

1666 as one of the Commissioners of Peace when Somerset County was formed. He became a wealthy landowner and served in the General Assembly, a member of Lord Baltimore's Privy Council, a colonel in the militia and a Deputy Governor under the proprietary. But we are not concerned with his titles and his honors. The striking characteristic of William Stevens was his attitude toward the people among whom he lived, for in the best sense of these terms he was both liberal and tolerant. He was a strict Church of England man, but he was friendly with the Quakers and encouraged the evangelism that was carried on by the several nonconformist sects of his area. It was a result of his appeal to the Presbytery of Laggan, in the north of Ireland, to send a "Godly minister" to Somerset County, that Presbyterianism was implanted in the lower Eastern Shore. And when, during the upsurge of Protestantism that led to the designation of his church as the established church of the colony, the Roman Catholic proprietor was attacked by sectarian interests, William Stevens signed a document in defense of Lord Baltimore.

This zeal for freedom, religious and civil, was the outstanding trait of the men and women who settled "the Eastern Shore below the Choptank." It was this zeal for freedom that bore fruit a century later in such immortal documents as the Bill of Rights in our federal Constitution and the Declaration of Rights in the first Constitution of Maryland as one of the states of the new Union.

To these noble forebearers of ours we and our progeny are eternally indebted. It is most fitting on this occasion that we turn our minds and our hearts to them in gratitude. The tradition they established has been nurtured through the years by institutions such as the one whose anniversary we are celebrating today—this Christ Church built nearly a century before our Republic was created.

In the shadows of this church lie the earthly remains of many distinguished men who have graced the history of Maryland, among them five Governors. A sixth Governor was a member of the church who is buried in another cemetery here in Cambridge. Buried in the churchyard are John Henry, the seventh Governor; Charles Goldsborough, of that illustrious Eastern Shore family; Henry Lloyd, of another distinguished Eastern Shore family; Phillips Lee Goldsborough, who, like, myself, was Comptroller of the Treasury before he became Governor, and Emerson C. Harrington, our World War I Governor whom we remember with affection and esteem, and who likewise served his State as Comptroller before he became Governor. A communicant, but buried in Cambridge cemetery, was Thomas Hicks, who served as Governor during that turbulent period at the beginning of the Civil War.