OLD KENT

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Notes Illustrative of the Early Records
OF
KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND,
BY
GEORGE A. HANSON, M. A.

SEC. 17. At the Court held at Mr. Lumbard's, the 12th of August, 1652, Francis Lumbard was authorized to act as Sheriff, for that year, having been elected a second time. From this case it would appear, that the Sheriff, at this period, did not wait for the Governor's commission. Fol. 47.

SEC. 18. At the same Court, an inquest was held over the body of James Wilson, a "Scot," and a servant of Capt. Thos. Bradnox. The death occurred on the 19th of August, 1652.

John Gibson, another servant of Capt. Bradnox testified that Jas. Wilson "had good usage & things fit for a servant," and that the day before his death, his Master struck him in the Fort, a blow or two, "to make him walk," and afterwards "cut a stick," and the deponent heard the "Master strike him in the new tobacco house, and the fellow cry," and heard him strike the servant "a second time."

Elizabeth Browne, another servant, testified: "That the said James in the time of his sickness, was used as if he had been their own child (meaning the child of Capt. Bradnox and his Wife), and my Master often said, if he would but walk and stir, it was all, that he desired, till yesterday; and yesterday I heard blows, and the fellow cry out."

Anthony Calloway, another servant, testified: "That the said James hath been well used, and hath had things fit for a servant, till yesterday; and yesterday morning he eat as heartily as ever I saw him eat, since he was sick and my Master left him in the house till dinner time, and in the afternoon he forced him up to the tobacco house with a stick in his hand, and struck him by the way as he went with a small stick one blow, and going to the tobacco house there he set him to carry in tobacco sticks, and then sent him to another tobacco house to carry out sticks, and then he slacking his work, my Master went to him, and struck him with a locust bough, and then he came out, and would have gone home, and his Master went to him again and struck him with a little stick, and told him, he should carry the sticks, before he went home, then he lay down, and my Master shut the door, and came and left him, after this Mistress came and lifted him up, and he came out at the door, and staggered and fell down, and then John & I came, and he led him a little way, and he sunk down betwixt us, then I took him upon my back, and carried him a little way further, and then he died."

Jno. Smith, Jr., testified: "That the said James Wilson walking in the Fort, his Master took him by the arm, and down he fell. And then his Master gave him one kick on the breech, and after that struck him one blow with a cane over the shoulder, and further he had good usage since I came into Mr. Bradnox's house being about a fortnight, and as good victuals as any man need to put into his belly, and neither struck him nor abused him to my knowledge, but at before is mentioned."

James Horner testified: "That the said James, since I came in Mr. Bradnox's house, hath been well used both by Mr. Bradnox and his Wife, as if he had been their own child, and not any blow or stripes to my knowledge until yesterday, and Mr. Bradnox often said to him: "Do but eat thy victuals and walk, and that is as much as I look for." Only yesterday Mr. Bradnox drove him before him to the tobacco house, and caused him to carry tobacco sticks in at the door, and to fetch a parcel of tobacco sticks out of another house, to find him employed, and after he struck him with a locust bough sprig how many blows I know not. After that Mr. Bradnox stood up upon a tree, and seeing him laid down went and called to him, and he would not speak, and then he struck him with a pock-hickory rod."

Wm. Leedes, another servant of Capt. Bradnox, testified and signed his name to his deposition: "Upon Thursday, I, Will. Leeds, being come into the house from Work, saw my Master beat James Wilson with a cane over the shoulders, but how often I cannot tell, nor remember, so aftewards, I being gone into the field as I was at Work, I saw my Master follow the said James with a stick and let him to make clean the Block House and to carry the tobacco sticks into it, so after that he put the fellow into the new tobacco house to carry sticks out of the house, so the fellow did carry a few out, but not being able, as he related himself to be, he came out and lay down upon the ground some distance from the house, desiring to go home, but my master called to him, and bade him go into the house to carry sticks, but the said James would not rise off the ground, so upon that my Master went and get a locust stick and went to raise him, the fellow seeing him come, he got up and went towards the house, so my Master followed him, and beat him there, so then he came to work again; by-and-by my Master called James not seeing of him about the employment he set him about, and called him two or three several times; the fellow not making answer, he said, he would make him find his tongue, and went, and cut a small stick with three twigs on it, and gave the fellow about twenty blows, which I did hear, and that was the last time he struck him, and within the space of one hour or less, he died, being upon Anthony's back; but a little before he died, my Mistress came to the tobacco house, and would had him come home, and the fellow came out, my Mistress helping him up as she related, he came out of the tobacco house but not being able to go, he fell down from her arms upon the ground. This much concerning this point. Now concerning his usage the time of his sickness (before I cannot relate anything but that) he was well used, as if he had been their own child, so far as I could perceive."

SEC. 18. A. Twenty-one (21) stripes are recorded; 4 upon the left shoulder, 4 upon the left arm, 6 upon the back, 3 upon the left breech, and 4 upon the right side.

SEC. 18 B. There is another deposition from James Horner, dated after the verdict, but recorded immediately before it, and probably referring to the same case, in which he says, that while he was at the house of Edw'd Coppedge, about the first of August, "Scotchman say, that he would never do his said Master any service." The Scotchman, however expressed a great desire to have another Master. Upon one occassion, Mr. Coppedge allowed the Scotchman to sleep forty-eight hours; but the servant, not withstanding his promise, did not afterwards do any work. "As for his usage, he had such as his Master had, which was good,—good mush, and hog's lard, and salt meat, if he would have eat it, but he would not eat the meat, he said, it was too salt."

SEC. 18. C. The Jury was engaged about three days, in holding the inquest. On the 23rd of August, they gave the following verdict:

"The Jury having according to their Oaths, and in discharge of their Consciences, made inquiry into the death of James Wilson, and to unanimously conclude that the material cause of the said Wilson his death was an intermitting fever joined with the dropsy or scurvy, as commonly understood, and further that the stripes given him by his Master not long before his death were not material." Wm. Fuller and eleven other Jurors. For the entire case see Folios 47-49.

SEC. 19. At the August Term of the Court, 1652, Edward Copedge was found guilty of "'living in fornication" with Elizabeth Risby, before he was able to prove the death of her husband, Wm. Risby; and sentenced to pay 600 lbs. of tobacco, and to remain in the sheriff's bands, until the execution of a bond, "that he company not with her nor come to have any familiarity with the aforesaid Elizabeth Risby." Fol. 50.

At the same session of the Court, Elizabeth Risby was sentenced to receive 15 lashes and to give bond for her good behaviour. Fol. 51.

SEC. 20. At the same session of the Court Capt. ROBERT VAUGHAN was fined 300 lbs. of tobacco, for insolent language to the Court. Fol. 52.

A second time, Capt. ROBERT VAUGHAN, insulted the Court, by using most "opprobious" epithets, bending his "fist" over the "heads" of the Judges and "swearing" at the Clerk as "he sat at table." For this offense the Court imposed a fine of 600 lbs. of Tob. Fol. 56.

SEC. 20. A. Capt. ROBERT VAUGHAN had lately been deposed by the "Keepers of the Liberty of England," and could not stomach and digest the doings of a Court organized by the Puritan Commissioners.

SEC. 21. THOS. WARD, about the same time, was arrested upon "suspicion of felony." The case was referred to the next Court. In one of the depositions, it is stated, that a servant had run away, and upon being taken back. "Mistress Ward did whip her with a peach tree rod & after she had done, she took water and salt, and salted her, and when she was adoing the same the maid cried out, and desired her Mistress to use her like a Christian, and she replied, and said: "Oh! ye whore, you." "Do you liken yourself like a Christian?" And also after that time, "She ran away several times." (Fol. 54.) The Jury found that the punishment given by Thos. Ward and his Wife was not the cause of the "maid's" death, but that it was "unreasonable considering her weak estate of body;" and the Court imposed a fine of 300 lbs. of tob. for the "unreasonable and unchristian-like punishment." Fol. 56.

SEC. 22. Among the Proceedings of the November Court, 1652, is the following: "Whereas the Wife of Francis Hunt hath petitioned unto this Court for a Certificate unto the Provincial Court, that she was the Wife of the said Hunt, which was lately slain by the Indians upon the Isle of Kent, the——of October, wherefore this Court hath granted her lawful request: These are therefore to certify your Worships, and the rest of the Council of the certainty of the premises." Fol. 56.

SEC. 23. At the November Court, 1652, "THOS. RINGGOLD, aged about 43 years," deposed, that about the 1st of the preceeding July, he heard Wm. Jones at Thos. Hinson's house, say, that he would question Thos. Ward, about the death of his "maid" for he would bring him to his twelve Godfathers, which was John Hood, and Elizabeth Risby, and Richard Blunt, and he would prosecute the suit. Fol. 57.

SEC. 24. Upon Folio 58 there is a long and curiously queer deposition of Henry Carlien respecting expressions, he heard, in relation to the case of Ed. Coppedge and "Risby's Wife." The deposition of Henry Carlien retails a conversation at his own house, with Jane the Wife of John Hood. Jane Hood asserts the innocence of Elizabeth Risby, and insists that the latter is the lawful Wife of Ed. Coppedge, "but only for the ceremony." She admitted that Elizabeth was regarded in the light of a "whore," but maintained if she had "been a private whore," nothing would have been said to her, and that other women can have husbands and "three or four more good fellows besides." She also denounced the Court, and asserted, that they had been actuated by "spite." At the next Court she was reprimanded, and also threatened. Fol. 59.

SEC. 25. At the December Court, 1652, Thos. Weest, servant to HENRY MORGAN, gentleman, obtained his freedom, and freedom corn, with whatever besides may "be usual according to the custom of the Country."

The order is conditional, the Master being allowed a certain time to produce the indentures. Fol. 60.

SEC. 25. A. THE FORME OF BINDING A SERVANT.

THIS INDENTURE made the
day of in the yeere of
our Soveraine Lord King Charles, etc.
betweene of the one party,
and on the other party,
WITNESSETH, that the said
doth hereby covenant, promise, and
grant, to and with the said his
Executors and Assigns, to serve him
from the day of the date hereof, untill
his first and next arrival in Maryland; and after for and during the
term of yeers, in such service
and employment, as the said or
his assignees, shall there imploy him,
according to the custome of the Country in the like kind. In consideration
whereof, the said doth
promise and grant, to and with the
said to pay for his passing,
and to find him with Meat, Drinke,
Apparell and Lodging, with other
necessaries during the said terme;
and at the end of the said terme, to
give him one whole yeeres provision
of Corn, and fifty acres of Land, according to the order of the Countrey.
In Witness whereof, the said
hath hereunto put his hand and
seale, the day and yeere above written
Sealed and delivered in
the presence of.

SEC. 27. "January the 9th being the 1652, the following deposition was made:

"The deposition of THOS. PETT, aged 40 years or thereabouts, sworne, examined, saith, that a little after Will'm Jones came from the Susquehanahs, your deponent did hear the said Jones say, that he did see Andrew the Sanyeard (Spanfard?), and he asked, the said Farington being late servant of Mr. Philip Conier, on the Isle of Kent. Upon this occasion, a Jury was empanelled, and the Coroner sat Jan. 11th, 1652, O. S.

The deposition of CHRISTIAN HILL, the Wife of Thos. Hill, being of age about 45 years, concerning the death of the said Thos. Farington, the said Christian Hill, sworne & examined, saith, that the boy was at our house upon occasion for his Mistress, and I despatched him away presently, and he said, he was to go with Goodman Burton for a goose, and within a while after, I went to look out after him, and I saw Goodman Burton upon the ice, and he went into the canoe, and the boy went out of the canoe upon the ice upon his knees with a stick afore him, and when he came almost to the goose, he called to Goodman Burton, and said, the ice cracked, and he turned about another way and presently fell in, and then he called to Goodman Burton to help him, and he went forth out of the canoe, and when he came within a paddle's length to my discerning, he fell in also. I saw him labour with his hands and could endure to see the sight no longer, but went in, and further your deponent saith not." (Fol. 44.) Thos. Hill testified to the same facts as his mother. And the Jury gave the following verdict:

"That the said Thomas Farington came by his death, as far as they can discern, not by his own will, intent, or purpose, nor by the intent of any other, but according to the evidence, fell through the ice, and perished, before any help could come to save his life." Fol. 64.

SEC. 27. A. Mrs. CHRISTIAN HILL survived her first husband, Thomas Hill. On the 5th day of November, 1657, I find her recorded as being, then, the wife of THOMAS RINGGOLD.

SEC. 28. The license given by the Governor to Thos. Ringgold to kill "any wild, unmarked hogs within any of his Lordship's forests" upon the "Island" was revoked and returned to the Clerk, on this 2nd of Feb. 1652, O. S. Fol. 44.

SEC. 29. At the February session of the Court, in 1652, O. S., The Court granted a Certificate to John Conitt, for 300 acres of land, "he coming to this Island, himself, his Wife & Child the first of May last, 1652." Fol. 67.

At this Court, Thos. Marsh, "merchant," obtained judgment against the estate of Wm. Jones. Fol. 67.

SEC. 30. At the same Court Henry Carlien, and Thos. Ringgold testified, that about the last of the prevous May, they heard Capt Jacobs say, "that he had shipped 16 hhds. of Tobacco aboard Mr. Marsh his vessel." Fol. 70.

Francis Lumbard testified, that he heard Capt. Jacobs about the same time say, "that he was to give Mr. Thos. Marsh 4 lbs. a ton for freight in his vessel to New England.—Fol. 70. Isaac Iler confirmed the testimony of Mr. Lumbard. Fol. 70.

SEC. 31. At the same Court Thos. Pett testified, "that being at Maryland, at the Court, he heard the Secretary ask Mr. Ward, whether the tobacco and the servant that Mr. Wickes, was to pay for the land, should be for the children's use, and the said Mr. Ward answered, that it was the Mother's, before it was his, and he desired that it miht go for their use. (Fol. 71.) HHere is another instance, in which "Maryland" was used as another name for St. Mary's.

SEC. 32. "Received of Mr. Henry Carlien, six rolls of tobacco, one bear's skin, and five raccoon's skins, which goods abovesaid I shall sell for his use, to the Dutch Plantation ,or Boston, after safe arrivement, or to be delivered to Mr. Henry Payne in Boston. Witness my hand, this 25th day of May 1652. John Jacobs. Fol. 73.

SEC. 33. The County Levy, for the year 1652, was estimated at 2877 lbs. of tobacco, at the rate of "45 lbs. of tob. per poll of all tithable persons throughout this Island." Fol. 68. (9.)

(continued next week)

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NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has obtained from the Orphans' Court for Kent County letters of Administration on the personal estate of

BEULAH H. PERKINS

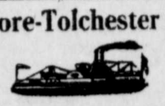
late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased's estate are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchers thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of November, 1933, otherwise may by law be excluded from all benefit of said deceased's personal estate.

All persons indebted to this estate mast settle at once.

Given under my hand this 29th day of April, 1933.

THOMAS W. PERKINS,
my6 Administrator.

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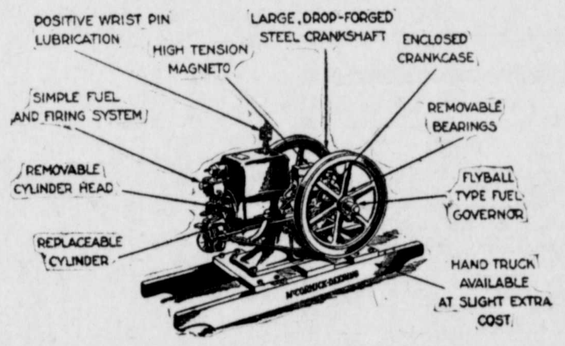
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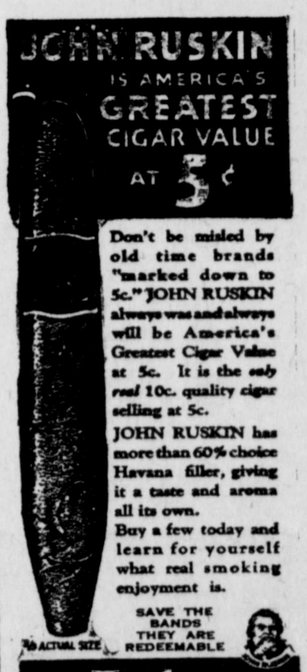
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