



ROAD MARKER

Official Photo

CHAPTER XI.

New Munster—Its metes and bounds—The Alexanders—Society—Cecil Manor—Charles Carroll—Fair Hill—The Scotch-Irish—Christiana Presbyterian Church—Rock Church—The English Revolution—Its effect on the Colony of Maryland—Nottingham—The Nottingham Lots—Original grantees—Reasons why the grant was made—The first Friends' meeting-house—The Little Brick or Nottingham Friends' meeting-house—Poppenetto—West Nottingham Presbyterian Church—Treaty with the Conestoga Indians—Thomas Chalkley visits them—Account of some of the first settlers of Nottingham—The Welsh tract—Its boundaries—The Baptist church on Iron Hill—The Pencader Presbyterian Church—Rev. David Evans—Rev. Samuel Davies—Iron Hill.

The certificate of survey of the New Munster tract, which may be found in the old colonial records at Annapolis, is as follows: "Surveyed for Edwin O'Dwire and fifteen other Irishmen by virtue of a warrant from his Lordship, dated 7th of August, 1683. Laid out for him and them a certain tract of land, called New Munster, lying and being in Cecil County, on the main fresh of Elk River, on both sides of the said fresh, beginning at a marked poplar on a high bank over the west side of the said main fresh, and about a *pistole shott* to the mouth of a *rivelett*, called the Shure, and running west, . . . containing and now laid out for six thousand acres more or less, to be held of the manor of Coscill, which is hereby humbly certified to your Lordship, this 29th day of August, 1683, by  
 GEORGE TALBOT,  
 "Surveyor-General."

The poplar tree mentioned in the aforesaid certificate stood upon the west bank of Big Elk Creek, a short distance above where the stream originally called the Shure, but now called *Falling Mill Run*, empties into that stream. The Shure was no doubt called by that name because it was

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not easily affected by drouth. It is a pretty little stream that rises near Fair Hill, and flows in a southeast direction through a section of country most of which, until quite recently, was thickly covered with forest trees, which prevented the evaporation of the water from the earth, so that the springs that fed it flowed nearly as strongly in the summer months as in any other season. It still sustains its ancient reputation as a *Shure* and reliable stream, and once supplied enough water to turn two mills that stood upon its banks. The poplar tree that marked the place of the beginning of the survey has long since disappeared, but the place where it stood is marked by a rough, undressed stone, with the letters W. S. on its south, the letter B. on its east and the letters N. M., and underneath them the letters N. I. on the north side, rudely chiseled on comparatively smooth places on its otherwise rough surface. What these initials mean we are unable to say. Their meaning, as well as the history of those who placed them there, is lost. But the water of the babbling stream still dances down its rocky channel, as if it was impatient to join the larger and quieter stream that flows so placidly at the base of the rugged declivity, midway up which this stone was planted in the long ago. There can be no doubt that the stone is near the place where the poplar stood, because the configuration of the country is such that the course of the streams must necessarily be nearly the same now as they were two hundred years ago.

Without attempting to give the accurate courses and distances of the boundary lines of New Munster, it is sufficient to state that the southern line, which started from the poplar tree, ran about a mile west until it reached the southwest corner of the tract, and then ran northwardly for about five miles until it reached the northwest corner, which was about a mile north of Mason and Dixon's line, where the northern line commenced and ran in an easterly course, and crossed the Elk a short distance above Mackey's (now Tweed's) mill, which is the first mill on that stream in

thousand acres of the same tract, a large part of which was east of the Big Elk, for the sum of £300 current money of Maryland. The deed from Roberts to Stephenson is dated April 1st, 1714.

On the 18th of May following, Stephenson sold the tract on the east side of the Big Elk, containing upwards of 1100 acres, to Mathias Wallace, James Alexander, farmer, Arthur Alexander, farmer, David Alexander, weaver, and Joseph Alexander, tanner. The deed recites the fact that the tract of land then conveyed to Wallace, and the Alexanders "had for some years last past been improved and possessed by them, and had been by them divided among themselves, each man according to his holden, and that he, the said Stephenson, being minded to sell the said tract of land, thought it most equitable, honest and right, that they, the said possessors thereof, should have the first offer to buy or purchase each man his holden or division of ye same." There is no doubt, judging from the facts recited in the deed from Stephenson to Wallace and the Alexanders that they were part of the "15 other Irishmen" mentioned in the certificate of survey, and that they located upon New Munster many years prior to the time at which they obtained the deed to their farms. The first deed from Stevenson to the Alexanders contained a covenant that the grantor, Stephenson, would make them another and better one if they demanded it any time during the next seven years ensuing after the date of the first deed. In accordance with this covenant, Stephenson, by eight deeds, each of which is dated August 15th, 1718, reconveyed his interest in nine hundred and three acres of the New Munster tract to Joseph, James, David, Arthur, Elijah and Mary Alexander. This woman, Mary, was the widow of James Alexander, deceased, who probably was the son of one of the other Alexanders before mentioned. By two other deeds of the same date he also conveyed certain parts of the said tract to John Gillespie and Mathias Wallace, Jr. The land conveyed to the colony

Pennsylvania above the State line. The northeast corner was nearly two miles east of Big Elk and a little south of a direct line joining the aforesaid mill and the village of Strickersville, in Pennsylvania. The east line ran south from the last-named corner until it reached the southeast corner of the tract, which was about a mile east of the place of beginning, from which the southern line ran west to the poplar tree that marked the beginning of the survey. The tract was about five miles long and two miles wide, and consequently contained about ten square miles. The Big Elk divided it into two nearly equal parts. Within the limits of the tract are some of the best water-powers in the county, no less than five of them being on the Big Elk.

Edwin O'Dwire, to whom the patent for New Munster was granted, sold it to one Daniel Toas, of Chester River, in Maryland, when, we have no means of ascertaining, for the deed is not on record, who died and left a son (John Toas), who inherited it as his heir and devisee. This John Toas, it would seem, was not a very thrifty nor a very well-to-do man, for he induced one "Robert Roberts, of Queen Anne's County (glover), to become bound for ye sd. Toas for ye sum of £200 and upwards, which the said Robert Roberts was obliged to pay and did pay, the said John Toas absconding himself from justice, for which there did an act of Assembly pass and was confirmed, thereby empowering the said Robert Roberts, by virtue of the same, to make good and valuable sale and absolute title of inheritance in fee simple of, to, and in four thousand five hundred acres of the New Munster tract." By virtue of this act of Assembly the said Robert Roberts sold to Daniel Pearce, of Kent County, 407 acres of the said tract for 6,000 pounds of tobacco, the deed for which is dated the 4th of September, 1713. This 407 acres was located in the southwest corner of New Munster, and contained the site of the mill near the mouth of the Shure, now owned by Howard Scott. Roberts also sold to Thomas Stephenson, of Bucks County, Pa., nearly three

of Alexanders embraced the northeast part of the New Munster tract and extended from a short distance north of Cowantown to the extreme northern boundary of New Munster, which, as before stated, was about a mile north of the State line, as it was located by Mason and Dixon fifty years afterwards. It was bounded on the west by the Big Elk and the west branch of Christianna flowed through it for about a mile, near the northeast corner of that part of it that is now in Maryland.

In 1701 James Carroll took up a survey of 2,104 acres of land west of New Munster, and in 1713 conveyed his interest in it to Charles Carroll. The tract was called "Society," and the deeds given shortly afterwards for certain parts of it, recite the fact that the survey, which was unfinished before, was completed in the latter year by Henry Hollingsworth, who was then deputy-surveyor. Morgan Patten, John Bristow, Joseph Steel, and Roger Lawson were among the first purchasers, and there is every reason to believe they were the first settlers upon this tract of land, which then, 1718 and '19, no doubt was covered by the primeval forest. "Society," like New Munster, was to be held of the manor of Cecil. This manor was just west of Little Elk, and extended from near the head of Elk River some miles northward. It was probably several miles wide, and like some of the other manors is believed never to have been surveyed or bounded. The southeast corner of "Society" was about a mile north of the southwest corner of New Munster, and the western boundary of the latter formed the eastern boundary of the former. The tract probably extended as far north as New Munster did. The deed from Carroll to Lawson warranted to defend his title "against all persons claiming title, or pretended title, under ye government of Pennsylvania or ye territories thereunto belonging." This was because the long and bitter controversy between the Penns and Baltimore about the boundaries of their respective provinces was then raging.

# Smitty's Place

ON U.S. ROUTE 1  
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six entire counties in the province of Ulster were confiscated. This large territory of confiscated land was nearly depopulated by the efforts of the English in reducing its inhabitants to obedience. It soon became a favorite project of the English sovereign to repeople this depopulated territory with a Protestant population, hoping they would be more peaceable, and consequently less likely to rebel. Many inducements were held out to the people of England and Scotland to settle in this vacant territory in Ireland. The principal emigration, however, was from Scotland. Its coast is near the coast of Ireland, and the emigrants had only a short distance to travel to reach their new homes. The Scotch emigrants brought with them their habits of industry, and their strong Calvinistic faith and rigid adherence to the Presbyterian religion. This was the first Protestant population that settled in Ireland. The first Irish Presbyterian church was established by the Scotch-Irish in 1613. But owing to the unstable character of the House of Stewart, these emigrants were destined soon to undergo a fiercer and more cruel persecution than the Catholics whom they had succeeded. The persecution of the Scotch Presbyterians which soon afterwards took place, in which Claverhouse and his dragoons won for themselves an eternal infamy, drove many of the persecuted Scotch to take refuge in the secure retreats of Ulster.

This is the origin of the Scotch-Irish, a race that has been noted in the history of the United States for their love of religious and civil liberty; a race to whose exertions, sacrifices and valor we are much indebted for the successful issue of the Revolutionary war and the establishment of our present system of government. Their forefathers had been taught in the school of adversity and many of them had sealed their faith with their blood. When the long course of oppression and cruelty practiced by the arbitrary government of Great Britain upon the people of the colonies had culminated in the war of the Revolution, these Scotch-Irish

The Charles Carroll who owned Society was judge and register of the land office, and also agent and receiver of rents for Lord Baltimore. A part of this tract remained in possession of the Carroll family till 1805. In that year Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, sold 184 acres of it to Alexander Jackson for £183.

Fair Hill, which originally extended to the east side of Little Elk Creek, was taken up about the same time that Society was settled. New Castle at this time was a town of considerable size and much importance; then and for many years afterwards, it was probable that more Irish emigrants landed there than any other port on the eastern seaboard of the colonies. These people found their way to New Ireland and the southern parts of Chester and Lancaster counties.

The Alexanders, and probably most of the other original settlers on New Munster and the parts of Pennsylvania and Delaware contiguous to it, were Scotch-Irish; and as this class of settlers acted a conspicuous part in the early as well as in the subsequent history of the county, a short account of them may be interesting and profitable.

During the reign of Elizabeth, the people of Ulster, a province in the north of Ireland, rebelled against the government of England; and, as was always the case with the people of that country, they were subjugated and subjected to a vigorous and severe regime. Though they were obliged to submit to the English government, they did so with reluctance, and were ever ready for revolt. Though the fire of their patriotism was apparently extinguished, it was not wholly quenched, and soon after the accession of James I. another conspiracy was entered into between the Earl of Tyrone and the Earl of Tyrconnel against the English government. It was soon suppressed, and the two earls were forced to fly. Their estates, containing about 500,000 acres, were confiscated. A second insurrection soon afterwards gave occasion for another large forfeiture, and nearly

Presbyterians, whose forefathers had long before proved the truth of the adage that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church," so in like manner did their sons attest their faith in the justice of the cause that they almost universally espoused, and hesitated not to shed their blood in maintaining it with the sword upon many a sanguinary field. Emulating in civil affairs the example their forefathers had set them in ecclesiastical matters, many of them became martyrs in the cause of liberty.

This race did not intermarry with the native Celtic population, and to this day, after the lapse of two centuries and a half, is as distinct as when the pioneer settlers first immigrated to Ireland. They were called Scotch-Irish simply because they were the descendants of Scots who had taken up their residence in the north of Ireland. The wretched policy of the House of Stewart, which had an unlimited capacity for tyranny and oppression, soon drove these people to seek an asylum in the wilderness of America. Here the ancestors of many of the members of the Presbyterian churches in the northern part of Cecil County settled in the early days of the history of our county. They brought with them their habits of industry, self-denial, frugality and economy that are yet retained and practiced by their descendants.

The Alexanders and the other Scotch-Irish settlers upon New Munster and the surrounding country were the founders of the old Presbyterian churches at "Head of Christians" and "The Rock."

It is a singular fact that the first meeting-houses in which these congregations worshiped were outside of the boundaries of Maryland; the former being on the triangular part of Pennsylvania that extends south of Mason and Dixon's line, and only about two hundred yards east of the due north line which, for all practical purposes, is considered as forming the boundary between Maryland and Delaware. The latter was located in the "old stone graveyard" in

Lewisville, Chester County, and is about the same distance north of Mason and Dixon's line. Whether this was the result of accident or design is not known, but inasmuch as Maryland was a Catholic colony, and the interests of the first settlers in New Munster were identified with those of the people at New Castle, it was probably the result of the latter. The Presbyterian church at the head of Christiansa was organized some time previous to 1708, by a few persons who had previously worshiped in New Castle. The first house of worship, which stood in the graveyard north of the present house, was probably built about the time of the organization of the church.

The first pastor of this church was Rev. George Gillespie. He was born in Scotland, in 1683, and was a son of the Rev. George Gillespie, a prominent member of the Westminster Assembly of divines. Among the names of the first elders of this church, which were equally divided among the three States, are those of David Alexander and Andrew Wallace, of Cecil County. David Alexander was no doubt one of the original settlers of New Munster, and there is little doubt that Andrew Wallace was a relative of Mathias Wallace, another of the original settlers upon the same tract. His grave is marked by a headstone, which shows that he died on ye third of March, 1751, aged 79 years. Many of the graves of the Alexanders are marked by headstones in a good state of preservation, which show that they generally lived to a good old age.

The Rock Church was founded in 1720, by members of the Head of Christiansa living in the northern part of New Munster, and in Society, who wished a church nearer to their homes. For a short time this congregation was supplied by Rev. George Gillespie and other ministers of New Castle Presbytery, until in 1724 the congregation secured the services of their first pastor, Rev. Joseph Houston. He, like most of the early Presbyterian ministers, was a native of Ireland. The original name of the congregation was the

Church Upon Elk River. Theophilus and his brother, Amos Alexander, both elders of the Rock Church, are buried at Head of Christiansa. They lived in the northeastern part of New Munster and were much nearer the churches at Lewisville and Sharp's graveyard, which is a short distance north of Fair Hill and near the site of the second church building, than they were to the old church at Head of Christiansa, where they at first worshiped.

It is not within the scope of this work to give an extended account of the Revolution in England that resulted in placing William and May on the throne of that kingdom but inasmuch as it had a great effect upon the history of Maryland, and particularly on the history of Cecil County, it has been deemed important, in order to properly understand the latter, to call the reader's attention to it.

The liberality of the charter of Maryland had excited the cupidity of James II., who contemplated instituting proceedings to wrest it from Lord Baltimore, and who, had he continued to wield the sceptre of England, would most likely have found means to have wrested the rights and franchises which it conferred upon Lord Baltimore from him, and appropriate them to his own use. But it was not so ordered by Providence, and the Proprietary of Maryland escaped this ignominious treatment from the tyrant James, only to be made to endure it from his successor. He was in England when William and Mary were proclaimed, and at once gave in his adherence to them and sent orders to Mr. Joseph, who had succeeded George Talbot as President of the Council and chief Deputy Governor, to proclaim the new sovereigns in Maryland; but unfortunately the messenger died on the way and the council hesitated to act on their own responsibility till the new sovereigns had been proclaimed in most if not all the other colonies.

The Protestants of Maryland thereupon inaugurated a revolution on their own account, and in April, 1689, formed "an association in arms for the defence of the Protestant

religion, and for asserting the rights of King William and Queen Mary to the province of Maryland and all the English dominions." John Coode was placed at the head of this association. But little more was done till the following July, when the revolutionists marched upon the city of St. Mary's, which was then held by the council which remained loyal to the Lord Proprietary. The revolutionists were the stonger party, and the others evacuated the city without firing a gun. Whereupon Coode issued a declaration of the reasons which had actuated him and his party to usurp the government. In this declaration they speak of the tyranny and injustice of Lord Baltimore, and refer to the obstacles thrown in the way of the collection of the king's tax and the murder of Rousby "by one that was an Irish papist and our chief governor," etc., at great length.

The authorities of Calvert County alone made some opposition to the revolutionists; but they soon surrendered without bloodshed, and the others became masters of the province. They celebrated their triumph by sending an address to their Majesties in England, in which they reiterate the charges against Lord Baltimore in a more covert way than in the declaration, and seek to justify, or at least to palliate, the course they had pursued. The revolutionists, feeling secure, issued writs in their Majesties' names for an election of delegates to a convention to be held at St. Mary's in August, to which the people of Calvert County objected, and issued a declaration of their objections to choosing delegates. They also met with opposition in other parts of the province; notwithstanding which the convention met, and on the 4th of September drew up an address to their Majesties, which is remarkable only for the cunning method in which they seek to justify their own revolutionary proceedings by the laudatory way in which they speak of their Majesties' achievements of the same kind. This address was accompanied by others from Kent, Somerset, Talbot, St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert, Cecil, and Baltimore counties, some

of which were numerous signed, and a few of which speak well of Lord Baltimore and his illustrious father. The citizens of Cecil County sent a petition which was signed by nineteen of the inhabitants, of none of whom anything is known at this time, except George Oldfield, Casparus Hermen, William Nowell, and York Yorkson. George Oldfield has already been referred to; he was an attorney, and a few years later refused to take the oath of allegiance and supremacy, from which it is inferred that he was a Catholic and still adhered to the House of Stewart. He removed to Pennsylvania, as it was then called, where he probably still owned land, he being one of the landholders in St. Augustine's Manor as early as 1682, in which year William Penn addressed him and some others upon the subject of the dispute between himself and Lord Baltimore. Casparus Hermen was at that time lord of Bohemia Manor, having succeeded his brother Ephraim George, and in accordance with the provision of his father's will had assumed the name of Augustine.

William Nowell was a lawyer. He refused to take the oath of allegiance and supremacy, for which the courts stopped him from practicing; but probably readmitted him for the minutes of the court show, as before stated, that he promised to remove the cause of disability. York Yorkson, there is reason to believe, came to this county from the Swedish settlements on the Delaware. He was probably a Swede or Finn. Some years after this time he leased a few acres of land on the north side of Bohemia River just east of the ferry. He is designated in the lease as innholder, and was probably the first person who kept an inn at Bohemia ferry. The addresses of the Protestants of England were not without effect upon King William, and he thought seriously of depriving Lord Baltimore of his charter. Legal proceedings were instituted for that purpose; but the facts upon which his advisers relied were not susceptible of proof, and Lord Baltimore was allowed to retain the charter

upon consenting to allow the province to be governed by Protestant governors, appointed by the king. This continued to be the case till 1715, when his son Benedict Leonard Calvert embraced the Protestant religion, and the rights and franchises conferred by the charter were restored to him.

During the interval from 1689 to 1715 the members of the House of Baltimore were under a cloud, so to speak, and in no condition to defend the province from the encroachments which the proprietor of Pennsylvania made upon it. This brief reference to the English Revolution it is hoped will enable the reader to better understand the reason why the Nottingham lots and the Welsh Tract, large portions of which are in Maryland, were granted by William Penn and his agents, and why no efforts were made to reject their encroachments.

Nottingham was the outgrowth of the settlements on the Delaware around New Castle, which, at the time of the settlement of the former place, was second only to New York in commerce and population. The pioneer settlers of Nottingham were two brothers, James and William Brown, who, on pack-horses, boldly started out from New Castle in the summer or fall of 1701 into the wilderness to make for themselves a home. They were said to have been influenced in their opinion of the fertility of the soil by the great size of the forest trees with which it was covered. They stopped near a large spring, which is yet to be seen on the north side of the road leading from the Brick Meeting-house to the Rising Sun, and a short distance east of the road which forms the boundary between the Sixth and Ninth election districts. It is on the farm now owned by William Cameron. Near this spring was a favorite camping-ground of the Indians. Their trail from the great valley of Chester County to the head of the bay, whither they were accustomed to resort for fish and also to trade at the post on Palmer's Island, led directly past it. Here the brothers

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The minutes of the commissioners, like all the writings of the Friends, is laconic and concise. It is as follows:

"At a session of the Commissioners at Philadelphia, 14th of the 11th mo., 1701. Present—Edward Shippen, Griffith Owen, Thomas Story, James Logan, Sec. Cornelius Empson, for himself and several others, to the number of twenty families, chiefly of the county of Chester, propose to make a Settlement on a tract of land about half-way between Delaware and Susquehannough, or near the latter, being about twenty miles distant from New Castle, on *Otteraroe* river, in case they may have a grant of twenty thousand acres in said place, at a bushel of wheat per 100 (acres), or five pounds purchase, to be after at a shilling sterling per annum, which being duly considered and the advantages that might arise thereby, by rendering the adjacent lands more valuable and encouraging ye settlement of Susquehannough river, 'tis proposed that they shall have 15 or 20,000 acres at £8 pounds per 100 acres, or at 2 bushels of wheat rent per annum, the first year for their encouragement to be free of rent, or one year credit to pay the purchase money. He agrees to the price of purchase or to a bushel and a half per annum, But it is referred to thee in further consideration."

The application of Empson, as set forth in the preceding minute of the commissioners who were appointed by Penn and authorized to have charge of his land and to look after his interests in the province, met with the favorable consideration of the proprietary, or the commissioners concluded to act on their own responsibility, for on "ye 7th of ye 1st mo., 1701," they issued the warrant of survey to Henry Hollingsworth, at that time a citizen of Pennsylvania. This warrant contains the names of the original settlers for which the survey was made. They are as follows: Henry Reynolds, Cornelius Empson, John Empson, John Richardson, James Brown, William Brown, Henry Bates, Edward Beson, Jas. Cooper, (of Darby), Randal Janney, Andrew Job, John

Brown unloaded their weary horses and went to work felling the forest trees and clearing the land for the purpose of making room for dwelling-houses and engaging in agricultural pursuits. The small amount of provisions brought with them were soon exhausted, and they were obliged to return to New Castle for a fresh supply. Other Friends accompanied them on their return to Nottingham, and by the next spring they had accommodations for several families. The first house, erected by William Brown, is said to have been built on the site now occupied by the house of William Cameron. This is the traditional story of the first settlement in Nottingham that has been handed down from generation to generation of their descendants, some of whom yet occupy part of the land upon which their forefathers settled.

It is very probable that the brothers Brown preceded the other settlers a short time, and that the others were acquainted with them and admired the fertility of their land and the beauty of the location, and were for these reasons induced to ask for the privilege of taking up the Nottingham lots. This name was applied to Nottingham Township after the Revolutionary war by the Legislature of Maryland, in an act for the relief of the owners of the land, which, though granted by Penn, was found to be in Maryland when the dispute between him and Baltimore was adjusted in 1766. It was called Nottingham Township by the authorities of Pennsylvania, and was divided into thirty-seven parts; hence the name, "Nottingham lots."

In compliance with the provisions of this act of Maryland, which was passed in 1788, the then proprietors of Nottingham, in order to show the validity of their title, procured copies of the minute of their application to the commissioners of property of Pennsylvania, and also their warrant for the survey of Nottingham, which they caused to be recorded among the land records of Cecil County.

Churchman, Ebenezer Empson, John Guest, of Philadelphia.\* These were to have one thousand acres each. Joel Bayley, Robert Dutton, Samuel Littler, and Messer Brown were to have five hundred acres each. The whole township was to be divided into eighteen several divisions of one thousand acres each, three of which the proprietor reserved for his own proper use. The choice of the several divisions was to be disposed of by lot. The warrant directed the surveyor to begin at the northern barrens, between the main branch of North East and *Otteraroe* Creek, and further specified that the southern boundary was to be an east and west line parallel with the southern line of the province, and that the £8 were to be paid within one year after the date thereof. It also provided for the payment of an annual quit rent of one shilling sterling for every one hundred acres, or, in case of failure to pay the first sum, they were to pay two bushels of good winter wheat for every one hundred acres, to be delivered at some navigable water or landing place on the Delaware River. Following the record of the certificate of survey is a plat of the township, accompanied by a certificate certifying that it is compiled from data in the office of the surveyor-general of Pennsylvania. The plat shows the tract to have extended two and a half miles east of the common on part of which the Brick Meeting-house now stands, from which it ran due west nearly nine miles. West of the common, for a distance of three miles, it was three and a quarter miles wide; for three miles further west it was three miles wide, while from the southwest corner there extended

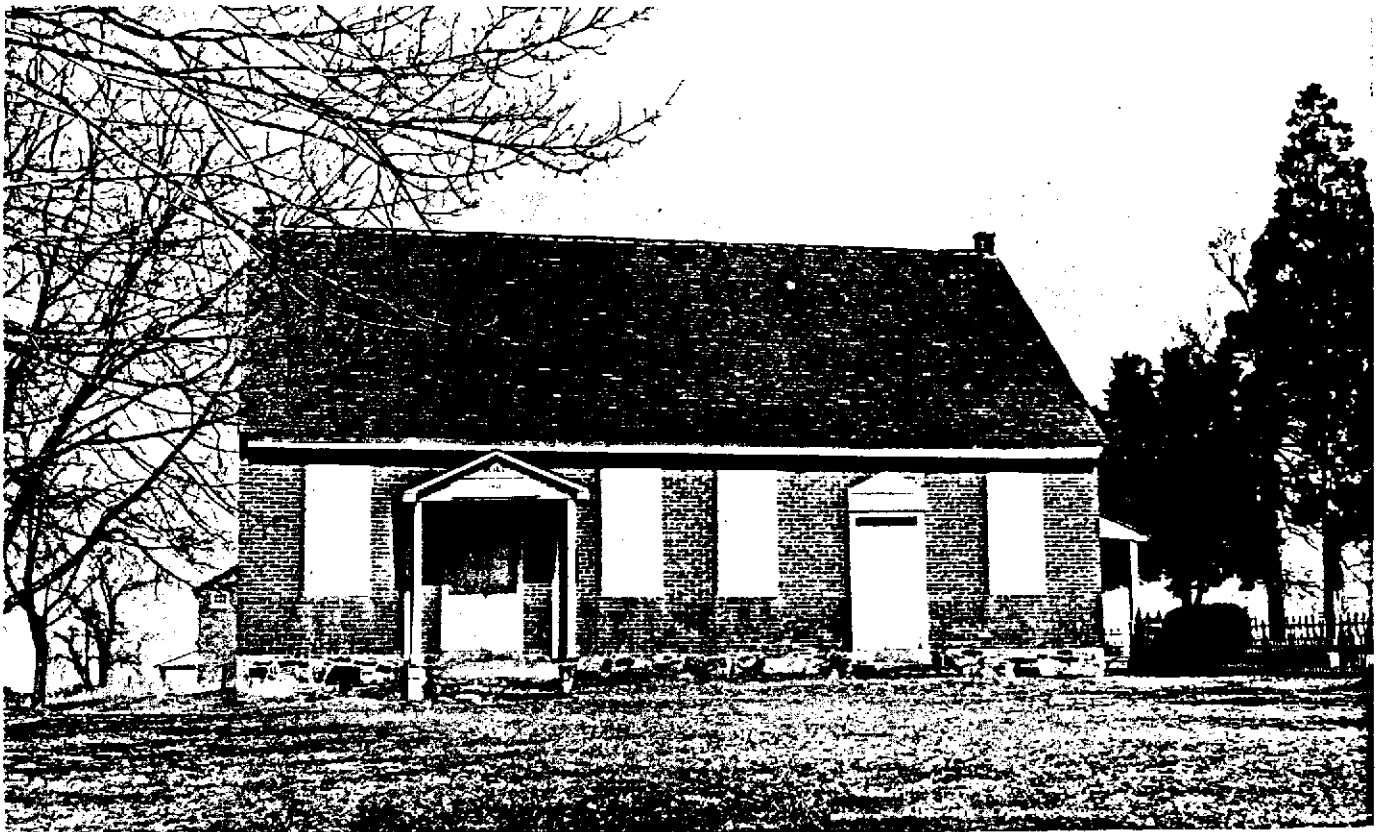
\* Cornelius Empson, John Richardson, Henry Reynolds, Ebenezer Empson, and John Guest, each of whom are mentioned in the warrant of survey, and all of whom were among the original grantees, never resided in Nottingham. The reader will notice a slight discrepancy between the names in the warrant and those on the plat. The original record has been followed in each case. The Reynolds and Janney families of this county are the descendants of the above mentioned Henry Reynolds and Randal Janney.

3. A Draught of the Township of Nottingham according to the survey made thereof in the 3d month, A. D. 1792. Copied from the original on page 58, Book No. 19, one of the land record books of Cecil County.

Edward Beson.	1.		
Henry Reynolds.	19.	5. Henry Reynolds.	
John Richardson.	20.	6. John Richardson.	
Proprietor.	21.	7. Proprietary.	
Eb. Empson.	22.	8. Cor. Empson.	
Wm. Brown.	23.	9. Proprietary.	
Cor. Empson.	24.	10. Eb. Empson.	
Proprietor.	25.	11. Joel Bayley.	
Jas. Cooper.	26.	12. James Cooper.	
Jas. Brown.	27.	13. Proprietary.	
Wm. Brown.	28.	14. James Brown.	
Robt. Dutton. Sam'l Littler.	29.	15. Randal Janney.	
Common Meeting House.	30.	16. John Churchman.	
Robt. Dutton. Sam'l Littler.	31.		
Andrew Job.	32.	17.	
Wm. Brown.	33.	27.	
Randal Janney.	34.	John Bates.	
Andrew Job.	35.	38.	

a parallelogram a mile a quarter long and a half mile wide, which included what is now known as Vinegar Hill. The whole township contained thirty lots, the most of which were a mile and a half long and half a mile wide, which shows that the instruction in the warrant, authorizing the surveyor to lay out the tract into eighteen several divisions of one thousand acres each, had been disregarded. The names of Robert Dutton and Samuel Littler appear upon each of the lots immediately east and west of the meeting-house, while the names of John Churchman and Randal Janney are found upon the lots immediately north and northwest of it. Andrew Job's name appears on the lot at the southeast corner of the tract, which was a short distance southeast of the Blue Ball tavern; and those of Edward Beson and Henry Reynolds upon the two most westerly lots, as will be seen by reference to the map. The lots are separated by what seems to be intended to represent a road, but which, by the scale accompanying the plat is an eighth of a mile wide. The lots, as before stated, were to contain a thousand acres each; including the road, they did actually contain, as shown by the plat, about five hundred acres. It was intimated in the warrant that the four persons that were to have five hundred acres each were to divide a thousand acres between them; this accounts for the township being divided into thirty-seven instead of eighteen lots, as directed in the warrant. The plat also shows that several of the persons who were to have a thousand acres each took up two of these five hundred acre lots, and that in some cases they were several miles apart.

The reader will recollect that Talbot's grant of Susquehanna Manor, which was made twenty years before by Lord Baltimore, included the whole of Nottingham and extended some miles north of it into Pennsylvania. Talbot was charged with the maintenance and extension of the authority of Baltimore as far north and east as circumstances warranted him in believing it was possible to extend it.



Official Photo

MEETING HOUSE  
Built 1811

Although his manor extended many miles above the mouth of the Octoraro, he probably had little hope of maintaining his title to all of it, and probably extended it northward simply to acquire a claim and to hold it in behalf of Lord Baltimore. He saw with what tenacity the settlers along the Delaware maintained possession of the land there, though it was covered by Baltimore's patent, and he resolved to profit by their example. Talbot's line, from the mouth of Octoraro to the mouth of Naaman's Creek, is the line referred to by the commissioners of Penn in their warrant of survey as the southern line of the province.

The religious and political difficulties that prevailed in England in the reign of James the Second, as before intimated, had a disastrous effect upon the prosperity of Lord Baltimore. His misfortunes were increased by the efforts his kindness prompted him to make in behalf of his kinsman Talbot, in order to shield him from the consequences of the murder of the unfortunate Rousby. He was a Catholic, and the Puritanical spirit that raged in the time of Cromwell was not yet extinct. William of Orange and Anne owed too much to the Protestants of England to be disposed to look with much favor upon the claims of Baltimore, created as they were by a prince of an exiled family and a member of the church which they despised. Talbot, the courageous and irrepressible Talbot, whose brilliant career in Cecil County atones for its shortness, had long since disappeared, and the proprietor of Maryland, shorn of everything but the nominal possession of his right in the soil of his splendid domain, languished in neglect and obscurity. These were the reasons why the princely domain of Susquehanna Manor was cut in twain by the commissioners of Penn. Had George Talbot been alive and at the head of his rangers, the quiet Quakers would never have thought of asking the commissioners of the courtly Penn for the Nottingham grant, nor is it probable he would have granted their request. It was a masterly stroke of policy on the

part of Penn to cut Susquehanna Manor in twain, and plant a settlement of his followers in the midst of it. This was the surest way of thwarting the efforts of Lord Baltimore and his agents to extend his jurisdiction to the 40° of north latitude should that experiment be tried in the future. This view of the case is strengthened by a tradition among the Friends that the original settlers of Nottingham had at first intended to settle in the rich valleys of Pequea or Conestoga, but were influenced by the earnest solicitation of Penn to settle in Nottingham in order to strengthen his claim, and that in the spring of 1701 he rode over the ground in company with the leaders of the party to view the "lay of the land." During this visit he is said to have marked with his own hand a spot he selected, from which the water descended in all directions, as the site of the present brick meeting-house, which was built upon part of the forty acres he donated to them for that purpose, and which is yet in their possession.

When Mason and Dixon's line was located, it cut upwards of 1,300 acres off those lots that extended farthest north, and in 1787 their owners presented a petition to the government of Pennsylvania, stating that owing to the unsettled condition of the boundary between that State and Maryland, the original grantees had not complied with the terms of sale, and praying that those parts of the lots in Pennsylvania might be surveyed and their titles be confirmed. Their request was granted and a warrant was issued to George Churchman, who the same year surveyed them.

The Friends that settled upon Nottingham were frugal and industrious, and soon the forest disappeared beneath their sturdy strokes, and grass and the waving grain succeeded it. The brothers Brown, like their father, were ministers of the gospel, and in 1704 a meeting was organized at the house of James, which was the origin of the Quaker congregation that now worships in the Brick Meeting-house. The first meeting-house was erected in 1709 or 1710. It

was built of hewn chestnut and yellow poplar logs, which were very durable; some of them are to be found at the present time in an old building on the place where Susannah Reisler now lives. Authorities differ about the time of the erection of the brick house; some of them place it in 1724, others in 1735. There is also a difference of opinion as to whether the brick used in its construction were imported from England or made in the neighborhood. Elisha Rowls, who died some forty years ago, at the age of eighty, said his father did the carpenter work of the building in 1750, after the first fire when the addition was built. From information obtained from him some of the old residents are of opinion that the bricks were made near the house; others think they were imported from England. It is a curious but well authenticated fact that the first building was roofed with slate obtained somewhere along the Octoraro Creek, but where, no person now living knows. In 1751 the wood-work of this house was burned, and in the following year a stone addition of equal size with the original structure was erected—thus its capacity was doubled. In 1810 the wood-work was again burned, and in the following year it was replaced. Strange to say, though half of the walls of this old house are stone, it still bears its original name of "the Brick Meeting-house," and though the bricks have stood the test of two fires in addition to their original burning, and though the frosts and snows of one hundred and fifty-four winters have spent their fury upon them, they appear to be none the worse and look as though they might last for many centuries longer.

The meeting-house called the Little Brick, standing on the north side of the P. & B. Central Railroad and about one mile and a quarter southwest of Rising Sun, was built on a lot embracing five acres and a few perches, granted on the 11th day of first month, 1727, by James King and William Harris, "To the people of God, called Quakers, members of the monthly meeting of Nottingham and New

Garden," and the money paid therefor was declared to be the money of that people. This lot was a part of Penn's lot No. 20.

The present brick building was erected in 1811. The frame building previously occupied was removed to the eastern side of the Rising Sun, and was there used by Benjamin Reynolds for a carpenter shop and afterwards for a stable.

In 1730 the monthly meeting of Nottingham and New Garden, mentioned above, was divided into two, viz., Nottingham, held at the Brick Meeting-house; East Nottingham, and New Garden, held at New Garden, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and at the same time a preparative meeting was established at Little Brick. In 1732 Edward Churchman was buried in the burying-ground at that place, showing that it was then occupied for that purpose. He died of smallpox, at the mill of Henry Reynolds, on Stone Run.

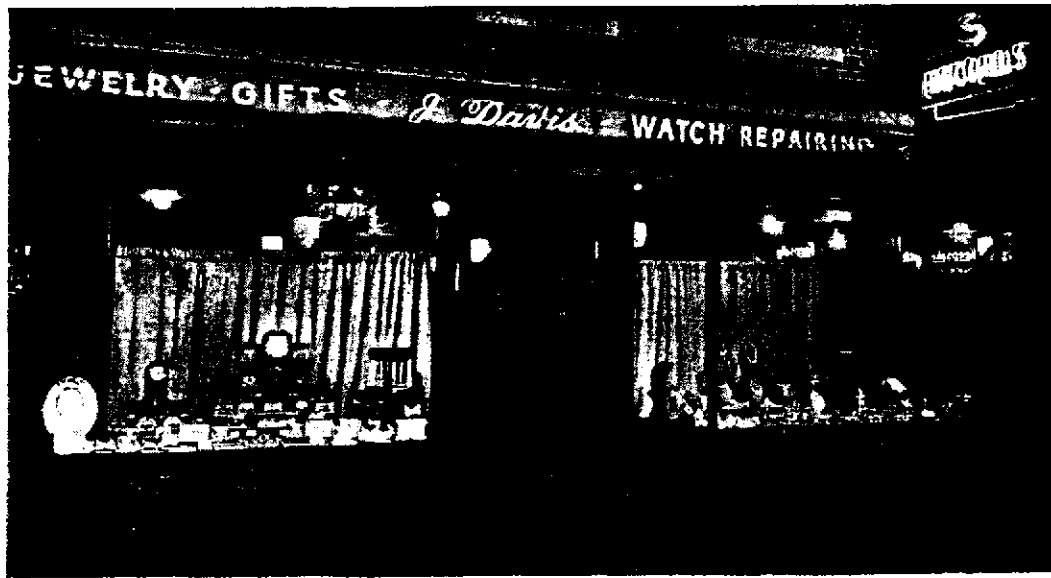
It is probable that upon the erection of this last meeting-house, the names of East and West Nottingham were first applied to the respective parts of the original Nottingham Township. In 1729 many of the inhabitants of Susquehanna Hundred petitioned the court for a road to be laid out "from the church road by the Indian town, called Poppenetto, until it joins unto the road leading unto the Quaker meeting-house at the west end of Nottingham." They give as a reason why they wanted the road, that the country was settling so fast that the old road was about to be closed up. The church road referred to in the petition was a road leading from some point near the mouth of the Octoraro to the Episcopal church at the head of North East, or to the chapel connected with it, that stood a short distance east of Port Deposit. Nothing is known at this time about the location or history of the Indian town.

The people who were settling the country so fast as to excite the apprehension of the inhabitants of Susquehanna Hundred that their road would be closed, were the Scotch-

Irish Presbyterians who settled contiguous to Nottingham and who were the founders of the Nottingham Presbyterian church. The road they speak of was the one they traveled from the upper ferry (now Port Deposit) to Philadelphia, and was a continuation of the old Philadelphia and Nottingham road which ran from the former place to Darby, thence to Chester, thence past Concord meeting-house to Kennett and New London X roads and reached Nottingham at the Brick Meeting-house. Many of these Scotch-Irish settled on the romantic hills among which the beautiful Octoraro rushes so impetuously to meet and mingle with the more stately Susquehanna. Others of them settled immediately south of the western part of Nottingham. In the course of time, and as opportunity offered, many of them became residents of the original Nottingham grant. The Ewings, Moores, Evanses, Puttons, Maxwells and many others whose descendants are now members of the West Nottingham Presbyterian church, settled on or near the west part of Nottingham about this time. As early as 1724 they had organized a church, and it is probable, judging from the fact that in 1720 their meeting-house is called the old meeting-house, they were numerous enough to have organized a church and erected a house of worship several years prior to the year 1720. It is a matter of doubt where the first house of worship stood. Even tradition, with its contradictory stories, is silent upon this subject. The name of the congregation, as it first appears on the records of the Presbytery, is the Mouth of Octoraro. Afterwards it was called Lower Octoraro. In 1730 it received the name of Nottingham, by which it has been known ever since, notwithstanding there was an effort made in 1803 to change the name to Ephesus, and in 1844 to change it to Kirkwood, both of which efforts failed. The history of this church and the distinguished divines that have been connected with it, as well as the history of the Nottingham academy, will be given more at length in a subsequent chapter.

The Quaker settlement of Nottingham was frequently visited by itinerant Friends when they were journeying from place to place to proclaim the gospel.

It is worthy of remark that at this time the Indians still lived in Lancaster County, and that a few traders were stationed at or near the mouth of the Conestoga. These Indians were the remnant of the Susquehannocks that had taken refuge there with the Senecas and Shawnees, from the encroachments of the settlers along the head of the bay. In 1705 they were visited by the dignitaries from Penn's plantations along the Delaware, who made a treaty with them. The same year Thomas Chalkley visited Nottingham and as he expresses it, "had a concern upon his mind to visit the Indians living near Susquehanna, at Conestoga. He laid it before the elders of Nottingham meeting, with which they expressed their amity and promoted my visiting them." Accordingly, having secured the services of an interpreter he, accompanied by about a dozen of the citizens, set out through the forest to visit the Indians. The party traveled on horseback and carried their provisions with them. They spread their food upon the grass and dined under the shade of the trees in the primeval forest refreshing themselves and horses with water from the river, upon whose banks they had stopped to enjoy the midday meal. The Indians received them kindly, and some of them gave evidence that the preaching of this humble Quaker, whose zeal was only equaled by his meekness, had touched their hearts and prepared them for the reception of the divine grace and light, an abundant measure of which appears to have been vouchsafed to him. There were two tribes of these Indians, Senecas and Shawansee. One of the tribes was governed by an empress, so Chalkley calls her, whose advice the Indians sought before they consented to hold the meeting. She appears to have been a woman of age and experience, and had had a remarkable dream a short time before the



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visit of the Quakers, which seems to have left a deep impression upon her mind. Though the Friends sanctioned the preaching of women, they were surprised to find this tribe under the government of a woman, and inquired why it was so. The Indians replied that some women were wiser than some men."

Inasmuch as many of the descendants of the first settlers in Nottingham are yet living in this county, and this account of it would otherwise be incomplete, we append a few brief sketches of some of the most prominent of them.

Benjamin Chandlee, the emigrant who planted the family name at Nottingham, was the son of William Chandlee, of Kilmore, in the county of Kildare, Ireland, probably born about 1685. The next notice we find of him is on the 25th of the 3d month, 1710. On that day he was married at Friends' meeting, in Philadelphia, to Sarah, daughter of Able Cottey, "watch maker of Philadelphia." It appears that Benjamin at the time was engaged with Able Cottey in business, probably as an apprentice or journeyman.

In 1706 Able Cottey had purchased one of the Nottingham lots from Randal Janney, some four hundred acres. This lot Able conveyed to his son-in-law upon his marriage to his daughter. This fortunate event induced Benjamin to remove to the property soon after his marriage. He established his trade in a small way, doing also iron work for the neighbors.

It seems that Able Cottey had also become possessed of a small farm adjoining the Brick Meeting-house lot. This property his widow, Mary Cottey, left by will ("being aged and infirm") to her daughter, Sarah Chandlee, dated 6th mo 18th, 1712, and proven and registered at Chester, 3d month 3d, 1714. She also mentions grandsons Able Cottey and Cottey Chandlee, and leaves £10 to John Cottey, "if he comes into these parts again." Benjamin Chandlee, the first, seems to have been a man who, had opportunities offered, would have risen to distinction in his profession. As it was,

moral and religious duties assigned him. He lived unmarried, but having secured the services of Susanna Fallwell, his mother's sister, as housekeeper, his domestic comforts were such as to occasion few regrets on that score. This excellent lady survived him, and died in the 2d month, 1816. Isaac departed this life, much regretted by his neighbors, the 10th of the 12th month, 1813, aged 62 years.

Ellis discontinued the business after the loss of his brother. He had lived to see it rise, flourish and expire, and to note the departure of many of his generation. He died about the year 1820, leaving a family.

Cottey Chandlee, son of Benjamin, the emigrant, born at Nottingham about 1713, and died there in 1807, aged about 94 years, was a quiet, unobtrusive Quaker, and lived unmarried.

Joseph England was an approved minister in the Friends' Society; son of "John England and Loue his wife;" born in 1680 at Burton, on the river Trent, in Staffordshire. In 1710 he married Margaret, daughter of Samuel and Joanna Orbel, born at Deal in Kent, in 1685. They settled first at Deal, but removed to Burton, whence, in 1752, they came to America, bringing their children, John, Samuel and Joanna, with them; Joseph and Lydia were born after their arrival. Joseph and Margaret departed this life, the latter in 1741 and the former in 1748. The fine tract of land on North East Creek that they called "Springfield" is still occupied in part by their descendants, and by Joseph Hamilton, whose residence is on the site of the original homestead.

Among the early Friends who settled at Nottingham was Jehu Kay. He purchased a tract of land called "Hindman's Legacy," which corners at Colora. The residence of the late John Tosh is upon it; also the depot and railroad buildings at Colora. The Friends have a tradition that this Kay was a descendant of the first male child born of English parents on the site of Philadelphia after it was laid out for a city. In consequence, Penn presented him with a

located in a new country where the indispensable necessities of life claim the most prompt attention, and the demand for the exercise of his skill limited to the most simple products of domestic use, he could do little more than act as a pioneer for succeeding artisans. In 1741 he removed with his younger children to Wilmington, Delaware, where he became the ancestor of the respectable citizens of the name to that vicinity.

Benjamin Chandlee, founder of the celebrated firm of Chandlee & Sons, of Nottingham, manufacturers of clocks, surveyors' compasses, and mathematical instruments of all kinds, was the son of Benjamin Chandlee, the emigrant, born at Nottingham about 1728, and resided on his father's farm till it was sold on his removal, to Joseph Trimble, in 1741, when he took up his residence on the lot left by Mary Cottey to his mother, adjoining the meeting-house land. Here he lived, and died 9th month, 18th, 1794, in the 69th year of his age. In 1749 he "proceeded in marriage with Mary Fallwell, daughter of Goldsmith Edward Fallwell, of Wilmington, according to the good order established among Friends." Mary survived him, and after a life spent in the fulfillment of Christian duty, died 10th month 6th, 1800, in the 78th year of her age, both being interred in East Nottingham Friends' graveyard. The eminence attained by Benjamin Chandlee in the manufacture of scientific, mathematical, and chemical instruments, was probably not surpassed during his time by any other firm in America. After his decease the business was continued with credit and success by his sons, Isaac and Ellis, who inherited their father's taste and zeal, applying their ingenuity to the production of most of the then known instruments used in the various measurements of time, the properties of the magnet, electric currents, engraving, etc.

Isaac Chandlee was a member of the Society of Friends, having part in its deliberations and laboring quietly in the

square in the new town. His appreciation of this present was such that when he arrived at manhood he exchanged it for a horse, saddle and bridle.

The Browns, before spoken of, were noted as well for their zeal as ministers as for their enterprise and industry. The mill on North East Creek, known as Hurford's mill, was built by them; and one of the sons of James Brown, who married and lived near Principio iron works, had an interest in them as early as 1718, in which year he died. In 1751 six of the Brown family, four men and two women, were ministers of Nottingham monthly meeting. A substantial stone house built by Messer Brown is now (1881) standing about a mile southwest of the Brick Meeting-house, and is occupied by the descendants of John Churchman, one of whom intermarried with a descendant of Messer Brown.

Andrew Job established the first tavern in Nottingham on lot number 35, about 1710, in a small brick house which is believed to be yet standing a few rods north of the house formerly called the Blue Ball inn, of which it was doubtless the forerunner. The Blue Ball tavern being at the junction of the Lancaster County and Nottingham roads, which were the great thoroughfares between those places and New Castle a century ago, was well patronized, and for a long time was one of the most celebrated hotels in the county. The Henry Reynolds who settled in Nottingham, is the reputed founder of the village of Rising Sun, the original name of which was Sumner Hill, by opening a public house near the X Roads in the village. If tradition is to be relied upon, John White, who purchased lot number 29 from Robert Dutton about 1717, established at that time the X Keys tavern, near the Brick Meeting-house, on the spot where his grandson, Abner White, many years after erected the present brick edifice.

Although but a part of Welsh Tract is in Cecil County, it seems proper to give a short sketch of its early history,

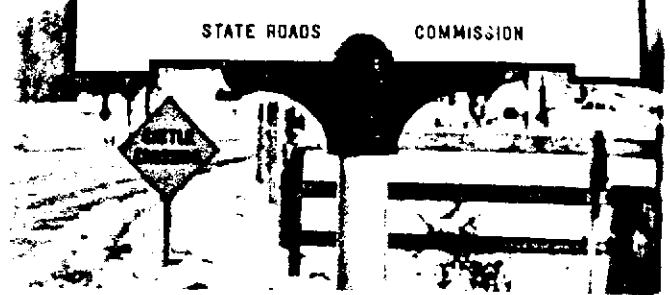
because of its close proximity to our county and intimate connection with and influence upon it. It was granted to a colony of Welsh Baptists in 1701. Talbot had disappeared some fifteen years before that time, and Penn was no doubt quite as anxious to interpose a barrier on the east of New Ireland by granting the Welsh their tract as he was to cut Susquehanna Manor in two by his grant of Nottingham to the Friends, which he did about three months afterwards. The three agents who, for themselves and the company for which they acted, obtained the grant of the Welsh Tract from William Penn were at that time residents of Radnor Township, then in Chester County, Pennsylvania, where for a short time most of the original Welsh settlers on the Welsh Tract lived. The agreement between Penn and the agents of the Welsh stated that they were to have "thirty thousand acres, if there be so much vacant in the place hereafter expressed. That is to say, behind the town of New Castle westward, extending northward and southward; beginning to the westward, seven miles from the said town of New Castle, and extending upward and downward, as there shall be found room by regular, straight lines, as near as may be." The purchasers were to pay £12 10s. for every hundred acres, and were to pay for 7,000 acres at the expiration of the two years next after the purchase, and for the remainder of the tract at the end of the three following years; and if they failed to make the payments at the time specified, they were to pay one English pound for every one hundred acres as a yearly rent till such time as the other payments were made. They were also to pay one English silver shilling for every hundred acres as a yearly rent forever. The northeast corner of the Welsh Tract is a few hundred yards northeast of the depot of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad at Newark, Delaware, from which the north line extended 1,446 perches, or about four and a half miles, west to the northwest corner; from which the western line ran due south upwards of a mile, and then by a number of angles continued south, gradually bearing east,



## BLUE BALL TAVERN

ESTABLISHED ABOUT 1710 ON LOT NO. 35 OF "THE NOTTINGHAM LOTS" BY ANDREW JOB WHO SECURED IT FROM WILLIAM PENN. JOB'S SON THOMAS MARRIED ELIZABETH MAXWELL, NIECE OF DANIEL DEFOE WHO WROTE "ROBINSON CRUSOE".

STATE ROADS COMMISSION



Official Photo

BLUE BALL MARKER

to some distance south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The southern and eastern boundaries were quite as irregular as the western, the only straight line being the northern one. The northwest corner of the tract was not very far from the Big Elk Creek, and there is some evidence in the land records of New Castle County of that period that the land west of the upper part of the tract, and between it and Big Elk Creek, was granted by Penn's agents, and for a time was considered as being part of New Castle County. The northwest corner of the tract is mentioned in the report of a commission which marked and bounded the lands of Samuel Wilson, who was the proprietor of the celebrated place called Wild Cat Swamp in 1784, but owing to the division of the lands then marked and bounded, and the length of time since it was done, it is not easy to ascertain the location of the said corner at this time. Wild Cat Swamp has been known in modern times by the name of "Cat Swamp." It is located a short distance west of where the road from Elkton to Newark crosses Persimmon Run. Some of the residents of that locality had rather an unenviable reputation in former times, and at least two murders were committed on or near it. Owing to the bad reputation of the place it was hard to locate, and in time the name was applied to a large section of country extending some miles in every direction from the original Wild Cat Swamp. This section of country now contains some of the best farms and the most industrious, enterprising and moral people in the county.

Certainly one-eighth, possibly one-fourth, of the original Welsh Tract is now in Cecil County, a part of it being west of the boundary line located by Mason and Dixon more than half a century after it was granted by Penn to the Welsh. The object of Penn in granting this tract to the Welsh was the same he had in view when he granted Nottingham to the Friends, viz., to extend his domain as near the navigable water of the Chesapeake Bay as he possibly could, and at the same time to circumscribe the limits of



BLUE BALL TAVERN

Official Photo

Maryland as defined in its charter, or rather to counteract and destroy any right that Lord Baltimore might have acquired by virtue of the erection and occupation of the fort before spoken of, which Talbot had erected on the Christiana Creek.

The Welsh found a few settlers on their tract when they took possession of it. These persons claimed under titles from Lord Baltimore, and the Welsh had some trouble in dispossessing them. One of them had planted a peach orchard upon Iron Hill, and, as was very natural, he was loth to leave his home. The Welsh threatened to put some of these people in New Castle jail, and owing to causes heretofore mentioned, Lord Baltimore was unable to aid them in maintaining their rights, and the Welsh appear to have had an easy victory.

Why the Welsh located where they did has long been a mystery, for much of the land is too swampy now to be of any use for any purpose, and it must have been much worse a hundred and ten years ago. But probably the land in Welsh tract was better than the land in Wales, and very likely some inducements were offered the Welsh of which we are ignorant.

Prominent among the original settlers upon the Welsh Tract were the founders of the old Baptist Church upon Iron Hill, which was founded one hundred and seventy-seven years ago by residents of Pembroke and Carmarthenshire, South Wales.

The original entry in the church record is as follows: "In the year 1701 some of us who were members of the churches of Jesus Christ in the counties of Pembroke and Carmarthenshire, South Wales, in Great Britain, professing believers baptism, laying on of hands, election, and final perseverance in grace, were moved and encouraged to come to these parts, viz., Pennsylvania, and after obtaining leave of the church, it seemed good to the Lord and to us, that we should be formed into church order, as we were a sufficient number and as one of us, Thomas Griffith, was a minister," which

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was accomplished, and they brought letters commendatory with them, so that if they met with any others of like faith, they might be received by them as brethren in Christ.

Among the names of this pioneer band of Baptists are those of Thomas Griffith, Enoch Morgan, Mary Johns, Margaret Matthias, and James David. In June, 1701, this little band of Christians sailed from Milford Haven in the ship James and Mary, and landed in Philadelphia the September following. After their arrival the old church record states they lived much scattered for about a year, but like good Christians they were not forgetful of the apostolic injunction, but kept up their weekly and monthly meetings. During this time their number was increased by the arrival of twenty-two other members, among whom are the names of Reese and Catharine Ryddarcks, Peter Chamberline, and Thomas Jones, all of whom, except the first, have left descendants who yet reside within the bounds of this ancient congregation.

Reese Ryddarcks lies buried in the old church-yard belonging to the church on Iron Hill. Tradition saith he was an officer and served in Cromwell's army during the troublesome times that preceded the trial and execution of Charles I. A modest and unassuming tombstone marks the last resting-place of the hero of many battles, who sleeps his last sleep on the northern slope of the Iron Hill, near which the murmuring waters of the Christiana have sung his requiem for more than a century and three quarters. He seems to have been a man of distinction, for his tombstone has on it a Latin inscription, the only Latin one in the graveyard. It is as follows:

RICEUS RYTHROUGH  
NATUS, APUD. FFANWENOG  
IN. COMITATU CARDIGAN  
ET HIC SEPULKUS FUIT  
AN. DOM. 1707  
ÆTATIS FUSE 87.

of which the following is a translation: "Reese Ryddarcks, born at Hanwenog, in the county of Cardigan, and was buried in the year A. D. 1707, being 87 years of age."

This church was the third Baptist church founded in America. The present meeting-house was built in 1747, and is yet in a good state of preservation. It is said that the floor and ceiling joists of this building were taken from the first house, which was a log structure and stood near the site of the present house. The bricks used in the construction of this old house were imported from England, and transported from New Castle, where they were landed, in panniers upon mules. The difficulty of obtaining bricks probably caused the adoption of the peculiar style of architecture that prevailed at this time in this country. The gables of this and some other old churches stop short of the height of the apex of the roof, a small part of which is pitched so as to throw the water falling upon it towards the end instead of the side of the building. This peculiarity gives the buildings a curious and unique appearance. Many of the original settlers on the southern part of Welsh Tract were Presbyterians, whose religious opinions and doctrine differed but little, except in the ordinance of baptism, from that of their countrymen who settled on the northern part of it. These Presbyterians were the founders of the Pencader Presbyterian Church at Glasgow, which in organization is probably nearly as old as the Baptist church at Iron Hill.

David Evans and William Davis, two of the persons who acted as agents in procuring the grant of the Welsh Tract from Penn, are believed to have been Presbyterians. At what time they erected their first house of worship is not known. The Welsh did not remain long at Radnor, where they first stopped, but some of them soon afterwards located at Trediffrein, in the great valley of Chester County, about the same time that others of them settled upon the Welsh Tract.

The Rev. David Evans was the first pastor of the Pen-

ceder Presbyterian Church. He was a native of Wales, and a son of the David Evans before referred to. He commenced preaching without license or authority, but was promptly stopped by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, in whose jurisdiction the Pencader Church then was, which ordered him to cease preaching for one year and devote himself to study under the direction of one of the ministers of that body. He obeyed their order and went to Yale College, where he was graduated in 1713. He was licensed the next year, and had charge of the united congregations of Pencader and Trediffrein until 1720. It seems strange, now when churches are so near together, that two churches so far apart should be in the charge of the same pastor. But the pioneers of Presbyterianism were men that delighted in missionary labor, and were prepared to make any sacrifice or undergo any hardship in order to preach the gospel to those who then resided in the wilderness. It is said of some of them that they spent one-fourth of their time in work of this kind. They were eminently devoted and pious men, who, with a zeal and energy not unlike his who heralded the coming of our Saviour in the wilderness of Judea, were ever ready to spend their strength in their Master's service. To have offered them a vacation would have been to have offered them an insult. They fully recognized the fact that the warfare in which they were engaged would admit of no truce and would only end when their Captain called them to go up higher; hence it was not strange that the Welsh preacher, who probably was the only Presbyterian preacher in the colonies that spoke the Welsh language, should have charge of two churches fifty miles apart, and that he endured the hardships and labor incident to the faithful performance of his duty. David Evans was a man of much learning and ability, though eccentric and high-spirited. He was the first stated clerk of the Presbytery of New Castle, and was pastor of the Pencader and Trediffrein churches for about six years. His successor was the Rev.

Thomas Evans, who was a native of Wales and a relative of the first pastor. His pastorate extended over a period of about twenty years, until his death, which occurred in 1742. He was an excellent scholar and had an academy at Pencader. Near the close of his pastorate the Pencader Church was rent in twain by the controversy that grew out of the preaching of Whitefield. This division in the church led to the organization of the Presbyterian church at the Head of Elk, now Elkton. The gospel was preached in the Welsh language to the Pencader congregation till 1776. The same language is said to have been used for nearly a quarter of a century later in the Baptist church.

This brief sketch of Welsh Tract would be incomplete without a short reference to Rev. Samuel Davies, who was born there on November 3d, 1723. He received his classical education under the tuition of Rev. Able Morgan, a Welsh Baptist minister, who had received his education from Rev. Thomas Evans, at the academy at Pencader. He was of Welsh extraction, became President of Princeton College, and was one of the most learned and eloquent divines of the times in which he lived. He was the pioneer who planted Presbyterianism in Virginia, and was sent, at the request of the Synod of New York, to Europe to solicit contributions in aid of Princeton College. He was a true patriot, and like all the early Presbyterian divines, he was always found on the side of civil and religious liberty.

Pencader, which name is now applied to one of the Hundreds in New Castle County, is a Welsh name, and is said to mean "the highest seat." If that is the meaning of the word, it was probably applied to the Hundred because Iron Hill, which is so high as to have been called by the early Welsh settlers "a great and high mountain," is in the northern part of it.

Iron Hill is so called from the large quantities of iron ore which it contains, and it is not improbable that the first settlers were induced to locate on the Welsh Tract that they

Rev. Samuel Davies

might be near this deposit of useful metal. They had a furnace and forge in operation on the Christiana Creek, near the mine, about 1725. Abundant evidence is yet extant to show that their method of mining differed from that now in vogue, in this, that they sunk a shaft till they struck a vein of the ore, and then followed it for long distances, many feet under the earth's surface.

A few years ago the miners employed in the ore pit on Iron Hill, came upon one of the galleries made by the Welsh miners, and discovered a rude shovel and pick and a small tallow candle, the wick of which was made of flaxen yarn. The candle, though probably a century old, was in a good state of preservation, but the shovel and pick were so badly rusted that the former could be readily picked to pieces with the thumb and finger.

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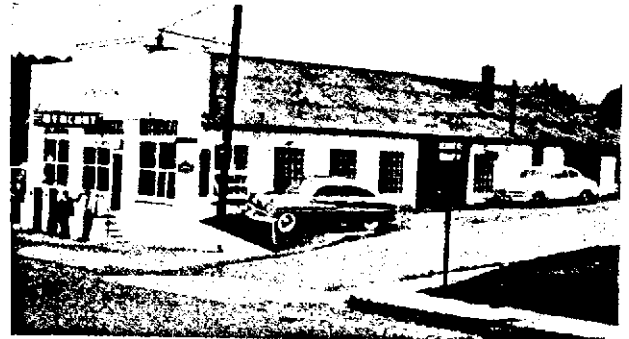
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RANDALIA

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The Smaller Part of Randalia Was Built in 1690, the Middle Section about 1790. The remaining sections were added by the present owners (Mr. and Mrs. Steele Howard) who are of the eleventh descendant of Augustine Hermann. Randalia was a part of Bohemia Manor consisting of 1,000 acres, (Read Johnston's, Page 185, for the Dividing of the Manor.)

## CHAPTER XII.

Characteristics of the early settlers—Augustine Hermen succeeded by his son Casparus—Account of Casparus Hermen—Farms on Bohemia Manor—Death of Casparus Hermen—Succeeded by his son Ephraim Augustine—Sketch of Ephraim Augustine Hermen—His wives and children—John Lawson marries Mary Hermen—Peter Bouchell marries Catharine Hermen—Peter Lawson—Catharine (Hermen) Bouchell—Her death—Joseph Ensor—Quarrel about the possession of Bohemia Manor—Joseph Ensor, Jr.—Division of Bohemia Manor—Death of Peter Lawson.

It is worthy of note that, although several of the centres of civilization in Cecil County were settled two centuries ago, the manners, customs and religion of the original settlers have been transmitted from generation to generation of their descendants; and although not as distinctly marked now as they were at first, still they are yet easily distinguished and readily noticed by the close observer.

Augustine Hermen and George Talbot differed in many respects from each other, but they were not more different than those who now live upon their respective manors. The Bohemian and the Hollander; the Irish Catholic; the English Episcopalian; the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian; and the meek and unassuming Quaker, have each left the well-defined impression of their nationality and religion upon that part of the county where they settled. With few exceptions, wherever a church was planted by the early settlers, one of the same denomination yet exists. The old Catholic Church in Sassafras Neck, which is called Bohemia, though it is some miles south of Bohemia River, the Episcopal churches of St. Stephen and St. Mary Ann, and the Nottingham and Rock Presbyterian churches, are notable examples in proof of the truth of this assertion. The early extinction

of the Labadists is an exception; but they were more mercenary than religious, and their community, like most systems of religion which have been founded upon a false basis, having had nothing but the cupidity of its devotees to hold it together, soon disintegrated and fell to pieces. It is also worthy of note that many of the leading families of the county at the present time can trace their connection back to the leading families of two hundred years ago. This is especially the case with the descendants of Hermen, many of whom have occupied positions of honor and responsibility.

It would be neither interesting nor profitable to give the exact date of the smaller grants of land in the county. It suffices to state that with the exception of a few tracts along the Sassafras River and the Elk Neck, which were taken up about the time that Augustine Hermen settled upon Bohemia Manor, the other portions of the county were not extensively settled until after the beginning of the seventeenth century. Probably nearly all of the land in the county had been patented previous to 1750, though much of it still remained uncultivated.

The reader's attention is now directed to the conclusion of the history of Bohemia Manor. The time of the death of Augustine Hermen, as before stated, is unknown, but it probably occurred in 1686. His oldest son, Ephraim George, survived him only a short time, when the vast estate which his father had been at such pains to acquire passed into the possession of his second son Casparus, who, in accordance with the will of his father, assumed the name of Augustine. He took possession of the Manor house on the 3d day of June, 1690, but did not long enjoy the honor of being Lord of Bohemia Manor. A law enacted in 1697 by the colonial legislature, empowering his widow Catharine to dispose of some of his real estate, shows that he died about that time. It is probable that there was some contention about the occupation of the Manor house, for there may be seen among

the papers in the Hermen portfolio in possession of the Historical Society of Maryland, a sheet of paper with this certificate upon it:

"Possession of the Manor house of Bohemia Manor delivered by Daniel O'Howry, the tenant in possession, to Casparus Hermen, the lawful and undoubted heir of Augustine Hermen, lately deceased, before us, this third day of June, 1690.

"WILLIAM DARE,  
"EDWARD JONES,  
"JOHN THOMPSON."

Immediately after this is the following entry on the same sheet:

"Quiet possession of the Manor house of Bohemia Manor accepted and received, this 3rd day of June, 1690.

"CASPARUS AUGUSTINE HERMEN.

"In presence of us—Wm. Dare, Edward Jones, John Thompson, clerk to the Commissioners of Cecil county."

The two first-named gentlemen were no doubt justices of the quorum, who with the clerk had been authorized to invest the new lord of the manor with the rights and franchises belonging to him. He represented this county in the legislature in 1694, and in the same year entered into a contract with the General Assembly for the erection of the parish church, school-house and State-house at Annapolis; the seat of government having been removed from St. Mary's to that place a short time before. He was thrice married; first to Susannah Huyberts, secondly in New York, August 23d, 1682, to Anna Reyniers, and thirdly in Cecil County, August 31st, 1696, to Catharine Williams. He left three daughters, Susanna, Augustina, and Catharine, and one son,

considerations mentioned in these leases, is that in the lease for the tract on which Port Hermen stands. It was executed in 1713, and the consideration was one ear of Indian corn, payable annually, if demanded in the month of November, and the further consideration that the lessee was to "keep two hunting hounds, that were to be part of the cry of hounds that the lord of the manor then kept." This was a low rent for 160 acres of land, but probably the tenant was expected to devote some of his time to the entertainment of his lordship, and it might have cost him more in time and trouble than at first sight is apparent.

Casparus Hermen died in 1797, and, as before stated, was succeeded by his son Ephraim Augustine, who was a minor at the time of his father's death, and who arrived at maturity about the year 1713. He seems to have been a man of business, and represented the county in the legislature in 1715, 1716, 1728 and 1731. He died in 1735. His personal property was appraised at £875, and consisted of a large amount of household goods and eighteen negro slaves. His manor plantation, consisting of 350 acres of land, is represented as being in a very bad condition. The house and out-buildings were in a dilapidated condition, the fences were down, and judging from the return of the appraisers, which is recorded among the land records of the county, it must have presented a forlorn and doleful appearance. The land was divided into four fields, and there was on it an orchard of about 450 old apple trees. The rental value placed upon it was only £10, Maryland currency, after the quit rent was paid. The disparity between the value of the personal and real estate is very notable, and it is more than likely that the proprietor of the Manor had neglected his estate while attending to the public business, and sacrificed his individual interest to the public good. The miserable condition of his plantation was probably owing to the existence of slavery and the baneful effect which invariably followed its introduction. He was twice married and left

Ephraim Augustine, to whom the manor descended by the terms of the deed of enfeoffment given to Ephraim George by his father shortly before his death, and which has been referred to before; and also by virtue of his grandfather's will, which entailed the Manor upon his descendants.

The land records of the county warrant us in believing that, at the time of Casparus' death, the Manor was but very sparsely settled, for up to 1733 seventy-five plantations had been sold or leased by the Hermens, most of which were disposed of by Ephraim Augustine, the grandson of the founder of the Manor. A few of these plantations were in Elk Neck and elsewhere, for Casparus was not exempt from the mania for the acquisition of land that almost always attacked the leading men of that time, and had acquired a thousand acres—part of St. John's Manor, which was located in the above named place, and another large tract between the Conowingo and Octoraro creeks, in the Eighth district. This tract was called the "Levles." It contained upwards of a thousand acres and included the farm of William Preston, which for that reason he calls "Hermendale." The legal papers of this period contain many allusions to hawking and hunting, fishing and fowling, wild cattle, etc. And the considerations in many of them refer to the customs of manors in England. These leases were made for three lives or during the lives of three persons then living, and the tenants were to demean themselves according to the manners and customs of tenants of manors in old England.

In 1715 one of these farms on the Manor was leased for 41 lbs. current money of Maryland, or value thereof in good, sound, bright tobacco, winter wheat, barley or Indian corn, at the current merchant price in Maryland. The rent was generally made payable at the Manor house in the month of November. In many cases a good fat capon or two dung-hill fowls were exacted of the tenant as part of the annual rent. One of the most curious and suggestive

two daughters, Mary and Catharine, by his first wife. The name of his first wife, and also the family name of his second wife, are unknown. The given name of his second wife was Araminta. The records of the county show that she was married at least four times: first to Hermen, secondly to Joseph Young, thirdly to William Alexander, and fourthly to George Catto. She is said to have been very aristocratic and haughty. She lived to a good old age and was buried in the lot a short distance southeast of the dwelling-house, near Elkton, now occupied by Daniel Bruton. By his second wife he had one son, who survived his father, but died before reaching maturity.

A paper in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society, but which has no date upon it, shows that E. A. Hermen sought to obtain the king's dissent to the act of the legislature of the colony confirming his grandfather's will. This will, to which reference has been made before, was properly proved and recorded, but some malicious person tore out the leaves of the book upon which it was written. A copy of the will being afterwards produced, it was legalized by an act of the colonial legislature and admitted to record. Ephraim's object probably was to acquire a fee simple title to the Manor, as he did to Little Bohemia, as Middle Neck was then called, in 1724, by an act of the legislature passed at his solicitation, and which broke the entail of that part of his grandfather's estate. There is reason to think that his motive was a mercenary one, but it probably would have saved his family much trouble had he succeeded in accomplishing his purpose, as the history of the disputed succession to the Manor will show. Mary, or Mary Augustine Hermen, as she is sometimes called, because she assumed the Christian name of her great-grandfather, was of very weak mind; indeed, if tradition is true, she was almost, if not altogether, an idiot. Now it so happened that a cunning and designing lawyer, one John Lawson, made the acquaintance of this idiotic girl and fell in love, not

with her, but with her fortune, and resolved to marry her that he might obtain it. In order to accomplish his purpose he sought every opportunity to be thrown in contact with the young lady, and was in the habit of taking her carriage-riding with him for long distances. Nor was this all, for upon these occasions, in order to secure the success of his well-laid scheme, he taught her to repeat, much like a parrot would have done, the proper answers to such questions as he believed a jury would ask her when empaneled to ascertain whether or not she was *compos mentis*. It is highly probable, indeed it is almost certain, that during this time she was under the care of her stepmother, Mrs. Alexander, who probably was not cognizant of Lawson's nefarious scheme to entrap her, and who, if she was, may have been gratified with the prospect of being relieved of the responsibility of taking care of her. Owing to the strenuous and persistent efforts of the designing Lawson, the young lady was so well instructed when the proper time arrived, which was probably when she reached maturity and was about to take possession of her share of the Manor, that she answered the questions propounded by the jury so intelligently that they pronounced her to be of sound mind, and she was legally invested with one-half of the rents and profits of the Manor. Lawson soon afterward sought another opportunity to take her out carriage-riding. During this ride he and the heiress were married, and the deep-laid scheme that put him in possession of one-half of the princely domain that Augustine Hermen obtained in order to perpetuate his name was successfully accomplished. This happened some time previous to the year 1751, for the records of the county show that in that year Peter Augustine Bouchell, who was of an ancient family that came to the Manor while the Labadists were in the heyday of their power and prosperity, and who had married Catharine Hermen, the sister of the simple-minded woman, and John Augustine Lawson, jointly leased several plantations on the Manor.

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These two persons, the reader will observe, both assumed the name of "Augustine," in accordance with the will of their wives' great-grandfather. Young Hermen, the half-brother of these ladies, being dead, they were, or were supposed to be, the sole and rightful heirs of the Manor, which then was divided into upwards of fifty plantations, most of which had been leased by former proprietors for long terms of years, for what now would be considered very low rents. These rents were generally made payable at the Manor house, semi-annually, at Christmas and Whitsuntide. All, or a large number of them, were payable in grain or tobacco, and frequently a pair of good fat capons or dung-hill fowls were added as part of the rent, so that the table of the lord of the Manor might be well supplied with poultry.

The widow of Ephraim A. Hermen (then Mrs. Catto) was living at this time and was in the enjoyment of her share of the income derived from the Manor. During the life of Catharine, her husband, Peter Bouchell, (as appears from a bill filed in the court of chancery, by Joseph Ensor, in 1760, a copy of which is in possession of the Maryland Historical Society), received the rents from the lessees of the Manor plantations, and kept the accounts incident to the business transactions between himself and the other heirs, whose agent he seems to have been, and the tenants.

John Lawson and Peter Bouchell and their wives were in the enjoyment of the Manor as joint tenants for several years, and no doubt had a fine time; but the designing Lawson was at length brought face to face with an enemy, in combating whom his legal knowledge and cunning availed him nothing. He seems to have done the best he could to secure the property he so meanly acquired to his brother Peter Lawson. This Peter Lawson had received a power of attorney from his brother John and wife in 1751, which empowered him to transact all business appertaining to their share of the Manor, and it is probable that he continued to be their attorney until the time of his brother's

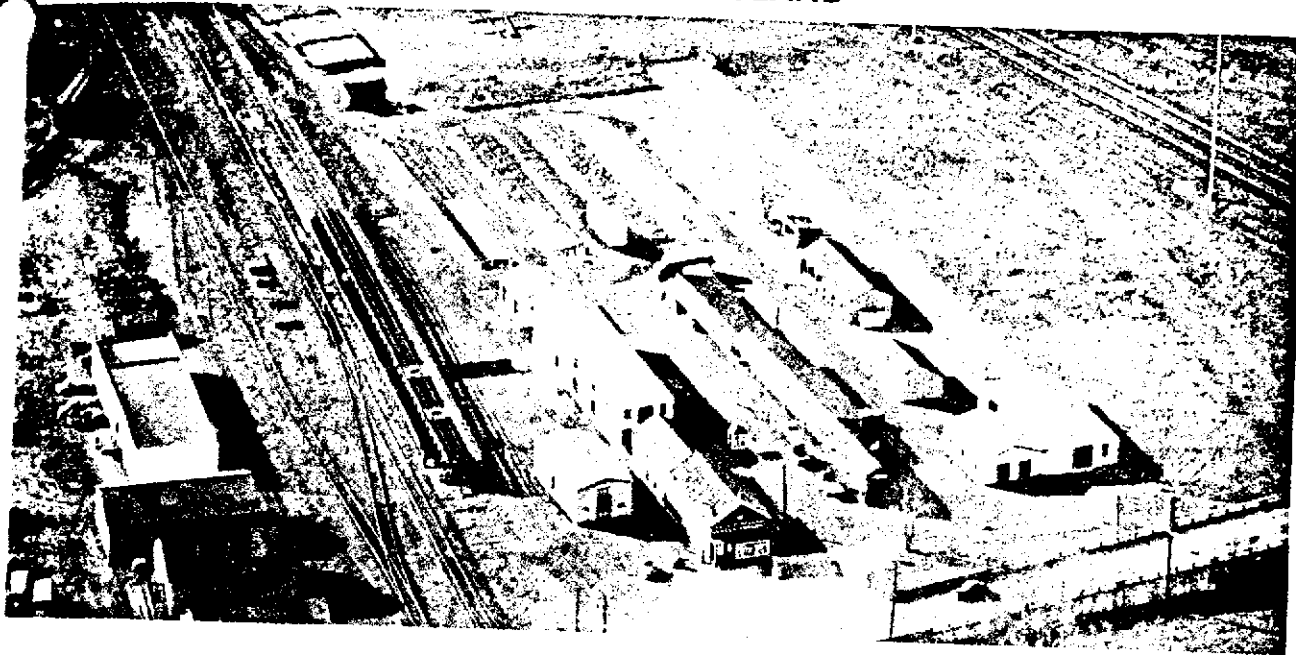
death. John Lawson's will is dated September 3d, 1755. It was admitted to probate on the 13th of the following October. He devised all his property, real and personal, to his brother Peter, and the records of the Orphan's Court show that his wife gave notice on the day his will was proved, that she would not abide by it, and that she demanded her third of the property, agreeable with the act of Assembly, from which it is inferred that her husband had presumed to dispose of her share of the Manor in his will. On the 4th of December, 1755, this simple-minded Mary Lawson leased her share of the Manor to the aforesaid Peter Lawson\* "for 21 years, or during the lives of Judith Bassett and Michael and Richard Bassett, her sons." This is the first reference in the records of the county to Richard Bassett, who became a distinguished lawyer, and was a member of the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States; afterwards a member of Congress and Governor of the State of Delaware. He was also a warm friend of Francis Asbury, and a leading and influential member of the Methodist church.

On the day following the date of this lease, the widow of John Lawson gave her brother-in-law, Peter Lawson, a special power of attorney to act for her in all business matters pertaining to the management of her share of the Manor. In this instrument she covenanted not to interfere with him in the management of her estate; from which it seems plain that she had unlimited confidence in him, or that she was certainly the simple-minded mortal that tradition states her to have been. At all events, Peter Lawson seems to have been as securely invested with one undivided half of the

\* Peter Lawson was never married; about fifty years previous to 1787 he went to live with the Bassetts, who were his relatives and who kept a tavern at Bohemia Ferry, and continued to reside with them for many years, until the time of Mrs. Bassett's death. For some reason Mr. Bassett deserted his wife, and Lawson seems to have acted as clerk in the tavern. See Cecil Co., Land Records, book 17, page 278.

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Manor as circumstances permitted him to be. He is described as "inn-holder" in the lease from Mary Lawson, which indicates that he had succeeded the Bassetts as proprietor of the tavern at Bohemia Ferry, which still continued to be a place of much importance. A short time after this, in 1760, Peter Bayard, who was probably inspector of tobacco, refused to repair the inspection house at the ferry, that place being one of the places designated for the inspection of that staple, which was then cultivated to a considerable extent upon the Manor and in that part of the county south of the Bohemia River.

Catharine Hermen, the reader will recollect, married Peter Bouchell. She died about the year 1752, leaving two daughters, Mary and Ann. Mary married Joseph Ensor in 1757; and Ann, being quite young, was raised in a bill filed in chancery to compel Joseph Ensor (who had been appointed her guardian in 1757) to pay her her share of the rents. This Mary Holland must have been the mother of Peter Bouchell, who had married a gentleman by the name of Holland.

Joseph Ensor was a member of the Ensor family who settled in Baltimore County very early in the history of the colony. At this time he was called Joseph Ensor, merchant, of Baltimore County. The family at one time owned a large tract of land just east of Jones' Falls, upon which part of the city of Baltimore has been built. Joseph Ensor is believed to have resided in North Elk Parish in 1760, for the birth of his eldest son, Augustine Hermen Ensor, may yet be seen upon the register of that parish, and was recorded in that year. In 1760 "he and his wife and Ann Bouchell, an infant of the said Joseph Ensor, her next friend," instituted a suit in chancery against Peter Lawson and Mary Lawson, alleging that they and John Lawson, for a long time had collected the rents of the Manor, as had also Peter Bouchell, and that Peter Bouchell had kept a book of memorandums

of the rents received from the said Manor and leased lands, and "which rents amounted to the sum of £1,000 or some other large sum of money, besides a very great number of dung-hill fowls received as rent on the said leases," and that the said Mary Lawson had actually felled, cut down, and carried away, off and from the Manor plantation sundry and great quantities of wood and timber, inasmuch that there is not left on that plantation any quantity of timber to support the same, nor fire-wood sufficient therefor for any number of years, etc.; praying that they might be compelled to make discovery of the book kept by Bouchell and of the rents since received, and be enjoined to desist from the waste of the timber, etc.; to which the defendant replied at the April term of court, 1761, that on the death of Ephraim, their half brother, Catharine and Mary had possession of the said Manor, claiming and taking the same in right and quality of joint tenants *in tail* in remainder, according to express words and stipulations of Augustine Hermen's will; that the two sisters continued to hold the Manor till the death of Catharine, when her husband Peter Bouchell, took his wife's part as tenant by courtesy, and continued to receive one half the rent during his life, and that no partition of the Manor had ever been made; that the joint tenancy continued to exist till the time of the death of Catharine, and that Mary was entitled to hold by right of survivorship, and that they were not obliged to make any discovery, etc. In other words, that Mary Lawson was the heir of her sister, Catharine Bouchell's part of the Manor.

As for the rents, arrearages and profits, the dung-hill fowls, etc., and the book of memorandums, they, the said defendants, demurred thereto, alleging that, inasmuch as the plaintiffs had no title to the Manor they were not responsible for those things, and furthermore that the plaintiffs had instituted three several suits at common law for the recovery of the rents, etc. The demurrer was not sustained, and the cause remained in court till the September term, 1763, when it was stricken off the docket.



In 1762 Ensor and wife suffered a recovery of all the Manor, the effect of which was to break the entail and give them a fee-simple title to the half of the Manor claimed by Mrs. Ensor under the will of her great-great-grandfather. Mrs. Lawson, who was no doubt instigated by her brother-in-law, Peter Lawson, some time afterwards, probably in 1765, resorted to the same legal proceeding, with a like result as to her share of the Manor. It is worthy of remark that Samuel Faca, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, once resorted to this legal fiction or process in order to effect a recovery, and by that means became invested with a fee-simple in that part of the Manor known as Town Point. Mary Lawson had resorted to the same proceeding in 1760, but Ensor resisted her in the provincial court, where the proceedings were had, and the court, after a full hearing of the witnesses on both sides, was unanimously of the opinion that she was not capable of "suffering a recovery, by reason of her insanity of mind." However, in 1766 she gave Michael and Richard Bassett a deed for a thousand acres of land each for the small consideration of "five shillings, and on account of the love and natural affection she bore toward the said Michael and Richard Bassett, the sons of her loving cousin, Judith Bassett." This fact indicates that Judith Bassett was a descendant of Judith Hermen, the second daughter of the founder of the Manor. On the 9th of December, 1766, she executed a deed in favor of Peter Lawson for her undivided half of the Manor, excepting the 2,000 acres which she had conveyed to her cousins the Bassetts. The consideration named in this deed is five shillings and an annuity of £100 Maryland currency. One of the witnesses to this deed was George Catto, her stepmother's husband. This deed effectually accomplished what John Lawson's will had failed to do, and perfected that which the Lawsons had vainly tried for many years to accomplish, namely, the acquisition of Mary Lawson's share of Bohemia Manor.

The before-mentioned recoveries were made without any reference to the deed of enfeoffment given to Ephraim George Hermen, by the founder of the Manor, on the 9th of August, 1684; indeed it is stated in a legal opinion by Thomas Johnson, Jr., a distinguished lawyer of that day, which may be seen among the Hermen papers now in the possession of the Historical Society, that the said deed was not known to be in existence when the aforesaid transactions took place. The discovery of this deed put a new phase upon the matter; and Ensor, following the advice of Daniel Delaney, another eminent counselor, who was of the opinion that the descendants of Casparus Hermen's daughters were legally entitled to the Manor by virtue of the provision of this deed of enfeoffment, set to work to hunt them up and purchase their rights.

This view of the case makes it necessary to refer to the daughters of Casparus Hermen, who the reader will recollect was the grandfather of Ann Bouchell and Mary Lawson. This gentleman, as before stated, left three daughters, Susanna, Augustina and Catharine. The first named married James Creagear, the second Roger Larramore, the third Abel Van Burkelow. Each of them was dead at this time, but two of them had left heirs. The heirs of Susanna Gravenrod\* lived in New Castle, those of Catharine Van Burkelow in Virginia. But Joseph Ensor seems to have been a man of determination and he sought them out, and in order to make his claim to the Manor doubly sure, he purchased any right they had or were supposed to have in it. It is curious to observe the old English custom that still prevailed when these purchases were consummated. A large number of these heirs constituted Samuel Beedle, (Biddle) their attorney, to invest Ensor with possession of

\* The genealogy of the Gravenrods has not been ascertained, but they were evidently the descendants of one of the daughters of Casparus Hermen.

the Manor. And it is shown by papers in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society, that "Samuel Beedle attorney for Catharine Gravenrod, having taken possession and livery of all Bohemia Manor, or of some part thereof in the name of the whole, for Catharine Gravenrod, did deliver the same to Joseph Ensor, on the 27th day of February, 1767."

The Van Burkelows have been mentioned before, and it may be interesting to our readers to know that they were the descendants of Herman Van Burkelow, who lived with the Labadists in 1683, at which time he was twenty-one years of age. He was probably one of the original colony. The name has been applied to a small stream on the Manor now called Burkalow Creek. After Ensor purchased the rights of the heirs of Casparus Hermen, he, as was very natural, wished to get possession of all his lands. To this end he consulted his attorney, Daniel Delaney, and made the following statement: "Col. Peter Bayard and Dr. Bouchell were guardians to my wife and Ann Bouchell, her sister. After their father's decease, they kept the Manor plantation one year, and then divided it with Mrs. Lawson and Mrs. Catto, who had her dower in it." "Catto rented his wife's part to Lawson and kept it till Mrs. Catto's death, and now refuses to give up the half of her part to me, and has, ever since he had her part, stopped up the road to the Manor house. I want to know how I shall get possession of that part that falls to us at Mrs. Catto's death and get the road opened," etc.

This was in 1766, and it seems to indicate that Mrs. Catto was dead at the time. Delaney recommended a resort to legal proceedings, in the prosecution of which Ensor was probably successful. In 1768 Joseph Ensor seems, after long continued litigation and much expense, to have been in the undisturbed possession of one undivided half of the Manor, for in that year he mortgaged it and some other land in Baltimore County, a part of which was called by the curious name of "Seed Ticks Plenty," to Charles Carroll, of

Carrollton, for the sum of £3,191. In 1774 he became afflicted with the mania that often prevailed in the early history of the county of building a town at Court House Point. But the land was heavily mortgaged, and no person would invest in town lots so encumbered. Ensor accordingly induced Carroll to release twenty-five acres at the aforesaid point for this purpose, and gave him his bond conditioned for the execution of a mortgage on the ground rents of the town lots, which were to be leased for ninety-nine years, renewable forever for a yearly rent of not less than forty shillings per acre.

This brings us to the troublesome time of the Revolution, when the people of this country were no doubt thinking more about defending the towns they already had than they were of building others, and Ensor met with no better success than his predecessors. Joseph Ensor and wife were the parents of at least three children, the oldest of whom bore the Christian name of Augustine Hermen, and was accidentally killed, while celebrating his twenty-first birthday, by being thrown from his horse while fox hunting, on January 28th, 1781. His other son, whose name was Joseph, was an idiot, with probably still less sense than his grand-aunt, Mary Hermen. He is said, by old residents of the Manor, whose parents were well acquainted with him, to have been very fond of dogs, and to have always been accompanied by several of them. He had a habit peculiar to many simple-minded persons of wandering about in an almost nude condition, without any definite object in view, and frequently slept in fodder houses, which were rude structures much in vogue in those days, built of poles and covered with corn fodder. Frequently in the mornings, after spending a night in one of these houses, he would awake, and finding the dogs had left him, in search of food, he would call them in stentorian tones and a curious nasal twang that could be heard for a long distance. Simple though he was, he knew that he was lord of the Manor, or at least the heir of one-

fourth of it, and it is said he would often draw a circle round him on the ground with his cane, and defy any person who disputed his right to the title to cross it. Joseph Ensor's other child, Mary, married Colonel Edward Oldham, who was an officer of great bravery and much distinction, and who served in the Continental army under General Greene, in the campaign in the Carolinas.

The time of Ensor's death is uncertain, but it occurred about the close of the Revolutionary war. He lived on the Manor for some years previous to his death, and was probably buried there. Peter Lawson is believed to have occupied the Manor house near Bohemia Ferry, as before stated, at the time of his death. In 1791 he sold one undivided third part of his share of the Manor to Richard Bassett and Dr. Joshua Clayton for £2,300. He had previously sold to Bassett a plantation on the Manor, containing 450 acres, for the small sum of twenty shillings. A slip of paper to be seen among the Hermen papers, in possession of the Maryland Historical Society, contains several memorandums, among which it is stated that he was at that time "deranged in his understandings," which is not strange, considering that the greater part of his life seems to have been spent in litigation.

Richard Bassett, the reader will recollect, had received a gift of one thousand acres of the Manor from Mary Lawson, which in addition to the portions purchased from Lawson, probably was equivalent in extent to the share of Mary Lawson.

About the close of the Revolutionary war Charles Carroll instituted legal proceedings to foreclose his mortgage upon Joseph Ensor's share of the Manor. But the Manor had never been divided, and Ensor, who was then dead, had during his lifetime continually resisted a partition of it. Part of it being in Delaware, it is easy to comprehend the difficulty of foreclosing a mortgage under such circumstances, but the legal talent of that day was equal to the emergency, and accordingly, in 1780, the legislature of Maryland passed

an act empowering the Court of Chancery to appoint two commissioners to act in conjunction with two others to be appointed by the Court of Chancery of Delaware (the legislature of which State passed a like act in 1790) to divide the Manor between Peter Lawson, Charles Carroll, Joseph Ensor, Esq., his guardian, and Edward Oldham, and Mary, his wife, whose approbation and consent to this method of settling the dispute had been obtained. Stephen Hyland and Tobias Rudolph were appointed by the court of Maryland and Isaac Grantliam and Robert Armstrong by the court of Delaware. These gentlemen caused the Manor to be accurately surveyed, and found that it contained about 20,000 acres. They divided it into four parts, two of which they assigned to Peter Lawson. One-fourth part they gave to Charles Carroll, and the other to Joseph Ensor and Edward and Mary Oldham, to be held by them in severalty, except the share of the Oldhams. These proceedings were ratified and confirmed by the courts of the respective States, and the litigation that had lasted for more than half a century was ended, as was also the legal existence of Bohemia Manor, that had continued for a period of one hundred and twenty-eight years. Charles Carroll sold his share in 1793, for £9,827 10s., to Joshua Clayton, Richard Bassett and Edward Oldham, who were then in possession. It contained 3,081 acres and was bounded on the north by Back Creek and embraced a portion or all of that part of the Manor that was in Delaware.

James A. Bayard afterwards married the only daughter of Richard Bassett, and in this way came into possession of that part of the Manor that his descendants still own.

Peter Lawson's will was proved in 1792. He claimed one-half of the Manor and devised the bulk of his estate to Richard Bassett, who was the executor of his will, and directed that he should "support and maintain Mrs. Mary A. Lawson with everything that is necessary during her natural life, or pay her or the person who may take and provide for her as above, the sum of £100 annually in gold or silver."

## CHAPTER XIII.

The Van Bibbers—They settle on Bohemia Manor—Their mill—John Jawert marries Casparus Hermen's widow—Keeps Elk Ferry—Wild stock—Rangeis—Collection of the King's revenue—Wild animals—Trade with England—Bill of lading—Slave trade—The Jesuit mission at Bohemia—The Cross Paths—James Heath, the founder of Warwick—Bohemia a port of entry—Ancient cross—Father Mansell—Peter Atwood and other Jesuits—The Jesuit school—Efforts to suppress the Jesuit mission—Labors of the Jesuit Fathers.

PROMINENT among the early settlers of Bohemia Manor were two brothers, Isaac and Matthias Van Bibber. Their father, Jacob Isaacs Van Bibber, was a Hollander, and was one of the first settlers of Germantown. His sons, the two brothers before mentioned, were natives of Holland, and were naturalized in Maryland in 1702. Previous to coming to Maryland they had been engaged in merchandizing at Philadelphia. In 1702 Mathias Van Bibber bought part of John Moll, Jr.'s land, which the reader will recollect was the easternmost of the four necks which comprised the Labadie Tract. Two years afterwards he bought another portion of the same tract, and in 1708 his brother Isaac bought 130 acres of it, which he and his wife Fronica sold to Matthias, in 1711, for £150, which, it is stated in the deed, had been expended in the erection of a mill then occupied by the said Isaac. This mill was located upon a branch of the Bohemia, called Mill Creek, on the site of what was formerly known as Sluyter's mill, every vestige of which has long since disappeared, even the land once covered by the dam now being cultivated. This is the first mill mentioned in the history of that part of the county. It was built a short time before the date of the deed.

Matthias Van Bibber appears to have been fond of the acquisition of land, for in 1714 he purchased St. Augustine Manor of Ephraim Augustine Hermen for £300. This Manor was directly east of Bohemia Manor and was separated from it by an old cart-road, which was known then and for many years afterwards as the "Old Choctank Road." It was originally an Indian path that led from the Choctank River along the dividing ridge between the two bays, probably far up into Pennsylvania, but was laid out and cleared from the head of St. George's Creek to the Chester River, twelve feet wide, for a cart-road, in 1682, by Casparus Hermen and Hugh Gregory, who were appointed for the purpose by the court. The road had been used so little that it was then overgrown with young timber and its location was doubtful, consequently the boundaries of the Manor were unknown. Van Bibber claimed that the road from the head of Elk to the head of Bohemia, which ran near the head of Back Creek, was the boundary between the two Manors. Whereupon Hermen obtained a commission from the court to ascertain the eastern boundary of Bohemia Manor, and in this way to settle the dispute. The commissioners, who were John Dowdall, Captain Benjamin Pearce, Francis Mauldin and William Dare, met in September, 1721, and after taking the testimony of several witnesses, fixed the location of the Choctank Road, and thus ended the dispute. The alienation fee claimed by the Proprietary of Maryland was paid when the sale of St. Augustine Manor was consummated, showing that it was then claimed as part of Maryland. Matthias Van Bibber also became the proprietor of Van Bibber's Forest, which was patented to him in 1720. This was a large tract of land in the Third district, near Mechanics' Valley, containing 850 acres. In addition to this he owned another tract, which is described in his will as his plantation at the head of Elk. It was located a short distance southeast of the mansion of Hon. J. A. J. Creswell. Matthias Van Bibber was for a long time chief justice of the