Margaret Knox also gave us a listing of persons known to be buried in private plots in Dominion. In back of the Earl Jones house are buried Gertrude Ireland Thomas, Francis Enright Thomas and Randolph Robert Gertz. Henry and Randolph Thomas are also buried there but there are no stones marking their graves.

In back of the Wash Jones house, which is now gone, there are two stones: Samuel Jones who died June 28, 1901 at 63 years of age and Charlotte Ann, beloved wife of Richard Thomas, who died Feb. 22, 1879 in the 26th year of her age. It is very important that we document these sites before they are lost, whether by natural or man made causes.

EARECKSON RENOVATION

The old brick house facing west above old Rt. 8 at Batt's Neck Village was called the "Legg-Eareckson Farm" by Mildred Schoch in her book "Of History and Houses". The property was named "Eareckson's Prospect" in Benjamin Eareckson's 1864 will. Mrs. Schoch often used double names in deference to the modern families who owned ancient properties at the time she published.

In the 1970's this particular farm, which has the Eareckson graveyard on it, was purchased and rented out. The early 19th century house was not in very good shape and lack of upkeep added to its deterioration.

In 1987 Edward "Bunky" Severa bought this farm and a contiguous farm despite opposition from the county Zoning administrator. Thus Bunky preserved the land as it had always been, saving it from development. He has farmed his land ever since.

Last year he began to refurbish the old house. Important first steps included a complete new roof, a poured concrete cellar floor, and rebuilt foundations. Termites and rot, always a problem in old houses meant total window replacement, plus re-pointing of the Flemish bond brick work and restoration of two collapsing chimneys.

Severa says he consulted one of the Maryland Historical Trust's restoration architects to assess the property. He learned that the two story kitchen wing was probably the third such structure added in the 20th Century. There was not a wing when the house was originally built in the early 19th century. (Mrs. Schoch's book gives dates of 1795-1815. Deeds and tax lists should identify its builder, and those have been researched by Mrs. Eareckson.) Severa has rebuilt the wing in three levels to serve 1990's purposes yet extending the original house rooms at their original levels.

After removing the wing and its porch he uncovered a "lean to" line along the brickwork at the rear of the main house. He thinks this is the roof line of whatever original wing was added. He has added a porch at the rear door into the center hall and and entrance portico and steps at the front which had lost its steps years ago. Leaving the original location of the "behind-the-chimney-breast" enclosed staircase on the living room side of the house, Severa has also tried to preserve as much as he can of the random-width floors, with replacements made of wood taken from beams which had to be replaced. Severa is milling much of his wood and kiln drying it right on the property.

While discussing the Eareckson graveyard mentioned in Mary White's column, Severa pointed out that he remembered another graveyard about 20 years ago down the hill in the field from Cabin Neck, which is adjacent to his wood milling facility. He said he didn't think the stones were still there but that the land was farmed for past absentee owners Shreeve and Billman by Spies, suggesting he might have further information.

Severa also pointed out that the owners have rebuilt the deteriorated chimneys of the old house at Cabin Neck as well. He doesn't know much about it, but said he thinks the owner is planning to carry restoration further. Any renovation or restoration of early Kent Island properties is VERY good news for the Kent Island Heritage Society. Neglect, absentee ownership, and just plain not caring have destroyed or lost too many early Island architectural specimens. Even many of those mentioned in Mildred Schoch's book are now gone or beyond repair.

HOXTER FAMILY REUNION

The 14th annual Hoxter Family Reunion will be held at Conquest Beach on July 4th according to organizer Stewart Hoxter. At least he THINKS its the 14th, "I'm not good at dates." Stew says the get- together idea began at his son's funeral many years back when someone remarked that they only time they got together was to bury one another. So they decided to take the positive step and have an annual get together. In the years between, of course there have been many funerals as the older generation fades away. "Since Mama died, Aunt Charlotte Severa is one of the remaining older generations," Stewart says, "And many of the Baltimore County and Pennsylvania cousins have stopped coming." (Perhaps they ran into "Reach the Beach" and gave up!. Stewart, tell them its all clear now!) Have a grand time all you Hoxters, Tolsons, Courseys, and Severas.

Meantime, someone see if they can locate the Hoxter etc. family Bibles for Mary White's growing collection of Island Family Bibles at the library. Remember, Mary only Xerox copies the Bible's family pages and returns it promptly to its owner.

CARTER FAMILY HISTORY

Bettye Speed

Last winter I had a phone call from Edward Cox of Ames, Iowa in response to a notice I wrote to a Georgia genealogy magazine about the Kent Island Heritage Society's growing Bible and family record collections. Mr Cox was looking for his ancestor John Gott (ca.1769-1833) who married Sarah Small Carter of Kent Island in 1799 and died 8 July 1833 in White County, Illinois leaving a will. After his death, Sarah "Sally " Carter Gott remarried in 1837 Daniel Millspaugh and was alive in 1856. One wonders how many letters she wrote home to Kent Island through the years and if any survived.

When Mr. Cox phoned I wondered if "Gott" and "Golt" could have been the same family, but nothing currently in our library files opened up clues along that line. The "German sailor" story is no doubt based on fact. A careful study of German history and immigration patterns to the colonies might provide clues. In the 18th century, Germany was not the cohesive nation we recognize today, but rather a system of individual states- Bavaria, Prussia, Baden, Hanover, Mecklenburg, etc.

Our Chesapeake Bay of course was the highway in those days. Traveling or working aboard one of the Bay's many boats, John Gott, if not from Kent Island, could have frequently docked there and met Sarah, marrying her in 1799. I asked Mr. Cox to send copies of his research to see if we could help him. It is obvious from these records, (now filed at the library) that his search has been frustrating in that definitive records for his John Gott do not show up in Maryland. A JONATHAN Gott is found in Baltimore County in the 1790 census with "two males over 16 two males under 16 and two females." Not much help!

But there IS a record of John Gott's March 7, 1799 marriage to Sarah Carter b.ca. 1777 (age 77 in 1855), of Kent Island and the research Mr. Cox sent shows Sarah's parents Henry Carter (II), b. ca. 1730,(son of John (d. 1740) and Mary Lubsy Carter m. Rachel Small dau. of Richard Small (d. 1770) generations back to Henry Carter I (1660-1706), wife nee Elizabeth Valentine.

Mr. Cox's information is a really valuableaddition to our genealogical files for the Carters of Carter's Creek and of the original Carter House (See H. Chandlee Foreman's "Early Manor Houses") and the many brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles Sally Carter Gott left behind as she and her husband moved prior to Oct. 1804 to Kentucky, then to Illinois by 1825. One wonders if there were other family members who took the long journey with them.

Sally's father's will in May 1799 names sons: Valentine, Henry (III) John, and Jacob; daughters Ruth Tolson, Mary Lubsy Spencer, Rachel Norman, Susannah Carter and Sarah Small Gott, naming home estate at Mattapax Neck and lands in Delaware.

Her maternal grandfather Richard Small's 1769 will names sons Richard and James; daughters Sarah Spaulding, Hannah Weedon, and Rachel Carter; land on Wye River; testators: Dan Weedon, Thomas Yewell, and Henry Weedon.

Her paternal grandfather John Carter's 1740 will names sons John, Jacob, Valentine, Henry; and daughters Elizabeth Earuckson, Susannah Elliott, Ruth Wells, and Mary Carter.

Anyone looking for any of the above names may be able to fill in their own family group sheets using Mr. Cox's valuable information, and we are very appreciative at his generous sharing of his research and records. We only wish we could return his kindness and help him with his elusive "John Gott".

ARCHAEOLOGY

The Kent Island Heritage Society was approached about two years ago by Michael Pohuski- Organizer, Donald Shomette, Joseph McNamara, and Fred Hopkins concerning their privately funded "Claiborne Project". They described their high tech efforts using infra red aerial photography, side scan sonar, magnetometer, sub bottom profiling and scaled map overlays as well as historical research to look for and hopefuly detail what they came to believe was now the underwater location of 17th Century Kent Point, William Claiborne's original fort and settlement.

Last year they discovered three wooden wells, two barrel and one box, off shore north of Hollica's Snooze during an especially low tide. A newspaper article covered this discovery and "Ile of Kent" duly noted it.

Reports by Pohuski, Shomette, Hopkins,, and McNamara were presented at the

Society for Historical Archaeological Conference. They have been published under the title "Underwater Archaeology Proceedings from Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, John Broadwater, Editor, Richmond, Virginia 1991, by the Society for Historical Archaeloogy, Ronald L. Michael, Editor."

Thanks to Mordie Glbson, a copy of this report has been placed in the KIHS Historical files in the Archaeology folder. We feel members will find these reports fascinating.

Fred Hopkins wrote a thorough treatise on Claiborne's claim to Kent Island as his settlement and the betrayal he suffered by his English backers by way of introduction to their project. He also presented a good blow up of the Kent Island detail from Augustine Herrman's 1670 map. This early map has been especially important to researchers since it details house locations and offshore water depths. Because of his daughter's marriage to John Thompson of Kent County (in those days encompassing the Island and the habitable areas of the mainland), Herrman knew the area and its waters well.

Using the usual historic sources, Pohuski's report describes their use of available historical maps:

"The two most useful early maps were the Augustine Herman (sic) map of Virginia and Maryland, engraved in 1670 and the 1708 map of the same region by Herman Moll. The Herman engraving of the south end of Kent Island shows two plantations, one on Kent Point, and another on Long Point.

The Moll map which resembles Herman's map but was produced 39 years later, shows only the Long Point Plantation. Moll may have simply omitted a few plantations; however, land records indicate abandonment of property before 1700. The fact that both Herman and Moll show a plantation on Long Point made it clear... that the waters in that area should be included in our survey.

A more accurate map of Kent Island wasn't produced until the 1844 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. We acquired an 1847 version of that map as well as successive U.S.G.S. maps from 1892 to 1986. These maps were reduced or enlarged to a common scale and acetate overlays ...created, allowing a chronological comparison of the sea level rise, erosion, and accretion rates in our study area. This map comparison demonstrated what we had already suspected, that the island had changed significantly since Claiborne's landing. Bloody Point, Kent Point, and Long Point had all lost dramatic amounts of land in just the past 150 years. The first two creeks north of Kent Point are now almost silted closed. In the 1800's both appeared to be accessible to vessels, especially Scaffold Creek. A neck of land at the mouth of Scaffold Creek has been almost entirely lost to erosion., Bloody Point Creek, once a sizable tributary, has become a tiny, landlocked pond at the headwaters of the original creek. However the interior shore lines of the creeks between Kent and Long Point have not changed appreciably since 1847.

Our archival research is not complete, but from what we know thus far, we can make a few conclusions. The Claiborne settlement was on or near Kent Point and was visible from Poplar Island (Arch. Md. 3:161) The wind and sea conditions in the area would have necessitated a protected anchorage and any of the creeks from Bloody Point to Long Point could have served that purpose in 1631. The only shoreline areas not dramatically altered since then are the interior creek shorelines north and east of Kent Point. All other areas, which were on or near the shoreline 360 years ago, are now underwater."

Using local clammers' collections of artifacts and the locations of their finds, along with the aerial photography, they have had to abandon the high tech approach in that it simply doesn't work. Instead they are using Scuba to locate the underwater sites, and have decided that the local waterman's clam rig will be their most valuable tool as the continue their Claiborne Project.

MEMORIES OF KENT ISLAND

Alice Cockey Immler

(Editor's Note: Former "Ile of Kent" Editor Isabel Porter received this letter in December 1989 too late for publication. By March 1990,it had been passed by Gil Dunn to Audrey Hawkins, the new President.)

Mrs. Immler described her first visits to Kent Island in 1969 with her husband Chuck, an avid boater. After making the trip back and forth to Castle Marina each summer weekend, they finally bought land and built on the Chester River in Cloverfields. They moved in in January 1971.

" .. for some of you old timers who know what Kent Island was like twenty years ago, Ruby Quant anf her husband had a real estate office down in a little white building just off Route 50, and Reggie Jones worked there and Walter Litvinuk was our settlement lawyer. The post office was on the corner across from Grolman's (sic) store and the country store was on the other corner.

Stevensville was a nice sleepy little town, with the Acme market and Gil Dunn's drug store and the Kent Island Bank down at the little shopping plaza. I'm a country girl and I felt like I was where I belonged. Chuck could go to the boat all he wanted and I had a house and garden and there was lots to keep us busy and we were very happy.

"... My maiden name was Cockey. My father's family had settled in Baltimore County in the 1750's. Mama said my father had relatives on Kent Island and had told her about being taken by his father when he was a little boy by ferry boat from Baltimore to Love Point to visit relatives on Kent Island.

"...(In 1970 I took my mother on) a tour of Kent Island, and our first stop was the cemetery. We saw more Cockeys; in the cemetery than we had ever seen in Baltimore County and I am almost certain our family migrated from Kent Island...

We were told that the native people were very clannish and didn't welcome strangers... to their island, but I never felt any of this in all the years I lived on Kent Island. Chuck became very involved with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Lion's Club and the Kent Island Yacht Club and we both loved the rural, small town, country atmosphere.

Then everything changed. The second span of the Bay Bridge was built and getting traffic to the beaches became the most important thing and the development of Route 50 into a corridor across Kent Island became a nightmare to the local residents. The post office moved across the highway and to cross Rte. 50 on the eekend was almost an impossibility....

Chuck died in Dec. of 1986 and in 1987 I...moved back to Montgomery County. "

Mrs. Immler describes the developmental changes she sees annually traveling Route 50 to visit in Ocean City.

"When I first lived there if you wanted a doctor you went to Centreville, and there was one bank, and your library was the bookmobile, and if your wanted to do any big shopping, you went to Chestertown or Easton or if you were brave enough you went across the bridge."

The expanded highway and the growth along that corridor forever changed the rural flavor of the 1970's Kent Island she knew and loved.

"I suppose progress is inevitable, " she concludes, "just like old age. ... I will always cherish my memories of the way things were in the 'good old days', ...which will live in the hearts of all of us who are interested in keeping our heritage alive. God bless you all and keep up your good work... and thank you.

I suppose there isn't a reader who didn't agree with Mrs. Immler 100% about the radical changes that we all witnessed in the mid- 1980's. We had a perfectly serviceable highway that was transformed into a federal interstate with absolutely no consideration for the Islanders whose community was divided in half.

The quote that best summed up local feeling about that period was Holly E. Baker's famous *"Reach the Beach , H---! I can't even reach the bank!"*

But we have learned to adjust, we avoid the highway as much as we can, and we still wouldn't consider trading Kent Isand living for Mrs. Immler's Silver Spring and the Capital Beltway!

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