

THE RECORD



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Ronald G. Brown, President

Mary Ann Scott, Editor

The Historical Society of Charles County Fall Dinner & Meeting

Saturday, October 21, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

Maryland Veterans Museum | 11000 Crain Highway | Newburg, Maryland

Steuart C. Bowling will present:



SCHOOL HOUSE, La Plata, Md.

The Fate of the School Children of the La Plata Tornado of 1926

Menu

Hickory Smoked Chicken • Fried Catfish • Southern Fried Okra • Sweet Potato Souffle
Fire-Grilled Vegetable Medley • Sweet Corn Muffins • Banana Pudding

\$30.00 per person

Please r.s.v.p. to Carol Donohue by October 20, 2023
16401 Old Marshall Hall Road ~ Accokeek, MD 20607

Please make checks payable to: The Historical Society of Charles County

Life in Maryland in the 17th Century

(continued from May 2023)

by John S. Morris, III

John S. Morris, III, is the editor of the 2022 edition of *The Speak/e/s Family of Southern Maryland*. This extensive, well documented work includes the history of the ancestors and descendants of Speake family of St. Mary's and Charles Counties, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky. Published by the Speak/e/s Family Association, it includes 18 chapters, authored by various members of the Speak/e/s Family Association, including noted genealogist Joyce Candland, past president of the Historical Society. Both Joyce Candland and John Morris are members of the Friendship House Advisory Board and have family connections to the Dents and Grays of Friendship. Chapter 14, *Life in Maryland in the 17th Century*, will be featured in the next two editions of *The Record*.

Houses

Seventeenth century colonists lived on their home plantations which consisted of a modest house, gardens, orchards and other buildings needed to grow crops to feed their families and to sell to support their livelihood. The minimum farm size was about 50 acres when land for forest and pasture was included. If a man wanted to provide for more than one child, he would need more land. In 1659, the median holding in Maryland for ordinary planters was 300 acres.¹⁰⁷

Unlike New England, settlers in Maryland in the 17th century rarely had large houses.¹⁰⁸ In 1638, four years after the initial settlers landed in Maryland, all inhabitants still lived in "cottages." They were crude, one-story, wood framed enclosures with siding of split boards sometimes filled with a mixture of clay and twigs. At most, those structures had two rooms with a space above reached by a ladder. For the next hundred years, that was the typical home for a poor planter.¹⁰⁹ These houses were about the size of dependencies on Virginia's great plantations.¹¹⁰

Robert Cole, a modest planter who was never an indentured servant, only had a two-room house. One room was called the hall and the other room was the kitchen. Their house also had a loft. The parents and youngest children probably slept in the hall. Their other children would have slept in the loft over the hall. The kitchen would have been used for dairying and most food preparation other than cooking. There was one chimney, probably between the two rooms. Had he lived longer, Cole likely would have added a room to his house. Poor planters and likely most freemen who had been servants lived in one-room houses for most of the 17th century.¹¹¹

The very rich sometimes expanded by building a new house. Even then, the new house was relatively small and the old house likely became a separate kitchen or housing for servants.¹¹² In virtually all houses in Maryland in the 17th century, the entrances came directly into living and sleeping areas.¹¹³ It would be rare for any home in Maryland in the 17th century to have a room reserved solely for social intercourse.¹¹⁴ Small houses were not the result of lack of adequate building materials. Ample timber was available. The virgin woods of cedars, poplars, oaks, elms, ashes, chestnuts and walnuts seemed

inexhaustible. They were used for both building materials and fuel.¹¹⁵ Consequently, households put their capital into the labor needed to raise tobacco and to build their farm, not to construct a mansion.¹¹⁶

Food

While settlers in Maryland may have lived in small and sparse quarters, having sufficient food was not a problem. Unlike the early days in Virginia, the settlers in Maryland never suffered through a "starving time", even though famine in parts of England was still a problem until the middle of the 17th century.¹¹⁷ As stated before, dried Indian corn was the staple of the 17th century diet. Corn was eaten as bread. It was also boiled to make hominy or porridge. If it was mixed with peas or beans, it supplied adequate nutrients.¹¹⁸ Growing corn was considered so important that the Maryland legislature passed a law requiring that each farmhand working to plant and harvest tobacco had to also tend at least two acres of corn.¹¹⁹

Meat was also a basic element of the colonial Maryland diet. Planters generally used male cattle for meat. Cows were slaughtered once they were permanently barren. Hogs were killed when they were full grown. Most households also had ample supplies of food from wild animals.¹²⁰ Bears, elk, deer, wildcats, wolves and beavers, as well as small game such as foxes, squirrels and rabbits, were abundant. Cranes, ducks, geese and wild pigeons flew in large flocks. Wild turkey was available and terrapins, crabs and oysters were plentiful.¹²¹

Archaeologists have found the bones of deer, squirrels, rabbits, muskrats, turkeys, geese, ducks and various fish, as well as turtles, oysters and crabs. Before 1650, at several archeological sites, as much as 40 percent of the meat diet consisted of such game. Thereafter, domestic animals began to dominate more heavily. Nevertheless, in the 1660s there was still considerable reliance on hunting and fishing.¹²² The trash pits that have been excavated indicated that colonists of all social levels quickly learned to fish and trap.¹²³

Poultry and eggs were available, and fruits and vegetables would have been served in season. These included wild strawberries and raspberries in the spring and early summer and apples, peaches and perhaps pears in the late summer and fall. In addition, cabbages and

107 *Ibid.*, p. 24.

108 *Ibid.*, pp. 91-93.

109 Carr, Menard and Peddicord, *Maryland...at the beginning*, p. 27.

110 Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches and Anxious Patriarchs*, p. 264.

111 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole's World*, p. 93.

112 *Ibid.*, p. 93.

113 Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches and Anxious Patriarchs*, p. 262.

114 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole's World*, p. 93.

115 Carr, Menard and Peddicord, *Maryland...at the beginning*, p. 14.

116 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole's World*, p. 93.

117 *Ibid.*, p. 94.

118 *Ibid.*, p. 95.

119 Carr, Menard and Peddicord, *Maryland...at the beginning*, p. 24.

120 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole's World*, p. 95.

121 Carr, Menard and Peddicord, *Maryland...at the beginning*, p. 14.

122 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole's World*, p. 95.

123 *Ibid.*, p. 97.

root crops could be stored for winter in a root cellar under the hearth. Sweet potatoes, which were indigenous to the New World, were especially nutritious.¹²⁴ In addition to milk, which was probably not available year-round,¹²⁵ families or settlers would have drunk apple cider, peach “mobby”, pear “perry”, a little beer and, if necessary, spring water.¹²⁶

For small settlers, their family and servants probably ate the same food unless there were temporary shortages of meat, fruits or vegetables. When cattle was slaughtered, there was plenty for everyone. The market for selling it was limited and the family was not likely to have wasted the food, so probably all members of the household, servants included, would have shared in the bounty.¹²⁷

The very wealthy did not eat much differently than the small planters except that they consumed wines and other imported liquors which small planters could not afford. In addition, their servants likely ate separately and therefore probably did not eat as well.¹²⁸

After the earliest days of settlement, most white Chesapeake Bay area colonists, whether free or servant, probably ate better than their counterparts in England. By the time of the American Revolution, the American soldiers were taller than the British, French or German soldiers. That is likely the result of a long run improvement in the diet of the Europeans who settled in America.¹²⁹

Transportation

When Thomas of St. Mary’s arrived, roads were virtually nonexistent. The principal route of transportation was water. There were many rivers and creeks which provided convenient transportation of goods and services to the Chesapeake Bay. For tobacco to be profitable, easy access to navigable waterways was required because tobacco was too bulky and too delicate to travel well over land. The waterways also made it much easier to obtain manufactured goods and other products from England since ships could come up the waterways.¹³⁰ Also, ship captains would sometimes go up the waterways “selling” the servants they had brought across the ocean.¹³¹ The use of the waterways as roads and highways was so important that in 1656 Lord Baltimore placed limits on the amount of land that could be taken up along rivers and streams to keep the waterfront land available for newcomers.¹³²

Maryland did not pass its first road law until 1666. That law ordered county commissioners to make highways and paths passable for persons on horse and foot by 1668. Overseers were to be appointed in each county. Either tobacco or labor was to be assessed against county taxables.¹³³ Accordingly, building roads became another burden on the residents. However, it was not until 1704 that another law required roads to not only be passable, but also to be grubbed and cleared to a width of 20 feet, substantial bridges to be built where needed and trees along roads to be notched to indicate if the road led to a ferry, courthouse, church or particular town. Even in the 18th century, few roads in Maryland had improved surfaces of any kind.¹³⁴

Women and Marriage

Women faced difficult times in the New World in the 17th century. They faced the same “seasoning” issues as men, whether they arrived as servants or free.¹³⁵ Many of their experiences were similar to men’s experiences, but there were differences.

Because 85 percent of immigrants at that time arrived as indentured servants,¹³⁶ most of the women were subjected to great restrictions upon arrival. Although the consequences of many restrictions were more onerous for women than men, in certain circumstances they had it a bit easier. Their primary benefit was that significantly fewer women were required to work in the fields than men. Their jobs generally consisted of cooking, cleaning, weaving and mending.¹³⁷ As stated before, one of the common tasks for female servants was pounding and grinding corn so that it could be used to make bread.¹³⁸

Indentured servants were prohibited from marrying without the permission of their master.¹³⁹ The penalty for violating that restriction was generally one year’s extra service.¹⁴⁰ The rationale for this restriction was to “protect” the wealth of the master. In other words, the master would be deemed to be deprived of the value of his property when a servant, male or female, got married.¹⁴¹ To obtain the permission of her master, a servant woman likely had to find a husband who was willing and able to pay her master for the term of service she had left.¹⁴² As a result of the restriction, most immigrant women who were single when they arrived did not marry until their middle twenties.¹⁴³

Such late marriages reduced the number of children female servants could bear, particularly given the high mortality rates for both the mother and children. One partner to a 17th century marriage was likely to die within seven years. Only one in three marriages would last as long as ten years.¹⁴⁴

Twenty percent of the female servants who came to Charles County between 1685 and 1705 were charged in the county court with bearing a bastard.¹⁴⁵ Cases involving bastard children were fairly numerous. In nearly all instances, the women involved were servants. The father was also usually a servant.¹⁴⁶ The sin of having a bastard child generally involved a whipping, usually of twenty-one lashes. This was commonly applied to both the man and the woman.¹⁴⁷ Masters sometimes paid a fine for the female servant rather than having her subjected to the proscribed whipping.¹⁴⁸

The female servant was generally required to serve one or two extra years for having a child to compensate the master for the loss of her time while she had the child and for the expense to the master involved in bringing up the child.¹⁴⁹ When her master paid her fine to spare her the whipping, he was reimbursed by several months of extra service by the court. These penalties almost always exceeded the lost time the master could reasonable have suffered.¹⁵⁰ In addition, the woman might lose the child after it was weaned unless she had by then become free, which was unlikely if she was given an extra year

124 *Ibid.*, p. 96.

125 *Ibid.*, p. 95.

126 *Ibid.*, p. 96.

127 *Ibid.*, p. 97.

128 *Ibid.*, p. 97.

129 *Ibid.*, p. 97.

130 Carr, Menard and Peddicord, *Maryland...at the beginning*, p. 19.

131 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 222.

132 Carr, Menard and Peddicord, *Maryland...at the beginning*, pp. 19-20.

133 *Maryland Manual On-Line*, Department of Transportation, Origin.

134 *Ibid.*

135 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole’s World*, p. 17.

136 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 542.

137 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 259.

138 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 561.

139 *Ibid.*, p. 548; Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches and Anxious Patriarchs*, pp. 93 and 193; King, Arnold-

Lourie and Shaffer, *Pathways to History, Charles County Maryland, 1658-2008*, pp. 16-17; Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 271.

140 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 272.

141 Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches and Anxious Patriarchs*, pp. 93 and 193.

142 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 548.

143 Russell R. Menard, *Migrants, Servants and Slaves, Ashgate Valiorum, Aldershot, Great Britain, Burlington, Vermont (2001)*, Chapter V, p. 98; Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 551.

144 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 552.

145 *Ibid.*, pp. 547-548.

146 *Archives of Maryland On-line*, Volume LIII, Preface, p. 28.

147 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 270.

148 *Ibid.*, p. 271.

149 *Ibid.*, p. 271; Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 549.

150 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 271.

or two of servitude. The courts bound out bastard children at a very young age.¹⁵¹

Some of the women who would have otherwise become servants were lucky enough to be “acquired” by single freeman to be their wives, which took them out of their servant status.¹⁵² There were three men in the colony for every woman.¹⁵³ Therefore, a female servant had a good chance to be in demand as a marital partner to a free man, greatly increasing her chances of being “purchased” out of servitude.

When a woman completed a term of service and was freed, she was entitled to less than a man. A year’s supply of corn probably exceeded three barrels of corn, she was not entitled to receive land as a result of her service.¹⁵⁴ The one clear advantage women had was the ability to find a spouse once they were free. Because many more men than women immigrated into Maryland, a freed woman was virtually certain to find a husband.¹⁵⁵

Women were more restricted in their ability to travel because it was not safe or acceptable to be away from their homes unaccompanied. Therefore, they had less ability to socialize with other women and were more isolated than men.¹⁵⁶

Almost all women who lost their husbands remarried. Given the gender imbalance, they were always in demand. Furthermore, the difficulties of running a plantation and the physical demands of tobacco farming probably made marriage a necessity for any woman with no children or only young children. Out of 1,735 people who left probate estates in the southern Maryland counties between 1650 and 1700, only 60 were women, almost all of them widows. Most other women almost certainly died while married. Under Maryland law at the time, women were not deemed to own property if they were married; their husbands owned it.¹⁵⁷ Needless to say, women had fewer rights than men.

Divorce was available to a married couple in Maryland during the 17th century. Both parties were required to appear in court and agree upon the terms of separation that were satisfactory to both the court and to themselves.¹⁵⁸

Women had an advantage over men in the event of the death of a spouse. Two-thirds of the surviving partners remarried within one year. However, widows were three times more likely to remarry than widowers,¹⁵⁹ almost certainly because of the vastly larger supply of men than women.

These rules on marriage did not apply to daughters of immigrants. Because they were born in the colony, they were never servants. Therefore, they had no restrictions on marriage. The average age of marriage for girls who were born in another Maryland county before 1670 was 16 ½ years.¹⁶⁰ For the same reason, native born girls started childbearing sooner than immigrant women and had more children.¹⁶¹

Children

Children born in 17th century Maryland fared much better than child immigrants. Because of their natural immunities at birth, they never had to go through the “seasoning” process.¹⁶² As a result, native born boys who reached the age of twenty were on average in their late forties or early fifties at death, whereas immigrants who were twenty on arrival and survived “seasoning” usually died in their early forties.¹⁶³ Of course, native born children still faced the normal mortality issues faced by other children. One third of the children died during their first year and more than half before their twenty-first birthday.¹⁶⁴ Nevertheless, the ability to avoid the “seasoning” is likely an additional reason that native born women had more children than immigrant women.

Children became seriously disadvantaged when they lost their parents. Because of the tendency for immigrants to come alone, few children who lost parents had kin to protect them.¹⁶⁵

When a child lost a father, the administrator of the father’s estate assumed responsibility for managing the estate.¹⁶⁶ The administrator would decide what and how much to pay for the care and benefit of the children. There was no benefit to the administrator paying for the needs of the children. Furthermore, the administrator was responsible for managing the farm, but without the incentives that an owner would have. The administrator ran a risk if he allowed the value of the farm to diminish. Therefore, the administrator’s incentive was most likely to avoid risk. Instead, the less risky choice would be to sacrifice income and growth for security and stability.¹⁶⁷ The administrator was also likely to maintain the household at a lower standard of comfort than a father and owner would have.¹⁶⁸ Additionally, the bereaved children would probably have to perform some labor that ordinarily would be done by servants.¹⁶⁹ Nevertheless, the courts never removed the children from their homes if their mother was living, except to apprentice them at their mother’s request.¹⁷⁰

Children of immigrants were generally taught to read at home.¹⁷¹ However, an orphan was much more likely to be required to obtain his or her education through an apprenticeship.¹⁷²

Orphan’s Courts were created in Maryland to make sure orphans were treated fairly even though there was no such institution as an Orphan’s Court in England.¹⁷³ That is an indication of how precarious being an orphan in 17th century Maryland was for a child who lost his or her parents.

Native Americans

Most immigrants into Maryland had frequent dealings with the Native Americans. Lord Baltimore wanted to avoid expensive wars and struggles with the native population and instructed settlers from the outset to make every effort to cooperate with them.¹⁷⁴ For that reason, Leonard Calvert chose a site for the first settlement in deference to the perceived wishes of the Native Americans. In addition, he created considerable distance between the English settlements and the Piscataway tribes further north along the Potomac

151 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 549.
152 Murphy, *Origins of Colonial Chesapeake Indentured Servants: American and English Sources*, p. 7; Menard, *Migrants, Servants and Slaves*, p. 97 (citing Mildred Campbell, “Social Origins of Some Early Americans,” in *Seventeenth Century America*, ed. Smith, pp. 73-74 and Roger Thompson, *Women in Stuart England and America: A Comparative Study*, London (1974), pp. 23-24.
153 Menard, *Migrants, Servants and Slaves*, pp. 95-96.
154 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 240.
155 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 550.
156 Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches and Anxious Patriarchs*, pp. 277-282.
157 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 560.
158 *Archives of Maryland On-line*, Volume LIII, Preface p. 34.
159 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 560.
160 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 201; Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 564.
161 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 201; Carr and

Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 565.
162 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole’s World*, p. 18.
163 Menard, *Migrants, Servants and Slaves*, p. 99.
164 Lee, *The Price of Nationhood*, p. 16.
165 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole’s World*, p. 18.
166 *Ibid.*, pp. 31 and 43-44.
167 *Ibid.*, p. 87.
168 *Ibid.*, p. 108.
169 *Ibid.*, p. 109.
170 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 559.
171 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole’s World*, p. 148.
172 *Ibid.*, p. 149.
173 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter’s Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 560.
174 King, Arnold-Lourie and Shaffer, *Pathways to History: Charles County Maryland, 1658-2008*, pp. 20 and 37.

River. Because of these efforts, even though the native tribes and the English immigrants regularly interacted, they were separated by enough distance to minimize the chances of conflict.¹⁷⁵

Because of the peaceful relationship, trade flourished between the local tribes and the English immigrants. Archaeological evidence establishes that there was substantial trade between the settlers and the native population. The native population continued to make and use its customary tools and pots and eat their traditional foods, yet they incorporated materials of European or English manufacture into their established practices.¹⁷⁶

By the time Thomas came to Maryland in the late 1650s, the pressure of English settlers' desire for access to more land began to strain the peaceful relationship.¹⁷⁷ As a result, there were some "Indian wars" in the 1660s.¹⁷⁸ To prevent further violence, Articles of Peace and Amity were developed in 1666 between the English settlers and twelve Native American tribes, including the Piscataway and the Mattawoman. Like so many other treaties with the native population, the settlers agreed that the Native Americans would not be forced to leave the places set aside for them without their consent. The areas set aside for the native populations were most likely in the area north of the Wicomico River and Zekiah Swamp,¹⁷⁹ which had become part of Charles County.¹⁸⁰

The peace did not last very long. Before the end of the century, the pressure from land hungry settlers to move into the land of the Piscataway tribe continued to increase. Conflicts between the settlers and the Native Americans likewise increased. At the same time, the Piscataway tribe was under pressure from hostile tribes to the north and west. As a result, most of the Piscataway moved in 1697 to Northern Virginia.¹⁸¹

Slavery

The enslavement of African immigrants was in its infancy in Maryland when Thomas of St. Mary's arrived. Unlike most English immigrants, the Africans did not come voluntarily. They only began to arrive in the Charles County area in the late 1650s or 1660s. In the 1670s and 1680s, they comprised only about two to three percent of the total population.¹⁸² They were brought to the county for the same reason as most indentured servants: to provide the labor for tobacco cultivation.

Some of the Africans arrived as indentured servants and were treated as such. However, most of their rights were taken away from them very quickly.¹⁸³ In 1664, slavery was sanctioned by law, permanently enslaving the African population and their offspring for life.¹⁸⁴ In the 1690s and early 18th century, the number of enslaved persons increased dramatically as a percentage of the population. That was coupled with the decline in the number of indentured servants coming into Maryland, as Maryland transitioned into a slave-based economy.¹⁸⁵

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy was not good in Maryland in the 17th century, particularly for those who were immigrants. As stated earlier, all immigrants, whether free or in servitude, entered an environment to which they had not previously been exposed. Maryland has a hotter and more humid climate than England.¹⁸⁶ In addition, Maryland had a different disease environment than England and the immigrants had never built up an immunity to these diseases. Malaria, dysentery and typhoid claimed numerous lives among the immigrants. Unfortunately, no method of measuring deaths during the "seasoning" has been discovered.¹⁸⁷ Many who managed to survive were left weakened and often chronically ill.¹⁸⁸ Those who were so weakened had an increased vulnerability to death from other ailments.¹⁸⁹ The "seasoning" process typically took about one year.¹⁹⁰

Even those who survived the "seasoning" did not have a long-life expectancy, whether freemen or servants. The average age of death for male immigrants was between 42 and 46 years old.¹⁹¹ These statistics do not include men who died of the "seasoning".¹⁹² Seventeen percent of the immigrant men who reached the age of 22 died before reaching age thirty, forty-one percent before age forty and seventy percent before the age of 50.¹⁹³ Women probably had shorter lives.¹⁹⁴ Women faced a special hazard because pregnant women were particularly vulnerable to malaria, likely leading to the exceptionally high death rate among young women. However, a woman who reached 50 years of age was likely to outlive a similarly aged man.¹⁹⁵

As a result, a man who immigrated in his early 20s could only expect to live about 20 more years. Robert Cole, who came as a freeman, and his wife both died within 11 years of immigrating into Maryland.¹⁹⁶ Because of these high death rates, Maryland did not grow by natural increase, that is, by more births than immigrants, until the first decade of the 18th century.¹⁹⁷

Conclusion

Thomas of St. Mary's arrived in Maryland in the mid-17th century to a land of great hardship, but also great opportunities. Indentured servants like Thomas had the chance to own land and the means to grow tobacco. A servant who lived long enough could join the ranks of small landowning planters. Such planters could accumulate additional property and wealth and create a comfortable life. This provided the opportunity to start a family and become a respected citizen and leader in the community. Thomas took advantage of that opportunity.

175 *Ibid.*, p. 19.

176 *Ibid.*, p. 19.

177 *Ibid.*, p. 19.

178 *Archives of Maryland On-line*, Volume LIII, Preface p. 47.

179 King, Arnold-Lourie and Shaffer, *Pathways to History, Charles County Maryland, 1658-2008*, p. 19.

180 Klapthor and Brown, *The History of Charles County, Maryland*, p. 9.

181 King, Arnold-Lourie and Shaffer, *Pathways to History, Charles County Maryland, 1658-2008*, p. 21.

182 *Ibid.*, pp. 21 and 23.

183 *Ibid.*, p. 23.

184 *Maryland Manual On-Line*, Maryland at a Glance, Historical Chronology, 1600-1699.

185 King, Arnold-Lourie and Shaffer, *Pathways to History, Charles County Maryland, 1658-2008*, p. 23.

186 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 254.

187 Menard, *Migrants, Servants and Slaves*, p. 93.

188 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole's World*, p. 17.

189 King, Arnold-Lourie and Shaffer, *Pathways to History, Charles County Maryland, 1658-2008*, p. 14.

190 Smith, *Colonists in Bondage, White Servitude and Convict Labor in America 1607-1776*, p. 254.

191 King, Arnold-Lourie and Shaffer, *Pathways to History, Charles County Maryland, 1658-2008*, p. 14.

192 *Ibid.*, p. 14.

193 Menard, *Migrants, Servants and Slaves*, p. 93; Carr and Walsh, *The Planter's Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 542.

194 Carr and Walsh, *The Planter's Wife: The Experience of White Women in 17th Century America*, p. 542.

195 *Ibid.*, p. 554.

196 Carr, Menard and Walsh, *Robert Cole's World*, p. 18.

197 Menard, *Migrants, Servants and Slaves*, p. 97.

Working to Finish Historic Rich Hill

We are finally heading into the home stretch with the rehabilitation of Historic Rich Hill. SE Davis construction will be finishing up their part in the next few months, then we will be able to get into the house to install an alarm system, add electrical outlets, complete millwork, put up drywall, and finally paint, all funded with a matching grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. However, the monies from the state have run out and we are faced with raising more funds for the items attached. Flooring for the entire first floor is now necessary as this was rotten in its entirety and had to be removed. This is our next priority as well as exterior shutters for the house.

This appeal to you is to help us fund these last items so that we can finally open Rich Hill. We are so very excited to do that. Since 2016, the Historical Society through the Friends of Rich Hill have been working hard to establish the furnishings and exhibits completed, and now, we are ready to showcase this historic venue.

In the future, one of our major goals is to reconstruct a replica of the original front porch. We have received a bid for this, as well as a bid to replicate the two right-wing rooms that were originally in place in 1865. This wing would serve as our visitor center and restrooms.

Since we know Samuel Cox raised award winning horses at Rich Hill, and was famous for his horse, "Grey Metlock," we have purchased five unique pieces of art in this regard. All the paintings need restoration and we have contacted Claire Gerhard, Smithsonian Institute, retired, to complete this project.

The descendants of the Gray Family of Friendship House are donating an authentic c1855 piano that has been in their

family for many years. They have already raised the funds for the restoration of the piano, but funding for the move from Friendship Farm to Schoenbauer's in Charlotte Hall (for the restoration), and then the final move to Rich Hill has not been raised.

Your contribution will help realize our goals to open this historic site and preserve the history of Rich Hill. The timeless story reflects the story of all of us and will continue to enrich and enlighten us for generations. As the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit, your contributions are tax-deductible. Any amount of a donation, big or small, will be greatly appreciated. We are constantly pursuing other grants and sources as well, and if you know of any opportunities, please let us know!

Please make checks payable to: The Historical Society of Charles County, Inc or use this link to contribute to our PayPal account.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=T999PPXQVDBHW

Your support and help throughout this journey have been what has sustained us to keep pushing ahead to realize our goal. With our gratefully thanks and appreciation,

Sincerely,

The Friends of Rich Hill Steering Committee





Friends of Rich Hill

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Direct Descendants of

Dr. Gustavus Brown

Frank R. Brown, III

Frank R. Brown, IV

Nancy Burch

Nelse L. Greenway

Karl Hense

Sue Hodes

Direct Descendants of

Samuel Cox, Jr.

Kate Neale Cooper

Lucy Neale Duke

Lanny Hilgar

Ellen McGaughey

Ann Neale

James F. Neale

James F. Neale, III

Joan M. Neale

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Charles County
Antique Arts Association

Charles County Archaeological Society

Charles County Garden Club

Charles County
Historic Preservation Commission

Dr. Samuel Mudd Society

General Society of Colonial Wars

Lady Jane Sewell Chapter,
Colonial Dames of the XVII Century

Maryland Veterans Museum
at Patriots Park

Port Tobacco Chapter, Daughters of
the American Revolution

Society of Colonial Wars
in the State of Maryland

Southern Maryland
Civil War Roundtable

St. Mary's County
Historical Society

Surratt Society

The Society for the
Restoration of Port Tobacco

Thomas Stone Chapter,
Sons of the American Revolution

Wallace Bowling Camp,
Sons of Confederate Veterans

A Few of the Many Exhibits Waiting for You at Historic Rich Hill

Freedom

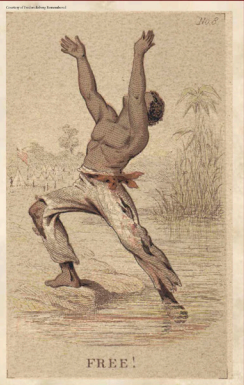
While we may never know the exact nature of the relationships between masters and slaves across generations, evidence suggests there were periods of strife and brutality experienced by some of the enslaved men and women at Rich Hill. Notably, both Colonel Samuel Cox and Reverend Richard Brown were accused of abuses against their slaves. Of the many owners of Rich Hill, only Reverend Richard Brown chose to free his slaves in his will. The names of these slaves are listed below.



Neptune, 43
Hannah, 40
Jude, 19
Easter, 16
Caty, 13
Beck, 4
Henny, 6
Dick, 25
Poleys Liverpoole, 24

Tom, 35
Lett, 40
Silvey, 12
Milley, 3
Abigail, 2
Charles, 45
Milley, 40
Molly, 16
Harry, 10

Documented from:
Reverend Richard Brown, Last Will & Testament,
probated 26 October 1789, Charles County Wills,
1788-1791, A1, 195.



A Native Son

Henry Gerard Robertson was born about 1842 in Charles County, the son of John Richard Robertson and his second wife Rebecca (Cox) Robertson, sister of Samuel Cox. His brother was John Samuel Robertson, later adopted by Samuel Cox, Jr.

Henry G. Robertson enlisted August 27, 1862, in Company B, 2nd Maryland Infantry of the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War.



Henry Gerard Robertson: A Brother Lost

Statement of Samuel Cox, Jr.
I had just returned from Charlotte Hall School to go with Pa on the following Monday to Peter's who had been wounded through the right shoulder in the battle of Hatcher's Run on the 29th of September.

The Enslaved African-Americans of Rich Hill...

1762

Sambow, 55

Sam, 50

Levipole, 40

Harry, 18

Comber, 50

Sarah, 65

Allen

Nan, 48

Carrall, 10

Man, 7

Nead, 5

John, 24

Will, 10

Will, 10

Will, 10

Will, 10

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Will, 10

Will, 10

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Will, 10

Mary Swann: Witness for Samuel Cox

Statement of Mary Swann
April 26, 1865
Bryansville, Maryland

Enslaved at Rich Hill

Mary Swann, the daughter of...

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land Infantry

Known initially as the First Maryland Regiment made up of volunteers from...

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The Illustrious Descendants of Dr. Gustavus Brown

Reverend Richard Brown (1775-1798)

Obtained a Minister in the Church of England in 1790. Married Rich Hill near the death of his father in 1792.

Married first Helen Bullock, County, Virginia.

Married second Katherine (Bessie) Hovick.

Married third John...

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EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like future newsletters sent to you by e-mail, please send us your e-mail address. Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are requested for publication in future issues of *The Record*. Please send your articles and photographs to: The Historical Society of Charles County, Publications, *The Record*, P.O. Box 2806, La Plata, Maryland 20646.

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*American Revolution-French Alliance Day
Maryland Veterans Museum at
Patriot Park*

11000 Crain HWY/Newburg, MD 20664

September 23, 2023 Ticket Price- \$10.00

10:00 AM- 4:00 PM Children 12 & Under are Free

Join us for a celebration of the French Alliance in Southern Maryland with food, drinks and artisan vendors. Live DJ and performances.

Vive la French Connection!



**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC.**

P.O. Box 2806 • La Plata, Maryland 20646

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