

HISTORY

OF

ALLEGANY COUNTY

MARYLAND

INCLUDING

ITS ABORIGINAL HISTORY; THE COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD; ITS SETTLEMENT BY THE WHITE RACE AND SUBSEQUENT GROWTH; A DESCRIPTION OF ITS VALUABLE MINING, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS; SKETCHES OF ITS CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS; MASTER SPIRITS; CHARACTER SKETCHES OF FOUNDERS; MILITARY AND PROFESSIONAL MEN, Etc.

BY

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AND

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TO THIS IS ADDED A BIOGRAPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF REPRESENTATIVE FAMILIES, PREPARED FROM DATA OBTAINED FROM ORIGINAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

Illustrated

VOLUME I

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OF

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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CHAPTER I

ALLEGANY COUNTY—ITS ERECTION AND EARLY SETTLERS AND COURTS

A PART from the many and constant dangers from incursion of the Indians, whose tomahawks and scalping knives were always a source of terror to the inhabitants of the country embraced within the limits of Allegany County, another factor was prominent in retarding the settlement of that section of the State. Frederick, Lord Baltimore, issued an order to his Land Office that no more land patents could be granted until 10,000 acres had been surveyed and laid off for him from the territory lying westward of Fort Cumberland, and which order was not executed until shortly before the American Revolution.

These difficulties, however, were somewhat counter-balanced by circumstances that exerted a strong influence upon the early development of the county. Among these was the existence of Fort Cumberland and the protection it afforded to early settlers, and in connection with it, the ill-fated Braddock Expedition. That expedition passed through the heart of Allegany County, both in marching away from Fort Cumberland and in its retreat to it. Many of those who were in the expedition remained in the region of their military activities permanently, while others, attracted by wonderful natural resources,

either returned later, or induced others to do so. It accomplished a vast amount of exploration of the country; it determined the most available points for crossing the steep and rugged mountains; it ascertained the shallow crossing places in the rivers and creeks, and it brought out permanently points that figured in the Braddock line of march, such as Little Meadows, Great Meadows, Little Crossing and Great Crossing, all these and more, which it definitely defined, and which it would have required many years to do by the slower processes of individual enterprize.

Maryland, too, proposed to provide for her soldiers in the Revolution, and by the Act of the General Assembly of 1781, the requisite number of lots of 50 acres each were to be laid out of the lands lying west of Fort Cumberland, as a bounty to the privates and officers, or their families, of the Maryland line, to be apportioned according to rank, and while this survey and award consumed several years of time, the fact that it was definite and certain that it would be done proved a powerful impetus in stimulating the tide of immigration into the vicinity of those lands. In fact, by the time the survey was completed, the report of Francis Deakens, the surveyor selected for the work, shows that

of 4165 lots laid out, 322 families had 636 of them already occupied and under cultivation. These the State permitted them to retain by paying from 5 to 20 shillings per acre. In addition also, the *Maryland Gazette*, as early as 1762, began directing public attention to the desirability of opening up the Potomac River for small crafts from the Great Falls, at Georgetown, to the mouth of Wills Creek at Fort Cumberland, as a means of facilitating the commercial interests of both Maryland and Virginia, and this brought Allegany County before the public eye as a possible future commercial center. So that in spite of its early difficulties and setbacks, the population was sufficiently large by 1789 for the Maryland Legislature to erect a new county, to be called after the mountain traversing it—the county of Allegany—with Cumberland as its county seat. It was carved out of Washington County, which had been erected in 1776, taking from it an area of 672,000 acres and a population of 5000 inhabitants.

Allegany County is situated in the northwestern part of Maryland and is bounded by Pennsylvania on the north, by West Virginia on the South, by Washington County on the east and by Garrett County on the west, which latter, however, was originally within the limits of Allegany County. The Potomac River skirts its southerly and easterly lines, and separates it from West Virginia, the Mason and Dixon Line divides it from Pennsylvania, Sideling Hill Creek from Washington County and the Great Savage Mountain from the County of Garrett.

The following Act of Assembly was passed on the 25th of December, 1789.

“An Act for the division of Washington County, and for the erecting of a new one by the name of Allegany.

“Whereas, A number of inhabitants of Washington County, by their petition to the General Assembly, have prayed that an act may pass for a division of said

county by Sideling Hill Creek, and for the erection of a new one out of the western part thereof, and it appearing to this General Assembly that the erecting of such a new county will conduce greatly to the due administration of justice and the speedy settling and improving the western part thereof, and the ease and convenience of the inhabitants thereof.

“II. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That all that part of Washington County which lies to the westward of Sideling Hill Creek shall be and is hereby erected into a new county, by the name of Allegany County, and the inhabitants thereof shall have, hold and enjoy all such rights and privileges as are held and enjoyed by the inhabitants of any other county in this State.

“III. And be it enacted, That the County Court and Orphans' Court for Allegany County shall be held at the town of Cumberland until the voters of said county, by election to be held as hereinafter provided, shall determine on some other place; and until a place may be fixed on by the said election, and a courthouse shall be built, the justices of said county may contract and agree at the county charge for a convenient place in the said town to hold their courts, and for a convenient place in the said town for the keeping of their books, papers and records.

“IV. And be it enacted, That all causes, pleas, processes, and pleadings which now are or shall be pending in Washington County Court before the first Monday in December, 1790, shall and may be prosecuted as effectually in that court as if this act had not been made; and in case any deeds or conveyances of land in that part of Washington County now called Allegany County have been or shall be, before the first Monday in December, 1790, acknowledged according to law, the enrollment or recording thereof in either of the said counties within the time limited by law shall be good and available.

“V. And be it enacted, That the county

charge of Washington County heretofore assessed shall be collected and applied as if this act had not been made.

“VI. And be it enacted, That the County Court and Orphans’ Court of Allegany County shall first be held on the first Monday in April, 1791, and the said County Court be afterwards held on the first Monday in April and September, yearly, and the said Orphans’ Court shall be afterwards held on the second Monday in the months of June, August, October, and December, and the same courts shall have the same powers and jurisdiction respectively as other County and Orphans’ Courts within the State.

“VII. And be it enacted, That all civil causes to be brought in Allegany County shall be determined within two courts from the Appearance Court, and none shall continue longer, unless under such circumstances as civil causes in other County Courts may be continued longer than three courts from the Appearance Court.

“VIII. And be it enacted, That the Governor and Council be authorized and required to commission fit and proper persons as justices of the peace, and fit and proper persons as the Orphans’ Courts, as also surveyor and other officers, and that a fit and proper person be appointed by the Governor and Council Sheriff of Allegany County, and be commissioned and qualified in the usual manner; to continue in office until a new appointment shall take place in the other counties of this State, under an election according to the constitution and form of government.

“IX. And be it enacted, That at the first election to be held in the said county

for sheriff, the voters of said county shall and may, by a majority of votes, determine the place at which the courts of the said county shall be held after the said election.”

The legislature at the same time passed an Act appointing Andrew Bruce, Eben Gwynn and Joseph Cresap a board of commissioners for Allegany County, and directed the commissioners of Washington County to transmit to them a list of all of the real and personal properties in the new county.

The distance to Cumberland, the only voting place provided for in the Act constituting Allegany County, from Sideling Hill Creek on the east, and Fairfax Stone on the west, was too great for the convenience of the people residing in those remote sections, and in 1799 the General Assembly passed an Act for laying Allegany County off into districts. The commissioners appointed were John B. Beall, David Hoffman, Thomas Stewart, William Shaw, George Robinette and Jesse Tomlinson and the county was divided into six election districts, known as the Glades, Selbysport, Westernport, Musselanes, Cumberland and Old Town. And thus it remained until 1817, when the legislature passed another Act for laying off two additional districts, Little Orleans in the eastern part and Little Crossings in the western part of the county, since which time there has not been a general redistricting of the county, new districts being laid off from time to time as needed, by commissioners named in the Act authorizing it, and who report their proceedings to the county authorities.*

* In addition to the settlements in the vicinity of Old Town, and a small settlement in the town of Cumberland, the following is a list of settlers located upon lands in the county lying west of Fort Cumberland.

William Ashby	Moses Ayers, Sr.	Andrew Bruce	Thomas Baker
Ralph Adams	George Anderson	Robert Boyd	Michael Beem
Anthony Arnold	John Arnold of Jno.	Charles Boyles	Frederick Burgett
Anthony Able	Moses Ayers, Jr.	William Barnes	Philip Bray
John Arnold of A.	Patrick Burnes	Matthew Ball	Benjamin Brady

In 1774, †while the whole western part of the State was comprised in Frederick County, there seems to have been a rush to secure land grants in the Allegany territory. At that time Robert Smith was Surveyor General of the Land Office for the Western Shore and John Hanson, Jr., his deputy, for Frederick County. The

Land Office business for these grants was interrupted by the Lord Dunmore War and then came the Revolution. Lots of land west of Fort Cumberland were offered by the State government to volunteers in the Continental Army. In 1788 Francis Deakins laid out 4,165 of these military lots.‡

Josiah Bonham	John Domer	John T. Goff	Breton Levit
Mallner Burnstredder	Edward Dawson, Jr.	John Blaze	Jacob Lower
John Buhman	Edward Davis	Samuel Humphreys	Elisha Logsdon
Micajah Burnham	Joseph Davis	Andrew House	Jacob Lee
John Beall	Thomas Dawson	Nicholas Holsbury	Rosemond Long
Ben. John Biggs	Jacob Duttro, Sr.	Edward Huston	John Lynn
Amariah Bonham	Steven Davis	Elisha Hall	James Montain
John Blair	Joseph Dye	Charles Huddy	Joseph Lee
Frederick Bray	Jacob Duttro, Jr.	James Henderson	Zachariah Linton
John Bruffy	Levi Davis	John Harshan	William Moore*
John Brendage	Barney Dewitt	Richard Hall	Stephen Masters
Thomas Barkus	Peter DeVecmon	John House	Henry Mattingly
John Buckholder	Samuel Dawson, Sr.	Moses Hall	John Matthews, Jr.
Peter Bonham	Terrance Dyal	George Harness	Gabriel McKinsy
George Barkus	David Eaton	George Haver	Henry Myers
Jacob Beall	Samuel Elliott	Adam Hicksenbaugh	Jacob Miller
Norman Bruce	John Elbin	Samuel Hatton	John Matthews, Sr.
Samuel Barrell	George Eckhart	William Howell	Philip Michael
Nathan Corey	Adam Eckhart	Benjamin Hull	Alexander Moore
Daniel Cresap, Sr.	Samuel Ellison	Abraham Hite	John Magomery
William Coddington	Charles Friend	Paul Hoye	Moses Munro
Godfrey Corbus	John Ervin	Richard Harcourt	Daniel Moore
Daniel Cresap, Jr.	John Eckhart	Jacob Hazlewood	Christopher Myers
Peter Crawl	Hezekiah Frazier	Robert Johnson	Solomon Munro
Edmund Cutler	Herman Frazee	William Jones	Moses McKinsy
Robert Cresap	John Firman	Samuel Jackson	James McMullen
Thomas Cordray	Joseph Friend	Evan James	Josiah McKinsy
Ely Clark	Joseph Frost	John Jonas	Daniel McKinsy
James Cresap	John Friend	William Jones	Nathaniel Magruder
Henry Crosley	Harry Franks	Conrad Joleman	John Metz
Michael Corn	George Fezenbaker	William Jacobs	Conrad Millen
Joseph Cresap	Gabriel Friend	Jacob Kreger	Josiah Magruder
John Cruise	George Fiddler	John Keyser	James McPee
Benjamin Coddington	Briant Gaines	Jacob Koontz	Elias Majors
John Durfin	Richard Green	John Kelly	Samuel McKinsy
Samuel Dawson, Jr.	James C. Goff	Henry Kite	Thomas Matthew
Samuel Durbin	Edward Grimes	Henry Kemp	John Nepton
Aaron Duckworth	Daniel Green	Leonard Kimble	Peter Nimirick
William Dawson, Sr.	Evan Gynn	John Lowdermilk	John Neff
James Denison	Paul Grim	George Laporte	Samuel Postlewait
Nicholas Durbin	Thomas Greenwade	David Lee	George Paine
William Dawson, Jr.	John Glasman	William Logsdon, Sr.	Johannes Paugh
Peter Doogan	John Great	William Logsdon	Michael Paugh
William Durham	Salathiel Goff	John Liptz	Henry Porter
Edward Dawson, Sr.	John Garey	Daniel Levit	Robert Parker
Samuel Durbin	Benjamin Green	Ralph Logsdon	Margaret Poling

* William Moore had 9 sons and 11 daughters by his first wife, 1 son by his second wife.

EARLY COURT PROCEEDINGS

The first Court that was convened in Allegany County met on Monday the 25th day of April, 1791, as was provided by the Act of Assembly erecting Allegany County.

Judge Richard Potts was Chief Judge and Andrew Bruce and John Simpkins were the Associate Justices. The officers of the Court were John Lynn, Clerk, John B. Beatty, Sheriff, Jermiah Willison, Crier and Lenox Martin, Prosecuting Attorney, representing the Attorney General.

The attorneys who were admitted to practice law at that term of Court, and who paid their license fee of 3 pounds, were Lenox Martin, George Magruder,

Samuel Selby, John Johnson and William Claggett.

That being the first term of the Court there was, of course, no original docket, and hence no trial docket. The business of the court, therefore, was limited to appeal and criminal cases, which occupied the Court for five days.

The Court held two sessions a year, April and September. At the April Court of 1798 the Grand Jury were David Lynn, foreman, Peter Gephart, Samuel Poland, John C. Beatty, Josiah Beall, of Jonah, Frederick Sapp, John Brook Beall, John Brockenhart, Even Gwynn, James King, John Graham, Benjamin Beckwith, John Matthew, Jr., Michael Collier, James Scott, William Hilleary, John H. Bayard,

Moses Porter	Aaron Rice	William Stagg	Moses Williams
Gabriel Powell	John Rubash	John Sibley	William Wells
John Porter	David Robertson	John Stuck	John Workman
George Preston	Michael Raway	James Schimer	Archibald White
Nicholas Pittinger	Daniel Recknor	Frederick Thaxter	James Wells
Samuel Poling	Adam Rhoades	John Trotter	Andrew Workman
Henry Peters	John Ragan	Peter Tittle, Jr.	Arthur Watson
Henry Pittinger	John Simpkins	John Tomlinson	Peter Wells
Martin Poling	Peter Stuck	David Proxell	Jacob Workman
John Purguson	John Streets	Michael Tedrick	Jesse Walter
Hezekiah Pound	Jacob Storm	Jacob Trullinger	Samuel Wikoff
Richard Poling	William Shaw	Peter Tittle, Sr.	Stephen Workman
Peter Polin	Moses Spicer	Jesse Tomlinson	John Wikoff
Martin Poling, Sr.	George Sapp	Moses Tilsonel	George Winters
Charles Queen	Joseph Scott	Ezekiel Totten	Thomas Williams
Stephen Pierson	Abel Sergeant	John Trimble	Alexander Wilhelm
John Price	John Steyer	Richard Tilton	James Woodringer
Benjamin Rush	Simon Speed	James Utter, Sr.	Joseph Warnick
Godfrey Richards	Adam Seigler	William Utter	George Wilhelm
John Ryan	Garrett Snedeger	★ <u>Charles Uhl</u>	Alpheus Wigwire
Enoch Read	Matthew Snooke	James Utter, Jr.	John Whiteman
William Rideford	Jacob Seigler	Thomas Umbertson	Peter Wikoff
John Rhoads	John Strickler	John Vincent	George Waddte
Roger Robertson	John Seyler	John Vanbuskirk	William Workman
John Richards	Joshua Scutchfield	David Vansickle	Jacob Wikoff
John Ratton	Matthew Singleman	Henry Woodger	Isaac Workman

†Those surveyed during part of 1774 were as follows:

"Sugar Tree Bottom," 150 a, surveyed for John Swan, Walter H. Jenifer and Andrew Scott, April 8. (The year will not be given as it is the same in all the cases.) "Hotel," 305 a for James Brooks April 22; "Crabtree Bottom," 1120 a for Paul Hoy, April 5; "False Alarm," 512 a for Thomas Beall of George, May 22;

"Friends Delight," 356 a for Paul Hoy, May 4; "Come by Chaunee," for Samuel Hanson, May 13; "The Vale," 913 a for George French; "George's Adventure," 456 a for George French; "Piney Bottom," 270 a for Samuel Chase, April 13; "Ashby's Cove," 250 a for same, April 13; "The Royal Charlotte," 2000 a for same, April 12; "Chance," 980 a for same, April 14; "Hunting Grounds," 1000 a for Baker Johnson, April