



The RECORD

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William E. Garvey, Jr., President

THOMAS STONE

by Margaret Stone Dippold*

Charles G. LaHood, Jr., Editor



*Habre de Venture (South Elevation)
(Photo taken before the fire)*

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More than a century after Thomas Stone affixed his signature to that great document, the American Declaration of Independence, the Harleian Society of England printed, from the original manuscript deposited in the British Museum, a record, made in the seventeenth century by an official representative of the College of Arms, of the lineage of the Stone family and a description of their coat of arms.

The first of the Stones mentioned in this report is William of Twiston, Lancashire, one of whose descendents, several generations later, was Richard, the grandfather of William the Colonial governor of Maryland, who was born in Northhamshire in sixteen hundred and three.

Before sixteen hundred and thirty, William, his father, John, and brothers Matthew and John came to Virginia, the king having granted the man he later made governor, eighteen hundred acres of land. There, William married Verlinda Cotton who had come as a widow to Virginia to join her son, Reverend Cotton, and removed to Maryland to take up a large tract of land, reputedly five thousand acres, known as Poynton Manor.

The original wording of this land grant to Governor Stone is quoted here: "Cecilius -- by our Deed of Grant and our Great Seal of our said province of Maryland bearing

date at St. Mary's the first day of September on the seventh and twentieth year of our Dominion over said province We did then for the consideration therein mentioned Grant to our trusty and well-beloved William Stone, Esquire late governor of our said province all that tract of land called Pointon Manor lying on the North side of the Potomeck River---

Bruce Kremer, author of **John Hanson of Mulberry Grove** has written: "Books and fascinating ones have been written about the Mansion houses of Southern Maryland, but none seem to have located any traces of the early Stone residences at Poynton Manor or at Equality, or of the first Hanson homesteads which were probably on leaseholds of the Stone holdings."

In sixteen forty seven Leonard Calvert died, and within the year Lord Baltimore appointed William Stone governor of Maryland. In his oath of office he had to make the following promise, "I will not molest any person professing to believe in Jesus Christ and in particular no Roman Catholic."

*The late Margaret Stone Dippold was a great, great, great niece of Thomas Stone.

F. Simms McGrath in **Pillars of Maryland**, in referring to Stone’s being condemned to death by Puritans during the reign of Cromwell, says, “Governor Stone was so popular that the soldiers themselves refused to go on with the execution”. Stone was later made a councillor by Lord Baltimore but “His star was on the wane and little more was heard of him.” This however is certainly not true of his descendents.

One of the descendents, a grandson, Thomas Stone, who was born in 1677 and died in 1727, is mentioned in a document still in possession of the Stone family, entitled “The Deposition of Mary Shrelkeld aged 77, daughter of Dr. Gustavus Brown who resided in Charles County” and made before “John Shrelkeld Mayor of Georgetown at ten O’clock the 25th of March 1793.” This paper is in reference to a slave and states that Mary Shrelkeld was “acquainted with Thomas Stone, father of David Stone”, and that when she was very young he lived at Nanjemoy (the Poynton Manor area), that she “doth not recollect the character of David Stone but that Thomas Stone had the character of an honest, upright, and well disposed man”.

This same grandson, Captain Thomas Stone, applied for a re-survey of the then 1400 acres in Pointon Manor in another paper possessed by his descendents which begins; “To the Right honble Charles Calvert Esquire Lieutenant-General and Chief Governor of the province of Maryland”. In the re-survey boundaries touching land belonging to William Calvert Esquire, Matthew Stone and Richard Stone, are spoken of.

Near the Pointon Manor residence was built an Episcopal Church which Governor Stone named Durham for the English Durham, and supported through out his life, offering his own “Mansion” for services until the church was completed. Here too, on Pointon Manor were born Verlinda and William Stone’s seven children; Elizabeth who married a son of Leonard Calvert, Thomas, Richard, John who was “thrice married”, Matthew, Mary and Catherine.

From the colonial governor’s third son, John Stone, the lineage runs thus: John’s son Thomas, who was born in sixteen seventy seven and died in seventeen twenty seven, was succeeded among other heirs by a son David, who was born in seventeen hundred and nine and died in seventeen seventy three. David was followed by Samuel, born to his first wife Mary Hanson Briscoe, by a second marriage to Elizabeth Jenifer, there came into being seven children.

In seventeen forty three at Poynton Manor was born Thomas Stone the oldest and perhaps most illustrious of these seven children of David and Elizabeth Jenifer Stone and the great great grandson of Governor William Stone. As a boy he received a classical education at the school of Mr. Blaisdell, a scotch Clergyman and Schoolmaster, to whose school he energetically rode a distance of ten miles twice a day.

As has been mentioned, David Stone had a son Samuel by his first wife, Mary Hanson Briscoe. The laws of primogeniture insured the lands being inherited by the eldest son, so that the chief inheritance Thomas received probably was his education.

As a young man, Stone studied law under Thomas Johnson of Annapolis, who later became the first governor of the state of Maryland. A deep friendship between the two ensued. At twenty one Thomas began an active and successful law practice at Frederick Town and later at both Annapolis and Port Tobacco.

In seventeen hundred and sixty eight Mr. Stone, described as tall, slender, thinfaced, married Margaret Brown, beautiful eighteen year old youngest daughter of Dr. Gustavus Brown and the sister of Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown of Rose Hill, the friend and physician of George Washington. She brought with her a dowry of one thousand pounds sterling, part of which is said to have been used in the purchase of Haber de Venture.

Much has been written about the house at Haber de Venture yet both the spelling of the name and date of its construction are open to question.

A crumbling parchment dated sixteen eighty five shows a land grant of a hundred and fifty acres of land from “Charles, absolute lord proprietor of the province of Maryland, known as Habberdoventure and lying between Portobacco and Piscataway” to John Barefoot. An undated copy of a deed to some seventeen acres of property, which according to the boundaries appears to have been part of Haber de Venture is labeled part of “that track of land called Hab nab at a Venture.”

Another old deed states: “On December thirteenth seventeen hundred and seventy, Daniel Jenifer of Charles County Gentleman, conveyed to Thomas Stone of the same county Gent his heirs and assigns forever all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Charles County aforesaid called Habber Adventure and Hanson’s Plains Enlarged which was heretofore wit on twenty third day of September in the year of our Lord, God seventeen hundred and sixty eight by patent granted unto the said Daniel Jenifer---with all waters, water courses, woods, under-woods, houses, buildings, rails, Hereditoments, Benifits, advantages, Conveniences and Appurtenances---standing on the west side of the main road that leads from Portabbacco to Piscataway for four hundred pounds.”

Habre-de-Venture, Habre de Venture and Havre de Venture. Harry W. Hill states in his **Maryland Colonial Charm** that the latter seems most logical but does not give his reasons for so concluding.

Tradition and architectural opinion place the construction of the home about 1742. The property was obtained from the before mentioned Daniel Jenifer in 1771 by Thomas Stone at which time he, his wife and family evidently moved to this estate which remained in the Stone family until 1936.

Haber de Venture is considered one of the most beautiful examples of colonial and southern architecture in Maryland. Katherine Scarborough in her **Homes of the Cavaliers** states, “No more skillfully contrived survival of colonial days exists than this house which was constructed a decade before the Revolution and which, though it embodies some of the most striking features of Georgian

One of the attractive features of Mrs. Taussig’s book in the presence of her eight watercolor drawings of homes and churches, three to which - “Mulberry Grove”, “Rose Hill”, and “Ellerslie” - are in Charles County. There are also a number of photographs and maps that illustrate the text. (Some genealogical charts might have helped the reader keep track of the various family connections.) There are many books and journals that report more thoroughly on Maryland history, but Windfall of Inherited Treasures enlivens this history by relating individual family members to events.

Paul L. Berry, Port Republic, Calvert County

MUDD FAMILY GENEALOGY AVAILABLE

The Mudd Family of the United States, a Genealogy of a typical American Family by Richard Dyer Mudd, M.D. is now available. Dr. Richard Mudd states that this is a reprint of the third edition, and contains many corrections and additions from the earlier editions. For further information write directly to Richard D. Mudd, M.D., 1001 Hoyt Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48607. The price is \$58.00 plus \$2.71 postage. The edition consists of 300 copies, and contains 1845 pages.

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are requested for possible publication in future issues of **The Record**. Please send your typewritten manuscripts and other communications to: Editor, **The Record**, P. O. Box 261, Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677.

did. It was back in the woods in those days.” In the fifties, the Perrygos purchased the estate, Ellerslie, and restored the main house and outbuildings. Originally known as Coates’ Retreat, the property was settled by the Coates family in 1661 and patented to Daniel Jenifer in 1720.

Restoring the house was not an easy task. “I did most of the work. We didn’t hire any mechanics . . . Frank (Nelms) and I did all the walls . . . we did the floors . . . we took them up and put them down again, made new turning grooves, repaired woodwork, and we did it all ourselves.” In addition to the structure, Perrygo restored furnishings, as well as paintings, pianos and timepieces.

One afternoon Preston Williams and John Hanson Mitchell brought Perrygo to see an old Tidewater house and barn on Nanjemoy Creek. He dismantled and moved them Ellerslie before they were razed by the owners. The barn, estimated to date from 1667, was erected on the Perrygo property. Friendship House, as the Tidewater house was known, was built in the 1680’s. Later, with the support of the Maryland Historical Trust, Friendship House was placed on the campus of Charles County Community College as headquarters for the Charles County Historical Society.

Watson was deeply involved with the Historical Society and its many activities. He served as president from 1970 to 1978 and his duties were varied, as he noted: “I guess I’ll have to get a little green hat and a little green suit, since we have a park over near the [Governor Nice] bridge. We only have about seven acres, but that’s owned by the Historical Society. It was donated, and the governor’s giving us money for a plaque when it’s fixed up . . . so I’m a park ranger, too.”

Other historic structures Perrygo was instrumental in restoring include the Dr. Samuel Mudd House and the Cat-Slide house. He supported efforts to preserve Habre-de-Venture, the home of Thomas Stone, as a National Park Service historic site after the fire. He also helped negotiate the purchase of Chapel Point by the state of Maryland to ensure its preservation as a park.

Perrygo was the board member of the Maryland Historical Trust representing Charles County for many years and also served as chairman of its personnel committee. He kept tabs on the historic markers within the county, as well as old gravesites on farm properties. He was especially proud of the reinterment of a Revolutionary War soldier from the woods to the graveyard of Old Durham Church. Perrygo reflected, “I thought they’d given everything they had, and the good had lost their lives. We should at least take care of them so that people a hundred years from now can still know they were in existence.” Perrygo was also consulted on the renovation of the historic Durham Church during the past year.

In addition, Perrygo was involved in civic affairs of the community, serving on the Port Tobacco Economic Development Commission for three years. During construction of the Port Tobacco Courthouse, he provided advice and counsel. He served on the Board of Directors of the Spring Dell Center and the Charles County Association for Handicapped and Retarded Citizens. Never one to stay still

very long, Watson also served as the Director of Exhibits for the Botanical Garden Museum in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 1977 to 1984.

The Watson M. Perrygo Papers have been deposited in the Smithsonian Archives, along with his field notebooks, films of his Panama expeditions, and a series of oral history interviews about his life and career. A set of these interviews will be deposited in the Southern Maryland Room of the Charles County Community College Library.

NEW BOOK ON SOUTHERN MARYLAND FAMILY HISTORY

Windfall of Inherited Treasures, with Watercolor Illustrations, by Betty Carney Taussig. Windfall Publishing Company, Inc., P. O. Box 469, Annapolis, Maryland 21404. \$14.95 plus \$0.75 Maryland sales tax and \$1.50 for postage and handling.

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Collectors of books on Southern Maryland family and anecdotal history will be interested in this book which was published recently. Although the author herself is not a native of Maryland, she has extensive family connections in several of the Southern Maryland counties. The focal point of the book is “Sunnyside,” a farm and house in Aquasco, Prince George’s County, but the family connections extend broadly, including several ties to Charles County.

Born in California into a Navy family, Mrs. Taussig spent some holidays in her youth in Aquasco. Several years ago she inherited “Sunnyside” and found there many traces of the families of her ancestors - traces in the form of letters, photographs, books, and other memorabilia (the “treasures” of the book’s title). While settling the estate and preparing the house and property for eventual sale, she used these traces to reconstruct the history of various branches of the family and to learn more of the history of the times in which her ancestors lived. Woven into this book are bits and pieces of Maryland history, family history, and anecdotes to create a readable account of the Somerville (Somervell), Hollyday, Hanson, Stone, Colton, and related families.

“Sunnyside” was built in 1844 by Mrs. Taussig’s great-great-grandfather, Dr. Michael Jenifer Stone, for his bride Susan Ann Somervell, both families with roots going back into early Maryland. Mrs. Taussig takes these families back to Scotland and France in a series of chapters, and then brings the history forward through the War of 1812 and the Civil War into the present century. Charles County is represented by John Hanson, Thomas Stone, and their families; Benedict during the War of 1812; Port Tobacco and the County during the Civil War, including John Wilkes Booth’s escape into Virginia; and other bits of local history. The families in the book seem to have thrived in the Southern Maryland area, at least in the early period, although some members eventually moved to Western Maryland and Kentucky.

designing presents an originality of conception and execution.”

The house is built on the arc of an imaginary circle and faces south. The building is only one room deep which together with the thickness of the walls results in a pleasant coolness on the warmest days. The principal types of old Southern Maryland homes are exemplified in this building; a center structure which is all brick, a right wing that is an all frame house, and a left wing of frame with brick gable ends. A Flemish bond was used in construction and the brick work is a “deep purplish red” lavishly interspersed with glazed bricks which give the walls an unusual appearance.

On the north side of the house slender wooden pillars outline a brick flagged portico which extends the full length of the main portion of the house and reaches the eaves.

The previously mentioned frame right wing of the house, known once as “the law office” is joined to the central building by a narrow brick passage which shelters the cellar entrance and affords passageway from the front to the back garden and to the long veranda across the south side of the mainhouse.

The left wing of the dwelling is annexed to the center building by a one story brick structure with a gambrel roof, which in nineteen twenty seven was raised to permit a second story providing a connection between the upper floors of the left wing and the main house, and space for a modern bathroom.

“Everything about the low left wing of Habre de Venture”, writes author Scarborough, “combines to indicate that here is one of the very old brick structures in the state.” Its special appeal, however, is to be found in the low arched ceiling and a most extraordinary chimney treatment beginning at the floor in a large box-like structure of brick overlaid with plaster and placed well out in the room with the flue tapering back to the wall and up to the ceiling. Some historians have quoted family hearsay labeling this chimney “George Washington’s nose”, but more accurate family tradition quotes it as “Thomas Stone’s nose.” This interesting room is lower by a short flight of steps than the central portion of the house and is lighted by four small and deeply recessed windows with panelled inside shutters on hand wrought hinges.

A center hall runs between the two large first floor rooms of the main house. The stairs in this hall are at the right of the north entrance facing the southern veranda. These stairs have slender spindles and the railing and newel post are of mahogany.

The “greate room” is panelled from floor to ceiling. Its two cupboards were once adorned with an intricately carved wooden rose above each. One of these reportedly represented the York and the other the Lancaster. When this room’s hand carved panelling and these cupboards were yielded to the Baltimore Museum of Art a good reproduction was installed at Habre de Venture, but the roses are missing as are the heavy inside shutters to the four large windows in the room.

This paneling is set up in a colonial room in the Museum and is “the finest exhibit that Maryland (some say

the entire country) has to show of this form of early American.”

Perhaps the chief charm of Habre de Venture is its atmosphere of dignity, graciousness and simplicity. Miss Scarborough writes, “within the house ostentation is, in the words of the the phrase, conspicuous by its absence. yes architects whose services can be had only to fantastic figures have thought it worth their while---to spend hours in studying its proportions”.

This then was the estate to which, the historian Sander-son says Thomas Stone took his wife, family and four of his infant brothers to reside there during the Revolutionary struggles. Mr. Stone was outstanding for his deep, even fatal devotion to his beloved wife, and as Addis has said, “This good Episcopalian never wanted responsibilities to interfere too much with his home life”. In this same vein, Judson tells us, “A man who has a just sense of the responsibilities of a high public office, will seldom seek one, unless impelled by impeding dangers that threaten to injure or destroy the best interests of his country”.

It is in times of peril that men of deep thought, cool deliberation, and sterling honesty, become most prominent and receive the full reward of merit. This fact was fully demonstrated during the American Revolution. Many were then “called to deliberate in the solemn assemblies of that eventful era” who had not been previously known as public men and who retired as soon as independence was completed. They were selected because of their “Strict integrity and sound discretion”.

“Of this class”, says Judson “was Thomas Stone”. When the Boston Port Bill was proclaimed, “Mr. Stone surmounted the barriers of diffidence and rushed promptly to the rescue. His example had a salutary influence upon those around him. All knew that something must be radically wrong, that some portentous danger hung over the colonies, when Thomas Stone was roused to public action. The influence of such men as he in times of peril, is of the highest value.”.

Although not a Tory this Marylander’s sentiments toward England were milder than many of his colleagues. He was a strong conservative and threw the “Force of his counsel” against the adoption of drastic measures. When the counsel was unheeded he and his relatives worked ardently for the success of the American cause. Nevertheless, he hated war and as early as 1776 spoke in favor of treating with General Howe for peace in order that further bloodshed might be avoided.

Thomas Stone is described by the writer Harry W. Hill as a large man, taciturn and noted more for terseness of style than eloquence of diction, and one of the outstanding leaders of Maryland.

Owing to the limitations of office holding and suffrage, the function of government remained after, as well as before the Revolution, in the hands of a small group of gentry. Cemented by common economic interests and further fostered by numerous inter-marriages and family alliances this handfull of leaders could, by their continued services, be

counted as controlling members in the government of their times.

The numerous family ties in Charles County can be demonstrated by the following facts: Dr. Daniel Jenifer married a Hanson and his daughter married David Stone whose second wife, Michael Jenifer Stone, married Mary Hanson Briscoe whose family was already connected with the Stones and Hansons. Thomas Sim Lee and Richard Potts were first cousins. Thomas Sim Lee and Alexander Contee Hanson were second cousins, while Hanson was a first cousin once removed of Michael J. Stone. These families connected with Barnes, Craiks, Tilghmans, Digges, Mitchells, Browns and Chases from various counties of Maryland.

George Washington came often by way of Port Tobacco in preference to another road and visited with Craik, Jenifer, Hanson, Dr. Gustavus Brown of Rose Hill, and Thomas Stone.

The latter was seated for the first time in the Continental Congress on December 15, 1774. He continued in Congress until October 1778, except for part of the year 1777 when he declined re-election. He was thirty three years old when he voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence.

On July 26, 1775 the provisional government of Maryland was formed and became know as the **Association of Freemen of Maryland**. The resolution bore among others, the signatures of Thomas Stone and brother John Hoskins Stone. By this document the executive power for the state government was rested in a **Committee of Safety** elected by the Convention and consisting of eight members from each shore. Stone, the signer, was named as one of these. He was also appointed with Charles Carroll and three others to serve on a committee to create a Commissary department.

Perhaps his most important work on the committee that framed the **Articles of Confederation**, was his staunch advocacy of Maryland's holding out for the settlement of the western lands question. After that agreement he worked hard for ratification.

In 1776 Thomas Stone was elected state senator for a five year term and was re-elected twice. While holding this office he voted to oppose the issuance of paper money and wrote Washington for advice. Washington replied February 16, 1787, approving the Senator's action. On this question of paper money only six of the twenty five representatives voting against issuance stood to lose financially because of investments in confiscated lands. Two of these were both later governors of Maryland, Thomas Johnson and John Hoskins Stone. The same situation pertained in the Senate where only four members in opposition to the proposal had such investments. Two of these were Daniel Carroll and Thomas Stone.

During the last session in which he served in Congress he presided as president pro tempore and had he consented to re-election would, as a matter of course, been chosen the next president of the national legislature; but, as one historian puts it, "He modestly stepped aside for Richard

Henry Lee who was so elected on November 30, 1784."

In 1785, in response to Washington's recommendation, deputies were appointed to draw up a "Navigation Measure agreeable to both (Maryland and Virginia) Commonwealths". Maryland's representatives were Samuel Hughes, Charles Carroll and Thomas Stone. In 1787 Stone was elected delgate to the Constitutional Convention but declined because of his "lucrative practice of law" at Port Tobacco and because of his loved wife's rapidly increasing ill health.

In 1776 Mrs. Stone came to Philadelphia to be with her husband at a time when the city was infected with small pox. She was inoculated and then prevalent mercurial treatment followed. However, her health declined steadily and she died on June 11, 1787 at the age of thirty six, leaving three children, Margaret who later married a Moncure, Mildred who became Mrs. Travers, and Frederick who died of yellow fever before reaching his majority.

The book, "Old Kent" by one of the Hansons made this statement: "The fact is that for more than one hundred years (1876) there was no family so wealthy, prominent and powerful in Charles County and their relatives and descendents in the state as the Hansons, hardly excepting the Stones and including the Calverts".

That this signer of the Declaration of Independence and others of his family were among those active in serving their government in those crucial days, is shown in excerpts and statements from letters from members of the Committee of Safety, found in the Hall of Records, and from documents in possession of the Stone family, given here without regard to chronological order:

In a note to Governor Sharpe dated 1762, mention is made of fourteen pounds and four shillings raised by subscribers, Thomas Stone and Samuel Stone for the relief of Boston.

In a letter from Thomas Stone and John Rogers in Annapolis on April 27th this statement appears: "Today Stone expects to meet his wife".

On December 13, 1777 from Thomas Stone, Port Tobacco to Governor Thomas Johnson. "Enemy is between Boyd's Hob and Nanjemoy; if Virginia and Maryland could jointly attack, the British ships might flee, their Phoenix has run aground more than once".

February 26, 1776, Proceedings of the Committee of Observation of Charles County lists among Smallwood's officers:

Capt. John Hoskins Stone
2nd. Lt. Michail J. Stone
Ensign Samuel Stone, Jr.

May 27, 1776, Samuel Chase and Charles Carroll to Council of Safety state, "The fifty muskets lodged in Thomas Stone's house could be kept there to arm state militia passing through Philadelphia to the Flying Camp".

July 22, 1776, Thomas Stone and William Paca in Philadelphia to Council of Safety--"Congress has granted 5000 Dollars to Maryland to raise four German companies".

Oct. 10, 1777 Thomas Stone wrote to Governor Thomas Johnson concerning action of Smallwood's forces,

"Colonel (John Hoskins) Stone is uneasy with his wound".

April 18, 1781, Thomas Stone, Port Tobacco to Thomas Johnson Jr. "On April 12, 1781 British vessels landed marauders at Portobacco and stole church (Christ Church, Episcopal) furnishings, on April 13 the enemy landed at George Dent's and burned the houses".

Nov. 16, 1784, Maryland Historical Magazine published a list on contributions made on the above date "One Hundred Pounds to St. Johns College". The list contains signature of Thomas Stone.

Jan 12, 1791, Michael Jenifer Stone wrote Governor John Eager Howard concerning his appointment as chief Judge in the First District. "The manner of appt. has given me more pleasure than any other occurrences of my life".

Dated August 6, 1789 there is a letter from G. Washington in Alexandria to Walter Stone (younger brother of Thomas) in Port Tobacco about two horses about which the writer was informing the addressee.

In 1796, George Washington after several humiliating attempts to borrow money for the Federal Government both at home and abroad determined to apply to the Governor of Maryland, John Hoskins Stone, who had been the first Captain in General Smallwood's First Maryland Regiment and had been badly wounded at Germantown. Maryland promptly voted a loan of \$1,000,000 for the building of government buildings in Washington, D.C. and added two more loans before the legislature adjourned.

Perhaps the epistle which gives most insight into Thomas Stone's character is this paragraph from a letter to his son:

"Let your aim in life be to attain goodness rather than greatness among men; the former is solid, the latter all vanity, and leads to ruin in this and the next world. This I speak from experience".

The **Biographies of the Signers** asserts that Thomas Stone was modest, retiring, and unassuming in his manners, an industrious man of business, a close student, a safe and judicious counsellor. He was beloved and admired for his substantial worth and merit. He possessed a clear head, a sound judgement and a good heart.

His mind was vigorous, analyzing, investigating and patriotic. He was a friend to equal rights and he delighted in seeing every person happy. He detested oppression in all its varied shades. He was kind, noble, benevolent.

"From the time he was first known as a public man to the present", says Judson in his above named biography, "neither the tongue of slander nor the breath of detraction has attempted to cast a stain upon his reputation as a patriot, a statsman, a lawyer, or a private citizen". political ambitions, honest, frank, republican, and sincere in his principles, he was safely entrusted with responsibilities of every station he was called to fill.

In Alexandria, on October fifth, seventeen hundred and eighty seven, at the age of forty four, Thomas Stone died. His death came less than four months after that of his beloved wife, Margaret. After her demise his own health

steadily declined and it was on his physician's advice that he reluctantly consented to a trip abroad.

It was while awaiting passage for a ship at Alexandria that the end came, quite suddenly.

His remains lie beside those of his wife in a small cedar grove at Haber de Venture. The flat stone slab protecting his grave bears the following simple inscription:

"The Archives of Maryland will show the offices of trust he filled. He was an able and faithful lawyer, a wise and virtuous patriot, an honest and good man".

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On June 10, 1984, Habre de Venture was dedicated as a National Historic Site.

WATSON MONDELL PERRYGO

1906 - 1984

Watson Mondell Perrygo was a naturalist who worked for the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History from 1925 to 1965 as a taxidermist, field collector and exhibits specialist. He was born in Washington, D.C. on 18 October 1906 and grew up in Prince Georges County, Maryland. In his youth, he developed an interest in natural history, spending much of his time at the Natural History Museum and accompanying curators on ornithological field trips.

Perrygo's entire career was spent at the Smithsonian. His extensive field work included systematic surveys of the southeast United States and of Panama. He was first employed part-time by the museum to prepare specimens for the Philadelphia Sesquecentennial Exhibition. In 1927 he became a full-time employee with the Taxidermy Studio. In 1928-30 he was sent on his first two field trips to Haiti. During the 1930s he conducted a systematic program of field collecting of the birds and mammals of the southeast United States, traveling through West Virginia in 1936; Tennessee in 1937; Kentucky in 1938; North Carolina in 1939; and South Carolina in 1940. On his North Carolina trip he met a schoolteacher, Velva Howard, whom he married.

From 1946 to 1953, Perrygo and Alexander Wetmore (sixth Secretary of the Smithsonian) collected in a different section of Panama each year in preparation for Wetmore's multi-volume **The Birds of Panama**. In 1946 they traveled through Darién; in 1947 up the Jaque River; in 1948 through Herrera Province; in 1949 through the Province of Panama; in 1950 to Chimán; in 1951 to Cerro Campana; in 1952 up the Río Indió; and in 1953 through Soná.

As a taxidermist, Perrygo worked on many of the famous zoological specimens in the National Museum, such as "Martha," the last passenger pigeon, and the Fénykövi elephant. During the 1950's Exhibits Modernization Program, he was very active in renovating the zoological exhibit halls. In 1960 he was placed in charge of the Taxidermy Studio until his retirement in 1965.

Perrygo often visited Charles County with Wetmore on weekend bird hikes. He recalled, "We camped here, right at this place before I ever bought it or I knew this old house was here. We camped out there in the woods, playing Indians . . but we never got back this far, never saw this house, never