. The pupil breakdown was as follows: 1427 white males, 794 black males, 1165 white females, and 717 black females. Of these, 35 white and 51 black students were above the sixth grade. There were 15 students studying Latin; 620, Drawing; 27, Bookkeeping; 80, Algebra; 46, Philosophy; 35, Geometry; and 74, Physiology. The level of the students was not given.

The other page of the report covered the expenses, the most interesting being the cost of fuel. It ranged from a high of \$46 to a low of \$8.50 per year. Considering that free public schools had only been organized for 22 years, the Board of Education had been given a good picture of the educational progress in the county.

As World War I approached, the area found itself continuing its agrarian economy and with increased educational opportunities for its people. Life was little affected by the industrial revolution, as the Washington, D.C. area had little industry other than the textile mills in Laurel.

Gloria Meder
Anne H. Aberg

BETWEEN THE WARS

Although there were many changes after the Civil War, World War I did not have as great an impact on the remote farming region of the South County.

In her book, *Adventures in Southern Maryland*, Alice Ferguson writes about the Accokeek area from 1922 to 1940, a community story similar to what was happening all over the southern part of Prince George's County. This quote from her book sums up the road situation beautifully, and could even be applied today: "During the first years at the farm the roads were terrible. In spite of constant meetings in the parish hall agitating for better roads we got nowhere, for everyone in the community was poor and none of us had any influence. We were told that we live in agricultural slums and none of the politicians seemed to feel that we were worth helping out of our mud holes."¹

During the 1920's, fisheries were located at Broad Creek, Dangerfields, and Brick Landing, but pollution had caused a noticeable decline in the fishing industry. Gravel dredging continued at Broad Creek until the 1940's. Industry developed greatly in Alexandria, but with no easy transportation from the Maryland side of the river, opportunities for employment there were few. No doubt those not wanting to follow an agricultural career left the family farm in search of a more promising future elsewhere.

During Prohibition this area was brought to life again by the one industry it did have: making "Piscataway corn."² As one old timer put it, "If they weren't growin' or makin' it, they were sellin' or runnin' it." The creeks provided an excellent source of water, and the surrounding swampy woods gave unlimited hiding places for the stills. It is understood that the soldiers stationed at Fort Washington after World War I provided free sugar for the enterprise.³ Another story is that the "Revenooer" kept checking out the feed stores, wondering why they sold so many tons of sugar. Seemingly, he was put off by the explanation that farmers so seldom shopped that they bought their sugar in 100 pound bags. Consequently, the store operator always wanted to have enough on hand, not knowing what the demand would be.

Meanwhile, education in the South County was making some progress. In 1925, the Oxon Hill Consolidated School opened with eleven grades in a 7-4 format. It was located on Livingston Road where the Oxon Hill Elementary School is today. The small schools at Silesia, Fort Foote, Friendly, and Oxon Hill were closed. The consolidated school boundaries extended from near Piscataway to the D.C. line and east to Allentown Road. By 1938, the school had grown to 690 pupils, and an addition was built. This was the school for the region until after World War II.

In 1942 the black consolidated school, Sojourner Truth, opened on Oxon Hill Road where the public library is now. The small schools in Accokeek, Fort Foote, and Oxon Hill were then closed, but the Chapel Hill School did not close until 1952. In 1943,

grade seven was added to Sojourner Truth, and in 1948-49, the school was enlarged to accommodate eight grades. Black students continued to travel to Upper Marlborough for high school.

At the beginning of the 1940's, this area was described as "an unprosperous region, but as improved since 1933."⁴ Tobacco was still the big crop, stated the Federal Writers project in its *Guide to the Old Line State, 1940* which set forth a tour of this area, starting with Oxon Hill and ending in Port Tobacco. State Route 224 was an asphalt-paved road two lanes wide; there were limited accommodations, but the sights were worth the inconveniences. From the village of Oxon Hill, a crossroads of two stores and a filling station with a population of 200, it was suggested that one go first to Oxon Hill Manor, then on down to Notley Hall, Fort Foote, St. John's Church, Harmony Hall, and Want Water. After Route 224 crossed Piscataway Creek, and at its junction with the Clinton Road, one could see the village of Piscataway, population 50. One could continue on Route 224 past the unpaved River Road, where one could go to see Christ Church, Accokeek. Route 224 ended at its junction with Route 6, near Smallwood Farm.

Starting with World War II, changes in the South County began; they have not yet ended. The building of Indian Head Highway by the Federal Government in 1942 to link the Navy Yard with the gun factory at Indian Head provided an easier access to the area. Because of a shortage of housing in the city and rural electrification, government workers bought land and built houses with now available government loans, to live near their jobs at the Naval Research Laboratory, Bolling Field, and the Naval Ordnance facility.

Anne H. Aberg

AFTER WORLD WAR II

The South County area continued to be a quiet rural community until the opening of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the Beltway in 1962. Travel to this southwestern section of Prince George's County had been limited to Livingston Road until Indian Head Highway was built by the federal government during World War II to give access to the munitions plant at Indian Head, Maryland. During the war, housing growth started along the river near Oxon Hill Manor, but development did not start in the Silesia/Fort Washington area until the late 1950's and the early 1960's.

For those who moved here in the past ten years, it seems unbelievable that as early as 1962, there was little to be seen on Indian Head Highway south of the Beltway except a drive-in, Sunnybrook Tavern, a carry-out, and a steak house until one arrived in Accokeek. With the dualization of Indian Head Highway in 1964-65, as far south as the Old Fort Road near the Forest Plaza Shopping Center, this area finally became a part of the growing metropolitan federal city. Until the late 1970's the nearest franchised fast food restaurant was at the Beltway in Oxon Hill.

In spite of the great population growth which we have seen and felt in the past 25 years, we still have many reminders of our historical past which are worth retaining. Many of our neighborhoods have a rural character, and agriculture is still a way of life for a few. The challenge which our settlers faced as they tamed a frontier was awesome. As Alan Virta said in the *Historical Sites and Districts Plan, 1981*, we who live here today have an exciting challenge in preserving for ourselves and the generations to come this beautiful rural atmosphere where we can take a walk in the woods, discover a stream, net a herring in the spring run, and feel a communion with our past of 350 years.¹

Cynthia Heerwagen

With people discovering the advantages of the Silesia/Fort Washington area and having convenient access to it, several facilities as well as housing were affected. The population increase had its next impact on the school system. In 1949, an increasing number of students necessitated the construction of a new facility in Oxon Hill for grades seven through twelve; the twelfth grade was added to the system in 1947. In 1959, this Oxon Hill Junior-Senior High School became Oxon Hill Junior High, when the present Oxon Hill Senior High School was built on the former grazing meadows of the William E. Miller stables. The furniture store bearing his name still does business in Washington, D.C., and his descendants live in the area. When the new Oxon Hill Junior High School was built in 1970, on Fort Foote Road near Oxon Hill Road, the old building was renovated for the offices of the Southern Area division of the County Board of Education.

The 1960's civil rights decisions of the Supreme Court mandated integration of public schools nationwide, and blacks were admitted to the Prince George's County school system beginning in 1965. Sojourner Truth Elementary School, an all-black school, was

razed and the Oxon Hill library built on the site. Prior to this new building, the library was housed in what is now the Forest Heights Community Center behind the McDonald's Restaurant near Eastover. It was not until 1949 that Prince George's County had a unified system of libraries.

With all the new families moving to the region south of the Beltway, more elementary schools were required. Thomas Addison, since closed, opened in 1958, Fort Foote, 1960, Fort Washington Forest, 1960, and Indian Queen in 1974. Eugene Burroughs Junior High School opened in 1963. Students still traveled to Oxon Hill Senior High School until Friendly Senior High School opened in 1970.

In 1966 Harmony Hall Elementary school was opened in the Silesia/Fort Washington community. Ms. Doris Brett was transferred from Fort Washington Forest Elementary School to be the first principal. School populations continued to climb for a time and Potomac Landing was finished in 1977 as a combination elementary school and recreational facility. The gym is jointly used by the Prince George's County School Board and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) programs.

Budget cuts and lowering school populations forced the closing of Harmony Hall Elementary School after numerous public hearings in 1981. Rumors flew about the proposed usage of the building. In 1983 with the help of local politicians, a group of citizens was appointed by the County Council to explore the possibility of a regional center, managed by MNCPPC. The proposed program of community meeting space, Southern Area Office and arts center was accepted and the building remodeled to accommodate the new functions. A nice surprise was the appropriation of money to build the John Addison Concert Hall that has become the pride of MNCPPC. The building is a good example of adaptive reuse and is the largest physical space managed by the Commission.

Contrary to expectations, the influx of people and the tremendous housing development did not bring radical changes to the economy in this part of the county. Many residents work for the federal government or are with the military. Other neighbors own businesses, such as grocery stores, clothing stores, places of entertainment, publishing and printing establishments, and service facilities, which contribute to the community.

Anne H. Aberg
Barbara Kirkconnell

THE SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES

Fort Washington Estates/Captain's Cove

In 1954, the part of the historic Warburton Manor site which was not already Fort Washington Park came into the hands of a real estate developer, Matthew Mezzanotte, who was associated with North American Contracting Company. In July, 1957, the new Fort Washington Estates Corporation advertised the opening of operations. The streets in the community were named after subjects related to early Maryland history and to the Fort: Calvert, King, Queen, L'Enfant, Warburton, and Park.

One of the first homes was built in 1957 for Miss Helen Dwight Reid, a benefactor of Mezzanotte. She never resided there. This model home was located on Reid Circle, off Reid Lane, both of which were named for Miss Reid. An educator and a philanthropist, Miss Reid was killed in 1965 in a bus-pedestrian accident in Washington, D.C.

Activity flourished at Fort Washington Estates. In 1957, the Piscataway Bay waterfront, where the Fort Washington Marina is now located, was the scene for the filming of the movie, "House Boat," which starred Sophia Loren and Cary Grant. In 1958, Mr. Mezzanotte sold land to the Marina Association. The Grand Opening of the Fort Washington Marina was Memorial Day, 1960. The marina proved to be a popular one; it was also used by a number of house-boats as permanent mooring.

In 1961, the ownership of the marina land was transferred to the National Park Service; Piscataway Park was created, a marina being set within the park confines. The Park Service in turn leased the land to the State of Maryland, and since 1986, a major renovation has taken place. A new sea wall, boating slips and various buildings have been built. Piscataway Bay was dredged in order to provide access for larger boats to the marina. (The dredge material was piped from the bay to an up-land area east of Captain's Cove, where drying ponds allowed the moisture in the material to evaporate.)

Homes continued to be built. In January, 1959, the Samuel Georges became the third residents of the new community and were instrumental in the formation of the Fort Washington Citizens' Association; it was incorporated later that year with nine families and 16 members. Mr. George was the first president.

In 1962, ownership of the Fort Washington Estates was transferred to real estate developer Sidney J. Brown, and home construction continued. In 1963, one of the builders, R. C. Thurner, constructed a number of model homes and changed the name of Fort Washington Estates to Captain's Cove, a name better known locally today than the original Fort Washington Estates. The land records, however, still indicate the first name.

In 1964, the "Parade of Homes" was held at Captain's Cove under the sponsorship of the local Home Builders' Association. Twenty homes were on display. The opening, on an exceptionally hot

day, with all air conditioners running, resulted in the melting of the Pepco lines going to Indian Head Highway from the Fort Washington area.

In 1967, nearly 500 acres of yet undeveloped land was bought at foreclosure by the Teamster's Union pension fund. In 1981, this piece, running some five miles between Old Fort Road and Piscataway Creek, was purchased by the Hampton Park Corporation.

Captain's Cove has grown into the cohesive community known today. It has a community-owned Swimming Pool Association with tennis courts, supports a swim team, and has an active citizens' association, and a cooperative baby-sitting group. Captain's Cove is a neighborly place in which to live.

Gloria Meder
Anne H. Aberg

Along Riverview Road

Through the years the large landowners sold off portions of their property. Broadwater Estates, an area north of Riverview Road, on Broad Creek Bay, grew out of the sale of part of the tract owned by the Adler family. Joseph Adler, an emigrant from Germany, had come to this area in 1907, and married Selma, one of the two sisters of Richard and Robert Stein. (The other sister married Robert Tilch, Papa Tilch's father.)

Over 100 acres of Adler property was located north of Riverview Road, and included 57 acres known as the Miller Brickyard, a gift from Robert Stein to his sister, Selma. This is now a Prince George's Recreational Center with soccer fields and tennis courts. The original house, which burned in 1944, was located to the left of the present building, constructed circa 1930. After the land was cleared for the existing house, the framework was nailed together and left to "weather" for one year. Will Kirby then constructed the house entirely of oak.

When Joseph's son, Rudolf, who was injured in World War I, and his wife Amy Thorne, both died within a few years of each other, their two sons, aged nine and seven, were raised by Joseph's other son, Frederick (Fritz), Adler, who was married to Lilian Uncle. Fritz ran a truck farm and was known as the "Spinach King," his green produce being highly respected at downtown markets. Joseph's daughter, Alma Adler Birckner, continues to own some of the still wooded land between River Road and Broad Creek Bay.

In 1965, approximately 60 acres were sold for the Broadwater Estates development. It was cleared of trees by horse and manual labor. Broadwater Estates has grown slowly to a comfortable 54 home community with a recreation club and swimming pool tying the community together. A saying in the neighborhood is, "No one needs to keep up with the 'Joneses,' because everyone lives as though they ARE 'the Joneses'!"

Another family name well-known in the Riverview area was Edelen. Our informant, Ed Edelen, remembers that his grandfather came to this area from St. Mary's County. Grandfather Edelen divided his property among his seven children. James, the oldest son, owned much of what is now Warburton Oaks development. At that time a narrow road behind the little school house led to what became Indian Head Highway. Richard, Ed's father owned what is now the government radio station. The owner who purchased it from him was forced to sell it to the government. A daughter, married to a Hatton, sold her acreage to the owners in the Gates Lane area. Lowe Edelen sold his acreage to the Bowers, whose property extends to the river. Steed Edelen sold to Doctor Viehoever; Philip, another son, also owned acreage along the road. Leonora, a daughter who never married, sold to a Hazzard, who sold to the Bartholomew, whose descendants are the current owners, the Coxes.

Continuing north we come to Tent Landing where commercial fishing survived into the 1920's. Close by at Brick Landing, a brick factory thrived in the 19th century. Dr. Arno Viehoever bought his 1890 home at Tent Landing in 1917. At that time there was no public road to the area. Dr. Viehoever urged his neighbors owning private stretches of road to turn over their sections to the county, thereby eliminating their maintenance problems. This resulted in Riverview Road.

Dr. Viehoever was also one of the organizers of the first Broad Creek Citizens Association, the only civic group in the area at that time. As a scientist he advocated for years for the clean-up of the Potomac River. As a young bride, Mrs. Viehoever rode her horse to Silesia School to teach music. Their daughter, Ellyn, and son-in-law Colonel John Chesley, U.S. Army Retired, live on the land today, and helped in the successful fight to prevent the condemnation of the entire shoreline for a federal parkway.

One of the most interesting Edelen properties is still owned by Mrs. George Carey, who inherited it from her father, George. It was through the generosity and cooperation of Mrs. Carey that Tanta-Cove Garden Club was able to provide flowers for the White House during the Ford and Carter Administrations. This project started in 1976 when garden club members were asked to contribute cut flowers for Queen Elizabeth's state visit, flowers typical of America and of the Washington D.C. area. The Butterfly Weed was at its perfection at Mrs. Carey's, as was Queen Anne's lace. In succeeding months and years, other flowers such as Crepe Myrtle, White Tree Hydrangeas, and Wild Ageratum were also taken to the Vice President's house. Here the flower designs created by the members were used as accessories for Mrs. Mondale's art museum exhibits.

Other of the Adler and Edelen acreage evolved into Riverview Estates, which was subdivided in 1965. Located off West Riverview Road, its lots have been developed by each owner.

At the Bower property the Marriot Corporation proposed to build an Air Force Officers' retirement community called Falcon's Landing. Purchase of the property hinged on zoning waivers of the density of buildings and the Cheseapeake Overlay Plan. The

community was split on its opinion of the desirability of the facility and eventually the Marriot plans were challenged in court. The outcome is unresolved at this time.

Archaeology surveys conducted in preparation for development of the property by Marriot consisted of shovel tests every 25 meters. They determined that the upper part of the site had been greatly disturbed; any important historical material that had once been there had been removed. The lower area revealed the possibility of many artifacts (the migration of soil and elements protected this area). Prehistoric material included stone tools and ceramics from the Woodland era. The survey found four to five different ceramics, all with gray or reddish tinge. They were smooth and mostly flat; some had decorations.

The shore area will be preserved as an historic site. There is no firm evidence of a fishery located on the shore, but there may have been as there were quite a few fisheries located on the Maryland Virginia river banks. It is know that George Washington used a large seine net that reached the width of the Potomac and supplied food for the people at Mount Vernon. Commerical fisheries probably took their catch to Alexandria for processing.

There is a small family cemetery located at the top of the hill near Riverview Road. The people buried there most like lived in the general area in the 18th century and owned one of the fisheries.

Housing developments still continue to rise in this open area. Sero Estates is established in 1981 to the east of Riverview Road, where it parallels the Potomac River. Access from Sero Estates to Fort Washington Road is planned for the future. The most recent residential development called Battersea by the Bay has been in the area north of Riverview road, between Fort Washington Road and Broad Creek Estates. Both developments are zoned for single family houses.

Charlotte Temerario
Penny Ichord

Tantallon-on-the-Potomac

Col. James B. Gillespie, U.S.A. Retired, a 1913 graduate of the United States Military Academy, was stationed at Fort Washington in the 1930's. Over a period of some years he purchased more than 400 acres of land which extended from Fort Washington along the Potomac River and east to Fort Washington Road. The land included "River View," described in an earlier section, and two tenant farms.

Some housing development took place along Swan Creek in the 1950's, but it was not until April, 1981 that plans for a luxury country club community were announced in the "Home and Real Estate" section of The Evening Star by developers Ralph Triska, James Thompson, and Edward J. Cook. To be named after Scotland's fabled Castle Tantallon near the Royal Burgh of North Berwick, the home of

the powerful Clan Douglas, the new development on the banks of the Potomac River would feature "two 18-hole golf courses, a 9-hole 'speed' course, a marina, five high-rise apartment buildings, and sites for 600 homes."

By the end of 1961, there were four families living in Tantallon, and in 1965, 48 houses had been built. The club house opened in May, 1965, after members had been using one of the tenant farm houses as a club house since the golf course began play on nine holes in late 1962. Maynard Stierna recounts how a group celebrated the first club championship that fall of 1962, when Charlie Ellis and Bett Stierna won the mens and women's trophies. They brought some champagne to the old farm house on the ninth tee and bought soft drinks out of the coke machine. In October, 1965, the Tantallon Citizens' Association was incorporated by Sam De Blasis, Elmo Denton, and General William D. Eckert.

Today several hundred homes are situated along streets bearing names of famous Scottish golf courses and landmarks, which wind around a beautifully wooded 18-hole golf course and along the shore of Swan Creek. In addition to having golf and tennis nearby, the neighborhood strongly supports the Tantallon swim team and a jogging group, the Tantallon Striders.

In 1982, the immense amount of talent found in the community was galvanized by Charla Rowe into a highly successful production called "Tantallon Follies." Subtitled "Tantallon Tonight" in 1983, the Follies expanded to a two-night format and was presented at the auditorium of the Southern Area administration office of the Prince George's County Public Schools. From this nucleus of fund-raising thespians, the Tantallon Community Players was incorporated in 1984. Specializing in musical comedy, the Players have developed a metropolitan-wide reputation, drawing actors and audiences from all around the Beltway. In 1990, the Players performed "The Mikado," the first theatrical production in the John Addison Concert Hall, and have continued to call the concert hall at the Harmony Hall Regional Center their home.

Members of Tantallon's active citizens' association also live in houses developed during the 1970's in the Tantallon Hills section as well as those houses on Glasgow and adjoining streets. Both of these areas are on the east side of Fort Washington Road. Tantallon residents realize how fortunate they are to live in an area that is rich in history as well as full of recreational opportunities.

Gloria Meder
Anne H. Aberg

Warburton Oaks

Warburton Oaks is located south of Silesia, on the east side of Fort Washington Road, just past the Fort Washington Baptist Church. This community was started in 1961 with the James Cleaver home. Originally it was a small area with the lots being built on by individual owners. The section grew in the 1970's then several

different developers built Tantallon/American Square south of Warburton Oaks and Franklin Square east of the community, nearly filling the land between Fort Washington Road and Indian Head Highway.

Anne H. Aberg

Potomac Landing and Guilford

Concurrent with the opening of Tantallon Hills across Fort Washington Road from Tantallon by the Ryland Corporation in 1969-70, the Di Maio Brothers opened their development, Potomac Landing, south of American Square and also on the east side of Fort Washington Road. This small community adjoined another new area further north called Guilford, or as it is on the land records, Tantallon South. It was built in two sections by the Wilkinson Construction Corporation and Yeonas Brothers. In the late 1970's further building took place east of these developments, and now nearly the entire area out to Indian Head Highway is built up.

Each of these communities has citizens' associations which band together with other area citizens' groups when public issues affecting the entire region are at stake. Convincing the county to build a park/school (one with a gym and extensive recreation facilities) in this community is an example of the success citizens' action groups can have. Potomac Landing Elementary School is located at East Tantallon Drive and Fort Washington Road. In addition, the Potomac Landing Garden Club further consolidates community interest with beautification of the school grounds as one of its projects. These communities share with all those on Fort Washington Road the many advantages of the pleasant living available here.

Anne H. Aberg

The West Side of Fort Washington Road

Several large rural tracts along the west side of Fort Washington Road were sold off, and building began in the late 1970's with the development of Kimberly Woods, Baron Court, and Tantallon North. A large playing area, with soccer fields is centered in this area and managed by M-NCPPC.

Anne H. Aberg

Bryan Point Road Moyaone Reserve/Alice Ferguson Foundation/Accokeek Foundation

South of Piscataway Bay and west of Accokeek is a community along Bryan Point Road begun by families escaping to the country from Washington, D.C. Accokeek was an agrarian area still considered "way out in the country" when Alice and Henry Ferguson discovered Hard Bargain Farm on Christmas Eve, 1921. They were looking for 10 acres to use as a country retreat; they ended up

with 110 acres and a spectacular view of Washington, D.C. and Mount Vernon. Christ Church, a blacksmith shop at the corner of Farmington and Bryan Point Roads and four farms comprised the population. Prior to World War II, Hard Bargain Farm was a refuge from the city where the Ferguson entertained their friends. Artists, politicians, scientists and government colleagues enjoyed swimming, cocktails, horse back riding, sledding, brunch, and Fergie's favorite, volleyball.

After the war several of those who had been guests of the Fergusons purchased lots along Bryan Point Road, built homes and commuted to jobs in Washington, D.C. Farms in the vicinity of Hard Bargain came on the market and were purchased by Alice Ferguson; among them were Cactus Hill and Bond's Retreat. When Alice died in June, 1951, of emphysema, her will left money and land to her community of friends. Twenty-two families under the leadership of Robert Strauss organized the non-profit Moyaone Association to handle the inheritance.¹

To preserve the land's natural beauty the Moyaone Association established covenants which banned tree cutting and limited development to single family dwellings. Since Prince George's County zoning required subdivisions with less than five acre lots have paved roads, and the Association couldn't afford such an expense, five-acre lots were surveyed.² The Association bought and sold land along Bryan Point Road and further south just over the Charles County line. Eventually the Moyaone Association evolved into three separate organizations: the Piscataway Company, a real estate company, the Moyaone Association, a community association, and the Alice Ferguson Foundation, chartered in 1954, devoted to environmental education.³

In 1955 residents of the Moyaone were alerted that the Vaughn Connelly Farm at the end of Bryan Point Road was for sale and under consideration for development into an oil tank farm. Robert Strauss, manager of the Piscataway Company, and Charles Wagner, charter members of the community group, called the Director of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, Cecil Wall, to sound the alarm.⁴ The limited resources of the Piscataway Company and the slow pace of a legislative solution to preserve the view from George Washington's porch made the reported half-million dollar price tag seemingly out of reach.

But in September, 1955, it was publically announced that the 485 acre Connelly farm had been purchased for \$330,000 by Representative Frances P. Bolton of Ohio. She was also the vice regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association from Ohio. Members of the Moyaone community contacted Mrs. Bolton and suggested a national park to protect the view from Mount Vernon; they were gratified when Conrad Wirth, director of the National Park Service, became involved with the project. After a meeting with Mrs. Bolton it was decided that a six mile stretch of shore-line from Mockley Point to Marshall Hall would be needed to protect the view shed.⁵

Frederick Gutheim, a land planner, was hired as a consultant. Mr. Gutheim recommended that all the associations of Bryan Point participate to form a park to promote low density open space uses,

preserve the woods and foster education. He also recommended an agricultural historical museum, an idea that evolved into the National Colonial Farm.⁶ (Mr. Gutheim was the winner in 1990 of the Crowninshield Award, the most prestigious award given by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.)

From Gutheim's initial recommendation the Accokeek Foundation was born at Hard Bargain Farm on April 18, 1957; its purpose was to husband the land at the end of Bryan Point Road. It was agreed that the new foundation would integrate conservation and preservation goals of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution and other federal agencies.⁷ Lands not immediately on the Potomac River were subdivided and sold to repay Mrs. Bolton. Later other land was purchased by Mrs. Bolton and transferred to the federal government for the park.

For the next fourteen years members of the Moyaone Association lobbied Congress and local governments to establish Piscataway Park and legislate perpetual scenic easements to protect the view from Mount Vernon. As early as 1960, these land use pioneers related the siltation from development to damage to the Chesapeake Bay.⁸ These efforts were not without conflict, but finally in January, 1966, Prince George's County passed the first law in the nation to grant tax credits for preservation of scenic open space. The law granted a reduction of 50% on the taxes on the land, not improvements.⁹ In 1968, after many years of hard work acquiring land and shepherding enabling legislation, local leaders attended the dedication of Piscataway Park on George Washington's birthday.¹⁰

Today the Moyaone Association maintains the standards of open space preservation and fights to keep the rural nature of the Moyaone Reserve through the preservation easements. Recent concerns include the proposed widening of several roads in the area and noise from airplanes approaching National Airport. The Association owns the neighborhood swimming pool and is in charge of maintaining the gravel roads in the Moyaone Reserve.¹¹

The Alice Ferguson Foundation at Hard Bargain Farm continues the "philosophy of 'good times and adventure'" with environmental education and agricultural programs. The Foundation donated 85 acres to the Department of the Interior in 1968 for inclusion in Piscataway Park; today it has a partnership with the National Park Service to teach children about preserving their heritage and the environment. One of Hard Bargain Farm's claims to fame is its farm life and ecology program for public school students. First graders spend the night at Wareham Lodge where they discover their natural environment and learn how they personally impact of their world.¹² Renowned throughout the outdoor education field, the environmental education program serves as a model for other centers in the Mid-Atlantic region and the nation.

The spirit and mission of the Accokeek Foundation can be seen in its multiple programs highlighting the history and resources of the Potomac River's southern approaches to Washington, D.C. The Foundation's programs include a research program begun in the early 1960's to save the American chestnut tree from extinction,

initially through the use of modern radiation technology. After 25 years a few trees are showing resistance to the fungus that decimated the chestnut in the early 20th century. Research continues on this important project.

The National Colonial Farm, established after Gutheim's original recommendation, is reconstructing an 18th century farm house salvaged from land slated for development in Charles County, MD. School children tour the farm on prearranged tours to learn about Maryland history in the 18th century. A recent project, the Robert Ware Strauss Ecosystem Farm, seeks to demonstrate how farmers can maximize productivity on small parcels of land with ecologically sensitive farming practices.¹³

Today the foundations and associations in and around Piscataway Park are alive and well, fulfilling the mandates established by the far-sighted pioneers of the 1950s. Those who worked to protect the natural, historic and agricultural resources of George Washington's Maryland "prospect" were truly revolutionary in their ideas and ahead of their time.

Barbara Kirkconnell

CONCLUSION

We have now come to the close of our project, an historical booklet about our neighborhood -- roughly the boundary of Tanta-Cove Garden Club. As we came to the final stages of our effort, we realized that our interest in "our territory" had expanded to strong caring and concern about the South County.

As a result, we hope all who claim this little corner of the world will hang on to a copy of this booklet, for "If you know who you are, know from whence you come." With Virginia our close neighbor, we realize how different its beginning was from Maryland's, as a satellite of Great Britain. Maryland had its own freedom from the start, since the Crown Grant was given to Lord Calvert, who began his colony with high standards. He stressed freedom of religion -- a component of each personality, yet a vary private aspect of each individual. This created respect and self-respect, making Maryland a more tolerant and peaceful place to live.

As Louis P. Ranft says in his poem, "Southern Maryland:"

It's just as clear as can be
That God loves and freely gives
To the other States his blessing,
But Southern Maryland's where he lives.

Charlotte Temerario

APPENDIX

TOBACCO

The tobacco plant is grown as an annual. The seed is collected from the previous year. In present times the tobacco farmer receives an ounce or so of hybrid seed furnished by the state -- more than adequate for most tobacco farms. In this way, the state is aware of the acreage being utilized for the growth of tobacco. A number of years ago, acreage was limited for price control purposes; however, at present there is no limit in the State of Maryland.

In the spring, when soil reaches a temperature of 65 degrees, a starting bed is prepared by sterilization of the soil. In yesteryear, this meant plowing and adding humus and fertilizer. Then a burning log was slowly turned across the planting bed, killing insects, weed seeds, and disease -- sterilizing the soil. The modern process is accomplished by the use of gas, a procedure done only by licensed handlers. Tobacco farmers must take an agricultural extension course for this, or contract to have it done. In the warmer days of March and April, the seeds are mixed with sand and sowed thinly across the long and narrow bed. The site is covered with thin cloth, and the seeds germinate and grow under thin shading. When the seedlings reach the height of five to six inches they are re-set in the tobacco field, forty inches apart, so the field appears as a grid. The plant grows in the field from late May until August and reaches a height of forty inches. Usually in today's times, a systemic fertilizer and insecticide is used when the seedling is planted for the control of insects, especially aphids.

When the plant forms a spike of blooms with symmetrical, large leaves evenly spaced on all sides, the spike is pinched out, along with all "sucker" growth. This is accomplished by hand, a process where a large family is appreciated. Simultaneously, the lower leaves begin to mature, changing color to yellow and tan, and within ten days to two weeks, the plants are harvested. The whole plant is cut and hung in barns upsidedown to air-dry and cure. (In other areas where tobacco is grown, it is flue-dried, requiring heat.) To avoid spontaneous combustion produced occasionally during the curing of the green plants, boards in the side walls of the curing barns or sheds are propped open to allow for better ventilation. The curing process required one year before marketing.

When thoroughly dry, the leaves are removed from the stem, and grouped according to similarity of color, size, and quality, ultimately a grading process. They are then sold at auction. It is careful grading which brings a better price.

Tobacco companies move their purchased tobacco in huge hogsheads (large barrels or casks, holding 100 to 140 gallons), some of which are antiques. Older ones had a hole in the lid, through which a steel rod was rammed. Horses pulled the large hogsheads hitched to the steel rod to wharves or railroads for

further transportation. Needless to say, hills and slopes caused considerable consternation!

Maryland tobacco is peculiar, as the main characteristic is that it burns. Therefore it is mixed with other tobaccos for use in cigarettes and pipes, never in plug or snuff. A good part of Maryland tobacco is exported.

Charlotte Termerario

JAPANESE WATER CHESTNUT

In the mid-1940's, the Potomac River became choked with Japanese water chestnut which had been imported many years earlier by the Department of Agriculture, according to Clark Brant, a local resident along the river. The flower, resembling the water hyacinth, completely covered the water from shore to shore and was multiplying at the prodigious rate of 3000 per cent a year. It reproduced by the means of pods which were capable of regenerating in water 60 feet deep. Al Webster, a local farmer, attached his grain cutter to a boat and cut a channel out of Broad Creek. The Corps of Engineers, thus shown the way, attached a paddle wheel to a raft to sweep the river, cutting the flowers just before maturity.

While control has been effective for many years, water hyacinth or water caltrop was observed in Piscataway Creek in the fall of 1981 when the committee writing this history took an investigatory sail of our waterways by Skipper Robert Aberg. A resident along the shore of Piscataway Creek; Mrs. W. A. Cook, found a seed pod identified by Clark Brant as the same genus as the troublesome flower of the forties.

Cynthia H. Heerwagen

TRACTS LAID OUT IN LOWER PISCATAWAY HUNDRED

Before April 23, 1696

This list of properties identifies those patented or owned at one time by the Addison family. The numbers correspond to the map.

1. Addison's Expedition; see Clarkson's purchase, 1 a.
- 1a. Since Clarkson's Purchase, surveyed for William Clarkson July 18, 1687, adjoined Addison's Expedition, it could be assumed that Addison acquired this smaller section from Clarkson, or it was forfeited as surplusage by Clarkson.
2. Addison's Folly, April 8, 1689, for William Hutchinson; assigned to John Addison.
3. Ashen Swamp, August 11, 1686, for John Addison.
4. Batchelour's Harbour, October 11, 1662, for Jeremiah Dickeson and Stephen Montague; eventually acquired by Addisons.
5. Friendship, October 18, 1694, for John Addison, William Dent, and William Hutchinson.
6. Mount Nebo, June 23, 1685, for John Addison.
7. St. Elizabeth, October 11, 1662, for John Charman; eventually acquired by John Addison.
8. Strife, October 16, 1694, for John Addison and William Hutchinson.
9. Swans Harbour, June 1, 1687, for John Addison.
10. Gisborough, originally patented to Thomas Dent, eventually acquired by John Addison through marriage to Dent's widow.
11. Blew Plaine, 1663, for George Thompson; eventually acquired by Addison family.

** St. Elizabeth's: Insert of the riverfront land grants north of the tracts in the larger drawing shows the location of St. Elizabeth's ** in relation to St. Elizabeth*. The original land grant name of the primary Addison property, as detailed in the chapter on the Addison family.

Other numbered tracts show the location of sites described

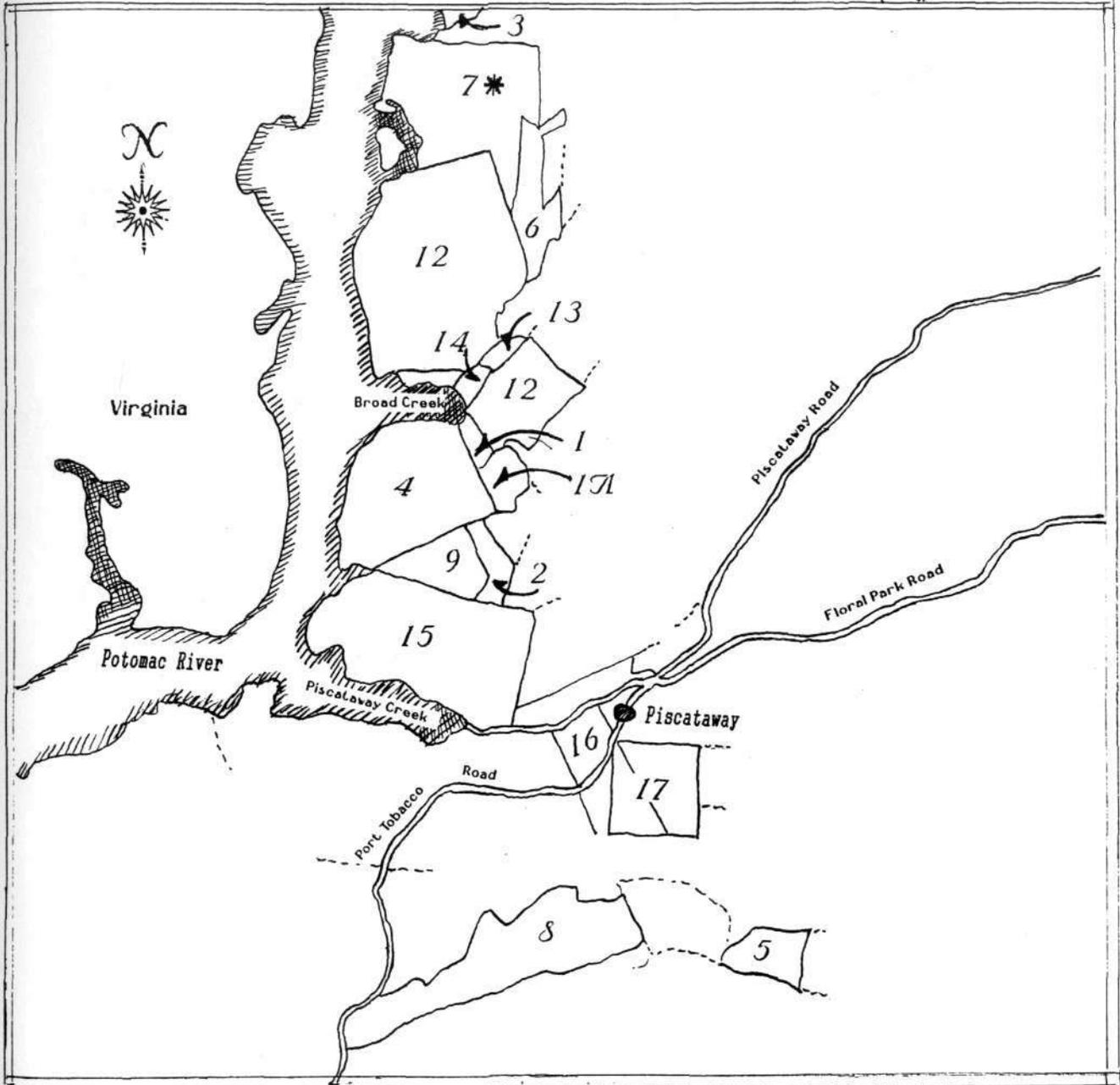
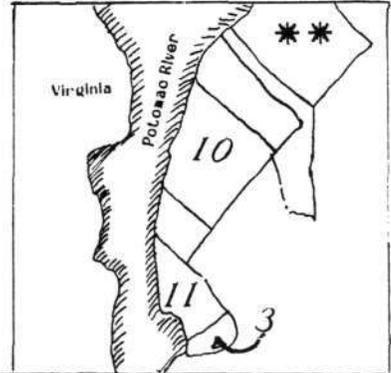
12. Admiriothoria, October 22, 1662, for George Thompson.
13. Little Hall, March 23, 1687, for George Aithey; part of which was sold to the Vestry of St. John's Church, Broad Creek.
14. Battersee, October 27, 1662, for Humphrey Haggett, which came to be called Harmony Hall.
15. Warburton Manor, surveyed for Dr. Luke Barber in 1058, but was not patented until October 27, 1881; traded shortly after to Luke Gardner under the name Barberton.
16. St. James, March 18, 1863, for Captain James Neal.
17. Wades Adventure, October 22, 1669, for Zacharia Wade; descendants owned the St. James Hill property at one time.

For Identification of the unnumbered tracts, see Kellock's or Hienton's books. In most cases, spelling follows the originals.

Tracts of the Lower Piscataway Hundred before April 23, 1696

Large land grants drawing from
Colonial Piscataway by Katharine Kellock.
Used with permission of
the Alice Ferguson Foundation,
Accokeek, Maryland

Both drawings originally from
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Used with permission of Truman E. Hienton,
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