Pages From The History Of Elkton

By Catherine Eckels Wilson

(Copyrighted 1936)

Jacob Hollingsworth was the third of the Hollingsworth brothers to leave a lasting impression on the Head of Elk. He will always be remembered as the owner of the inn at which both General Washington and Lord Howe stopped in August of 1777.

Washington, worried about the stores at Head of Elk, rode through a pouring rain to see about them himself and spent the night at the inn of Jacob Hollingsworth. The next morning, August 27th, 1777, Howe marched to Head of Elk from his ships lying in the Elk River, about Oldfield Point. That night Howe stayed in the inn of Jacob Hollingsworth and slept in the same room Washington had used the night before and was attended by the same negro serving man.

This inn is said to have been the old brick house on West Main Street, known as "Washington's Headquarters." We can only fall back on tradition as authority, for no documentary evidence has yet been found to prove that Jacob Hollingsworth used his home as an inn. Washington, in his diary, writes of stopping at Head of Elk at Jacob Hollingsworth's Tavern.

In that early day of poor roads and dangerous travel, especially at night, many of the best families in Maryland petitioned the courts for permission to keep an inn or "ordinary so that they could charge for food and lodging." People stopped at the nearest house or plantation when night fell and Jacob Hollingsworth's plantation was the first reached on the Queen's Highway at the western end of Head of Elk.

This plantation was part of the large estate of his father, the first Zebulon Hollingsworth, who willed to his son Jacob: his "now dwelling house, and also the remaining part of his new plantation (adjoining that part willed to Colonel Henry Hollingsworth), also the remaining part of the woodland below Dogwood Run that is not willed away out of my land caul'd Friendship . . . Also ten acres of swamp and all cleared and woodland lying west of Dogwood Run, being part of Friendship."

Men in those pre-revolutionary days craved land. Prominent men owned thousands of acres. Land was cheap, a few cents an acre bought virgin land or large land grants from the Lord Proprietary. Land was wealth. Tobacco was the medium of barter and trade. Taxes, the minister, the "butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker" were paid with tobacco. Tobacco quickly exhausted the land and, so, to have successful tobacco crops one must have newly cleared soil and one needed more and more land. Only in the west and southwest do we today find anything like the plantations of the wealthy men and their land holdings, before 1776. They also craved marsh lands for their riparian rights and the love, all true Marylanders have, for wild game and water-fowl hunting.

The land of Jacob Hollingsworth lay on both sides of the Queen's Highway and touched the water front, as did that of Colonel Hollingsworth.

Howe's army camped on the plains northwest of the town, probably partly on the plantation of Jacob Hollingsworth. They remained there for several days before moving on to Gray's Hill, and Jacob Hollingsworth's house made a convenient stopping place for Howe. Also was it a convenient stopping place for Washington as it was near his brother's house who, as Commissary for the district, was in constant touch with the armies.

Another story of Washington which tradition places in Jacob Hollingsworth's Tavern is: During one of his visits to Head of Elk some of the people desired to visit him, to do him honor, (as Johnston expressed it) so Jacob Hollingsworth placed a piece of red carpet on the floor for General Washington to stand on while receiving his callers. Washington, entering the room and seeing the carpet, drew his sword from its scabbard and with its point moved the carpet to one side, tactfully receiving his callers standing on the bare floor, as were the others.

Washington made many trips to Head of Elk and, later, to Elkton. It was in 1787, on his way to Philadelphia, that he mentions in his diary stopping at Hollingsworth's Tavern. That trip he used a carriage and was on his way to the second Convention at which they framed the Constitution. He writes: "excepting for ten days for arranging business we worked 5, 6, and even 7 hours a day, excepting Sundays, for four months writing the Constitution."

In 1795, when his family accompanied him, he used a two horse phaeton for himself and a coach and four for his family. They had two mounted servants and a led horse with them. Once he notes he paid one pound four shillings and six pence for breakfast in Elkton.

As President, Washington passed through Elkton many times as he traveled between Mount Vernon and Philadelphia. When Adams was inaugurated as President Washington had with him, as he returned to Mount Vernon, Mrs. Washington, Eleanor Parke Custis, George Washington Lafayette, his namesake and the son of the Marquise de Lafayette sent to Washington for safe keeping during the wars in France, and the boy's tutor.

After he was called by President Adams to be again Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United States he again came to Elkton. December 15th, 1798 his diary states he dined and lodged at Elkton, probably the last time he made the familiar trip between Philadelphia and Mount Vernon.

The home of Jacob Hollingsworth was built about 1760 of English brick. Its walls are nearly two feet thick with doors and windows deeply recessed. The cornices, gables, and eaves are of a style of architecture belonging to the past. Inside only the chair-rails in the hall and the chair-rails and mantels in some of the rooms on the second floor remain unchanged.

During the Revolution Jacob Hollingsworth saw service with the County Militia. April 21st, 1782 he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant of Elk Battalion of the Militia of Cecil County by the Council of Maryland.

When Head of Elk became incorporated as the town of Elkton and the lot purchased for a court house and market place was found to be too small for both, Jacob Hollingsworth gave land at the southwest corner of Main and Bridge street for a new Market-place, in 1787.

The laws governing the market place were rather curious. Tuesdays and Saturdays were appointed as market days and the sale of all food and provisions before ten o'clock, on those days, within a mile of the market-house was penalized by a fine of fifteen shillings. The slaughtering of all animals on the public lot, and the hitching of horses in the market-house drew a fine of ten shillings. The clerk of the town had supervision of the market and of the weights and measures, which, when found defective were sold for the benefit of the owner.

Always actively interested in good roads Jacob Hollingsworth was appointed one of the commissioners to improve that part of the Queen's Highway known as The Old Post Road in 1790. During the Revolution this road was very crooked after it crossed Farr Creek and circled around the northern part of Gray's Hill passing near the Baptist Church on Iron Hill. Traces of this old road can still be seen. The commissioners changed the road to run over Red Hill, as it does today.

Like all the Hollingsworths Jacob was interested in the milling and flour business. We have already mentioned his connection with his brothers in the stage-boats; his interests were many and varied.

Jacob Hollingsworth was the oldest son of Zebulon Hollingsworth, senior, and his second wife, Mary Jacobs. He was born at "The Landing" July 1742—dying March 1st, 1803. About six months before his half-brother Colonel Henry Hollingsworth.

He married Ruth Adams of Christiana, January 25th, 1770. They had no children.

His younger brothers, Thomas and Samuel also married members of the same family: Ann and Sarah Adams, of Christiana, New Castle County, Delaware.

This historic old home he left to his brother, Colonel Samuel Hollingsworth, who lived in Baltimore as did Thomas Hollingsworth. Public spirited and charitable like his brother Jacob, from whom he inherited the property, Colonel Samuel Hollingsworth donated a lot of this land for the purpose of building Trinity Episcopal Church at Elkton. It was Colonel Samuel Hollingsworth, who returned to Elkton and lived in Jacob Hollingsworth's home. His youngest, and seventeenth child, is still remembered by her friends in Elkton as Mrs. Flora Neilson. The home was sold to Colonel Howard and is now the property of Miss Edna Lee.

FOR SALE

PIGEONS—Will sell cheap 60 thoroughbred homing pigeons. From good stock. F. B. Conway, North East, Md. 7-16-ftf

Our New Cleaning Process Insures Against MOTHS!

For years, you've been paying your share of the tremendous moth-damage bill — a bill of over three hundred million dollars annually! Now, for the first time, you can escape this burdensome loss with absolute security.

How? Simply by using our new cleaning service — a process of clothes care which, in addition to quality cleaning, now includes *insured moth-proofing!* Can you afford *not* to use this service? Especially in view of the fact that our new service — including insured moth-proofing — costs you not one penny more than our former regular cleaning price. Men's suits — cleaned, pressed and moth-proofed —

MONITE INSURED MOTH PROOF CLEANING PROCESS

MODERN CLEANERS & DYERS

Phone 52 Perryville - North East Phone 86

ADAM SCHEIDT BREWING CO., Norristown, Pa
If Your Dealer Can't Supply You
Phone 30W
JOHN M. SENTMAN
S. Bridge St., Elkton, Md.

Cruiser For Sale

Private party will sell cabin cruiser, 42 feet long, 9 feet 6 inches beam, 3 feet 6 inches depth, powered by Scripps heavy duty 4-cylinder engine, in perfect condition. Gas consumption, 3½ gallons per hour.

This boat has been recently overhauled and painted, is completely equipped, will sleep six persons, has galley, refrigerator, oil stove, dishes, pots and pans, and toilet with wash basin, copper screens all over, two anchors, life preservers, cushions, radio, electric lights, including running lights, flags, and new tender.

This is an ideal boat for cruising on the Chesapeake, and for gunning and fishing. Will stand any weather.

Price: $750 cash for quick sale

Boat can be seen and demonstrated at Captain Harry Harvey's wharf, North East, Maryland, on Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19.

RE-UPHOLSTERING

When you invest your money in having your furniture re-upholstered you naturally expect satisfaction. Because of our skilled workmanship and excellent material we can guarantee you a lasting satisfaction.

CHARLES F. SMITH

S. Main St. P. O. Box 5 North East, Md.

WE CALL FOR AND DELIVER

AMERICAN STORES CO

SUMMER FOODS

Here is the Quality food you need for Summer health—the cool, refreshing Vegetables and Fruits—the nourishing Meats, Poultry and Seafood. Save money at the convenient ASCO Stores—

Where Quality Counts and Your Money Goes Furthest

Campbell's BEANS 2 cans 11c

Fresh Crispo FIG BARS 2 lbs 19c

Ginger Snaps 2 lbs 17c

Morton's Salt, plain or iodized 2 pkgs 13c
Del Monte Mary Wash. Asparagus can 25c
ASCO Gelatine Desserts or Chocolate Pudding 3 pkgs 13c
Glenwood Prepared Spaghetti 2 cans 15c
Hire's Root Beer Extract bot 23c

Save on Alaska SALMON 3 tall cans 28c
Alaska Red Salmon 25c tall can 21c

ASCO Orange Pekoe Tea ¼ lb pkg 15c
Victor Coffee; "heat-flo" roasted lb 17c
ASCO Coffee; "heat-flo" roasted lb 19c
No-Rub White Shoe Polish, 2 oz 9c - 6 oz 19c

Sale of Choice Calif. Apricots No 1 tall can 10c - 2 largest size 17c cans 27c
ASCO Cal. Apricots Reg 19c Largest can 15c

ASCO Tomato Soup can 5c
Hom-de-Lite Mayonnaise 8-oz jar 13c; pt 21c
Hom-de-Lite Salad Dressing 8 oz 23c; pt 35c
Boscul Coffee lb vacuum tin 29c

Farmdale EVAP. MILK 3 Tall cans 20c

ASCO Fancy Sweet PEAS 2 17c cans 29c

Gold Seal MACARONI or SPAGHETTI 8 oz pkg 5c

Bakery Specials . . .
PLAIN OR ICED WHITE Pound Cakes 29c ea
VICTOR BREAD Sliced loaf 7c

Reg 29c WELL MADE BROOMS 25c
Comparison convinces---see the quality of these brooms.

Waldorf TISSUE 4 rolls 15c
Scot-Towels 3 rolls 25c
Scot-Towel Holder 15c
SCOT-TISSUE 2 rolls 15c

MASON JARS Pints Doz 55c Quarts Doz 65c
Jar Rubbers pkg 5c
Jar Tops doz 21c
Parowax lb pkg 10c
Jelly Glasses doz 39c
Certo bot 25c

Sleigh Bell Sparkling BEVERAGES 3 large quart bots 25c
6 pint bots 25c
Plus Bottle Deposit

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Fresh Snap String Beans ..... 2 lbs. 13c
Local Grown Beets ..... 2 for 9c
Fresh Full-Pod Lima Beans ..... 2 lbs. 19c
Local-Grown Tomatoes ..... 2 lbs. 15c
Ga. Freestone Peaches ..... 2 lbs. 25c
Large Fancy Honey Dews ..... each 25c

MEAT SPECIALS

Finest Quality Steer Beef

BEST CUTS STANDING Rib Roast lb 29c
Choice, Cross-Cut Roast lb 29c
Lean Bolar Roast lb 29c
Boneless Rolled Pot Roast lb 25c

LEAN PLATE BOILING BEEF Lb 12c

KINGAN'S RELIABLE FRANKS or BOLOGNA Lb 21c
Baked Meat Loaf ¼ lb 7c

SWIFT'S MILD-CURE SMOKED PICNICS 8 to 10 lbs avg 19c Lb

Lean Salt Pork lb 21c - 5 lbs $1.00
Dry Salt Fat Pork lb 17c - 6 lbs $1.00

Ask Any "ASCO Courtesy Clerk" How to get a Set of Crystal Cut-Glass Sherbets

American Stores Co.

Prices Effective in Elkton and Vicinity

GENERAL ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE GLAD YOU BOUGHT A

G-E THRIFT UNIT GIVES YOU

LOWEST COST REFRIGERATION

Sealed-in-steel G-E THRIFT UNIT now produces double the cold with even less current than ever.

THE only refrigerator mechanism with forced-feed lubrication and oil cooling, available in both G-E Flatop and Monitor Top models.

Prices as low as

$139.50

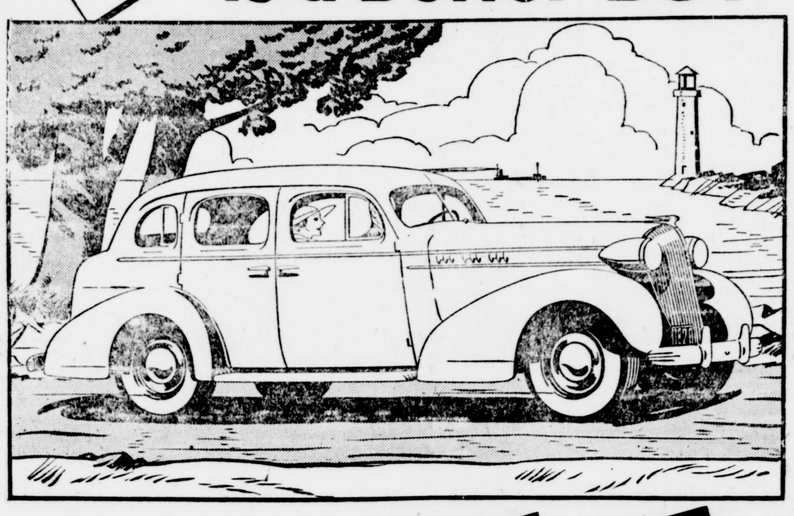
(Terms)

H. W. PIPPIN & SONS

ELKTON, MD.

2 WAYS TO CONVINCE YOURSELF

OLDSMOBILE is a Better BUY



YOU don't have to take an Oldsmobile on faith. You can get proof and *double* proof that Oldsmobile gives you more for your money. *First,* put Oldsmobile through its paces. Your own experience will convince you that Oldsmobile performs, handles and rides "like a million." *Second,* check Oldsmobile's complete list of fine-car features against what other cars have to offer. You will find that Oldsmobile gives you everything you want, from Knee-Action Wheels and Super-Hydraulic Brakes to Body by Fisher, with Solid-Steel "Turret-Top." And in Oldsmobile, remember, all these advantages are yours at a price but a little above the lowest. That is why, when you *drive* and *compare,* you will quickly discover that Oldsmobile is a better buy.

• THE SIX • $665 • THE EIGHT • $810

Sixes $665 and up . . . Eights $810 and up, list at Lansing. Special accessory groups extra. The car illustrated is the Six-Cylinder Touring Sedan, $820 list. A General Motors Value. Monthly payments to suit your purse.

GENERAL MOTORS INSTALMENT PLAN

Elkton Motor Company

Elkton, Maryland