Prize Winning Essay As Written By Miss Mary Hatcherson Of Rock Hall

Through the kindness of our neighbor, the Enterprise, we are publishing the following essay by Miss Mary Hatcherson, of Rock Hall, a graduate of the 1929 class of the Rock Hall High School. Her essay won the prize given by the Eastern Shore Society of Baltimore, in competition with the nine Eastern Shore counties.

The Honorable Ezekiel Forman Chambers

"The history of a country is best told in the record of the lives of its people."

—Thomas B. McCaulay.

Kent County has reason to be proud of her sons because their lives have shed lustre upon the pages of her past. Among her sons there is one who is an honor to Kent County and at the same time one who was the loving friend of all with whom he came in contact. I refer to the Honorable Ezekiel Forman Chambers, distinguished citizen, soldier, statesman and jurist, who was born in Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, February 17th, 1788, just after the close of the Revolutionary War—a time when Kent County, like Rachael, was mourning for her sons and would not be comforted. Few, indeed, were the homes which had not lost loved ones.

Ezekiel Forman Chambers was the son of General Benjamin (Brigadier-General in the War of 1812) and Elizabeth Chambers, and a grandson of Ezekiel and Augustine (Marsh) Forman.

His mother, the beautiful Elizabeth Forman, with George Washington, opened the Assembly Ball in Philadelphia.

Ezekiel Chambers received his early education at Washington College, then one of the most influential colleges in America. After graduation here, he studied law under his distinguished uncle, James Houston, who was subsequently a United States district judge. In 1809 he was admitted to the bar and by his personal popularity and legal ability son built up n large practice. He was especially skilled as a trial lawyer.

Notwithstanding his eminence in law and the consequent calls for his service, in 1812 he answered his country's call to arms. He raised a company of volunteers of which he was chosen captain. He led this company in the battle of Caulk's Field in the summer of 1814 and was subsequently commended by Colonel Philip Reed, his commanding officer, in his official report of the battle.

On Feb. 11, 1817, Captain Chambers married Sarah J., daughter of Major James Bowers, of Kent County. His reputation as a lawyer soon grew and he became noted as one of Maryland's foremost lawyers. In 1826 he was chosen by Maryland Legislature to succeed Edward Lloyd in the United States Senate. He was elected to this position in 1831. In 1834 he was appointed Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. To accept this position he resigned his seat in the Senate. This was giving up a signal honor, for a senatorship came only as a result of public confidence and his election to that body had been made by the Maryland Legislature without canvass. While in the Senate he was the associate of Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John C. Calhorn, Thomas Benton and John Randolph. History records this Senate as probably the most intellectual body of statesmen ever gathered together in any one legislature assembly. The ability of his colleagues in no way overshadowed that of the Senator from Kent, for we learn from the record of Congress that Senator Chambers was known and respected as the peer of any other member of that Senate in clearness of expression, in close analysis, and in debate. Few men of his time could have brought such honor to Kent County and Maryland. As a statesman, Senator, Chambers has left us an inspiration for higher statesmanship which may be regarded as a contribution to our national greatness.

He remained a judge of the Court of Appeals from 1834 to 1851, when he was selected as a member of the Constitutional Convention of Maryland. He was conceded to be the ablest of that distinguished body. His arguments on the tenure ow the judicial office have become a classic. He bitterly opposed the election of judges by the popular vote and also the limiting of their time of service. His arguments on this subject are considered by the most eminent jurists as being the ablest discussion of that subject which has ever been made in America. His legal opinions in cases argued before the Court of Appeals are so clear and strong that they have become models for all subsequent jurists in America. While judge of the Court of Appeals he was in accordance with the legal system of Maryland, judge of the Circuit Court of the judicial circuit in which he lived. Here he was associated with Judges Eccleston and Hopper.

In the troublesome days of the Civil War when Maryland was under the domination of the Federal troops, a constitutional convention was called for the purpose of revoking the Constitution of 1851. While the majority of this convention had been appointed by the militia, it remains an honor to Judge Chambers that he was selected to this body by the voters of Kent County. While Judge Chambers was opposed to secession he was also opposed to the revolutionary project of establishing a new constitution along the lines purposed by the militia. Fruitless were his efforts in preventing the ratification of the constitution. Nevertheless, his arguments are the priceless legacy of all who love freedom in government and justice to all men.

Judge Chambers was a man of strong religious convictions, a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Chestertown, a vestryman for more than fifty years, and was constantly a delegate to the general convention of that church. The records of the church clearly show that his knowledge of canons of the church made him probably the most influential member of that body. His influence there is still felt, in the organization of the Episcopacy. He was for a long time President of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College and was keenly interested in the advancement of education.

After retiring from the bench in 1851 he returned to his loved profession. He was never guilty of appealing to the emotions of his audience, but always addressed himself to their judgement and reason.

Judge Chambers died February 18, 1867, leaving the following children:

James B. Chambers; Laura, who married George L. Davis, children, Mary Clara Davis, Ezekiel Davis; Caroline, wife of George W. L. Perkins, children, George L. Perkins, married Miss Ringgold, children, Murray Perkins, Margarite Perkins, Clara Perkins, Chambers Perkins, Herman Perkins, Carole Perkins, married Ida Camp, children, Caroline Perkins, Vivian Lee Perkins, George Perkins; Judge Chambers years were saddened by the death of Elizabeth Augusta, married to Rev. Dr. Jones, children, Marshall Jones, Chambers Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Milnor Jones, Sarah Maria Louise, married to Rev. Mr. Owen, children, Helen Jones, Mary Clara Chambers, Helen Chambers.

Judge Chambers is buried in the soil of his beloved Kent, but while Kent soil is honored by his resting place, it is yet more honored by the deeds of his life and by a strong personality and amiability which has made him an influence in the development not only of Kent County and Maryland but of the entire nation.

The history of Kent County by Fred G. Usilton records his name as Ezekiel Freeman Chambers. This is an error, his right name being Ezekiel Forman Chambers.

At one time in 1852 just after he retired from the bench, President Fillmore offered him the post of Secretary of Navy. Owing to poor health, Judge Chambers did not accept. Yale conferred upon him the degree of LL. D. in 1833 and Delaware in 1852.

While busy with affairs of church and state he yet found time to be keenly alive to the interests of his fellow countians. Judge Chambers was a large landowner and closely in touch with the agricultural interests of his county, being the first to introduce the reaper. He called together the farmers of two counties to witness the demonstration of the reaper, at the same time making this an occasion for one of the then celebrated agricultural dinners which did so much to provote social life. Somewhat akin to these dinners, in a modern style however, are the "Garden Clubs" held throughout the country. A few years ago one of these garden clubs was to be entertained by a Chestertown host and hostess. Somewhat at a loss to know how to entertain this club, a happy thought came to the hostess—there was living in Chestertown an old Negro slave mammy, probably the last of the slaves now living. She was brought to the party and asked to tell something of her past. The eyes of the Philadelphians were opened when "Old Aunt Charlotte Yorker" began to talk. She related the fact that she belonged to Ezekiel Forman Chambers, and her great thought was that if there were angels in Heaven around the throne of God Marse Judge Chambers was certainly among them." All her talk was of his goodness and greatness, how he never whipped her in his life, but was always kind, quiet and gentle, never even speaking a harsh word to her. She said the monument on his grave is not half fine enough. "He deserves one of gold."

This brings vividly to my mind a school day lesson—That a man's character is judged by what he says, what he does and what others say about him. Here is the testimony of one of former bondage, feeling and cherishing an innate goodness of a former master.

Thus I became interested in Judge Chambers and determined to find out more about a man who could impress his goodness upon one so humble in life as this old slave. As I searched the records, I, too, was like old "Aunt Charlotte" and felt she had in no wise exaggerated, that Ezekiel Forman Chambers was one of the greatest of the galaxy of great men who had made the greatness of Kent County of Maryland and our beloved nation.

The record of this man's life is worthy of the imitation of coming generations.

"All that is, at all,
Lasts ever, past recall;
Earth changes, bu thy soul and
God stand sure.
What entered into thee,
That was, is, and shall be;
Time wheel runs back or stops;
Potter and clay endure."

—Robert Browning.

The follöwjng was related to me b Judge Lewin Wethered Wickes:

An incident handed down by hi admirers is told of his Negro body servant Jim, who was frequently arrested by town authorities for imbibing too freely. On one occasion he was lodged in the Chestertown jail, which was then at the corner of Cross street. Old Jim, seeing Judge Chambers taking his customary ride on his gray horse, called out, "Oh, Marse Judge, oh, Marse Judge," but the Judge rode by. When he passed a second time Jim called out as before and the Judge, as before, rode by. The third time Jim's entreaties were not to be ignored. The Judge stopped and said "Why, is that you, Jim?" "Yas, sir, Marse Judge, please get me out of here." The Judge faced about on his horse and said, "I had nothing to do with your getting in there and I shall have nothing to do with your getting out." However, he rode down town and paid for Jim's release.

When Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Hubbard, of Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, dug a cellar when they rebuilt their house, they found two cannon balls of Revolutionary days buried in the cellar. Apparently they were brought home from the war by General Benjamin Chambers, father of Judge Chambers. Judge Chambers inherited the Hubbard home from his father and lived there about forty-eight years at the time when he was Senator from Maryland. Here, in this beautiful old Colonial mansion, with its hand-carved woodwork, long winding stair case, silver and gold finished locks on the shutters and broken pediments above the doors, Judge Chambers entertained many distinguished men of his time. I am enclosing views of the Hubbard home and also snapshots of Judge Chambers' grave in Chester cemetery.

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HEALTH GROUP HAS ELECTION

Mrs. Nora C. Maxwell Again Heads Association

At the annual meeting of the members of the Kent County Public Health Association the nominating committee submitted the following nominations which were favorably passed upon by the meeting. The nominating committee felt that in consideration of the important work in which the Association is now engaged it was best to make no changes in the officers for the ensuing year:

President—Mrs. Nora C. Maxwell.
1st Vice-President—W. B. Copper.
2nd Viee-President—Mrs. Clark Fontaine.
Secretary—Miss Grace Strickland.
Treasurer—Mrs. John H. Clendaniel.
Chairman of Nursing Committee—Mrs. Don Falls.
Chairman of Ways and Means Committee—Mrs. D. B. Ford.
Chairman of Publicity Committee—Mrs. Nell C. Westcott.
Doctors—Dr. Merritt Brice, Dr. Frank W. Smith, Dr. Frank B. Hines.
District Leaders:
1st—Rev. J. Harry Garner, E. Thomas Massey.
2nd—Mrs. John Boulden.
3rd—Rev. J. Lee Marker, Worton; Mrs. Elmer Thomas, Betterton.
4th—Mrs. James G. Beck.
5th—Mrs. Sarah Sadtler.
6th—Rev. John White.
7th—Mrs. William T. Brown.

A number of new names appear in the list of District Leaders for the year.

The Association is occupied and concerned with the support of the temporary hospital which was started last September and which the Association feels must be kept going until the new and larger hospital is ready for work. The little hospital has taken care of nearly 150 cases of tonsils and adenoids and has been a place where the operation can be done at a minimum of expense with the patients under the very best of care.

The State and County nurses assist on operating days and the hospital nurse is Mrs. Don Falls. The corps of nurses is a most popular one with the children for whose benefit the hospital came into being.

NURSES MAKE JUNE REPORT

312 Hours Were Spent In Field During Month

During the month of June the two nurses now active in Kent County spent 312 hours in the field. These hours include visits to various homes along the three lines of instructive, nursing and social service visits.

Ten white patients were examined at the Tuberculosis Clinic held in the Health Center and six new cases of tuberculosis were reported. Two deaths among the colored were reported from the disease and the State nurse has visited both home and urged all members of the families to come for clinical examination.

Fifteen white patients were operated upon in the Kent County Hospital for the removal of tonsils and adenoids and all were discharged in good condition.

One infant was accompanied by the County nurse to Johns Hopkins for examination.

Two orthodpedic patients were taken to the Easton Hospital of X-rays and another similar patient was admitted to the Kernan Hospital in Baltimore for an operation. One colored child was taken to Easton for x-ray. These cases are some which were brought to light at the time of the Orthopedic Clinic which was held in the County under the Maryland League for Crippled Children in May.

Eight mid-wife bags were delivered to Kent midwives and careful instruction as to their use was given in each case.

The State nurse addressed two community meetings on the Pre-School Child and Hygiene among the colored population.

One typhoid case, a colored child, was reported. Dr. Beachley and the State nurse visited the home and gave vacine to all those who had been in contact with the child.

Three births were reported for the month.

The preventive and follow-up work being done in Kent County for the Health Officer and the nurses is of the greatest protective value. No loose ends are left for every case if followed up and through to completion when reported.

Galena Defeats St. Jame's Nine

The Galena nine of the Chesapeake Bay league handed St. James, of the same loop, a 13 to 4 trimming on the former's home grounds last Saturday. Scoring in the first, second, fourth and seventh the Galena tossers ran up a total of runs that could not be reached by the efforts of the St. James nine.

The seventh was the big inning for the Galena tossers for in this session they sent seven runners scurrying across the platter for counters.

Every man on the Galena nine was credited with one or more safe hits during the contest. Peacock and Cochran led the hitting array with three safe smacks each.

For St. James, Kirby, Williams, Burgess and M. Sutton each connected for a pair of safe hits.

The lineup and summary.

St. James	ab	r	h	o	a	e
Grant, c	4	0	1	5	3	0
Kirby, ss	4	1	2	0	1	2
H. Crew, 2b	4	0	0	1	3	2
Williams, 3b	4	2	2	3	2	0
Burgess, p	4	1	2	0	3	1
J. Crew, cf	4	0	1	5	0	0
F. Sutton, rf	4	0	0	2	0	0
M. Sutton, lf	4	0	2	0	0	0
Jacobs, 1b	3	0	0	8	0	1
Totals	35	4	10	24	12	6

Galena	ab	r	h	o	a	e
Clendaniels, 1b	4	3		9	0	0
Woodall, cf	5	2	2	2	1	0
Moffett, ss	5	2	2	3	3	0
Peacock, c	5	1	3	7	3	0
Redding, rf	5	0	1	0	0	0
Lockwood, 2b	5	1	1	3	4	2
Cockran, 3b	4	2	3	1	1	0
Starkey, lf	5	1	2	1	1	0
Mulford, p	5	1	1	1	2	1
Totals	43	13	17	27	15	3

Score by innings:

St. James	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	—4
Galena	1	2	0	3	0	0	7	0	x	—13

Runs batted in, F. Williams, Burgess 3, Clendaniels, 2, Woodall, Moffett 3, Peacock 3, Cockran 2, Starkey, Mulford; 2 base hits, F. Williams, Lockwood, 3 base hit, M. Sutton. Home runs, Moffett; Base on balls, Burgess 2, Mulford 1; Hit by pitched ball, by Burgess, Clandaniels; First base on errors, St. James 1, Galena 5; Left on bases, St. James 4, Galena 8; Earned runs, Galena 6, St. James 3; Struck out by Burgess 5, Mulford 6; Double play, Moffett to Peacock, to Lockwood; Time of game 1 hour 52 minutes; Umpires Pennington and Tobin.

KENNEDYVILLE

Quite a numbe rfrom here attended the shower given Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hopkins. Congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Hepbron Gill and children, of Lansdown, Pa., spent the week end with their aunt, Mrs. Robert Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Myers spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Granvil Ward in Philadelphia.

Rev. Frank Cain spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Othoson.

Rev. Frank Cain visited Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Othoson on Wednesday.

Mrs. Earl Nickerson entertained her brother, Mr. McGinnis, of Washington, D. C., the past week.

Service in Grace Presbyterian church next Sunday evening at 7.30. All invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Myers spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Granvil Ward in Philadelphia.

Miss Ada Vickers, of Baltimore, is visiting her friend, Miss Emma Shafer.

Miss Hessner and friends, of Philadelphia, spent the week end with relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Wattie McKnett visited relatives here the past week.

Mr. William Oliff and daughter, Anna, are spending this week with relatives in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kernan, of Philadelphia, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry George a part of this week.

Miss Sue Johnston, of Washington, D. C., spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. James Weer, Master Joe Weer returned home with her to spend the summer.

WORTON

Miss Gladys and Eva Thompson, of Washington, and Mrs. Ford Matthews, of Philadelphia, visited Mr. and Mrs. James Matthews a few days last week

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Rash entertained Mr. and Mrs. Maymon and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wolf and daughters, of Baltimore, last week.

Miss Virginia Lee is spending some time with relatives in Wilmington.

Misses Mary Beulah Hadaway and Evelyn Williams are spending this at Epworth League Institute, Dover, Del.

Miss Anna Belle Mary and Louise Harris, of Philadelphia, visited their mother, Mrs. K. P. Harris last week end.

Miss Francis Mullin is visiting her cousin, Miss Betty Hadaway.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sutton were given a serenade and shower Wednesday evening at the home of the brides parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Solloway.

Henpecked Men

When a man is henpecked, he generally indicates in his conversation that other men should be; he is like the fabled fox which, losing his tail in a trap, goes about declaring it is a new style other foxes should adopt, although actually keenly realizing the loss of his own tail. . . . There is actually no more reason why a man should be too much ruled by women than that he should be too much ruled by agents or politicians.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

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