

PRINCE GEORGE'S HERITAGE

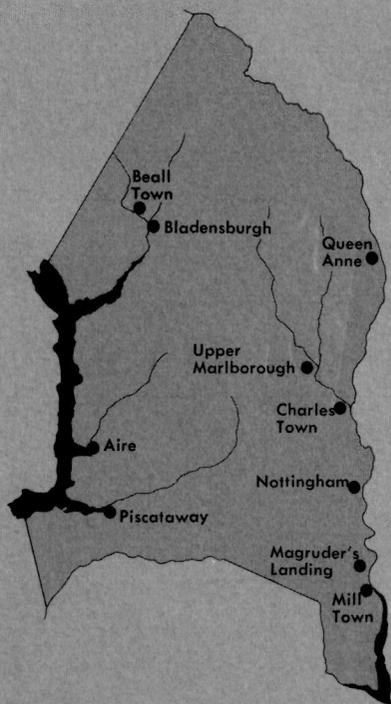


Prince George's Heritage

Sidelights on the Early History of Prince George's County,
Maryland from 1696 to 1800

Louise Foyner Hinton

THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Prince George's County in 1748

Assembled in this book from many original sources is the history of Prince George's County from the time of its erection in 1696 as Maryland's western frontier county until 1800 when it was reduced to its present size by the loss of some of its area to our Nation's Capital. A special feature is the inclusion of an original map, prepared by the author, of the tracts laid out prior to April 23, 1696. Discussed under separate headings are the first county seat at Charles Town, relations with the Indians, the early churches, the schools, the colonial towns and ports, the Colonial Wars, the Revolutionary War and the post-Revolutionary period.

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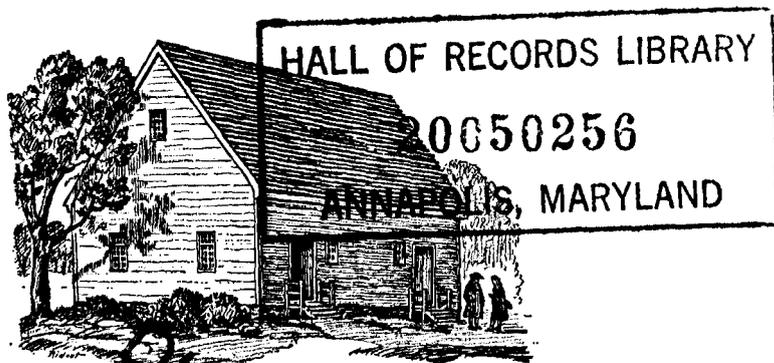
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THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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To
My Husband
TRUMAN EDWARD HIENTON

Preface

It was an impressive thing to find myself, a mid-westerner, transplanted at the end of World War II, from a county which had not yet reached the Century mark to one which dated back 250 years. But trying to find out about the early history of this county became a frustrating matter. The Battle of Bladensburg and later events were well known, but anything earlier seemed to be shrouded in a fog.

This presented a challenge, and I began to look into the early county records myself, and the deeper I delved the more interested I became. The first thing I thought it necessary to discover was just how much of the county had come from Charles County and how much from Calvert County, and the only way I knew to be absolutely certain about it was to plat out the tracts. This took about five years of the total time spent on this project, but it was only a prelude to the story of the county.

I am grateful for the assistance and encouragement of Dr. Morris L. Radoff, Archivist, and all the members of his staff at the Hall of Records, where most of the research was done. I thank the Maryland Historical Society for permission to reprint the articles on Charles Town, the Hundreds, and the Free School, which appeared in its *Magazine*, and the Presbyterian Historical Society for permission to use the article on Presbyterian Beginnings in Prince George's County, Md., which appeared in its *Journal*.

This whole project has given me much pleasure and I hope it will be of some benefit to others who would like to know more about the early history of our county.

Hyattsville, Maryland
June 4, 1972

LOUISE JOYNER HIENTON

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Map "Land Grants in Prince George's County, including those to South prior to erection of the county in 1696."
MSA SC 1427-1-238, B5/01/02 mg2R

Chapter 1

Prince George's County is Erected

Of the twenty-three counties of Maryland, Prince George's County, established in 1696, was the eleventh to be erected. Growth and changes had taken place since 1634 when the first band of colonists, sent out by Cecilius Calvert second Lord Baltimore and first Lord Proprietary of the province, had landed in Southern Maryland under the leadership of his younger brother Governor Leonard Calvert.

The first county to be named was St. Mary's, designated a county in 1638. No boundaries whatsoever were mentioned in the records, as it was presumed to cover the whole province.¹ Thereafter, as the population of the province grew, new counties were carved out of the parent county, so that by 1674 there were ten counties in the province: St. Mary's, Kent, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Baltimore, Talbot, Somerset, Dorchester and Cecil. Nine of these ten counties were created by orders of the governor, with Anne Arundel County erected by an Act of the General Assembly during the period when the Puritans were in power.²

These counties fronted on such natural boundaries as the Chesapeake Bay or its tributary rivers, where the inhabitants had settled first. The water boundaries are as clear to us today as they were to the inhabitants then, but the outer boundaries, those running through the woods, which were no doubt definite enough to the early settlers, are puzzling to us after several centuries, and in many cases require an examination of the land records to identify.

The fourth and fifth counties to be created, Calvert and Charles, are of special interest to us, as together they furnished the area which became Prince George's. An order of 1654 states that the governor "Doth now Erect make and appoint both Sides of Putuxent

¹ *Archives of Maryland*, Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1883- , Vol. I, pp. 2, 47-9.

² Edward B. Mathews, *The Counties of Maryland, Their Origin, Boundaries, and Election Districts*, Maryland Geological Survey Special Publication Vol. VI, Part V, The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, August, 1907, pp. 420-24.

River into one County by the Name Calvert County Bounded on the South Side with Pynehill River or Creeke to the head thereof and from thence through the woods to the head of Putuxent River being the Northerly bound of S^t Maries County, and bounded on the North Side with the Creeke upon the Western Side of Chesapeake Bay called the herring Creeke and from thence through the woods to the head of Putuxent River being the Southerly bound of Annarundell County." Couched in language of our day, this meant that Calvert County was to include the area on the east side of Patuxent River between the river and Chesapeake Bay as far north as Anne Arundel County and on the west side of Patuxent River all the land which drained into this river from Pine Hill Run as far north as the forks of the Patuxent, or the juncture of the Little Patuxent with the Patuxent River. The order of 1658 creating Charles County, stated that it was to extend along the Potomac River "As high as any Plantaõn under o^e gouern^t is now seated."³

During the intervening years between 1674 and 1695, changes took place which affected the government of the province and caused attention to be focused on more pressing matters than the creating of new counties. Cecilius Calvert second Lord Baltimore and first Lord Proprietary, a Roman Catholic, died in 1675. His son and heir the Honorable Charles Calvert, also a Roman Catholic, succeeded him as third Lord Baltimore and second Lord Proprietary. In England, the growing influence of protestantism, which culminated in the Revolution of 1688, established the Protestant rulers King William and Queen Mary on the throne. This religious clash was reflected in the Province of Maryland by the Protestant Revolution of 1689 which established a group of Protestant Associators in charge of the provincial government. The governing rights of the Lord Proprietary were rescinded and control of the province was assumed by Their Majesties, who appointed a royal governor in 1691. It was during the period when Maryland was governed as a royal colony under King William III, who ruled alone after the death of his wife Mary II, that Prince George's County was established.

In 1695, under His Majesty's rule and after more urgent matters had been settled, Governor Francis Nicholson and members of the General Assembly turned their attention to the matter of altering the boundaries of some of the existing counties and creating a new one, which was named for Prince George of Denmark, consort of Princess Anne, younger sister of the deceased Queen Mary II and

³ *Arch. Md.*, III, 308; XII, 87.

next in line of succession to the throne of England. At a session of the General Assembly of the province held at Annapolis May 8, 1695, an act was passed entitled "An Act for the Division and Regulating Severall Countys within this Province and Constituting a County by the name of Prince Georges County within the same Province." This act stated that "the Land from the upper side of Mattawoman and Swansons Creek & Branches Extending upward bounded by potomock on the West and Putuxent River on the East shall be and is hereby Constituted founded & Incorporated into a County of this Province and shall be Denominated Called and known by the name of Prince George's County and shall from and after the said Twenty third day of Aprill next Ensueing being S^t George's Day as aforesaid have and enjoy all other Rights benefitts and priviledges Equall with the other Countys of this Province such as sending Burgesses to Assemblys haveing County Courts Sherriffe Justices and other Officers and Ministers requisite & necessary and as used in other Countys of the Province . . ."⁴

The act also specified new boundaries for St. Mary's and Charles Counties, which were also to lie between the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers, and appointed Mr. Robert Mason and Mr. James Keech for St. Mary's County, Mr. John Bayne and Mr. James Bigger for Charles County, Mr. William Hutchison and Mr. Thomas Greenfield for Prince George's County, to have the surveyors of the counties run out the lines and bounds of these three counties, on or before April 23, 1696. The two commissioners appointed for Prince George's County were chosen to represent both parent counties, Mr. Hutchison being from the Charles County side and Mr. Greenfield from the Calvert County side.

While only three counties were named in this part of the act which dealt with counties of the Western Shore, four counties were affected, and a general shuffle of land came about as a result of the change. Calvert County lost all of its land west of the Patuxent River to St. Mary's, Charles, and Prince George's Counties; St. Mary's County gained land east to the Patuxent River from Calvert County; Charles County lost its land north of Mattawoman Creek to Prince George's County but gained land east to the Patuxent River from Calvert County; and Prince George's became the new western frontier county made up of all the land draining west into the Potomac River from Mattawoman Creek north to the Pennsylvania line, which came from Charles County, and the land draining

⁴ *Ibid.*, XIX, 212-15.

east into the Patuxent River between Swanson's Creek and the forks of the Patuxent, which came from Calvert County.

Most of this vast area came from Charles County, but of the present Prince George's County about half, the eastern half, came from Calvert County. Much of the new county was uninhabited, but almost all of the land which came from Calvert County was settled. On the western side of the county habitation extended only to just north of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, which is now known as the Anacostia River. (See map inside back cover.)

We do not know the population of the county at its beginning, but we estimate it to be somewhere between 1600 and 1700. We do, however, know that the taxables numbered 658. Taxables were all free males 16 years and over, all male servants 16 years and over, and all slaves, both male and female, 16 years and over, with the exception of clergymen and those receiving alms. Of this number, 514 or 78 percent were in the area formerly in Calvert County, and 144 or 22 percent in the area that came from Charles County.⁵

Before the next session of the General Assembly, further preparations for the new county were made by the Council, two of whose members were from this area, Colonel John Addison and his stepson-in-law, Thomas Brooke, Esquire. In August, 1695, the Council appointed Colonel Addison to be colonel of the militia of the new Prince George's County, in accordance with a policy adopted the previous year of having a member of the Council be commander of the county militia if one resided within the county; and it declared the colors for the county to be St. George's cross, a red cross in a white field.

Both Colonel John Addison and Thomas Brooke, Esquire had equally high standing in the county. Colonel Addison was a vestryman of Piscataway Parish; he lived at "St. Elizabeths," his plantation on the Potomac River just below the mouth of Oxon Run, later incorporated by a descendant into the estate known as "Oxon Hill Manor." Esquire Brooke was a vestryman of St. Paul's Parish; he lived at "Brookefield," his estate on Mattapany Creek near the Patuxent River, which he had inherited from his father. Of these two Council members, Colonel Addison was the logical choice to com-

⁵ *Ibid.*, XXIII, 92; XXV, 255. Using a ratio provided by the number of taxables and total population in 1701, the population for 1696 is 1611. Mr. Arthur E. Karinen in his article *Maryland Population: 1631-1730 Numerical and Distributional Aspects*, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 54, p. 408, gives the figure as 1710.

mand the militia as he was experienced in military affairs, having served in the Charles County militia and having had many dealings with the Indians; while Esquire Brooke was already holding the important post of Deputy Secretary of the province. As colonel of the county, Colonel Addison was ordered to make up a suggested list of civil and military officers to be presented to the Council for approval.

The Council also appointed Mr. William Cooper to be clerk of the county. This early appointment was made so that Mr. Cooper could equip himself with any supplies he might need and also arrange for proper security, to be in readiness on St. George's Day. The Council also recommended to the House of Delegates that a law be passed that the church at Mount Calvert be fitted to serve as well for a courthouse as a church; which recommendation was approved by the Lower House when the General Assembly met in October.

In August, the Council ordered that all cases pending in the courts of the counties in which boundaries were being changed be transmitted to the courts of the counties where parties to the suits resided. While none were transmitted from Charles County court, 16 actions were transmitted from Calvert County to the new Prince George's County court.⁶

On March 3, 1696, Colonel John Addison presented his list to the Council for approval. The proposed civil officers were Mr. Wm. Hatton for justice of the Provincial Court; Mr. Thomas Hollyday, Mr. Wm. Hutchison, Mr. Wm. Barton, Mr. John Wight, Mr. Robt. Bradley, Mr. Wm. Tannehill, Mr. David Small and Mr. Robert Tyler, for justices of the county, the first four to be of the quorum; and Mr. Thomas Greenfield for sheriff. The militia officers were Mr. Thos. Hollyday, lieutenant colonel; Mr. Wm. Barton, major; Mr. John Wight and George Athey, captains of foot; Captain Richard Brightwell and Mr. Robert Wade, captains of horse. These men were approved by the Council, and commissions were issued.⁷

All of these men were well-established in this part of the province, and most of them were experienced in handling county affairs. Mr. William Hatton was already serving as justice of the Provincial

⁶ *Arch. Md.*, XIX, 234; XX, 281-4; Prince George's County Court Records, Liber A, fol. 20, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md. Also Joseph H. Smith, editor, *Court Records of Prince Georges County, Maryland 1696-1699*, The American Historical Association, Washington, D. C., 1964, p. xvi.

⁷ *Arch. Md.*, XX, 379-80.

Court from Charles County. He was continued in that office from Prince George's County, and a new justice was named in his place from Charles County.⁸ Mr. Hatton lived at his estate on the north side of Piscataway Creek. He was a nephew of Thomas Hatton, who had served as Principal Secretary of the province from 1648 to 1654; he was also a brother-in-law of Colonel John Addison and uncle of Thomas Brooke, Esquire.

Of the men appointed as justices of the county court, Mr. Thomas Hollyday, Mr. Wm. Barton, and Mr. John Wight had served as justices of the Calvert County court, while Mr. Wm. Hutchison and Mr. Wm. Tannehill had served as justices of the Charles County court.⁹ Mr. Hollyday was a prominent merchant whose home was at "Billingsley's Point," his estate on the Patuxent River just above Mount Calvert. He was a vestryman of St. Paul's Parish, and had been second in command of the Calvert County militia. Mr. Barton and Mr. Wight both lived near the Patuxent in the southern part of the county. Mr. Barton was also a vestryman of St. Paul's Parish. Mr. Hutchison lived in the southwest part of the county, while Mr. Tannehill lived on the south side of the Eastern Branch. Both of these men were vestrymen of Piscataway Parish. Mr. Bradley and Mr. Small were merchants; Mr. Tyler was a planter. Mr. Bradley owned 100 acres of "Mount Calvert" Manor and no doubt lived there. Mr. Small lived at "Kingsdale," his estate on the north side of Charles Branch, a mile or so west of Mount Calvert. Mr. Tyler lived at his estate "Brough" near the Patuxent about eight miles north of Mount Calvert.

Mr. Thomas Greenfield, appointed sheriff of the new county, was a brother-in-law of Mr. Thomas Hollyday. His home was in the southeastern part of the county, where his grave may still be seen in the family cemetery. He also was a vestryman of St. Paul's Parish. He had served Calvert County as a delegate to the General Assembly,¹⁰ and his appointment to the important and lucrative position of sheriff of Prince George's County was more or less in the nature of a reward for his faithful service to the Crown as delegate.

It should be noted that the sheriff and six of the eight county justices were from the Calvert side of the county, while the justice of the Provincial Court and two of the eight county justices were from the former Charles County, a fair and equitable distribution

⁸ *Ibid.*, 320.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 138.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, XIX. 30.

of offices on the basis of density of population in the two sides of the county.

On April 23, 1696, the justices, or commissioners of the peace as they were also called, met at Mount Calvert and took their oaths of office. Thomas Greenfield was sworn in as sheriff, William Cooper was sworn in as clerk and keeper of the records, John Joyce was sworn in as cryer, while Joshua Cecell and Thomas Hughes were sworn in as attorneys of the court.

A copy of the report dated April 14, 1696, of John Bayne, William Hutchison, and Thomas Greenfield, three of the commissioners appointed in the Act of 1695, was returned to the newly constituted county court with the information that they had employed Edward Batson, surveyor of Calvert County, and Joseph Manning, surveyor of Charles County, to run the dividing line between Prince George's and Charles Counties, and that it began at two red oaks and one Spanish oak marked with 32 notches each which stood on a stony knoll near the head of Mattawoman main branch and ran with a line of double marked trees south 59° easterly to three white oaks marked with 32 notches each which stood at the head of the northernmost main branch of Swanson's Creek near the coach road.

One of the first items of business of the court was to specify the hundreds of the county, and appoint a constable, pressmaster, and overseer of the highways in each one. Mattapany Hundred was to extend from Swanson's Creek to Mattapany Branch, with William Mills as constable, Thomas Kenniston as pressmaster, and George Jones as overseer of the highways. Mount Calvert Hundred was to include the area between Mattapany Branch and Western Branch, with Henry Calvert appointed constable, Edward Phenix pressmaster and Mr. James Brooke overseer of the highways. Collington Hundred was to embrace the area between the Western Branch and Collington Branch, with Christopher Thompson named constable, Matthew Mockeboy pressmaster, and James Mulliken overseer of the highways. Patuxent Hundred was to extend from Collington Branch to the Patuxent River, with Thomas Swaringam as constable, Robert Anderson as pressmaster, and Thomas Davis as overseer of the highways. Piscataway Hundred was to include the area between Mattawoman Creek and Oxon Run, with Francis Marbury appointed constable, Daniel Connell pressmaster, and Francis Durham overseer of the highways. New Scotland Hundred was to extend from Oxon Run to the falls of the Potomac, with Daniel Eliot named as constable, Charles Beall as pressmaster and Francis Prisley

as overseer of the highways. Of these six hundreds, the first four included the land which came from Calvert, the last two covering the area which came from Charles County.

The court then ordered Sheriff Greenfield to have a cage, pillory, whipping post, and stocks erected, and concluded the business of the first day of court by specifying the name of Mount Calvert to be Charles Town.¹¹

Just where the court held its first meeting in Mount Calvert or Charles Town, on April 23rd, is a moot question. One would assume that it followed the instructions of the General Assembly and met in the church, and perhaps it did; but it was not until a special meeting of the court, held on May 4th, that a copy of the order to meet in the church was presented; and it wasn't until the meeting held on July 25th that Sheriff Greenfield was ordered to have the shingles and lumber removed from the old church, to have it swept clean, and provide a table and bench for the commissioners to keep court in the next month. It seems probable that, instead of being held in the church, the first meeting was held in Mr. Thomas Holiday's store, as he later received payment out of the county levy for the use of his store "to keep court in."¹²

At the court held on June 23rd William Bladen presented his commission and was sworn in as clerk of the indictments (prosecuting attorney) and also as an attorney of the court; William Stone, John Merriton, Christopher Gregory, Richard Kilborn, Cleborn Lomax, Stephen Blansford, and James Cranford were also sworn in as attorneys; Mr. Robert Middleton was sworn in as coroner; Mr. Thomas Addison, son of Colonel John Addison, was sworn in as surveyor; and Mr. Josias Towgood was sworn in as deputy sheriff. At the court held on July 25th Anthony Smart was appointed drummer.¹³

There must have been some error made at the time of appointing coroners. On May 15th, the Council ordered that commissions be issued to Mr. Robert Bradley and Mr. Robert Middleton as coroners of Prince George's County. But Mr. Robert Bradley never presented such a commission to the county court. Then on December 14th the Council ordered that Mr. John Wight be appointed one of the coroners for Prince George's County instead of Mr.

¹¹ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 1-7; Smith, *op. cit.*, xxiv, xxvii-xxviii.

¹² PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 8, 12, 257; Smith, *op. cit.*, xxiii.

¹³ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 10, 11, 17; Smith, *op. cit.*, 6-7, 13.

Daniel Bradley, and Wight's name be inserted in the commission instead of Bradley's.¹⁴

There also seems to have been some confusion about the election and seating of the first delegates to the General Assembly from Prince George's County. As was the case with other counties, these were to be four in number. Mr. William Hutchison had been serving as a delegate from Charles County and Mr. Thomas Greenfield as a delegate from Calvert County in the Assembly called by Governor Francis Nicholson, the first session of which met September 20–October 18, 1694. At the fifth session of this Assembly, April 30–May 14, 1696, the first to be held after Prince George's County was established, Mr. Thomas Greenfield appeared on the first day and was dismissed, since he had been appointed sheriff of the new county. One would expect that Mr. William Hutchison would also have been dismissed, and four delegates elected from Prince George's County, or at least some mention made of the fact that he was continued in office from the new county, but such is not the case. On the first day of this session, April 30th, Mr. Hutchison appeared and took his seat. At the special court held in Prince George's County on May 4th, it was ordered that the sheriff have the constables of each hundred summon the freeholders to appear at Charles Town on the following Thursday to choose delegates to serve in the Assembly. On Thursday, May 7th, the election was held, but unfortunately the record does not show the outcome. On May 11th, three men, Major William Barton, Colonel Ninian Beall, and Mr. William Hatton, entered the Lower House of the General Assembly as representatives from Prince George's County and, after taking the oaths of office, took their seats. The next day, May 12th, the House ordered the Speaker to issue his warrant for the election of one other burgess in Prince George's County. At the next session of the Assembly, July 1–10, 1696, Mr. William Hutchison again appeared on the first day and took his seat as usual. The next day it was again resolved that the Speaker issue warrants to the Honorable Secretary of the province to present writs for the election of one burgess in Prince George's County.¹⁵ Nothing more appears in the record about electing a new delegate from Prince George's County, but at the next session of the Assembly, September 16–Oct. 2, 1696, a new member was presented as duly elected from Charles

¹⁴ *Arch. Md.*, XX, 425, 586.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, XIX, 30, 330, 365, 367, 403, 475; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 8-9.

County. So it would appear that Mr. Hutchison was kept on as one of the four delegates to the General Assembly from Prince George's County, and a new one was elected to take his place from Charles County. Of the four delegates from Prince George's County, we have already met Mr. William Hatton as justice of the Provincial Court, and Major William Barton and Mr. William Hutchison as justices of the county court. Colonel Ninian Beall, father of Charles Beall the pressmaster of New Scotland Hundred, was well-known throughout the province. He had been Colonel of the militia in Calvert County and had served both the county and province in many dealings with the Indians.

The court had been functioning but a few months when, in August, death claimed the clerk, William Cooper. Joshua Cecell, one of the attorneys, was appointed to take his place and serve as clerk and keeper of the records. An unhappy incident occurred at the time of Mr. Cooper's death. One Thomas Date was accused of taking some money out of Mr. Cooper's pocket after his death "as he was astripping," intending to keep it. The court tried Date, found him guilty, and sentenced him to two hours in the stocks.¹⁶

In October, 1696, after the justices of Prince George's County had applied to the Council for a seal for the county, the Council ordered that a seal be made by Mr. Charles Beckweth of Patuxent, and until it was ready, that they should use the private seal belonging to the Chief Justice of the county.¹⁷

With the completion of the organization, with a full roster of officials who were functioning, and with representation in the General Assembly, Prince George's was established as one of the counties of Maryland.

¹⁶ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 39; Smith, *op. cit.*, lv, 38.

¹⁷ *Arch. Md.*, XX, 524.

Chapter 2

Charles Town, Prince George's First County Seat

¶ Charles Town, Prince George's first county seat, had its beginning as one of the towns or ports established in 1683 to 1686 by the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland, at the behest of the Lord Proprietary, in an effort to advance trade and bring more money into the province.

The Act of 1683 for Advancement of Trade, the Supplementary Act of 1684 and the Further Additional Act of 1686 named commissioners in each county who were to purchase 100 acres of land for a town or port at each place specified in the three acts. These commissioners were instructed to have this land surveyed, streets, lanes and alleys laid out, with open spaces left for erecting a church, chapel, market house, or other public buildings, and the remainder divided into 100 equal lots. The owner of the land was to have first choice of a lot, and the rest were to be sold first to county inhabitants, with any lots remaining unsold after four months to be offered to the public. A house at least 20 feet square was to be built by each owner. All ships or vessels trading into the province were to unload at these places only, and anything destined for sale out of the province was to be brought to these ports or towns to be shipped out. The land "att Pig Pointe vpon Mount Colverte mannor in Patuxent River" was one of five places in Calvert County named in the Act of 1684 as a town or port. In 1686 Colonel Henry Darnall, Keeper of His Lordship's Great Seal, was designated the member of the Council to have charge of the towns in Calvert County and Mr. Ninian Beall was appointed the officer of Mount Calvert Town. It was his duty to keep account of the ships which docked, their names, masters, ports of embarkation and destination, the goods unloaded and the tobacco and other commodities shipped out.¹

Mount Calvert Manor was a tract of 1000 acres which had been

¹ *Arch. Md.*, V, 500-2, 527; VII, 609-17; XIII, 111-20, 132.

surveyed for Philip Calvert, youngest brother of the Lord Proprietary, in 1657 and granted to him in 1658. In 1667 he sold it to William Groome, who had it resurveyed in 1670. In 1677 William Groome died, leaving this tract to his sons William and Richard, son William to have first choice of his half.² The early records of Calvert County have not survived, but from transactions recorded in Prince George's County we can reconstruct some information. The younger William Groome apparently chose the north half of this tract, and it was out of the northeast corner of his part that Charles Town was laid out.

Since roads were few and in poor condition, and most of the travel within the province was still done by boat, it was important that the towns be located on waterways, not only for the unloading and loading of vessels from abroad, but for accessibility by potential customers, the farmers and planters who lived inland. Charles Town was advantageously situated on the Patuxent River at the mouths of the Charles Branch and the Western Branch, so that it drew trade not only from nearby, but from the upper reaches of these three streams and their tributaries.

During the town's early years, stores were opened and operated by Richard Charlett, factor for Peter Paggen & Company; Robert Bradley, factor for Edward and Dudley Carleton; Colonel Thomas Hollyday, factor for Peter Paggen & Company after the death of Mr. Charlett; David Small, factor for Joseph Jackson and Company; John Gerrard, factor for Peter Paggen & Company after the death of Colonel Hollyday; Thomas Sprigg, factor for Timothy Keyser; Thomas Emms & Company; John Bradford, factor for John Hide; Charles Reid, John Contee, George Harris, John Cobb, Josiah Wilson, and others.³

These storekeepers sold all sorts of merchandise: articles of wearing apparel, such as jackets, waistcoats, breeches, gowns, petticoats, straw hats, felt hats, Castor hats, hoods, men's women's and children's shoes, men's women's and children's falls (shoes), French falls, London falls, shoe buckles, men's and women's worsted hose, men's and women's yarn hose, children's hose, Irish stockings, men's women's and children's gloves. They also sold kersey, half thick

² Rent Rolls, Vol. 2 No. 2 Calvert Prince George Frederick, p. 309; Patents, Lib. Q, f. 421; Lib. 12, f. 603; Provincial Court Records, Lib. FF, f. 478; Wills, Lib. 5, f. 191, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

³ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 62, 84, 132, 167, 250-1, 350, 385, 448; Lib. B, f. 16a, 100, 210, 391, 430, 435; Lib. C, f. 19, 92a; Lib. G, 15a; Prince George's County Land Records, Liber C, f. 171a; Lib. E, f. 59, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

(kersey), linen, Dowlas, canvas, serge, dimity, Holland, penistone, stuff, shalloon, galloon, Osnaburg, lockram, Scotch cloth, flannel, caddis, duffel, sheeting, fustian, linsey-woolsey, calico, silk braid, ribbons, ferret, and gartering. Some of these materials were sold by the yard and some by the ell (45 inches). Thread was sold by the pound; buttons were sold by the gross, dozen or card; pins were sold in lots of 1000. Scissors, needles, and thimbles were also carried in stock. For household items the merchants sold blankets, rugs, trunks, chests, tobacco boxes, pipes, combs, looking glasses, paper, inkhorns, packs of cards, cotton wick, basins, tankards, frying pans, sauce pans, tin pans, iron pots and hooks, brass kettles, sieves, graters and pails. For farm and plantation use they sold broad hoes, narrow hoes, weeding hoes, grubbing hoes, hilling hoes, broad axes, falling axes, grubbing axes, augurs, chisels, adzes, spades, gimlets, carpenters' compasses, knives, muskets, powder, shot, tobacco tongs, grindstones, millstones, double marking irons, saddles and furniture, bridles, halters, whips, spurs, horse fleams, stirrup leathers and girths, fishhooks, nails and stock locks. Soap was sold by the pound, as was sugar; salt was sold by the bushel. The merchants also sold other items of food, such as cheese, oil, pepper, spices, malt, raisins and currants.⁴ At a later day, these stores would be known as general stores.

As a service to the county inhabitants, the merchants stored tobacco awaiting shipment for a charge of 10 pounds of tobacco per hogshead.⁵

William Groome opened an ordinary or inn on his town lot and soon Charles Tracy became a competitor. Later, others entered this business: Jonathan Willson, Nicholas Sporne, Joseph Addison and his wife Jane Addison, Jane Beall, James Moore, Alexander Deheni-ossa and his wife Solomy Deheni-ossa, Marmaduke Scott, John Smith, Clark Skinner and his wife Ann Skinner, Mary Gwynn, Christopher Beans, James Robinson, and Samuel Heighe.⁶ Prices of liquor were set by the county court. In January, 1703, these prices were, quoted in pounds of tobacco: "Canary wine p Quart 60, Mal-lagoe wine p Quart 40, Sherry wine p Quart 40, Passadoe wine p^r Quart 30, Maderoe wine per Quart 30, Poart o Poart wine p Quart 25, ffyall and St. Georges wine per Quart 25, Clarrett or White

⁴ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 67, 79, 93, 113, 167, 204, 230-1, 250, 276, 311, 336, 339, 346, 348, 349, 365, 393, 413, 414, 490; Lib. B, f. 368, 398; Lib. C, f. 91, 121.

⁵ *Arch. Md.*, VII, 616.

⁶ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 8, 21, 150, 321; Lib. B, f. 119, 191, 354, 360a; Lib. C, 74, 158a, 160a; Lib. D, 165; Lib. G, f. 39, 693, 787; Lib. H, f. 6.

wine p Quart 30, Nants Brandy p^r Quart 45, English Brandy p^r Quart 30, English Spiritts p Quart 30, Maryland Spiritts p Quart 30, Rome per Quart 30, Nants Brandy p Quart Burnt 50, Rome Burnt p Quart 36, Syder Perry Quince drinke Each p gallon 24, The Same Sorts of Drinks wth Suggest 30, Strong bear made wth mault according to act of Assem: 20, a Boule of Punch made with a Quart of Nants Brandy 60, A Boule of Punch made wth a Quart of English Brandy 40; a Boule of Punch made wth a Quart of Rome 40, A Pottle of fflip made wth Rome very good 25, A Pottle of fflip made wth Brandy 25." Although prices were quoted in pounds of tobacco, payment could be made in money at a penny (English money) per pound.⁷

Hugh Ferguson and Thomas Teague were physicians practicing medicine in Charles Town.⁸ Others who owned lots were Colonel Henry Darnall, Colonel Ninian Beall, Josias Towgood, James Stoddart, Henry Boteler, and Charles Reid.⁹ William Cooper, the first clerk of Prince George's County, rented a room from Robert Lyles, paying at the rate of 3500 pounds of tobacco a year for room, board, laundry, and pasturage for his horse.¹⁰

There was also a church in Charles Town. When the Church of England was established in Maryland in 1692 and the province divided into parishes, there were a few churches already existing. One of these was the church at Mount Calvert or Charles Town, St. Paul's Church, designated the parish church of St. Paul's Parish.

When Prince George's County was erected in 1695 it included all of Charles County north of Mattawoman Creek, a vast but sparsely settled area, and that part of Calvert County lying on the west side of the Patuxent River north of Swanson Creek, a comparatively small but well-settled area. Charles Town was the only town in the new county and by 1695 was a thriving business center. Instructions were issued by the General Assembly for the county court to meet in the church at Mount Calvert or Charles Town until the courthouse could be built.¹¹ This town had been called both Charles Town and Mount Calvert, but at the first meeting of the county court of Prince George's County on April 23, 1696, the justices ordered that it be called Charles Town.¹² The county clerk was meticulous in thus recording the meeting place of the court, but the

⁷ *Ibid.*, Lib. B, f. 229.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Lib. A, f. 123-4.

⁹ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. A, f. 91, 154; Lib. C, f. 138a, 144B; Lib. E, f. 147.

¹⁰ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 134-5.

¹¹ *Arch. Md.*, XIX, 233.

¹² PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 7.

name of Mount Calvert seemed to cling and the inhabitants used the two names interchangeably.¹³

At the first meeting of the county court, the sheriff was ordered to have a cage, pillory, whipping post, and stocks erected;¹⁴ which was done at a cost of 4600 pounds of tobacco.¹⁵ At the meeting of the court in June the land in Charles Town belonging to the church and court was ordered surveyed. Mr. Thomas Addison, who had been made deputy surveyor for the county, returned his certificate of survey for the courthouse land the following month.¹⁶

A year later, in June, 1697, the justices entered into an agreement with Robert Brothers, a carpenter, to pay him 50,000 pounds of tobacco for building the courthouse. It was to be a frame building, 35 feet in length by 22 feet in width, with locust or cedar ground sills, the remainder to be of oak; there were to be two doors in front with folding shutters between the doors, two transom windows of six lights each, one on each side of the place of judicatory. It was to be well lathed and plastered, both above and below stairs, with one large window at each gable end of the upper room, and the interior was to be similar to the Calvert County courthouse. All of the work, except the glazing and plastering, was to be finished by December 25, 1697. Mr. Brothers, however, dallied with the work, claiming to have a sick family, so that it was not until June, 1698, that the court met in the new quarters.¹⁷

The justices employed Nicholas Sporne, the innkeeper, to clear the courtyard, in order to lessen the danger of fire, even though the courthouse had no chimney. A few years later, arrangements were made to add a penthouse, so perhaps chimneys were added at that time. In 1710 a prison was built on the courthouse land for 12,000 pounds of tobacco.¹⁸

Mr. William Groome seems to have disposed of most of his share of "Mount Calvert Manor" by 99-year leases. Before Prince George's became a county he had leased 100 acres just west of Charles Town to John Davis, and 100 acres in the southeast corner of his part of the manor to Robert Bradley, also a three-cornered tract of a little

¹³ *Arch. Md.*, XXXIII, 160, 168.

¹⁴ PGCco. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 7.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 52-3. Also Morris L. Radoff, *The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland Part One: The Courthouses*, Hall of Records Commission, State of Maryland, Annapolis, 1960, p. 117; Smith, *op. cit.*, p. xxiii.

¹⁶ PGCco. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 7, 10, 18.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 189, 298, 316. Also Radoff, *op. cit.*, p. 117-118 and Smith, *op. cit.*, p. xxiii.

¹⁸ *Arch. Md.*, XXII, 103; PGCco. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 371; Lib. B, f. 117; Lib. D., f. 311.

over two acres by the river to Charles Tracy. In July, 1697, he leased 163 acres, including the land in Charles Town except the lots which had already been sold, to Thomas Emms of London, mariner, and David Small, merchant.¹⁹

In June, 1697, the General Assembly passed two acts, one confirming titles of land given for the use of churches, and the other empowering the commissioners of each county to purchase land for the use of their courts. Three months later, at the September county court, Captain Emms' and Mr. Small's title to the land was questioned as being insufficient, but the jury which was impaneled returned a decision at the November court that the title was vested in Captain Emms and Mr. Small as land leased from Mr. Groome, and allowed them 900 pounds of tobacco per acre as a fair price. Mr. Addison turned in a new survey for the two acres for the church and three acres adjoining on the west for the courthouse.²⁰

The courthouse and church were evidently on the west side of Charles Town as Mr. John Davis leased a 4-acre strip of land across the east end of his 100-acre tract, the north two acres to William Stone and John Meriton, and the south two acres to Joshua Cecell. The agreements to sell this land indicate that it was near the church.²¹ One wonders if all the town lots had already been sold, or if these attorneys wanted this particular land because it would be near the courthouse.

In 1696 there was a public ferry to Pig Point in Anne Arundel County, paid for out of provincial funds.²² This public ferry was evidently discontinued after a year or so, and a private ferry instituted. Alexander Deheniossa, the innkeeper, was operating a ferry in 1705 with William Smith as ferryman.²³

The road leading to Charles Town was one of the main roads of the county. It was 20 feet wide, and was marked with two notches on trees or posts at each side of the road. At the September, 1697, court, Mr. Christopher Beanes, who lived at "Brookridge," the plantation which joined "Mount Calvert Manor" on the west, complained that he was bothered by horses which escaped from Charles Town and ate his corn, even though he tried to keep them out, and requested permission to change the road. He was given leave to do so,

¹⁹ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. A, f. 65.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, Lib. C, f. 157a; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 254-5.

²¹ *Ibid.*, f. 236.

²² *Arch. Md.*, XIX, 134; XXXVIII, 91.

²³ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 437.

if he could make as good a road as the existing one.²⁴ Whether or not he did, the record does not say.

An Act had been passed by the General Assembly requiring each county to have a standard with English weights and measures, consisting of 12 half hundred-weights, a quartern, half quartern, seven pounds, four pounds, two pounds, and one pound; brass measures of ell and yard; a bushel, half bushel, peck and gallon of Winchester measure; a gallon, pottle (half gallon), quart, pint, and half pint of wine measure; also stamps for marking. Prince George's County seems to have been without many of such weights and measures during its first 25 years. In 1699 Colonel Thomas Hollyday, the chief justice and also a merchant, was instructed by the county court to send for one brass and 13 iron half hundred-weights, a brass peck and yard, also six P's and six G's for stamping. When they arrived a year later, they were given to Justice James Stoddart to be lodged at his house. He was to receive two shillings for testing a pair of steel-yards, six pence for testing and marking a peck or bushel and three pence for a yard or ell. When Mr. Stoddart moved away from Charles Town in 1714, Major Josiah Wilson, then a justice of the county court and also a merchant, took the standard into his custody and kept it for the use of the county. After Major Wilson died late in 1717, it was given to Justice Thomas Clagett, to be kept at the Town of Marlborough.²⁵

Who were the people one might meet on the streets of Charles Town? In addition to those already named, on court days one might encounter the officers of the county court, the justices, varying from 8 to 12 in number, the clerk of the county court, the sheriff, the coroners, the clerk of the indictments, the attorneys, the cryer, and the drummer. In the course of 25 years these would add up to quite a number. During the first eight months after the establishment of the county, the court met every month. After that it met in January, March, June, August, September, and November, with some additional meetings, until 1708, when the meeting days were set by the General Assembly as the fourth Tuesday of March, June, August, and November.²⁶

The first justices of the county court were Thomas Hollyday, William Hutchison, William Barton, John Wight, Robert Bradley,

²⁴ *Ibid.*, Lib. A, f. 227.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 469; Lib. B, f. 83a; Lib. G, f. 541; Lib. H, f. 313.

²⁶ *Arch. Md.*, XXVII, 368.

William Tanyhill, David Small, and Robert Tyler, who were among the most respected men in the county. New commissions of the peace were issued from time to time at the pleasure of the governor, with some new names either added or substituted each time. Other men who served as justices of the county court during the next 25 years were John Smith; John Hawkins, who lived at "Hawkins Lot" on Piscataway Creek; Robert Wade, nephew of William Hatton and cousin of Thomas Brooke, Esquire;²⁷ Samuel Magruder, who lived at "Good Luck," inherited from his father; Thomas Sprigg, a merchant, who lived at "Northampton;" James Stoddart, who later served as a justice of the Provincial Court; Thomas Addison, the first deputy surveyor of the county and also its sheriff for a time, son of Colonel John Addison member of the Council; Abraham Clark; Thomas Odell; Dr. Frederick Claudius; John Gerrard, a merchant; Thomas Brooke, Jr., son of Thomas Brooke, Esquire member of the Council;²⁸ Francis Marbury, who had been constable of Piscataway Hundred; Thomas Claggett, who lived at "Weston" and was county sheriff for several years; Alexander Magruder, half brother of Samuel Magruder;²⁹ Henry Acton; John Murdock, son-in-law of William Barton;³⁰ Henry Ridgley Jr., brother-in-law of Thomas Odell;³¹ Philip Lee, son-in-law of Thomas Brooke, Esquire and brother-in-law of Thomas Brooke, Jr.;³² James Wallace, a merchant; John Bradford, stepson-in-law of John Wight,³³ and a merchant who had acquired large land holdings; Josiah Wilson, a merchant, who also served for a time as sheriff; Dr. Patrick Hepburn; Joseph Belt, son-in-law of Ninian Beall;³⁴ Samuel Perrie, a merchant, son-in-law of William Barton and brother-in-law of John Murdock;³⁵ Levin Covington, son-in-law of Thomas Hollyday;³⁶ Basil Waring, stepson of William Barton and half brother-in-law of John Murdock and Samuel Perrie;³⁷ Ralph Crabb, son-in-law of Thomas Sprigg;³⁸ Thomas Sprigg, Jr., son of Thomas Sprigg, son-

²⁷ Wills, Lib. 1, f. 631; Lib. 9, f. 16; Patents, Lib. AB&H, f. 422.

²⁸ Wills, Lib. 20, f. 125.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, Lib. 5, f. 261.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, Lib. 3, f. 643; Lib. 20, f. 198; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. D, f. 121.

³¹ Wills, Lib. 13, f. 89.

³² *Ibid.*, Lib. 18, f. 367.

³³ Testamentary Proceedings, Lib. 16, f. 36-7, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; Wills, Lib. 18, f. 464, 518; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. T, f. 230.

³⁴ Wills, Lib. 14, f. 504.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, Lib. 3, f. 643; Lib. 20, f. 198; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. D, f. 121.

³⁶ Wills, Lib. 11, f. 314; Lib. 14, f. 92; Lib. 18, f. 448.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, Lib. 3, f. 643; Lib. 20, f. 198.

³⁸ Queen Anne Parish Register, 1705-1773, p. 2-Mar., Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

in-law of John Wight, and brother-in-law of Ralph Crabb;³⁹ Thomas Gantt, stepson of John Wight, son-in-law of Thomas Brooke, Esquire, brother-in-law of Thomas Brooke, Jr., Philip Lee, and John Bradford, and half brother-in-law of Thomas Sprigg, Jr.;⁴⁰ George Noble; and Leonard Hollyday, son of Thomas Hollyday, and brother-in-law of Levin Covington.⁴¹

This was a closely knit group, with many ties of blood and marriage. The group included many merchants and two physicians, but all of the men were well-to-do planters. A study of the 1719 lists of constables' returns (the only surviving lists for this 25-year period) shows that, while most of the county inhabitants possessed only one, two, three or four taxables, these men appointed as justices of the county court had from five to 20 taxables, with John Bradford and Thomas Addison outclassing the others with 45 and 52 taxables respectively.⁴²

All of these men considered it their duty and one of the responsibilities of their class to serve when appointed, even though the remuneration was slight, only 80 pounds of tobacco for each day's attendance at court. Only one man refused to serve. In 1702 the name of John Smith was in the commission of the peace (authorization that the men named were to act as justices or commissioners of the peace). John Smith, a planter of Mattapany Hundred, was called in, but protested that he wasn't fit to hold this office as he wasn't able to get on a horse without help, and he thought another John Smith was meant anyway.⁴³ His protest was accepted and a new commission was issued.

There was also an instance in which one of the men who was appointed a justice showed some reluctance to serve. The name of Robert Bradley, who was one of the first justices, appeared also in the second commission of the peace, issued June 6, 1697. Mr. Bradley failed to appear at the June court to take the oaths and be qualified, along with the others appointed. At the March, 1698, court, upon being summoned by the sheriff to appear in court and take the oaths, Mr. Bradley appeared, the commission was read to him, but he replied that while he was willing to serve the King and Country, at present he thought himself not capable of serving as a justice of

³⁹ Wills, Lib. 18, f. 518; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. M, f. 350-2.

⁴⁰ Wills, Lib. 18, f. 464, 518; Lib. 20, f. 128; Test. Proc., Lib. 16, f. 36-7; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. M, f. 350-2; Lib. T, f. 230.

⁴¹ Wills, Lib. 11, f. 314; Lib. 22, f. 359.

⁴² Black Books, X, 7-14, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

⁴³ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 162.

the peace and refused to take the oaths. However, six months later, at the September, 1698, court, Mr. Bradley appeared and took the oaths of office.⁴⁴ He served faithfully the rest of the term, was reappointed to successive terms, eventually served as chief justice, until 1709 when he was appointed a justice of the Provincial Court. He was also elected a delegate to the General Assembly and served as Speaker of the Lower House from 1708 to 1711.

Many of the other men who served as justices were also elected by the freeholders as the county's delegates to the General Assembly: William Barton, William Hutchison, John Wight, Robert Tyler, Samuel Magruder, John Bradford, Philip Lee, Thomas Sprigg, Thomas Clagett, Thomas Brooke, Jr., James Stoddart, Josiah Wilson, and Ralph Crabb.

The county records were kept by the clerk of the county court. He was instructed to appear at his office in Charles Town every Wednesday and Saturday unless the day proved wet, in which case he was to appear the first dry day thereafter.⁴⁵ William Cooper, the first clerk, died four months after the establishment of the county. Among the papers connected with the administration of his estate is one which throws an interesting light on the funeral customs of that time. A bill for Mr. Cooper's funeral charges on August 26, 1696, was presented by Charles Tracy, innkeeper, to David Small, administrator of Mr. Cooper's estate. It lists the items of liquor dispensed, totaling 11 pints of brandy, 10½ gallons of cider, 10 gallons of boiled cider with spirits, and the trouble of the house, the whole bill amounting to 1445 pounds of tobacco. The coffin cost only 400 pounds of tobacco, but it was a separate item, not included in the list of funeral charges.⁴⁶ No doubt all of the county officials, plus all of the residents of Charles Town, plus all of Mr. Cooper's friends from miles around, expressed their grief by quaffing these refreshments.

Joshua Cecell, an attorney, replaced William Cooper as clerk of the county court and keeper of the records, and served for two years, later serving for a time as clerk of the indictments. In 1698 Edward Willett, a pewterer, was appointed clerk of the county court. He served one year, but continued as deputy under the next two clerks, attorney Henry Bonner and Thomas Dent. In January 1708 Willett was again appointed county clerk and served for several years. While

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, Lib. A, f. 167, 296, 342; Smith, *op. cit.*, xxv.

⁴⁵ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 515; Smith, *op. cit.*, xxiii.

⁴⁶ Inventories & Accounts, Lib. 15, f. 279; List of Funeral Charges, PG County, Box 10, folder 6, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

deputy clerk he was employed by the justices to write the rules of the court on parchment, frame them, and place them in the most visible place in the courthouse.⁴⁷ Robert Hall was appointed clerk of the county court in 1711 and served until his death in 1719. Daniel Dulany, one of the attorneys, who was living at "The Gores," followed Hall and served for a few months until Alexander Contee, son-in-law of Thomas Brooke, Esquire, brother-in-law of Thomas Brooke, Jr., Philip Lee, and Thomas Gantt,⁴⁸ was appointed clerk of the county court. Contee employed as his deputy Richard Chubbard, a servant of the former clerk Robert Hall who was given his freedom at Hall's death.⁴⁹

The lucrative office of sheriff was considered the most important office of the county and was much sought after. The sheriff received 10 per cent of the annual levy for collecting it, plus certain fees. Thomas Greenfield, brother-in-law of Colonel Thomas Hollyday, father-in-law of Basil Waring, and uncle by marriage of Levin Covington,⁵⁰ was the first sheriff of the county and served until 1699. In that year he was elected a delegate to the General Assembly, and served until 1708. During this same period he also served as a justice of the Provincial Court. In 1708 he was appointed a member of the Council and served in that office until his death in 1715.

Thomas Greenfield was followed as sheriff by William Barton; Josiah Wilson; Thomas Addison; Henry Boteler, Josiah Wilson's brother-in-law;⁵¹ Thomas Clagett and James Haddock, an attorney who had served for a time as clerk of the indictments. Mr. Haddock was married to the widow of Major William Barton, thus becoming the stepfather of Basil Waring and the stepfather-in-law of John Murdock and Samuel Perrie.⁵² Four of these men had been justices of the county court and one had been clerk of the indictments.

Several of the justices, namely, Robert Bradley, John Wight, William Hutchison, Alexander Magruder, Henry Acton, Thomas Odell, Dr. Frederick Claudius, Dr. Patrick Hepburn, and George Noble, together with three other men, Robert Middleton, Benjamin Berry, and John Wight, son of John Wight the justice of the peace, son-in-law of Thomas Greenfield, stepbrother of Thomas Gantt,

⁴⁷ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 337a.

⁴⁸ Wills, Lib. 20, f. 127.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, Lib. 15, f. 263.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, Lib. 11, f. 314; Lib. 14, f. 89.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, Lib. 12, f. 248.

⁵² PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. D, f. 121.

half brother-in-law of Thomas Sprigg, Jr., and stepbrother-in-law of John Bradford,⁵³ were commissioned to serve as coroners during this 25-year period.

William Bladen was the first clerk of the indictments. Besides Joshua Cecell and James Haddock, who have already been mentioned, William Stone, Bernard White, and William Cumming also served in that office during the first 25 years of the county. All of these men were admitted to practice as attorneys.

Other attorneys of the court during this 25-year period were Thomas Hughes, John Meriton, Christopher Gregory, Richard Kilborn, Cleborn Lomax, Stephen Blansford, James Cranford, Edward Batson, Josias Towgood, Cornelius White, Thomas Macknema, Clement Davis, Richard Dallam, Wornell Hunt, Daniel Dulany, Thomas Bordley, Charles Hestletine, Thomas Larkin, George Middleton, and Thomas Humphreys. Many of the attorneys were from other counties, as they were not required to be residents of Prince George's.

The court also had a cryer and a drummer. John Joyce was the first cryer, serving until his death three years later. Simon Nicholls was then appointed cryer in 1699 and was still serving in 1721. As a matter of fact, he went on to complete 50 years of service as cryer, retiring in 1749 at the age of 106.⁵⁴

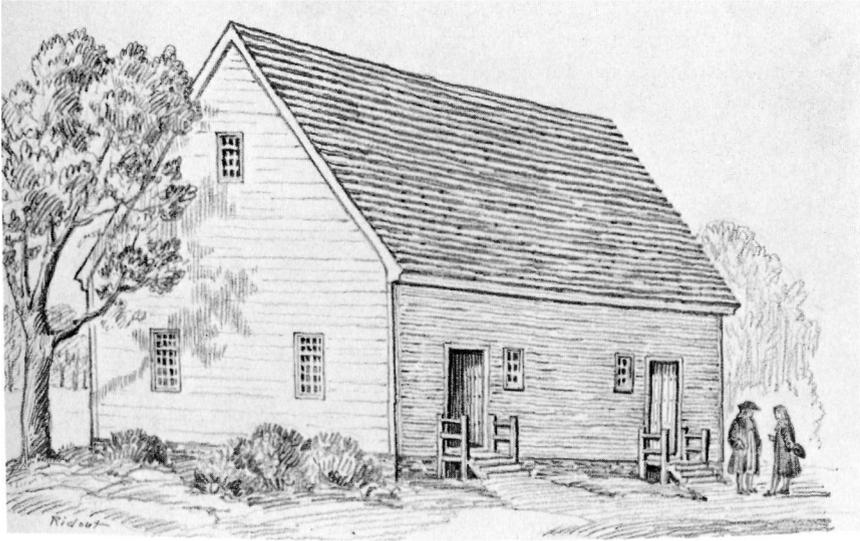
Anthony Smart was the first drummer and served for a year and a half. The county was then without a drummer until January 1704, when Marmaduke Scott, the innkeeper, was appointed to beat the drum three times in the morning and once in the afternoon. A few years later the justices sent to England for a new drum with Prince Georges County in colored letters on it.⁵⁵ In 1711 John Mason became the drummer.

Both the Province of Maryland and Prince George's County were growing rapidly. The venture of establishing towns had proved so successful, that in 1706 the General Assembly passed another Act for the Advancement of Trade and designated many more towns in the province, including five new towns or ports in Prince George's County in addition to Charles Town. These were Mill Town, Nottingham, and Queen Anne on the Patuxent River, Marlborough on the Western Branch, and Aire at Broad Creek. The following year a

⁵³ Wills, Lib. 14, f. 89; Lib. 18, f. 518; Lib. 22, f. 61; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. M, f. 350-2.

⁵⁴ PGCo. Levy Book, Liber A, f. 560, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. LL, f. 80, 243.

⁵⁵ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 286a; Lib. D, f. 34; Lib. G, f. 38.



Sketch by Elizabeth Ridout

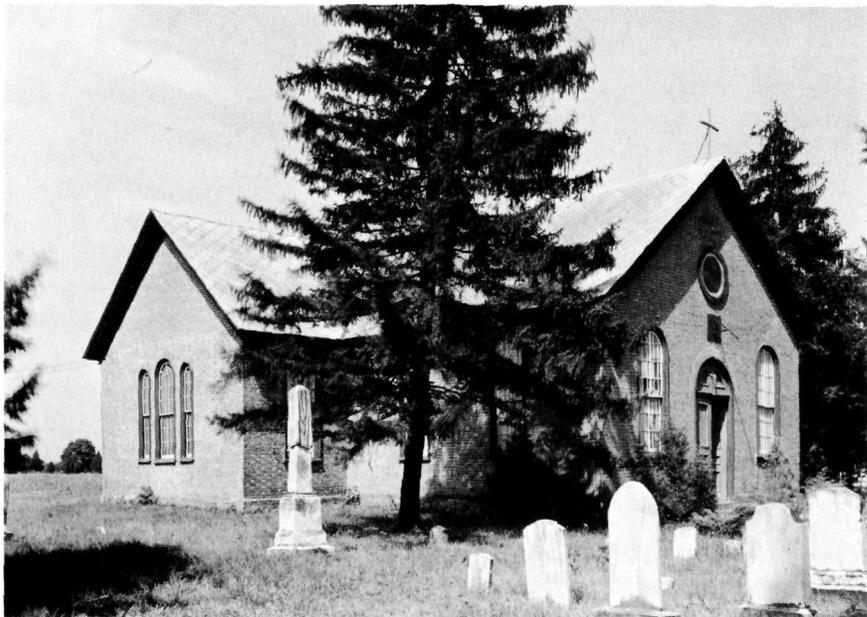
Courtesy Hall of Records Commission

First Courthouse, built in 1697



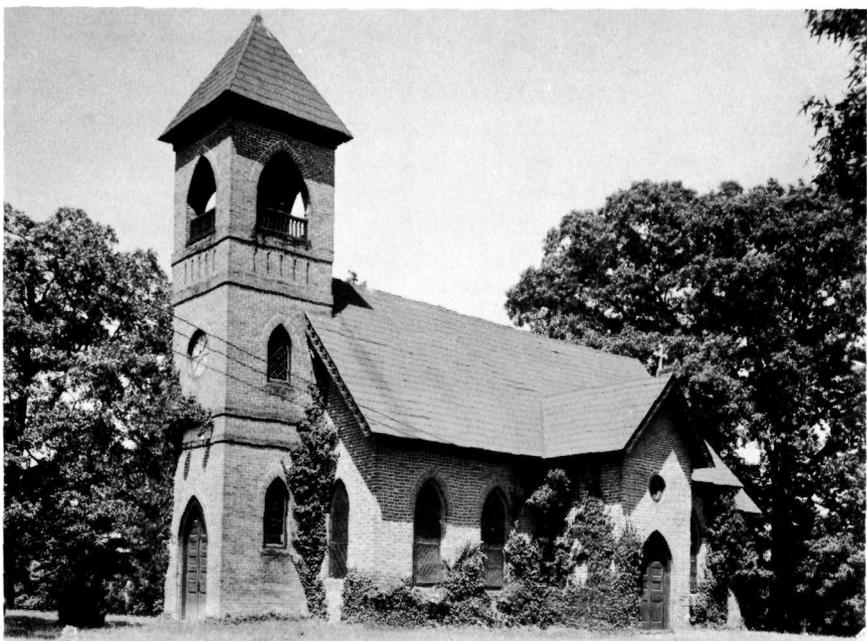
Courtesy Library of Congress

Old Home at Mount Calvert



Courtesy Library of Congress

St. Paul's Church at Baden, built in 1733



Courtesy Library of Congress

The Chapel of St. Paul's Parish, built in 1742
now St. Thomas Church at Croom

Supplementary Act was passed, adding to Nottingham the three acres where George Harris had built dwellings and stores, and establishing the Town of Piscataway at the head of Piscataway Creek.⁵⁶

Charles Town could not help but feel the loss of trade to these new towns, particularly to Nottingham only five miles down the Patuxent River, to Queen Anne eight miles upstream, and to Marlborough four miles to the northwest on the Western Branch.

Our first intimation that Charles Town was slipping comes during a fight over county ferry service. In 1710 a petition to join with Anne Arundel County in keeping a public ferry from Charles Town to Pig Point in Anne Arundel County, signed by 42 inhabitants of the county, was presented to the county court, and was granted. County ferry service, operated by Mr. James Stoddart with John Edgerly as ferryman, was then started. Mr. Stoddart, who already owned one lot in Charles Town purchased in 1697, had sold his plantation at the head of the Eastern Branch and had bought the 2-acre Tracy land and the 163-acre tract, minus exceptions, from Captain Thomas Emms, who now owned both tracts. Mr. Stoddart had also bought the Josias Towgood lot and two lots from Colonel Ninian Beall, also a 16-acre tract of swampy land lying north of Charles Town. No doubt he was living on one of these properties, most likely the town lot purchased in 1697. Mr. Stoddart had been appointed a justice of the county court in 1699, and in 1709 became chief justice. The matter of the county ferry became an issue between two factions in the county, as another petition, signed by other county inhabitants, requesting that the ferry service at county expense be discontinued, was presented to the General Assembly. This petition was in turn granted, and county ferry service at Charles Town was discontinued after protestations and delay, Mr. Stoddart being paid for 19 months ferry service. Mr. Stoddart, Mr. William Tanyhill, Doctor Frederick Claudius, and Mr. Thomas Clagett, the four justices who caused the ferry to be continued for a few months contrary to the order of the Lower House of the General Assembly, were ordered to pay 500 pounds of tobacco for the clerk's fees, the expenses incurred as a result of the delay. Justice Philip Lee had dissented to the action of the county court in granting the petition for ferry service. He was also a member of the Lower House of the General Assembly as a delegate from Prince George's County, and led the opposition to the ferry. He was joined by John Bradford who was also both a justice of the county court

⁵⁶ *Arch. Md.*, XXVI, 637; XXVII, 160.

and a delegate to the General Assembly. Both of these men were merchants who had opened stores at Nottingham about five miles down the Patuxent River from Mount Calvert or Charles Town.⁵⁷

But it was the Town of Marlborough, only four miles from Charles Town up the Western Branch, which became its greatest rival, and the only one of these towns which is thriving today. With new and better roads being built constantly, trade was not so dependent on travel by water. Prince George's County was growing rapidly, the population spreading northward. These people would rather stop at Marlborough to trade than to go on to Charles Town, which would mean an additional eight miles of travel round trip. Marlborough soon became the hub of the county. There were times when the county court was forced to adjourn from Charles Town to Marlborough because there were not enough justices present at Charles Town to hold its meetings.⁵⁸ The county standard of weights and measures was moved to Marlborough in 1717.

In 1718 some of the inhabitants of the county petitioned the General Assembly to move the county seat from Charles Town to the Town of Marlborough, setting forth in the petition that the courthouse at Mount Calvert was inconvenient to two-thirds or more of the county and that Marlborough was nearer the center of the county and the most convenient place that could be thought of. That the people wanted it moved was evidenced by the large private subscriptions which had already been made toward a new building. The proposal met with the approval of the General Assembly and an Act was passed which authorized the removal of the courthouse, the purchase of two acres of land in Marlborough whereon to build a new courthouse, the levy of five pounds of tobacco per poll for purchasing the land and completing the building, the removal of the records to the new courthouse, and the sale of the courthouse and prison at Charles Town when the new courthouse at Marlborough was finished.⁵⁹

It took three years to accomplish the change, but on March 28, 1721, 25 years after the county was established, three of the justices met at Charles Town and immediately adjourned to meet at Marlborough at three o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, where

⁵⁷ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. D, f. 280, 311; Lib. G, f. 37a, 40a, 129, 167; *Arch. Md.*, XXIX, 58, 70; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. E, f. 16, 225.

⁵⁸ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. D, f. 84; Lib. H, f. 662.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, Lib. K, f. 77-9; *Arch. Md.*, XXXVIII, 239-41. Radoff, *op. cit.*, 118-19.

they were joined by the other justices for the March court in the new courthouse.⁶⁰ Charles Town was no longer the county seat.

One of the items of business at this term of court was to pass an ordinance for selling the old courthouse at Charles Town to the highest bidder. Accordingly, at the June court, 1721, the three acres of land at Charles Town together with the courthouse and prison were sold to Joseph Belt. He paid only 2200 pounds of tobacco,⁶¹ evidence that property values in Charles Town had tumbled.

Today, only one old brick home, which may possibly have been built during this period, still stands at the mouth of the Western Branch overlooking the Patuxent River. All other traces of Charles Town, the first county seat of Prince George's County, have long since disappeared. Nevertheless, we should remember that Charles Town had its place in the early development of both the Province of Maryland and Prince George's County.

⁶⁰ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. K, f. 77-80.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, f. 85, 249.

Chapter 3

Indian Alarms in Prince George's County

From the days of the first settlement of the Province of Maryland, Prince George's County, or the area which was to become Prince George's County, was the scene of many dealings with the Indians, as this land was the home of the Piscataways, who were acknowledged to be the chief Indians of the Western Shore. The first colonists in the *Ark* and the *Dove* had just landed at St. Clement's Island in 1634, when Governor Leonard Calvert deemed it wise to visit the Emperor of the Piscataways. It was at their village at the head of Piscataway Creek on its south bank about one-half mile east of the present Farmington Landing, that Governor Calvert and some of his men met the Emperor of the Piscataways, surrounded by 500 of his bowmen, and obtained permission from him to make a permanent settlement.¹

Even though the colonists had come to this new land with the underlying purpose of displacing the natives who occupied the territory, ultimately claiming it for themselves solely, it was their intention to obtain the land by peaceable means, to get along with the Indians, and to live with them in peace and harmony.

The Englishmen found the Maryland Indians to be friendly, but they took precautions to keep them so. Even though the Emperor of the Piscataways had given him permission, Governor Calvert thought it best not to settle so far up the Potomac River at first, but returned to the southern part of the province. Here the colonists bought the homes of the Patuxent Indians, and established the first settlement at St. Mary's City. Five years later Father Andrew White,

¹ *Narratives of Early Maryland*, Clayton Coleman Hall, editor. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1910. Father Andrew White's *Briefe Relation of the Voyage unto Maryland, 1634*, p. 41. Also cited in William B. Marye, *Piscattaway*, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, XXX (Sept. 1935), p. 187 and in Alice L. L. Ferguson and Henry G. Ferguson, *The Piscataway Indians of Southern Maryland*, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Accokeek, Md., 1960, p. 26.

one of the Jesuits who accompanied the first colonists, was allowed to return to the village of the Piscataways on Piscataway Creek to work among the Indians. Here he converted to Christianity the Emperor, who was a younger brother and successor of the former Emperor, and baptized him and his family in the Christian faith.²

During the intervening 62 years between the first settlement of the colony in 1634 and the establishment of Prince George's County in 1696, many precautions were taken to insure peace with the Indians. Since this was a matter which affected the whole province, Indian affairs were regulated by the Governor, the Council, and the General Assembly of the province. It is from the records of these bodies that we extract our story. Trade with the Indians was prohibited unless licensed by the governor; conveying rum or other strong liquor to the Indian towns was forbidden; delivering arms or ammunition to any Indians was prohibited. Entertaining Indians in their homes was forbidden; stealing Indians for sale was prohibited and punishable by death. The settlers considered it necessary to keep the Maryland Indians allied with themselves, and gave them assistance in their wars against the Senecas, Susquehannas, and Delawares, tribes known as the Northern Indians. For the protection of the English settlers, a company of militia was organized in each county, and a troop of rangers was maintained at provincial expense to range the frontier, except during the winter months when the leaves were off the trees and there was less danger of a sudden attack.³

As the English colonists increased in number and settlement of the land was pushed northward, relations between the English and Indians became strained. To relieve this situation, in 1666 Articles of Peace and Amity were concluded between the Lord Proprietary and the Western Shore Indians, in which it was agreed that the land where the Indians lived should be set aside for their use only, even though some of the land had already been granted to Englishmen.⁴ Three years later this was done, when in 1669 the land then in Charles County along the Potomac River between Mattawoman and Piscataway Creeks was surveyed and set aside as a reservation for the Indians of Pascattoway, Anacostanck, Doags, Mikikiwoman, Manasquesend, Mattawoman, Chingawateick, Nangemaick, Portobackes,

² Hall, *op. cit.*, *Annual Letters of the Jesuits*, 1639, pp. 124-9. Also cited in Ferguson and Ferguson, *op. cit.*, pp. 27-8.

³ *Arch. Md.*, I, 42, 233, 250, 346-9; II, 130; III, 103, 107; VII, 23-4; XXXVIII, 15-6.

⁴ *Ibid.*, II, 25.

Sacayo, Pangayo, and Choptico.⁵ In 1692, after the Lord Proprietary's governing rights were rescinded, similar Articles of Peace and Amity were concluded between Their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, on the one hand, and the Emperor of Piscataway, the King of Mattawoman, and the King of Chaptico, on the other hand.⁶

At the time that Prince George's County was established, April 23, 1696, relations between the settlers and the Western Shore Indians had again become strained. Prince George's was now the western frontier county of the province. Although it extended north to the Pennsylvania line, habitation extended only to just north of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River. Beyond this was a vast expanse of forest, a natural cover for the Indians, whether friend or foe, on their hunting and raiding expeditions. Prince George's County now also included in its southwest corner the reservation set aside for the Indians in 1669. At the time this reservation had been laid out it was in the northern, uninhabited part of Charles County, but by 1696 the colonists had pushed northward to such an extent that the reservation was surrounded on all but the river side by English settlers. Due to the inroads of smallpox, warfare, and liquor, the Western Shore Indians were now greatly reduced in numbers. In making preparations for the new county, in August, 1695, the Council had discussed the possibility of trying to persuade the Indians to let the English inhabitants settle on some of the land within the Indian Reservation, so that more tobacco could be grown for the benefit and encouragement of the new county, and Colonel John Addison was appointed to ask the Indians to come to Annapolis in October to talk things over with the Governor. There is no record that this was done, but the Indians no doubt learned of this proposal, and felt that they were being squeezed out.⁷

Another factor which contributed to the strained relations between the settlers and the Western Shore Indians was that the Emperor of the Piscataways was no longer able to control his young men. They brought strange Indians into the fort, and took them into other parts of the province.⁸ England was then engaged in war against France; any Frenchmen in the province or Indians allied with the French were considered enemies. The prospect of what the

⁵ Patents, Liber 12, fol. 339. Also cited in Marye, *op. cit.*, p. 197.

⁶ *Arch. Md.*, XIII, 268-71.

⁷ *Ibid.*, XX, 282, XXV, 556. Also cited in Marye, *op. cit.*, pp. 187-8.

⁸ *Arch. Md.*, XIX, 231, 251, 384-5.

Northern Indians might do under cover of this situation was threatening, and the possibility of the Western Shore Indians' becoming allied with the Northern Indians instead of with themselves was appalling.

The settlers took steps to protect themselves. In July, 1696, the Emperor of the Piscataways and some of his great men were called in to the General Assembly meeting in Annapolis. They agreed with the Governor that, during this time of war, the Pomunky and Choptico Indians would all go to live with the Emperor of the Piscataways, as soon as their corn was gathered; and they were given leave to sell any of their land to Englishmen. Colonel John Addison, Mr. William Hatton, and Mr. William Hutchison, all of whom had been licensed by the governor to trade with the Indians, were appointed to have the Indian lands surveyed in case of any disputes or differences over boundaries. Because of his many years of experience in Indian affairs, Colonel Ninian Beall, who lived at "Bacon Hall" near the Western Branch of the Patuxent River, was commissioned as commander-in-chief in any emergency of war or insurrection, to raise and command as many men as he needed.⁹

There were two parties of rangers in the province, one in Prince George's County and the other in Baltimore County. Two troopers were now added to each party, so that each was composed of a captain, lieutenant, and eight troopers. The rangers in Prince George's County were headed by Captain Richard Brightwell, who lived at "Poplar Hill" in the southeastern part of the county. Out of the provincial arms they received ten saddles and bridles with caps for carbines, ten carbines and belts, ten pairs of pistols, ten cartouch boxes and belts, ten bayonets and belts, ten Granado shells, 20 fuses, two spades, two pickaxes, 1000 flints, 20 pounds of powder and 40 pounds of bullet and swan shot.

The rangers on Potomac were given orders to divide into two small parties which were to take turns week about, one party to range and the other to stay at the garrison at the first falls of the Potomac River. They seemed to follow two circuits in ranging. One circuit took them from the garrison to the Eastern Branch, up and down the Eastern Branch, then to the head of the Patuxent River and back again. The other circuit took them from the garrison up along the Potomac River about 40 miles to the Sugar Lands, then eastward about 50 miles to the Patapsco River, then 60 or 70 miles back to the garrison. They were instructed to make as great a show

⁹ *Ibid.*, XIX, 384-5, 459; XX, 154.

as they could of being there, erecting several cabins up and down the woods, cutting down a great many trees, making and marking roads. They were to examine any Indians they met, treating them civilly if friends, sending for help from the county militia if enemies.¹⁰

The militia of a county could have as many companies as was thought necessary, either of horse or foot soldiers. Prince George's had two troops of horse and two companies of foot soldiers. They were under the command of John Addison as colonel, Thomas Hollyday as lieutenant colonel, William Barton as major, with Robert Wade captain of horse and George Athey captain of foot on the Potomac side of the county, and Richard Brightwell captain of horse and John Wight captain of foot on the Patuxent side of the county. In September, the Prince George's militia received its share of the new arms purchased by the province: "one hand mortar, two Granado pouches, 20 Granado shells, 60 fusees, one brass lantern, one compass, one horse picker, one perspective glass, one drum, one trumpet, one powder prover, two pairs of drum heads, seven pairs of pistols, seven carbines and belts, five cartouch boxes and belts, five bayonets and belts, two pickaxes, two mattocks, four wheelbarrow irons, four steel spades, four shovels, two barrels each of musket shot, carbine shot and pistol bullets, and 3460 flints.¹¹

If the inhabitants were worried about the Indians in 1696, their fears rose to a crescendo in 1697. On April 3d of that year a Negro was killed at the plantation of James Stoddart, who lived at "Yarrow," at the head of the Eastern Branch. The Negro was taking some fence rails out of a tree, when three Indians shot him in the back with an arrow as he stooped over to pick up a rail, then ran up to him, knocked him insensible, flayed his head and cut off one of his ears. Mr. Stoddart, who was out watching some of his people work, heard the commotion and, upon investigating, saw about ten Indians, naked but not painted, coming out of a branch. Although the Negro, who lived four days, said that he did not recognize the Indians, it was thought that the killing was done by the Piscataways as the result of a grudge, as in February Mr. Stoddart, who was a fur trader, had bought some skins and furs from Seneca Indians who had come in from near the mountains. Several families of the Piscataway Indians had their hunting cabins at his place, but in a few

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, XIX, 383, 406; XX, 381, 452; XXIII, 75, 77, 111, 261; XXXVIII, 3-4, 65-6.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, XIX, 457-8; XXIII, 13-4.

days went away and, upon being questioned by Mr. Stoddart as to the reason for leaving their hunting quarters so soon, said that their Emperor had sent for them.¹²

In May, the Piscataway Indians quietly left their homes in Maryland and moved to an unsettled region beyond the first mountain range in Virginia.¹³

One would expect the Maryland settlers to have been pleased that they were now rid of the Indians, but such was not the case. Rather, the English inhabitants considered it necessary that the Indians remain nearby, so they could keep a constant watch over them; and this unfriendly gesture on the part of the Piscataways of removing out of the province was alarming.

Major William Barton, one of the burgesses from Prince George's County and also an Indian trader, was sent to Virginia to scout the situation. After his return and report, a deputation of ten men, among whom Colonel John Addison, Thomas Brooke, Esquire, William Barton, William Hutchison, John Wight and John Hawkins were from Prince George's County, were sent to the Piscataways to quiet their fears, if that was the reason for their leaving, and to persuade them to come back to Maryland. The delegation was only partially successful. The Indians promised to come back and settle either at their old fort near Piscataway or around Rock Creek, but not until the following spring, again giving the excuse that their corn was already planted. The Indians claimed not to know who had killed the Negro, but for the sake of peace agreed to pay 60 buck skins in satisfaction of the murder. No doubt the suggestion of settling around Rock Creek was thrown in by the deputation in the hope of freeing the land in the reservation for the use of the English settlers.¹⁴

In July, there was news that a woman and three children had been killed by the Indians in Virginia. These murders were laid to a Pomunkey Indian called Esquire Tom, and the Governor of Maryland issued a proclamation offering a reward of five pounds sterling for his apprehension. One Choptico Robin came forward with the information that he had stood sentry while Esquire Tom and another Indian had done the killing, and that it had been done at the instigation of a Susquehanna Indian named Monges who wanted

¹² *Ibid.*, XIX, 522-3.

¹³ *Ibid.*, XIX, 508, 556-7. Also cited in Marye, *op. cit.*, p. 204.

¹⁴ *Arch. Md.*, XXIII, 93, 143-6. Also cited in Ferguson and Ferguson, *op. cit.*, p. 42.

the Piscataways blamed for an English murder, in an effort to stir up more trouble between the Piscataways and the Maryland settlers.¹⁵

On Tuesday, the 21st of September, John Baker, one of the rangers at the garrison, went out to catch his horse which was in the pasture, and about 300 yards from the fort was killed by an Indian, his head and right forearm cut off and carried away, together with his musket, bayonet, and other things he had with him.¹⁶

One week later, on September 28th, the pasture fence at the garrison was pulled down and all the horses driven out.

Pandemonium now reigned among the settlers around the Eastern Branch and near the garrison. Most of the people living on the outlying plantations were single, or at most two to a cabin; dread of what the Indians might do to them almost drove them from their homes.¹⁷

The garrison and outlying plantations were strengthened by reinforcements. Fifteen men were sent from the four lower counties of the Western Shore, with Richard Owen of Anne Arundel County as captain and Giles Hill of St. Mary's County as lieutenant. These men reported to Colonel Addison for assignment to their stations; five were sent to aid the men at the garrison, while the other eight men and two officers were sent to defend the frontier plantations.

Colonel Addison was ordered to get timber ready to build another fort on top of the hill near the garrison, but not actually to build it unless the Indians returned. He was also ordered to purchase a couple of small guns and to provide two or three canoes and a good boat, to be kept at convenient places on the Potomac River for sending messages by water.

The Council also ordered the colonels of the six counties on the Western Shore to choose 200 men out of their militia to be ready upon any warning to go to the aid of the frontier plantations and garrison on the Western Shore; Anne Arundel County was to furnish 45, Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles Counties 40 each, Baltimore County 15, and Prince George's 20.

The persons appointed by an Act of Assembly several months earlier for deciding differences between the Indians and Englishmen in private controversies, were ordered to visit the Indians, such

¹⁵ *Arch. Md.*, XXIII, 182-8.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 216, 305-6, 325-6.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 216-18.

as were still there, once or twice a week. For the nations of Ackocick, Nanjemoy, Pomunky, and Piscatoway in Charles and Prince George's Counties the mediators were Colonel John Addison and Mr. William Hatton.

A Mattapany Indian named Woodcough was brought in by Colonel Beall and jailed on suspicion of the murder at the garrison. A second proclamation was issued for the apprehension of Esquire Tom, doubling the reward first offered. An Indian called Montague (no doubt another name for the Susquehanna Indian who instigated the killing in Virginia) was declared to be an enemy, and ordered to be sought out and seized. Thus matters stood at the close of 1697.¹⁸

Early in 1698 it was learned that peace had been concluded between England and France. The House of Delegates, which controlled the provincial purse strings, thought that now the rangers could be disbanded, since there was no longer any fear of attack by French or other Indians. The people of Prince George's County, however, who were the inhabitants of the province most concerned with the Piscataway Indians, thought otherwise, and protested that they did not consider the Piscataways an inconsiderable enemy. The matter was settled by disbanding the rangers of Baltimore County, and also dismissing the old rangers on Potomac, but ten men and two captains were appointed as new rangers to aid the frontier plantations in Prince George's County. Colonel Ninian Beall, who was now 73 years of age, came forward and offered his services to command one party, and was quickly accepted. Captain Richard Owen was chosen to command the other party. They continued to aid the frontier plantations until the middle of November, when they too were dismissed for the winter, with no outbreaks of trouble in the new county during 1698.¹⁹

The year 1699 was not so quiet as the previous year had been. In the late spring, Thomas Thickpenny and his wife, living on one of the frontier plantations near the Potomac River in Prince George's County, were killed, the murders being laid to the Indians. Colonel Beall, Captain Owen, 12 troopers and six foot soldiers were again sent to range the frontier. The six foot soldiers were placed at the outlying plantations, one or more in a house where they were needed most; while the troopers and officers ranged by turns.²⁰

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 219-21, 231-5, 239-52.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 371, 404, 406; XXII, 19, 52-3; XXV, 30.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 76; XXII, 422-3.

In July it was learned that some of the Pamunkey Indians, who had been living with the Emperor of Piscataway in Virginia, had come back and settled at their old homes in Pamunkey. Several of them were persuaded to come in and talk things over with the members of the General Assembly meeting at Annapolis. They were well treated and promised to stay in Maryland; they were also urged to persuade the Emperor of Piscataway and his people to return.²¹

It was during this session of the General Assembly, in July 1699, while the delegates were discussing Indian affairs, that the General Assembly recognized the extraordinary and long-continued services of Colonel Ninian Beall in dealing with the Indians and expressed its gratitude by voting him a gift of three good serviceable Negro slaves.²²

From then on we hear less and less about troubles with the Indians in Prince George's County. The following year, in the spring of 1700, Articles of Peace and Amity were concluded with the Emperor of Piscataway and the Queen of Pamunkey, in which they promised that their people would come in and settle on their former lands; but these promises were not kept, and before long it was learned that the Indians had moved to Pennsylvania. The settlers had promised to have the bounds of the Indian Lands run out again, but it seems that this was never done. Mr. James Stoddart petitioned for the buck skins that were promised in payment of his Negro, and was given leave to try to collect them from the Indians, but no record appears of his having succeeded. The rangers were disbanded.²³

Incidentally, in 1713, Mr. Stoddart bought from the Pamunkey Indians a tract of land in the Indian Reservation, for "fourteen yards of Broad Cloath being Seven match Coats and Six White stript matchcoats." Nothing is said in the deed about the 60 buck skins owed him, but Mr. Stoddart was a shrewd trader, and perhaps he considered the value of the land to be sufficient to cover the loss of his Negro.²⁴

In the new century there were only occasional flare-ups of possible trouble. In the fall of 1704 it was learned that a man, two women, and a child were killed by the Indians in Virginia, and at

²¹ *Ibid.*, 308-9, 328-9, 390-1, 410, 412.

²² *Ibid.*, 494-5.

²³ *Ibid.*, XXIV, 19, 25, 30-1, 72-3, 79-80, 86, 145-6; XXV, 84-90.

²⁴ PGC. Land Rec., Lib. E, f. 229.

the same time some Indians appeared around the Eastern Branch. Although these Indians soon disappeared, to ward off any possible trouble, six men and an officer were called in to range along the frontier in Prince George's County.²⁵

Again in 1715 there was an alarm when some naked Indians frightened the inhabitants on the frontiers of Potomac. With the growth of population in the county, the limits of habitation had been pushed northward to such an extent, that the people most concerned at this time were living farther up the Potomac River and around Rock Creek. Since Colonel John Addison was no longer living, it was to his son, Colonel Thomas Addison, that the Council directed that public arms and ammunition be sent for distribution among the inhabitants on the frontier plantations.²⁶

In 1721, a Seneca Indian chief called Saroney or Sawney was killed at Monocacy by the brothers John and Edmund Cartlidge, traders from Conestoga in the province of Pennsylvania, because he refused to buy their rum. A note was sent to the Governor of Pennsylvania asking that the murderers be punished; and again public ammunition was distributed among the frontier inhabitants.²⁷

In 1725 the Shuano Indians near Monocacy were known to be harbouring runaway Negroes. The governor sent Mr. John Powell, one of the justices of Prince George's County, to invite some of the principal Indians to meet him to discuss the situation. Although each Indian received a gift of a calico shirt and a pair of scarlet worsted stockings, they seem to have ignored the invitation.²⁸

In 1736 a dispute arose between an Indian named George Williams, living on a tract of land called Mattawoman Neck (now Indian Head, part of the area given back by Prince George's to Charles County in 1748) within the Indian Reservation in Prince George's County, and Charles Pye, who owned this tract of land and also lived there. At first the Council sided with the Indian, but upon reviewing the remonstrance of Mr. Pye that the grant to Mattawoman Neck had been made in 1654, many years before the reserve made for the Indians and therefore could not be subject to it; and that there had been more than enough vacant land within the reserve for the use of the Indians, even at the time it was laid out when the Indians were numerous; and also that grants of large

²⁵ *Arch. Md.*, XXVI, 42, 384, 465, 499.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, XXX, 52-3.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, XXV, 379-80, 383-4.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 442-3, 450-1; XXXV, 200-1.

quantities of land within the Indian Reservation had been made to several tenants of the province since the date of the reserve; the Council decided that Mr. Pye had the prior right.²⁹

In 1738 the Council received a petition from several of the Prince George's County inhabitants living on frontier plantations, asking that a garrison be kept near an Indian pathway. This was answered by ordering the militia who lived closest to the petitioners to be ready to go to their assistance in case of emergency.³⁰

This is the last we hear of any Indian alarms in Prince George's County. The Indians had moved on to other environs, relinquishing their claim to this land. Even though there had been many fears and apprehensions of the Indians on the part of the inhabitants of the county during its formative years, looking back from the present time, one recognizes that in reality the English settlers had acquired sole possession of this land with very little bloodshed.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, XXVIII, 93-4, 95-6.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 144.

Chapter 4

The Hundreds of Prince George's County

In 1696, at the time of the establishment of Prince George's County there were two geographical divisions within the counties of Maryland, the hundreds and the parishes, which were completely independent of each other. The parishes were self-governing units for the supervision of the churches, large enough to support a minister, and were laid out under the direction of the General Assembly of the province. The new Prince George's County was composed of two of the original 30 parishes which had been established four years earlier, St. Paul's Parish formerly in Calvert County and Piscataway Parish which had been part of Charles County. The hundreds, however, were laid out by the justices of the county court, and were of whatever size these officials deemed proper and convenient. These hundreds remained under the control of the county officers; they were not self-governing but were units designed to make political administration within the county more efficient.

The hundred was an old division of an English county dating from Anglo-Saxon times. The origin of the term is lost in antiquity, but it probably received its name from the organization around royal estates of districts rated at a hundred taxable units. Through the centuries the hundred came to be used not only for tax purposes, but also for the administration of matters of justice, law, police and military defense.¹

Since it was natural for the colonizers of Maryland to bring with them the plan of government to which they had been accustomed in England, it is not surprising to find hundreds mentioned in the early provincial records as divisions of the first county. The Rent Rolls were set up by divisions of hundreds in each county. And until 1654, when the number of counties was sufficient to warrant the change,

¹ Helen Maud Cam, *The Hundred and the Hundred Rolls*, N. Y., 1960, p. xiii, and her article on the "Hundred" in *Chambers's Encyclopedia*, New Edition.

burgesses were elected to the General Assembly from the hundreds, the freeholders being called together for an election by the constable of the hundred.²

For many years the constable was the only officer of the hundred. He was the person appointed within his hundred to see that the peace was kept; to raise a hue and cry against escaped felons and fugitive servants; to make a list of the taxables for the annual levy; and to execute precepts and warrants directed to him. Certain fees were allowed him. After the law was passed in 1723 concerning the suppression of tumultuous meetings of Negroes, the constables of such hundreds as were designated received 500 pounds of tobacco yearly from the county levy for this service. If a person was appointed constable and refused to serve, he was subject to a fine of 500 pounds of tobacco or two months imprisonment.³

Beginning in 1666 the county justices were instructed by an Act of the Assembly to appoint overseers of the highways. As the title suggests, these men looked after clearing and maintaining the roads, although the actual work of grubbing, clearing and marking was done by the taxables, the servants and slaves who were furnished by the heads of houses in the neighborhood. There was no remuneration attached to the office of overseer, but those appointed were subject to a fine of 2000 pounds of tobacco, reduced to 500 pounds in 1699, for the nonperformance of duties. The county justices were not required to appoint these officers to hundreds, but in some of the counties, including Prince George's, they did so.⁴

Beginning in 1678 two pressmasters were appointed in each hundred. In 1692 this number was reduced to one pressmaster in each hundred. During the next few years, when the settlers were menaced by the Indians, the pressmaster was a much-needed officer, as he had the power to impress food and other specified items upon a warrant from the governor. He was subject to a forfeit of 500 pounds of tobacco for refusal or neglect of duty. After troubles with the Indians had died down it was thought that fewer pressmasters were needed; accordingly, beginning in 1699, only two pressmasters were

² *Arch. Md.*, I, 2, 74, 339; Rent Rolls.

³ *Arch. Md.*, I, 410-11; II, 538; XXII, 514-15.

⁴ *Ibid.*, II, 134; XXII, 475-6. Of the 11 counties of Maryland in 1696, the county courts of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Kent, Prince George's and Somerset Counties appointed the overseers of the highways to hundreds; in Dorchester County they were appointed to specific roads; in Charles County the constables were required to appoint the overseers; perhaps this same procedure was used in Talbot County, as I can find no mention of overseers in the court records; the early records of Calvert and St. Mary's have not survived.

appointed for the whole county and the practice of appointing one for each hundred was discontinued. However in Prince George's County, this change was not made until 1711.⁵

When Prince George's County was erected it included all that part of Maryland lying between the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, extending from Mattawoman and Swansons Creeks on the south to the Pennsylvania line on the north, thus comprising the area which today constitutes the District of Columbia, Montgomery, Frederick, Washington, Allegany and Garrett Counties, the northwest half of Carroll County, and that part of Charles County lying north of Mattawoman Creek, as well as the present Prince George's County. This was a vast but sparsely settled region, with habitation in 1696 extending only from the southern boundary of the county to just north of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River on the western side of the county and to the forks of the Patuxent on the eastern side.

At the initial meeting of Prince George's County court, April 23, 1696, the first item of business was to designate that the inhabited part of the county be divided into six hundreds, with a constable, an overseer of the highways, and a pressmaster appointed for each hundred. From Swansons Creek to Mattapany Branch was called Mattapany Hundred, from Mattapany Branch to the Western Branch of the Patuxent River was designated Mount Calvert Hundred, between the Western Branch and Collington Branch was known as Collington Hundred, between Collington Branch and the Patuxent River was called Patuxent Hundred, from Mattawoman Creek to Oxon Run was designated Piscataway Hundred, and from Oxon Run to the falls of the Potomac River was called New Scotland Hundred.⁶ No other boundaries were mentioned in the records; it was taken for granted that the Potomac River bordered Piscataway and New Scotland Hundreds on the west, the Patuxent River bordered Mattapany and Mount Calvert Hundreds on the east, and the inner boundary of these four hundreds was the ridge which divided the waters of the Potomac from those flowing into the Patuxent. The northern limit of Collington and Patuxent Hundreds was presumed to be the limit of habitation. (Fig. 1)

Of these six hundreds designated by the Prince George's County court only two were new, Collington and Patuxent Hundreds. Calvert and Mattapany had been hundreds of Calvert County,

⁵ *Ibid.*, VII, 53-60; XIII, 554-9; XXII, 562-70.

⁶ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 6-7.

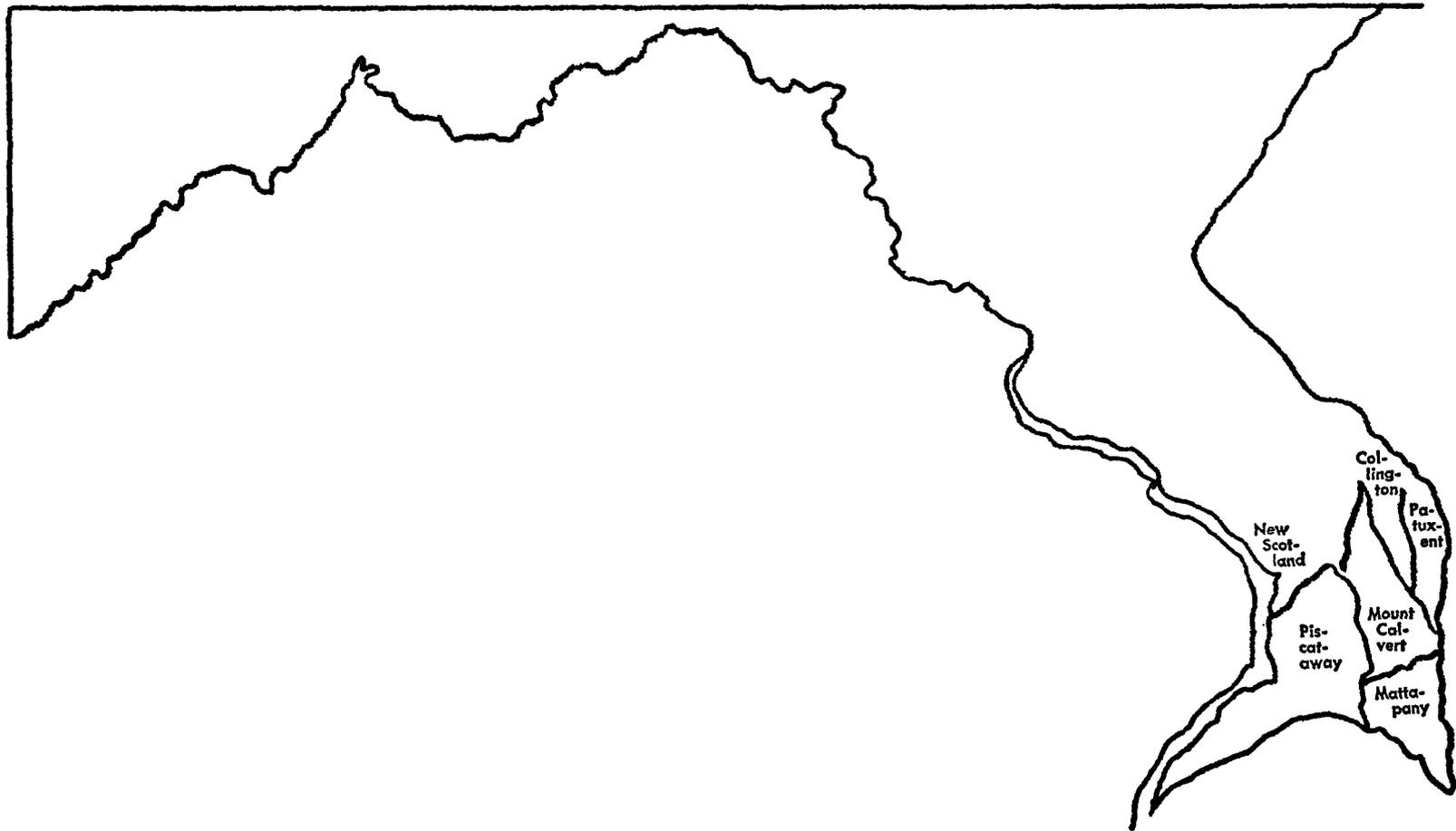


FIG. 1—Hundreds of Prince George's County in 1696.

Mount Calvert dating from 1650 and Mattapany pre-dating 1688, while Piscataway and New Scotland had been hundreds of Charles County, dating from 1688 and 1689 respectively.⁷

As the population of Prince George's County grew and habitation spread northward, new hundreds were formed, either by division of the existing hundreds or by addition of new ones. The first change was made at the November court, 1707. The records do not give the population of the county, only the number of taxables. Taxables were free white males 16 years and over, male servants 16 years and over, and slaves of both sexes 16 years and over, except clergymen and paupers. The taxables of Prince George's County, which had numbered 658 in 1696, had increased to 1,512 by 1707. The first division affected Mount Calvert Hundred, which was divided at Cabin Branch, a tributary of the Western Branch of the Patuxent River. The lower part retained the name of Mount Calvert Hundred while the upper part was called Western Branch Hundred.⁸

Eight years later, in August, 1715, when the number of taxables in the county had increased to 1,990, a new hundred was added on the north side of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, called Rock Creek Hundred.⁹ This reduced New Scotland Hundred to the area between the Eastern Branch and Oxon Run.

By 1722 habitation had spread northward to such an extent that Rock Creek Hundred was partitioned into three parts and two new hundreds were created, Potomac and Eastern Branch. Potomac Hundred included all the land lying beyond Rock Creek; Eastern Branch Hundred lay between the Northeast and Northwest Branches of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River; while the area between the Northwest Branch and Rock Creek retained the name of Rock Creek Hundred.¹⁰

Six years later, at the November county court, 1728, Monocacy Hundred was erected, including all the land above Seneca Creek.¹¹

The population of this newest hundred grew so rapidly that within a few years it was divided into four precincts: "from Shanandore Mountain Upwards one part, Other part, from Mouth of

⁷ Rent Rolls, Liber O St. Mary's Charles Calvert Counties and Isle of Kent, f. 72; *Arch. Md.*, XIII, 219; Charles County Court and Land Records, Lib. N No. 1, f. 323; Lib. P No. 1, f. 182, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

⁸ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. C, f. 178, 186a; *Arch. Md.*, XXV, 255.

⁹ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. G, f. 786; Lib. H, f. 23.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Lib. K, f. 649.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Lib. O, f. 341.

Seneca to Mouth Monocousy, from Mouth of Monocousy to the Shannandore." But it was not until November, 1739, when the taxables in the county had increased to 4,858, that two new hundreds, Antietam and Conococheague, were erected from the two precincts beyond the Shenandoah Mountain. The boundaries of Antietam Hundred were "from Potomack River & y^e Mill Road to y^e Mill, Then by y^e Waggon Road y^t comes by John Stulls to Monocousy." Conococheague Hundred extended northward from Antietam Hundred to the dividing line between the two provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania.¹²

As early as 1731 both Mattapany and Piscataway Hundreds had been divided into upper and lower precincts. Ten years later, in 1741, when the number of taxables in the county had reached 5,017, these divisions were given names, the lower part of Mattapany Hundred being called Prince Frederick Hundred, while the lower part of Piscataway Hundred was called King George's Hundred. Unfortunately, the county court record for that year does not give the boundaries of these new hundreds, so that we have to search elsewhere. The constables' lists of taxables for January, 1733/34, include one for the lower part of Piscataway Hundred "as the runn Goe's," an indication that Piscataway Creek was the dividing line between Piscataway and King George's Hundreds. An examination of the lists of roads assigned to the overseers of the highways in Prince Frederick Hundred and in the lower and back parts of Mattapany Hundred leads one to believe that the dividing line between these two hundreds was Black Swamp Creek, with the upper end of a small run, which eventually finds its way into Charles County's Zekiah Swamp and known as Zekiah Swamp Run, as the northwestern boundary of the new hundred.¹³

Also in 1741, Linganore and Seneca Hundreds were carved out of Monocacy Hundred.¹⁴ Again the record is silent as to the matter of boundaries, but, judging from later delineations, Seneca Hundred extended between Seneca Creek and Monocacy River from the Potomac River as far north as the new main road which crossed Monocacy; while Linganore Hundred extended north from that road to the Pennsylvania line.

At the June court, 1744, when the number of taxables in the

¹² *Ibid.*, Lib. W, f. 239; Lib. X, f. 505.

¹³ PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. A, f. 262; Black Books II, 118; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. LL, f. 76.

¹⁴ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. Z, f. 473.

county had reached 5,957, Newfoundland Hundred was erected. It was bounded by the Patuxent River from the ford near Peter Murphy's land to the head, from there by a straight line to the head of Seneca Creek, by Seneca Creek to the mouth of Muddy Branch, from there by a straight line to the head of Rock Creek, then by a straight line to the head of a branch of the Northwest Branch of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River near James Brooke's land, and from there by a straight line to the ford in the Patuxent River near Peter Murphy's land. These boundaries also set the upper limits of Potomac, Rock Creek and Eastern Branch Hundreds.¹⁵

Five months later, at the November court, 1744, it was ordered that the Town of Upper Marlborough be one of the hundreds, called Marlborough Hundred. At the same time a constable was appointed for Tonoloway Hundred, presumably the area at the far western end of the county beyond Tonoloway Creek.¹⁶

The upper part of the county was expanding so rapidly that four months later, in March, 1745, Linganore Hundred was divided as follows: "begining at the Mouth of Linganore Creek and runing thence up the said Creek to the main Road which leads from Monocousie to Annapolis and from that Road with a Streight line to the Mouth of Pipe Creek, from thence running up Monocousie to the Pensilvania line and so Including all the Inhabitants of the Two pipe Creeks and Linganore," which newly erected hundred was to be called Pipe Creek Hundred.¹⁷

Eight months later, at the November court, 1745, when the taxables in the county numbered 6,210, Rock Creek Hundred was divided, "To begin at Samuel Bealls Mill So with the Road to M^r George Scotts Quarter Exclusive of said Quarter then Down the Said Scotts Spring Branch to Rock creek." This new hundred was called Middle Hundred.¹⁸

At this same session of the court, King George's Hundred was divided at the Piscataway-Port Tobacco Road from Mattawoman Creek to Piscataway Creek. The upper part retained the name of King George's Hundred, while the lower part was called Pamunkey Hundred. At the next court session a slight change was made in the dividing line, so that this boundary was designated as the Piscataway-Port Tobacco Road from Mattawoman Creek to the Old In-

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Lib. CC, f. 399-400; *Arch. Md.*, XXXVI, 598; PGC. Levy Books, Lib. A, f. 399.

¹⁶ PGC. Ct. Rec., Lib. CC, f. 599, 600.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Lib. DD, f. 8.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 282; Levy Books, Lib. A, f. 457.

dian Fork Branch and then up this branch to Piscataway Creek.¹⁹

With this division, the hundreds in Prince George's County had reached their greatest number, and represented an increase from the original six in 1696 to 23 in 1745. (Fig. 2)

By 1748 the number of taxables in the county had reached 6,624, over ten times the number there had been when the county was erected, and the General Assembly of the province deemed it time to divide the county. At its May-June session two acts were passed which affected Prince George's County. One was entitled "An Act for taking off Part of Prince George's County, and Adding it to Charles County," and the other "An Act to divide Prince George's County, and to erect a new one by the Name of Frederick County." The first act stated that from December 10, 1748, the land bounded "by a Line drawn from Mattawoman Run in the Road commonly called the Rolling Road, that leads from the late Dwelling Plantation of Mr. Edward Neale through the lower Part of Mr. Peter Dent's Dwelling Plantation, until it strikes Potomack River, at or near the bounded Tree of a Tract of Land whereon John Beall Junior now lives (standing on the Bank of the aforesaid River at the lower End of the aforesaid Beall's Plantation) then with the River to the Mouth of Mattawoman Creek," should become part of Charles County. The second act stated that, from the same date, December 10, 1748, the new Frederick County was to be erected, with the dividing line "Beginning at the lower Side of the Mouth of Rock Creek, and thence by a strait Line joining at the East Side of Seth Hyat's Plantation to Patuxent River."²⁰

Except for the land to be given later to the Federal Government for the District of Columbia, Prince George's County was now reduced to its present size, with a consequent reduction in the number of hundreds. Anticipating the loss of the southwest corner to Charles County, Pamunkey Hundred had been taken into King George's Hundred in November;²¹ Frederick County encompassed the upper ten hundreds; so that on December 10, 1748, Prince George's County was left with 12 hundreds. (Fig. 3)

Even though it had lost its frontier land which was enticing to new settlers, the population of Prince George's County continued to grow, so that it was necessary from time to time to reduce the area of the existing hundreds and continue to create new ones.

¹⁹ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. DD, f. 282, 407.

²⁰ PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. A, f. 550; *Arch. Md.*, XLVI, 140-2, 142-4.

²¹ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. KK, f. 34.



FIG. 2—Hundreds of Prince George's County from 1745 to 1748.

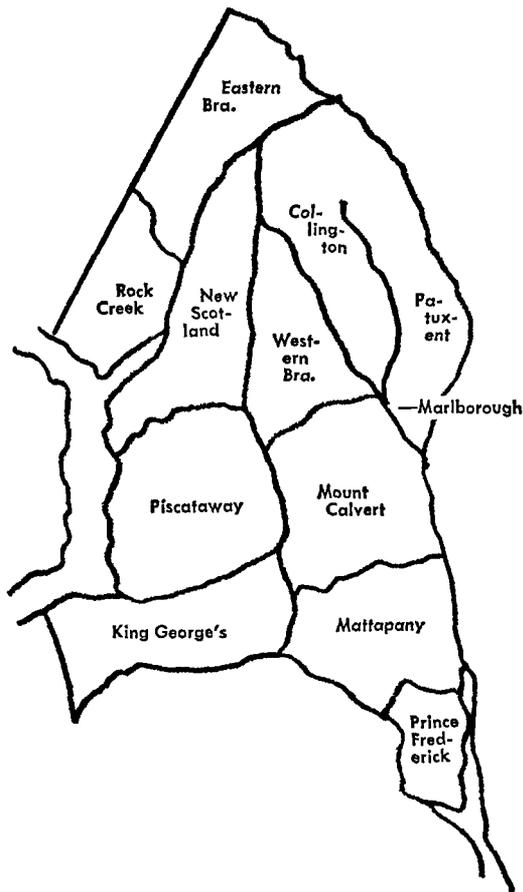


FIG. 3—Hundreds of Prince George's County on Dec. 10, 1748.

In 1761 the town of Bladensburgh was designated a hundred.²² And beginning in 1763 Marlborough Hundred was known as Upper Marlborough Hundred.²³

By 1768 the number of taxables in the county had increased from 3,902, the number left in Prince George's County in 1749 after the

²² PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. B, f. 16.

²³ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. VV, f. 1.

division of the county, to 5,569, and two new hundreds were created. Horsepen Hundred was formed from the upper parts of Collington and Patuxent Hundreds, the dividing line being the main road from the Governor's bridge to Bladensburgh as far as the Muddy Hole bridge. Mount Calvert Hundred was divided at Charles Branch; the upper part was called Charlotte Hundred, while the lower part retained the name of Mount Calvert Hundred.²⁴

In 1772 the town of Nottingham was designated a hundred.²⁵

By 1773 the number of taxables in the county had increased to 6,108. In that year Piscataway Hundred was divided, the part on the north side of the road leading from Broad Creek Church to Benjamin Moore's plantation being known as Hynson Hundred, the part south of the road retaining the name of Piscataway Hundred.²⁶

Two years later, in November, 1775, when the number of taxables in the county had increased to 6,290, New Scotland Hundred was divided, the dividing line running from the Eastern Branch to Beaver Dam Branch, then to the mouth of Cabin Branch and with that branch to the main road leading to Upper Marlborough through Benjamin Berry's plantation as far as the end of the parish. The upper part retained the name of New Scotland Hundred, while the lower part was called Oxon Hundred.²⁷

In November, 1776, even though the number of taxables in the county had dropped to 6,233, a new hundred was created. Mount Calvert Hundred was divided starting from the mouth of the Southwest Branch of Charles Branch near Mrs. Clagett's and running up the branch so as to include Colonel Joseph Sims and Matthew Eversfield's plantation in Mount Calvert Hundred and continuing so as to strike Mattapany Branch at the lower part of Captain Leonard Brooke's plantation. The eastern part retained the name of Mount Calvert Hundred while the western part was called Grubb Hundred.²⁸

Maryland's Declaration of Rights and Constitution of 1776, which brought about a shift from provincial to state government, also brought changes which eventually eliminated the hundreds. These changes were made step by step, so that at first no difference

²⁴ *Ibid.*, Lib. AA No. 1, f. 106; PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. A, f. 565; Lib. B, f. 141.

²⁵ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. CC No. 1, f. 312.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, Lib. DD No. 1, f. 119; PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. B, f. 221.

²⁷ PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. B, f. 246; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. EE No. 1, f. 432.

²⁸ PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. B, f. 256; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. EE No. 1, f. 605.

was felt; constables and overseers of the highways were appointed each year as usual by the county court. But from time to time laws were passed which gradually curtailed the functions of the hundreds. We can follow the number of taxables in the county no longer, as beginning in 1777 tax assessments were made on the value of the real and personal property of the head of a house, rather than on the number of his taxables.²⁹

At the November court, 1777, Mattapany Hundred was divided into two parts; the upper part retained the name of Mattapany Hundred and the lower part was called Washington Hundred. The dividing line began at the mouth of Spicers Creek and followed the creek and branch to its head near William Sasscer's plantation, then ran to the main road, leaving Sasscer's plantation in Mattapany Hundred, and followed the main road which led from St. Paul's Church to Mattawoman Branch, and on to King George's Hundred.³⁰ (Fig. 4)

In 1782 the General Assembly of the state directed that five commissioners of the tax be appointed in each county, and in 1785 these commissioners of the tax were instructed to divide the county into from two to ten districts, with either two large or three small hundreds in each district. The assessment lists of 1793-94 for personal property, and of 1796 for real and personal property, the earliest available subsequent to this law, show that Prince George's County was divided into eight districts, with the hundreds combined as follows: Upper Marlborough, Charlotte and Mount Calvert; Mattapany, Washington and Prince Frederick, with lots in Nottingham also included; King George and Grubb; Piscataway and Hynson; New Scotland, Oxon and Bladensburgh; Horsepen and Patuxent; Rock Creek and Eastern Branch; Collington and Western Branch.³¹

In 1791 the states of Maryland and Virginia gave the territory comprising the District of Columbia to the Congress of the United States, Maryland ceding its portion by an Act of the General Assembly on December 19, 1791. While some of this 10-mile square area came from Virginia, and some from Montgomery County, Prince George's County furnished the largest segment. However Congress decreed that, until it should take up residence in Washington, Maryland law should prevail in the territory ceded by Maryland. Consequently for the next nine years Prince George's County continued

²⁹ PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. B, f. 272.

³⁰ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. EE No. 2, f. 38-9.

³¹ Assessment Lists, Prince George's County, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

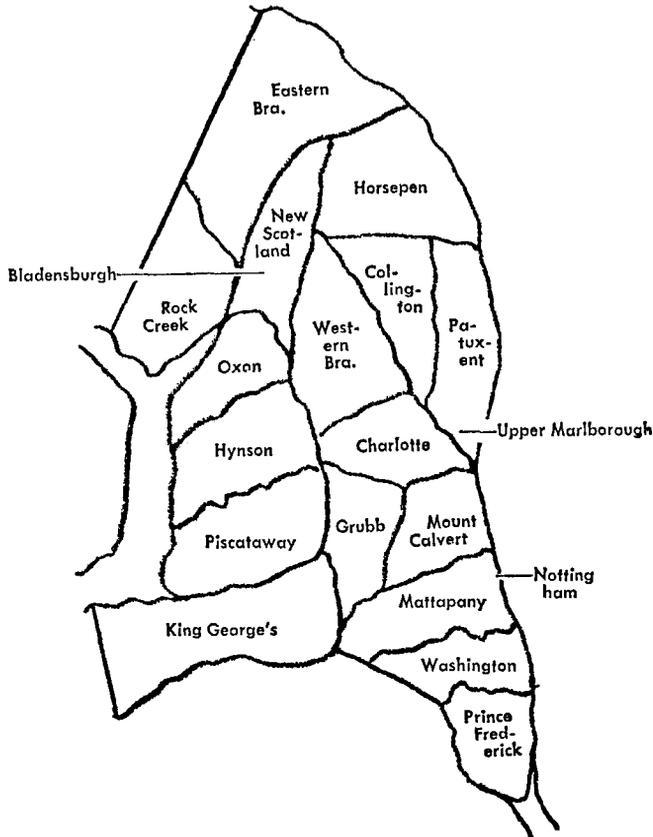


FIG. 4—Hundreds of Prince George's County from 1777 to 1796.

to exercise authority over the portion of the District formerly included within its bounds.³²

In 1794 a law was passed in the State of Maryland relating to public roads. This law gave the justices of the levy court authority to appoint supervisors of the public roads, no longer called over-

³² Kilty's Laws of Maryland, 1791, Chap. 45; *United States Statutes at Large*, First Congress, Sess. II, Ch. XXVIII, Sec. 1, 1790; Sixth Congress, Sess. II, Ch. XV, Sec. 2, 1801. Also cited in Constance McLaughlin Green, *Washington Village and Capital 1800-1878*, Princeton University Press, 1962, pp. 12, 26-7.

seers of the highways, in such divisions or districts as should be designated. At the meeting of the levy court of Prince George's County on April 21, 1795, the county was laid off into 17 numbered districts, and supervisors of the public roads were appointed for these new districts. Nottingham and Mattapany Hundreds formed the First District, Mount Calvert became the Second District, Prince Frederick Hundred the Third District, King George Hundred the Fourth District, Piscataway Hundred the Fifth District, Charlotte and Upper Marlborough Hundreds together formed the Sixth District, Oxon Hundred became the Seventh District, Hynson Hundred the Eighth District, Western Branch Hundred the Ninth District, Collington Hundred the Tenth District, Horsepen Hundred the Eleventh District, New Scotland and Bladensburgh Hundreds were combined to form the Twelfth District, Rock Creek Hundred became the Thirteenth District, Eastern Branch Hundred became the Fourteenth District, Patuxent Hundred the Fifteenth District, Washington Hundred the Sixteenth District, and Grubb Hundred the Seventeenth District.³³

The following year, on May 3, 1796, the levy court of Prince George's County did two surprising things. It created a new hundred within the District of Columbia, called Columbia Hundred, which included the area between Tiber or Goose Creek, the Bladensburgh-Washington Road, and the Eastern Branch, so that there were now 21 hundreds in the county. (Fig. 5) And it reverted to the practice of appointing supervisors of roads to the hundreds or parts of hundreds, disregarding entirely the numbered districts established the year before.³⁴

Two years later, in 1798, a state law was passed, confirmed and enlarged upon in 1799, whereby the counties were to be laid off in election districts the following year. In April, 1800, the boundaries of the five election districts in Prince George's County were reported by the commissioners.³⁵ This was the new unit destined to supplant the hundred. The question which comes to mind is: why did the state find it necessary to create this new geographical division within the counties? It is true that there were too many hundreds in the counties for voting purposes, but the hundreds could have been combined for this purpose just as they were combined several years

³³ Kilty's *Laws of Maryland*, 1794, Chap. 52; Prince George's County Levy Court Records, Liber 1795-1818, folio 2, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

³⁴ PGCo. Levy Ct. Rec., Lib. 1795-1818, f. 31.

³⁵ Kilty's *Laws of Maryland* 1798, Ch. 115; 1799, Ch. 48, 50; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. J.R.M. No. 8, 208-11.

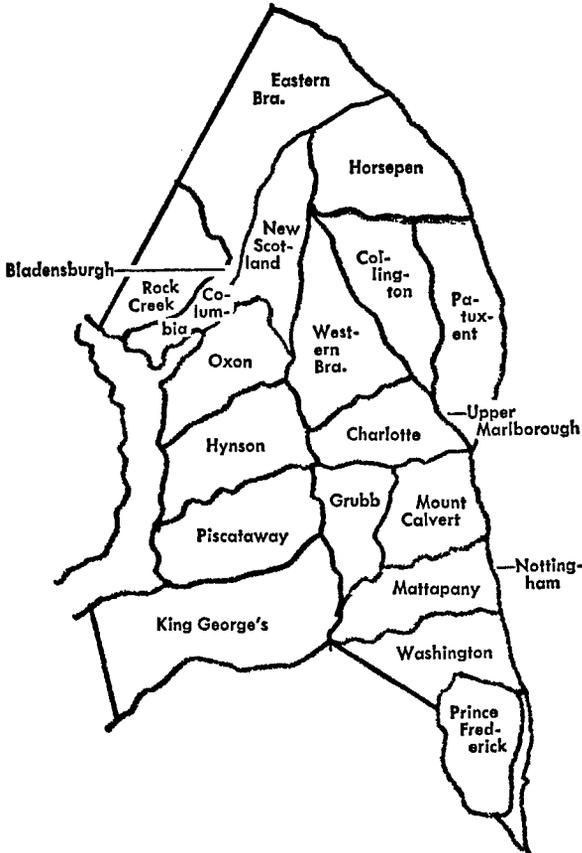


FIG. 5—Hundreds of Prince George's County from 1796 to 1800.

earlier for tax assessment purposes. No doubt the term *hundred* had a feudal connotation which was displeasing to the citizens of Maryland, whereas *election district* was considered a satisfactory term to express their spirit of independence.

In 1800 Congress took over the District of Columbia, and Prince George's County was reduced to its present size. (Fig. 6) The assessment lists after 1800 no longer included the area now in the District of Columbia, and the levy court no longer appointed a constable for Columbia Hundred.

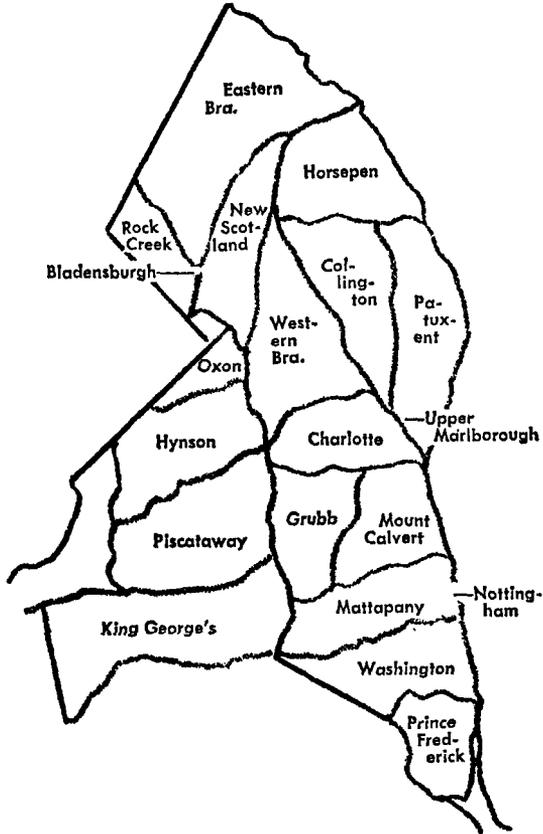


FIG. 6—Hundreds of Prince George's County from 1800 to 1848.

To continue the story of the hundreds to its end, in 1812 a state law was passed whereby one or more tax assessors were to be appointed in each election district.³⁶ However Prince George's County resisted this change. The assessment lists show that the tax assessors went on assessing by hundreds, using the districts formed by the combination of hundreds set up in 1785.

In December, 1824, a state law was passed which directed the

³⁶ Laws of Maryland, 1812, Chap. 191, Sec. 5.

justices of the levy courts in the several counties of the state to appoint constables for the election districts instead of for the hundreds, since "the boundaries of hundreds throughout this state, by vacating old roads, opening new ones, and other causes are, in a great measure obliterated and forgotten." There is a gap in the records of the Levy Court of Prince George's County between 1818 and 1837, so that we cannot be sure that Prince George's County made this change in 1825. But by 1837 appointments of constables were made for the election districts.³⁷

An examination of such records as exist indicates that use of the hundreds had now terminated in the other counties of the state, in compliance with the law of 1824. But this was not true in Prince George's County. The tax assessors of this county continued to use the hundreds for assessment lists and the levy court continued to appoint supervisors of the public roads to hundreds.

In 1831 a state law was passed entitled "An Act for the revaluation and reassessment of the Real and Personal Property in Prince George's County." A similar, but more detailed, act was passed again in 1832. Prince George's County had to conform. The assessment lists of 1832 were made up for the first time by election districts.³⁸

But for another 16 years the levy court continued to appoint supervisors of the public roads to hundreds or parts of hundreds. However in January, 1847, a state law was passed which altered the road system in Prince George's County. While the act did not mention the appointment of supervisors, it no doubt brought about a review of all phases of administration of the county road system, as in May, 1848, the supervisors of the roads were appointed at last to election districts.³⁹ Fifty years after the law was passed which established the election districts, Prince George's County put them into full operation.

This change marked the final passing of the hundreds in Prince George's County. This ancient unit, which had satisfactorily filled a need during colonial days and the transition period, had given way in Maryland to a modern unit with a name which acceptably expressed the feeling of citizenship in the young Republic.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 1824, Chap. 140; PGCo. Levy Court Rec., Lib. 1837-1853, f. 24.

³⁸ *Laws of Maryland*, 1831, Chap. 280; 1832, Chap. 257.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 1846, Chap. 30; PGCo. Levy Court Rec., Lib. 1837-1853, f. 378-80.

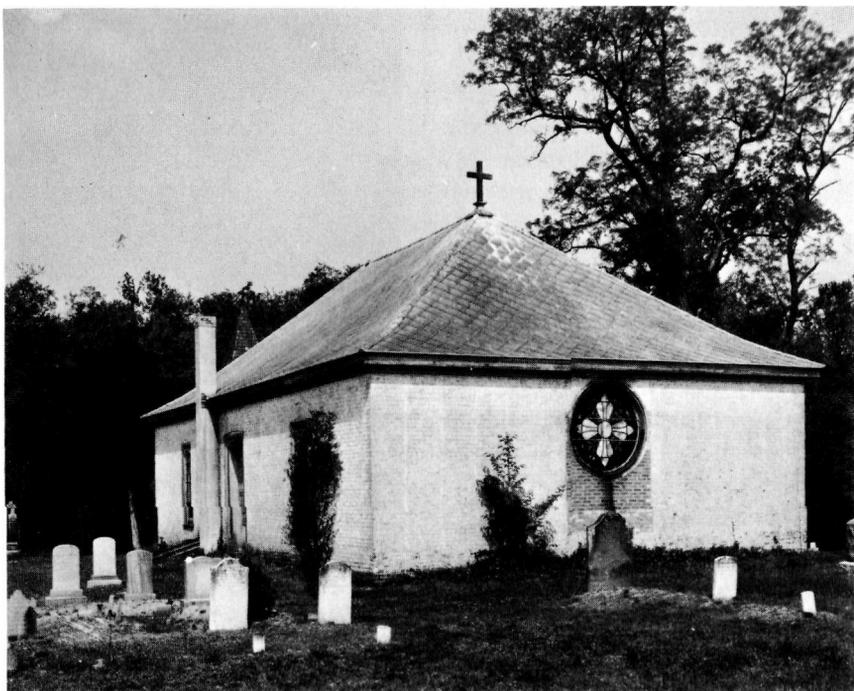
Chapter 5

The Established Church in Prince George's County

Four years before Prince George's became a county the Church of England was established in the Province of Maryland by an act entitled "An Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion within this Province," passed at the May-June session, 1692, of the General Assembly. This act specified that each county was to be divided into parishes by its justices and principal freeholders. The freeholders of each parish were then to meet and select six of their most able men as a vestry for the parish. The vestrymen were to meet as often as needed, with a clerk in attendance to keep a record of all transactions, and they were to take charge of all funds and property belonging to the parish. The first duty of the vestry was to build a church or chapel, except in those parishes where a church or chapel had already been built. A tax or assessment of 40 pounds of tobacco was to be levied each year on every taxable person within the parish, to be collected by the sheriff in the same manner as the county levy, and turned over to the vestry. This tax was to be applied for the benefit of the minister of the parish if one had been inducted, if not it was to be used to make necessary repairs to the church or chapel. If any vestryman should die or move out of the parish, the remaining vestrymen were to choose replacements from the freeholders living in the parish.¹

During the next ten years additional acts were passed, to remedy defects or omissions in this act. The minister of a parish, who was to be appointed or inducted by the governor of the province, was to be added to the vestry as the principal vestryman. He was to keep a clerk and pay him 1000 pounds of tobacco yearly. If a parish had no minister, the vestry was to provide a reader and pay him a sum not to exceed one-half of the 40 per poll. The freeholders of a parish

¹ *Arch. Md.*, XIII, 425-30.

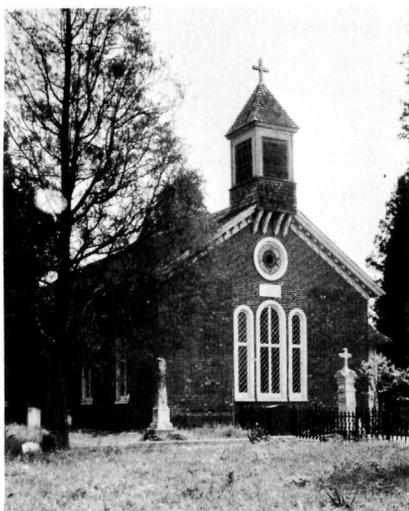


Courtesy Library of Congress

St. John's Church at Broad Creek
Parish Church of Piscataway or King George's Parish,
built in 1723, rebuilt in 1766

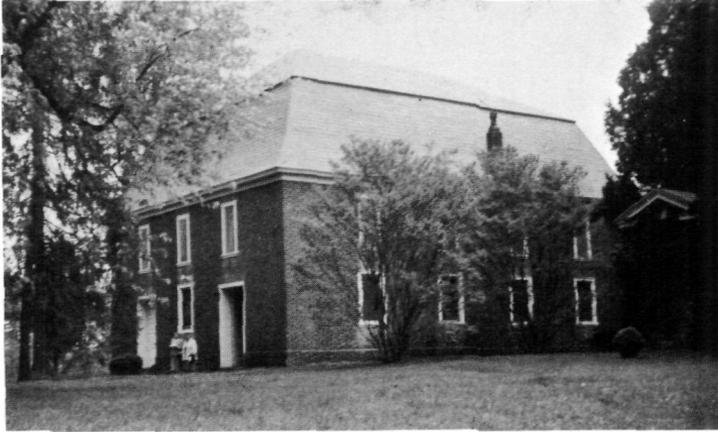


Upper Chapel of King George's Parish,
known as Addison Chapel



Courtesy Library of Congress

Lower Chapel of King George's Parish,
now Christ Church, Accokeek



St. Barnabas Church at Leeland
Parish Church of Queen Anne's Parish, built in 1773
to replace one built in 1710

The Last Supper
Painted for Queen Anne's Parish in 1722
and used as altar-piece in first brick church

Gustavus Hesselius

Courtesy Philadelphia Museum of Art



were to meet on Easter Monday of each year to elect two new vestrymen in place of two others to be left out (in 1728 changed to the two who had served longest), and were to choose two sober and discreet freeholders to be church wardens for a year. The vestry was to procure and set up in the church a Table of Marriages. It was to appoint a register to keep a record of the vestry proceedings and of births, baptisms, marriages, and burials. The vestry and church wardens were required to take care of parochial charges and necessary repairs, and could petition the county justices to levy not more than ten pounds of tobacco per poll in any one year, to be collected by the sheriff, who was to deduct not more than 5 percent for collecting it. Vestries could buy or accept gifts of land or, if need be, could appropriate two acres of land for a church or chapel by petitioning the justices of the county court to have a jury impaneled to view and value the land. The parochial library was to remain in the hands of a minister during his residence, to be taken in charge by the vestry in case of his death or removal. The vestrymen, church wardens, and register were to take the oaths appointed by Act of Parliament. Vestry meetings were to be held at 11:00 A.M. on the first Tuesday of every month. All vestrymen, except the minister, were to be subject to a fine not exceeding 100 pounds of tobacco for nonattendance at meetings.²

"An Act for punishing of the Offences of Adultery and fornication" required that the minister, vestry, or church wardens should question and admonish a couple within their parish suspected of living together incontinently, before being judged by the county court. Scattered through all of the parish records of Prince George's County are cases in which couples were called in and admonished.³

"An Act for the Punishment of Blasphemy prophane Curseing and Swearing and Drunkenness" was to be read four times a year in all parish churches and public chapels by the rector, vicar, curate, or reader, on some Sunday in March, June, September and December, with a penalty of 1000 pounds of tobacco attached for each omission.⁴

From time to time duties were assigned to the vestries by the General Assembly which to us, who are accustomed to a complete separation of church and state, seem improper for administration by

² *Ibid.*, XIX, 426-30, 589-91; XXII, 468-9, 517-8; XXIV, 91-8, 265-73; XXXVIII, 1-2, 37-41, 93, 116.

³ *Ibid.*, XXVI, 341-2; XXX, 233-5; XXXVIII, 152-4.

⁴ *Ibid.*, XXII, 523-5; XXVI, 321-2; XXX, 243-8.

a religious body. At the October–November, 1728, session of the General Assembly “An Act for Improving the Staple of Tobacco” was passed, which limited the number of tobacco plants which could be tended, and required the vestries to lay out their parishes into precincts, and to appoint two persons in each precinct to be tobacco counters. The Lord Proprietary dissented to this Act, but in May–June, 1730, another act was passed, which became a law in effect for two years. This act also required the vestries to lay out their parishes into precincts and to appoint one person in each precinct as a counter.⁵

Beginning in 1748, the vestries again became involved in the tobacco business, when by an act passed at the May–July, 1747, session of the General Assembly, and continuing acts, they were directed to nominate and recommend to the governor four able and sufficient planters well-skilled in tobacco, out of which list he would choose two men for inspectors at the tobacco warehouses. In Prince George's County these warehouses were at Bladensburgh, Broad Creek, Piscataway, Queen Anne Town, Upper Marlborough, Nottingham, and Hannah Brown's (later called Magruder's) Landing. By these acts the amount levied for clergymen was reduced from 40 to 30 pounds of tobacco per poll, as the tobacco would be of much better quality.⁶

In the Supply Act of 1756, by which funds were raised for His Majesty's Service during the French and Indian War, the rector, vestrymen and church wardens of each parish were directed to meet on the second Tuesday in July to make a list of all bachelors in the parish whom they deemed to be 25 years of age or over and possessing in their own right an estate of 100 pounds current money and upwards. One copy of the lists was to be turned over to the collector of excise in the county, who was to collect 5 shillings current money from every bachelor whose estate was 100 to 300 pounds, and 20 shillings current money from those whose estates were 300 pounds and over.⁷

With the approach of the Revolution, the flowering spirit of patriotism and growing agitation for independence caused a break between the patriots and the clergy, most of whom were loyalists. In the latter part of 1775, seven incumbents in Maryland left for

⁵ *Ibid.*, XXXVI, 266-275; XXXVII, 138-151.

⁶ *Ibid.*, XLIV, 595-638; XLVI, 157-163; L, 303-366; LVI, 128-9; LVIII, 433-497; LXI, 222; LXIV, 151-192.

⁷ *Ibid.*, LII, 480-521.

England, and most of the remaining clergymen refused to take the Oath of Fidelity. The clamor for freedom from oppression in government was extended to cover freedom in religious worship, culminating in Article 33 of the Declaration of Rights adopted November 3, 1776, by the Maryland Convention, which stated that ". . . no person ought by any law to be molested in his person or estate on account of his religious persuasion . . . nor ought any person to be compelled to frequent or maintain or contribute, unless on contract, to maintain any particular place of worship, or any particular ministry. . . ." The adoption of this article brought an end to the Established Church in Maryland.⁸

In accordance with the Act of 1692, the ten counties of the province were laid out into 30 parishes. Our concern is with two of these 30 original parishes, St. Paul's Parish in Calvert County and Piscataway Parish in Charles County, and their offshoots, as together these two parishes formed the area comprising Prince George's County. The affairs of these parishes were representative of the times, and are a sampling of the problems that faced all of the parishes in the province.

St. Paul's Parish in Calvert County extended along the west side of the Patuxent River "from the Upper Part of Mount Calvert Hundred to the main Branch of Swansons Creek." The first vestrymen chosen were Thomas Brooke, Thomas Greenfield, Thomas Hollyday, Richard Charlett, William Barton, and Samuel Magruder, all prominent men of the parish. Thomas Brooke was a member of the Council, Thomas Greenfield, Thomas Hollyday, William Barton, and Samuel Magruder all became officials of Prince George's County, while Richard Charlett, a merchant at Charles Town, died before the new county was erected.⁹

At the time of Establishment several of the parishes contained churches which had already been built, and this parish was one of that number, with St. Paul's Church already built at Charles Town. Unfortunately, the earliest record of vestry proceedings has not survived, but provincial and county records give us some information.

In June, 1693, the vestry, thinking that the lower part of the parish was too remote from the church at Charles Town to receive

⁸ Nelson Waite Rightmyer, *Maryland's Established Church*, Baltimore, 1956, p. 113.

⁹ *Arch. Md.*, VIII, 473-4.

much benefit from services there, instructed the minister to hold services every third Sabbath at Richard Brightwell's house, and asked Captain Brightwell for some land near his plantation on which to build a chapel, and timber with which to build it. Captain Brightwell, who lived at "Poplar Hill," responded to this request by donating two or three acres of land with timber thereon for a chapel. The parish also had a small library, as it received one of the six sets of books sent to the parishes of Maryland in March 1694/5 by the Bishop of London.¹⁰

The *Synodalia*, compiled by Reverend Dr. Ethan Allen, for many years historiographer of the Diocese of Maryland, gives us the information that Reverend John Turling was the minister of St. Paul's Parish in 1693. The vestry minutes of All Faith's Parish, St. Mary's County (Calvert County 1692-1696), disclose the fact that in September, 1694, the Reverend Thomas Davis was appointed by Governor Nicholson to the two livings of St. Paul's and All Faith's Parishes, to preach at each church every other Sunday. Mr. Davis left All Faith's Parish at the end of a year, and no doubt terminated his stay in St. Paul's Parish at the same time. The *Synodalia* lists Reverend Hugh Jones as the minister of the parish in 1696. On April 23, 1696, when St. Paul's Parish was detached from Calvert County and became a part of the new Prince George's County, it was a sizable parish with 514 taxables.¹¹

St. Paul's Church at Charles Town, the county seat of the new Prince George's County, was used from April 23, 1696, to June 28, 1698, as a meeting place for the court, until the courthouse could be built. In the county records of 1696 there is a reference to the old church and one to the new church, so perhaps a new church building was erected at this time. The vestry took advantage of the Act passed in June, 1697, confirming titles of land given to the use of churches and, at the September court, 1697, presented a petition signed by Edward Willett, clerk of the vestry, asking that the court look into its title to the church land and do whatever was necessary to clear it. At the next court, held in November, 1697, the county surveyor, Thomas Addison, returned a certificate of survey for two acres of land for the church, lying next to the land for the court-

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, XX, 212; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. A, f. 63.

¹¹ *Synodalia, or Records of Clergy Meetings in Maryland between 1695-1773*, comp. by Rev. Dr. Ethan Allen, p. 3, Lib. of Cong., MS Div.; All Faith's Parish, St. Mary's Co., Vestry Minutes Book A, 1692-1720, p. 4-6, 23, 31, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md., also cited in Rev. Ethan Allen, D.D., *Historical Notes of St. Paul's Parish, Prince George's County*, Lib. of Cong. MS Div.; Arch. Md., XXIII, 92.

house, and the jury returned a verdict that they found the title vested in Captain Thomas Emms and Mr. David Small as leased land from Mr. William Groome, and allowed them 900 pounds of tobacco for each acre.¹²

The Fulham Palace papers indicate that Monsieur Moreau was the minister of St. Paul's Parish in 1698; but by 1700, Reverend Robert Owen was rector of the parish and attended the meeting of the clergy at Annapolis in May of that year for the visitation of the Reverend Dr. Thomas Bray, the Bishop of London's commissary for Maryland. This parish received one of the parcels of books and tracts, 457 items in all, sent to the parishes by Dr. Bray. After the Act was passed by the General Assembly in May, 1704, which required the taking of the oath of abjuration, Mr. Owen, the only Anglican clergyman living in Prince George's County at that time, presented himself to the county court and took the oath of abjuration and the other oaths appointed by Act of Parliament. In August, 1704, the vestry purchased 120 acres of "Brookefield," from Thomas Brooke, Esquire, as a glebe for Mr. Owen and his successors.¹³

In December, 1704, the General Assembly passed "An Act for the Division of Saint Pauls Parish in Prince Georges County." As early as November, 1700, there is mention in the county records of a Chapel of Ease in Collington Hundred. In March, 1701/2, the inhabitants of St. Paul's Parish petitioned the General Assembly for a division of the parish; but this petition was rejected on the grounds that there were not enough taxables in the parish to support two ministers, the number of taxables at that time being only 865. But the population of the parish continued to grow. By November, 1704, the number of taxables in the parish had reached 996, and the General Assembly granted a second petition to divide the parish. The Act of December, 1704, which created Queen Anne's Parish out of the northern part of St. Paul's, specified the dividing line to be the Western Branch of the Patuxent River to Cabin Branch, then up Cabin Branch to its head. This now became the northern boundary of St. Paul's Parish. The ridge between the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers was also specified as the west boundary of both parishes, clarifying the boundary line between them and Piscataway Parish.¹⁴

¹² PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. A, f. 8; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 57, 227, 254-5.

¹³ Fulham Palace MSS, 1696-1769, No. 127, Lib. of Cong., MS Div.; *Synodalia*, p. 15; Rev. Dr. Thomas Bray's MS in the Sion College Library, Transcript, p. 310, Lib. of Cong., MS Div.; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 299a; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. C, f. 119a.

¹⁴ *Arch. Md.*, XXVI, 432-3; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 81.

Reverend Robert Owen continued as rector of St. Paul's Parish until his death in 1714. Joshua Cecell, Henry Boteler, Frederick Claudius, John Bradford, vestrymen, Gabriel Burnam, senior warden, and John Warren, clerk, were among the men who served as parish officers during Mr. Owen's tenure, as shown in a petition for a levy to pay parochial charges, presented to the November, 1707, court.¹⁵

After the death of Mr. Owen, Reverend Jacob Henderson was inducted as minister of St. Paul's Parish. He had come from Ireland in 1711, had served for two years as a missionary in Pennsylvania (later Delaware), and one year as rector of Saint Anne's Parish in Annapolis. On February 16, 1716/17, Reverend Mr. Henderson was appointed by the Bishop of London as his commissary for the Western Shore of Maryland, making him the ranking clergyman on the Western Shore. At the first visitation of the parishes and clergymen of the Western Shore, which he conducted at Annapolis, December 4, 1717, William Head and John Deakins appeared as church wardens from St. Paul's Parish. In March, 1717/18, Mr. Henderson resigned the living of St. Paul's Parish to become incumbent of Queen Anne's Parish.¹⁶

In 1720, sometime before the meeting of the clergy on June 28th, as noted in the *Synodalia*, the Reverend Giles Rainsford received his induction to St. Paul's parish. He had come from England, and had spent two years in North Carolina and six years in Virginia. Mr. Rainsford conducted services at the church at Charles Town two Sundays and at the chapel at Poplar Hill the third Sunday. He purchased for his home two adjoining tracts "The Gore" and "Double Gore" on the north side of Mattapany Creek about two miles north of the glebe, and remained as rector of St. Paul's Parish for eight years. Weldon Jefferson was clerk of the vestry during this time.¹⁷

In 1728, desiring to return to England, Mr. Rainsford resigned his living and Reverend John Eversfield was inducted by Governor Benedict Leonard Calvert, May 22, 1728, as rector of St. Paul's Parish. Mr. Rainsford sold Mr. Eversfield his real estate, his personal effects, and the tobacco that was due him as rector of the parish, an amicable arrangement for both Mr. Eversfield and Mr. Rainsford. However, Commissary Jacob Henderson, rector of the neighboring

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Lib. C, f. 169.

¹⁶ *Synodalia*, p. 61, 68.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 87-8; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. I, f. 334-6.

Queen Anne's Parish, had been aware of the Reverend Mr. Rainsford's impending departure and had his eye on this living for a friend of his. When he heard of Mr. Eversfield's induction and purchase of Mr. Rainsford's possessions, he accused both clergymen of simony, taking his accusation to both the Governor of the province and the Bishop of London. The two accused clergymen cleared themselves with the governor by taking an oath, and Mr. Eversfield sent a letter of explanation to the Bishop of London, so that nothing more came of this unpleasantness. Mr. Eversfield was kindly received by the vestry of St. Paul's Parish, gained the good will of the parishioners, and served the parish faithfully until November 3, 1776. In 1730 he was married to one of the parishioners, Miss Eleanor Clagett, and they made their home on the estate purchased from Mr. Rainsford. Mr. Eversfield had this land resurveyed, together with an adjoining vacancy, and the whole reduced to one tract called "Eversfield's Map of Italy."¹⁸

Soon after Mr. Eversfield became rector, the parishioners began to talk of building a new church and chapel. A petition presented to the General Assembly in June, 1730, and a second one presented in August, 1731, were both rejected; but at the July-August, 1732, session, "An Act for the Assessment of so much Tobacco on the inhabitants of St. Paul's Parish in Prince-Georges County, as will build them a new *Parish Church and Chapel of Ease*" was passed. In this Act it was stated that the parish church and chapel of ease were so out of repair that it was necessary to build new ones, and the county justices were authorized to levy yearly on the taxable inhabitants of this parish a quantity of tobacco not to exceed 20,000 pounds yearly, until there should be a sufficient quantity to build a church and chapel of ease in such part of the parish as was thought to be most convenient by the majority of the parishioners. Accordingly, 20,000 pounds of tobacco were levied yearly on the taxable inhabitants of St. Paul's Parish beginning in November, 1732, and continuing through November, 1745, with a final levy of 12,000 pounds of tobacco in November, 1746.¹⁹

The earliest book of vestry minutes of this parish to survive

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Lib. M, f. 274, 276; Lib. T, f. 181, 234; William Stevens Perry, D.D., L.L.D., *Papers Relating to the History of the Church in Maryland AD 1694-1775*. Privately Printed 1878, p. 261-2; Effie Gwynn Bowie, *Across the Years in Prince George's County*, Richmond, 1947, p. 131.

¹⁹ *Arch. Md.*, XXXVI, 20, 271, 559; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. S, f. 110, 486; Lib. V, f. 215, 626; Lib. W, f. 256, 590; Lib. X, f. 187, 509; Lib. Z, f. 102, 485; Lib. AA, f. 224; Lib. CC, f. 132, 593; Lib. DD, f. 279; Lib. FF, f. 169.

begins with the meeting held October 10, 1733. The vestrymen were Colonel Leonard Hollyday, Mr. David Crauford, Mr. Robert Skinner, Mr. James Wilson, Mr. Thomas Gantt, and Mr. Alexander Contee.²⁰

The parish church was built first. The parishioners selected for the site part of a tract called "Golden Race" belonging to Thomas Truman Greenfield, son of Colonel Thomas Greenfield, the first sheriff of the county and one of the first vestrymen of this parish. Before the deal was closed Thomas Truman Greenfield died, leaving this tract to his son, Gerard Truman Greenfield. Since Gerard was a minor and could not execute a deed, the county justices had to grant a warrant to the sheriff to impanel a jury to view and value the two acres of land. The first jury impaneled in June, 1734, could not agree, so that no verdict was returned. The sheriff reported to the March court, 1735, that a second jury had awarded 40 shillings as a fair price for the two acres, and that he had delivered the land to the vestrymen.²¹

Meanwhile, an agreement was entered into between the vestry and Mr. Joshua Doyne, Mr. Philip Key and Mr. Henry Wharton of St. Mary's County, and Mr. William Digges and Mr. Henry Darnall of Prince George's County, for building the church. It was built of good substantial well burnt bricks, 50 feet long, 27 feet wide, with a porch on either side ten feet four inches square, and a gallery across the west end. The foundation was three feet deep and three bricks thick, the walls measured 17 feet from the sill to the plate and were 18 inches or two bricks thick, the gable ends continued the same thickness to the top of the ceiling, then were 14 inches or one and a half bricks thick to the ridge; the walls of the porches were also 14 inches thick. After the church was finished, Mr. Doyne was employed to build pews, which were paid for by the parishioners at the rate of three pounds current money per pew. Selection of the pews was by lot, the vestrymen and church wardens having first choice. Although somewhat altered by later enlargements, this church is still standing and in use, known throughout the county as St. Paul's church at Baden.²²

A frame vestry room 16 feet square, with a brick chimney in one

²⁰ Proceedings of Vestry of St. Paul's Parish, Prince Geo. Co., 1733-1819, f. 75, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 79-81; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. S, f. 609; Lib. V, f. 67-8, 202-3, 319-20; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. NN, f. 210; Wills, Lib. 20, f. 892-900.

²² SPP Ves. Min., 75-8, 83-5.

corner, was also built in 1733, and furnished with a dozen country made chairs. After the church was finished, attention was given to the yard. Two upping blocks were built, and a space about the church 120 by 130 feet was cleared, graded, and fenced in. Board walks were laid from the doors of the church to gates on the south and west sides and also to the vestry house which was in the southwest corner of the church yard.²³

Although the church building was finished in 1735, it wasn't until May, 1742, that the vestry advertised letting the contract for building the chapel of ease. In the meantime, the church at Mount Calvert, or Charles Town, continued in use as a chapel until the new chapel was built and occupied. The vestry minutes disclose the information that the church lock at Mount Calvert was mended in 1736, an upping block erected in 1739, and an account allowed for wine for communion there as late as 1745. No doubt the old chapel at Poplar Hill had been abandoned upon completion of the new church, which now served the lower part of the parish.²⁴

On October 27, 1742, an agreement was entered into with Mr. Daniel Page to build a chapel of ease of good substantial well burnt bricks, of the same dimensions as the church, and similar to it in other respects. The parishioners selected for the location a two-acre lot, part of the tract "Cuckold's Rest," belonging to Daniel Page, and known as Gough's old field. Since Mr. Page's right to the land was in question, the vestry presented a petition to the county justices to grant a warrant to the sheriff to impanel a jury to view and value the two acres chosen. On June 17, 1743, the sheriff reported that the jury had awarded Mr. Page five pounds ten shillings current money as a fair price for the land, and that he had delivered the two acres to the vestry of the parish.²⁵

The chapel of ease was finished in August, 1745, pews were added by Mr. Page, and were chosen by lot, first by the vestrymen and church wardens in March, and the remainder by the parishioners in April, 1746. For many years it was known as Mr. Eversfield's chapel. It is still standing, occupied by the congregation. A bell tower has been added on the west end, and some other changes have been made, but essentially it is the same building, and is known today as St. Thomas Church at Croom. Mr. Eversfield dearly loved this

²³ *Ibid.*, 79, 95, 98, 100.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 111, 114, 117, 118.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 124, 127-8, 136-8; PGC. Ct. Rec. Lib. AA, f. 363, 587-9.

chapel, which was near his home, and in his will directed that his body should be interred in the chapel under the communion table.²⁶

Beginning in 1748 the vestrymen, after taking the oath prescribed by the Inspection Law, nominated and recommended persons to be inspectors at the tobacco warehouses at Upper Marlborough, Nottingham, and Hannah Brown's (later called Magruder's) Landing. This was done every year through September, 1775, except in 1771 and 1772, when the Inspection Bill failed to pass.²⁷

The vestrymen chosen at the annual meeting of freeholders in the parish, held on Easter Monday of each year, were among the best known and ablest men of the parish, and many of them served more than one three-year term. But in August, 1751, the vestry of St. Paul's Parish made the embarrassing discovery that one of its members, who had been serving for 16 months, was no longer a freeholder. To remedy this illegal situation, the vestry quickly called a meeting of the freeholders of the parish, to meet at the parish church the following month to elect someone to serve as vestryman in his stead.²⁸

In June, 1752, the vestry directed Mr. Samuel Roundell, a merchant and church warden (and later vestryman) of this parish, to order for the church a pulpit cloth with the Glory embroidered in gold, a covering for the communion table, and a cloth for the reading desk, all of crimson velvet lined with leather and trimmed with gold; a down cushion of crimson velvet trimmed with gold fringe and gold tassels; the Ten Commandments; the Belief; the Lord's Prayer; a marble font; a brass hanging sundial for latitude 39° 00', two feet square in size, with the inscription *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*; and two Common Prayer books, one to be for the chapel. When these articles arrived from London two years later, they were set in place to adorn the church. The marble font is still used by the church, and the sundial still hangs on the south wall over the entrance, a unique feature of the church.²⁹

Since the fence at the church was now very much out of repair, and the yard at the chapel had never been railed in, an Act was passed at the October–November, 1753, session of the General Assembly, empowering the justices of Prince George's County to levy

²⁶ SPP Ves. Min., f. 145-6; Wills, PGCo., Box 13, folder 51.

²⁷ SPP Ves. Min., f. 152.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 159.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 163, 168-171, 175.

on the taxable inhabitants of St. Paul's Parish the sum of 100 pounds currency in two equal yearly assessments, to enable the vestry and church wardens to pale in the graveyards at the church and chapel. Accordingly, an agreement was reached to have the work done. The yard at the church was to be 104 feet long and 100 feet wide, and the yard at the chapel to be 100 feet square.³⁰

Beginning in July, 1756, and continuing through July, 1761, (the minutes for July, 1762 and 1763 are missing) the vestry made up a list of the bachelors in the parish, together with the amounts of their property listed at either £100 or £300. There were from 17 to 20 names on these lists, and in most cases the assets of these men were the larger amount. These lists were posted on the church and chapel doors for the parishioners to read. In several instances the young men came in to protest, showing either an inventory of their estate totalling less than £100, or an affidavit that they were under 25 years of age; in such cases they were discharged from paying the fine as bachelors.³¹

There is nothing in the vestry minutes to indicate the approach of a struggle for independence, but one senses that there is some undefined tension. Time after time, from 1765 until 1776, the vestry agreed upon a plan of action, but failed to carry it through. In June, 1765, the vestry directed the register to advertise for someone to undertake the building of a vestry house and to repair the church and chapel yards. A year later, in August, 1766, the vestrymen directed the register to give public notice for someone to undertake building four horse blocks, two at the church and two at the chapel. At the same time he was to give public notice that they intended to petition the General Assembly for £120 for building a vestry room at the church and a small room with a fireplace at the chapel, and also to glaze the church and chapel windows.

The four horse blocks were built, four feet square and three feet high, two at the church and two at the chapel, and were paid for by November. Three years later the church and chapel windows were repaired. But the matter of the vestry room, or rooms, seemed to hang fire. In June, 1767, the vestry directed the register to have a notice inserted in the newspaper. The *Maryland Gazette* for July 16, 1767, and three subsequent issues, carries a notice, signed by Fielder Bowie, register, to the effect that the vestrymen and church wardens of St. Paul's Parish in Prince George's County intended to ap-

³⁰ *Arch. Md.*, L, 299-300; SPP Ves. Min., 173.

³¹ SPP Ves. Min., f. 185.

ply to the next General Assembly for £200 to be levied on the parish, to be applied in building a vestry room at the church, and for such other uses as the vestrymen and wardens thought most to the advantage of the parish. But no such petition appears in the records of the General Assembly.

In 1769, George Gantt and Fielder Bowie were given permission to enclose the porch on the north side of the church and erect two pews for their own use and at their own expense. In 1771, the vestry was again agreeing with a workman to have the church and chapel yards railed in. This time both yards were to be 104 feet square. In 1772, two of the vestrymen, Major Joseph Sim and John Cooke Esquire, met at Reverend Mr. Eversfield's home to take an inventory of the books belonging to the parish library, and return a list to the vestry; but this list does not appear in the vestry minutes.

On February 2, April 12, May 4, and July 16, 1773, the vestrymen were again directing the register to advertise for someone willing to build two vestry houses, one at the church, the other at the chapel, each to be 16 feet square with an inside brick chimney, and underpinned with brick or stone. At the meeting on August 3, 1773, they thought that they had secured a builder, but the agreement and bond do not appear in the minutes. Again, on September 6, 1774, April 17, and June 6, 1775, they were directing the register to advertise such a notice. On August 1, 1775, Jonas Austin agreed to build a frame vestry house at the church, 20 feet long, 16 feet wide, eight feet from top of the plate to the floor, with an inside chimney of brick, and underpinned with a brick wall, for £64.18.00. His bond, with William Truman Greenfield as surety, dated August 10, 1775, appears in the minutes.

The vestry minutes end abruptly in 1776, the last entry being for Easter Monday, April 8, 1776.³²

At the time of the adoption of the Declaration of Rights in November, 1776, Reverend Mr. Eversfield had served the parish for nearly 50 years. He did not take the Oath of Fidelity in 1778, which was required by law, but remained a British citizen, although his two surviving sons, Matthew and Charles, were active patriots. Matthew was a member of Prince George's County's committee of correspondence and Charles was a member of the county's committee of inspection. Reverend Mr. Eversfield was well-to-do. During his tenure of St. Paul's Parish he acquired much land, most of which he deeded to his children during his lifetime. At the time of his death

³² *Ibid.*, f. 212-249.

he was possessed of two holdings, "Eversfield's Map of Italy" and three adjoining tracts, "Eversfield's New Tilgate," "Hackthorne Heath," and "Drury Lane," which together made up the second plantation. This land was confiscated by the State of Maryland as British property, but was purchased by his two sons, who received deeds from the State Chancellor.³³

Piscataway Parish, laid out in Charles County by virtue of the Act of 1692, extended along the Potomac River from Mattawoman Creek to the upper limits of the province, most of it a vast uninhabited area. Unlike St. Paul's Parish, Piscataway Parish had no existing church. The inhabitants met at the home of John Addison, Esquire and elected him foreman of the vestry, with William Hatton, William Hutchison, William Tannehill, John Emett and John Swalwell fellow vestrymen. These men were prominent in the parish. Colonel Addison was a member of the Council and son-in-law of William Wilkinson, the first Anglican clergyman to migrate to the province of Maryland; William Hatton was a justice of the Provincial court; William Hutchison and William Tannehill were justices of the county court, William Hutchison also being a delegate to the Assembly. The vestry purchased a 78-acre tract, "Little Hall," at Broad Creek, from George Athey, for 1800 pounds of tobacco, and directed John Addison and William Hutchison to employ carpenters to build a church.³⁴

In 1696 the number of taxables was only 144, and the parish was still struggling to get started. A church had been built on the land acquired at Broad Creek; but the parish had no minister. James Stoddart, then living at the head of the Eastern Branch, had been appointed vestryman to succeed John Swalwell, deceased. This then was the situation on April 23, 1696, when Piscataway Parish was detached from Charles County and combined with St. Paul's Parish to form Prince George's County.³⁵

³³ *Md. Gazette*, Dec. 1, 1774, Jan. 26, 1775; Sale Book of Confiscated British Property, 1784, p. 50, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. JRM No. 5, f. 185; Lib. JRM No. 6, f. 500, 539.

³⁴ Charles Co. Land Records, Lib. Q, f. 70-1. (The name of this tract has been written both "Little Hall" and "Lisle Hall," correct name is "Little Hall."); Lib. R No. 1, 460; Piscataway Parish and St. Johns Parish now King George's Parish, Prince George's County, Vestry Minutes 1693-1779, 1789, p. 2, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

³⁵ The number of taxables in 1696 is arrived at by subtracting the number of taxables in the four hundreds of St. Paul's Parish, 514, (*Arch. Md.*, XXIII, 92) from the total number in the county, 658 (*Ibid.*, XXV, 255); KGP Ves. Min., 3.

In July, 1696, the vestry called the Reverend George Tubman, rector of several of the parishes in Charles County, to preach until the parish was provided with a minister. Abraham Ford, one of the parishioners, was employed for a few years as his clerk and to read divine service on Sundays and holy days.³⁶

Piscataway Parish grew slowly. The Reverend Mr. Tubman was retained as minister until his death in 1701, after which Reverend Robert Owen, rector of St. Paul's Parish, was hired to preach every other Saturday; and, beginning in 1704, Mr. Hickford Leman, one of the parishioners, was employed by the vestry to read divine service every Sunday. Since the number of taxables in the parish was then only 303, the Governor and Council consented to this arrangement.³⁷

In 1700, a frame vestry house, with one inside and one outside chimney, was built; and in 1706 a new frame church was built, 50 feet long and 24 feet wide, with a gallery across the west end, evidently larger and more substantial than the first building. Pews were erected and sold to the parishioners, and the church yard, 130 feet square, was railed in.³⁸

By 1710 the number of taxables had reached 418, and the Reverend John Fraser was inducted as first rector of the parish by Edward Lloyd, president of the Council and acting governor. Mr. Fraser was born in Scotland, had come to America in 1700, served four years in Virginia and six years as rector of two parishes in Charles County. His wife Anne, the daughter of Giles Blizzard, had inherited the estate "St. James," on Piscataway Creek about four miles south of the church at Broad Creek, and "Blue Plains," the estate on the Potomac River about four miles north of the church, so that the Reverend Mr. Fraser was happy to obtain this living. In 1711, Mr. Fraser began to preach once a month in New Scotland Hundred. He also saw to it that the vestry minutes, which theretofore had been kept on loose papers, were transcribed into a permanent record book.³⁹

By 1722, the number of taxables in Piscataway Parish had reached 1105, and the parishioners felt that they could undertake the erection of a brick church. At the vestry meeting held January 26,

³⁶ KGP Ves. Min., 3, 5-6.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 11-13.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 6, 17-18, 29-30, 39.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 23-5; Perry, *op. cit.*, 205; Wills, Lib. 6, f. 27; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. D, f. 68; Lib. E, f. 155.

1722/23, agreements were reached with John Lane to build the church and porch of brick for 16,000 pounds of tobacco, and with John Radford, carpenter, to support the roof, complete the window frames, door frames, windows, doors, shutters, pulpit, pews and gallery, for 14,000 pounds of tobacco. In 1727, the vestry agreed with Captain John Middleton to supply shingles and nail them on for 7000 pounds of tobacco.⁴⁰

We are faced with an unsolved mystery of how and why the name of this parish was changed. In the vestry minutes from 1693 until 1724, and in one instance as late as April 19, 1731, the parish was regularly called Piscataway Parish. Otherwise from 1724 to 1779 the name of the parish was not mentioned in the headings of the vestry proceedings. By 1724, the inhabitants were calling it King George's Parish, as shown in the petition for a levy for parochial charges signed by Joseph Noble, clerk, presented to the November, 1724, county court. Did the inhabitants of this part of the county think that there were too many place names containing the word Piscataway: Piscataway Creek, Piscataway Hundred, Piscataway Town, and Piscataway Parish? Did they think that, since the parish church was located neither on Piscataway Creek nor in Piscataway Town, the name of the parish should be changed? And did they also think that, since the county contained a parish named for the late Queen Anne, it should also include one named for King George? We do not know the answers to these questions; we can only surmise that they may have been factors contributing to the change. But to add another element of confusion, the General Assembly in 1726 gives it the name of Saint John's Parish, probably from the name of the parish church. Later Acts of the Assembly are not consistent. In 1744 and 1748 the name is given as King George's Parish, in 1763 and 1771 it is given as Saint Johns (commonly called King Georges) Parish, and in 1783 it is given as St. Johns Parish. The second book of vestry minutes, begun in 1784, also gives the name of the parish as St. John's Parish. But the inhabitants continued to call the parish King George's, and we shall do the same. This name was made official by the Diocese of Washington in 1902.⁴¹

In July, 1726, the number of taxables in King George's Parish had reached 1336, and the General Assembly passed an Act dividing

⁴⁰ KGP Ves. Min., 44, 51-2.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 2-47, 57; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. L, f. 384; Maryland Historical Records Survey Project, *Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Washington*, Vol. I, p. 119.

the parish, the Reverend John Fraser giving his consent. The dividing line was from the mouth of the Eastern Branch to the fork, up the Northeast Branch to its head, then continuing the course of the branch by a straight line until it strikes the Patuxent River. This division left 791 taxables in the old parish and gave 545 taxables to the new parish, called Prince George Parish, an appropriate name for an offshoot of King George's Parish.⁴²

King George's Parish was now bounded on the north by the Eastern and Northeast Branches, on the east by the ridge between the Potomac and Patuxent, on the south by Mattawoman Creek, and on the west by the Potomac River.

The vestry minutes skip from July 13, 1728, to May 15, 1730, so we do not know what the vestry did about tobacco counters in 1729. In 1730 and again in 1731 the vestry divided the parish into 12 precincts, and appointed one counter in each precinct.⁴³

In 1733 the vestry ordered for the church's use a handsome crimson or purple cushion and fringed pulpit cloth, and two surplices, "to adorn the church."⁴⁴

In February, 1735, the vestry agreed with Mr. Thomas Middleton, Sr. to build a vestry house 32 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 9 feet in height, with brick chimneys, for 16,000 pounds of tobacco. When the vestry house was finished, Mr. Fraser lodged the sexton in one end of it, to keep the neighbors from encroaching on the glebe land. This occasioned a slight dispute between the minister and vestry. Although the minister had the use of the glebe, the vestry house was not included. The vestry threatened to take the matter to the Governor and Council, but evidently it was settled peaceably as we hear no more about it. In 1739 the church yard was again railed in, and three horse blocks were erected.⁴⁵

Reverend John Fraser died October 1, 1742, after a tenure of over 32 years. Fourteen days later, on October 15th, Reverend Henry Addison received his induction as minister of this parish from Governor Thomas Bladen. Henry Addison was a native of the parish, a grandson of Colonel John Addison at whose home the organizational meeting of the parish had been held. Mr. Addison lived at "Barnaby Manor," part of the family land holdings. After Mr. Addison became the incumbent, steps were taken to designate two

⁴² *Arch. Md.*, XXXVI, 598-9.

⁴³ *KGP Ves. Min.*, 55-6, 57-8.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 60.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 62, 68-9, 70.

chapels, which were already serving the inhabitants in remote parts of the parish, as chapels of ease of the parish.⁴⁶

On May 28, 1731, William Scott had given to four men of the upper part of the parish and their heirs so long as it should be used as a chapel, one acre of land called "William Scott's Gift for a Chapel," part of the tract "William and Mary Increased," and there is a reference to this chapel in the vestry minutes as early as April, 1735. In May, 1744, an Act was passed at the General Assembly to deem this a chapel of King George's Parish and to empower the justices of the county to levy the sum of £200 current money on the taxable inhabitants of the parish for building a chapel. The vestry entered into a contract with George Scott to build the chapel, rail in the yard, and cover the old chapel with clapboards. Pews were also built by Mr. Scott and sold to the parishioners. This chapel was known either as the Upper Chapel, the Eastern Branch Chapel, or Mr. Addison's Chapel. The last is the name which has clung to it through the years, and today it is still known as Addison Chapel at Seat Pleasant, even though it now bears the name of St. Matthews Church, Addison Chapel Parish. The present brick church was built early in the 19th century.⁴⁷

At the May, 1744, session, a second Act was passed by the General Assembly for the benefit of King George's Parish. It states that years before a chapel of ease had been erected by private contribution between the branches of Piscataway and Mattawoman Creeks for the benefit of the parishioners living in the lower part of the parish, but that the chapel had now gone to decay and the land whereon it was built had never been appropriated. The vestry was empowered to purchase three acres of land in the most convenient place in the lower part of the parish, and the county justices were directed to levy £800 current money on the taxable inhabitants of the parish for building a brick chapel thereon, to be deemed a chapel of ease of the parish. This lower chapel is mentioned in the vestry minutes as early as November, 1733.⁴⁸

In accordance with this Act of 1744, the vestry chose for the chapel site a 3-acre tract upon the Indian Hill on the south side of Piscataway Creek, belonging to the heirs of George Noble, who had been a vestryman of the parish. The three acres were part of a large

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 72 Wills, Lib. 19, f. 188-193; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. BB No. 2, f. 222-4.

⁴⁷ PGCo. Land Rec. Lib. Q, f. 275-6; KGP Ves. Min., f. 63, 79, 81, 94; *Arch Md.*, XLII, 603-4.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 635-6; KGP Ves. Min., 60.

tract known variously as "Piscataway Manor," "Calvert Manor," or "Egerton's Manor." It took viewing and valuing by three grand juries and another Act of Assembly before the parish acquired title to the land. Meanwhile the vestry entered into an agreement with Stephen Chandler to build the brick chapel. Before the chapel was completed, the vestry raised an objection to Mr. Chandler's work, paid him off, and agreed with Mr. William Digges to finish the chapel and build the pews. This chapel was known as the Brick Chapel, the Lower Chapel, or the Accokeek Chapel. Today it is known as Christ Church at Accokeek, St. John's Parish. This building was partially destroyed by fire December 23, 1856, but was rebuilt the following year.⁴⁹

In 1748, two Acts were passed by the General Assembly which reduced Prince George's County to its present size, except for the area later given to the Federal Government for the District of Columbia. Both Acts went into effect December 10, 1748. The Act which affected King George's Parish gave back to Charles County the area southwest of the present surveyed boundary line between the two counties in the southwest corner of Prince George's County. This placed the parish in two counties. Most of the parish, of course, was still in Prince George's County, and the parish church and two chapels of ease lay within its boundaries. The separation would not make much difference to the Charles County parishioners, as they would attend services at the Lower Chapel as usual. But the vestry and church wardens would now have to petition the justices of both Charles and Prince George's Counties for levies to pay parochial charges, and would have to deal with two county sheriffs to collect the parish funds.⁵⁰

Undoubtedly the vestrymen and church wardens followed the directions of the General Assembly and began in 1748 to nominate and recommend inspectors for the tobacco warehouses located in the parish, but the first such action recorded in the vestry minutes was on September 3, 1750, when they nominated two men for the warehouse at Bladensburgh, and four each for the warehouses at Broad Creek and Piscataway, and also for the one at Pomonkey, which was now in Charles County. Nominations in the years 1753 and 1754 are not shown in the vestry minutes, but beginning in 1755 they were nominating four men for the warehouse at Bladensburgh

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 76-8, 81-4; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. DD, f. 159-60; Lib. GG, f. 211-212; Md. Hist. Surv. Proj., *op. cit.*, 182-4; *Arch. Md.*, 144-6.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 140-2.

as well as for the other warehouses. Nominations continued through 1775, except in 1771 and 1772 when the Inspection Bill failed to pass.⁵¹

This parish seems to have had more trouble than the other parishes in the county with nonattendance of vestrymen at meetings, and had to resort to fining them. Also, there were several cases in the early 1700s of dissenters refusing to serve when elected. But in 1751 there was a switch. In that year, John Beall, Jr., a dissenter, was elected a vestryman and when he presented himself at the next meeting to be qualified by taking the oaths, the vestry passed a resolution "That no Dissenter hath a Right to bear Office in the Church of England," and refused to admit him, and also talked of holding a new election. Mr. Beall presented a petition to Governor Ogle and the Council, signed by several freeholders of the parish, explaining the situation, and praying that a stop be put to the vestry's holding a new election and that Mr. Beall be admitted as a vestryman on taking the oaths directed by Act of Assembly. Reverend Henry Addison's remonstrance also appears in the Council proceedings. The Governor and Council ruled in favor of Mr. Beall, and accordingly he was qualified and admitted to the vestry.⁵²

Beginning in July, 1756, and continuing through July, 1763, the vestrymen and church wardens made up lists of the bachelors in the parish. There were from 20 to 26 names of bachelors on these lists living in Prince George's County, and from one to five in Charles County.⁵³

By 1763 the parish church at Broad Creek had become too small for the congregation. An Act was passed at the October–November, 1763, session of the General Assembly, empowering the justices of Prince George's and Charles Counties to levy on the taxable inhabitants of the parish the sum of 56,000 pounds of tobacco to enlarge the church. A notice appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* on January 26, 1764, advertising for someone willing to undertake the enlargement. Evidently no one was willing, as a similar notice appeared on December 20, 1764, and a third notice appeared on March 14, 1765, and in the two subsequent weekly issues.⁵⁴

On April 8, 1765, the vestry agreed with Mr. Thomas Cleland,

⁵¹ KGP Ves. Min., p. 93, 130.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 95-6; *Arch. Md.*, XXVIII, 511-513.

⁵³ KGP Ves. Min., 134-5, 139, 142, 145, 147, 152, 159, 168.

⁵⁴ *Arch. Md.*, LVII, 511.

the lowest bidder, to make the addition the whole length of the church and 24 feet in breadth, the walls to be of brick, the roof to be as the old one, and that part of the wall taken down to be well secured with four good pillars, the work to be done for 40,000 pounds of tobacco.⁵⁵

On May 27th, the vestry changed its plans and agreed with Mr. Cleland to add to the height so as to make the wall 16 feet, to add 12 feet in length at the east end and 14 feet in breadth on the south side, to put on a new roof and other work required, for 56,000 pounds of tobacco. On September 10th, Mr. Cleland gave his bond for this work, with Mr. Enoch Magruder as security, agreeing also to put in a large folding door on the front (south) side and also in the west end, two windows on the front side, a large double window over the communion table and four windows on the north side; the roof on the north and west sides to be reshingled with the best of the old shingles and the south and east sides to be covered with good new cypress shingles, a floor to be laid and the pews to be installed with new ones added, a gallery and stairs to be built, and a few other details.⁵⁶

They probably realized that the off-center pillars within the church would be neither pleasing nor satisfactory, as on April 2, 1766, the vestry resolved to have all the old brick work taken down and put up anew according to the plan agreed upon, and allowed Mr. Cleland 25 pounds Inspection currency for the additional work. On June 23, 1766, the vestry decided that the walls were not to be as high as agreed upon by a foot and a half, and that two small windows should be added in the west end. On August 2d, the vestry agreed with Captain Enoch Magruder to build a brick porch on the south side of the church, to be 12 feet in the clear. On September 6, 1768, the church was completed and accepted by the vestry. It is still in use by the congregation, and is known as St. John's Church at Broad Creek.⁵⁷

At the October–November, 1771, session of the General Assembly an act was passed, empowering the justices of Prince George's and Charles Counties to levy on the taxable inhabitants of the parish 56,000 pounds of tobacco for repairing the Lower Chapel and building a vestry room there, and for enlarging the Upper Chapel. Petitions were presented to the justices of the two county courts, and

⁵⁵ KGP Ves. Min., p. 182.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 183, 186-8.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 190-2, 203.

Prince George's County levied 47,200 pounds of tobacco on its parishioners, but the petition in Charles County miscarried, so that it was necessary to present a second petition, a year later, for levying 8800 pounds of tobacco, the Charles County parishioners' share of the assessment.⁵⁸

A frame vestry house, 24 feet long, 16 feet wide, with the walls nine feet in height, two outside chimneys, and underpinned with brick, was built at the Lower Chapel. The foundation of the Lower Chapel was also replaced with a new brick foundation. Plans were discussed for enlarging the Upper Chapel.⁵⁹

These had become troubled times, prior to the Revolution, with tension mounting between loyalists and patriots. Mr. Addison was a *loyalist, remaining faithful to the crown. The last vestry meeting* shown in the minute book was held on Saturday, September 8, 1775, and was attended by Mr. Addison. The next day, Mr. Addison, with his younger son, took the last boat leaving for England before hostilities set in.⁶⁰

Mr. Addison lived quietly in England until October, 1780, when he returned to New York. He requested a passport to Maryland, but this was denied him, and in May, 1781, his property was confiscated. A tract of land in Frederick County, belonging to him, was sold July 29, 1782. On January 27, 1787, an act was passed by the State of Maryland for the benefit of the Reverend Henry Addison, whereby all of his land which remained undisposed of was restored to him. He returned to his home in King George's Parish and lived there quietly until his death, on August 31, 1789.⁶¹

Queen Anne's Parish, erected by an Act of the Assembly in December, 1704, out of the northern part of St. Paul's Parish, was bounded on the east by the Patuxent River, on the south by the Western and Cabin Branches, on the west by the ridge between Potomac and Patuxent, and on the north by the Northeast Branch and a continuing line to the Patuxent River. In the early days of Prince George's County there was an influx of settlers from across

⁵⁸ *Arch. Md.*, LXIII, 280-1, KGP Ves. Min., 216, 219.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 220, 224-5.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 234; Jonathan Boucher, *Reminiscences of an American Loyalist 1738-1789*, transcript at *Md. Hist. Soc.*, p. 113, 141.

⁶¹ Kilty's Laws, May, 1781, Chap. XXIII; Sale Book of Confiscated British Property 1781-85, p. 45; Liber TBH No. B, f. 124, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; *Maryland Journal*, Sept. 8, 1789, also cited in Bowie, *op. cit.*, p. 35.

the Patuxent in Anne Arundel County, causing this part of the county to grow rapidly. This was the first parish to be erected in the province subsequent to the Act of Establishment.

The first vestrymen of Queen Anne's Parish were Robert Tyler, Colonel Henry Ridgley, Thomas Odell, Philip Gittings, John Pottinger, and John Gerrard. These were prominent men in the parish. Robert Tyler was one of the first justices of Prince George's County, becoming in time the chief justice; he also served as one of the county's delegates to the General Assembly. His roots were in Anne Arundel County and his first wife, Susanna, was a daughter of Mareen Duvall, who had been a prominent planter and merchant of Anne Arundel County. Colonel Henry Ridgley was a wealthy planter and merchant from Anne Arundel County, who before moving to Prince George's County was married to the widow of Mareen Duvall, making him the stepfather-in-law of Robert Tyler. Thomas Odell, a son-in-law of Colonel Ridgley, had also moved into Prince George's from Anne Arundel County. He too was a justice of the county court. Philip Gittings and John Pottinger were planters. John Gerrard was a planter and merchant, also a justice of the county court, whose daughter, Rebecca, in 1722 became the wife of Governor Charles Calvert.⁶²

The vestry employed Reverend Robert Owen, rector of St. Paul's Parish, to preach once every fortnight. The former chapel of St. Paul's Parish in Collington Hundred, probably a small log or frame building, now became the parish church of this parish, Saint Barnabas Church. It was built on a tract of land called "Something," which had been granted to John Demall; and Mr. Demall and his wife, Mary Demall, came forward and acknowledged their gift of two acres of land for the use of the church. A vestry house was built in 1705, and in 1706 plans were agreed upon for a brick church. It took four years and two subscriptions to build this church, which was known for many years as the Brick Church even after the other parishes in the county had also erected brick churches. The bricks and shells for lime were burned on the church land. In 1708 the number of taxables had reached 630, and the Reverend Jonathan White, father of Bernard White who served as clerk of the indictments in Prince George's County court, was inducted as first rector of the parish. In 1710, after the church building was finished, an argument arose about a beam over the gallery. Some of the parish-

⁶² Queen Anne Parish, Prince George's County, Vestry Minutes, 1705-1773, p. 5, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

ioners wanted it removed as it obstructed their vision, but others thought that its removal would damage the building. When a vote was taken, the latter group won.⁶³

In March, 1718, after the death of Reverend Jonathan White, Reverend Jacob Henderson became the incumbent of Queen Anne's Parish, receiving his appointment from Governor John Hart. While serving as rector of Saint Anne's Parish in Annapolis, Mr. Henderson was married to the widow of Colonel Henry Ridgley, and during his tenure of St. Paul's Parish, Mr. Henderson lived with his wife in Queen Anne's Parish and obtained a pew in Saint Barnabas Church. Their home was the plantation "Catton," which Mr. Henderson had resurveyed and renamed "Bell Air." By March, 1718, the number of taxables in the parish had reached 847, and this, together with the fact that his home was in this parish, made it a desirable living for the Reverend Mr. Henderson, who as the Bishop of London's Commissary for the Western Shore was the ranking clergyman in this part of the province.⁶⁴

After his induction into Queen Anne's Parish, Mr. Henderson embarked upon a program to enhance the beauty of Saint Barnabas Church. At the vestry's orders, he sent to England for a velvet pulpit cloth fringed with gold, a cushion of velvet with gold tassels, a velvet cloth for the communion table, a marble font, a surplice, linen for the communion table, and a silver communion service. The marble font and silver communion service are still used by the church. The controversial beam over the gallery and one at the east end of the church were cut down to within four inches of the wall, making it easier for the people sitting in the gallery to see. The vestry engaged Mr. Gustavus Hesselius, one of the parishioners, to paint the church, the altar-piece and communion table and to paint a picture of the Last Supper to hang in the vacant space on the wall over the altar.⁶⁵

Gustavus Hesselius was both a house painter and portrait painter who had come to America from Sweden and settled first in Philadelphia. For a number of years he lived and worked in Prince George's County; during that time he and his daughter Mary became naturalized citizens of the Province of Maryland. He is considered to be one of the founders of the American School of Painting, and much of his fame is derived from this painting, *The Last Supper*,

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 2, 6-7, 9, 12, 15-16, 18-19.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 28; Provincial Court Records, CE#1, f. 356.

⁶⁵ QAP Ves. Min., 28-30, 32-36, 38.

as it was the first picture commissioned for a public building and the first important picture to contain more than one figure. The painting remained on the wall of the church until the present church was built in 1773. Its whereabouts during the next 75 years are unknown but, in 1848, a painting turned up in the auction rooms of a Georgetown dealer which, upon inspection, was acclaimed by art critics to be the Hesselius painting. This painting was on loan for many years to the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia, and was also displayed in the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Its late owner, Mrs. Rose Neel Henderson, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, willed it to the church, so that it is again in the possession of Queen Anne's Parish, and hangs on one of the walls of St. Barnabas Church.⁶⁶

In 1724, after all the improvements were made, the Reverend Jacob Henderson reported to the Bishop of London that his church was as decent as any church in London that he had seen, and that he had seen most of the great churches.⁶⁷

In August, 1723, the Reverend Jacob Henderson was presented by the grand jury to the county court for failing to read "An Act for the Punishment of Blasphemy prophane Curseing and Swearing and Drunkenness" in his parish church in December, 1718, in March, June, September and December of the years 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, and in June, 1723. If convicted, it would entail a fine of 18,000 pounds of tobacco. However, at the November, 1723, court, he was acquitted of this charge.⁶⁸

In accordance with the Act of Improving the Staple of Tobacco, the vestrymen divided Queen Anne's Parish into eight districts. In 1729 they appointed two counters in each district, and in 1730 and 1731 they appointed one counter in each district.⁶⁹

Beginning in 1748, after the passage of the Inspection Bill, four men were nominated and recommended to the governor to be inspectors at the tobacco warehouse at Queen Anne Town, which was in this parish.⁷⁰

Several years after the death of his wife, Mrs. Mary Henderson, the Reverend Jacob Henderson presented to Governor Samuel Ogle for the use of Queen Anne's Parish a deed, dated August 3, 1737, to

⁶⁶ Christian Brinton, *Gustavus Hesselius 1682-1755*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania 300th Anniversary Commission, 1938, p. 7-18; *Arch. Md.*, XXXVIII, 288-9.

⁶⁷ Perry, *op. cit.*, 209.

⁶⁸ PGC. Ct. Rec., Lib. L, f. 131, 198-9.

⁶⁹ QAP Ves. Min., 43-4, 46-7.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 82.

four acres of land, part of a tract called the "Glebe," which in turn was part of a larger tract "Darnall's Grove," on which there was a chapel standing, known as Henderson's Chapel. This land had been bought in 1711 by Mrs. Henderson while she was still the Widow Ridgley, and soon after buying the land she had started to build the chapel for the use and convenience of the upper inhabitants of the parish. After her marriage to the Reverend Jacob Henderson, the building was finished by Mr. Henderson. The inhabitants who worshipped there provided their own seats or benches. Mr. Henderson had the building reshingled before making his gift to the parish. In May-June, 1741, an Act was passed by the General Assembly which declared this chapel to be a chapel of the parish and levied one *hundred pounds current money on the taxable inhabitants of the parish* to complete the repairs. The vestry divided the chapel into pews, distributing them by lot. This upset the people who had been worshipping there, as it would necessitate not only their giving up the seats and benches which they had purchased, but also surrendering the choice locations which they had occupied for 25 years or more. They petitioned the Governor and Council to stop the vestry's action, but the petition was rejected on the grounds that the petitioners did not seem to have been injured, and the Governor directed the vestry to complete the pews and whatever else was needed. In May, 1744, another Act was passed to repair the parish church and enlarge the chapel. And in May, 1750, an Act was passed to fence in the yard at the chapel and build a house with a fireplace for the use of the minister and parishioners in bad weather. In later years (1836) a new church building of brick was erected at this location, known today as Holy Trinity Church at Collington.⁷¹

The Reverend Jacob Henderson died on August 21, 1751, after a tenure of over 33 years. He was quick-tempered and quarrelsome, but must also have had a talent for settling his differences satisfactorily. He was wealthy, possessing 23 taxables, and was also an astute business man, buying and selling many tracts of land. In 1737 he sold "Bell Air" to Governor Samuel Ogle and Benjamin Tasker and, after giving the chapel to the parish and providing a curate to serve in his absence, obtained permission from Governor Ogle to make a voyage to England and be absent from the parish for 18 months. Sometime after his return to the parish in 1739, but before August 29, 1741, he was married to Mrs. Mary Tyler, second wife

⁷¹ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. E, f. 23; Lib. T, f. 520-1; *Arch. Md.*, XXVIII, 285-7; XLII, 251-2, 603; XLVI, 462-3.

and widow of Robert Tyler, one of the first vestrymen of the parish, who died in 1738. This Mrs. Mary Henderson survived the Reverend Mr. Henderson by ten years. In his will he provided for her amply during her lifetime, and at her death most of his estate went to the Honorable the Incorporated Society in London for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.⁷²

On September 11, 1751, the Reverend Mr. William Brogden received his induction to Queen Anne's Parish from Governor Samuel Ogle. Mr. Brogden was well-known in the parish, as he had served as curate during Mr. Henderson's 18-months absence, beginning in 1737. Mr. Brogden was born about 1710, and his first induction was as rector to Dorchester Parish, where he served from 1735 until he resigned to become Mr. Henderson's curate in Queen Anne's Parish. In 1738, while performing his duties as curate, he was married to one of the parishioners, Mrs. Sarah Haddock, widow of James Haddock. Mrs. Haddock had previously been married to Basil Waring, by whom she had two sons, and to William Barton, by whom she had two daughters, all of whom in 1738 were married and had families of their own. This May-December marriage must have infuriated one of her grandsons, Francis Waring, as he sued the couple for a debt he claimed she owed him and had them put in jail. The sheriff who took them into custody, William Murdock, was another one of her grandsons. When taken to the Provincial Court, the suit was quashed. In July, 1739, Mr. Brogden was appointed rector of the neighboring All Hallows Parish, just across the Patuxent River in Anne Arundel County. Mrs. Sarah Brogden must have died about this time, as the All Hallows Parish register discloses that on December 24, 1741, the Reverend William Brogden was married to Elizabeth Chapman, daughter of William and Rebecca Chapman of that parish, and several children were born to them.⁷³

After the Reverend Mr. Brogden became rector of Queen Anne's Parish, horse blocks were erected at both the church and chapel, and gates were added at the chapel yard. Talk of a new church building was initiated, but no action was taken at this time.⁷⁴

From July, 1756, through July, 1763, the vestrymen and church

⁷² *Md. Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1751; Black Books, X, 12-13; Prov. Ct. Rec., Lib. PL No. 8, f. 490; Wills, Lib. 28, f. 184; Accts., Lib. 18, f. 290, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; QAP Ves. Min., 56.

⁷³ *Ibid.* 58, 89; Commission Book No. 82, p. 41, 50, 76; Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; PGCo. Rec., Lib. X, 248-9; Prov. Ct. Rec., Lib., EI#6, f. 2; All Hallows Parish, AA Co., Md., Register, 1685-1858, 21, 41, 44, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

⁷⁴ QAP Ves. Min., 93, 95, 102.

wardens made up a list each year of the bachelors in the parish. There were 11 to 19 names on these lists, the majority of whom had estates of £300.⁷⁵

Mr. Brogden was master of the Free School which was near the parish church, his name appearing on the list of schoolmasters sent to the Council in 1754.⁷⁶

Since no deed had ever been executed to the two acres of land upon which the parish church stood, John and Mary Demall having merely acknowledged their gift in 1705, two acres were laid out in 1761 and a deed executed by Mr. Edward Digges, who now owned the land.⁷⁷

Discussions about building a new church finally led to a decision in 1763 to petition the General Assembly to pass an Act to levy assessments on the parishioners for funds to build a church, but it wasn't until the September–November, 1770, session of the Assembly that such an act was passed. This act empowered the justices of the county court to levy 150,000 pounds of tobacco, together with the sheriff's fee for collecting it, on the taxable inhabitants of the parish, to be levied in three equal assessments at the November court in 1770, 1771, and 1772.⁷⁸

Reverend Mr. Brogden died on November 1, 1770, after a severe illness of several years. Perhaps it was due to the confusion attendant upon his death and consequent vacancy of the living, that the vestry failed to submit its petition to the justices of the county court for the levy in November, 1770. In order to remedy this situation, it was necessary for the General Assembly at its October–November session, 1771, to pass a Supplementary Act empowering the justices of the county court to levy in November, 1773, the assessment which should have been levied in 1770.⁷⁹

On January 1, 1771, Reverend John Forbes produced his license as curate of the parish, but he seems to have stayed only a few months. In June, 1771, Reverend Edward Gantt was appointed curate. But he, too, stayed only a few months.⁸⁰

Queen Anne's Parish was considered one of the most desirable parishes in the province, as the tobacco grown here was of the best quality. Hence this parish attracted men of spirit. Its next rector,

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 98, 101, 105, 107, 110, 113, 2, 4.

⁷⁶ Black Books, X, 39.

⁷⁷ QAP Ves. Min., 113; PGC Co. Land Rec., Lib. RR, f. 176.

⁷⁸ QAP Ves. Min., 6; *Arch. Md.*, LXII, 330-1.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, LXIII, 240-1; *Md. Gazette*, Nov. 8, 1770.

⁸⁰ QAP Ves. Min., 42, 44.

Reverend Jonathan Boucher, was perhaps the most colorful of its incumbents. He came from England, had served a parish in Virginia, where he had also kept a school for boys. A friendship developed between him and Reverend Henry Addison, who had placed his two sons in Mr. Boucher's care. The two men became fast friends, stimulating each other in their scholarly pursuits. At Mr. Addison's request, Governor Horatio Sharpe, in 1770, appointed Mr. Boucher rector of Saint Anne's Parish in Annapolis. He was accompanied there by two of his students, Jack Custis, General George Washington's stepson, and Overton Carr, who later became Mr. Boucher's brother-in-law. At Annapolis, Mr. Boucher became deeply involved in politics. He was an out-spoken loyalist, a friend and *confident of Governor Robert Eden, who succeeded Governor Sharpe.* Governor Eden appointed Mr. Boucher rector of Queen Anne's Parish, where he settled just before Christmas, 1771, in the house which the boys called "Castle Magruder," but which is known to us as "Mount Lubentia." His family, besides himself, his sister, and servants, consisted of Mr. Carr, Mr. Custis, and a third young man, Mr. Charles Calvert, eldest son of the Honorable Benedict Calvert of "Mount Airy," in Prince George's County. On June 2, 1772, Mr. Boucher was married to Miss Eleanor Addison of Oxon Hill, daughter of Mrs. John Addison, a widow, and niece of Reverend Henry Addison, who performed the ceremony.⁸¹

There were at least two instances, on September 4, 1772, and April 12, 1773, when General George Washington dined and spent the night with Mr. and Mrs. Boucher at "Castle Magruder." The first time he was accompanied by Mrs. Washington, her son and daughter, Jack and Patsy Custis. Mr. Benedict Calvert and his two daughters were also in the party.⁸²

The vestry minutes of Queen Anne's Parish end with the meeting on December 8, 1772, but they also contain the major portion of an agreement with Christopher Lowndes to build a new brick church near where the old brick church stood. It was to be 60 feet in length, 46 feet in width, the walls to be 20 feet high, the foundation to be 27 inches thick, the walls reduced to 22 inches thick two feet above ground and then to be 18 inches thick. There were to be two rows of four windows each on either side, and two doors with a window between and three windows above in each end, and also a gallery at

⁸¹ Boucher, *op. cit.*, 54-60, 68-81, 91-2.

⁸² *Diaries of George Washington*, ed. by John C. Fitzpatrick, Boston & New York 1925, v. 2, pp. 77-8, 107, 140.

the west end of the church. The work was to be completed by the last day of August, 1774. This is the church known to us today as St. Barnabas Church, at Leeland.⁸³

In December, 1773, Jonathan Boucher purchased the estate "The Lodge" in King George's Parish, which had belonged to Mrs. Boucher's brother. Mr. Boucher improved the land, stocked it, bought Negroes to work it, and in the fall of 1774, after the parish church was completed, moved his family into this home.⁸⁴

From the beginning of Mr. Boucher's tenure of Queen Anne's Parish, there was trouble. His stand in politics had preceded him, so that on his first Sunday he found the doors of the church locked against him. The first open break with his parishioners came when he refused to preach a sermon recommending charity to the suffering people of Boston, whose port had been closed by the British. He also refused to subscribe to any Associations or Resolves. In his own parish, he daily met with insults and injuries, which finally came to blows, so that he engaged Reverend Walter Hanson Harrison to serve as his curate in Queen Anne's Parish, and he himself became Reverend Henry Addison's curate in King George's Parish. Here also the threats were many and Mr. Boucher preached for about six months with a pair of loaded pistols lying on the cushion.

On one Thursday, a fast day, when Mr. Boucher elected to preach in his own parish and notified his curate of his intention, 200 armed men under the command of Mr. Osborne Sprigg, of "Northampton," filled St. Barnabas Church. As Mr. Boucher started to climb the steps of the pulpit, with his sermon in one hand and a loaded pistol in the other, he was restrained by a friend, Mr. David Crauford. Confusion ensued. Mr. Boucher seized Mr. Sprigg by the collar and demanded safe conduct to his horse. The two men marched together about 100 yards, Mr. Boucher with Mr. Sprigg's collar clutched in one hand and a pistol in the other, followed by Mr. Sprigg's company beating the Rogue's March on their drums.

The following Sunday he returned to the church, unannounced. Since they were not expecting him, the opposition was feeble. He preached the sermon he had prepared for the previous Thursday, with some additional remarks. While he was preaching, word got around the parish of his presence, so that by the time the service was over, a large crowd had assembled. He was again surrounded and jostled, but this affair ended only in a war of words.

⁸³ QAP Ves. Min., 47-9.

⁸⁴ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. BB No. 3, f. 353; Boucher, *op. cit.*, 93-4.

Realizing that the country was now on the verge of war, he thought it best not to remain in enemy territory. He settled his business affairs as best he could, left Queen Anne's Parish in the hands of his curate, and together with his wife, Reverend Henry Addison and Mr. Addison's younger son, on September 10, 1775, took the last boat which sailed for England before hostilities broke out. By an Act of the Assembly, passed in May, 1781, his property was confiscated and sold.⁸⁵

Prince George Parish, erected by an Act of the Assembly in July, 1726, out of the northern part of King George's Parish, was bounded by the Potomac River, the Eastern Branch of the Potomac and its Northeast Branch, the Patuxent River, and the upper boundary of the province. The formation of this new parish was the direct outgrowth of the preaching services begun in 1711 in New Scotland Hundred by the Reverend John Fraser. On September 18, 1719, Mr. Fraser called the inhabitants of the Eastern Branch and Rock Creek together to select a place to build a chapel, and to make contributions toward building it. Mr. John Bradford, a former vestryman of King George's Parish, headed the list of contributors with a donation of 1000 pounds of tobacco, and when the subscription list was sent around again for additional contributions, he gave 100 acres of land and the timber on it for building the chapel and a glebe for the minister. This land today constitutes Rock Creek Churchyard and Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Mr. Bradford died in 1726, a few months before the formation of the new parish, so that it was John Bradford, his son and heir, who deeded the 100 acre tract, part of "Generosity," to the parish.⁸⁶

On December 3, 1726, the freeholders of Prince George Parish met at the parish church and elected Nathaniel Wickham, Jr., John Powell, James Holmeard, John Flint, Joseph Chew, and John Pritchett vestrymen, Caleb Sutton and William Harbin church wardens, and William Jackson register. On January 10, 1727, the Reverend George Murdock was invested as rector of the parish, upon the presentation of his induction from Governor Charles Calvert, dated

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 74-5, 118-127, 141; Kilty's Laws, May, 1781, Chap. XXIII; Sale Book of Confiscated British Property 1781-85, f. 38.

⁸⁶ Prince George Parish Records, Montgomery County, Md., i, ii, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. Q, f. 163.

December 29, 1726. At this same meeting, the vestry agreed with George Beall to build a vestry house with an inside chimney, and to lay a plank floor in the church. At the meeting on Easter Monday, 1727, those present agreed that Mr. Murdock should preach to the upper inhabitants of the parish every third Sunday.⁸⁷

The following year, 1728, the inhabitants of the upper part of the parish entered a formal protest that the vestry had not followed the intent of the Act of 1726 erecting the new parish, by failing to give notice to the freeholders thereof to choose a place to build and found a church upon, as the law directed. Accordingly, public notice was given to the freeholders of the parish to meet and select a place for the church. At this meeting, in August, 1728, 49 votes were cast for the existing chapel at Rock Creek to be the parish church, as against 26 votes for having a church built in the upper part of the parish. So the church at Rock Creek continued to be the parish church.⁸⁸

In accordance with "An Act for Improving the Staple of Tobacco," the vestry of Prince George Parish laid out its parish into three precincts in 1729, into six in 1730, and into five in 1731, appointing two counters in each precinct in 1729, and one in each precinct in 1730 and 1731.⁸⁹

In 1733 the churchyard was improved by felling the dead trees, grubbing the stumps, and fencing the yard. Two years later the church and vestry house were repaired, a gallery was added to the church, and horse blocks were erected.⁹⁰

In 1734 and '35 the vestry loaned some of the parish tobacco to the two church wardens and four of the vestrymen, to be paid back in kind the following year. Ten years later, parish funds were again loaned to two of the officers, but this time 4% interest per annum was charged.⁹¹

In 1738, Mr. Thomas Williams offered to give the vestry two acres of land, part of a tract known as "Mill Land," for building a chapel. The vestry gratefully accepted the offer and the deed was executed.⁹²

In 1742, an Act was passed by the General Assembly to divide Prince George Parish, the dividing line to be Great Seneca Run to

⁸⁷ PGP Ves. Min., 3-7.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 7-10.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 13, 15, 18.

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 26-8.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, 31, 34, 35, 50.

⁹² *Ibid.*, PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. T, f. 673.

its head, from thence a due east line to the head of one of the draughts of Patuxent River. All of the parish north and west of this line was to become All Saints Parish beginning November 22, 1742; all of the parish south and east of this line was to continue as Prince George Parish.⁹³

At the May–June session, 1744, the General Assembly passed an Act to declare the chapel built on the two acres of land given to Prince George Parish in 1738 by Thomas Williams to be a chapel of ease of the parish. It was known as Rock Creek Chapel and was situated on the site of the present Union Cemetery, about a mile from Rockville.⁹⁴

In 1748, two Acts were passed by the General Assembly which reduced Prince George's County to its present size, except for the area to be given later to the Federal Government for the District of Columbia. Both Acts went into effect on December 10, 1748. The Act which affected Prince George Parish specified that all of the area north and west of the present line which divides Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and that line extended to the mouth of Rock Creek was to be Frederick County. Like King George's Parish, Prince George Parish would now lie in two counties and would have to petition two county courts to levy assessments for parochial charges, and receive the funds from two sheriffs. But unlike King George's Parish, only the smaller portion of Prince George Parish would remain in Prince George's County. Several years later the two parishes tried to get this situation changed, but their petition was rejected by the General Assembly.⁹⁵

While the parish church remained in Prince George's County, it was toward the edge of the parish and most of the parishioners were now attending Rock Creek Chapel, as it was nearer the center of the parish. Mr. Murdock was instructed by the vestry to conduct services at Rock Creek Chapel every other Sunday, alternating with the church. On Easter Monday, 1748, when these arrangements were made, a chapel on Patuxent was mentioned as being of little benefit to the parish, and the vestry suggested that Mr. Murdock preach there when he pleased.⁹⁶

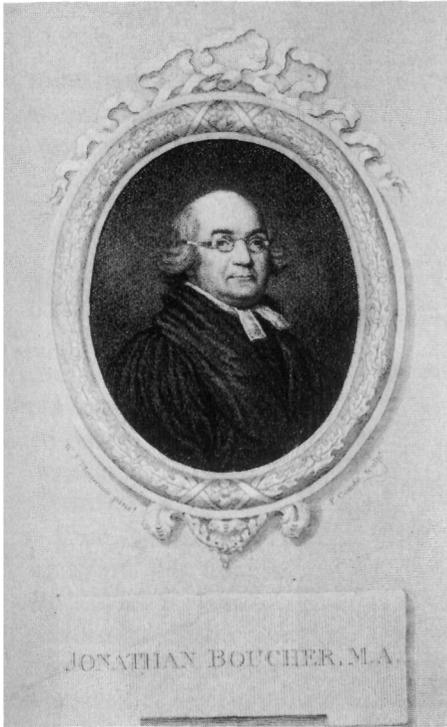
From 1748 through 1753 the vestrymen and church wardens

⁹³ *Arch. Md.*, XLII, 427-8.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 594-5; *Md. Hist. Rec. Surv. Proj.*, *op. cit.*, p. 24.

⁹⁵ *Arch. Md.*, XLVI, 142-4; L. 108.

⁹⁶ PGP Ves. Min., 55.



Rev. Jonathan Boucher
Rector of Queen Anne's Parish
1771-1775

Courtesy Library of Congress



Courtesy Library of Congress

Mount Lubentia

Home of the Rev. Jonathan Boucher during the first three
years of his tenure of Queen Anne's Parish



Governor Samuel Ogle
Portrait attributed to
British School c. 1740-1745
Courtesy of Mr. H.
Gwynne Tayloe, II of
"Mt. Airy," Va.



Courtesy Library of Congress

Belair

Home of Provincial Governor Samuel Ogle from 1747 until his death in 1752, and of his son Benjamin Ogle, Governor of the State of Maryland from 1798 to 1801

nominated and recommended two men for inspectors at the tobacco warehouse at Bladensburgh, as well as four for George Gordon's warehouse at the mouth of Rock Creek, which was now in Frederick County. But from 1754 on, they nominated only the ones for the Rock Creek warehouse.⁹⁷

In 1750, a gallery was added to Rock Creek Chapel, the chapel yard was fenced in and other improvements made, and in 1755 the chapel was enlarged with a 20-foot square addition on the rear.⁹⁸

The vestry minutes show that from 1756 through 1762 (the minutes for July, 1763, are missing) the vestrymen and church wardens made up lists of the bachelors in the parish. There were from 19 to 26 names on these lists. Only the list for 1757 specifies the county of residence; in that year five out of 21 were from Prince George's County.⁹⁹

The Reverend Mr. Murdock died early in 1761, after a tenure of 34 years. He had been ill for several years before his death and employed Reverend Mr. Thomas Johnson as his curate. The parishioners raised some objection to Mr. Johnson, so Mr. Murdock dismissed him and employed Reverend Clement Brooke, a native of the county. For a time Mr. Johnson tried to make trouble, interrupting and interfering with Mr. Brooke in the performance of his duties, so that the parishioners threatened to lay the matter before the governor. After Mr. Murdock's death, Governor Horatio Sharpe appointed Reverend Mr. Alexander Williamson curate of the parish until a rector should be inducted, but at the end of a year Governor Sharpe appointed Mr. Williamson rector of the parish. Mr. Williamson's name appears on the list of bachelors in 1762.¹⁰⁰

This parish was growing. In 1761 there is mention of the Hallings River Chapel. That same year, four of the parishioners were given permission to add a gallery to the addition at Rock Creek Chapel. In 1766 a 20-foot square addition with a gallery was added to the front of Rock Creek Chapel, and two years later two of the parishioners were given permission to build small galleries at the east end of this chapel. In 1769 James Beall of Frederick County conveyed to the vestry four acres of land, part of a tract called "Adventure," in Prince George's County, for a chapel of ease. This chapel,

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 56, 66.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 59-62, 67.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 70, 71-2, 73-4, 76-7, 81, 85-6, 89.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 79-80, 82-3.

located on Paint Branch about three and a half miles west of Beltsville, was known as Paint Chapel.¹⁰¹

At the October–November session, 1771, of the General Assembly, an Act was passed empowering the justices of Prince George's and Frederick Counties to levy on the taxable persons of Prince George Parish 96,000 pounds of tobacco for building a new parish church at or near the place where the old one stood. This church is known today as St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish, in Washington, D.C. The interior of the church was destroyed by fire on April 6, 1921, but the brick walls remained and were retained in the reconstruction.¹⁰²

The vestry minutes end with the proceedings of August 4, 1772, at which time Reverend Alexander Williamson acquainted the vestry that he was planning to go to the Island of Barbados for his health, that he was leaving the parish in the care of his curate, Reverend John Bowie, and that he was trying to employ another curate also, but that if he did not find one the vestry was at liberty to employ someone at his expense during his absence. Reverend John Bowie was a native of Prince George's County. From other sources we learn that the following year Mr. Bowie received his induction from Governor Robert Eden as rector of a parish on the Eastern Shore, and Reverend Thomas Read became curate of the parish. Mr. Williamson returned from Barbados before the Revolution, but refused to take the Oath of Fidelity.¹⁰³

All Saints Parish, formed in 1742 from the upper part of Prince George Parish, remained in Prince George's County for only six years. Reverend Joseph Jennings was inducted November 23, 1742, as first rector of this parish. He was followed by Reverend Samuel Hunter, who received his induction December 11, 1746.¹⁰⁴

In 1747, an Act was passed by the General Assembly to enable the vestrymen and church wardens of this new parish to purchase three separate acres of land for a church and two chapels of ease. Three hundred pounds current money was to be levied on the taxable inhabitants of the parish to build the parish church at Frederick

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, 84, 85, 98, 101, 103; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. AA No. 2, f. 5; Hist. Rec. Surv. Proj., *op. cit.*, 169.

¹⁰² *Arch Md.*, LXIII, 239-40; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rock Creek Parish, Washington, D. C., *Historical Sketch of Rock Creek Parish*, p. 8.

¹⁰³ PGP Ves. Minn., 112; Rightmyer, *op. cit.*, p. 220.

¹⁰⁴ Commission Book #82, pp. 98, 124, also cited in *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXVI, 248, 258.

Town, to build a chapel between Antietam and Conococheague, and to finish a chapel already begun, between Monocacy River and Seneca Creek, known as the Monocacy Chapel at what is now Beallsville, in Montgomery County. Before all of this could be accomplished, the Act of 1748 was passed, dividing Prince George's County, and placing this parish in Frederick County.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵ *Arch. Md.*, XLIV, 643-4.

Chapter 6

Presbyterian Beginnings in Prince George's County

Although Maryland's founder, Lord Baltimore, was a Roman Catholic, the province had been founded in 1634 upon the premise of religious freedom. The Act Concerning Religion, or Toleration Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1649, served to emphasize this religious freedom and attract men of all faiths. In 1673 it was reported that three-fourths of the inhabitants of Maryland were Presbyterians, Independents, Anabaptists and Quakers, while only one-fourth were members of the Church of England and Roman Catholics.¹

The first Presbyterian Church in the province was started in Charles County in 1657 by the Reverend Francis Doughty. His work was taken over in 1669 by the Reverend Matthew Hill who continued to minister to this congregation until his death in 1679, after which we hear no more of this church. A few years later the Reverend Francis Makemie founded several Presbyterian churches in Somerset County, on the Eastern Shore.²

The Revolution of 1688, which placed the Protestant rulers King William and Queen Mary on the throne of England, was reflected in the Province of Maryland by the Protestant Revolution of 1689, following which the Church of England was established in Maryland. All inhabitants were taxed for the support of the Established Church, so that, after 1692, it became increasingly difficult for dissenting groups to function.

Nevertheless, when Prince George's County was established in 1696, it included among its inhabitants many dissenting Scotsmen who remained true to their Presbyterian faith. Notable among them

¹ *Arch. Md.*, I, 244; V, 133.

² Rev. J. William McIlvaine, *Early Presbyterianism in Maryland*, Baltimore, 1890, pp. 7-16. Also cited in Bernard Steiner, *Presbyterian Beginnings*, Md. Hist. Mag., XV (1920), 305-6; and Clayton Torrence, *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Richmond, 1935, pp. 211-220.

was Colonel Ninian Beall. Beall was born in Largo, Fifeshire, Scotland, in 1625. He had served as cornet in the army raised to resist Cromwell, was captured in the Battle of Dunbar in 1650 and condemned to servitude in the British plantations. He arrived in Maryland in 1658 and was indentured to Richard Hall of Calvert County. From this inauspicious beginning he became one of the leading figures in the province. His military experience and aptitude were recognized early and he rose from the rank of lieutenant in 1668 until in 1694, as a colonel, he was made Commander-in-Chief of the Rangers. He was a big man, over six feet tall, with an iron constitution, factors which were no doubt helpful in his successful dealings with the Indians. In 1699 the General Assembly of Maryland passed "An Act of Gratuity to Colonel Ninian Beall," whereby they recognized his distinguished service and gave him three good servicable Negro slaves purchased out of public funds. Ninian Beall acquired vast land holdings in Maryland; he patented over 25,000 acres of land, mainly in the western part of Calvert County which in 1696 became part of Prince George's County. He was elected one of the first delegates to the General Assembly from the new county. He was living on his estate "Bacon Hall," near Marlborough, when he died in 1717 at the age of 92.³

The first record of a Presbyterian Church in Prince George's County is to be found in Ninian Beall's deed of gift of a half acre of land to the Patuxent Congregation in 1704. This half acre of land became a lot in the Town of Marlborough when the town was laid out in 1706.

Ninian Bell Ser to Nath. ^{ll} Taylor &c	}	To all Christian people to whom these presents Shall Come I Ninian Beall Senior of Prince Georges County in y ^e Province of Maryland Send Greeteing Know yee that I the said Ninian Beall being of a good and perfecte minde and without any ffraud or deceit for divers good Causes and Considerations me thereunto mooving but more Espeacially for y ^e Propagation of y ^e Gospell of Christ Jesus have given Granted and Confirmed and by these Presents doe freely, voluntarily & abso- lutely give grant and Confirme unto Nathaniell Taylor Minister of y ^e Gospell to Robert Bradly James Stoddart John Battie Archibald Edmundson Thomas Beall Senior Thomas Beall Junior Ninian Beall Junior Charles Beall Christopher Thompson Joshua Hall John Browne John Henry James Beall Alexander Beall William Ophett John Soaper and to their Successors for y ^e Erecting and Building a House
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³ Patent Records, Lib. 5, fol. 416; *Arch. Md.*, XX, 154; XXII, 494; Wills, Liber 14, fol. 504.

for the service of Almighty God, That parcell of Land being Part of a Tract of Land Called the Meddows Lying on y^e Western Branch of Patuxant River in Prince Georges County Beginning at a small Bounded Red Oake near y^e North West Corner of the said Meeting house and running East tenn perches then South Eight perches then west tenn perches then north to y^e first tree Containeing halfe an acre of Land be it more or Less To have and To Hold y^e Said Land and Tennements wth their rights member and appurtenances thereunto belonging unto y^e said Nathaniell Taylor Robert Bradley James Stoddart John Battie Archibald Edmundson Thomas Beall Senior Thomas Beall Junior Ninian Beall Junior Charles Bell Christopher Thompson Joshua Hall John Browne John Henry James Bell Alex^r Beall William Ophett John Soaper and their Successors & to their Onely Propper use for y^e afforementioned use & no other from y^e Day of the date hereof for Ever ffreely Peacably & Quietly without any manner of Reclaime Challenge or Contradiction of me y^e said Ninian Beall my heirs Executors Adm.^{rs} or assignes or of any other Person or Persons by any meanes title or Procurement in any manner or wise and without any account reconing or answer therefore to me or any in my name to be given rendred or don in time to Come See y^e Neither I the said Ninian Beall my heires &c^a nor any other Person or Persons by us for us or in our names or in y^e names of any of us at any time here after may ask claime Challenge or demand in or to y^e Premises or any Part thereof any Interest Right title or Possession but from all Action of Right title Claime Interest use possession & demand thereof wee and Every of us to be utterly Excluded and for Ever debarred by these presents, And I the Said Ninian Beall my Heirs &c^a y^e Said half acre of Land with the appurtenances unto y^e above named Nath Taylor &c^a and their Successors for y^e use above mentioned against all people will warrant & Defend by these presents and I the said Ninian Beall have putt y^e said Nath Taylor &c^a into peacable possession by the delivery of a Peice of money called Sixpence w^{ch} I have paid & Delivered unto y^e said Nath Taylor in behalfe of himselfe and y^e rest of y^e above named persons the day & date hereof In wittness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seale y^e 20th day of December anno 1704

Signed Sealed and Delivered

Ninian Beall

In Presens of us

John Wight

Sam^l Magruder⁴

From a perusal of this deed one recognizes that this congregation already had both a meeting-house and a minister. The Reverend

⁴ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. C, f. 116B.

Nathaniel Taylor had come over from England to minister to this congregation. In August, 1704, he had appeared before the county court at Charles Town and had taken the required oaths and signed the Test.⁵

The deed also gives the names of the officers of the church. All of these men were well-known in the county. Robert Bradley and James Stoddart served the county as justices of the county court and as delegates to the General Assembly, Robert Bradley for several years being Speaker of the Lower House. Except for John Battie, the majority of these men served the county as jurors or as constables, overseers of the highways, or pressmasters of their hundreds. Ninian Beall Jr. and Charles Beall, sons of Colonel Ninian Beall, also served the province as rangers. Thomas Beall Sr. was Ninian's brother, Archibald Edmonston was Ninian's son-in-law. Alexander and James Beall were brothers. Most of these men lived near Marlborough, where the meeting-house was located, but Robert Bradley and James Stoddart lived at or near Charles Town; Charles Beall and James Beall lived near the Eastern Branch; Alexander Beall lived halfway between Marlborough and the Eastern Branch; while John Battie, who was James Stoddart's father-in-law, lived across the Patuxent River in Anne Arundel County.⁶

There were several other early residents of the county who are also known to have been Presbyterians. William Hutchison, a justice of the county court and a delegate to the General Assembly, was named by Commissary Thomas Bray as being a member of the Church of Scotland. In his will Mr. Hutchison left a small bequest to the Reverend Nathaniel Taylor, as did also John Smith of Mattapan Landing. James Shaw, a cooper, left the care of his two older sons to their uncle Christopher Thompson to be educated and brought up in the principles of the Reformed Protestant religion.⁷

Realizing that separate congregations conducting their affairs independently of each other do not constitute a Presbyterian Church, in 1706 the Reverend Nathaniel Taylor agreed to meet at Philadelphia with the Reverend Francis Makemie of Rehobeth, Maryland, and five other ministers from Philadelphia, Delaware, and the

⁵ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 309.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Lib. A, f. 1, 7, 254, 261, 443, 459; Lib. B, f. 136, 214a, 228a, 268, 335a; Lib. C, f. 95a, 178a; Lib. G, f. 126; *Arch. Md.*, XXV, 184; XXVII, 225; XXIX, 396; Wills, Lib. 14, f. 391; F. M. M. Beall, *Beall and Bell Families*, Washington, D.C., 1929, pp. 28-50, 85, 130, 148.

⁷ Bernard Steiner, *Rev. Thomas Bray*, Md. Hist. Soc. Fund Publication No. 37, Baltimore, 1901, p. 233; Wills, Lib. 12, f. 150; Lib. 13, f. 317; Lib. 14, f. 606.

Eastern Shore area, to form the Presbytery. This first meeting of the Presbytery, held in December, 1706, marked the beginning of the Presbyterian Church in America.⁸

Nathaniel Taylor was a faithful attendant at the annual meetings of the Presbytery at Philadelphia until his death in 1710. In 1707 he was accompanied by his elder James Stoddart, in 1708 by ——— Beall, and in 1709 by Alexander Beall. He was made corresponding secretary, as he was called upon at each meeting to write the letters expressing the mind of Presbytery.⁹

One of the treasured possessions of the Patuxent Church was a silver communion service, which tradition says was presented to the church by Colonel Ninian Beall. Three pieces of the set, two chalices and a tankard, are still in existence. They are of English silver plate, and the hallmarks indicate that they were made in England in 1707. No doubt they were passed around and used by all the groups meeting with the Reverend Nathaniel Taylor. These priceless treasures have long been in possession of the Hyattsville Presbyterian Church.¹⁰

The first hint that the members living at the Eastern Branch were beginning to form a separate congregation comes to light during the March court, 1706, when Mr. William Tannehill, with the consent of Mr. Thomas Addison, presented a petition to have Mr. Addison's old house at the Eastern Branch declared a meeting-house for the people of the Eastern Branch who would join in worship with the Reverend Nathaniel Taylor. Mr. Tannehill was for many years one of the justices of the county court.¹¹

On October 11, 1709, Dr. Mordecai Moore of Anne Arundel County gave to Nathaniel Taylor, William Tannehill, William Hutton, James Beall, Alexander Beall, William Scott, William Thompson, and their successors, a half acre of land in the southwest corner of "Locust Thicket" lying on the south side of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, for the purpose of building a house for the worship of Almighty God. This deed gives us the names of three more men in Prince George's County who were Presbyterians. Wil-

⁸ Maurice W. Armstrong, Lefferts A. Loetscher, and Charles A. Anderson, *The Presbyterian Enterprise*, Philadelphia, 1956, p. 11.

⁹ W. H. Roberts, editor, *Records of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.*, Philadelphia, 1904, pp. 9-15.

¹⁰ *The Reminder*, a publication of the Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, of the Hyattsville Presbyterian Church, Hyattsville, Md., Vol. I, Nos. 10-12 (Feb.-April, 1900); Vol. II, Nos. 2-6 (June-Oct., 1900), Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia.

¹¹ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. C, f. 59.

liam Hatton was a delegate to the General Assembly and also a justice of the Provincial Court. William Scott had served as both an overseer of the highways and constable in his hundred, while William Thompson, brother of Christopher Thompson, had also served as overseer in his hundred.¹²

The Reverend Nathaniel Taylor died in 1710. One gains the impression from the number and names of the books listed in the inventory of his estate, dated February 10, 1710, that he was an erudite scholar. There were more than 500 books, valued at £33.17.7. These were learned treatises, most of them in English, but some were works in Latin, Hebrew, Greek, Chaldean, and Syriac.

Aside from his books, he owned very little. The inventory includes a horse, which would have been indispensable for visiting his parishioners; a saddle, a parcell of old riding furniture, silver spurs & buckles, 2 pr. boots, a sea bed, boulder, quilt & blanket, 2 old hatts, wearing apparrell, stockings & Wiggs, wearing linen, glasses & shoes, 1 hammock, 1 muff, a watch valued at £5, 2 great coats, 6 yd. muslin, writing paper, pictures maps & other small things, which together with 15 shillings 9 pence in cash, brought his entire estate to the value of £72.17.10. Among his books were a number of copies of Tate & Brady's Psalms, an indication that this was the hymnbook used by his congregation.¹³

After the death of Nathaniel Taylor the Patuxent Congregation issued a call to the Reverend George McNish, one of the seven ministers who had formed the Presbytery, but he did not accept the call. The members then sent to England for a minister and called the Reverend Daniel McGill. After he had accepted the call and laid aside his other work, there was a lapse of six months until his actual service at Marlborough began. He was received into Presbytery at the meeting in 1713, which he attended with his elder James Beall. The following year his elder Alexander Beall attended with him.¹⁴

But things did not go smoothly for Daniel McGill at Marlborough. Within two years time discord appeared within the ranks of the congregation, as reported to Presbytery by elder William Scott. However, when questioned, the Reverend Mr. McGill commended his people.¹⁵

¹² PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. D, f. 74-5; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. A, f. 1; Lib. C, f. 95a, 178a; Lib. G, f. 262; *Arch. Md.*, XIX, 365; XX, 379.

¹³ Inventories & Accounts, Lib. 32C, f. 159-165.

¹⁴ Roberts, *op. cit.*, 16-33.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 37-41.

Meanwhile, in 1713, James Stoddart had bought from the Pamunkey and Piscataway Indians some land in the Indian Reservation in the southwest corner of the county, later adding the adjoining tract "Southampton," and had moved there from Charles Town. On November 24, 1713, the Prince George's County Court ordered that the house known as Pamunkey House where Mr. James Stoddart now lives be deemed a meeting-house for the people called Presbyterians. Perhaps part of Mr. McGill's trouble was his dislike of having to travel from Marlborough to Pamunkey House for meetings, a distance of 25 miles, or 50 miles round trip.¹⁶

With a reorganization of the general Presbytery into a general Synod in 1716 the Marlborough Church became a member of New Castle Presbytery. In 1718 the Reverend Daniel McGill attended the Synod at Philadelphia with his elder Alexander Beall, and at this meeting was chosen moderator. He did not attend the semi-annual meetings of the newly formed New Castle Presbytery until September, 1718, when it convened at Philadelphia during this meeting of Synod. Daniel McGill and his elder Alexander Beall attended both meetings.¹⁷

Permission was given by the county court for several more homes at the Eastern Branch to be declared meeting-houses. In November, 1716, the dwelling houses of Alexander Beall and William Tannehill were registered with the court as meeting-houses; in June, 1717, William Thompson's house was recorded for a place for public worship; and in June, 1718, it was ordered by the court that the meeting-house newly built on the land of Charles Beall, near the Forks of the Eastern Branch, be deemed a house of public worship. So it would seem that the people at the Eastern Branch had grown from small separate groups meeting around in homes to one group of sufficient size to erect a meeting-house and support a minister.¹⁸

James Beall appeared at the meeting of Newcastle Presbytery in September, 1718, as the representative of the people of the "Eastern Branch of Potomock and Pummungki upon Potomock," with papers expressing their desire to have a minister settled among them, and issued a call to the Reverend Hugh Conn. Mr. Conn had come over from Great Britain three years earlier to minister to the Patapsco congregation in Baltimore County, but at this meeting of the New

¹⁶ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. E, f. 229, 270; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. G, f. 444.

¹⁷ Roberts, *op. cit.*, 25-46; "The Records of the Presbytery of New Castle upon Delaware," *Journal of the Department of History* (The Presbyterian Historical Society) of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Vol. XIV, No. 7, Sept. 1931, p. 295.

¹⁸ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. H, f. 142, 243, 668.

Castle Presbytery had asked to be relieved of his duties there because of "the paucity of the people." He accepted the call and took up his duties as minister of the flock along the Eastern Branch of the Potomac in 1718. There were now two Presbyterian congregations in Prince George's County, the Patuxent congregation at Marlborough and the new church at the Eastern Branch of the Potomac. The Reverend Hugh Conn attended the meeting of New Castle Presbytery in September, 1719, with his elder James Stoddart and was elected moderator.¹⁹

James Stoddart had withdrawn from the Marlborough Church to join the new church. The distance from his home at Pamunky to the meeting-house at the Eastern Branch was just as great as to Marlborough, 25 miles, so that could not have been his reason for changing. Perhaps there was friction with the Reverend Daniel McGill at Marlborough, or perhaps, since Mr. Stoddart had lived at the Eastern Branch for several years prior to 1700, his friendship with these people was deeper than with the members at Marlborough. At the August Court, 1720, he again had his house at the Indian Town, probably a newly built home, recorded as a place of meeting for religious worship.²⁰

Meanwhile at Marlborough misunderstandings persisted between the Reverend Daniel McGill and his congregation, a condition that necessitated the writing of healing letters by Presbytery. One of the points of difference was that McGill requested payment for the six months during which he had been unemployed following his acceptance of their call. The congregation objected to this obligation. There is no record as to how this particular matter was settled; but at the meeting of Synod in 1719 the Reverend Daniel McGill was given synodical testimonials since he was no longer attached to the Patuxent congregation at Marlborough.²¹

At the meeting of Synod the following year, in 1720, Mr. John Orme's testimonials were approved and he was admitted to the New Castle Presbytery as a member. The 29-year old John Orme, who had come over from England at the request of the people at Marlborough, was installed pastor of that congregation, and served as their minister from 1720 until his death in 1758. Elder Archibald Edmonston evidently approved of this new minister, as his daughter Ruth became the wife of John Orme. Being a man of substance,

¹⁹ Rec. of New Castle Presbytery, *op. cit.*, p. 296-7, 301.

²⁰ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. H, f. 1031; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. A, f. 340.

²¹ Rec. of New Castle Presbytery, *op. cit.*, pp. 298-302; Roberts, *op. cit.*, 55.

Edmonston and his wife gave the couple a tract of land called "Leith" near Marlborough, and Mr. Orme bought an additional tract adjacent to it, part of "Collington."²²

This same Archibald Edmonston, even though a member and elder in the church at Marlborough, assisted in the establishment of the new church on the Eastern Branch of the Potomac. On August 25, 1725, Archibald Edmonston for divers causes, considerations, and sixpence in cash deeded to Hugh Conn, James Stoddart, James Beall, John Beall, John Jackson, William Beall, Ninian Beall, and William Tannyhill, and their successors one acre of land, part of a tract of land called "The Gore" on the east side of the Eastern Branch of Potomac River "which s^d acre of land is given for y^e building or Erecting one or more house or house's for y^e use of a Presbyterian Congregation for y^e worshipping of y^e Almighty God & to no other use or intent what'soever." This acre of land is located just south of Bladensburg in what is now "Evergreen Cemetery," known once as the "Old Presbyterian Cemetery." It was reported in 1900 that a Bladensburg undertaker while digging a grave in this cemetery turned up brick and mortar which he said were parts of the foundation of this early church.²³

The Reverend Hugh Conn had already established his home on the tract of land lying on the Eastern Branch just south of this, 100 acres of "Whitlaintin" given to him by Christopher Thompson, to which he had added the adjoining tract "Hudson's Range" by purchase.²⁴

The lives of these two men, the Reverend Hugh Conn, minister of the church at the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, and the Reverend John Orme, pastor of the Patuxent Congregation at Marlborough, were strikingly similar. They both assumed their ministerial duties at the closely related churches at about the same age (33 and 29) and about the same time (1718 and 1720) and they both continued ministering to these churches until their deaths (1752 and 1758). They were good friends; their names appear on the rolls of Presbytery and Synod meetings together; they went together to the courthouse at Upper Marlborough, each to record his mark of cattle and hogs. The Reverend Mr. Orme's mark was "A

²² Roberts, *op. cit.*, 57-9; Rec. of New Castle Presbytery, *op. cit.*, 307; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. M, f. 564; Lib. Q, f. 53.

²³ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib I, f. 672; *The Reminder, op. cit.*, Vol. 4, Nos. 7-8 (Dec. 1902-Jan. 1903).

²⁴ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. I, f. 222, 508.

Crop & under bitt in Each Ear" while the Reverend Mr. Conn's was "A Swallow fork in the right Ear & a Crop and under bitt in the left Ear."²⁵

The Reverend John Orme was the recipient of small legacies bequeathed to him by members of his congregation at Upper Marlborough, among them Edward Holmes, who attended the meeting of New Castle Presbytery in September, 1722. Other members who mentioned Mr. Orme in their wills were John Pottenger, his two sons John Jr. and Samuel Pottenger, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hepburn, widow of Dr. Patrick Hepburn.²⁶

The deed of 1725 to the land at the Eastern Branch gives us the names of three more sons of the Beall clan, John, William, and another Ninian, who were members of this church, also the name of John Jackson, who was a son-in-law of Alexander Beall. Thomas Odell is listed among the elders attending the Synod meeting in 1721. This would be Thomas Odell, Jr., as his father, also named Thomas Odell, was a vestryman of Queen Anne's Parish of the Established Church of England, and was active in St. Barnabas Church, but the younger Thomas was married to a daughter of James Beall, and had no doubt been drawn into the Presbyterian persuasion.²⁷

As the Province of Maryland continued to grow, and more land was needed, the population moved northward. Sons and daughters of the dissenting families from both the Patuxent and Eastern Branch were among these settlers. Both the Reverend Hugh Conn and the Reverend John Orme assisted these young people in starting a new church. On November 22, 1746, Edward Offutt, son of William Offutt of the Marlborough Congregation, and his wife Ellenor, daughter of Archibald Edmonston, granted an acre of land, part of the tract "Outlet," to all the Presbyterian persuasion near the head of Cabin Branch, for a place of Presbyterian worship. This was known as the Captain John (later corrupted into Cabin John) Church. When Edward Offutt did this he were merely carrying on the tradition set by his father-in-law before him, Archibald Edmonston, who had deeded the acre of land to the congregation at the Eastern Branch, and by his grandfather-in-law even before that,

²⁵ *Ibid.*, Lib. Q, f. 595.

²⁶ Rec. of New Castle Presbytery, *op. cit.*, Journ. Presby. Hist. Soc., Vol. XV, No. 2, June, 1932, p. 74; Wills, Lib. 16, f. 5; Lib. 21, f. 326, 366; Lib. 22, f. 59, 443.

²⁷ F. M. M. Beall, *op. cit.*, p. 130, 148; Roberts, *op. cit.*, 60.

Colonel Ninian Beall, who had deeded the half acre of land to the Patuxent Congregation.²⁸

While Prince George's was still the western frontier county, before it was reduced to its present size, there were three Presbyterian Churches in it: The Patuxent Congregation at Upper Marlborough, the church at the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, and the new church at Captain John.

The history of this third church properly belongs to Montgomery County, since two years after this deed was made, Frederick County was detached from the northern part of Prince George's County, and in 1776 Montgomery County was carved out of the lower part of Frederick County. The land belonging to this third church was included in both transfers.

In 1742 the town of Bladensburgh was laid out on the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River just a short distance to the north of the meeting-house on the Eastern Branch, and the church there came to be known as the Bladensburgh Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Hugh Conn continued to serve as pastor until his death, a dramatic incident. The *Maryland Gazette* for Thursday, July 9, 1752, carried the following item:

"On Sunday the 28th of June last, the Reverend Mr. Hugh Conn, a Presbyterian Minister, as he was preaching to a Congregation near Bladensburg in Prince George's County, dropp'd down dead in his Pulpit. The Subject he was upon gave him Occasion to mention "the certainty of Death, the Uncertainty of the Time when it might happen, the absolute Necessity of being continually prepared for it, the vast Danger of Delay to be constantly in such a State, or trusting to a Death Bed Repentance; for that altho' we may possibly live some Years, yet, we may be called away in a Month, or in a Week; or for aught any one could tell, Death might surprize us the next Moment:" which last part of his Discourse he was observed to deliver with some Elevation of Voice; but had scarce utter'd the Word Moment, when, without speaking any more (putting one Hand to his Head, and the other to his Side), he fell backward and expired; verifying in a most extraordinary Manner the Truth of his Doctrine."

Six years later, in the *Maryland Gazette* for Thursday, May 11, 1758, we read the following item:

²⁸ Wills, Lib. 21, f. 92; F. M. M. Beall, *op. cit.*, p. 88; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. EE, f. 104; Rev. George S. Duncan, Ph.D., *Outline History of Captain John, Hermon and Copley Presbyterian Churches in Montgomery County, Maryland*, Washington, 1926, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia.

“On the 28th of April, Died in Prince-George’s County, aged 67 Years, the Reverend Mr. John Orme, many Years Pastor of a Dissenting Congregation at Upper-Marlborough, whose exemplary life and Conversation gain’d him the general Esteem of People of all Denominations.”

The church at Upper Marlborough did not long survive the death of the Reverend John Orme. Its meeting-house was taken over by the Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, which still worships on the same site. But the Eastern Branch or Bladensburg Church still flourishes as the Hyattsville United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and counts as one of its treasures the silver communion service given to the Patuxent Church in 1707 by Colonel Ninian Beall.

Chapter 7

Beneficiaries of His Lordship's Patronage in Prince George's County

With the exception of the delegates to the Lower House of the General Assembly who were elected by the freeholders, all of the members of the central governing body of the Province of Maryland were appointees either of His Lordship the Proprietary and his representatives or, from 1690 to 1715, of the crown. These appointees were chosen from the wealthy landowners and, if appointees of Lord Baltimore, were usually either his relatives or good friends. The men appointed by the Proprietary before 1715 were Roman Catholics; after 1715 they were Protestants, as were appointees of the crown. Among these men were the Governor, members of the Council, the Secretary, the Chancellor or Keeper of the Great Seal, the Commissary General, the Attorney General, the two Treasurers, one for each Shore, the Naval Officers, the Agent and Receiver General, the Judges of the Land Office, the two Surveyors General, one for each Shore, the Examiner General, and a few others.¹ The men who served in these offices had both wealth and influence; they were held in high regard by the rest of the inhabitants and were accorded the titles of *Honourable* and *Esquire*. Prince George's County numbered among its inhabitants a fair share of these important provincial office-holders.

Two of Maryland's colonial governors were part-time residents of Prince George's County. The first of these was the Honourable Charles Calvert, Esquire, Governor of the Province of Maryland from 1720 to 1727. Governor Calvert's connection with the Calvert family is not definitely known, but it is thought that he was the

¹ Donnell MacClure Owings, *His Lordship's Patronage*, Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1953, pp. 19-104.

illegitimate son of Charles third Lord Baltimore. Be that as it may, he was acknowledged by the family as one of its members and was sent over as chief executive of the province with the title Captain General and Chief Governor, arriving in October, 1720. On November 21, 1722, he was married to the 16-year old Rebecca Gerrard of Prince George's County by the Reverend Jacob Henderson, rector of Queen Anne's Parish. Rebecca was the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Gerrard widow and John Gerrard deceased who had been a prominent merchant of the county and also one of the justices of the county court. While Governor Calvert no doubt spent much of his time in Annapolis, he must have maintained a home in Prince George's County and lived there, at least part time, for a few years after his marriage. Our reason for thinking this is because in the Act for the Encouragement of Learning, passed in October, 1723, Governor Calvert was named as one of the Visitors of the Free School in Prince George's County. He still held this office in April, 1726, when the Visitors purchased land for the school, but was no longer one of the group when the Visitors were sued by the former owner of the land in November, 1729. We would assume that he had moved out of the county sometime between 1726 and 1729, as the Act of 1723 directed that if one of the Visitors should remove himself and family into another county to reside, then the rest of the Visitors should choose a successor for him. Rebecca was her father's only heir, subject to her mother's dower interest. Their dwelling plantation was part of "Swanston's Lot" and "Cool Spring Manor," a tract known in later years as "Goodwood." Mr. Gerrard also owned the tract near the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River originally laid out as "Beall's Meadows," but called the "Garrison" by the Gerrards. Governor Calvert and his wife had this tract resurveyed and renamed the Charles and Rebecca. The Governor and his Lady had three children, Charles, born November 2, 1723, who lived only a few months; Ann, who died in childhood; and Elizabeth, born February 24, 1731, the only one who lived to maturity.²

Upon his arrival in the province Governor Calvert assumed the Surveyorship of the Eastern Shore, and on July 14, 1725, became Chancellor or Keeper of the Great Seal. Thereafter this office was retained by the chief executive until the Revolution. In June, 1726, Governor Calvert exchanged the Surveyorship of the Eastern Shore

² *Ibid.*, p. 120; *Arch. Md.*, XXXIV, 54; XLIV, 671; PGC. Land Rec., M, pp. 1-2; PGC. Ct. Rec., P, 288-291; Patent Rec., PL#5, p. 610; QAP Rec., p. 2-Mar.; St. Anne's Parish Register, AACo., 1708-1785, p. 69, 70, 94, 159, Hall of Records, Annapolis Md.

for that of the Western Shore, which was more lucrative. In July, 1727, he was replaced as Governor and Chancellor by Benedict Leonard Calvert, a brother of Lord Baltimore, but he retained the Surveyorship of the Western Shore until his death. On July 12, 1727, at the time he stepped down as governor, the Honorable Charles Calvert, Esquire was appointed a member of the Council. In February, 1730, he was moved up to second place on the Council, next to President Edward Henry Calvert, another brother of His Lordship the Proprietary, and in May, 1730, following the death of Edward Henry Calvert, he became President of the Council. He served in this office until his death, except for the brief period from March 21, to July 11, 1733, when the Honorable Samuel Ogle, Esquire held this position. The Honorable Charles Calvert, Esquire was also commissioned Commissary General on July 15, 1727. About a year later he was dismissed from this office for opposing Governor Benedict Leonard Calvert, but was again commissioned May 9, 1730, and held this office until he died, February 2, 1734. At the time of his death he was also Judge of the Admiralty Court. His widow survived him only a little over a year.³

In 1731, His Excellency Samuel Ogle, Esquire was commissioned Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland, and served three separate terms in that office. His first term was for a year, from December, 1731, to December, 1732, at which time the Right Honorable Charles Calvert fifth Lord Baltimore and fourth Lord Proprietary came over from England and acted as chief executive for about seven months. During this 7-month period Samuel Ogle, Esquire remained in Maryland; he was appointed a member of the Council and served as its President. After the departure of His Lordship in July, 1733, Samuel Ogle was again commissioned Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief and served until August, 1742, when His Lordship's brother-in-law, Colonel Thomas Bladen, was commissioned in this office. In 1741, about a year before the close of his second term, Governor Ogle was married to Anne Tasker, daughter of Benjamin Tasker, Esquire, President of the Council, and his wife, Anne Bladen Tasker, a sister of the new Governor Bladen. Upon his removal as governor, Samuel Ogle, Esquire returned to England with his bride. Governor Bladen had served between four and five years when he

³ Owings, *op. cit.*, 131, 172, 174; Prov. Ct. Rec., EI#9a, 315; Black Books, VIII, 104; Test. Proc., Lib. 28, f. 59-62, 465-8; Wills, Lib. 21, f. 322; *Maryland Gazette*, March 15, 1734; *Arch. Md.*, XXV, 450, 473, 516, 519.

was dismissed and Ogle was commissioned for the third time. Governor Ogle arrived from England with his family on March 12, 1747, was sworn in on March 16, and served until his death May 3, 1752. During his second term as governor he assumed the Surveyorship of the Western Shore on February 2, 1734, after the death of Charles Calvert, Esquire, and during his third term he assumed this office when he became governor. While Prince George's claim to the earlier governor, Charles Calvert, Esquire, is based upon circumstantial evidence, its claim to Governor Ogle is well-known and is based upon his ownership and occupancy of his country estate, "Belair," which lies in Prince George's County.

On March 30, 1737, during his second term, Governor Samuel Ogle and his future father-in-law, Benjamin Tasker, Sr. Esquire of Annapolis, bought the Reverend Jacob Henderson's estate, "Belair," and two adjoining tracts, "Woodcocks Range" and 100 acres of "Enfield Chase," in Prince George's County, about 16 miles west of Annapolis. A few month later on August 12, 1737, Governor Ogle purchased Tasker's half interest and became the sole owner of the property. He later added two more adjoining tracts, so that the whole estate, which was known as "Belair," consisted of 2177 acres. The vicissitudes of ownership of this estate, as gleaned from the court records, make interesting reading.⁵

In 1745 and 1746, while Samuel Ogle was in England, his father-in-law, Benjamin Tasker, Esquire, at Ogle's request, had the 2-story brick mansion, 60 by 35 feet, built for Ogle. This is the central part of the present mansion. It was built for about £500 sterling, exclusive of the labor of the plantation Negroes and the materials found on the plantation. In 1747, after his return, Governor Ogle added a large 2-story brick wing, 40 feet square, which contained a kitchen and other offices for the servants. He also built Negro quarters, a barn, cow house, corn house and stable. Here Governor Ogle and his family lived in great style and comfort, except when provincial affairs required his presence in Annapolis. Their family consisted of daughters Ann and Mary, born in England, a son Samuel, born July 19, 1747, a son Benjamin, born January 27, 1749, and a daughter Meliora, born September 13, 1750. Daughter Ann died June 4, 1747, soon after their return from England and son Samuel died of

⁴ *Arch. Md.*, XXV, 545-6; XXVIII, 30, 49; *Prov. Ct. Rec.*, EI No. 3, 338; *Maryland Gazette*, March 17, 1747; Owings, *op. cit.*, 121, 172.

⁵ *Prov. Ct. Rec.*, PL No. 8, 490, 539; EI No. 8, 588, 591; EI No. 9, 656, 659; *Chancery Records*, Lib. 13, f. 59-114, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; Francis Barnum Culver, *Blooded Horses of Colonial Days*, Baltimore, 1922, 35-45.

measles at "Belair" on September 15, 1748, when only 14 months of age. The three children who lived to maturity were known as Molly, Bennie, and Millie.⁶

Governor Ogle was interested in racing and in breeding race horses. He brought with him from England the stallion Spark, given to him by Lord Baltimore, who had received the horse as a gift from Frederick Prince of Wales. Governor Ogle also imported the mare Queen Mab, which too came from the royal stables. Belair, with its rolling pasture land, was excellently situated for raising horses.

Governor Ogle died on May 3, 1752, in his 58th year, and his remains were interred in St. Anne's Church at Annapolis, with five gentlemen of the Council and the presiding Judge of the Provincial Court as pallbearers. Governor Ogle was a wealthy man. He left a will, dated February 11, 1752, in which he devised to his son Benjamin his house and land in Prince George's County, together with Negroes, stock, horses (except the English horses and their breed which he desired sold), implements and utensils belonging to the plantation; to his wife Anne £250 annually, to be paid out of the interest of his bank stock, all her wearing apparel and linen, his coach chariot, coach horses, the furniture of his house in Annapolis, the use of any six house Negroes she might choose and the use of all plate during her lifetime; to his daughters Mary and Meliora £1200 sterling each; to his son Benjamin the residue of his estate. He expressed the desire that his son be educated in England; and appointed his father-in-law Benjamin Tasker, Esquire and his brother-in-law Colonel Benjamin Tasker joint executors of his estate. In a codicil, dated April 15, 1752, he reduced the bequests to his daughters from £1200 to £1000 each; directed that the Negroes, horses, stock, implements and utensils on his plantation be sold; and that his house and land also be sold by his executors if they judged it to be most expedient and advantageous for the benefit of his son.⁷

The Benjamin Taskers, both father and son, were prominent in provincial affairs. The father, known as Benjamin Tasker, Esquire, was the son of Thomas Tasker, Esquire of Calvert County and brother of Colonel Thomas Addison's first wife. He had been a member of the Council since 1722 and had become its President

⁶ *Maryland Gazette*, June 9, 1747, July 21, 1747, Sept. 21, 1748, Feb. 1, 1749, Sept. 19, 1750; Ridout Papers, No. 178, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

⁷ *Maryland Gazette*, May 7, 1752; Wills, Lib. 28, f. 330.

February 2, 1734. Upon the death of his son-in-law, Governor Ogle, in May, 1752, he became Acting Governor and served in that capacity until the arrival of Governor Horatio Sharpe in August, 1753. During this period he also assumed the Chancellorship and Surveyorship of the Western Shore. He had, at various times, held the offices of Commissary General, Naval Officer of Annapolis, Commissioner of the Paper Currency Office, Agent and Receiver General, Judge of the Land Office, Rent Roll Keeper of the Western Shore, and Surveyor and Searcher of Annapolis.⁸

The son, known as Colonel Benjamin Tasker, was a bachelor. He had been a member of the Council since February, 1745. For a time he was Riding Surveyor of Bohemia and Sassafras and Surveyor General of the Eastern Shore, and from 1755 until his death was Deputy Secretary of the Province.⁹

The two men, as joint executors of the estate of Governor Ogle held a public sale, duly advertised, at "Belair" on November 5, 1752, in which they disposed of the slaves, the English horse and mare and their offspring, draught oxen and horses, the plantation utensils, and the stock of cattle and sheep.¹⁰

Since the governor's home in Annapolis was only rented, Mrs. Ogle and her children moved into "Belair" and lived there for about two years after Governor Ogle's death, during which time no account was kept, as the produce of the plantation was consumed on the plantation. Colonel Tasker then took over the plantation. A gentleman from Antigua in the West Indies made an offer of £1700 for the estate, which the executors did not accept, as he was a stranger and they were uncertain of his financial standing. Colonel Tasker then decided to buy it himself, and on December 25, 1757, gave his bond for £1923.5.7 at 4% interest, £1700 being in payment of the plantation, and £223.5.7 for the furniture.

To get the title into Colonel Tasker's name, a deed was executed by the executors to Anne Ogle, and she then conveyed it to Benjamin Tasker, Jr. The customary procedure of that day, in like circumstances, was to advertise the property for sale and then have a friend buy it in and sign the necessary papers. Mrs. Ogle didn't understand the transaction, but signed what her men folks asked her to sign. Colonel Tasker then took possession of "Belair," paying interest on his bond. He worked the land and kept the profits, but

⁸ Owings, *op. cit.*, 121, 131, 163, 164, 167, 172, 176, 182-3.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 129, 163, 174, 184.

¹⁰ *Maryland Gazette*, Oct. 5, 1752.

made many improvements. He fenced in a park for deer, and fenced in a large garden and vineyard, planting about two acres of the garden with vine cuttings. He planted many pear trees, planted locust and poplar trees along avenues leading to the house, built a good barn to replace one which had blown down, built a stable, a milk house, a horse mill for grinding corn and wheat, and a cider mill. He cleared meadow ground and converted some of the arable land into pasture by sowing clover and other grass seeds. He sank a deep well near the house and attached a lead pump with a double list. He sold very little, except the young horses which he bred there. He, too, was interested in raising race horses, and imported the bay mare, Selima, which was also a product of the royal stables. When his father bought 1328 acres of the adjoining estate, "Enfield Chase," for him, he told his sister, Anne Ogle, that he was sorry, as "Belair" was large enough for him. Young Benjamin Ogle was in school in England and the executors thought that he would want to remain there. But it was always understood that when he came of age he could have either the plantation or the money, and Colonel Tasker was heard to say this many times.

Colonel Benjamin Tasker died October 17, 1760. In his will he bequeathed all of his land and real estate to his father, Benjamin Tasker, Esquire, to be sold and the money arising from the sale to be divided equally among his three sisters, Anne Ogle, Elizabeth Lowndes, wife of Christopher Lowndes of Bladensburgh, and Frances Carter, wife of Robert Carter of Virginia.¹¹

Benjamin Tasker, Esquire now bought "Belair." As executor of his son's estate he conveyed it to his friend Major Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, who in turn conveyed it back to Tasker. Benjamin Tasker, Esquire then took possession of the plantation, entered and occupied the house, received the profits and paid £102 yearly as rent or interest. He, too, intended that Benjamin Ogle, when he came of age, could have either the plantation or the money.

Benjamin Tasker, Esquire died June 19, 1768. In his will he devised to Anne Ogle, Christopher Lowndes and Robert Carter, or any two of them, in trust, the real estate bequeathed to him by his son. Christopher Lowndes refused to act under the trust, but Anne Ogle and Robert Carter took the goods and chattels unadministered by Benjamin Tasker, Esquire into their possession and also entered into possession of the house and plantation and received the profits. They advertised a public sale of the plantation and contents at "Bel-

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 23, 1760; Wills, Lib. 31, f. 90.

air" on March 1, 1769, if fair, if not, the next fair day. Property values had increased, so that they expected to get at least £4085 for the estate. But there were no bidders. Anyone who might have been inclined to buy was discouraged by the claim of John Ridout Esquire, Deputy Secretary of the Province, Benjamin Ogle's brother-in-law and guardian since the death of Benjamin Tasker Esquire, that the title would be questionable, since the two previous sales had been made without advertising.

Benjamin Ogle reached the age of twenty-one on February 7, 1770. The seeming discrepancy of 11 days in his birth date is due to the fact that 11 days were dropped in September, 1752, when the change was made from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. He immediately applied to his mother, Anne Ogle, and his uncle, Robert Carter, for an accounting of the estate since his father's death, and requested the balance due him. He had been unhappy in England, but liked the country life in Maryland with its shooting and hunting. He was willing to let the interest of the £1700 be considered as satisfaction for the profits, and was willing to return the £1700, but he wanted the plantation reconveyed to him. Anne Ogle and Robert Carter refused. Almost 18 years had passed since the death of Samuel Ogle. The executors of Governor Ogle's estate were now dead, and their plans for final settlement of the estate had died with them. Mrs. Ogle and the Honorable Robert Carter Esquire were unable to give an accounting of the profits; and Robert Carter was unwilling to return the plantation for less than the £4085 which they had expected to realize from the sale.¹²

Benjamin Ogle was obliged to sue. Depositions were taken, the matter was reviewed by the court, and in May, 1774, the High Court of Chancery awarded "Belair" to Benjamin Ogle, he to return the payment of £1700.

At the time of the establishment of Prince George's County, one of the most prominent men in the province was Colonel Henry Darnall, a cousin of the first wife of Charles third Lord Baltimore. Darnall had settled in Maryland prior to May, 1674, when he was elected a delegate to the Lower House of the General Assembly from Calvert County. He was married to Mrs. Eleanor Hatton Brooke, widow of Major Thomas Brooke. Darnall acquired large land holdings in that part of Calvert County which later became Prince George's and lived at his estate in Prince George's County called the Woodyard. Colonel Darnall was a Roman Catholic. Un-

¹² *Maryland Gazette*, June 23, 1768, Jan. 19, 1769; Ridout Papers, No. 52.

der proprietary rule he had been a member of the Council and was one of the Council of State or Board of Deputy Governors whom Lord Baltimore left in charge of the province from 1684 to 1689. He had also been Chancellor and Commissary General. Since the Lord Proprietary retained control of the patronage of the offices administering his personal income during the royal government of the province, it was Colonel Henry Darnall who was looking after the Proprietary's interests in 1696, serving as His Lordship's Agent and Receiver General, Keeper of His Lordship's Great Seal, and Rent Roll Keeper. Colonel Darnall held all of these important and profitable offices, except that of Rent Roll Keeper, until his death, June 16, 1711. He held the position of Rent Roll Keeper until 1699 when the Proprietary Rent Roll was destroyed by vandals. Although Colonel Darnall had moved to an estate in Anne Arundel County shortly before his death, he must have died at the "Wood-yard" in Prince George's County, as he was buried there.¹³

In 1697 Colonel Darnall obtained from Lord Baltimore a commission as Surveyor General of the Western Shore for his son-in-law Clement Hill, Jr. Esquire. Hill Jr. had come to Maryland in 1693. He was the nephew and heir of Clement Hill, Sr. Esquire of St. Mary's County who had also been one of Lord Baltimore's Board of Deputy Governors from 1684 to 1689, along with Colonel Darnall. Colonel Darnall and Hill Sr. were brothers-in-law, having married two of the Hatton sisters. The Hills were Roman Catholics. Clement Hill Jr. lived at his magnificent estate of "Compton Bassett" on the Patuxent River in Prince George's County, which home is still occupied by his descendants. He held the lucrative office of Surveyor General of the Western Shore until Colonel Darnall's death in 1711. Hill Jr. died June 23, 1743.¹⁴

In 1701 Colonel Darnall secured from Lord Baltimore a commission as Surveyor General of the Eastern Shore for another one of his sons-in-law, Edward Digges Esquire, who lived in Prince George's County at "Kingston," his estate about two miles southwest of Upper Marlborough. This young man's parents were well known to Lord Baltimore as his father, Colonel William Digges deceased of Charles County, had been another of the Board of Deputy Governors from 1684 to 1689 appointed by Lord Baltimore, and his mother, Eliza-

¹³ *Arch. Md.*, II, 345; XVII, 252-3, 263; *Prov. Ct. Rec.*, Lib. 15, fol. 561; *Wills*, Lib. 13, f. 223; *Bowie*, *op. cit.*, p. 240; *Owings*, *op. cit.*, 118, 122-3, 166.

¹⁴ *Bowie*, *op. cit.*, 426; *Warrants*, Lib. A, f. 206, *Hall of Records*, Annapolis, Md.; *Wills*, Lib. 13, fol. 223; *Owings*, *op. cit.*, 171-2.

beth Sewall Digges, was Lord Baltimore's stepdaughter. Digges' tenure of the office of Surveyor General of the Eastern Shore expired with the death of Colonel Darnall in 1711. Edward Digges Esquire died in April, 1714.¹⁵

The office of Examiner General had been held since 1694 by Clement Hill Sr. Esquire of St. Mary's County. Beginning in December, 1704, he was assisted in this office by his nephew Clement Hill Jr. Esquire and his nephew by marriage Edward Digges Esquire, the two Surveyors General. This assistance may have been given as a prerogative of their offices. In January, 1707, these two young men were joined in their assistance by Henry Darnall Jr. The early records give him the title of Henry Darnall Esquire to distinguish him from his father, Colonel Henry Darnall, and we shall do the same. These three young men, all nephews of Clement Hill Sr. and all brothers-in-law, seem to have assisted Hill Sr. until his death in April, 1708, and then to have served jointly as Examiners General until September 12, 1712, when Henry Darnall Esquire was appointed sole Examiner General.¹⁶

Henry Darnall Esquire was married to Ann Digges, sister of Edward, so that there was a double relationship between these two young couples. In 1716 Henry Darnall Esquire resigned his position as Examiner General, probably because of his religion, as he was a Roman Catholic. Henry Darnall Esquire inherited from his father a vast estate of over 13,000 acres of land, together with the Negroes and stock on it. He made his home at the "Woodyard," where his father had lived before him. Here he lived in such an elegant and lavish style which, coupled with the low price received at this time for tobacco, caused him to become so deeply indebted to his merchants in London, William Black and John Hyde, that he finally lost all of his holdings to them. He died in 1737.¹⁷

On April 19, 1744, Henry Darnall III was appointed Attorney General of the province. He was the son and heir of Henry Darnall Esquire and his wife Anne Digges Darnall. While in England, Henry Darnall III, as the prospective heir to a large fortune, won the hand of Anne Talbot, niece and ward of the Earl of Shrewsbury. Tradition says that the Earl of Shrewsbury had the mansion house which is still standing, known as His Lordship's Kindness, built for his niece as a

¹⁵ Warrants, Lib. A, fol. 289; Wills, Lib. 13, fol. 223; Owings, *op. cit.*, 173, 175.

¹⁶ Patents, Lib. CD, f. 220; DD No. 5, 428, 489; Prov. Ct. Rec., Lib. TP No. 4, f. 525; Owings, *op. cit.*, 175.

¹⁷ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. M, 415-17; Lib. T, f. 186; Owings, *op. cit.*, 175.

wedding present, but it is more likely that it was built with her own money, which he merely advanced as her guardian. On May 24, 1728, Henry Darnall III received from his father a deed to a large estate, consisting of several tracts, 300 acres of "His Lordship's Kindness" whereon his dwelling house was already built, "Addition" 948 acres, "Toogood" 100 acres, and that part of "Pitchcroft" not already sold, totaling over 1500 acres, together with the stock thereon and 20 Negroes. The mansion is still a show place and one of the hand-somest in the county. In the west wing is a room which was used by the Darnall family as a Roman Catholic chapel. In May, 1755, Henry Darnall III was appointed Naval Officer of Patuxent, a more lucrative office than that of Attorney General, which he then relinquished. Although the rest of his family were Roman Catholics, Henry Darnall III took the necessary oaths of office, which Catholics could not conscientiously do. He might also have been appointed to the Council, but there were objections to him on account of his Catholic leanings. He retained the office of Naval Officer of Patuxent until 1761, when it was discovered that he had misappropriated some of the funds. He was dismissed from office, and left the province.¹⁸

At least one member of the Council lived in Prince George's County from the time of the county's establishment, April 23, 1696, until the Revolution. Since the councillors received only a *per diem* allowance for the time spent in attending meetings, they were usually given some other office also.¹⁹

When the county was established in 1696, two members of the Council were already living within its borders, Colonel John Addison on the Potomac side and Thomas Brooke Esquire on the Patuxent side. Colonel Addison had come to Maryland about 1675. He was a member of a well-known family in England, and uncle of the celebrated writer, Joseph Addison. In Maryland he had settled in what was then Charles County. He owned several large plantations, totaling about 5000 acres, on or near the Potomac River and lived at the one called "St. Elizabeths," which his great grandson had resurveyed in 1767 and incorporated into the estate known as "Oxon Hill Manor." Colonel Addison was married to Mrs. Rebecca Wilkin-

¹⁸ Owings, *op. cit.*, 134, 160; Prov. Ct. Judgments, Lib. 30A, f. 471, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; PGCo. Land Rec. M, 424; T, 305; Prov. Ct. Rec., EI No. 9, 571; *Maryland Gazette*, June 5, 1755; *Arch. Md.*, VI, 240; IX, 511; XXXII, 12.

¹⁹ "Origin and Evolution of Maryland Government 1634-1866," by Gust Skordas in Morris L. Radoff, *The Old Line State & History of Maryland, 1956*, Library of American Lives, Hopkinsville, Ky., Historical Record Association, Vol. I, p. 322.

son Dent, widow of Thomas Dent Esquire of Charles County and daughter of the Reverend William Wilkinson, the first Anglican clergyman to migrate to Maryland. Colonel and Mrs. Addison had one son, Thomas Addison. Colonel Addison was a Protestant, foreman of the first vestry of Piscataway Parish. He had been appointed a member of the Council in 1691, after the government of the province was taken over by the crown. He had served as colonel of the militia of Charles County until the erection of Prince George's County, when he was appointed colonel and commander of the militia of the new county. In December, 1696, Colonel Addison was appointed one of five Commissioners in Chancery who served jointly as Chancellor until July, 1699. In this capacity he had the care of the Broad Seal of the province, which was used during the royal administration. In August, 1699, Colonel Addison, together with his stepson-in-law, Thomas Brooke Esquire, also of Prince George's County, and John Courts Esquire of Charles County, were commissioned jointly as Commissarys General or Judges for Probate of Wills and served until June 1, 1700. Colonel Addison continued a member of the Council until his death, which occurred sometime between June 29, 1705, the last time he is mentioned in the Proceedings of the Council, and April 15, 1706, when his son filed bond as administrator of his estate.²⁰

Thomas Brooke Esquire, the other member of the Council in 1696 living in Prince George's County, was born in Maryland. He was the son of Major Thomas Brooke, who migrated to Maryland in 1650 as a member of the large party of family and servants transported by his father, Robert Brooke. Thomas Brooke Esquire's mother was Eleanor Hatton Brooke, whose uncle, Thomas Hatton, had been Secretary of the province. After the death of Major Thomas Brooke, Mrs. Brooke was married to Colonel Henry Darnall, making Thomas Brooke Esquire the stepson of Colonel Darnall and the half brother of Henry Darnall Esquire. Thomas Brooke Esquire was married twice, his second marriage being to Barbara Dent, stepdaughter of Colonel John Addison. Their home was at "Brookfield," in that part of Prince George's County formerly in Calvert County. Thomas Brooke Esquire was a wealthy man,

²⁰ Rent Rolls, Vol. 2 No. 2 Calvert Prince George Frederick, pp. 356, 363, 365, 366 (3), 368, 374, 379, 380; PGCo. Land Records, Lib. A, f. 8; Testamentary Proc., Lib. 9, f. 160; Lib. 18a, f. 1; Wills, Lib. 1, f. 190; KGP Ves. Min., p. 2; Bonds, PGCo., Box 2 Folder 2 John Addison 1706, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; Patents, Lib. BC&GS#33, f. 86-90; *Arch. Md.*, VIII, 283; XX, 130, 181, 552, 560; XXX, 190; Owings, *op. cit.*, 123, 130.

having inherited a large estate from his father. Although he came from a Roman Catholic family, he was a Protestant and was the ranking member of the first vestry of St. Paul's Parish. He had been appointed a member of the Council along with Colonel John Addison in 1691, after the government of the province was taken over by the crown. He served as Deputy Secretary of the province from October 18, 1694, until August, 1696, while the Secretary, Sir Thomas Lawrence, was in England. As noted above, in August, 1699, Thomas Brooke Esquire was appointed jointly with his stepfather-in-law, Colonel John Addison, and John Courts Esquire of Charles County as Commissarys General and served until June 1, 1700, when Thomas Brooke Esquire was commissioned sole Commissary General. In May, 1704, Brooke was commissioned to this office jointly with his brother-in-law, Major William Dent of Charles County. After the death of Major Dent in November, 1704, Brooke was commissioned jointly with Colonel John Contee of Charles County, and served until September, 1706.²¹

In 1708 Thomas Brooke Esquire was dismissed from the Council because of nonattendance at meetings. The people of Prince George's County reacted to this critical action toward one of their number by immediately electing him a delegate to the Lower House of the General Assembly. While this show of confidence and support on the part of the freeholders of the county must have been pleasing to Brooke, it would no doubt have been embarrassing for him to have appeared in the Lower House after having been dismissed from the Upper House. He did not appear at this session of the General Assembly, giving as his excuse that he was in Virginia. It must also have been an embarrassing situation for the Governor, and may have been one of the reasons why he dissolved this Assembly after only one session.²²

When Lord Baltimore's governing rights were restored in 1715, Thomas Brooke Esquire was again appointed not only as a member of the Council, but as its President. In this capacity he served as Acting Governor from May to October, 1720, during the interval between the departure of Governor John Hart and the arrival of Governor Charles Calvert. Also during this 5-month period he served as Surveyor General of the Eastern Shore. On October 20, 1722,

²¹ *Arch. Md.*, V, 474; XIX, 99; Test, Proc. Lib. 18b, f. 1; Lib. 19b, f. 1; Lib. 20, f. 32; Owings, *op. cit.*, 127, 128, 130.

²² *Arch. Md.*, XXV, 245; XXVII, 204, 208.

Thomas Brooke Esquire, together with his half-brother-in-law Colonel Thomas Addison of Prince George's County, Colonel William Holland of Anne Arundel County and Daniel Dulany Esquire of Annapolis, were commissioned jointly as Commissarys General and served until Dulany resigned in July, 1724. Brooke, Addison, and Holland were then commissioned jointly to this office on July 15, 1724, and served until Colonel Addison's death in June, 1727. Thomas Brooke Esquire seems to have resigned his seat on the Council at the time of his appointment as Commissary General, as his last appearance as a Council member was on October 20, 1722. He died January 7, 1731.²³

In 1708, at the time that Thomas Brooke Esquire was dismissed from the Council, Thomas Greenfield Esquire of Prince George's County was appointed a member of that body. Thomas Greenfield was married to Martha Truman, niece of Thomas Truman Esquire deceased, who had served as another member of the Board of Deputy Governors from 1684 to 1689. Greenfield was a Protestant, one of the first vestrymen of St. Paul's Parish. He owned over 2000 acres of land in Prince George's County, as well as land in other counties. His name had been on several of the lists suggesting members for the Council in 1691, when the government of the province was taken over by the crown. At that time his name had been passed over, but when Prince George's County was established in 1696, he was given the important office of high sheriff of the county, and a few years later was appointed a justice of the Provincial Court. He had been elected a delegate to the Lower House of the General Assembly in 1699 and was still serving in that capacity when appointed to the Council in 1708. Immediately after his appointment we find his name given in the records as Colonel Thomas Greenfield, so we would assume that he was given command of the county militia. Colonel Greenfield continued to serve as a member of the Council until his death, September 8, 1715. Although his dwelling plantation at the time of his death was part of "Billingsley's Point" in Patuxent Hundred, he was buried in the family cemetery on the tract "Retaliation" in Mattapan Hundred.²⁴

In 1710, Colonel Greenfield was joined on the Council by Colonel

²³ *Ibid.*, XXV, 327; XXXIV, 4, 352; Test. Proc., Lib. 26, f. 71; Lib. 27, f. 63; Owings, *op. cit.*, 120, 131, 174.

²⁴ Wills, Lib. 1, f. 509; Lib. 14, f. 89; *Arch. Md.*, V, 474; VIII, 282-5; XX, 380; XXII, 330; XXV, 241, 245.

Thomas Addison, son of Colonel John Addison. The younger Addison received his appointment and took the oaths of office on October 27. His title is given at first as lieutenant colonel, so he no doubt served as lieutenant colonel of the county militia until Colonel Greenfield's death, when he in turn became colonel and commander. He had already served the county as deputy surveyor, as justice of the peace, and as sheriff. In 1718 he was commissioned Surveyor General of the Western Shore and served in that office until June, 1726. On November 6, 1721, he, his brother-in-law Daniel Dulany Sr. Esquire of Annapolis, and Colonel William Holland of Anne Arundel County, were commissioned jointly as Commissarys General. As noted earlier, on October 20, 1722, these three men and Colonel Addison's half brother-in-law, Thomas Brooke Esquire, were commissioned jointly to this office and served until Dulany resigned in July, 1724. Addison, Holland and Brooke were then commissioned jointly to this office on July 15, 1724, and served until Colonel Thomas Addison's death in June, 1727. Colonel Thomas Addison was a Protestant, and served as a vestryman of Piscataway or King George's Parish. He was a wealthy man, as he had inherited all of his father's estates, and lived at the dwelling plantation, "St. Elizabeths," which had been his father's home. He was married twice, first to Elizabeth Tasker, sister of Benjamin Tasker Esquire, and second to Eleanor Smith, daughter of Colonel Walter Smith of Calvert County. Colonel Thomas Addison continued to serve as a member of the Council until his death in 1727.²⁵

In October, 1725, Philip Lee Esquire of Prince George's County was appointed a member of the Council, serving with Colonel Thomas Addison. Lee's first wife, who died in 1724, was a daughter of Thomas Brooke Esquire. Lee lived near Nottingham on his plantation which was part of "Brookfield," given to him and his wife by his father-in-law. Lee had already served the county as a justice of the peace, as a delegate to the Lower House of the General Assembly, and as sheriff. On June 7, 1727, Philip Lee Esquire was commissioned jointly with his brother-in-law Thomas Brooke Jr. Esquire, and Colonel William Holland of Anne Arundel County, to the office of Commissary General, but they held this office only until July 15, 1727. In October, 1727, Lee was commissioned Naval Officer of North Potomac, which office he held until his death in April,

²⁵ *Arch. Md.*, XXVII, 496; Patents, FF#7, 302; Test. Proc., Lib. 25, f. 53; Owings, *op. cit.*, 130-1, 172; Bowie, *op. cit.*, 32.

1744, being recommissioned on July 25, 1733, and September 29, 1742. Philip Lee Esquire was a Protestant, a parishioner of St. Paul's Parish.²⁶

Thomas Brooke Jr. Esquire, who, from June 7 to July 15, 1727, served as Commissary General jointly with his brother-in-law Philip Lee Esquire and Colonel William Holland of Anne Arundel County, had served the county as a justice of the peace, as a delegate to the Lower House of the General Assembly, and would later serve as sheriff. At the time of his joint appointment as Commissary General he was serving as deputy commissary for Prince George's County. He was the son of Thomas Brooke Esquire and was no doubt appointed to replace his father. Brooke Jr. was married to Lucy Smith, daughter of Colonel Walter Smith of Calvert County, making him a brother-in-law of Colonel Thomas Addison. He died December 28, 1744. He, too, was a parishioner of St. Paul's Parish.²⁷

At the same time in February, 1745, that Colonel Benjamin Tasker had been appointed a Councillor, Benjamin Young Esquire was also appointed a member of the Council. Young was married to Mrs. Ann Rozer Carroll, widow of Daniel Carroll of "Duddington," and daughter of Notley Rozer. Mrs. Young's mother was Jane Digges Rozer, sister of Edward Digges Esquire and Mrs. Henry Darnall. Although Mrs. Young was a Roman Catholic, Mr. Young took the necessary oaths of office. They lived on the estate "Cerne Abbey Manor," also known as "Duddington Manor," at the mouth of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, which Mrs. Young had inherited from her father. Mr. Young was called Benjamin Young Sr. to distinguish him from his son Benjamin Young Jr. of Baltimore County, who was also prominent in provincial affairs. On September 29, 1738, Benjamin Young Sr. Esquire was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Paper Currency Office, and at the same time was commissioned Examiner General. He resigned as Commissioner of the Paper Currency Office in December, 1746, and as Examiner General in 1748. On September 30, 1745, he was commissioned Surveyor General of the Eastern Shore, from which he resigned in 1747. From May 17, 1746, until his death, he served as one of the Judges of the Land Office. He died of gout on Febru-

²⁶ *Arch. Md.*, XXV, 452; XLII, 49; Commission Book 82, f. 1, 96; Wills, Lib. 18, f. 867; PGCo. Land Rec., PP, 28; Test. Proc., Lib. 28, f. 33; Owings, *op. cit.*, 131, 161.

²⁷ Bowie, *op. cit.*, 84.

ary 8, 1754. At the time of his death he was also Judge of the Admiralty Court, and Chief Justice of the Provincial Court.²⁸

On July 19, 1745, the Honorable Benedict Calvert Esquire became His Majesty's Collector of Customs for Patuxent District, a very lucrative office; and on March 8, 1748, he became a member of the Council. At this time he was living in Annapolis, but within a few years he moved to his estate in Prince George's County. On March 5, 1755, he and Dr. George Steuart were commissioned jointly as Judges of the Land Office. Calvert held all three of these offices until the Revolution.²⁹

Benedict Calvert was the acknowledged, although illegitimate, son of Charles fifth Lord Baltimore and fourth Lord Proprietary of the Province of Maryland. When but a lad he was sent over to Maryland, where he was placed under the care of Dr. George Steuart of Annapolis. On April 21, 1748, Benedict Calvert Esquire was married to his orphan cousin, the 17-year old Elizabeth Calvert, daughter of the former Governor of the Province, the Honorable Charles Calvert Esquire and his wife, Rebecca Gerrard Calvert.³⁰

Several years earlier Lord Baltimore had acquired title to that part of the Darnall land, together with Negroes and stock, which Henry Darnall Esquire had conveyed to John Hyde merchant in payment of a debt. Samuel Hyde merchant, son and heir of John Hyde deceased, had in turn conveyed it to Lord Baltimore in payment of a debt. Shortly before Benedict's marriage, Lord Baltimore started proceedings to give this property to his son, but it took about three years before the final transaction was completed.³¹

This was a large estate, made up of several tracts which totaled 9200 acres, 6700 acres being part of the tract called His Lordship's Kindness lying on the west side of Piscataway Creek, and the several tracts which made up the other 2500 acres lying on the east side of the creek. On one of these tracts, St. Mark's Place, was a small stone building reputed to have been built in 1660 or thereabouts by Lord Baltimore for a hunting lodge. This might well have been. The Lord Proprietary in 1660 was Cecilius second Lord Baltimore.

²⁸ Owings, *op. cit.*, 165, 169, 174, 176; *Arch. Md.*, XXVIII, 342; Bowie, *op. cit.*, 617-18; Wills, Lib. 19, f. 224; Commission Book 82, f. 62, 62-3, 100, 116; Prov. Ct. Rec., EI No. 8, 326, 539; EI No. 9, 211; *Maryland Gazette*, Feb. 14, 1754.

²⁹ Owings, *op. cit.*, 168, 169, 180; Commission Book 82, f. 301, 352; *Arch. Md.*, XXVIII, 414; *Maryland Gazette*, March 9, 1748, Feb. 14, 1765; Calendar of Treasury Books and Papers 1742-1745, 653, Library of Congress.

³⁰ St. Anne's Parish Register, 159; *Maryland Gazette*, April 27, 1748.

³¹ Prov. Ct. Rec., EI No. 8, 187-200; EI No. 9, 11, 140, 141, 144, 145.



Courtesy Library of Congress

Compton Bassett
Home of Clement Hill, Jr.
Surveyor General of the Western Shore



Courtesy Library of Congress

His Lordship's Kindness
Home of Henry Darnall III
Attorney General 1744-1755 and Naval Officer of the Patuxent 1755-1761



Courtesy Library of Congress

Mount Airy
Home of Benedict Calvert



Courtesy Library of Congress

The David Craufurd Home in Upper Marlborough

He never came to Maryland, but in 1660 his half-brother, Philip Calvert, represented him as governor in Maryland, and in 1661 his son, Charles Calvert, who in 1675 became third Lord Baltimore, was sent over as governor. Since all of this land in 1660 belonged to Lord Baltimore, perhaps either Philip or Charles had this building erected and used it for a hunting lodge. On June 25, 1671, St. Mark's Place was surveyed for Mark Cordea of St. Mary's County, and on September 1, 1671, was granted to him. But one wonders why, if the Calverts had a hunting lodge on this tract, it was granted to Mr. Cordea, a naturalized immigrant from Normandy, France, who, although a man of substantial means, held no office in the province and seemingly had no connection with the Calverts. Perhaps he had done some unrecorded favor for them, which was repaid in this way. Mark Cordea died in 1685, and the executor of his estate sold this land to Colonel Henry Darnall in March, 1687, so perhaps it was Colonel Darnall who built the hunting lodge. This supposition would place the date of the building no earlier than 1687 and there could be no connection with Lord Baltimore, who left the province in 1684 and never returned from England.³²

Whatever its true origin might be, after getting title to the property, Benedict Calvert Esquire added to this hunting lodge a large wing, which became the main part of the house. Although Benedict Calvert now owned 6700 acres of His Lordship's Kindness and Henry Darnall III owned only 300 acres, Darnall was already using the name His Lordship's Kindness for *his* dwelling plantation. The Woodyard, the name used by Colonel Henry Darnall and Henry Darnall Esquire for their dwelling plantation, was continued in use by the new owners of the other tracts of the former Darnall land, including Darnall's Delight, the tract on which the dwelling called the Woodyard stood. Benedict Calvert, therefore, had to choose another name, and he gave his estate the name of Mount Airy. This mansion is still standing. In the 1930's fire destroyed the oldest part of Mount Airy, the hunting lodge, but it was rebuilt, so that the mansion still retains its original aspect.

The Benedict Calvert family of Mount Airy and the George Washington family of Mount Vernon in Virginia were great friends, often exchanging visits back and forth. This family friendship led to the marriage of Mrs. Washington's son, John Parke Custis, to Benedict Calvert's daughter, Eleanor Calvert. The wedding took place at

³² Patent Records, Lib. 16, f. 274; Lib. 14, f. 327; *Arch. Md.*, II, 282; *Prov. Ct. Rec.*, WRC#1, 396-7.

Mount Airy on February 3, 1774, with George Washington among the guests who were present.³³

The Revolution brought an end to all of the provincial offices which Benedict Calvert held. He did not take the Oath of Fidelity to the State of Maryland, but remained a non-juror and tory. He continued to live quietly at Mount Airy until his death January 9, 1788.

Benjamin Ogle Esquire of Belair, son of the former Governor Samuel Ogle, was appointed a member of the Provincial Council in October, 1773.³⁴ His term in this office however was of short duration as all appointments and commissions from the Lord Proprietary came to an end with the Revolution.

³³ Fitzpatrick, *op. cit.*, V. 2, p. 140.

³⁴ *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 4, 1773.

Chapter 8

Upper Marlborough in Colonial Days

Upper Marlborough was one of the six ports or towns established in Prince George's County in 1706 by an Act of the General Assembly. This act was similar to the earlier acts of 1683, 1684 and 1686 which established Charles Town. Commissioners were appointed to select 100 acres of land, have it laid out in streets, lanes and alleys, with open spaces left for erecting public buildings, and the remainder divided into 100 equal lots. During the first four months the lots were sold to county inhabitants, one lot only to each purchaser, with the former owner of the land having first choice. After four months, any lots remaining unsold were offered to the general public. In order to retain possession of his lot, the purchaser had to build a house at least 20 feet square within a year, otherwise the commissioners could resell the lot for the benefit of the town; and if any lots remained unsold after seven years they reverted to the former owner. The commissioners appointed a clerk to keep a record, and they also set the price of the lots. It was specified that this town was to be located at the upper landing on the Western Branch of the Patuxent River, commonly called Colonel Belt's Landing.¹

The 11 commissioners who were appointed, Thomas Greenfield, Robert Tyler, Samuel Magruder, John Browne, Alexander Magruder, Frederick Claudius, Robert Bradley, Thomas Sprigg, Thomas Odell, William Tannehill and Robert Wade, had the town laid out within a bend of the Western Branch of the Patuxent River at the junction of Collington Branch. At first it was called the Town of Marlborough, but by 1721 it was known as Upper Marlborough, no doubt to distinguish it from the Town of Lower Marlborough close by in Calvert County. The commissioners employed Thomas Truman Greenfield, the county surveyor, to lay out the town and appointed John Warren to serve as clerk. Mr. Warren kept account of

¹ *Arch. Md.*, XXVI, 636.

the sales of lots and deposited the record with the other county books. Mr. Greenfield's plat of the town is in possession of the Maryland Historical Society, but Mr. Warren's account book failed to survive. The commissioners evidently set the amount of 350 pounds of tobacco as the purchase price for each lot but, in those instances in which possession reverted to the original owner, he seems to have been free to set his own price. The land selected for the site of the town belonged not to one owner, but to two, Colonel Ninian Beall, who owned "Meadows," and Colonel Henry Darnall, who owned the adjoining tracts, "Darnall's Chance" and "Addition to Chance."²

The record book kept by the clerk must have disappeared within a few years after the town was laid out, since as early as 1731 the inhabitants of the town petitioned the General Assembly to have the town laid out anew. But the only act passed at this time for the benefit of the inhabitants of Upper Marlborough was one to prohibit the raising of swine in the town unless they were penned up by the owners. It was not until 1744 that the General Assembly passed an act to have the town laid out anew, specifying the name to be Upper-Marlborough Town, and also directing that new houses have brick or stone chimneys, and any wooden chimneys in the town be replaced within a year. In this Act of 1744, Turner Wootton, James Weems, Thomas Clark, Thomas Gantt Sr., Richard Keene, William Murdock and Thomas Harwood were appointed commissioners to have the town resurveyed to conform as nearly as possible to the original survey. These commissioners employed Francis Waring to make the survey. A few years later the inhabitants of Upper Marlborough attempted to have a Supplementary Act passed, but objections were raised by Daniel Carroll, merchant, who now owned the land which formerly belonged to his father-in-law Henry Darnall Esquire, who had inherited it from his father, Colonel Henry Darnall.³

Even before the town was laid out, this place was a center for public gatherings. In 1703 Robert Robertson obtained a license to operate an ordinary or inn, and in 1704 the Presbyterian Congregation built its meeting-house. The town quickly became a thriving

² PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. C, f. 103a, 186; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. C, f. 215, 216; Lib. D, f. 35.

³ *Arch. Md.*, XXXVII, 282, 390, 414, 419, 544, 630; XLIV, 297; XLVI, 217, 219; PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. A, f. 394.

center for trade, no doubt because it was the most centrally located of any of the towns in the county. Mercantile stores and inns were soon opened for business. In 1716 a pair of stocks and a whipping post were erected by order of the county court, and in 1717 the county standard of weights and measures was moved to Upper Marlborough from Charles Town.⁴

By 1718 this town had become so active that the inhabitants petitioned to have the courthouse moved from Charles Town to Marlborough, funds having already been subscribed privately for a new building. The General Assembly consented to the move and passed an act authorizing the justices of the county court to choose two acres in Marlborough on which to erect the building, and also authorized a levy of five pounds of tobacco per poll to pay for the lots and finish the building.⁵

The justices agreed with Henry Darnall Esquire for two lots in Upper Marlborough, and made arrangements to have the courthouse erected on them. Levin Covington, one of the justices, was the builder, and the private subscriptions and county tobacco collected in accordance with the act of the Assembly were turned over to him. In February, 1721, when it became apparent that the building could not be used in its unfinished condition, several of the justices agreed with Robert Wheeler to build the stairs, lay the floor upstairs, fit up the office on the second floor for holding the records, and make a place of judicature and places for the clerk and jury in the courtroom, using the bannisters and whatever else was suitable from the old courthouse. Mr. Wheeler was paid with private subscriptions raised for this purpose. The county court met for the first time in the new courthouse at Upper Marlborough on Tuesday afternoon, March 28, 1721, with Robert Tyler, Joseph Belt, Ralph Crabb, Francis Marbury, Samuel Perrie, George Noble, and Thomas Gantt, justices, Thomas Clagett sheriff, and Alexander Contee, clerk, present. Justices Levin Covington, Basil Waring and Thomas Sprigg Jr., were absent. Even though the court met there, the new courthouse was not yet finished. In August, 1721, the General Assembly authorized the county justices to levy 12 pounds of tobacco per poll to be applied toward finishing the courthouse and building a jail. This sum was paid to Mr. Levin Covington, the justices taking his bond that he would complete the work "with all

⁴ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 252; Lib. H, f. 86, 313; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. C, f. 116B.

⁵ Arch. Md., XXXVIII, 239.

convenient speed." But again Mr. Covington delayed finishing the work, so that the justices were obliged, at least twice, to threaten prosecution of his bond.⁶

In 1730 some of the inhabitants got into a dispute with Mr. Daniel Carroll over his closing up the lower landing to the town, evidently his private landing. After settling the dispute, the county fathers asked Mr. Carroll for a deed to the two acres of land where the courthouse and prison stood, a conveyance which they had neglected to obtain from Henry Darnall Esquire while he still owned the land. Mr. Carroll consented to convey one lot only. The justices were forced to accept his agreement, had the lot surveyed so as to include the courthouse, jail, stocks, and pillory, and Mr. Carroll signed the deed.⁷

In 1738 the plan of the courtroom was changed, some windows were moved, new shutters were obtained, the gallery was moved to the south end and a new one built in the north end; the justices', clerk's and attorneys' seats and tables were enlarged and raised, and a few other alterations were made.⁸

As early as 1741 there was agitation to build a new courthouse, and in 1744 such a petition was presented to the General Assembly, but not acted upon. In 1747 the justices of the county court decided to levy 100,000 pounds of tobacco in two assessments to repair the courthouse, since it was rotten and infirm and the county records therefore insecure. James Edmonston, one of the justices living at Bladensburgh, dissented. But the justices went ahead with their plans, the sheriff collected 51,944 pounds of tobacco for the first assessment, and the justices entered into an agreement with Daniel Page to repair and enlarge the courthouse. A dispute then arose, aired in the *Maryland Gazette*, that this action was illegal without an Act of the Assembly. In reading the articles in the *Gazette* it becomes apparent that those who were disputing the action of the justices wanted the courthouse moved to the new Town of Bladensburgh. In their justification it must be admitted that Bladensburgh was nearer the population center of the county, now that the northern part was more densely settled.⁹

The matter was taken to the General Assembly. This was a deli-

⁶ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. H, f. 861; Lib. K, f. 80, 90-1, 486, 618; Lib. L, f. 381; Lib. P, f. 353; Radoff, *op. cit.*, 118-20; *Arch. Md.*, XXXVIII, 290.

⁷ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. P, f. 353, 407; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. Q, f. 191.

⁸ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. W, f. 331; Lib X, f. 41; Lib. Z, f. 20.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 485; Lib. AA, f. 247; Lib. GG, f. 293, 445; *Maryland Gazette*, Dec. 16, 1747; Jan. 20, May 11, May 18, 1748.

cate situation, as Colonel Edward Sprigg, Chief Justice of Prince George's County Court was also Speaker of the Lower House of the General Assembly. The General Assembly declared the action of the county court illegal, but it settled matters satisfactorily by passing acts to divide the county and to enable the justices of Prince George's County to raise 54,000 pounds of tobacco for finishing the courthouse at Upper Marlborough, and enough more to repay any amounts already collected from persons now residing in Frederick County. The courthouse was enlarged and bricked over, so that it was a handsome building, 43 by 30 feet in size with a 5-foot piazza.¹⁰

Then two unhappy incidents occurred. In 1750 the prison burned down. The fire was thought to have been set by a Negro who had been committed for murder and used this means to escape. And in 1751, Mrs. Anne Darnall, widow of Henry Darnall Esquire, instituted a suit against the justices of the county court claiming her dower right in the courthouse land, since she had not acknowledged the deed from her husband to Daniel Carroll. And her daughter, Mrs. Eleanor Carroll, widow of Daniel Carroll, who died February 27, 1751, claimed her dower right since she had not acknowledged the deed from Daniel Carroll to the county justices. In May, 1751, the General Assembly passed an act empowering the justices of Prince George's County court to treat with Anne Darnall or any other person claiming dower in the courthouse land and to levy a sum to pay for same, and also to levy a quantity of tobacco, not to exceed 25,000 pounds, to build a prison. The court settled the claims of Mrs. Darnall and her daughter Mrs. Carroll by paying Mrs. Darnall the sum of 9600 pounds of tobacco. And the justices also bought a lot from Joseph Belt on which to build the new prison. At last the justices had full title to the courthouse land.¹¹

The county standard of weights and measures, which had been moved from Charles Town to Upper Marlborough in 1717 was kept by Thomas Clagett until 1727 when it was moved to the courthouse and Lingan Wilson, son of Josiah Wilson who had kept the standard at Charles Town for several years, was appointed standard keeper. Lingan Wilson continued as standard keeper until 1774, when Benjamin Brookes was appointed in his place.¹²

¹⁰ *Arch. Md.*, XLVI, 17, 44, 75-7, 86, 140, 142, 155; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. GG, f. 445.

¹¹ *Maryland Gazette*, Aug. 29, 1750; March 6, 1751; *Arch. Md.*, XLVI, 627; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. MM, f. 69; PGCo. Levy Books, Lib. A, f. 591; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. NN, f. 473.

¹² PGGo Ct. Rec., Lib. N, f. 621; Lib. DD No. 2, f. 117.

By 1744 the population of Upper Marlborough had grown so large that the town was designated one of the hundreds of the county.¹³

When the Act for Amending the Staple of Tobacco was passed by the General Assembly in 1747, Upper Marlborough was named as the site for one of the inspection warehouses in Prince George's County. Colonel Thomas Lee contracted with the justices of the county to build the warehouse on the half lot he had bought from Hyde Hoxton.¹⁴

There were many merchants in Upper Marlborough during colonial times: Robert Levett, James Wardrop, Daniel Carroll, Stephen West, Alexander and Andrew Symmer, John Weldon, David Craufurd, John Read Magruder, John Hepburn Jr., Charles Digges, William Parker, Christopher Richmond, Francis Leeke, Richard and Singleton Wootton, and others.¹⁵

Of these merchants, Stephen West seems to have been the most aggressive. He did things on a bigger scale; his advertisements inserted in the *Maryland Gazette* were larger, and there were more of them. He also had the greatest number of stores, and undoubtedly made the most money. He was the son of Stephen West Sr. of London Town, near Annapolis. In 1753 he was married to Miss Hannah Williams of the "Woodyard." Miss Williams was a wealthy young woman, the only daughter of the recently deceased Captain Richard Williams, who had engaged in the lucrative Guinea trade. She inherited the "Woodyard" and other land which Henry Darnall Esquire had conveyed to William Black, merchant, who in turn had conveyed it to her father. Shortly after taking up residence at the "Woodyard," Stephen West opened his first store at Upper Marlborough, but by 1772 he also had stores at Pig Point, Queen Anne, Leonard's Creek, Piscataway, Broad Creek, Bladensburgh, Georgetown, Frederick, Elk Ridge and Elk Ridge Landing. In fact, he was in the chain store business. He not only sold merchandise imported from abroad, but he bought corn, wheat, pork, staves, and other country commodities, which he shipped abroad, as well as tobacco, his main export. Mr. West was a man of bright ideas. In 1761, small coins had become so scarce in the province that he had notes printed in small denominations of sixpence, one shilling, one shilling and

¹³ *Ibid.*, Lib. CC, f. 600.

¹⁴ *Arch. Md.*, XLIV, 595; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. HH, f. 351.

¹⁵ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. E, f. 394; Lib. Q, f. 191; Lib. Y, f. 398; *Maryland Gazette*, May 13, 1756; Jan. 13, 1757; Feb. 14, May 22, June 26, 1760; July 15, 1762; June 16, 1763; June 13, 1765; Sept. 10, 1767; April 14, July 21, 1768.

sixpence, two shillings, and a half crown, in order to alleviate the situation. A sufficient quantity of these notes could be exchanged at any time and at any of his stores for silver coins, at the rate of seven shillings sixpence per Spanish dollar. At one time Mr. West was in partnership with Captain Judson Coolidge, mariner, also of Prince George's County, in importing Negroes. But in 1773 they fell into disagreement and aired their dispute and opinions of each other at great length in the *Maryland Gazette*, no doubt creating a diversion for the readers of the *Gazette* during the tense days prior to the Revolution.¹⁶

In addition to the merchants, many tradesmen and craftsmen lived in Upper Marlborough: a peruke maker, staymaker, plasterer, saddler, tanner, coachmaker, weaver, tailor and blacksmith, while a pewterer, knife sharpener and watch repairman lived nearby.¹⁷

By 1759 the Western Branch had become so choked up with rubbish and dead trees that it would soon become useless. In May of that year some of the men of Upper Marlborough, interested in having it cleared, proposed a scheme of a lottery to raise money to build a wharf at Upper Marlborough and to clear the Western Branch from the town to the Patuxent River. The plan was to sell 1500 tickets at two pieces of eight each, giving 496 prizes totaling 2500 pieces of eight, and using the remaining 500 pieces of eight to build the wharf and clear the branch. The managers of the lottery were John Hepburn, John Cooke and Thomas Clark, Esquires, Messrs. James Wardrop, Clement Hill, Colmore Beanes, Joseph Sim, Daniel Carroll, Alexander Symmer, Andrew Symmer, John Weldon, and David Craufurd, who gave bond for the faithful discharge of their trust. The drawing was advertised to be held at the Assembly Room in Upper Marlborough on Tuesday, September 4th, but the lottery proved to be so popular and was so quickly subscribed, that the drawing was held on July 12th and 13th, with the place of drawing changed from the Assembly Room to the courthouse.¹⁸

¹⁶ *Maryland Gazette*, April 2, 1752; March 8, 1753; April 18, April 25, 1754; May 13, 1756; June 23, Dec. 8, 1757; July 19, 1759; June 19, 1760; April 2, Aug. 20, Aug. 27, 1761; Sept. 16, 1762; Jan. 20, July 7, Nov. 10, 1763; April 19, June 7, 1764; June 12, Sept. 25, 1766; April 16, June 4, 1767; June 6, 1771; May 28, 1772; April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27, June 10, June 17, Sept. 16, 1773; Wills, Lib. 28, f. 318; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. NN, f. 415.

¹⁷ *Maryland Gazette*, Sept. 9, 1746; Jan. 13, 1747; March 30, July 20, 1748; Feb. 7, 1754; March 20, 1755; Jan. 8, 1756; Nov. 1, 1759; Dec. 23, 1762; Jan. 17, 1765; Oct. 29, 1767; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. E, f. 644.

¹⁸ *Maryland Gazette*, May 10, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 26, 1759.

The Assembly Room or Ball Room belonged to a group of gentlemen organized as a club called the Monthly Assembly at Upper Marlborough. Balls or assemblies were held each month. A board of managers was in charge of the club and regular semi-annual meetings were held on the first Tuesday of April and October each year. Samuel Hepburn's name was mentioned in the notice for the October meeting, 1766, so he no doubt served as secretary. Benefit concerts were given from time to time. On Thursday, October 12, 1752, it was announced that a concert of music would be given by several gentlemen at the great Ball-Room, the following Wednesday, for the benefit of Talbot County Charity-School. The next year there was an announcement of a grand concert of music, with many instruments, to be performed in the Ball Room on Thursday, June 28, 1753, the proceeds to be used for repairing the public road and mill near Upper Marlborough. The evening was to conclude with a ball. Tickets for this concert could be obtained from Benjamin Berry, Mr. Benjamin Brookes, or Mrs. Hillary, innkeepers. On Wednesday, March 29, 1769, a private charity concert was performed in the Assembly Room "by a number of the best hands on different instruments, the first violin by Mr. Leonard." Tickets for this performance, at 7s. 6d. each, could be obtained from the managers, Major Sim, Messrs. Charles Digges, John Hepburn, Jun., and Christopher Richmond, who also had the application of the money arising for the intended charity. We do not know the beginning of the Assembly, but perhaps it was the outgrowth of a demonstration noted in the *Maryland Gazette* of August 2, 1745:

On Tuesday last, at Upper Marlborough in Prince George's County, were Great Rejoicings on Account of the Reduction of Cape Breton, a handsome Subscription being raised by the Gentlemen of the said County, and all Demonstrations of Joy shewn on this Occasion.¹⁹

On Thursday, August 20, 1752, the Murray-Kean Company of comedians, which had been performing at Annapolis, opened at the new theatre or Assembly Hall in Upper Marlborough with a presentation of *The Beggar's Opera* and a farce called *The Lying Valet*. Two weeks later, on September 14th, at the request of the

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, Aug. 2, 1745; Oct. 12, 1752; June 14, June 21, 1753; April 17, Nov. 6, 1760; April 2, 1761; March 11, Sept. 2, 1762; March 24, Sept. 15, 1763; Oct. 2, 1766; Sept. 24, 1767; Sept. 29, 1768; Feb. 23, Dec. 14, 1769; Nov. 29, 1770; Nov. 11, 1773; March 25, 1784; Nov. 3, 1785; Dec. 14, 1786.

Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, the same plays were performed, with added attractions of instrumental music by a set of private gentlemen, a solo on the French horn, and a Mason's song, by Mr. Woodham, with a grand chorus. The tickets for this performance were for sale at Mr. Benjamin Berry's at 7s. 6d. for seats in the pit, and 5s. for gallery seats. This performance took place on the day of the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, when 11 days were dropped from the calendar, and Thursday, September 14th, followed Wednesday, September 2nd.²⁰

In 1760 the Douglass Company of Comedians appeared at Upper Marlborough. They stayed six weeks, with seven announced changes of repertoire. On Thursday, May 22nd, they presented the tragedy *Douglass* and the dramatic satire *Lethe, or Aesop in the Shades*. On Monday, May 26th, they performed the comedy *The Provoked Husband* or *A Journey to London* plus the farce *The Virgin Unmasked* or *An Old Man Taught Wisdom*. On Monday, June 2nd, they presented *The Stratagem* with the added attraction of a farce called *Miss in her Teens*. On Monday, June 9th, they gave the tragic history of *King Richard III* and the dramatic tale *The King and the Miller*. On Monday, June 16th, they presented the tragedy *The Revenge* plus the farce *The Devil to Pay* or *The Wives Metamorphosed*. On Tuesday, June 24th, they performed the tragedy *The Gamester*, plus the satire *Lethe* or *Aesop in the Shades*. On Tuesday, July 1st, they gave their final selection, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, as performed at the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden, with the funeral procession of Juliet to the monument of the Capulets, and a solemn dirge. To this was added the farce *The King and the Miller*. The Reverend Andrew Burnaby, D.D., Archdeacon of Leicester and Vicar of Greenwich, who was traveling through the middle colonies in North America at this time, attended the performance on the evening of June 11th, and recorded in his journal that the theatre was a "neat convenient tobacco-house, well fitted up for this purpose."²¹

Upper Marlborough was not without other leisure-time activities. Horse racing was a popular sport. Beginning in 1750, meets were announced each year, with few exceptions, sometimes in the spring,

²⁰ *Ibid.*, June 18, July 2, Aug. 13, Aug. 27, 1752.

²¹ *Ibid.*, May 15, May 22, May 29, June 5, June 12, June 19, June 26, 1760; Rev. Andrew Burnaby, D.D., *Travels through the Middle Settlements in North America in the Years 1759 and 1760*, London 1798, p. 728.

more often in the fall. The races usually took the form of a fair, or a 2-day meet, the prize the first day being larger than that of the second day, and the winning horse the first day not privileged to run the second day. The first meet that we know about was held in 1750, on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1st and 2nd. The prize the first day was 30 pounds Maryland currency, the second day 15 pounds; the entrance fee the first day was 30 shillings, the second day 15 shillings. The races were open to any horse, mare or gelding, each to carry 126 pounds weight, and to run three heats of two miles each. The horses were entered with Benjamin Berry or Benjamin Brookes, innkeepers; disputes, if any, were settled by Messrs. Clement Hill and Basil Waring. The place of this meet was not mentioned in the announcement, but subsequent meets were held at Mrs. Crauford's "Old Fields," which adjoined Upper Marlborough on the west, so this one was probably held there also. An unusual race was run on April 10, 1764, a 4-mile heat between Dr. Thomas Hamilton's gray horse Dove and Mr. Robert Tyler's horse Driver, which was won by Mr. Tyler's horse Driver. On the first day of the 3-day meet held in May, 1768, the purse of 50 guineas was won by Notley Young's black colt Gimcrack; the subscription purse of £100 was won the second day by Dr. Hamilton's brown horse Figure; and the purse of £25 was won the third day by Mr. McGill's bay colt Nonpareil. The last meet prior to the Revolution that we know about was held in 1771. The purse of £50 was won the first day by William Fitzhugh, Esquire's bay horse Regulus, and the prize of £30 was won the second day by Daniel McCarty's bay horse Silverlegs.²²

Upper Marlborough was one of the scheduled stops on the route of the post rider who, beginning in January, 1757, was employed by Jonas Green, postmaster at Annapolis and also publisher of the *Maryland Gazette*, to carry the *Gazette* and mail from Annapolis to Charles County, with service extended to St. Mary's County a short time later. The rider traveled this route once a week from April 1st to December 1st and once a fortnight during the four winter months, leaving Annapolis on Saturdays. This service was made possible and maintained by the postal service organized by Ben-

²² *Maryland Gazette*, April 4, 1750; April 3, 1751; Aug. 20, Oct. 19, 1752; Aug. 30, Oct. 11, 1753; Sept. 12, 1754; Aug. 18, 1757; Sept. 20, 1759; Sept. 10, 1761; Sept. 16, 1762; Sept. 1, 1763; March 22, June 28, 1764; Feb. 11, May 5, May 12, 1768; April 5, 1770; March 7, May 9, 1771.

jamin Franklin, one of the two deputy postmasters of the North American colonies for the British General Post Office, and by subscriptions of gentlemen of Prince George's, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, who received the *Maryland Gazette* regularly, as it was not until 1792 that newspapers were subjected to the payment of postage. We do not know in what year the post office at Upper Marlborough was established, but it was one of the early ones in Maryland. In February and June, 1765, in March, June and December, 1766, and in May, 1767, John Scott, innkeeper and deputy postmaster, advertised letters which remained uncollected. These letters were not only for residents of Prince George's County, including Bladensburgh and Piscataway, but also for residents of Port Tobacco in Charles County, Leonard Town in St. Mary's County, Lower Marlborough in Calvert County, George Town in Frederick County, and even as far away as Snow Hill in Somerset County. In May, 1767, the postmaster appended the notice that no letters would be delivered out of his office, unless the money was paid down for the postage. After Mr. Scott's death in 1769, Stephen West was appointed deputy postmaster at Upper Marlborough, and served until his death in 1792, when Samuel Hamilton innkeeper was appointed deputy postmaster.²³

George Washington stopped at Upper Marlborough frequently on his way to Annapolis. During the election at the courthouse in April, 1788, he sent his two jackasses, gifts from the King of Spain and the Marquis de Lafayette, to be exhibited.²⁴

Upper Marlborough was the birthplace of Daniel and John Carroll, sons of Daniel Carroll merchant and his wife Eleanor Darnall Carroll. The younger Daniel succeeded to his father's mercantile business at Upper Marlborough, but in 1763, after the death of his wife, moved to Frederick County. He became active in both state and national affairs and was one of Maryland's signers of the Constitution of the United States. In 1791 he was appointed by President George Washington as one of the three commissioners to lay off the Territory of Columbia. His brother, John Carroll, became

²³ *Ibid.*, Feb. 24, 1757; Aug. 3, 1758; Dec. 13, 1759; March 25, Nov. 4, 1762; Feb. 28, 1765; March 13, June 12, Dec. 18, 1766; May 14, 1767; Dec. 7, 1769; Feb. 1, 1770; June 27, 1771; Jan. 13, 1774; July 19, Nov. 15, 1792; Feb. 14, May 6, 1793; Jan. 30, June 26, 1794; Fac-simile of the *Ledger of Doctor Benjamin Franklin* p. 23, Lib. of Cong., MS Div.; William Smith, *The History of the Post Office in British North America, 1639-1870*, (Cambridge, 1920), pp. 26, 63-5.

²⁴ Fitzpatrick, *op. cit.*, v. 2, pp. 126, 162, 194; v. 3, p. 321.

the first Roman Catholic archbishop in the United States, Archbishop of Baltimore.²⁵

Today Upper Marlboro, as the name is now spelled, has changed from a quiet county seat to a bustling center where the administration of one of the fastest growing counties in the nation is carried on.

²⁵ Bowie, *op. cit.*, 111-17.

Chapter 9

Other Colonial Towns and Ports in the County

The Act of 1706, which established the Town of Marlborough and re-established Charles Town, also erected four other towns or ports in Prince George's County: Mill Town, Nottingham, and Queen Anne on the Patuxent River, and Aire at Broad Creek.¹

Mill Town, established at William Mills' land in the lower part of the county, never developed into much of a town. When the Act for Amending the Staple of Tobacco was passed in 1747, this town was not mentioned as a site for one of the inspection warehouses, as were the other towns in the county. Instead, Truman's Point, about five miles down the Patuxent River, was named in the Act. The inhabitants of the vicinity objected to Truman's Point and requested a change, which the General Assembly agreed to. But the request was not for a change to Mill Town. Instead, the site asked for was Hannah Brown's Landing, on land belonging to Alexander Magruder, which was situated about a mile up the river from Mill Town, so doubtless Mill Town was no longer the community center in this area.²

The Town of Nottingham was established at Mattapany Landing on the Patuxent River, about five miles up the river from Mill Town, on land belonging to Thomas Brooke Esquire, called the "Prospect." It became an active, bustling trade center with many storehouses and inns. In 1716 a pair of stocks and a whipping post were erected at Nottingham by order of the county court. In 1747 it was named as the site of one of the tobacco inspection warehouses, and a lot belonging to James Russell, merchant, was selected for the building. By 1772 Nottingham had become so large that it was designated one of the hundreds of the county.³

¹ *Arch. Md.*, XXVI, 636.

² *Ibid.*, XLIV, 595; XLVI, 74, 158.

³ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. TT, f. 237; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. HH, f. 348; Lib. CC No. 1, f. 312.

Racing was a popular sport at Nottingham. On the first day of a 2-day fair held May 25 and 26, 1773, the race was won by Governor Eden's bay horse Why-not, aged, over Dr. Hamilton's bay mare Harmony, six years old, and Mr. Baynes' gray horse Regulus, aged, both of whom were distanced in the first heat. The *Maryland Gazette* of Thursday, June 3, 1773, commented on the superiority of Why-not, who had run three very hard 4-mile heats at Philadelphia a fortnight earlier and had then traveled from there to Nottingham in very hot weather, which was supposed to be much against him: "nevertheless he won very easy, and the knowing ones were greatly taken in." At the 2-day fair held at Nottingham May 11 and 12, 1774, the purse of £50 the first day was again won by Governor Eden's bay horse Why-not, at four heats, beating Dr. Hamilton's Primrose, Colonel Barnes' Young Tanner, and two others. On the second day the prize was won by Governor Eden's chesnut horse Slim, six years old, beating Colonel Sim's bay horse Wildair, aged.⁴

Today, there are no longer any signs of the Town of Nottingham, it is only a place name on the county map.

Queen Anne, situated on the Patuxent River about 14 miles above Nottingham, became a prosperous town during colonial days. It was located at Anderson's Landing, on the tract of land called Essington. In 1716 a pair of stocks and a whipping post were erected by order of the county justices. In co-operation with Anne Arundel County, ferry service was established across the Patuxent in 1726, and in 1755 a bridge was built across the river. In 1747, Queen Anne was named as a site for one of the tobacco inspection warehouses of the county, and the land of Thomas Lancaster adjoining the town was selected for the location.⁵

The Patuxent River caused trouble for the people of Queen Anne. In 1733 the river was cleared for 25 miles upstream, but there were numerous spots in the stream where there were shoals and rapids, so that the banks had to be cleared and roads made around these places, in order that men or horses could drag their boats up and around these difficult spots of navigation. In 1750 the river made a breach across the main street of the town, which had to be filled in. And in 1770 the channel again had to be widened above the town,

⁴ *Maryland Gazette*, April 1, June 3, 1773; April 14, May 26, 1774.

⁵ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. I, f. 7; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. H, f. 86; Lib. N, f. 103, 615; Lib. HH, f. 350; Lib. OO, f. 177.

for the benefit of the inhabitants upstream who traded at Queen Anne.⁶

In 1745, the first horse races in Prince George's County that we know about were run at Queen Anne. This was a 2-day fair, held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17th and 18th at Mr. Murdock's "Old Fields" near the town. The horses were entered with William Beall, and disputes were settled by Thomas Harwood and Thomas Brooke Jr. In November, 1754, a cricket match was played on this field, between 11 gentlemen from Prince George's County and 11 South River gentlemen. The Prince Georgians lost.⁷

Queen Anne Town was a stop on the post road from Annapolis to Upper Marlborough. George Washington noted in his diary on September 1, 1774, that he breakfasted at Queen Anne on his way to attend the Continental Congress meeting at Philadelphia.⁸

Many years later the name of Queen Anne was changed to Hardesty, but today it, too, is only a place name on the county map.

Aire at Broad Creek was established at the landing of Thomas Lewis. This port of entry developed into a sizable town. Stores and taverns were opened for business. The parish church, while not in the town, was situated on an adjoining tract, and was part of the community. In 1716 a pair of stocks and a whipping post were erected in Aire by order of the county commissioners. Humphrey Batt, a shipwright, had a shipbuilding business nearby and in 1747 the inspection warehouse was built on his land. After a few years the name of Aire was dropped by the inhabitants, and the town became known unofficially as Broad Creek. This is the name which continued in use and, even though the town has long since disappeared, this is the name which has clung to the site it once occupied.⁹

In 1707 a Supplementary Act to the Act for Advancement of Trade was passed by the General Assembly, in which it was specified that a town be erected on the south side of Piscataway Creek at or near its head, which was to contain 40 or 50 acres. This became the Town of Piscataway, which still exists today as a small

⁶ *Arch. Md.*, XXXIX, 121, 483; XLVI, 470; *Maryland Gazette*, May 3, 1770.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Sept. 6, 1745; Nov. 14, 1754.

⁸ Fitzpatrick, *op. cit.*, v. 2, p. 162.

⁹ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. H, f. 86; Lib. HH, f. 348.

crossroads village. Piscataway must have got off to a slow start as in 1736 some of the inhabitants of the county were petitioning the General Assembly to bring in a bill to cause the proprietors of 60 acres of land at the head of Piscataway Creek to sell the land to be laid out for a town called Piscataway Town. But there must have been some nucleus of a town at this location, as three years earlier the county court had ordered that a pair of stocks and a whipping post be erected at the head of Piscataway Creek. In 1747 Piscataway was selected as the site of one of the tobacco inspection warehouses in the county, and the building was erected on land belonging to John Hawkins Jr.¹⁰

This town became quite a social center. In 1752 the Murray-Kean Company of Comedians played at Piscataway after ending its engagement at Upper Marlborough.

In 1759 the following item of interest appeared in the *Maryland Gazette*:

Piscataway, October 30, 1759.

On Friday last was a Day of Public Rejoicing here for the Success of his Majesty's Arms in the Reduction of Quebec. There was the greatest Concourse of People assembled upon the Occasion that was ever seen at one Time in this Place: Upwards of Fifty Gentlemen and Ladies dined in a most elegant Manner, and many loyal and patriotic Toasts were drank. At Night the Town was illuminated, and a Ball given at Mrs. Playfay's, at which the Ladies made a brilliant Appearance.

Mrs. Catharine Playfay was the innkeeper at Piscataway. Her inn, now occupied as a dwelling, is still standing in the town.¹¹

Horse races were run from time to time at the plantation of George Fraser, about a mile below Piscataway. Mr. Fraser was the son of the Reverend John Fraser who had served as rector of Piscataway Parish from 1710 to 1742.¹²

Piscataway was one of the stops on the post route from Annapolis to St. Mary's County, established in 1757. For a number of years Charles Lansdale of Piscataway was the post rider. Mr. Lansdale also carried on a business of breeches making and staymaking, taking and delivering orders along his post route.¹³

¹⁰ *Arch. Md.*, XXVII, 159; XXXIX, 324; PGC. Ct. Rec., Lib. S, f. 486; Lib. HH, f. 348.

¹¹ *Maryland Gazette*, June 18, 1752; Nov. 8, 1759.

¹² *Ibid.*, July 31, 1760; Sept. 13, 1764; Oct. 17, 1765.

¹³ *Ibid.*, Feb. 24, 1757; Aug. 3, 1758; June 27, 1771; Jan. 13, 1774; May 26, 1785.

As early as 1728, John Beall Sr. was selling 1-acre lots in Beall Town, part of the tract of land called "Blackask," on the Northwest Branch about a half mile above the fork of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River. Henry Cramphin, Thomas Cramphin, Thomas Chittam, Eleanor Pratt and Mary Ogden kept ordinaries, and Henry and Edward Trafford of Liverpool, merchants, had a storehouse there. This town was never given official status by an Act of the Assembly, but the Prince George's County court recognized it as a town when, in 1732, it ordered that a pair of stocks be erected there. In 1738 a group of 48 inhabitants and traders living in and around Beall Town, headed by Christopher Lowndes, requested the county court to have the Eastern Branch cleared, and to have a road improved up a steep hill nearby for the benefit of loaded wagons. In June, 1742, many of these men petitioned for a new bridge across the Northwest Branch. Both of these requests were granted, but there must have been some dissatisfaction with this site for a town as, at the September-October, 1742, session of the General Assembly, these inhabitants were petitioning to have a town laid out on the south side of the Eastern Branch near a place called "Garrison Landing," only about a half mile below Beall Town. Perhaps these people were attracted by the abundantly flowing springs, both wholesome and medicinal, at the new site. The Act was passed, and a new town called Bladensburgh in honor of the newly appointed Governor Thomas Bladen, was erected. After Bladensburgh became well established, Beall Town seems to have faded out of existence.¹⁴

The Act of 1742, which established Bladensburgh, named James Edmonston, Osborn Sprigg, William Mauduit, Thomas Gantt Jr., and Thomas Waring commissioners to purchase 60 acres of land for a town and to have it laid out into 60 1-acre lots. These commissioners selected land on the east side of the Eastern Branch just below the fork. The land belonged to Miss Elizabeth Calvert, who had inherited it from her parents, the Honorable Charles Calvert, Governor of the province from 1720 to 1727, and his wife Rebecca Gerrard Calvert. Although the name of the tract was the "Charles and Rebecca," the family called it the "Garrison," and the land selected was at the Garrison Landing.¹⁵

¹⁴ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. M, f. 349, 359, 378, 382, 385, 386, 389, 391, 392; Lib. Y, f. 285, 293, 336; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. S, f. 10; Lib. V, f. 520; Lib. X, f. 109; Lib. Z, f. 198, 484; Lib. AA, f. 10, 209, 226; *Arch. Md.*, XLII, 275.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 413; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. H, f. 140.

We are fortunate that the Record Book of the Town of Bladensburg has survived, so that we have a complete account of the sales, forfeitures, and re-sales of all the lots. The commissioners priced the lots, set aside two of them for Miss Calvert and, on March 5, 1743, held the sale. All but three of the lots were taken up, at prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to £2 10s. The owners were required to erect a good substantial house, covering 400 square feet of ground, with one brick or stone chimney, within 18 months of the sale, or forfeit their lots. Many of the owners found it impossible to complete the requirements within the allotted time and petitioned the General Assembly to extend the time limit. The General Assembly complied and, in May, 1744, passed an Act which gave the owners two more years in which to complete their buildings, allowed warehouses to be built without brick or stone chimneys, and directed the commissioners to elect new members to fill any vacancies among themselves caused by death or removal. On June 5, 1746, the commissioners met and took account of the lots which had been improved. Only 18 of the lots met the requirements. These included the David Ross house, torn down in 1957 and rebuilt in Baltimore County, the Christopher Lowndes house, and the William Hilleary house, which is known to us as the Magruder house. Lot Number 37 was reserved for a market place and the rest of the lots were taken over by the commissioners and re-sold. This procedure was repeated from time to time until 1787, when the commissioners reported that all of the lots had been improved.¹⁶

While Bladensburg today is a flourishing suburban section of the Washington Metropolitan Area, known world-wide as the site of the Battle of Bladensburg, it was known in colonial times as a busy port for the shipping of tobacco and the unloading of commodities from abroad. In 1747 land belonging to Dr. David Ross at Bladensburg was named as the site of one of the tobacco inspection warehouses in the county. That same year the county court ordered stocks and a whipping post erected. By 1761 the town had grown so large that it was named one of the hundreds of the county.¹⁷

Much of this activity was due to Christopher Lowndes, who was one of the leading merchants of the town. He also had a shipyard on the Eastern Branch adjacent to Bladensburg and operated his

¹⁶ *Arch. Md.*, XLII, 604; Microfilm copy of Record Book for the Town of Bladensburg at Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md., pp. 4-5, 7-9, 12, 14-16, 19, 21, 23-4.

¹⁷ *Arch. Md.*, XLIV, 609.

own fleet of ships. In 1738, as a young man, he had come from England to manage the store of Henry and Edward Trafford of Liverpool, merchants, in Beall Town. Within a few years he dissolved his connection with this company and established his own firm, known as Christopher Lowndes and Company. He imported and offered for sale all sorts of drugs, dry goods, leather goods, spices, cutlery, carpenters' tools, farming implements, and salt. He sold these items for cash, or exchanged them for wheat, corn, tar, pine plank, and pipe, hogshead or barrel staves. He also manufactured all sorts of cordage at his rope walk east of Bladensburgh. He imported and sold indentured servants and, with Benjamin Tasker, imported Negro slaves, which were sold at the Severn River.

Christopher Lowndes was one of the first purchasers of a lot in Bladensburgh. Here he built his home, known as "Bostwick," which was completed by 1746. On May 14, 1747, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Tasker, daughter of Benjamin Tasker, Esquire, of Annapolis, niece of Governor Thomas Bladen, and sister-in-law of Governor Samuel Ogle. Their daughter Rebecca was married to Benjamin Stoddert, the first Secretary of the Navy of the United States who, in later years, also lived at "Bostwick." Mr. Lowndes was chosen a commissioner of the Town of Bladensburgh in 1745 and continued to serve as such until his death in 1785. In 1753 he was appointed by the Lord Proprietary as one of the justices of Prince George's County Court and was re-appointed in every commission of the peace during his lifetime, the appointments after 1776 being made by the Chancellor of the State of Maryland. From time to time Mr. Lowndes acquired additional property in Bladensburgh. In 1760 he bought the lot adjoining the market place and built the little stone house which is known as the Market Master's House.¹⁸

The inhabitants of Bladensburgh were parishioners of King George's Parish, and attended services at Addison Chapel, about four miles southeast of the town. In the cemetery of this chapel may be found the graves of Christopher Lowndes, Benjamin Stoddert, and their wives.¹⁹

Many of the residents of Bladensburgh were dissenting Scotsmen

¹⁸ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. Y, f. 293; Lib. RR, f. 154; *Maryland Gazette*, May 19, 1747; Feb. 1, 1749; May 16, 1750; June 26, 1755; Aug. 12, 1756; Aug. 5, 1762; March 15, April 5, 1764; March 17, Dec. 8, 1768; Oct. 29, 1772; March 10, 1785; Rec. Bk. Town of Blad., *op. cit.*, p. 5, 8, 18, 22; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. MM, f. 362; Lib. EE No. 2, f. 1.

¹⁹ Toaping Castle Chapter DAR, *Prince Georges County, Maryland, Tombstone Records*, Typescript 1957, p 209, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

and were members of the Presbyterian Church which had been built just south of the site chosen for the town. The meeting house is no longer standing, but its graveyard, now known as Evergreen Cemetery, contains tombstones of some of the early residents, including that of William Mauduit, one of the first commissioners of the town and high sheriff of Prince George's County from November, 1746, to March, 1748.²⁰

Horse races were run from time to time. These were in the usual form of a 2-day fair and were run in Mr. Thomas Chittam's pasture near the town. Mr. Chittam was an innkeeper in Bladensburgh and also the first clerk of the town.²¹

When the post route was set up in 1757 to carry the *Maryland Gazette* and mail from Annapolis to Charles County, gentlemen from Bladensburgh were advised to send a boy to Upper Marlborough so that they could share in the advantage of this new service. Within a few years a regular post route was established between Annapolis and Frederick Town which passed through Bladensburgh and George Town, with weekly service for eight months of the year and fortnightly service during the four months from December through March. The rider on this post route left Annapolis on Friday mornings. By January, 1770, the deputy postmaster at Upper Marlborough was no longer advertising letters to men living in Bladensburgh and Frederick County, so it would seem that the post office at Bladensburgh was established about 1769. We know for a certainty that when the postal service was organized by Benjamin Franklin for the Continental Congress in 1775, Christopher Lowndes was the postmaster at Bladensburgh. Ebenezer Hazard, who inspected the post office in May, 1777, called him a "furious politician." After the death of Christopher Lowndes in 1785 his son Benjamin Lowndes was appointed postmaster.²²

President George Washington stopped at Bladensburgh numerous times on his journeys between "Mount Vernon" and New York. Tradition has it that he lodged at the inn known as the George Washington House. This inn was kept from about 1760 until his death in 1774 by Jacob Wirt, an immigrant from Switzerland. Here, on November 8, 1772, was born his youngest son, William

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 257; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. FF, 155; Lib. GG, f. 441.

²¹ *Maryland Gazette*, Sept. 13, 1753; Oct. 10, 1754; Oct. 8, 1761; Rec. Bk. Town of Blad., *op. cit.*, p. 2.

²² *Maryland Gazette*, Feb. 24, 1757; March 25, 1762; Feb. 1, 1770; Franklin, *op. cit.*, p. 24; Ebenezer Hazard's *Travels Through Maryland in 1777*, edited by Fred Shelley, *Md. Hist. Mag.* Vol. 46, March, 1951, p. 52.

Wirt, who in later years served as Attorney General of the United States.²³

Several years before the Revolution, two towns, Hamburg and Carrollsburgh, were laid out in Prince George's County and sold off by lottery. Both of these towns were located in the area taken off of the county in 1791 for the Territory of Columbia.

The town of Hamburg fronted on the Potomac River and lay roughly between what are now Constitution Avenue, 18th, H, and 23rd Streets in the Northwest Section of Washington, D. C. The owner, Jacob Funk, had the town laid out in 1768 and evidently intended that it should be a town for German settlers. He probably advertised a sale of the lots by lottery in the German newspapers of that day although no issues containing such an advertisement seem to have survived. The Concordia United Church of Christ at 20th and G Streets, NW, has in its possession a receipt signed by Jacob Funck for two lots in the town of Hamburg sold in 1768, one to the German Presbyterians and the other to the German Lutherans, for five pounds current money each. The present church is a union of these two denominations and still conducts some services in German for the benefit of its German members. Just where and when the lottery was conducted remains a mystery, but on October 1, 1771, Jacob Funk (or Funck) executed deeds to many of the lots, which had sold for £5 each. On October 8, 1771, the plat was recorded. The plat originally called for 287 lots but, since Mr. Funk did not sell the upper tier of 53 lots, he withdrew these lots from the plat, leaving some gaps in the otherwise consecutive numbers. The names of most of the grantees were German, and many of them were from Pennsylvania.²⁴

Carrollsburgh, located at Buzzard's Point near the mouth of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River between St. James Creek (roughly the present Canal Street in Washington, D. C.) and the Eastern Branch, was sold by lottery on April 22, 1771. Charles Carroll, son of Daniel Carroll and Mrs. Ann Rozer Carroll Young both deceased, owner of the land, conveyed 160 acres of "Duddington Manor" in trust to his uncle Henry Rozer, his brother-in-law

²³ Fitzpatrick, *op. cit.*, v. 3, pp. 215, 238; v. 4, pp. 152, 153, 229, 234, 237, 239, 241, 255, 287; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. June 1761-Aug. 1763, f. 71; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. TT, f. 30; Lib. HH, f. 13; John P. Kennedy, *Memoirs of the Life of William Wirt Attorney-General of the United States* (Philadelphia 1856) Vol. I, p. 16.

²⁴ Centenary Jubilee of Concordia Lutheran Evangelical Church 1933, p. 4; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. AA No. 2, f. 310-399; Lib. FF No. 1, f. 298-310, 321; Land Records District of Columbia, Liber A Part 1, f. 268.

Daniel Carroll, and his half-brother Notley Young. These trustees had the land surveyed into 267 lots, with streets, lanes, alleys, and a square of four acres. Mr. Carroll, the owner, reserved six of the lots and the trustees sold 261 tickets at £6 each for the remaining 261 lots, advertising the sale in the *Maryland Gazette*. The trustees conducted the lottery at Bladensburgh and executed deeds for the lots drawn, upon presentation of the tickets. There is, in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C., a painting of *The Washington Family*, by Edward Savage, which portrays President and Mrs. Washington and her two grandchildren, with a servant in attendance, examining a map of the proposed Federal City, which prominently displays the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River showing the site of Carrolsburgh in the foreground.²⁵

²⁵ *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 22, 1770; Jan. 24, Mar. 21, May 9, June 13, 1771; Mar. 12, 1772; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. BB No. 3, f. 233-257; Lib. CC No. 2, f. 238.

Chapter 10

The Free School in Prince George's County, 1723-1774

During the early years of the Province of Maryland, public schools were nonexistent; education of youth was a private matter, left to parents to accomplish according to their means and inclinations. Some of the wealthy families sent their children to England for schooling, children of Roman Catholic families often going to France; some families employed private schoolmasters; and some parents taught their children themselves. But the matter of schools weighed upon the minds of the members of the General Assembly. Sixty-two years after the first settlement was made in the province, and in the same year in which Prince George's County came into being, 1696, under the governorship of the royal governor Francis Nicholson, an act was passed by the General Assembly establishing King William's school at "Ann Arundell Town upon Seaverne River." This act, while it established one school only, looked forward to establishing a second school on the Eastern Shore, and thereafter a free school in each county as soon as funds would permit. But it was not until 1723, after the restoration of the Lord Proprietary's rights, and under the governorship of his kinsman, Charles Calvert, that an act was passed which ordered the establishment of a free school in each county.¹

There is in Prince George's County near Mellwood, a tract of land called "The Free School Farm," which was surveyed in 1681 for Francis Swinsen of Calvert County. Judging from the name of this tract, Mr. Swinsen must have dreamed of starting such a school, but this was a dream only, and there is no connection with the Free School as finally established.²

In 1719 there was an unsuccessful attempt to start a school in

¹ Bernard C. Steiner, *History of Education in Maryland* (U.S. Bur. of Educ. Circular of Information No. 2, 1894) pp. 13-18; *Arch. Md.*, XIX, 420-6; XXXIV, 740-6.

² Patents, Lib. 21, f. 398.

Prince George's County. In that year a group of prominent men of the county, namely, Thomas Addison, Esquire, the Reverend Jacob Henderson, James Stoddert, Robert Tyler, Thomas Clagett, Doctor Patrick Hepburn, James Haddock and Joseph Belt, as trustees purchased lot number 60 in Upper Marlborough, with a house already built on it, for the purpose of establishing a public school for youth. This venture came to nought, perhaps because of the establishment within a few years of the free school, as ten years after its purchase we find these men, or their successors, leasing the property to Dr. James Boswell, who was to repair the house which had fallen into ruin and decay.³

We also have a record of certain private schoolmasters in Prince George's County during the colonial years: Rupert Butler, Edward Mobberly, Alexander Mecants, John Wall, Benjamin Druit, John Hodges, James Henry Shorthose, Joseph Peach, John Welling, Thomas Thomson, John Hues, Thomas Addington, John Ouchterlony, William Ellis, John Willen, David Price, James Beck, Peter Robinson, Richard Blew, Thomas Harrison, and James Gibson, as well as several servants who were listed but not named. There were also several schoolmistresses: Hannah Taylor, Mary Ann March, and Mary Flowers.⁴

Of these, we know more about Peter Robinson than the others, as his name appears in the county records frequently. He had been a schoolmaster in England. Desirous of coming to America, and having been recommended to George Noble, Esquire, he had paid his own passage over and entered into an agreement with Noble to live with him and teach his children, having the benefit of any other scholars he could get. Noble was one of the most respected and influential men in the county; for a number of years he had served as a justice of the county court, advancing to the office of Chief Justice. He was also one of the visitors of the free school. In his family there were five children, three sons and two daughters; they lived on the south side of Piscataway Creek at its junction with the Potomac River, their estate being a part of the "Piscataway" or "Calvert Manor." The arrangement between Robinson and Noble worked very well for several years until Mr. Noble died, whereupon the

³ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. E, f. 733-8; Lib. M, f. 427-8.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Lib. M, f. 98; Lib. Q, f. 707; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. B, f. 353a; Lib. H, f. 33, 142, 183, 803, 903; Lib. K, f. 84; Lib. R, f. 544; Lib. V, f. 96; Lib. W, f. 14, 18-19; Lib. GG, f. 55; Lib. OO, f. 539, 574; Black Books, II, 123; X, 39.

executors of his estate tried to hold Robinson as an indentured servant, but the county court declared him free.⁵

Robinson settled in the community, married Anne Athey, and began rearing a family. In an early issue of the *Maryland Gazette*, dated March 25, 1746, the following advertisement appears:⁶

Reading; Writing, in all Hands; Arithmetic, in whole Numbers and Fractions, Vulgar and Decimal; also Artificial Arithmetic, both Logarithmetical and Logistical, with Instrumental, either by Inspection, Rhabdologia or Proportional Scales; Geometry, both superficial and solid; with Mensurations of all kinds, either in Longometria, Planometria, or Stereometry; as Surveying Fortification, Gunnery, Gauging, &c. Trigonometry, both Plain and Spherical; with Navigation either in Plain, Mercator, or Circular Sailing; also Dialling all sorts, &c. all ways, either Arithmetically, Geometrically, Projective, Reflective, Concave, or Convex: Cosmography, Coelestial or Astronomical, and Terrestrial or Geographical: Astronomy, Practical, and Theoretical: Grammar: Merchants Accounts, or the Art of Book-keeping; after the Italian Manner: Algebra: Euclid's Elements: &c.

Likewise the Description and Use of Sea-Charts, Maps, Quadrants, Fore-Staffs, Nocturnal, Protractor, Scales, Coggershall's Rule, Sector, Gauging-Rod, Universal Ring-Dial, Globes, and other Mathematical Instruments: Taught at Upper Marlborough Town, in Prince George's County, by

Peter Robinson

N.B. Near which Place Youth may be Boarded.

A few years later he leased the tract "God's Gift," near Piscataway and had his mark of cattle, hogs, and sheep recorded: a crop and under bit in each ear, also a hole in the right ear and that hole slit out.⁷

However, misfortune overtook Peter Robinson and he was sued by Christopher Lowndes & Company for indebtedness. He was thrown into jail and stayed there for two years, even though he pleaded that he had three children unable to support themselves, and a wife who, riding to assist him in his confinement, had broken her arm and might never have the use of it again, and that he was willing to surrender everything for his liberty.⁸

⁵ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. W, f. 44-5, 63; Lib. OO, f. 578.

⁶ KGP Register 1689-1801, p. 268, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; Steiner, *op. cit.*, p. 33.

⁷ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. NN, f. 246; Lib. PP, f. 107.

⁸ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. OO, f. 73, 149, 251.

Our knowledge of Peter Robinson ends on a brighter note. After his release from the county prison, he and his wife took in a little neighbor girl as an indentured servant, she to serve them until she reached the age of 16 years, and they to provide her with "Washing Lodging Apparel & Victuals during the Said Term and also to learn her for to Read."⁹

The Act of 1723, which ordered the establishment of the county schools, was entitled "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, and erecting Schools in the several Counties within this Province." It provided that one school should be erected near the center of each county, at a place convenient for boarding children; it named seven men in each county who were to qualify themselves as visitors by taking and signing the oath of abjuration and the test and by taking the oath of a visitor. These men were to meet four times a year to inspect and direct the affairs of the school. To perpetuate the succession of the number of seven visitors to each school, it provided that if one of the visitors should die or move out of the county, then the remaining visitors were required to elect one of the principal and better sort of the inhabitants of the county in his place. If a man appointed as a visitor refused, or delayed taking on the office, he was to forfeit 500 pounds of tobacco for the use of the school. The visitors were directed to purchase 100 acres or more of land, not more than half of which was to be cleared for the use of the master of the school, the other half to be preserved in woodland. No use was to be made of the woodland except for firewood, repairs and fencing, and no tobacco was to be grown on the land. In case there were not sufficient buildings already on the land when purchased, the visitors were empowered to have such buildings erected. They were to employ a schoolmaster, who was to be a member of the Church of England, a man of pious and exemplary life and conversation, who was capable of teaching grammar, good writing, and mathematics, at a salary of twenty pounds per annum, besides the use of the plantation. The money for the school and its operation was to come out of that already raised for the use of the county schools, which was in the hands of the two public treasurers, the Treasurers of the Western and Eastern Shores, which was to be divided equally among the counties. This was to be supplemented by certain fines, forfeitures and bequests within the county. The visitors were also to employ a register at a reasonable salary, who

⁹ PGC. Land Rec., Lib. PP, f. 293.

was to keep an account of their proceedings and of the money or tobacco spent.¹⁰

Five years later an act was passed to correct some defects in this act. If any visitors wilfully refused or neglected to be present at the meetings, then others could be chosen to replace them. Also, the master of a school was required to teach as many poor children gratis as the visitors should require of him.¹¹

Funds for the use of the schools were collected from various duties or imposts. A tax was imposed on the exportation of skins and furs, at the rate of twelve pence per skin for elk, nine pence for bear, four pence for beaver and deer, three pence for otter, two pence for young bear and cub skins, one penny half penny for wild-cats, foxes, minks, wethers, and calves, four pence per dozen for muskrats, and three farthings for raccoons, to be paid by the inhabitants of the province for the use of the schools. The duty was double for non-residents. These imposts were to be collected by the naval officers and turned over to the public treasurers once a year. Non-residents exporting out of the province were to pay, for the use of the schools, an impost of twelve pence per hundred weight for dried beef and bacon, and twelve pence per barrel for pork and undried beef. These two items, pork and undried beef, could not be shipped except in barrels or casks, each containing two hundred weight. Any offender would forfeit his commodities; and a fine of 5000 pounds of tobacco would be imposed upon the master of a ship who knowingly took on such cargo contrary to the law. In each case half was to go for the use of the schools and half to the informer. A person was considered to be a non-resident if he had not owned and lived, with his family if he had one, for at least a year, either on a plantation of at least 50 acres or in a house in a town or port, the house to be not less than 40 by 20 feet with two brick chimneys. Over and above a tax already in existence, an additional sum of twenty shillings current money per poll was imposed on Irish servants, except children under the age of 14 years, and on Negroes who were imported into the province. These imposts were also collected by the naval officers for the use of the schools. After a time, the duty on furs and skins was repealed and, in lieu thereof, a duty was imposed on pork, pitch and tar, when imported by non-residents with the intent to sell; the impost being one shilling per

¹⁰ *Arch. Md.*, XXXIV, 740-6.

¹¹ *Ibid.* XXXVI, 281-2.

barrel on pork or pitch, and six pence per barrel on tar. An offender would lose his commodity, or the full value thereof, half to go to the schools and half to the informer.¹²

Unfortunately, the only minute book of the free schools which seems to have survived is not from Prince George's, but from Queen Anne's County; however, it gives us some insight into the operation of all the free schools. The visitors employed a register at six pounds per annum to take care of the secretarial work. They bought 100 acres of land, had a schoolhouse, dwelling house, kitchen and barn erected on it, and had the pasture fenced in. They employed a schoolmaster who was to teach ten scholars selected by them for twenty pounds current money of Maryland per annum, and in addition such other children of the county as should be brought to him at the rate of 25 shillings or 300 pounds of tobacco per year to be paid by the parents or guardians. They selected the ten scholars "of the foundation," who were to receive their schooling gratis. There is no hint as to the basis for selection of these children, but it would seem that they were not necessarily the children of poor parents, as one lad selected as a replacement was the son of the high sheriff of the county, a man who was also one of the visitors. The parents or guardians of the ten children selected agreed with the visitors that if the children were removed from the school before they reached a sufficient competency of learning, to be determined by the visitors, then they were to pay the visitors at the rate of 25 shillings per annum for the time the children had been in school. At least one girl was admitted to the school to be taught gratis. The visitors sent to England for globes; charts; astronomical, navigating and surveying instruments; for books on astronomy, arithmetic, geometry, trigonometry, geography, navigation, surveying, archeology, and Roman antiquities; also for Greek and Latin Classics, both in poetry and prose; and the latest edition of the Cambridge dictionary. From April 1st until September 30th classes were to be from 7:00 to 11:00 in the morning and from 1:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon; from September 30th until April 1st they were to be from 8:00 to 11:00 in the morning and from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. The exceptions were half a day on Saturdays from May 1st to November 1st, all Saturdays the rest of the year, and all Sundays in the year. There were three vacations during the year, one at Christmas time from one week before Christmas until the day after

¹² *Ibid.*, XXVI, 275-8; XXXIII, 109-11; XXXIV, 730-1.

Twelfth-day, one at Easter extending from Holy Thursday through one week, and a similar one at Whitsun-tide.

There were a number of problems which faced the visitors. Frequently their attendance was too small to hold meetings. The public treasurers did not always have sufficient funds for the purpose to pay their orders. There was one instance in which an order for the schoolmaster's yearly salary was presented first to the Treasurer of the Eastern Shore, who lacked the funds to pay it; an order was then presented to the Treasurer of the Western Shore, who also lacked sufficient funds; after another round of orders on each treasurer, which were also turned down, and after a lapse of almost two years, the schoolmaster finally received that year's salary by having the payment split between the two treasurers. Of the succession of schoolmasters employed, some were good, some were not; some could be gotten rid of easily, some could not. In one case the visitors had to remove the schoolmaster's personal belongings from the schoolhouse and nail the door shut, as the schoolmaster refused to surrender the key.¹³

Without such a minute book for Prince George's County, there are many things that we do not know about its free school. But a search of the records that do exist reveals some interesting facts.

The seven men appointed by the Act of 1723 as visitors for the school in Prince George's County were the Honorable Charles Calvert, Esquire Governor, the Reverend Jacob Henderson, Robert Tyler, Colonel Joseph Belt, Thomas Gantt, George Noble, and Colonel John Bradford. They were among the most respected men in the county. Governor Calvert's exact relationship to Lord Baltimore is uncertain, but he was acknowledged as a member of the family and accorded all the honor and respect due such a person. He had been sent out as governor of the province in 1720. On November 21, 1722, he was married to Rebecca Gerrard, daughter of the deceased John Gerrard of Prince George's County and his wife Elizabeth, by the Reverend Jacob Henderson, rector of St. Barnabas Church in Queen Anne's Parish. The Gerrards had been living at their estate near Queen Anne Town; and Governor Calvert and his wife, after their marriage, doubtless continued to maintain a home there. We assume this to be the case since it was required

¹³ Minutes of the First Free School in Queen Anne's Co., Md., from December 27, 1723 to May 12, 1791, *passim*, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md. Also cited in *Md. Hist. Mag.*, L (June, 1955), p. 156n.

by the Act of 1723 that a visitor of the school be a resident of the county. The Reverend Jacob Henderson was not only the rector of Queen Anne's Parish but was also the Bishop of London's commissary to the Western Shore of Maryland, and as such was the ranking clergyman of the Western Shore. The other five men had been at one time or another justices of the county court or delegates from Prince George's County to the Lower House of the General Assembly or both, so that, in accordance with the Act, they were among the "principal and better sort of the inhabitants of the county."¹⁴

On March 15, 1725, the visitors bought from Thomas Ricketts 215 acres of land, being parts of two adjoining tracts, 180 acres of "Reyly's Discovery" and 35 acres of "Major's Choice." The first named tract was known also as "Ryley's (Riley's) Discovery" or "First Part of Ryly's Discovery"; the second named tract had been laid out for Ninian Beall in 1687 by the name of "The Major's Lott" and Thomas Ricketts had received title to it by that name, but in deeding it to the visitors he seems to have made a slight alteration in its name. This land lies on the north side of a branch about a half mile north of St. Barnabas Church in Queen Anne's Parish. Just why the visitors purchased a tract of 215 acres instead of 100 acres, as required by law, is a matter of conjecture. Ricketts was living in Anne Arundel County; he had already disposed of some of his land in Prince George's County, so perhaps was anxious to sell the remainder and offered it to the visitors at a good price.¹⁵

Several years later Thomas Ricketts brought suit against the visitors claiming that they had promised to pay one hundred twenty pounds sterling for the land, but had paid only one hundred sixteen pounds eight shillings of that amount and still owed him three pounds twelve shillings. The matter was referred by the court to three arbitrators who declared in favor of Ricketts and awarded him the three pounds twelve shillings sterling money plus 356 pounds of tobacco for costs of the suit.¹⁶

The visitors sued by Thomas Ricketts in 1729 were Reverend Jacob Henderson, Robert Tyler, Joseph Belt, Ralph Crabb, Thomas Gantt, George Noble and Edward Sprigg. Governor Calvert was no longer a visitor, an indication that he and his wife had given up their home in Prince George's County; and Colonel John Bradford was

¹⁴ *Arch. Md.*, XXXIV, 740-6; QAP Rec., p. 2-Mar.

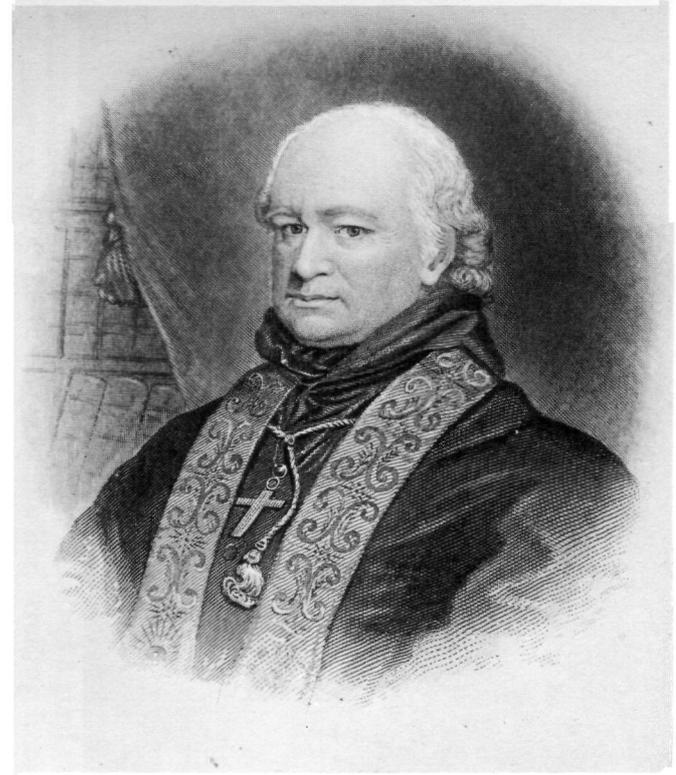
¹⁵ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. C, f. 77; Lib. E, f. 522, 526; Lib. I, f. 473; Lib. M., f. 1-2; Patents. Lib. 22, f. 330.

¹⁶ PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. P, f. 288-91.



Courtesy Library of Congress

Daniel Carroll, the Commissioner
Born in Upper Marlborough in 1730



Courtesy Library of Congress⁵

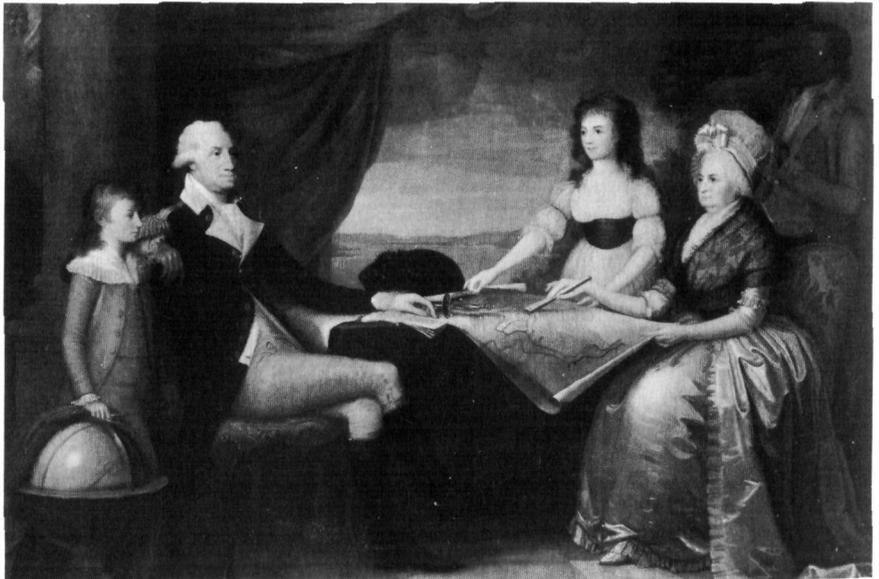
Most Rev. John Carroll, Archbishop of Baltimore
Born in Upper Marlborough in 1735



Courtesy Library of Congress

Bostwick

Built in Bladensburgh in 1746 by Christopher Lowndes



Painting by Edward Savage

Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Andrew Mellon Collection

The Washington Family

The map of the Federal City, with Mrs. Washington pointing to the site of the Capitol, shows the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River with the Town of Carrollsburgh at Buzzard's Point in the foreground

deceased. Ralph Crabb and Edward Sprigg, the two new visitors, were among the men who served the county as justices of the county court and as delegates to the General Assembly, Edward Sprigg being Speaker of the Lower House for several years.

From time to time the *Maryland Gazette* carried advertisements for a schoolmaster for Prince George's County school. These appeared on April 21, 1747; August 20, 1752; September 4, 1766; and January 5, 1769; and in each case were reprinted in several subsequent issues. The first three of these notices were inserted by James Beck, register, and the fourth by Samuel Tyler, register.

The first master of the free school that we know anything about was a man who called himself at the time Congreve, but was later ordained by the Bishop of London under the name of James Colgrave or Colgreve. We learn of this man from a letter which the Reverend Henry Addison wrote to the Bishop of London after hearing of the ordination, as he was not pleased. According to Mr. Addison the man was a native of Ireland, but had lived a good many years in America where he lived a vagrant life, strolling from place to place through most of the colonies. He had been in the army at the Siege of Louisburg; but the war being over, had come to Maryland and was appointed master of the free school of Prince George's County. He had married a wife who left him in a week's time, fearful that her life was in danger from his violences. He was an abandoned drunkard and when drunk an outrageous madman. He remained about five or six months, then, having become deeply in debt, ran away. Since the Siege of Louisburg took place in 1745, perhaps this man answered the advertisement in 1747.¹⁷

In 1754 the justices of the counties were asked by the Council to send in a list of the schoolmasters in their county. The list from Prince George's County still exists and gives the name of the Reverend William Brogden as master of the county school. Since an advertisement had appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* in 1752 and then not again until 1766, we think it safe to assume that William Brogden was master of the free school from 1752 to 1766.¹⁸

The Reverend William Brogden was born about the year 1710. His first induction was as rector to Dorchester Parish in Dorchester County, February 28, 1735, where he served until October 22, 1737. He next served All Hallows Parish in Anne Arundel County, July 18, 1739. During the gap between October, 1737, and July, 1739, we

¹⁷ Perry, *op. cit.*, pp. 332-4.

¹⁸ *Arch. Md.*, XXXI, 37; Black Books, X, 39. Also cited in Steiner, *op. cit.*, p. 34.

find that Mr. Brogden was the Reverend Jacob Henderson's curate in Queen Anne's Parish in Prince George's County while Mr. Henderson returned to England for a visit; he, Mr. Henderson, having been given eighteen month's leave for that purpose by Governor Samuel Ogle, provided he furnish a curate for his parish during his absence. In 1738, during the time he was serving as curate in Queen Anne's Parish, the Reverend William Brogden was married to one of his parishioners, Mrs. Sarah Haddock, the widow of James Haddock. She was the daughter of Richard Marsham, had been married previously, first to Basil Waring, then to William Barton, and was living near St. Barnabas Church on the estate which James Haddock had willed to her during her lifetime.¹⁹

All Hallows Parish into which Mr. Brogden was inducted in 1739 was just across the Patuxent River in Anne Arundel County. His wife Sarah probably died soon after, as we find that, on December 24, 1741, the Reverend William Brogden was married to Elizabeth Chapman, daughter of William and Rebecca Chapman of All Hallows Parish, and several children were born to them. He continued as rector of this parish until 1751.²⁰

Following the death of the Reverend Jacob Henderson, who had been rector of Queen Anne's Parish from 1717 until his death in 1751, the Reverend William Brogden returned to Queen Anne's Parish in Prince George's County as its rector, receiving his appointment from Governor Samuel Ogle on September 11, 1751.²¹

Two items about him appear in the *Maryland Gazette*. The issue for February 7, 1760, carries the following:

On Monday last a very melancholy Disaster happened in the Family of the Rev. Mr. Brogden. His Daughter, a Child of about 11 or 12 Years of Age, diverting herself with a large hollow Gum, which was used for drawing off Lye, and going backwards before it, as it rolled down a Descent, there happened to be a Clay-Pit in the Way, into which she fell, and the Gum falling upon her from the Height of about 3 Feet, killed her upon the Spot, so that she did not utter a Word. She was a very promising Child, and her unfortunate Death must consequently be a severe Affliction to an indulgent and tender parent.

¹⁹ *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 8, 1770; Commission Book No. 82, pp. 41, 50, 76; QAP Rec., p. 56-8; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. X, f. 248-9; Wills, Lib. 3, f. 643-6; Lib. 6, f. 66-7; Lib. 13, f. 514-20; Lib. 20, f. 197-9.

²⁰ All Hallows Parish, AA Co., Md., Reg., pp. 21, 41, 44.

²¹ QAP Rec., p. 89.

And in the issue for Thursday, November 8, 1770, this appears:

On Thursday last departed this Life, in the 60th Year of his Age, the Reverend Mr. William Brogden, Rector of Queen-Anne's Parish, in Prince-George's County. He was a Man universally known and respected for his Probity, extensive Knowledge, and for his strict and exemplary Life in his Vocation.—His latter Days were much imbittered by a Complication of Disorders, under which he laboured for several Years, and to which, at last he fell a Victim.—He left Four Sons and One Daughter.

We know that the Reverend William Brogden was master of the free school in 1754; we think that he took on this job in 1752 and continued in that capacity until 1766, when perhaps he resigned because of his ill health. We know also that he was well qualified to conduct a good school, as his training for clerical orders would have necessitated his acquiring a classical education, and so no doubt the visitors were pleased for him to continue as master as long as he would do so.

As early as 1772 there was agitation to unite the free schools of Saint Mary's, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's Counties. Petitions were offered, both for and against the proposal; the outcome was an act passed by the General Assembly in April, 1774, entitled "An Act to unite the Free Schools of Saint Marys, Charles and Prince Georges Counties." This act ordered that, since the free schools of these three counties did not separately afford sufficient encouragement for proper masters, they be sold, the funds consolidated, and one school for the three counties be erected at Cool Springs in Saint Mary's County by the name of Charlotte Hall. The new school was to be governed by a president and 21 trustees, seven of whom were to be residents of each county. The seven named from Prince George's County were Benedict Calvert, the Reverend Henry Addison, Josias Beall, Robert Tyler, Joseph Sim, Thomas Contee and Dr. Richard Brooke.²²

These men were no doubt the visitors of the free school at the time. The seven original visitors and the two replacements that we know about were long since deceased. These seven men were equally as prominent in the county. Benedict Calvert was acknowledged as the son of Charles fifth Lord Baltimore; he had been married to the daughter of Governor Charles Calvert, and was liv-

²² *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 5, 1772; *Arch. Md.*, LXIV, 42, 116, 377-9.

ing at his estate "Mount Airy" in the central part of the county. The Reverend Henry Addison was the rector of King George's Parish, on the Potomac side of the county. The other five men were also well-known and respected, this Robert Tyler being a descendant of the earlier Robert Tyler.²³

Except for the sale of the land, this brought to a close the business of the first free school of Prince George's County. An advertisement appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* for September 8, 1774, giving notice of the impending auction of the free school land on the following October 6th. But it was not until five years later, on October 28, 1779, that the land was sold to Singleton Wootton, making final disposition of the affairs of the free school of Prince George's County.²⁴

With the passing of this school there came to an end the first attempt at public education in the county. No doubt at its inception the free school filled a need, but it suffered from lack of sufficient funds, as did the other county schools, which also came to an end about the same time. It would take a new concept of thinking, under a new government, whereby the rich would be taxed to help pay for the schooling of the poor, before a good system of public education could be developed.²⁵

²³ John Bailey Calvert Nicklin, "The Calvert Family, Part III, The 'Mt. Airy' Line," *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XVI (Sept., 1921), pp. 313-4.

²⁴ PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. CC No. 2, f. 697-8.

²⁵ Steiner, *op. cit.*, pp 42-3.

Chapter 11

Military Support from Prince George's County during the Colonial Wars

From the time of the establishment of Prince George's County, which took place during King William's War (1689-97), until the close of the French and Indian War in 1763, England was embroiled in a succession of wars against its European rivals, France and Spain. These nations were fighting for possession or retention of their American colonies, and much of the fighting was carried on in the New World.

In an earlier chapter we have noted the troubles with the Indians in Prince George's County during King William's War. The new county had little direct interest in Queen Anne's War (1702-13), but it had an important part in Maryland's share in the subsequent colonial wars.

During the War of Jenkins' Ear (1739-43) between England and Spain, which merged into King George's War (1744-48) between England and France, the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland, in 1740, voted a sum of money for the encouragement of persons enlisting voluntarily in His Majesty's Service for the War against Spain. In Prince George's County £307 10s. were placed in the hands of Philip Lee Esquire (£102 10s. more than in the other counties) to be dispensed £5 each to such able-bodied freemen as would voluntarily enlist as common soldiers. These men were also exempt from paying taxes and serving on highways for seven years after their discharge from service and were carried free over ferries. The Assembly further supplied food and transportation until the men arrived at the place of rendezvous in the West Indies, His Majesty supplying arms and clothing and the assurance of their

share of the booty taken from the enemy and of being sent back home when their service was over.¹

Thomas Addison Esquire of Prince George's County, a young man twenty-five years of age, grandson of Colonel John Addison, second son of Colonel Thomas Addison, and older brother of the Reverend Henry Addison, was commissioned captain, Thomas Crabb lieutenant, and William Chandler ensign, of a company of foot soldiers, one of three companies recruited in Maryland for this expedition. Payments were made for transporting a total of 106 men of Captain Addison's company to the place of rendezvous, but there was also a governor's proclamation listing seven of his men as deserters, so Captain Addison's company no doubt consisted of 99 men. Sixty of these men were from Prince George's County, receiving their bounty payments from Philip Lee Esquire.²

In 1746 the General Assembly passed a similar act for His Majesty's Service in the intended Expedition against Canada, in which the bounty money allotted for use in Prince George's County was given to Colonel Edward Sprigg. Three companies were recruited in Maryland for this expedition. Benjamin Stoddert of Prince George's County, younger son of James Stoddert, was commissioned a lieutenant in Captain John Jordan's company, which was completed July 25, 1746. In August the roll of this company must have been reduced, as Mr. Stoddert inserted an advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette*, dated August 7, 1746, that five of his men had deserted. However replacements were evidently found, as the three companies sailed from Annapolis on September 15th to join other forces destined for the same purpose. Word was received in October that the men had arrived safely in New York, all in good health and spirits, ready to proceed to Albany where they would be quartered at nearby farms which had been deserted by the inhabitants for fear of the Indians.³ It was for this Benjamin Stoddert that his brother Thomas named his son, who was to distinguish himself in the early affairs of our nation, Benjamin Canada Stoddert.

From the beginning of the province, companies of militia were maintained for the better defense against enemies and for internal security. In the earliest days these were known as *trained bands* organized in each hundred, which were under the command of a mustermaster general. By the time Prince George's County was es-

¹ *Arch. Md.*, XL, 437, 579; XLII, 127.

² *Ibid.*, XXVIII, 225, 227; XLII, 157-62, 238.

³ *Ibid.*, XXVIII, 362; XLIV, 339; *Maryland Gazette*, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, Oct. 4, 1746.

tablished, there were in each county both companies of foot militia and troops of horse militia, all under the command of a colonel, lieutenant colonel and major. In 1696 Prince George's County began with two troops of horse militia and two companies of foot militia.⁴ As the county grew, more companies were organized. There are, among the state archives, six lists of militia sent in by the captains in 1748 and 1749, as follows:

A List of Capt. George Beall's Troop of Horse, dated 1748, with William Beall lieutenant; William Davis cornet; Groves Tomlinson quartermaster; Alexander Beall, Josiah Beall, Charles Harding and Walter Evans corporals; Samuel Beall clerk, and 89 private troopers.

A List of Captain Tobias Belt's Company, dated 1748, with Richard Harwood lieutenant; Jeremiah Belt Jr. ensign; Basil Waring and Samuel Richards sergeants; Isaac Lansdale, John Perry, Samuel Clark and Nathan Wells corporals; Baruck Williams clerk; and 89 foot soldiers.

A Roll of Foot Militia under the Command of Samuel Magruder captain, dated 1749, with James Magruder lieutenant; Marine Duvall ensign; Mark Webb, John Goodman, Benjamin Brookes and James Gibson sergeants; Thomas Finch, James Magruder son of Ninian, Henry Brookes and Jeremiah Magruder corporals; and 85 private soldiers.

A List of Capt. Thomas Sappington's Company, dated Nov. 5, 1748, with James Crow lieutenant; Benjamin Welsh ensign; Benoni Fowler, John Davis, Jeremiah Fowler and Wevor Barns sergeants; James Odell, Basil Williams, William Ijams and Richard Lansdale corporals; and 38 foot soldiers.

A List of Capt. James Wilson's Company, dated Feb. 20, 1748/9, with John Lawson lieutenant; ensign none; Hezekiah Magruder, William Read and Mackall Skinner sergeants; Levin Wales and Thomas Baden corporals; Alex Magruder clerk, and the names of 85 private soldiers, one of whom was listed as dead.

The Muster Roll of Capt. John Smith's Troop of Horse Militia in Mattapany and Mount Calvert Hundreds, dated 1748/9, with Thomas Hollyday lieutenant; Thomas Hodgkins cornet; Thomas Longden adjutant; Allen Bowie quartermaster; John Dorsett, James Harvey and Robert Hooker corporals; and 60 private troopers.⁵

While these are the only lists of this period which seem to have survived, we cannot be certain there were no others. There is a record that on July 17, 1755, 50 new firelocks, slings, cartouch boxes

⁴ *Arch. Md.*, I, 77, 159, 292; XX, 379-80.

⁵ Colonial Wars, Box 1, Folders 6-10, 35, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

and bayonets were sent to the Bladensburg Independents, and a week later, on July 24th, three halberts and one drum were sent to Captain Belt's company at the Western Branch.⁶ Since troopers had to furnish their own horses, the rates of pay were 300 pounds of tobacco per month higher for men in the horse militia than for men in the corresponding grades of the foot militia.

The fighting during these earlier wars was carried on at some distance from the Province of Maryland: in Canada, the West Indies, upper New York, New England, and the Carolina coast, so that Maryland did not become involved to much extent. But in the final struggle, the French and Indian War (1754-63), the fighting was conducted on four fronts: Quebec, Niagara, and the Lake George-Lake Champlain area, as well as the Ohio and western frontier, so that more help was required for His Majesty's Service, both in troops and supplies.

In the middle of the 18th century, the English colonies extended along the Atlantic seaboard from Maine to Georgia, with settlements only as far inland as the Appalachian Mountains. The French settlements extended from Quebec along the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Both the English and French colonists desired to expand into the Ohio River valley, which lay between.

At first the expansion was peaceful. In 1749 the newly formed Ohio Company, composed primarily of Virginia planters, was given a grant for settlement and trading purposes of 500,000 acres of Virginia's land west of the Appalachian Mountains and southeast of the Ohio River between the Monongahela and Kanawha Rivers. Within a few years several storehouses or forts were built, one on the Potomac River at the mouth of Wills Creek (Cumberland, Maryland), one on the Monongahela River at the mouth of Redstone Creek (Brownsville, Pennsylvania), and another was under construction at the forks of the Ohio River (Pittsburgh). At the same time, the French had also been constructing a chain of forts which extended from Presque Isle on Lake Erie down along the Allegheny River to the same point, the forks of the Ohio. Here, on April 17, 1754, the French captured the unfinished fort of the Ohio Company, destroyed it, and replaced it with their own, Fort Duquesne, as a base for further action against the English on the frontier.

This was the start of hostilities which at first went against the

⁶ *Arch. Md.*, LII, 335.

English. Following the Battle of Great Meadows in July, 1754, in which the Virginia forces under Colonel George Washington were overpowered by the French, both the English and French prepared for war. The Province of Maryland was drawn into the conflict to help her neighbor, the Colony of Virginia; and Prince George's County had a large share in this struggle. Maryland's General Assembly voted the sum of £6000 to be used by Governor Horatio Sharpe toward the defense of the Colony of Virginia and His Majesty's dominions, and the support of the wives and children of their Indian allies. As in the former wars, the Northern Indians were allied with the French, while the Southern Indians joined forces with the English. A company of Maryland men under the command of Captain John Dagworthy of Worcester County was raised and sent to the aid of the troops at Fort Cumberland.⁷

General Edward Braddock was sent over from England, early in 1755, as commander of all the British forces in America for a campaign which was to start with the capture of Fort Duquesne. Some regular troops were also sent from England, the rest to be raised in the colonies. Of the five companies sent to Maryland for a few months' rest after their voyage, one was quartered at Upper Marlborough, one at Bladensburgh, and a third at Rock Creek, all in Prince George's County, while the other two were sent to Frederick Town in Frederick County.⁸

It was Frederick County, now the western frontier county in the province, which felt the brunt of this war, insofar as it was felt in Maryland. Less than seven years had elapsed since Frederick had been taken off of Prince George's County. The inhabitants were well known in Prince George's, and many of the leading men had been justices of Prince George's County court before the separation.

After General Braddock's disastrous defeat on the Monongahela at Turtle Creek near Fort Duquesne in July, 1755, in which battle he was mortally wounded, the European troops were withdrawn northward, leaving the frontier unprotected from the roving bands of savages, except for the provincial troops. Families left their homes in the back settlements of Frederick County and flocked to the eastward. In October, Governor Sharpe ordered out one company of the militia from each of the eight counties on the Western Shore to range for one month on the western frontier. Prince George's County responded at once with several small companies of

⁷ *Ibid.*, VI, 95; L, 559.

⁸ *Ibid.*, VI, 186.

volunteers, well-equipped, who went at their own expense, followed two weeks later by another party of about 60 hearty young men. The captain in command of the men from Prince George's County was Captain Joshua Beall. Joshua Beall was a grandson of the Indian fighter Colonel Ninian Beall and son of Captain Charles Beall, who had also fought against the Indians. Since 1751 he had been a justice of the Prince George's County court, and he was one of the tobacco inspectors at the Bladensburgh warehouse.⁹

The men under Captain Joshua Beall's command were Lieutenant Thomas Matthews; Ensign James Riley; Sergeants Walter Smith Greenfield, Barton Lucas, James White; Corporals Basil Burgess, Jeremiah Evans, Thomas Ghent, Thomas Smith Greenfield, Benjamin Hall, John Ray; 64 privates from Prince George's County, six privates from Calvert County and two privates from Frederick County. Each man in Captain Joshua Beall's party was required to take with him one blanket, enough clothes to serve for a month from the time of his arrival on the frontier, and enough provisions to last until he reached Frederick Town, where he was supplied out of a magazine. Those who had arms and ammunition were advised to take them along, otherwise they were supplied at Frederick Town.¹⁰

In December, Prince George's County became a part of one of the saddest occurrences of the war. By the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht, which was signed in 1713 at the end of Queen Anne's War, France had ceded the peninsula of Acadia, or Nova Scotia, to England. England, faced with holding its northern possessions against the encroachment of France, came to distrust the French inhabitants of this adjacent peninsula and, after the French and Indian War broke out between England and France, uprooted over 6000 of the Acadians from their homes and dispersed them to other English colonies from Maine to Georgia, many of them going to Maryland. In late November and early December, 1755, four ships arrived at Annapolis with about 900 of these people, called French Neutrals, in a needy and destitute condition. After about a week, during which the people of Annapolis provided for them, one of the vessels was sent to the Patuxent River on the Western Shore, two were sent to Wicomico and Choptank Rivers on the Eastern Shore, while

⁹ *Ibid.*, 297; LII, 320; *Maryland Gazette*, July 24, Oct. 16, 23, 1755.

¹⁰ Ledger 1767, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.; French and Indian War Records, Part 3 of 4, pp. 79-84, File No. 375.1, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md., printed in *Maryland Historical Magazine* IX (1914) 359-61; *Arch. Md.*, XXXI, 78.

a fourth group was transported to Baltimore. Some of the French Neutrals sent to the Patuxent River were discharged at Upper Marlborough. They were dispersed from there and were not allowed to travel from the plantations on which they were settled. The constables of the hundreds were required to turn in to the county court a list of the French Neutrals in their hundreds. The constable of Prince Frederick Hundred listed Michael Putapa aged 62 years, Sarah his wife aged 55 years, John his son aged 9 years, and reported that at Alexander Magruder's Mill Town there were two men, two women and three boys who refused to give their names and ages. The constable of Mattapany Hundred could not get any names or ages but reported two men, five women and two girls at two cabins on Mr. Thomas Gantt Sr's. land, and one man, two women, and three girls living on the land of Mrs. Mary Throne. Both Mr. Gantt and Mrs. Throne lived near White's Landing. The constable of Upper Marlborough Hundred reported that the French Neutrals in his hundred refused to give in a list of their families, so the court ordered the sheriff to bring in the men of the families. He brought in Leander Leandrie, Gastin Leandrie, Joseph Brewser, Peter Babbins, John Babbins and John Foran. The law was explained to them but the language barrier could not be overcome and all except John Foran continued refusing to give in their names and were turned over to the custody of the sheriff. Unfortunately we do not know the rest of the story, but the county was required to support them if they were real objects of charity, and could bind out the children like orphans. In 1763 Glo: Bruissar (no doubt the man listed in the records earlier as Joseph Brewser) and his wife petitioned for and were allowed 1000 pounds of tobacco out of the county levy. And a few years after the war was over, several shiploads of the French Neutrals were transported to New Orleans, so perhaps those in Prince George's County were among them.¹¹

To return to the war on the Maryland frontier: in March, 1756, when the weather opened up, Indian depredations began again in Frederick County. The province was now aroused and the General Assembly, on May 16, 1756, passed an Act for granting a Supply of £40,000 to be applied in building a fort and some blockhouses, in maintaining a garrison of 200 men, in engaging the assistance of the Southern Indians, and in paying for scalps of Indian enemies. William Murdock, James Dick and Daniel Wolstenholm were named in

¹¹ *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 11, 1755; Nov. 12, 1767; PGC. Ct. Rec., Lib. OO, f. 309-11; Lib. VV, f. 3; *Arch. Md.*, XXI, 103; XXXII, 187; LII, 542.

the Act to be agents for purchasing provisions and arms, and Colonel Benjamin Tasker and Charles Carroll Jr. Esquire were appointed commissioners to treat with the Southern Indians. Mr. Murdock, the only one of the three purchasing agents who was a member of the General Assembly, was a delegate from Prince George's County, and had been serving in that capacity since he was first elected in 1749. Although Colonel Benjamin Tasker, one of the two commissioners appointed to treat with the Indians, maintained his residence at Annapolis, he was also from Prince George's County, as he spent most of his time at "Belair," his country estate in Prince George's County.¹²

Fort Frederick, which is still standing today, was erected on the Potomac River about 15 miles west of Conococheague (Hagerstown). The Agents advertised for bids for provisioning the troops and Dr. David Ross of Bladensburgh was the successful bidder. Dr. Ross, a surgeon and merchant, was one of the original inhabitants of the Town of Bladensburgh. In 1749 he had been chosen a commissioner of the town and in 1753 had been appointed a justice of the Prince George's County court. He was well-known by the provincial leaders as he was married to Miss Ariana Brice, oldest daughter of John Brice Esquire of Annapolis. Dr. Ross entered into a contract with the Agents to furnish such provisions for the Maryland troops as would give the soldiers no just cause for complaint, delivered to Fort Frederick, at the rate of 9d. per day for each man. He also furnished provisions and necessaries for the Cherokee Indians who came to Fort Frederick and declared themselves friends. Dr. Ross was known as the Agent Victualer and began his duties on May 17, 1756.¹³

In August, 1756, after Fort Frederick was completed, Colonel Joseph Belt, Commander-in-Chief of the militia of Prince George's County, was notified to send a detachment of 100 men under a captain, lieutenant, and ensign to Fort Frederick, where they would be joined by a like number of men from Baltimore County. Colonel Belt reported that the detachment from Prince George's County was made up entirely of volunteers who, all except one sick man, had marched from Bladensburgh on September 12th in high spirits, under the command of Captain Joshua Beall. After they arrived at Fort Frederick they were supplied with provisions by Commissary

¹² *Arch. Md.*, LII, 480.

¹³ *Ibid.*, IX, 22; LII, 609; *Maryland Gazette*, Sept. 5, 1750.

George Ross of Frederick County, who was the brother of Dr. David Ross the Agent Victualer. The Prince George's County troops were then sent to patrol between North Mountain and Conococheague.¹⁴

Since some of the conditions of the Supply Act passed in May, 1756, were not met, another act was passed the following September, which added 100 men to the 200 men already in service. Some of the unused funds were spent for wheat to be transported to New York to help the English forces fighting in the north.¹⁵

In March, 1757, Governor Sharpe ordered Captain Dagworthy, the commander of the Maryland troops, to march from Fort Frederick to Fort Cumberland with his own company and as many of Captain Joshua Beall's company as were needed to make the number 150, thus dividing the Maryland forces between Fort Frederick and Fort Cumberland. This was done to release the garrison of Virginia troops, allowing them to join the expedition against Fort Duquesne. Governor Sharpe of Maryland and Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia arranged between themselves that, in exchange for the provisions left at Fort Cumberland by the Virginia contractor, Dr. Ross should deliver a similar quantity of provisions to Winchester. This would have been a fair arrangement except that the provisions left at Fort Cumberland by the Virginia troops contained more fish than the Maryland men would eat and the beef was spoiled. This occasioned an exchange of rather sharp letters between the two governors, as Governor Dinwiddie wanted payment for all the stores left by the Virginia troops and Governor Sharpe expected that Dr. Ross would be accountable for only so much of the stores as the Maryland troops would use. Governor Dinwiddie finally reduced his demand to payment for everything except the beef, and a settlement was no doubt reached.¹⁶

Captain Joshua Beall and his men were still in service at Fort Cumberland in May, 1757, when the General Assembly reluctantly passed another Act for His Majesty's Service and the more immediate Defence and Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants of the Province, in response to the proposal of the Earl of Loudoun, the new Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America, that the Province of Maryland raise 500 men. In this act it was agreed to raise the 500 men, which were to include the 300 men already serving,

¹⁴ *Arch. Md.*, VI, 474, 479; XXXI, 159; LII, 619; *Maryland Gazette*, Feb. 10, 1774.

¹⁵ *Arch. Md.*, LII, 650; LV, 81, 86, 91, 92, 141.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, VI, 536; IX, 17, 21, 32.

but specified that the men were to range about the frontier, except those necessary to be left at Fort Frederick.¹⁷

This was the last Supply Act passed by the General Assembly during the war, although the members were called together for that purpose every few months. Anxiety about their own safety had now lessened. Members of the Lower House took the attitude that this was England's war, so England should pay for it. The Lower House refused to pass the bills suggested by the Upper House and the Upper House refused to accept those proposed by the Lower House.

Meanwhile Captain Joshua Beall's company continued at Fort Cumberland and Fort Frederick. It was noted in the Agents' account that on October 8, 1757, there were in his company mustered at Fort Frederick: the captain, second lieutenant, ensign, one corporal, one drummer, and 28 privates at the fort; two privates in the hospital; the first lieutenant, three sergeants, three corporals, and 42 privates on detachment; and six privates on party.¹⁸

In November, 1757, when the Agents settled for the pay due the Maryland troops through October 8th, and also settled with Dr. Ross for his account through that date, the supply was exhausted.

In addition to Captain Dagworthy's and Captain Joshua Beall's companies, the Maryland troops included three other companies, those commanded by Captains Alexander Beall, Francis Ware and Richard Pearis. The men of these five companies were still on duty when the General Assembly broke up in December, 1757, without voting any money for their pay. One of the popular men in Captain Joshua Beall's company was Lieutenant James Riley who, a few days before Christmas, brought to Annapolis a French deserter and a French cadet, whom he had taken prisoners near Fort Cumberland.¹⁹

The troops continued in service, not doubting that the General Assembly would eventually support them. And, on the authority of Colonel John Stanwix of His Majesty's forces, Dr. David Ross continued to supply provisions for the men. He also furnished provisions and liquors for the Indians at both Fort Cumberland and Fort Frederick. Transporting supplies from Fort Frederick to Fort Cumberland meant heavy extra charges, either for boatmen if the

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, LV, 119.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 618.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, IX, 109; *Maryland Gazette*, Dec. 25, 1757.

Potomac River was high enough to travel by water, or for wagoners and horsemen with bags if the river was low.²⁰

When the General Assembly failed to vote a supply for the troops at its spring session in 1758, Brigadier General John Forbes, the new commander of His Majesty's forces on the western frontier, advanced some funds to be distributed among the men toward their pay and to Dr. Ross to apply on his account; and Christopher Kilby Esquire, the King's Agent, agreed to allow Dr. Ross a further sum toward victualing the troops. Dr. Ross continued to supply provisions for the troops through July 22, 1758, when this service was taken over by the King's Commissary, but in doing so he stretched his credit to the utmost limit. Since General Forbes wanted the Maryland troops to remain in service, he arranged to pay an additional sum toward the amounts due both the troops and Dr. Ross.²¹

Dr. Ross went to Philadelphia to collect the money for both himself and the troops, but there he encountered great difficulties. Owing to the unfortunate circumstances of Mr. Kilby's being out of town and of General Forbes' failure, due to his ill health, to send instructions, Dr. Ross, instead of receiving the money, was arrested. He was accommodated in the sheriff's home and, after the intervention of the King's Attorney, was allowed to return to his lodgings, so that he did not have to spend the time in jail. But he suffered through a disagreeable month in Philadelphia before the misunderstanding was cleared up, he was paid and released from the sheriff's custody.²²

On May 31, 1758, Captain Pearis' troop was disbanded and the men taken into the other four companies. It was these four companies, one of which was commanded by Captain Joshua Beall of Prince George's County, that constituted the Maryland troops which joined General Forbes in the push against Fort Duquesne. Much to the surprise of the members of the General Assembly, Governor Sharpe was able to enlist volunteers to garrison Fort Frederick and Fort Cumberland, releasing the Maryland troops from this duty. On September 4th the four Maryland companies set out under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John Dagworthy, who had been promoted a few days earlier, to join the forces of General Forbes at his

²⁰ Calvert Papers, No. 957, State of Accounts of David Ross, for sums due him on account of Maryland Forces, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.

²¹ *Arch. Md.*, IX, 199, 207, 209, 235.

²² *Ibid.*, 236, 240, 243, 259, 261, 263, 273, 278.

camp at Loyal Hanning (Ligonier, Pennsylvania). In the unsuccessful action near Fort Duquesne on September 14th, three of the privates in Captain Joshua Beall's company were killed, and in the defense of the camp at Loyal Hanning on October 12th, two of his corporals were killed.²³

On November 24th the French burned and abandoned Fort Duquesne, and on the following day, November 25, 1758, General Forbes and his army took formal possession of the site and renamed it Pittsburgh.²⁴ Even though fighting continued in the northern colonies, as far as Maryland was concerned the war was over.

Some of the men from each company of the Maryland troops were sent to Fort Cumberland under Colonel Dagworthy. These included First Lieutenant James Riley, the second lieutenant, drummer and 11 privates of Captain Joshua Beall's company. The rest of the men of the Maryland forces returned to Annapolis, where the companies of Captains Joshua Beall, Alexander Beall and Francis Ware were disbanded on December 30, 1758, by order of Governor Sharpe. Colonel Dagworthy's company continued to serve until April 26, 1759. Early in February, 1759, it was learned that Lieutenant James Riley had died of smallpox. He had been a popular figure among the men, noted for his bravery, and was lamented by all who knew him.²⁵

At its November 22–December 23, 1758, session, the General Assembly again failed to vote a supply to recompense the Maryland troops for the pay which was due them, but it passed an Act to use the £1500, which had been set aside for Indian scalps, for presents for the officers and soldiers in the Maryland Service in the campaign under Brigadier General Forbes. The commanding officer received £30, Captain Joshua Beall and the other captains received £16 each, the lieutenants received £12, the ensigns £9, the non-commissioned officers £6, and the rest of the £1500 was spent on clothes or other necessities for the private soldiers.²⁶

²³ *Ibid.*, 194, 240, 252; Stevens, S. K., Kent, Donald H., Leonard, Autumn L., editors, *The Papers of Henry Bouquet Vol. II, The Forbes Expedition*, The Penn. Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg 1961, pp. 440, 473, 517, after 552; Papers of George Washington v. 9 1758-59, A List of Officers and Soldiers Missing Wounded and Returned from the Action near Fort Duquesne Sept. 14th 1758, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division; Calvert Papers No. 958 Muster Rolls, Fort Cumberland, 1757-58, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.

²⁴ Stevens, Kent and Leonard, *op. cit.*, p. 592.

²⁵ Muster Rolls, Fort Cumberland, *op. cit.*, *Maryland Gazette*, Feb. 8, 1759; *Arch. Md.*, IX, 319.

²⁶ *Arch. Md.*, LVI, 136.

In December, 1758, after the General Assembly failed to vote funds for paying the troops, Governor Sharpe wrote to General Forbes, expecting him to make final settlement, but General Forbes' illness proved fatal. The governor then advised and assisted the officers and Dr. David Ross in sending petitions for payment, together with muster rolls and accounts across the Atlantic to William Pitt, Secretary of State. Pitt sent them to the Lords of the Treasury, who referred them to the examination of Lord Loudoun, General Abercrombie, and General Stanwix, who reported them to be just and reasonable. The Lords of the Treasury then sent this report back across the Atlantic to General Jeffrey Amherst, the new Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America, who finally paid them. All of this took time, so that it was not until March, 1763, that Dr. David Ross, Captain Joshua Beall and the other officers and men received the balance of their pay.²⁷

Dr. David Ross was now paid in full, and Captain Joshua Beall and his men were paid for their service from 1756 through 1758 while in His Majesty's Service. But there was still owing to them their pay for the militia service in 1755. There were also a few other items for which Captain Beall had not been reimbursed. In November, 1765, along with several other officers, including Lieutenant Rezin Beall and Ensign Barton Lucas of Prince George's County, Captain Beall petitioned the General Assembly for payment. Both Rezin Beall and Barton Lucas had served for a time with Captain Joshua Beall, but had been transferred and promoted in other companies.

Captain Joshua Beall petitioned for £195.12.2 which had not been paid by the Crown, an additional £22.1.10½ for clothing for his men and £16.13.9 for his proportion of the expenses involved in soliciting and receiving the money paid by the Crown. The committee to which the investigation had been referred allowed him £200. Lieutenant Rezin Beall petitioned only for the £6.12.6 which was his share of the expense in soliciting and receiving the money paid by the Crown, but the investigating committee found that he had been dangerously wounded during his time of service and had been incapable of doing anything for a long time after the troops were disbanded, and allowed him £100. The committee found that the sum of £24.0.7 was due to Barton Lucas, but allowed him £40. The Lower House tried to pass an Act for the speedy payment of

²⁷ *Ibid.*, IX, 321, 322, 323, 364, 366, 367, 391, 530, 534, 553; XIV, 18, 30, 32, 39, 50.

these sums, but due to an outbreak of smallpox the General Assembly broke up without the Act being passed by the Upper House.²⁸

At its November–December, 1766, session, the General Assembly passed an Act for the payment of the public claims for emitting bills of credit and for other purposes therein mentioned, in which it took care of the unpaid bills which had been accumulating for a number of years, and specified that they were to be paid between February 20 and June 10, 1767. The Ledger for 1767 shows that payments were made for the companies of militia which had served at various times during the French and Indian War. Among them Captain Joshua Beall and the men who served with him received pay for their militia service in 1755. The Ledger also lists payments for allowance on List of Debts to Joshua Beall £200, to Rezin Beall £100, and to Barton Lucas £40.²⁹ The men of Prince George's County were at last paid in full for their part in the French and Indian War.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, LIX, 50, 54, 160, 196, 197, 251.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 264; (see also LXI, 392); Ledger 1767, pp. 8, 19, 90, 184-85.

Chapter 12

Prince George's County Participates in the Revolutionary War

The period between the end of the French and Indian War and the beginning of the Revolutionary War was one of great tension in the Province of Maryland, as it was in the other English colonies in North America. A succession of moves and countermoves were made, both by England trying to impose her complete authority over the colonies, and by the colonies trying to resist the right of England to impose this authority. Prince George's County took part in all of the happenings of this period.

England had long enjoyed a monopoly of trade with the colonies, collecting certain duties to which the colonies had voiced no objection. But now England proposed to tax them internally. The Stamp Act, passed by Parliament in 1765, caused a violent reaction in some of the colonies. In Maryland a mob assembled at Annapolis and tore down the house which Zachariah Hood, the newly appointed Stamp Distributor for the province, had leased for his headquarters, and forced him to flee the province.¹

At the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, the Maryland Lower House appointed three of its members, one of whom was William Murdock of Prince George's County, to meet with representatives of the other colonies to make a united plea for relief to the King and Parliament. This Stamp Act Congress met at New York in October, 1765. William Murdock was also appointed head of a committee in the Lower House to draw up Resolves declaring the constitutional rights and privileges of the freemen of the province.²

All manufactured articles had previously been imported from

¹ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Maryland* Vol. I, p. 526, Reprint Hatboro, Pa. 1967.

² *Arch. Md.*, LIX, 6, 11, 21, 26, 32, 343.

England, but it now became fashionable for gentlemen of the first rank and fortune to appear clad in homemade garments. In Maryland, an attempt had been made for the benefit of the poor, as early as 1731, to encourage the growth of flax and the making of linen within the province, by paying bounties for homemade linen within each county. This act was allowed to lapse in 1747, but was revived in 1765 after the Stamp Act went into effect. Unfortunately, this well-intentioned act did not always achieve its goal. In Prince George's County one of the earliest claimants was the Reverend Jacob Henderson, rector of Queen Anne's Parish, who was anything but poor. He had married the widow of two rich men and, with 20 slaves in his household, was one of the wealthier men of the county. However, the bounties awarded to 27 other claimants were doubtless more equitable.³

The Stamp Act was repealed in March, 1766, and there was great rejoicing in the colonies. This rejoicing, however, was short-lived, as in 1767 Parliament passed the Townshend Revenue Act which imposed a tax on glass, paper, pasteboard, white and red lead, painters' colors and tea, which were imported into the colonies. Within a few months William Murdock of Prince George's County was appointed Chairman of a committee in the Lower House of the General Assembly of Maryland to draft a petition to the King remonstrating against these duties. The unrest became general. Sons of Liberty were organized in some of the colonies. A non-importation association was formed in Boston, followed by similar associations in other colonies.⁴

On June 20, 1769, a Non-Importation Association was formed in Maryland. Representatives from each county met at Annapolis and agreed on resolutions of non-importation. Copies of these resolutions were then sent to each county to be passed around and signed by the merchants, traders, freeholders, mechanics and other inhabitants. The first test of this agreement was made early in 1770 when the brigantine *Good Intent*, with Captain Errington, arrived with goods for gentlemen of Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Baltimore Counties. The committee of merchants of these three counties, including Christopher Lowndes of Bladensburgh, Joseph

³ *Ibid.*, XXXVII, 248; XXXIX, 299; XL, 158, 192; XLII, 144, 613; LIX, 267; *Maryland Gazette*, March 27, 1766; PGCo. Court Rec., Liber R, folio 400; Lib. S, f. 287, 291, 296, 297; Lib. V, f. 4, 406; Lib. W, f. 56, 426; Lib. X, f. 40, 351; Lib. Z, f. 12, 377; Lib. AA, f. 128; Lib. CC, f. 13, 511; Lib. DD, f. 185; Lib. FF, f. 13; Lib. ZZ, f. 322; Lib. AA No. 1, f. 27, 385, 645.

⁴ *Arch. Md.*, LXI, 360; *Maryland Gazette*, March 6, 20, 1766.

Sprigg and Stephen West of Upper Marlborough and Joseph Sim of Nottingham, refused to allow the goods to be landed.⁵

Hope for repeal was general, and the people of Prince George's County watched the situation closely. The following item of interest appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* on April 26:

Prince-George's County, April 19, 1770.

YESTERDAY being the Day Mr. Wilkes was to be released from Ministerial Vengeance, great Rejoicing was had on that Occasion at Queen Anne, in said County, at the House of Mr. Jeremiah Crabb. The First Table at Dinner was decorated by Forty-five Ladies, who dined upon Forty-five Dishes: After them there dined Forty-five Gentlemen, who after Dinner drank Forty-five Glasses of Wine, when the following loyal and patriotic Toasts among others went Round. The King — The Queen — The Prince of Wales and Royal Family — The Freeholders of Middlesex — John Wilkes, Esq; — Serjeant Glynn — The Author of the last Junius — Sir George Saville — Lord Chatham — Lord Camden — Prosperity to Maryland — The Governor of Maryland — The Pennsylvania Farmer — The Author of the Considerations — The Minority in the Case of Mr. Wilkes's Expulsion — The Glorious Ninety-two of Boston — Mr. Otis — Mr. Cushing — Col. Barre — Gen. Howard — Mr. Burke — Mr. Beckford — All Friends to America — May Mr. Wilkes persevere in his Patriotism — May English and American Liberty never want a Wilkes, a Junius, and a Dickinson to patronize and defend it — The Supporters of the Bill of Rights — May his Majesty ever make the interest and Happiness of his Subjects his first Care — May the Friends of Liberty always have the Management of public Affairs — May all national Animosity subside — May the Subjects in every Part of his Majesties Dominions be united — May the Succession to the British Throne ever remain in the House of Hanover — May the Revenue-Acts be repealed on constitutional Principles — May Venality and Corruption never exist in the British Senate, &c. &c. &c.

Within a month it was learned that Parliament had repealed the duties on all articles except tea. Instead of rejoicing at repeal, the colonists considered the continued tax on tea to be an infringement of their rights, and meetings were held to voice their objections. At a general meeting of the Prince George's County inhabitants held at Upper Marlborough, June 9, 1770, of which Joseph Sim Esquire was appointed moderator, it was resolved to adhere to the non-importation agreement. Joseph Sim, a merchant of Nottingham, was the son of Dr. Patrick Sim and the grandson of Thomas Brooke

⁵ *Ibid.*, June 29, 1769; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, April 19, 1770.

Esquire. His wife, Catherine, was a daughter of William Murdock, who had died several months earlier, and granddaughter of Colonel Thomas Addison. The Sims made their home at "Sim's Delight," a home which is still standing, known today as "Bellefields."⁶

With the market in the North American colonies closed to them, tea was piling up in the warehouses of the East India Company. To relieve this situation, Parliament conceived a plan which allowed the tea to be shipped at a reduced rate, but retained the tax. The colonists of Massachusetts expressed their indignation at this move on the part of Parliament by staging the Boston Tea Party, in which, on December 16, 1773, the tea shipped to Boston was dumped into the harbor. Parliament retaliated by passing the Boston Port Act which closed the port of Boston. All America was inflamed by this act.⁷

In Maryland the last meeting of the General Assembly of the province was held in April, 1774. Two months later, in June, 1774, the committees appointed by the counties met at Annapolis and resolved to unite with the other colonies in a meeting at Philadelphia in September. Robert Tyler, Joseph Sim, Joshua Beall, John Rogers, Addison Murdock, William Bowie, Benjamin Hall son of Francis, and Osborn Sprigg represented Prince George's County. At this meeting five members were elected delegates to represent Maryland at the First Continental Congress, any two of them to act.⁸

Gentlemen from Prince George's County were also among the crowd which assembled at Annapolis on October 19, 1774, and forced the burning of the brig *Peggy Stewart*, which was carrying tea to the merchants of that city.⁹

Just as Maryland contributed its part to the effort of the United Colonies in the struggle for freedom, so Prince George's County took its full share of Maryland's responsibility in this struggle. In November, 1774, a great number of freeholders and freemen of Prince George's County met at Upper Marlborough, with John Rogers Esquire chosen moderator. Eighty-four men, no doubt all who attended the meeting, were named a Committee of Inspection to carry into execution within the county the Association of the American Continental Congress. A Committee of Correspondence was named and delegates to the Provincial Convention to be held at

⁶ *Ibid.*, May 10, June 14, 1770.

⁷ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 141-2.

⁸ *Maryland Gazette*, June 30, 1774.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 20, 27, 1774.

Annapolis the following week were elected: Dr. Richard Brooke, Josias Beall, Robert Tyler, John Rogers Esquire, Joshua Beall, William Bowie, Addison Murdock, Walter Bowie, Thomas Gantt Jr., George Lee, Osburn Sprigg, Edward Sprigg and David Craufurd. John Rogers, moderator of the meeting, was a well-known attorney at law in the county. He and his wife, Margaret Lee Clarke Rogers, a granddaughter of Philip Lee Esquire, lived at Upper Marlborough in the Daniel Carroll home which Mr. Rogers had purchased.¹⁰

At the meeting of the Maryland Convention held at Annapolis December 8 to 12, 1774, the previously elected delegates to the Continental Congress were continued, with two additional delegates added to the list, any three or more of them to act. It was resolved to increase the flocks of sheep, to promote woollen manufacture and to increase the manufacture of linen and cotton in the province. It was also recommended that all gentlemen, freeholders and other freemen between the ages of 16 and 50 years form themselves into companies of militia. Each man was to be provided with a good firelock, powder and lead, to be in readiness to act in any emergency. This would render it unnecessary for England to keep a standing army in the province, and obviate the necessity for taxing the province on that account. It was also recommended that each county raise a sum of money to be expended in the purchase of arms and ammunition for the use of the county, Prince George's share to be £833.¹¹

At the committee meeting in Prince George's County, held at Upper Marlborough on December 21, 1774, to carry into effect these recommendations of the Convention, it was agreed to raise the £833 by subscription in classes ranging from £5 or more to 2s. 6d. The list was started with liberal subscriptions from the committee members and then circulated around the county for additional subscriptions. And it was expected that ten companies of militia would be enrolled in the county: at Upper Marlborough and neighborhood one company, at Queen Anne and neighborhood two companies, at Bladensburgh and neighborhood two companies, at Broad Creek and neighborhood one company, at Piscataway and neighborhood two companies, at Magruder's Landing and neighborhood one company, and at Nottingham and neighborhood one company.¹²

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Dec. 1, 1774; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. CC No. 2, f. 583.

¹¹ *Maryland Gazette*, Dec. 15, 1774.

¹² *Ibid.*, Dec. 29, 1774.

At a meeting of freeholders held at Upper Marlborough on January 16, 1775, with John Rogers Esquire again chairman, the names of 86 men of the county were added to the 84 members of the Committee of Inspection chosen at the meeting held in November. Eight men were added to the Committee of Correspondence and the following were chosen to attend the next Maryland Convention at Annapolis: Dr. Richard Brooke, Josias Beall, Robert Tyler, John Rogers, William Bowie, Walter Bowie, George Lee, Thomas Gantt Jr., Colonel Joshua Beall, Osborn Sprigg, David Crawford, Colonel Joseph Sim, Thomas Contee, Benjamin Hall son of Francis, Luke Marbury, Stephen West, John Contee and Thomas Sim Lee.¹³

These delegates attended the meeting of the Maryland Convention held at Annapolis April 24 to May 3, 1775, with Gabriel Duvall appointed clerk. During this meeting word was received of the Battle of Lexington, which added fuel to the flame already kindled.¹⁴

Gabriel Duvall, a native of Prince George's County, was a young man who had begun his career two years earlier as a committee clerk in the Lower House of the General Assembly. His power and influence increased steadily so that, after the turn of the century, he would attain the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Gabriel Duvall divided his time between Annapolis and his home in Prince George's County, "Marietta," which is still standing today.

On May 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress met at Philadelphia. At this meeting George Washington was elected commander in chief of the Continental forces, and left immediately to assume command of the army, which was fighting in the vicinity of Boston. Two companies were assigned by Congress as Maryland's quota. Even though fighting had already begun, nevertheless Congress still hoped for reconciliation with England, and sent such a petition to the King. But this petition was refused and a Proclamation of Rebellion was issued by King George III. The two companies required from Maryland were quickly raised in the large and as yet undivided Frederick County, and were sent to join the army at Boston.¹⁵

July 26 to August 14, 1775, delegates to the Maryland Convention again met at Annapolis, and subscribed to the Association of the Freemen of Maryland. Proprietary power was thrown off and

¹³ *Ibid.*, Jan. 26, 1775.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, May 4, 1775; Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 177-8.

¹⁵ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 179-183.

government of the province assumed by the delegates to the Convention. They agreed that five delegates should be elected from each county, and that the Committees of Observation were to secure subscriptions to the Association from all freemen resident in their counties. The Committee of Observation for Prince George's County was to be composed of 33 members elected for one year. Forty companies of minute men, three of them from Prince George's County, were to be enrolled in the province. A Council of Safety was named to act between sessions of the Convention, with Gabriel Duvall appointed clerk.¹⁶

In Prince George's County a meeting was held at Upper Marlborough on September 12, 1775, to carry into effect the instructions of this Convention. The following were elected the Committee of Observation to serve for one year : Colonel Joseph Sim, Thomas Contee, Dr. Leonard Holliday, William Bowie, Thomas Gantt Jr., Alexander Howard Magruder, Thomas Trueman, David Craufurd, William Beanes, John Rogers, Benjamin Hall son of Francis, Thomas Sim Lee, Addison Murdock, John Contee, Robert Tyler, William Turner Wootton, Edward Hall son of Henry, Jeremiah Magruder, Richard Bennett Hall, James Mulliken, Richard Duckett Jr., Thomas Williams, Abraham Boyd, Basil Waring the third, Colonel Joshua Beall, Walter Williams, George Lee, Enoch Magruder, Henry Rozer, Josias Beall, William Lyles Jr. Thomas Dent and William Digges. And Colonel Joseph Sim, Josias Beall, Thomas Contee, John Rogers and Robert Tyler were chosen delegates to the Maryland Convention for a year.¹⁷

Immediately following this meeting the newly elected Committee of Observation met at Upper Marlborough and appointed Levin Covington, Robert Bowie and John Hawkins Lowe to enroll a company of minute men each. These were energetic and patriotic young men, who were well-liked by their comrades. Captain Robert Bowie would, after the turn of the century, become Governor of the State of Maryland. His birthplace and home was "Mattaponi," which is still standing near the Patuxent River. The Committee of Observation also appointed a Committee of Correspondence, consisting of Thomas Sim Lee, Benjamin Hall son of Francis, David Craufurd, Addison Murdock and John Contee.¹⁸

December 7, 1775 to January 18, 1776, the newly elected dele-

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, II, 183-6; *Maryland Gazette*, Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7, 1775.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Sept. 21, 1775.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

gates to the Maryland Convention met at Annapolis. Because of the illness of two of the delegates to Congress, two additional delegates were elected, any three of them to act. One of the newly elected delegates was John Rogers of Prince George's County. These men were instructed to agree to all measures Congress deemed necessary to obtain a redress of American grievances.¹⁹

This Maryland Convention also set about changes in the militia and the formation of a military force for the protection of the province. Minute companies were to be discontinued after March 1, 1776, but every able-bodied freeman between 16 and 50 years of age was to enroll in some company of militia. It was agreed to raise a force of 1444 men for the defense of the province, to be composed of eight companies of 68 men each, which were to be formed into a battalion, the remaining 900 to be divided into companies of 100 men each, including seven independent companies and two companies of matrosses. Five of the battalion companies and one artillery company would be stationed at Annapolis, the other three battalion companies and artillery company would be sent to Baltimore. Five of the independent companies were to be stationed on the Eastern Shore and the other two on the Western Shore. Field officers were selected for the battalion, with Colonel William Smallwood of Charles County as commanding officer, and Christopher Richmond of Prince George's County named his clerk.²⁰

After a lapse of almost 200 years, it is impossible to be sure just which county the men enrolled in service were from, but we can be fairly sure of the home county of the officers. The men from Prince George's County who were elected, either by the Convention or the Council of Safety, to serve as company officers of the battalion, were Barton Lucas and Patrick Sim captains, Daniel Bowie first lieutenant and John H. Beanes second lieutenant, with Dr. Michael Wallace commissioned first surgeon's mate to the battalion. All of these men were stationed at Annapolis. Rezin Beall of Prince George's County was elected captain of the First Independent Company, half of which was sent to Drum Point in Calvert County and the other half to Port Tobacco in Charles County. William Sprigg Bowie and Benjamin Brookes were named second and third lieutenants of the Second Independent Company which was stationed in Somerset

¹⁹ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 191-8; Proceedings of the Conventions of the Province of Maryland Held at the City of Annapolis in 1774, 1775 & 1776 (Baltimore, 1836) pp. 87-122.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

County. Lilburn Williams was commissioned ensign of the Sixth Independent Company which was stationed in Dorchester County.²¹

This Convention also divided the province into five districts of militia. Prince George's County, together with St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert Counties, composed the First District, with John Dent of Charles County named brigadier general. The militia officers for Prince George's County were appointed, either by the Convention or the Council of Safety: Joseph Sim colonel, Thomas Contee lieutenant colonel, Thomas Sim Lee first major, John Rogers second major and John F. A. Priggs quartermaster of the Lower or 11th Battalion; Joshua Beall colonel, Robert Tyler lieutenant colonel, Thomas Williams first major, Thomas Snowden of Montpelier second major, and William Thomas adjutant of the Upper or 25th Battalion. The Convention also appointed Daniel Clark of Prince George's County to be in charge of erecting saltpetre works in the county. And the Council of Safety appointed Thomas Contee, Stephen West and William Turner Wootton to collect all the gold and silver coin that could be procured in the county.²²

In February, 1776, fearing depredations from the enemy fleet under Lord Dunmore operating in the Chesapeake Bay, the provincial records were moved from Annapolis to Upper Marlborough, where they were placed in the storehouses of Samuel Hepburn and David Craufurd at the foot of Water Street.²³

As another safety measure, Maryland co-operated with Virginia in erecting 20 beacons or alarm posts along the banks of the lower part of the Potomac River, about five miles apart. The northernmost of the 13 erected in Maryland was placed in Prince George's County. It was an iron grate suspended by a chain on the end of a sweep fixed with a swivel, so as to turn with the wind.²⁴

The Maryland Convention, meeting May 8 to 25, 1776, re-elected the same delegates to Congress, including John Rogers of Prince George's County, to serve until the end of the next Convention. Even though some of the colonies were now pressing for independence, these delegates were again instructed to strive for reconciliation with Great Britain.²⁵

²¹ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 192-3; *Arch. Md.*, XI, 207; Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution* (Washington 1914), p. 346.

²² Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 195; *Arch. Md.*, XI, 131, 260.

²³ *Arch. Md.*, XI, 141.

²⁴ Scharf., *op. cit.*, II, 212.

²⁵ Md. Conventions in 1774, 1775, 1776, *op. cit.*, 141.

Maryland had been reluctant to sever all ties with the mother country, but she came to the realization that there was no other way. And so, at the meeting of the Maryland Convention June 20 to July 6, 1776, the former instructions were recalled, and the deputies to Congress or any three of them, were authorized and empowered to concur with the other United Colonies in declaring themselves free.²⁶

As soon as the Maryland delegates appeared with these instructions Continental Congress, on July 2, declared the United Colonies to be free and Independent States, absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain totally dissolved. The phraseology of the declaration was then discussed, and on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted. The vote of Maryland was cast by William Paca of Annapolis, John Rogers of Prince George's County and Thomas Stone of Charles County.²⁷

Unfortunately, John Rogers' name and fame as a voter for independence have gone unsung in the annals of history. Before the close of the Maryland Convention, which was meeting at the same time, delegates to Congress were again elected. Perhaps the members of the Convention took into consideration that Mr. Rogers was suffering from gout, as they re-elected all of the delegates except him, and in his place elected Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The document of the Declaration of Independence was not engrossed and signed in Congress until August 2, when all the delegates who were present signed it. Thus it came about that John Rogers of Prince George's County was the only delegate to Continental Congress who voted for, but did not sign, the Declaration of Independence.²⁸

Now that the colonies had declared their freedom, they had to prepare for the war which would inevitably follow. At the request of Congress the Maryland Convention meeting in June-July agreed to furnish 3405 of its militia to form a Flying Camp, to act with militia of Pennsylvania and Delaware in the Middle Department of the United Colonies from Maryland to New York, to serve until December 1. These men would be formed into four battalions of

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 176.

²⁷ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 231-3; Red Books IV, 33, Hall of Records.

²⁸ Herbert E. Klingelhofer, *John Rogers of Maryland*, in *Manuscripts*, Vol. VIII, No. 4 Summer, 1956, pp. 225-38; Red Books IV, 28.

nine companies each, to be under the command of a brigadier general. John Addison of Prince George's County was named lieutenant colonel of the Third Battalion of the Flying Camp which was formed from the lower part of the Western Shore. Three companies were drawn from Prince George's County with John Hawkins Lowe captain, John Magruder Burgess first lieutenant, William Duvall second lieutenant, Horatio Clagett ensign; Robert Bowie captain, Benjamin Brookes first lieutenant, William Dent Beall second lieutenant, William Shircliff ensign; Alexander Howard Magruder captain, William Sprigg Bowie, first Lieutenant, Benjamin Contee second lieutenant and Alexander Trueman ensign. Three other young men from Prince George's County, who were living elsewhere for a time, were also named: Leonard Deakins, captain of a company from Frederick County; Thomas Lansdale, first lieutenant of a Baltimore company; and John Sprigg Belt, second lieutenant of a company from Anne Arundel County. Congress also asked that four companies of Germans be raised in Pennsylvania and four in Maryland to compose a battalion.²⁹

This Convention ordered Colonel Smallwood to proceed immediately with his battalion to Philadelphia and put himself under the Continental officer commanding there, and ordered the Independent Companies to proceed northward and put themselves under command of Colonel Smallwood, these forces to be deducted from the number of militia required for the Flying Camp. At this time Lieutenant Daniel Bowie was promoted to captain in Colonel Smallwood's Battalion of regular forces.³⁰

Promotions were also made among the field officers of the Upper Battalion of militia in Prince George's County. Upon the resignation of Joshua Beall as colonel, the other officers of the battalion were advanced: Robert Tyler colonel, Thomas Williams lieutenant colonel, Thomas Snowden first major, with John Macgill appointed second major.³¹

In July, 1776, Captain Rezin Beall of Prince George's County and the half of his Independent Company which had been stationed at Drum Point in Calvert County were sent to St. George's Island in St. Mary's County to combat the enemy fleet under Lord Dunmore,

²⁹ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 238; Md. Conventions, 1774, 1775, 1776, *op. cit.*, pp. 170, 174, 176, 198.

³⁰ Md. Conventions 1774, 1775, 1776, *op. cit.*, 198, 203.

³¹ *Arch. Md.*, XII, 14, 16.

which was now operating in the Potomac River. On July 16, during an engagement with the enemy, Captain Beall was badly wounded.³²

When some of the enemy vessels advanced up the Potomac River, the alarm was sounded in Prince George's County. The militia companies of Captains Luke Marbury, Hezekiah Wheeler, Samuel Hawkins Bayne, Robert Wade and Michael Lowe were ordered out for the defence of the inhabitants, and continued on the Prince George's bank of the Potomac until the enemy departed and they were discharged.³³

In early August the enemy abandoned its raids in the Potomac. And on August 16, the Maryland Convention elected Captain Rezin Beall of Prince George's County, now recovered from his wounds, brigadier general of the Flying Camp. He was the third man to have been offered this commission. Perhaps this selection was made in recognition and appreciation of his courageous service at St. George's Island.³⁴

Captains John Hawkins Lowe, Robert Bowie, Alexander Howard Magruder and their subaltern officers were busy in the county enrolling men in their companies for the Flying Camp. The recruits were reviewed and passed by Colonel John Addison and Colonel Joseph Sim, and sent on their way by Head of Elk and Philadelphia to the Flying Camp now forming in New Jersey. The men of Captain Lowe's Company were so well-satisfied with their group, that on August 30 the captain requested that his company be transferred as a unit to one of the two Maryland battalions of regulars being raised for the Continental service.³⁵

Meanwhile, in July, Colonel Smallwood and his regiment, including the companies of Captains Patrick Sim, Barton Lucas and Daniel Bowie, were ordered by Continental Congress to join General Washington in the environs of New York, where the scene of action had now shifted. Here they were attached to the brigade of Brigadier General Lord Stirling, and took part in the disastrous Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776. They were used as an advance post and covering party, which exposed them to extraordinary duty and hazard. Although they fought with great courage, 256 men were killed, wounded, or missing, among them 12 officers. One

³² Scharf, *op. cit.*, 268; *Arch. Md.*, XII, 49-50, 63, 65-7.

³³ *Arch. Md.*, XII, 87, 110, 185-6, 256, 287.

³⁴ Md. Conventions 1774, 1775, 1776, *op. cit.*, p. 219.

³⁵ *Arch. Md.*, XII, 249; XVIII, 34-8; Red Books, XV, 73.

of these was Captain Daniel Bowie of Prince George's County, who was wounded and taken prisoner and died a few days later. Conditions in camp were so deplorable and sickness so prevalent, that only about half of the men were fit for duty.³⁶

Colonel William Smallwood's regiment and General Rezin Beall's brigade of the Flying Camp also participated in the Battle of Harlem Heights on September 16, the Battle of White Plains on October 27, the surrender of Fort Washington on November 16, and the surrender of Fort Lee on November 20. Captain John H. Lowe was wounded at Harlem Heights; Lieutenant John Sprigg Belt and Lieutenant Thomas Lansdale were taken prisoners at Fort Washington.³⁷

On October 8 Dr. Michael Wallace of Prince George's County was commissioned surgeon to Colonel Smallwood's Battalion of regular forces and on October 23 Colonel Smallwood of Charles County was promoted to brigadier general.³⁸

In September the Maryland Convention called for additional companies of volunteers to be enrolled from the militia for Continental service until December 1, one of these companies to be from Prince George's County. Levin Covington was commissioned captain, Richard Wootton first lieutenant, Ralph Crabb second lieutenant, and Thomas Hardy ensign of this company.³⁹

The term of enlistment of the militia in the Flying Camp expired December 1. The men were encouraged to re-enlist in the Continental service, and many of them did, but General Beall was not reappointed. He was unpopular with the men and did not get along well with General Smallwood. No doubt much of the discontent stemmed from the fact that Beall's promotion to brigadier general had entailed a jump of three grades, while many worthy officers in line for promotion had been passed over.⁴⁰

After the disastrous defeats in New York, General Washington gathered together the remnants of his army, many of them from Maryland who had re-enlisted for three years, and defeated the British in the Battle of Trenton on December 26. This was followed by the defeat of the British in the Battle of Princeton on January 3, so that spirits were lifted as Washington went into winter quarters at Morristown, while the enemy retired to Brunswick. Congress gave

³⁶ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 240-8; Red Books IV, 19b; Heitman, *op. cit.*, p. 112.

³⁷ Scharf, *op. cit.*, 251-4, 257-67; Heitman, *op. cit.*, 98, 340, 359; Red Books, IV, 52.

³⁸ *Arch. Md.*, XII, 325; Journals of Continental Congress, Vol. VI, p. 898.

³⁹ *Arch. Md.*, XII, 296.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 358-62; Red Books, IV, 60, 61.

General Washington power to raise and equip 16 additional regiments. David Ross of Bladensburgh, son of Dr. David Ross, was commissioned major in William Graysons Additional Regiment.⁴¹

In January, 1777, Colonel Robert Tyler marched his Upper Battalion of militia to reinforce General Washington in New Jersey, until the regular troops being recruited joined the army. And promotions were made in the Lower Battalion of militia. Since most of the field officers had resigned, the Council of Safety issued commissions to Thomas Sim Lee colonel, Luke Marbury lieutenant colonel, Trueman Skinner first major and William Lyles Jr. second major.⁴²

The Maryland Convention met for its last session August 14 to November 11, 1776. John Rogers Esquire was elected Judge of the Court of Admiralty, but did not accept. It was at this session that Frederick was divided into three counties. A petition was then read from some of the inhabitants of the part of Prince George's County lying west of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, praying that that part of the county be annexed to the lower district of Frederick, now Montgomery County, with their courthouse and other public buildings erected in Georgetown; but this petition was not granted. Maryland agreed to furnish and equip eight battalions for Continental service. Toward the end of the session, the Convention set about the formation of the state government. On November 3 they agreed to the Declaration of Rights and on November 11 the Constitution of the State of Maryland went into effect. Before the session ended, Thomas Contee Esquire of Prince George's County was elected a member of the Council of Safety which continued to act until March 20, 1777, when the new state government was completely organized.⁴³

Early in February, 1777, the Assembly of the new State of Maryland convened at Annapolis. The 15 members of the Senate, who were elected for five years, included Thomas Contee Esquire of Prince George's County. The qualifications of a senator were that he be over 25 years of age, a resident of the state for at least three years, and the owner of property valued at £1000 or more. Walter Bowie, David Craufurd, Osborn Sprigg and Jeremiah Magruder

⁴¹ Scharf., *op. cit.*, II, 290-3; Journals of Continental Congress, Vol. VI, p. 1045; Heitman, *op. cit.*, p. 474.

⁴² *Arch. Md.*, XVI, 79, 80, 113.

⁴³ Md. Conventions 1774, 1775, 1776, *op. cit.*, 242, 267, 275, 292, 311, 349-63, 377.



Courtesy James C. Wilfong, Jr.

Mattaponi

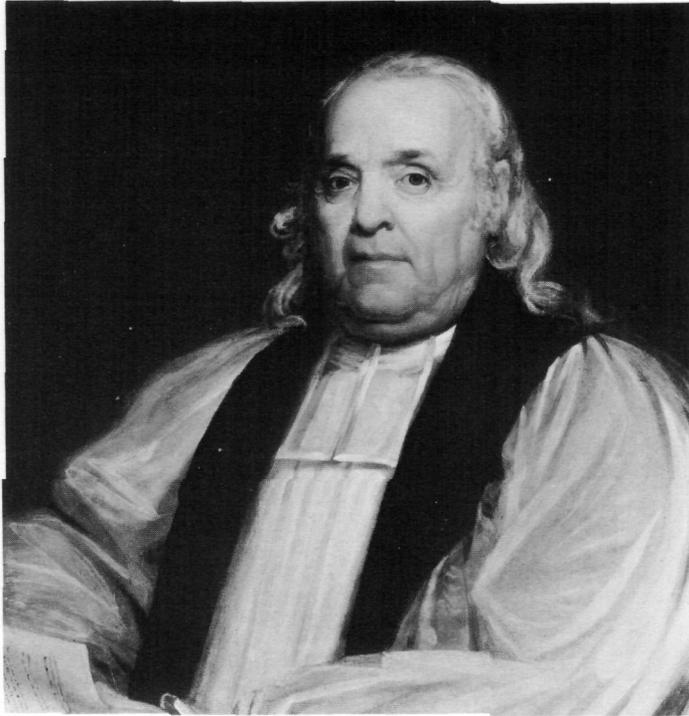
Home of Capt. Robert Bowie, Governor of Maryland 1803-06, 1811-12



Courtesy James C. Wilfong, Jr.

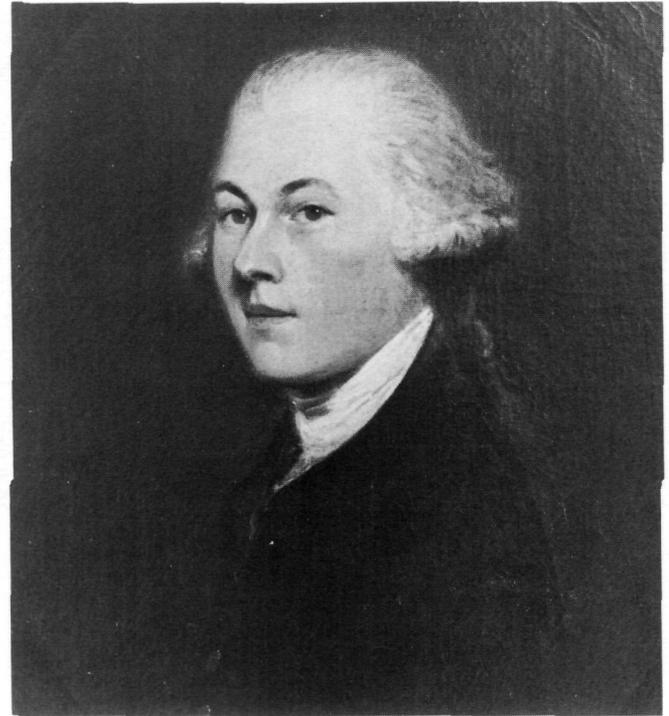
Wyoming

Home of Col. Luke Marbury



Courtesy Maryland Historical Society

Rt. Rev. Thomas John Claggett D.D.
First Episcopal Bishop of Maryland



Courtesy Hall of Records Commission

Benjamin Ogle, Governor of Maryland 1798-1801
Portrait attributed to the English School. Owned by H. Gwynne
Tayloe II. Photograph by Forrest W. Patton. Permission for use
granted by owner.

were members of the House of Delegates who had been elected for one year from Prince George's County. A delegate had to be 21 years of age, a resident of the state for at least a year and worth at least £500.⁴⁴

John Rogers, Thomas Sim Lee and Joseph Sim Esquires, also of Prince George's County, were elected three of the five members of the Council of State, Thomas Sim Lee having first resigned as colonel of the county's Lower Battalion of militia. The members of the Council were chosen annually. They were to be five of the most sensible, discreet and experienced men, over 25 years of age, residents of the state for at least three years, and were to have a freehold of lands and tenements worth at least £1000.⁴⁵

One of the first acts of the Assembly was to arrange the officers for the seven regiments which, together with the German Battalion, constituted Maryland's new quota for Continental service. The following men from Prince George's County were named officers. In the First Regiment Patrick Sim was commissioned lieutenant colonel, John H. Beanes captain and Rignal Hilleary ensign. In the Second Regiment Lilburn Williams was commissioned first lieutenant, Edward Duvall and Philip Hill second lieutenants, William Wheeler and Thomas Rouse ensigns. In the Third Regiment those named from Prince George's County were John H. Lowe and Benjamin Brookes captains, Horatio Clagett and Henry Lyles first lieutenants, Isaac Duvall and Osborn Williams ensigns. In the Fourth Regiment Thomas Lansdale and William Sprigg Bowie were made captains, William Shircliff and John Sprigg Belt first lieutenants, and Jeremiah Crabb second lieutenant. William Duvall was also commissioned first lieutenant in this regiment, but resigned on April 15. In the Sixth Regiment William Dent Beall and Alexander Trueman were commissioned captains, George Jacob and Edward Lloyd Wailes were appointed ensigns. The seven regiments and German Battalion were divided into two brigades. The First Brigade, assigned to Brigadier General Smallwood, was made up of the First, Third, Fifth and Seventh Regiments. The Second Brigade, under the command of Brigadier General Chevalier Deborre, was composed of the Second, Fourth and Sixth Regiments and the Ger-

⁴⁴ *Maryland Gazette*, Dec. 26, 1776; Votes and Proceedings of Senate of State of Maryland, Feb. Session 1777, p. 17; Votes and Proceedings of the House of Delegates of the State of Maryland, February Session 1777, p. 9; Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 282-3.

⁴⁵ *Arch. Md.*, XVI, 187, 189, 214, 220; Votes and Proceedings of House of Delegates, Feb. Session 1777, p. 14; Scharf, *op. cit.*, 283.

man Battalion. The Maryland division formed by these two brigades was under the command of Major General John Sullivan.⁴⁶

At the June, 1777, session of the Maryland Assembly a new act was passed to regulate the militia. The Governor and Council were to appoint a lieutenant in each county, a man of undoubted zeal and courage and unquestionable devotion to the cause of Liberty, who would be commander in chief of the militia of the county. It was the duty of the lieutenant to divide the companies of militia into eight classes, numbered from 1 to 8, and to keep a record of the names and classes. The act gave the Governor and Council the power to call into service by classes such of the militia as was necessary, in case of invasion of Maryland or the neighboring states of Virginia, Pennsylvania or Delaware. The act was specific that the first draft was to be Class No. 1, officered by the captain of the First Company, the first lieutenant of the Second Company, the second lieutenant of the Third Company, and ensign of the Fourth Company. If not sufficient, then Class No. 2 would be called, with the captain of the Second Company, the first lieutenant of the First Company, the second lieutenant of the Fourth Company and ensign of the Third Company, and so on. Non-commissioned officers and field officers of battalions were to be divided in like manner; and not more than one-fifth of the militia was to be sent out of the state at any one time. Luke Marbury was appointed lieutenant of Prince George's County.⁴⁷ His home in the county, known as "Wyoming," is still standing.

Luke Marbury was also commissioned colonel of the Lower Battalion of militia in Prince George's County. The other field officers were promoted, Truman Skinner lieutenant colonel and William Lyles Jr. major. And Colmore Beanes was named surgeon's mate in the Second Regiment of the Continental forces.⁴⁸

While waiting for the British forces to make a move, General Sullivan with his Maryland division, on August 22, 1777, made an unsuccessful attempt to capture a force of 1000 loyalists encamped on Staten Island. During this fray, Lieutenants Henry Lyles, Philip Hill, and Ensign Rignal Hilleary were taken prisoners.⁴⁹

It was expected by General Washington and his forces in New

⁴⁶ Votes and Proc. of House of Delegates Feb. Session, 1777, p. 62; Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 309.

⁴⁷ Laws of State of Md., June 1777, Chap. XVII; Votes and Proc. of House of Delegates, June Session 1777, p. 131.

⁴⁸ *Arch. Md.*, XVI, 356; Heitman, *op. cit.*, p. 94.

⁴⁹ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 311; Heitman, *op. cit.*, pp. 290, 361.

Jersey that the British would attempt to take Philadelphia, but the British commander, General Howe, instead of marching his army across New Jersey, embarked his whole force on board the British fleet to approach Philadelphia by way of the Chesapeake Bay and Head of Elk.⁵⁰

When it was learned that invasion threatened the State of Maryland, Governor Thomas Johnson issued a proclamation commanding the county lieutenants to march two full companies from each battalion of militia, 2000 men in all. General Smallwood and Colonel Mordecai Gist were detached from the Maryland regulars and sent to Maryland to organize these militia-men. General Smallwood was put in command of the 1250 men from the Western Shore while the 750 from the Eastern Shore were assigned to Colonel Gist.⁵¹

Two companies each were sent from the Upper and Lower Battalions of militia in Prince George's County. Among the officers who went were Colonel Luke Marbury of the Lower Battalion; Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Williams of the Upper Battalion; Dr. William Beanes, who went as surgeon to the Maryland Marching Militia; Dr. Richard Burgess and Rignall Duckett, surgeon's mates with the companies from the Lower Battalion. They participated in the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, the Battle of Paoli on September 20, and the Battle of Germantown on October 4, all of which resulted in defeats for the American forces. At Germantown, Captain Benjamin Brookes received a ball through his mouth which split his tongue and went out at the back of his jawbone; Captain William Sprigg Bowie was wounded in the shoulder; Colonel Luke Marbury and Lieutenant Edward Duvall were taken prisoners; privates William Tuel and Joseph Shircliff (Shirtley) of Prince George's County were killed. William Tuel and Joseph Shircliff had enlisted first in July, 1776, in the Flying Camp, Tuel in Captain John H. Lowe's Company, Shircliff in Captain Robert Bowie's Company. When killed at Germantown, Tuel was serving in Captain Horatio Clagett's Company, so he had evidently re-enlisted in the Continental service; Shircliff was serving under Colonel Thomas Williams, so he was evidently with the militia.⁵²

One of the Prince George's soldiers from the vicinity of Piscat-

⁵⁰ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 315.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 317-19.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 319-26; *Arch. Md.*, XVI, 362, 366, 395-6, 476, 504; XVIII, 35, 36, 634; Heitman, *op. cit.*, 113, 122, 209, 379.

away, William Tong, who was a member of Captain Thomas Dent's Company of militia under Colonel Marbury, wrote in later years about Colonel Marbury's capture:

It was at Germantown that our Col. Marberry was captured in a very singular manner: during the heat of action a sudden and severe firing of musketry was opened upon our division by an advance party of the enemy who were endeavoring to surround us but who had accidentally encountered our lines which, owing to an intense fog, were visible at only a few paces distant. As soon as the firing commenced Col. Marberry advanced a short distance from the lines to discover, if possible, the strength and position of the enemy, who, upon our returning their fire, instantly fell back and as they were moving off fell in with him and made him their prisoner. He was detained as a prisoner from that time until the close of the war.⁵³

In September, when there was a threat from the enemy fleet again operating in the Potomac River, a company of men from the Upper Battalion of militia was alerted to guard one of the ships belonging to the state, laden with state-owned tobacco, which had been moored at the Eastern Branch ferry. Some of the men from the Upper Battalion were also used to guard the tory prisoners sent to Queen Anne on their way to the jail at Frederick.⁵⁴

In November 1777, Thomas Sim Lee, Joseph Sim and John Rogers, Esquires, of Prince George's County, were rechosen members of the Council of the State of Maryland. However, neither Joseph Sim nor John Rogers accepted, so that Thomas Sim Lee was now the only member of the Council from Prince George's County. Joshua Beall was appointed lieutenant of the county in place of Luke Marbury. And David Craufurd was appointed collector of clothing in the county. He was ordered to collect all clothing which the householders could spare, paying prices set by the Council.⁵⁵

From the beginning of the war Maryland had difficulty in finding sufficient arms and supplies with which to equip its men. Stephen West, merchant of Prince George's County, was able to furnish many articles, among them powder, lead, muskets, blankets, stockings, linen and woolen cloth, all of which he let them have at reasonable prices. Mr. West's slaves manufactured many of these articles at the "Woodyard," his country estate. Much of the cordage

⁵³ *Autobiography of William Tong*, Library of Congress, MS Div.

⁵⁴ *Arch. Md.*, XVI, 368-9.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 417, 424, 426, 429.

needed for the newly built Maryland ships was supplied by Christopher Lowndes from his ropewalk near Bladensburg.⁵⁶

After the Continental troops were forced to evacuate Fort Mifflin and abandon Fort Mercer, Washington went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. General Smallwood was temporarily placed in command of the Maryland division and ordered to the defence of Wilmington, Delaware, and vicinity.⁵⁷

In April, 1778, General Smallwood and his men were called upon to suppress an insurrection of Tories at Jordan's Island, about 10 miles from Dover. From the beginning of the Revolution the Eastern Shore had been a hotbed of Tory activity. A year earlier General Smallwood had been sent to Worcester and Somerset Counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to suppress a similar insurrection. The Reverend John Bowie, a native of Prince George's County who was serving as rector of a parish in Worcester County, had been caught in this trouble. He was arrested but, upon giving bond and moving his family out of Worcester County, was allowed to move about within the confines of Montgomery County and the northern half of Prince George's County. And, upon his signing the Oath of Fidelity in 1778, was released from bond and given his freedom.⁵⁸

On March 20, 1778, John Rogers Esquire was appointed Chancellor of the State of Maryland, a position which he continued to hold until his death September 23, 1789.⁵⁹

In March, 1778, changes were made among the field officers of the militia of Prince George's County. Barton Lucas was appointed colonel, Thomas Williams lieutenant colonel and Abraham Boyd major of the Upper Battalion; and commissions were issued to Patrick Sim colonel, Rezin Beall lieutenant colonel and Benjamin Hall major of the new Middle Battalion of county militia. Some of these men evidently did not accept their commissions, as in May, Abraham Boyd was commissioned lieutenant colonel and Thomas Owens Williams major of the Upper Battalion, while John Addison was commissioned lieutenant colonel and John Hawkins Lowe major of the Middle Battalion. Thomas Clagett and John Smith Brooks were appointed agents for purchasing provisions in the county.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, XI, 89-91, 124-5, 137, 153-4, 161, 406-8; XII, 427-8, 433-4; XVI, 7, 12-13, 27-8, 81, 119, 134, 191, 211, 250, 321, 404.

⁵⁷ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 328-9.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 299-304, 345; *Arch. Md.*, XVI, 156, 192-3, 231-2, 404; XXI, 27.

⁵⁹ *Arch. Md.*, XVI, 543; *Maryland Gazette* Sept. 24, 1789.

⁶⁰ *Arch. Md.*, XVI, 532; XXI, 56, 62-3.

In May, 1778, the British, under the newly appointed commanding General Sir Henry Clinton, evacuated Philadelphia and retreated toward New York. General Washington followed in pursuit and on June 28, with the help of General Smallwood's brigade, won the Battle of Monmouth. Captain Benjamin Brookes was wounded in this engagement.⁶¹

In July the French fleet arrived to aid the Americans. They assisted in an attempt to reduce Newport, Rhode Island, which was held by the British but, owing to a storm which damaged the fleet, this attempt was not successful.⁶²

Early in December, 1778, Washington's troops went into winter quarters in New Jersey in a series of camps from Long Island Sound to the Delaware. The Marylanders under Lord Stirling were encamped near Middlebrook. There had been a constant drain of men, provisions and military supplies. The Maryland troops were in great want of clothing: shirts, coats, waistcoats, breeches, stockings and hats. Every effort was made to furnish these articles.⁶³

In May, 1779, the British squadron entered the Chesapeake Bay and ravaged the shores of Virginia. The threat to Maryland was so great that all militia of the state was ordered to the defence of Baltimore. However the marauders withdrew from the Chesapeake and sailed up the Hudson River to take possession of Stony Point and Verplanck's Point in New York. On July 15, Washington sent General Anthony Wayne with his men, including volunteers from the Maryland Line, to attack the post at Stony Point. The successful storming of Stony Point was followed a few days later by the capture of the garrison at Paulus Hook, New Jersey, in which action Maryland troops also served.⁶⁴

When the Assembly convened at Annapolis in November, 1779, Thomas Sim Lee Esquire of Prince George's County was elected second Governor of the State of Maryland. According to the State Constitution of 1776, the governor was to be a person of wisdom, experience and virtue, at least 25 years of age, a resident of the state for at least five years, owning real and personal property of over £5000 value, at least £1000 of which should be a freehold estate. He was not to hold office longer than three years in succession and would not be eligible for re-election until a lapse of four

⁶¹ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 336-7; Heitman, *op. cit.*, p. 122.

⁶² Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 339.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 340.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 354-6.

years after leaving office. Thomas Sim Lee of Upper Marlborough was a man of property, member of a wealthy county family. His father was Thomas Lee, son of Philip Lee Esquire, his mother was Christian Sim, daughter of Dr. Patrick Sim. Thomas Sim Lee had been clerk of the county court from 1767 to 1777, succeeding his uncle Colonel Joseph Sim, who in turn had succeeded Thomas Sim Lee's father, Thomas Lee.⁶⁵

Josias Beall of Prince George's County was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates of this General Assembly. His home was near the Charles County line, on the road between Piscataway and Port Tobacco.⁶⁶

Acts were passed at this session of the General Assembly for calling into service an additional 1400 men and to supply flour and other provisions for the army. Among the newly commissioned officers, John Boone of Prince George's County was appointed ensign in the First Regiment, Thomas Boyd son of Abraham ensign in the Second Regiment and Thomas Gantt the 4th ensign in the Sixth Regiment of the Maryland regular forces. New commissions were also issued to field officers of the Middle Battalion of militia: John Addison colonel, John Hawkins Lowe lieutenant colonel and John Magruder Burgess major. William Lyles was licensed to purchase provisions in the county for the Continental Army and to superintend the post at Piscataway Creek for curing them.⁶⁷

In 1780 the scene of conflict for the Marylanders shifted to the southern states. In late December, 1779, the British commander, Sir Henry Clinton, accompanied by Lord Cornwallis and 8500 men, left New York and joined his forces at Savannah, Georgia, which had been captured earlier. Having held the state of Georgia for a year, the British now began a campaign to reduce the other Southern states. From Savannah the British soldiers made their way northward to the vicinity of Charleston, South Carolina, which was held by the Americans under Major General Benjamin Lincoln.⁶⁸

Knowing that help was needed in the South, General Washington transferred the Maryland division and the Delaware troops, now commanded by Major General Baron de Kalb, to reinforce General Lincoln. But before they could arrive, General Lincoln was forced,

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, 283, 356; Bowie, *op. cit.*, p. 524; PGCo. Ct. Rec., Lib. HH, f. 182; Lib. MM, f. 167; Lib. ZZ, f. 23, 462; Lib. EE No. 2, f. 32.

⁶⁶ *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 12, 1779; PGCo. Wills, Lib. T 1, f. 527.

⁶⁷ Laws of Maryland, Nov. 1779, Chaps. XXXII, XXXVI; *Arch. Md.*, XLIII, 2, 10, 13, 20, 111.

⁶⁸ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 359.

on May 12, 1780, to surrender Charleston. After this victory for the British forces, Sir Henry Clinton sailed for New York with part of his army, leaving Lord Cornwallis in command of the rest of his forces, with orders to continue to reduce the territory between Georgia and the Chesapeake Bay.⁶⁹

The Maryland Line, including the men from Prince George's County, left winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey, on April 16, 1780, and marched to the Head of Elk. There they boarded vessels requisitioned for their use by the state, and were transported by water to Petersburg, Virginia. At Petersburg they again took up their line of march for Camden, South Carolina. But this was a long, slow journey, beset with many hardships. They were promised supplies and provisions which never materialized, so that they were weak and destitute when, on July 25, at their camp in North Carolina, they were joined by Major General Horatio Gates, the newly appointed commander of the Southern Army. In spite of the distressed condition of the troops, General Gates ordered the march resumed. Not until they were near Camden were they joined by militia from both North Carolina and Virginia. The Battle of Camden took place on August 16, and proved to be a disastrous defeat for the Americans. The Marylanders fought bravely, but their commander, Baron de Kalb, was mortally wounded, and over 600 men were lost, either killed, wounded or missing. Among the men from Prince George's County who took part in the battle, Captain Edward Duvall of the Second Regiment was killed, and his brother, Lieutenant Isaac Duvall of the Third Regiment, was wounded. John Bean of Prince George's County, a private in the Third Regiment, was also wounded. Walter Dyer of Prince George's County, who had enlisted first as a private in Captain John H. Lowe's company of the Flying Camp, was now serving as ensign in the Third Regiment, and John Tolson Lowe, who had joined the Second Regiment as a sergeant, was now commissioned ensign.⁷⁰

The remnants of the Southern Army reassembled at Hillsborough, North Carolina, where the effective troops were reorganized into a regiment under Brigadier General Smallwood. In September, when Lord Cornwallis started advancing toward North Carolina, the militia of North Carolina were called into service and

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 359-60.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 360-7; Heitman, *op. cit.*, 209; *Arch. Md.*, XVIII, 35, 103, 132, 358, 362, 363, 634-5.

put under the command of Major General Smallwood. Colonel Otho H. Williams was then placed in command of the Maryland Regiment. Although Colonel Williams had been a long-time resident of Frederick County, his birthplace was in Prince George's County.⁷¹

Back in Maryland, recruiting went on constantly to fill up the ranks of the old battalions, as well as for a new regiment authorized by the General Assembly in June, 1780, known as the Regiment Extraordinary. Nathaniel Magruder was commissioned lieutenant and Ignatius Boone ensign in this regiment, both from Prince George's County. Every effort was made to collect provisions and supplies for the men in the field. In Prince George's County, John Smith Brooke was appointed Commissary for purchases and John Beall was appointed contractor for horses to be sent to the army.⁷²

Stephen West was again able to furnish much-needed stockings for the men in camp. Prices were now exorbitant, but he sold them for \$42.50 a pair, even though in Philadelphia merchants were getting from \$50.00 to \$70.00 a pair. The price of salt was £50 per bushel. Thomas Clagett was obliged to pay \$20.00 per bushel for Indian corn, and John Smith Brookes had to pay £130 for a barrel of herrings.⁷³

The Council could not find sufficient linen for shirts for the Regiment Extraordinary and appealed to the governor's wife for help. Mrs. Lee enlisted the aid of the women of Maryland who furnished 260 shirts for the extra regiment and collected money which was used to purchase shirts and black stocks for the men in the Southern Army. Mrs. Lee received a warm letter of thanks from General Washington for this aid. Mrs. Mary Digges Lee was the daughter of Ignatius Digges of Prince George's County and was well known to George Washington, as he had visited many times in her girlhood home in the county, "Mellwood Park."⁷⁴

The Continental troops in camp in North Carolina were greatly heartened by the news of the defeat of British troops at King's

⁷¹ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 330, 367-373.

⁷² Laws of Md., June, 1780, Chap. X; *Arch. Md.*, XLIII, 215, 233-4, 239; Reiman Steuart, *A History of the Maryland Line in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783* Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland 1969, p. 110.

⁷³ *Arch. Md.*, XLIII, 378, 384, 466; XLV, 26.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, XLIII, 264-5, 278; Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 380; George Washington Papers, Mary Lee to George Washington Sept. 27, 1780; Mary Lee from George Washington, Oct. 11, 1780; Lib. of Cong., MS Div.

Mountain, South Carolina, on October 7 by the militia of North and South Carolina. Changes were made by General Gates, who selected four companies of picked men from the Maryland Regiment to form a light infantry battalion under Lieutenant Colonel John Eager Howard. This battalion, together with some companies of riflemen and dragoons, was put under command of Brigadier General Daniel Morgan. The troops then moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where, on December 5, 1780, they were met by Major General Nathanael Greene, who had been appointed to relieve General Gates of the command of the Southern Army.⁷⁵

When the General Assembly convened at Annapolis in November, 1780, Thomas Sim Lee Esquire, of Prince George's County, was re-elected Governor of the State of Maryland. In January, 1781, one of the five men elected Councillors resigned, and Stephen West of Prince George's County was chosen to take his place. When the vote was cast, four men received the same number of votes, so the choice of West was made by lot.⁷⁶

In October, 1780, William Lyles Jr. was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the Lower Battalion of militia in place of Trueman Skinner deceased, and in January, 1781, John H. Beanes was appointed major in place of Lyles.⁷⁷

Early in 1781 the Chesapeake Bay area was infested by enemy ships and privateers which plundered the shores. In March, there was a scare among the people living along the Potomac River in Prince George's County, when three small top-sail schooners came up the river, beating their drums. They proved, however, to be ships which had come around from Baltimore for tobacco.⁷⁸

But in April the alarm proved real, both in the Patuxent and the Potomac Rivers. News of the advance of enemy ships up the Potomac was passed along from Charles County, giving the inhabitants living next to the river time to abandon their homes. The militia of the Lower Battalion, under Colonel Lyles, was ordered out, and responded with spirit and alacrity, but was woefully short of arms. The enemy ships arrived on April 11, but one large ship soon ran aground near Mr. Digges' wharf at "Warburton Manor." On Thursday morning, April 12, Captain William Dent Beall of the Sixth

⁷⁵ Scharf, *op. cit.*, 373.

⁷⁶ *Arch. Md.*, XLV, 213, 287-8, 302.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 135, 277.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, XLVII, 108.

Maryland Regiment, at home on recruiting service, took command of the select militia who turned out, and formed a body of light horse to prevent the enemy's landing. That evening, from their ships at the mouth of the Piscataway, the enemy sent a flag on shore to Colonel Lyles, demanding a supply of fresh provisions. When these were refused, they landed about 100 men under cover of their cannon and burnt all his buildings. Captain Beall's men wounded several of the British sailors, one or two of them mortally. On Friday, April 13, Captain Beall and his men were used to protect Mr. Samuel Bond's home also near the mouth of the Piscataway. Saturday morning, April 14, some of the enemy boats were seen ashore at Colonel Lyle's fishing landing where their occupants were killing some hogs that had eluded their owners. In the evening two of the enemy boats again landed, the sailing master of the ship *Hope* and ten men in one, the purser and six men in the other. As these men were strolling about on shore, Lieutenants Osborn Williams and Henry Lyles, recently resigned from the Continental Army, with a party of young men, rushed in, cut them off, and took Thomas Scott, sailing master of the ship *Hope*, and his ten companions prisoners. And there was reason to believe that the crew of the other boat had also suffered loss or injury. On Sunday morning April 15, the enemy ships got under way and dropped down the river, whereupon the militia-men were dismissed, having served from two to eight days each.⁷⁹

On the Patuxent side of the county, the homes from Swanson's Creek to Nottingham were also abandoned. The alarm was so great that, on April 21, gentlemen of Prince George's and Calvert Counties met at Nottingham to form a Board of Patuxent Associator's for the defence of the River Patuxent, and invited gentlemen of Charles, Saint Mary's and Anne Arundel Counties to join them. Weekly meetings were held. Requests were made to the Governor and Council for guards, provisions, field pieces and ammunition. The Governor and Council approved their plans, but had no funds available. They did, however, give the Associators an order for two 9-pound cannons, two barrels of cannon powder and 50 shot, and 30 barrels of flour. Four companies of the Lower Battalion of militia in Prince George's County were ordered out to guard the tobacco warehouses at Magruder's Landing and Nottingham. The

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, 157-8, 168, 172, 177-80, 184-5, 188-90, 192-4; Revolutionary Papers, Box 6, Folder 21, Item 1, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Associators agreed to place the two 9-pounders at Hollands Cliff at the narrows of the Patuxent. And they purchased the schooner *Nautilus* to station at the mouth of the river. Their fears must have lessened however, as on August 11 the schooner *Nautilus* was offered for sale at Nottingham.⁸⁰

When General Greene took command of the Southern Army, Georgia and South Carolina were held by the British, while North Carolina and Virginia were invaded and threatened. He began a series of activities and manoeuvres designed to harass the enemy. Not all of the contests were won by the Continental troops but, during the next nine months, General Greene succeeded in regaining the southern states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, except for the port towns of Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah.

On January 17, 1781, General Morgan with the men under his command, including the Marylanders, defeated the British at the Battle of the Cowpens, South Carolina. On March 15, the two opposing armies met at the Battle of Guilford Court House, North Carolina. The British claimed this as a victory, but were forced to leave North Carolina for Virginia. General Greene then turned back south toward Camden and on April 25 was defeated at Hobkirk's Hill, South Carolina. Jonathan White of Prince George's County, a private in the First Regiment, was wounded in this battle.⁸¹

The British evacuated Camden on May 10. Lilburn Williams, captain and paymaster of the Third Maryland Regiment, was wounded, and lost the invoices and cash he was carrying to pay his men. In rapid succession the British surrendered Orangeburgh, Fort Motte and Fort Granby, and evacuated Georgetown in South Carolina; and by June 5 the British defences of Augusta, Georgia, had been reduced. This left the British in possession only of their stronghold Ninety-Six, South Carolina. The unsuccessful siege of Ninety-Six was begun on May 22 and continued until June 19. Lieutenant Isaac Duvall of Prince George's County, one of the leaders of the forlorn hope in the attack on the Star Fort, was wounded in this dangerous undertaking. Jeremiah Mudd from Prince George's County, a sergeant in the Second Maryland Regiment, lost his left arm, and Private Joseph Greer lost one of his legs, at this siege. Even though

⁸⁰ Minutes of the Board of Patuxent Associators, Maryland Historical Magazine Vol. VI (1911) pp. 305-317; Rev. Papers, Box 6, Folder 21, Items 2-5; *Maryland Gazette* Aug. 2, 1781.

⁸¹ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 403-19; *Arch. Md.*, XVIII, 634.

the siege had been unsuccessful for the Americans, the British abandoned the post in July.⁸²

On September 8, General Greene met the enemy at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina. While this was not a clear-cut victory for the Continental forces, as General Greene retired when his ammunition was nearly exhausted, nevertheless the British retreated to Charleston with a loss estimated at 1000 men, while the American forces lost about 500. Lieutenant Duvall, who had led the attack on the Star Fort at Ninety-Six, was killed during the Battle of Eutaw Springs and Ensign John Boone was wounded.⁸³

General Greene then retired to his camp on the Santee River about 90 miles northwest of Charleston, to give his exhausted men a rest. It was his active and vigilant campaign in the Carolinas and Georgia, together with the cutting off of the British fleet from the Chesapeake Bay by the French fleet on September 8, which paved the way for the successful Siege of Yorktown.⁸⁴

General Washington had sent Major General the Marquis de Lafayette to combat the enemy in Virginia. In June, when invasion threatened Maryland, Governor Lee called out 950 militia, including 200 men from Prince George's County, but when the threat of invasion failed to materialize the militia was dismissed. Four new regiments were drafted and sent to join Lafayette in Virginia.⁸⁵

When General Washington learned that Lord Cornwallis had established a permanent post at Yorktown and that the French fleet had arrived at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay to aid the Americans, he gave orders to the main Continental Army under General Lincoln, and the French troops under Rochambeau, as well as the forces in Virginia, to converge on Yorktown. The siege began on September 28 and culminated with the surrender of Lord Cornwallis on October 19, 1781.⁸⁶

Although British power in America was now subdued, it was not crushed. The Maryland troops at Yorktown were sent under the command of Major General Arthur St. Clair to reinforce General Greene in the south. Recruiting continued. Basil Waring of Prince George's County was commissioned second lieutenant of the Fourth Maryland Regiment; Joseph Cross, who had served as a sergeant, was commissioned second lieutenant of the Second Maryland Regiment;

⁸² Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 420-3; Heitman, *op. cit.*, 209; *Arch. Md.*, XVIII, 629, 634.

⁸³ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 423-6; Heitman, *op. cit.*, 110, 209.

⁸⁴ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 427.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 432-451; *Arch. Md.*, XLV, 453, 455, 459, 461, 464, 475.

⁸⁶ Scharf, *op. cit.*, II, 453-63.

and Henry Hawkins was appointed ensign of the Maryland Line. Robert Bowie was appointed to purchase 13 horses on the Western Shore for the Southern Army.⁸⁷

As General St. Clair and his troops approached Wilmington, North Carolina, on November 14, 1781, that city was abandoned by the British. On July 11, 1782, Savannah, Georgia, was evacuated after three and a half years occupation by the British. And on December 14, 1782, Charleston, South Carolina, the last stronghold of the British in the south, was evacuated peacefully. On April 11, 1783, Congress proclaimed the war at an end; on September 3, 1783, the Treaty of Peace was signed at Paris and ratified by Congress sitting at Annapolis on January 14, 1784, bringing to its close the war which had begun over eight years earlier.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 463; *Arch. Md.*, XLV, 549, 600; XLVIII, 208; Heitman, *op. cit.*, 179.

⁸⁸ Theodore G. Thayer, *Nathanael Greene; Strategist of the American Revolution*, N.Y. 1960, pp. 385, 390, 403, 408.

Chapter 13

The Post-Revolutionary Period

The period from the close of the Revolutionary War to the turn of the new century was one of transition and adjustment for the people of Prince George's County. Peace was declared in April, 1783. No doubt the people of the county expressed their jubilation at the cessation of war by the celebration at Upper Marlborough which included four evenings of plays at the theatre and two days of racing. Beginning Wednesday, April 30th, a company of comedians presented a tragedy called *The Grecian Daughter* plus a farce called *The Lying Valet*. The evenings concluded with dancing, so this was doubtless presented at the Assembly Hall. Tickets for these entertainments were \$1.00 each and had to be obtained at the tavern, as no money was taken at the door. The race on May 1st, with a purse of fifty guineas for the best two out of three 4-mile heats, was won by Dr. John Bowie's bay horse Buckskin. Benjamin Rogers' bay horse, Little Davy, came in second; Mr. G. Smith's black horse, Slippery John, third; and Mr. Notley Young's bay horse, Whynot, fourth. The prize of twenty-five guineas for the best two out of three 3-mile heats was won the next day by Walter Bowie's bay horse, Sweeper, who beat Benjamin Dulany's sorrel horse, Slim.¹

In July, transports arrived at Annapolis, bringing the officers and soldiers of the Maryland Line, about 500 of them, from Charleston, South Carolina. Captain Horatio Clagett of Prince George's County, paymaster of the Second Regiment, had notices inserted in the *Maryland Gazette*, designating certain days at Piscataway for paying off the troops, as well as other days at Frederick Town, if more convenient.²

In 1782 the General Assembly passed an Act for the benefit of the orphan children of Major Andrew Leitch of Bladensburgh, who had joined a Virginia regiment early in the war, even before Independ-

¹ *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, April 15, 1783, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.; *Maryland Gazette*, March 6, April 24, May 8, 1783.

² *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, July 29, Aug. 12, 1783; *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 6, 1783.

ence was declared, had served his country with great courage, and had died of wounds received at Harlem Heights in September, 1776. Major Leitch had mortgaged his land to the firm of George and Andrew Buchanan & Company of Glasgow, whose property was confiscated by the State of Maryland. This mortgage was now declared null and void.³

In 1788 an Act was passed by the General Assembly to dispose of the reserved lands west of Fort Cumberland, and to fulfil the obligations of the state to the officers and soldiers of the Maryland Line in the service of the United States. Benjamin Brookes of Prince George's County was one of three commissioners appointed to make this distribution. A notice appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* that the commissioners would make distribution on August 1 and 2, 1789, at Upper Marlborough. The land was divided into lots of 50 acres. If they qualified, the soldiers each received one lot of 50 acres and the officers four lots each.⁴

Horse races, which had been popular before the war, were resumed in all of the towns in the county. Racing enthusiasts could attend two-day meets at Queen Anne, Bladensburg, Nottingham and Piscataway, as well as at Upper Marlborough.⁵

Trade with England was resumed, and the merchants again offered large and general assortments of European and India goods: *Walter Bowie and Company at Bladensburg; Singleton Wootton and Company at Queen Anne; Benjamin Oden and William Sprigg Bowie at their stores in Upper Marlborough; Thomas Contee, agent for his sons Alexander and Benjamin Contee now merchants of London, at their stores in Nottingham, Queen Anne and Upper Marlborough; also Joseph Court at Nottingham and John Petty and Company at Queen Anne.*⁶

These were difficult years for the churches. The Declaration of Rights adopted in November, 1776, put an end to the Establishment of the Church of England in Maryland. The General Assembly passed an Act which provided for the election of vestrymen in each parish on the first Monday in June, 1779, with elections thereafter on Easter Monday, and vested all of the church property in

³ Laws of Maryland, Session April, 1782, Chap. XXIX; Heitman, *op. cit.*, p. 346.

⁴ Laws of Maryland, Session November, 1788, Chap. XLIV; *Maryland Gazette*, June 4, 1789.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Oct. 31, 1782; Sept. 2, 16, 1784; Nov. 10, 1785; Oct. 12, 1786; April 2, 1788; Oct. 8, 1789.

⁶ *Ibid.*, May 20, June 24, 1784; Sept. 27, 1787; June 26, 1788; Oct. 22, 1789; May 27, June 3, Oct. 7, 1790.

these select vestries and their successors. But funds for the support of the ministers and maintenance of the church property were cut off and the parishioners had to be re-educated to give voluntarily. Several devices were used to obtain funds: subscription lists were circulated for support of the minister and for repairing the church and chapel, collection plates were passed at church services, a system of pew rents was instituted, glebe lands were rented or sold, and vestrymen were fined for nonattendance at meetings. These were also hard times for the ministers. Subscription funds were slow in coming in and, if the vestries turned over the subscription lists to them, the burden of collection fell upon the ministers. However, both the parishes and ministers weathered this period of readjustment.⁷

No doubt the voting inhabitants of all the parishes in Prince George's County assembled on June 7, 1779, and elected vestrymen in their parishes, but we are faced with the unfortunate fact that not all of the minutes have survived. Even though some of the minute books are in existence, the minutes of many of the meetings are missing. This is not surprising, since the whole country was in a state of turmoil. The General Assembly in November, 1783, had to pass an act for the benefit of King George's Parish, which had been prevented from holding its meeting on Easter Monday, 1781, because of an invasion of the enemy, and had also failed to receive notice of the Act of May, 1781, intended to correct this situation among the parishes along the Potomac River which had suffered from the invasion.⁸

In November, 1780, a convention of clergy and representatives of the laity met at Chestertown on the Eastern Shore and established an organization of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland. It is doubtful if any of the parishes in Prince George's County sent representatives to the meeting. The minutes of St. Paul's Parish are the most complete for this period of any of the parishes in the county, and nothing is mentioned in them about a convention until the meeting on July 5, 1784, when a letter was read urging every parish in the state to send one gentleman to the meeting to be held at Annapolis the week preceding the next session of the General Assembly. St. Paul's Parish elected Mr. Leonard Hollyday its delegate to this meeting.⁹

⁷ Hanson's Laws, March 1779, Chap. 9; Nov. 1779, Chap. 7.

⁸ *Ibid.*, May 1781, Chap. 7; Nov. 1783, Chap. 2.

⁹ Rightmyer, *op. cit.*, pp. 122-129; St. Paul's Parish Vestry Minutes, p. 266.

In Prince George Parish, the Reverend Thomas Read, who had served as curate before the Revolution, took the Oath of Fidelity and continued to serve this parish as its minister or rector. Most of his effort was spent on the chapel at Rockville in Montgomery County, so that many years elapsed before the new church in Prince George's County, begun in 1771, was completed.¹⁰

Queen Anne's Parish was particularly hard hit, and readjustment was slow. The Reverend Edward Gantt, M.D., a native of Prince George's County, was rector from 1780 to 1796. He was followed by a number of men who stayed only a short time. The upswing in this parish would not come until the new century.¹¹

In King George's Parish, the Reverend Mr. Henry Thyring was appointed minister in 1784, but stayed only one year. In 1785, the Reverend Mr. Joseph Messenger became the rector and served for the next 20 years. In 1799 the Reverend Walter Dulany Addison, nephew of Mrs. Jonathan Boucher and greatnephew of the Reverend Henry Addison, was appointed assistant rector, and a few years later became rector.¹²

In St. Paul's Parish, the vestry had a notice inserted in the April 14, 1780, issue of the *Maryland Gazette*, advertising for a clergyman of the Church of England. Several replies were received, but when the Reverend Thomas John Claggett expressed a willingness to serve, the vestry quickly contracted with him on a year-to-year basis. Mr. Claggett was a native of the parish, son of the Reverend Samuel Claggett and nephew of Mrs. John Eversfield. Prior to the Revolution he served as rector of two parishes in Calvert County, but upon the adoption of the Declaration of Rights had retired to his estate, "Croom," in St. Paul's Parish, inherited from his father, and was living there quietly. In 1785 the degree of Doctor in Divinity was conferred upon him by Washington College at Chestertown, Maryland. Collections for Dr. Claggett's salary were slow, so that the vestry could not hold him indefinitely. From 1786 to 1792 he was replaced by the Reverend William Duke.

At the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland held in 1792, the Reverend Dr. Thomas John Claggett was unanimously elected the first Bishop of Maryland, and was consecrated on September 17, 1792, in Trinity Church, New York City,

¹⁰ Rightmyer, *op. cit.*, p. 208.

¹¹ Queen Anne Parish 1704-1954, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, pp. 14, 20.

¹² St. John's Parish, Prince George's County, Md. (commonly called King George's Parish) Vestry Minutes 1784-1823, pp. 3, 6-80.

the first bishop to be consecrated in America. After his consecration Dr. Claggett again became rector of St. Paul's Parish and served until 1810 when ill health and his heavy duties as bishop forced him to resign as rector of the parish.¹³

In 1798, another Vestry Act was passed by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland to correct certain defects in the Act of 1779. Working under this new Vestry Act, and guided by the capable hands of the Right Reverend Dr. Thomas John Claggett, the Protestant Episcopal parishes of Prince George's County successfully weathered the difficulties of the transition period.¹⁴

The two Presbyterian churches in the county also had a difficult time. The troubles in the first church, the one at Upper Marlborough, began with the death of its minister, the Reverend John Orme, in 1758. The older members of the dissenting families of this congregation were dying off and the younger people were moving away, so that this church was never again able to support a minister of its own. The churches in this area were transferred in the early 1760s from the New Castle Presbytery to the Donegal Presbytery. Supplies were sent by presbytery when asked for, more or less regularly, from 1759 through 1776, but the congregation was not mentioned, even as a vacant church, when this area became a part of the newly constituted Presbytery of Baltimore in 1786. However, from 1795 to 1799 there was a short-lived revival of interest, when the few remaining members were no doubt trying to hold on to their church property. The lot had been given by Ninian Beall in 1704 to the minister and trustees and their successors, to be used only for the service of Almighty God. Since there were no successors to the minister and trustees, the land evidently now reverted to David Craufurd, whose father in 1729 had bought from Ninian Beall's son Charles all of the tract "Meadows," except the lots already sold and built upon. This Craufurd's son David, in 1812, deeded the lot to the newly formed vestry of the Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in Upper Marlborough. The silver communion set, which had been a prized possession of the Marlborough Presbyterian Congregation, was given to the Bladensburg Church, whose successor, the Hyattsville Presbyterian Church, still prizes it.¹⁵

¹³ St. Paul's Parish Vestry Minutes, pp. 252-290, 293-397; Md. Hist. Rec. Surv. Proj., *op. cit.*, pp. 15-19.

¹⁴ Kilty's Laws, Nov 1798, Chap. 24.

¹⁵ Minutes of New Castle Presbytery 1759-1773, pp. 3, 6, 13, Presbyterian Historical Society, Phila., Pa.; Records of Donegal Presbytery (Copy) Vol. IIB 1764-1766, p. 234; Vol. IIIB 1773, pp. 139, 143; Vol. IIIC 1774-1777, p. 351, Presby. Hist. Soc; Minutes

The Presbyterian Church in the vicinity of Bladensburgh was also without a minister for a number of years after the death of the Reverend Hugh Conn in 1752, and had to rely on supplies sent by presbytery. In 1769 the Bladensburgh Church and the Captain John Church in Frederick County issued a combined call to the Reverend James Hunt of Cecil County, the Bladensburgh Church paying two-thirds of his salary and Captain John Church paying the other one-third. Mr. Hunt bought several tracts of land near Bladensburgh and moved his family there, but in 1779 he sold this land and moved to a newly purchased plantation near the Captain John Church, now in Montgomery County. Perhaps the Captain John Church had now assumed the larger portion of his salary.¹⁶

In 1784 the Bladensburgh Church was named in the will of one of its deceased members, John Brady, as the legatee of a gift of £100 current money. The church tried three different times, in 1784, in 1788-89, and again in 1791, to have an act passed by the General Assembly to allow it to receive and use this legacy, but the General Assembly failed to pass such an act, claiming that it was contrary to section 34 of the Declaration of Rights.¹⁷

Nevertheless the church seems to have proceeded with erecting a new church building, as in 1790 it advertised a scheme of lottery to raise money to finish the church. The managers named were Messieurs John Hill, William Sydebotham, John Campbell, Alexander Jackson, Richard Beall, William Young and Joshua Beall. These men sold 2400 tickets at \$1.00 each, with two blanks to a prize. The 800 prizes of varying amounts totaled \$1600.00, leaving \$800.00 for the use of the lottery.¹⁸

The Reverend James Hunt died June 2, 1793. In his will be

of the Presbytery of Baltimore Vol. 1 1786-1804, pp. 77, 80, 86, 108, Stated Clerk of Baltimore Presbytery, Baltimore, Md.; PGCo. Land Rec., Liber M, fol. 503; Lib. J.R.M. No. 15, f. 261; PGCo. Wills, Lib. T 1, f. 483.

¹⁶ Minutes of New Castle Presbytery 1759-1773, pp. 3, 6, 13; Records of Donegal Presbytery (Copy) Vol. IIB, pp. 234, 260; Vol. IIC 1767-1769 pp. 283, 339, 342, 366, 368, 386, 388, 391-2, 402; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. AA No. 2, fol. 49; Lib. F.F. No. 1, fol. 11, 165, 177, 178; Patents, Lib. BC&GS#42, fol. 421; Lib. BC&GS#48, fol. 249; Montgomery County Land Rec., Lib. A, fol. 406; Mont. Co. Unpatented Cert. #295.

¹⁷ PGCo. Wills Box 14 Folder 51 John Brady (Bradie) 1784, Hall of Records; Votes and Proc. of the House of Delegates of the State of Maryland, Nov. Session, 1784, pp. 37, 54, 104, 124; April Session, 1787, p. 149; Nov. Session 1788, pp. 22, 81; Nov. Sess. 1789, pp. 22, 39; Nov. Sess. 1791, pp. 72, 74, 75, 108; Votes & Proc. of the Senate of the State of Maryland, Nov. Sess., 1784, p. 65; *Maryland Gazette*, Aug. 12, 1784; Sept. 14, 1786.

¹⁸ *The George-Town Weekly Ledger* May 1, 1790, Library of Congress, Rare Book Div.

directed that he be buried in the great alley of his church near Bladensburgh near the door of the square enclosing the pulpit, his grave to be covered with a marble slab; but these instructions were not followed. Instead, he was buried in the Captain John Churchyard.¹⁹

In 1795 Mr. Samuel Knox was ordained and installed as minister of this church. He was well known to the people of Bladensburgh, as several years earlier he had been master of the school there. But Mr. Knox stayed at Bladensburgh only two years. Mr. William Moffitt was then ordained and installed as stated supply in 1798, but he also stayed only two years. For a number of years subsequently this church was without a regular minister and was served by supplies sent by presbytery, but it survived and today still exists as the Hyattsville Presbyterian Church.²⁰

The Declaration of Rights adopted in November, 1776, brought an end to the intolerant treatment of the Roman Catholics. No longer were they obliged to hold services in private chapels. In June, 1783, and subsequently, the clergy held meetings at the Mission of St. Francis Borgia at Whitemarsh, in Prince George's County, at which they formulated a Constitution for the American Church. On June 9, 1784, Father John Carroll, of Montgomery County, was appointed Prefect-Apostolic by the Holy See. John Carroll was born in Upper Marlborough in Prince George's County, the son of Daniel Carroll and Eleanor Darnall Carroll, and had spent his early years there. At a meeting of the Roman Catholic clergy held at Whitemarsh in April, 1789, the Very Reverend John Carroll was elected the first American bishop, and on August 15, 1790, was consecrated in this office, becoming Bishop of Baltimore. Several years before his death the Most Reverend John Carroll became Archbishop.²¹

There were a number of grammar schools in the county. Arthur Walker conducted the Academy at Upper Marlborough, teaching the Greek and Latin languages, geography, mathematics and other improving branches of literature at four guineas per student per

¹⁹ *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, June 25, 1793; Minutes of the Presbytery of Baltimore, p. 48; Montgomery Co. Wills Box 2 Folder 98 James Hunt 1795, Hall of Records; A Historical Discourse delivered at Rockville & Bethesda Churches, on the First Sabbath of April 1880 by the Pastor, Rev. Parke P. Flournoy, p. 5, Presby. Hist. Soc.

²⁰ Minutes of the Presbytery of Baltimore, pp. 67, 69-76, 79, 82, 92-100, 102-105, 115.

²¹ Peter Guilday, *The Life and Times of John Carroll* N.Y. 1922 pp. 169, 202, 204, 352; John Gilmary Shea, *Life and Times of the Most Rev. John Carroll, Bishop and First Archbishop of Baltimore* N.Y. 1888 pp. 207, 223, 334.

annum. Peter Egerton was the schoolmaster near Piscataway. Edmond Fogerty was master of the Grammar School at Nottingham. In 1770 the Reverend James Hunt opened a public Grammar School at Bladensburgh. This school prospered so that three years later he added an assistant. After Mr. Hunt moved away from Bladensburgh, this school was run by Mr. Samuel Knox. There appeared in the publication of the *American Museum* for April, 1789, an *ODE TO EDUCATION*, written by Samuel Knox and sent in by Richard Ponsonby. This poem was composed of seven stanzas which had been spoken by seven boys at the eleutionary exercises given at the school on December 18 and 19, 1788. The seven youths were Masters Thomas Dick, O. H. Williams, nephew of General Williams, William Steuart, John Hewitt, Thomas Contee Bowie, George Ponsonby and Allen Bowie Duckett.²²

After Mr. Knox went back home to study for the ministry, the school was run by John Livingston, who charged £7.10 for tuition, plus £1 for schoolhouse rent and \$2.00 or a cord of firewood per annum for each boy. In 1795, when the Reverend Samuel Knox returned to Bladensburgh as minister of the Presbyterian Church, he again assumed supervision of the Academy, with Mr. Livingston as assistant. The trustees of the school were Benjamin Lowndes, John Stewart, and David Ross.²³

The consolidating of the free schools of Saint Mary's, Charles and Prince George's Counties into one school, Charlotte Hall at Cool Springs in Saint Mary's County, authorized by an Act of the General Assembly in 1774, was delayed by the Revolutionary War. It was further delayed by the nonattendance of trustees at meetings. The presence of fifteen of the twenty-one trustees (seven from each county) necessary for a meeting was reduced to seven in 1777, but this was not sufficient, and in 1783 the number was again reduced to five. Since they lived the farthest from Cool Springs, the trustees from Prince George's County were the most lax in attendance. Rinaldo Johnson, appointed in 1782, was the most consistently faithful of those from this county. Plans finally got under way, a building was constructed, a principal, an assistant, and a steward were hired, and the school was opened in January, 1797. A report to the Governor and Council, dated February 12, 1798, shows that nineteen of

²² *Maryland Gazette*, July 5, 1770; Oct. 17, 1771; Aug. 6, 1772; March 4, 1773; *The George-Town Weekly Ledger*, July 23, 1791.

²³ *The George-Town Weekly Ledger*, Dec. 15, 1792; Sept. 8, 1795.

the sixty-two students in that year were from Prince George's County.²⁴

Time and again the trustees declared their intention of claiming the £100 legacy of John Brady to the Bladensburgh Presbyterian Church. Perhaps eventually they received it, but conclusive proof seems elusive. In 1798 Calvert County joined with the other three counties in operation of the school.²⁵

The people of Prince George's County were liberal in their support of St. John's College, the college for the Western Shore of Maryland, authorized by the General Assembly at its session in November, 1784. Subscribers were allowed to elect the visitors and governors at the rate of one visitor or governor for each £1000 subscribed. The gentlemen who subscribed to the paper in the hands of the Reverend Thomas John Claggett were advised to meet at Nottingham on July 8, 1785, to elect one visitor and governor, and the subscribers to the papers in the hands of George Digges, David Craufurd, Robert Dick Esquires, and others deputed to receive subscriptions in the county, were notified to meet at the courthouse in Upper Marlborough the following day, July 9, to elect one visitor and governor. The Reverend Thomas John Claggett and William Beanes, both of Prince George's County, were two of the eleven visitors and governors who assembled for the first meeting on February 28, 1786. When the vote was cast for the location of the college, Upper Marlborough received two votes and Annapolis nine. These nine voters were no doubt influenced by the fact that the General Assembly offered the unfinished governor's palace, known as "Bladen's Folly," and the four acres upon which it stood, for the use of the school, if Annapolis were selected.²⁶

St. John's College opened November 11, 1789, with sixteen students. On November 28, 1793, Bachelor of Arts degrees were conferred upon two students, one of whom was Mr. John Addison Carr, the 18-year old son of Overton Carr of Prince George's County, who gave the salutatory oration in Latin. The following year, on Novem-

²⁴ *Arch. Md.*, LXIV, 377; Laws of Maryland Oct. 1777, Chap. III; Nov. 1783, Chap. XIX; Minutes of the Trustees of Charlotte Hall School Record Book A 1774-1805, *passim*. Hall of Records. List of Students at Charlotte Hall, Accession #9603 Executive Papers, Hall of Records.

²⁵ Laws of Maryland Nov. 1798 Chap. XCII.

²⁶ Tench Francis Tilghman, *The Founding of St. John's College 1784-1789*, *Maryland Historical Magazine* Vol. XLIV (1949) pp. 75-92; *Maryland Gazette*, June 9, 1785.

ber 13, 1794, five Bachelor of Arts degrees were awarded, one going to Mr. John Bowie Duckett of Prince George's County, who gave an oration on the liberty of the press. It was regretted that Mr. Alexander Contee Magruder of Prince George's County, who had finished his collegiate course with the others, had been prevented by sickness from attending the required examination.²⁷

During this period, Prince George's County was involved in changes in government, national as well as local. President George Washington's choice of the site for the nation's capital caused the county's eventual loss of a sizeable part of its land and many of its citizens. One of the three commissioners appointed by President Washington in 1791 to lay off the District of Columbia was Daniel Carroll, who had been one of Maryland's signers of the Constitution of the United States. Mr. Carroll was now living in Montgomery County, but had been born in Prince George's County at Upper Marlborough, son of Daniel Carroll, merchant, and his wife Eleanor Darnall Carroll, and older brother of the Reverend John Carroll. This Daniel Carroll had himself been a merchant in Upper Marlborough until after his wife's death in 1763 and his subsequent removal to his mother's home at "Forest Glen," then in Frederick County.²⁸

Unfortunately, there has been some confusion of this Daniel Carroll, who helped to lay off the national capital, with Daniel Carroll of Duddington, who owned much of the land which was laid off and upon which the capitol was built. The two men were related by marriage, as Mrs. Carroll, wife of the Commissioner, whose maiden name was Eleanor Carroll, was the sister of the father of Daniel Carroll of Duddington.²⁹

Since the government of that part of the Territory of Columbia which came from Maryland was to remain with Maryland until Congress moved to Washington in 1800, and since the City of Washington was located in the part which came from Prince George's County, the county found itself for nine years in charge of the local government of the infant city. The Prince George's County Court was enlarged to include Daniel Carroll of Duddington, Robert Brent and Cornelius Cunningham, who lived in Washington City, and the City of Washington was designated Columbia Hundred by the

²⁷ Tilghman, *op. cit.*, pp. 75, 92; *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 28, 1793; Nov. 20, 1794.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, Apr. 3, 1760; Feb. 26, July 14, 1761; Apr. 28, 1763; Feb. 3, 1791.

²⁹ Bowie, *op. cit.*, 112, 116, 618.

county's Levy Court, in order to facilitate the administration of justice.³⁰

A news item appeared in February, 1792, announcing the death of General William Smallwood at the "Woodyard" in Prince George's County. Since General Smallwood's home was in Charles County, he was no doubt visiting at the "Woodyard." The same newspaper also carried an announcement of the death of Governor George Plater. In April, Richard T. Lowndes of Bladensburgh was chosen senator in the place of General Smallwood, and Thomas Sim Lee was chosen governor. Thomas Sim Lee was a native of Prince George's County and had maintained his residence there, serving as clerk of the county court until 1777 when he had been elected a member of the Council and served in that office during the term of the first governor. After his own three-year term as second governor, Governor Lee had moved to Frederick County, but the people of Prince George's County still thought of him as one of their own. Just as he, as governor, had been a great help to General George Washington during the Revolutionary War years, now again he was a great help to President George Washington as governor from April, 1792, to November, 1794.³¹

In November, 1798, Benjamin Ogle, of "Belair" in Prince George's County, was elected governor of the State of Maryland, and served for three years until November, 1801. In December, 1799, Governor Ogle had the sad duty of proclaiming the death of George Washington, which occurred on December 14, 1799. The day of February 22, 1800, was set aside all over the state as a day of mourning and prayer. In Prince George's County, this observance was held at St. Paul's Church in St. Paul's Parish.³²

Party politics caused great tension among the voters of the county. At the election for sheriff at Upper Marlborough on Tuesday, October 3, 1797, the crowding, jostling assemblage of voters, all intoxicated with party spirit, turned into a mob. One man from Washington City, a Mr. Pollock, was killed outright by a brickbat which struck him on the head; and another would-be voter, Mr. James

³⁰ *The Washington Gazette*, Jan. 4, 7, 1797; Lib. of Cong., Rare Book Div.; Register of Civil Appointments since the year 1793 No. 1, pp. 44-5; Hall of Records. PGCo. Levy Court Rec., 1795-1818, p. 31.

³¹ *The George-Town Weekly Ledger*, Feb. 18, 1792; *Maryland Gazette*, Apr. 5, 1792; Fred. Co. Land Rec., Lib. 5, fol. 443, Hall of Records.

³² *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 15, 1798; Dec. 26, 1799; Jan. 16, Feb. 27, 1800; *Centinel of Liberty*, Jan. 3, Feb. 14, 1800; Lib. of Cong., Rare Book Div.

Aull, died five days later as a result of wounds he received that day.³³

This shameful melee was no doubt one of the deciding factors in causing the General Assembly to pass laws in 1798 and 1799, which changed and regulated the mode of election. Thomas Snowden, Richard Cramphin, Edward H. Calvert, John H. Beanes, Robert Bowie, Walter Bowie and Overton Carr (later changed to Francis Tolson), were appointed to divide the county into five election districts and to designate the place of election in each district. This they did in April, 1800. The First District was laid off, roughly speaking, in the southeast corner of the county, with voting at Nottingham; the Second District was in the southwest corner with Piscataway as the voting place. The Third District was on the east side of the county, north of Nottingham District, with voting at Upper Marlborough. The Fourth District was across the north end of the county, with voting at Van Ville; while the Fifth District was on the west side of the county between Van Ville and Piscataway Districts, with voting at Bladensburgh.³⁴

Thomas O. Williams, Benjamin Lowndes and Robert Brent, election judges of the Fifth District which voted at Bladensburgh, met together in September and formulated rules, which were announced in the newspapers, for the forthcoming election on October 6, 1800. The election would be held at the outer door or window of the house appropriated for the purpose, and no person whatever, except the clerks, would be admitted within the apartments. The several constables residing in the district would be required to attend and assist in preserving the peace. The state of the polls would not be declared before the close of the election. Every citizen whose qualifications to vote were unknown to the judges and were questioned either as to property, age or residence, would be obliged to prove the qualification in question. And every inhabitant who had moved into the district from a foreign country since the third day of September, 1783, would be obliged to produce an official certificate of his naturalization.³⁵

A notice also appeared in the newspaper that the Federal Republicans of the City of Washington were to assemble at Capitol Hill, on the first Monday in October, at 8 o'clock in the morning,

³³ *The Washington Gazette*, Oct. 7, 14, 1797.

³⁴ Kilty's Laws of Maryland, Nov. 1798, Chap. CXV; Nov. 1799, Chap. L; PGCo. Land Rec., Lib. J.R.M. No. 8, pp. 208-211; 266.

³⁵ *Centinel of Liberty*, Sept. 12, 1800.

and proceed from thence to the election at Bladensburgh. This notice was inserted by the Federal Republican candidates: Richard Cramphin, Thomas Addison, William Marbury and James Somerville and endorsed by "Many Voters." The election took place without incidence, and was won by the Federal Republican candidates.³⁶

This, then, was the last election in which the citizens of the City of Washington participated, as in November Congress convened in the new Capitol in the City of Washington, and Prince George's County was reduced to its present size.

Prince George's County, which had spent 104 years in attaining its present size, was now ready to continue to shoulder its responsibilities of administration in the affairs of government near the center of our nation.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, Oct. 3, 10, 1800.

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