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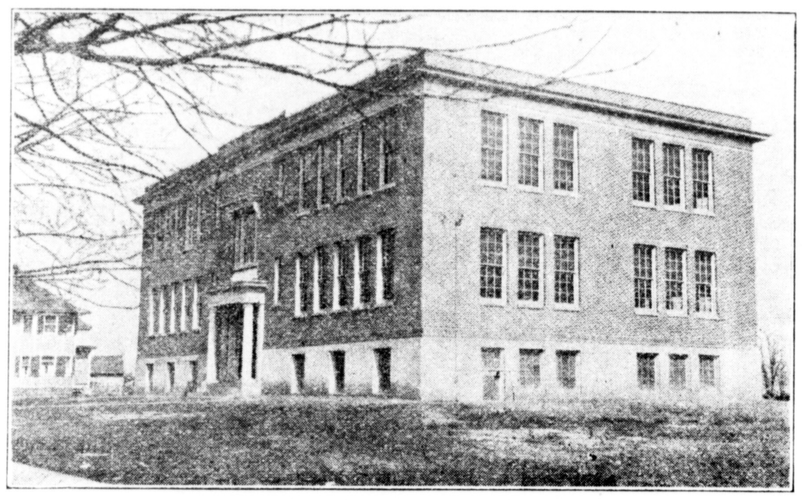


CHESTERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL—1915

Properly belonging to this part of the County of Kent is old Christ Church at "I. U.," built in 1765 at the head of Churn Creek, and within whose walls have worshipped men and women whose names would be familiar. A few miles southwest is another landmark of Kent, the Quaker meeting House at Lynch. John Lynch, a Quaker, once lived where the village is now, and the Meeting House stood on land once owned by him. The Quaker named this the "Cecil Meeting," because at the time (1698) it was erected or established it was within the bounds of Cecil County. It was a branch of the Friends' Yearly Meeting established at Philadelphia by the great Quaker, William Penn, and numbered many of Kent's best families as its members. From its records the following names have been taken: Turner, Dawson, Corse, Alston, Brown, Thomas, George, Hodges, Atkins, Trew, Maslin, Norris, Simmonds, Parrott, Bowers, Rasin, Neal, Gale, Beck, Jones, and Lamb. From this last-named family came that great educator of the past decade, Eli Lamb, known to hundreds of men and women of Maryland as "Cousin Eli."

The early settlers of this neighborhood were: St. Leager Codd, William Frisby, William, Daniel and Gideon Pearce, Edward Scott, George Warner, Charles James, George Oldfield, James Hepborn, James Wroth, Edward Blay, John and Edward Beck, Nathaniel Styles, George Skirven, and Philip Rasin. Later came Mathews Howard, Nathaniel Kennard, Cornelius Comegys, John Wethered, Charles Tilden, George Medford, and many others whose names appear on the register of this old church of Shrewsbury Parish or on the land records of the county.

In this section of the county men have been born whose names have brought fame to the county—through the Colonial period, the war of Revolution, the war with Great Britain in 1812 with Col. Philip Reed leading the soldiers of Kent, the war with Mexico, the rebellion. All these trying times have brought into prominence men of Kent, and when our country called on her sons in recent war Kent County responded, as she has always done in the past.

But these old churches were not the only places of worship we saw. At Rock Hall is the Methodist Episcopal Church, St. John's Catholic Church, and the Adventist Church. In the same neighborhood is Wesley Chapel, with a Chapel in Skinner's and Broad Neck as adjuncts. Then comes Mowbray and Bond along the Chester River side, with Salem Methodist Episcopal at Fairlee, St. James Methodist Prosestant in Worton, and one in Lynch; Betterton and Still Pond Methodist Episcopal, Protestant Episcopal, and Catholic Church at Betterton; Locust Grove, Galena, Millington, and Massey M. E. Churches; Chesterville and Millington M. E. Churches, South; Protestant Episcopal Churches at Galena, Millington, and Massey; St. Dennis' Catholic Church at Galena. In Chestertown there are the two big Methodist congregations, with Sacred Heart and Emmanuel P. E. Churches. It was in the latter church where the name "Protestant Episcopal" was given that church in America. The colored population also have two fine edifices in town, with many places of worship throughout the county.

### A Charming Capital Town.

Chestertown, founded in 1706, is the charming old capital of this delightful Eastern Shore county. It has kept more of its colonial beauty than any other county town of its size in the Chesapeake basin. Its river front indeed is unmatchable in the region for charm, both of sea and shore, for the Chester River here flows broad and beautiful between the rich farm lands of Kent and Queen Anne's, while the gardens of many delightful and dignified old colonial mansions extend even to the water's edge. Here, too, is the colonial Custom House, a seventeenth century survival, in so perfect a state of preservation that it never gets credit for its age. Its mass is ample and dignified and its vaulted cellars recall a time when incoming goods from abroad, silks and brandies, wines and every kind of feminine finery were stored there against the time when they should be removed and distributed to the merchants, from whom in turn they should be bought by the colonial wealthy. Chestertown is another of those Eastern Shore places that tenderly nurse the tradition of having been intended by the Calverts for our Colonial Capital.

One may approach Chestertown from the outside world by rail from Delaware road, by jitney from Elkton, or by bay and river from Baltimore. The Chester River voyage by steamboat ends at picturesque little Crumpton, less than 10 miles west of the Delaware line, and there are some miles of delightful fresh-water canoeing above this point to Millington.

All the way up from the bay to Chestertown, which lies about 15 miles below the point of navigation, the river is an ample stream, flowing between the rich farm lands of the two counties, widening now and again into coves and bays that look like inland seas. Highest farmsteads, each with its shadowed dwelling and its dependent group of barns and outhouses, bespeak the prosperity ashore, while busy fishermen and oystermen tell of the riches drawn out of the water.

Chestertown may be seen finely from an airplane. Here are some of the views: Energetic and hustling men, beautiful and intelligent ladies.

Four elegant Churches for whites and two brick edifices for colored.

A new High School and splendid Elementary School.

Washington College, open to both sexes alike.

Good transportation facilities—rail and water.

Three progressive newspapers.

Two fertilizer factories and numerous agencies.

Lyceum Theater, where fine pictures are shown.

Firemen's Hall and efficient Volunteer Fire Company.

Free mail delivery.

An ornamental fountain, drinking fountain and monument to civil war veterans.

Three drug stores; good grocery, meat, hardware, furniture, variety, and millinery stores.

Shirt and cloak factory.

Big garages and 1,000 autos.

Elegant homes and hospitable inmates.

Hotels and restaurants.

Three shaving parlors.

Good telephone service.

An ice plant with modern equipment.

Fine water supply.

Gas and electric light plants.

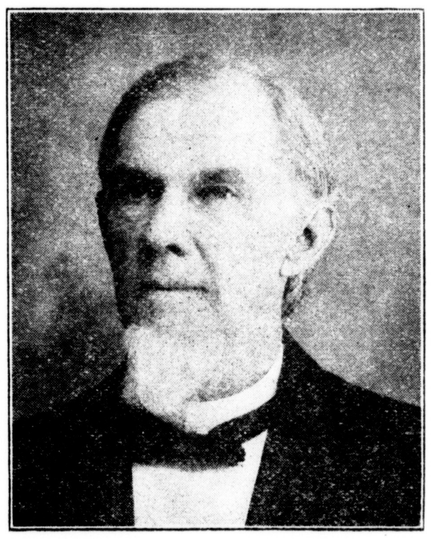
Chester River, unsurpassed.

Longest and widest Macadam street on the Shore.

An ideal place to live.

### Watchmen on the Towers of Progress.

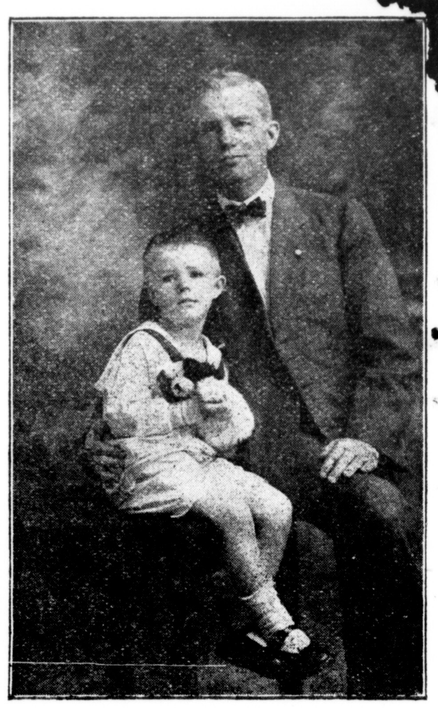
This edition would be incomplete without a recognition of that industry which has done as much, if not more, than any other toward the progress of Kent County. We refer to the press. The Chestertown Telegraph was the first paper published here, it being



THE LATE WM. B. USILTON

started in 1825 by a Mr. Michael, who was succeeded by Mr. Cann. The paper was changed a few years later to Kent Bugle, Capt. Wm. P. Mathews, editor. George Vickers, Spencer and Crane, and Senator Vickers followed in succession.

In May, 1839, the name was changed to Kent News, and on the 17th of November James H. Plummer and Wm. B. Usilton became its editors. Upon the death of Mr. Plummer in 1892, Fred G. Usilton became part owner. It is now owned by Fred G. and Wm. B. Usilton, sons of Wm. B. Usilton. It has a circulation of 2,350, a clientage unsurpassed, and occupies an exalted position in this county. It is at the forefront of all progressive movements and believes there's no place like Kent nor any better people.



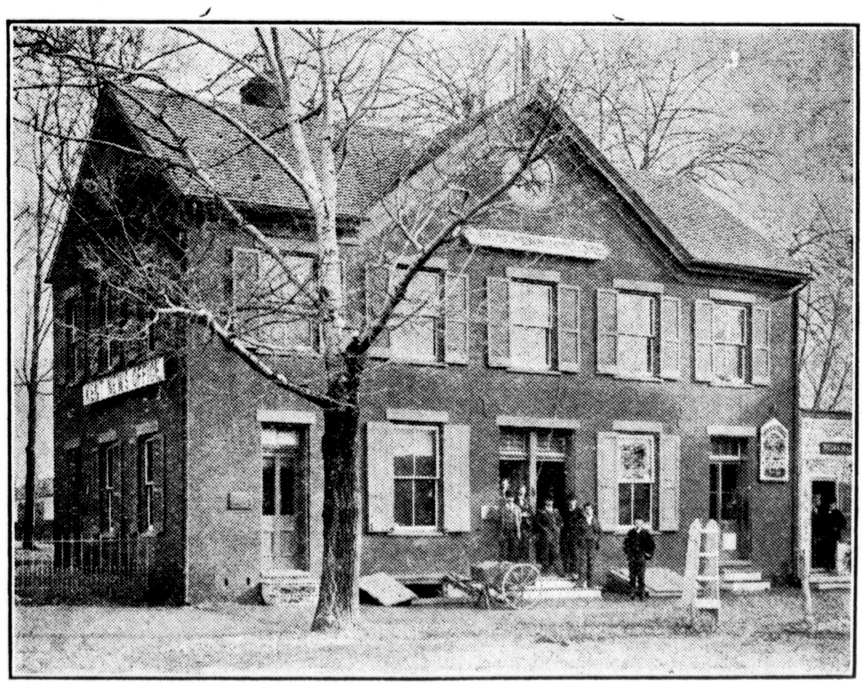
FRED C. USILTON AND SON

The second oldest paper is the Transcript, founded by Eben F. Perkins in 1860. Major Perkins was succeeded by the late Samuel Sullivan, he by Casper G. Woodall. Then came Collins and Hopper. The paper at this time is owned by R. Harrison Collins and occupies an important place in the county's business life.

The Enterprise is the Republican paper. It was started in 1893 by L. Bates Russell, and he has built up a good business.

### Rich In Agriculture Resources.

The agriculture resources of Kent County are far superior to those of many other counties in the State of Maryland. No county has a greater variety of soils, or soils more fertile, more diversified, or more certain in the production of crops. Here is an abundance of raw material and rich soil, upon which all fruits and all crops and all animals necessary for man's support and convenience can be raised



THE "KENT NEWS" BUILDING