OLD KENT

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

SEC. 51. I insert the following letter, (a copy of which was sent to me, by Hon. Frederick Stone, a worthy representative of the amiable Gov. William Stone, of whom I have spoken so often, as soon as my desire for information was made known to him), not only because it contains a history of the descendants of early settlers of Kent, but it may be considered and taken as a model, in its way; and if others, of my readers, would do the same, I would be enabled to prepare such a History, of the good people of Kent county, as would be of great and increasing value and interest to generations unborn.

OAKEN BROW,
NEAR PORT TOBACCO,
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND,
MAY 30th, 1874

Hon. Frederick Stone, Port Tobacco, Md. My Dear Sir:—In compliance with the request of John Hanson Thomas, Esq., of the city of Baltimore, communicated, to me, through you, I herewith submit a statement of all I, at present, know of the Hanson family of this county, from which he appears to be naturally descended.

The ancestor of the Hansons, in this State and county, was undoubtedly a Swede or Finlander. It is a well known historical fact, that the celebrated Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, including Finalnd, the "Lion of the North and the Bulwark of the Protestant Faith," as he was styled by Major Dugald Dalgetty, and who was killed at the battle of Lutzen, in Germany against Wallenstein, the Imperial Generalissimo, in November, 1632, founded a colony of Swedes and Finlanders upon the banks of the Delaware. This colony occupied the present State of Delaware, which was embraced within the chartered boundaries of the Province, now State of Maryland, granted to Cecilius, second Baron and Lord Baltimore, by charter, in Latin and English, bearing date, June 20th, 1632, by Charles I., King of England.

The Swedish colony was invaded and broken up by one of the Dutch Governors of their colony in New York, then New Amsterdam or New Netherlands, until they in turn, had to account to the English. Many of the people of the present State of Delaware, as fine a race, in peace or war, as any in all America, are no doubt descended from these ancient Scandinavians, who, including the Danes and Norwegians, in anti-Christian times were so celebrated as Rovers, Pirates and Robbers, both by sea and land, and who, for so many years, were the terror and scourge of England, Scotland, Ireland and France (when they conquered and permanently held their Kingdom in Normandy) and probably, to people still further South. After the fall of the Colonial Government, several of the Swedes took refuge and settled in Lord Baltimore's neighboring colony of Maryland, and three of these, Andrew Hanson, Valerus Leo and Swan Swanson, settled in Kent in 1653, where two of them died and were buried.

Hans Hanson, was the orphan child of one of these, and whose father (Andrew Hanson) I have always understood, was a Colonial functionary of distinction in the Swedish colony. Upon the death of his father, the forlorn, unprotected and unprovided condition of the orphan Swedish child, Hans Hanson, excited the deep and manly sympathy and compassion of a noble Maryland planter, Maj. Joseph Wickes of Kent County, who became his father and guardian, and who took care that he was well educated. The young Swede grew up to be a man of commanding talents and consequent influence. He arose to high official rank, became a Colonel, and held the most honorable post in Kent county, the oldest in the State, except St. Mary's, and it was from this Colonel Hans Hanson, that the Hansons of Charles county were descended, to which county their emigration from Kent, appears to have been nearly altogether confined.

Charles county was organized into a county in May 1658 under the Governor-ship of Josias Fendall, "Captain Governor William Stone," as he was called, being one of the commissioners for that purpose, though he was not present.

When the first Hanson came to the county, I have at present no means of knowing. The earliest record evidence, however, of their residence therein, is the Will of Randolph Hanson, dated September 28th, 1698, and recorded in the Register's office here (16th April, 1699). His wife's name was Barbara, who was his Executrix, to whom he devised his plantation called St. John's, near Port Tobacco, afterwards owned and occupied by the Chapmans, and where he died and was buried, not long after the date of his Will. He mentions no child, but a daughter, named Thompson, and her son Thomas Thompson, then an infant. He also mentions two tracts of land in Prince George's county (organized and made a county in 1695) on Otta Creek, containing 860 acres, which he had previously sold to John Fendall and Joshua Marshall.

John Hanson was the oldest of the name in this county (except Randolph) that I have seen any record of, and I think there can be no doubt that he was the progenitor of the large and remarkable family of the Hansons in Charles county and their migratory relations elsewhere. John Hanson's Will is dated December 12th, 1713, in which he mentions seven children, four sons and three daughters, to wit: Robert, the eldest, John, Samuel, and Benjamin, Mary (then married to the Rev. William McConchie, an Episcopal clergyman, from Scotland, who was settled in Port Tobacco Parish in 1711, and died there in 1743), Anne and Sarah;—his wife's name is not mentioned. He was a wealthy man for those days. Of his sons Robert, John, and Benjamin, I have at present no detailed information, but their names have been well preserved, by the subsequent descendants of the family. The daughters Anne and Sarah or some of his female descendants, married into the Harrison and Thomas families. Robert Hanson Harrison, was a distinguished man. He was a lawyer of fine talents and legal acquirements, was Military Secretary with the rank of Colonel, to General Washington, during the Revolutionary War, and upon the unanimous election of the latter as President, and the organization of the government under the Constitution of 1787, Colonel Harrison was selected and appointed, by him, one of the Supreme Court of the United States. I have seen and read, perhaps a dozen original letters, written by him, to various persons. Of the descendants of the marriage or marriages with the Thomas family John Hanson Thomas, Esq., of Baltimore city, of course knows more than I do. A sister of Prestly Thomas, Esq., who I remember very well, married a son of Doctor Samuel Hanson of Durham Parish, the only Jeffersonian Democrat of the family, who is now represented by her son Samuel Hanson, Esq., a very worthy gentleman and farmer in the same Parish. Her second husband was Uzziel Nally, Esq., a worthy and somewhat wealthy man, by whom she left a son and daughter. Herself and husband are both dead, the latter dying in 1866.

John Hanson, with Daniel Carroll, as the only representatives of Maryland, signed (Hanson first) the Articles of Confederation of the thirteen contending Colonies against England, dated July 9, 1778.

Alexander Contee Hanson was Chancellor of Maryland, before and after the year 1800; who his father was, I do not know, but the Chancellor was a distinguished man in the State in his day. His son, Alexander Contee Hanson, was a man of great notoriety and fame in his time. He like all his family and name, with the exception before mentioned, was a staunch and unflinching Federalist of the George Washington and Alexander Hamilton school, and was editor and proprietor of the "Federal Republican," the leading Federal paper in the State if not in the United States. He was also a member of Congress, when no body and upstart could be such, was of the most indomitable and unconquerable energy, full of talent, and, I suppose, as brave a man as any that ever belonged to the race of man, at any time or anywhere. He was mobbed by the Democrats, in Baltimore, just before the war of 1812, and his press and types destroyed, as is in the personal recollection of persons still living. He defended himself and premises with the most reckless and undaunted bravery, and shot dead the first man (a Dr. Gales) of the mob that entered his door, and to this same courage and firmness, alone, he owed his life, when afterwards with a few friends, including the two Revolutionary Generals, Lingan and "Light Horse" Harry Lee, he surrendered to the Democratic authorities of the city, upon an assurance and promise of protection, was locked up in a jail, and then basely and treacherously abandoned in the night to the wild fury of the cowardly and vindictive mob that first assailed him. He soon however got safe to the old home of his family, and with his head still bound up and the bloody stains of his recent wounds visible, addressed a large crowd in Port Tobacco, commencing with, "In Charles county now rest the bones of my ancestors," &c. The excitement in the almost unanimous old Federal county, where his name and family had for so many years played such prominent parts, was almost inconceivable, and fifty of the leading men, it was said, armed themselves as well as they could, and offered, or did actually go on horseback to defend him from a threatened and apprehended attack of the same Baltimore mob at Annapolis. I am not old enough to remember these things, though I think I have a dreamy indistinct recollection of some of them, but I have learned what is here written, mainly, from my father, who was what was called " a very bitter Federalist," indeed. This same Hanson, whilst in Congress, fought a duel with an officer of the United States navy, (Capt. Charles Gordon) when, with marvellous coolness and nonchalence, he so badly wounded his antagonist, hitting him exactly where he said he would, that some six months or a year afterwards he died from the effects of it.

He had a brother named Charles W. Hanson, who for many years was a judge of one of the courts of Baltimore city, who had in his possession a very old portrait of one of the old Hansons, presented to him by his cousin, Mrs. Kitty Robertson, who was a Hanson. He has not been dead very many years.

I will now return to Samuel Hanson the third son of the ancestor John Hanson, before mentioned.

Samuel Hanson, son of John, was buried at "Equality," about six miles from Port Tobacco, last owned by the family of Judge Michael Jenifer Stone, the grand-father of the Hon. Frederick Stone, now of Port Tobacco. He had three sons, to wit: Walter Hanson, of Howard, John Hanson, of Mulberry Grove, and Samuel Hanson of Green Hill, all near Port Tobacco. He had also one daughter, whose name I do not know (and probably others) who married David Stone, the inheritor of his manor (Paynton with Court Leet and Court Baron) the direct oldest representative of William Stone, the first proprietary Governor of Maryland (from 1649 to 1655), after Leonard Calvert, the brother of Lord Baltimore. Walter Hanson, eldest son of Samuel, above, had two daughters, one of whom married Hugh Mitchell, a Scotchman, and merchant, and the other married ——Jenifer, generally known and called "Squire Jenifer." After the death of Hugh Mitchell, about the year 1765; his widow, the daughter of Walter Hanson, before mentioned married Samuel Stone, the son and only child of David Stone, by his wife the daughter of Samuel Hanson, her husband, being the son of her aunt, the sister of her father Walter Hanson, and consequently her first cousin. By her first husband, Hugh Mitchell, she had three children that grew up, to wit: Gen. John Mitchell of the Revolutionary army, who died in 1812, a daughter, Mary, who married Mungo Muschett, who died a great many years ago, leaving four sons and a daughter, (William, Henry, Philip, John, and Mary) and Catharine Mitchell, a very beautiful woman, and a great belle, who died unmarried. Gen. John Mitchell left two sons: Richard, an Episcopal clergyman, and Walter Hanson Jenifer, a lawyer, farmer, and politician, and two daughters, Mary Ann and Elizabeth. Richard married four times and died some years ago, leaving a large family; and Walter, who died, some two years, after him, married and left a family of two sons and four daughters. Mary Ann married James Brawner, the county surveyor, in 1819, and died within two months of her marriage; and Elizabeth married William Briscoe, her cousin, and both died many years ago, leaving three daughters. This Elizabeth Mitchell, I well remember to have been, before she was married, a beautiful sparkling, black-eyed woman, very strongly resembling, as I have been told, by the old people, her aunt Catharine Mitchell.

Samuel Stone, son of David, by his wife and cousin, the widow of Hugh Mitchell and daughter of Walter Hanson, left four children who grew up, to wit: Walter Hanson Stone, the eldest (named after his grand-father Walter Hanson), David Stone, Alexander Stone, and Sarah Stone. David and Alexander died unmarried, the former in 1840, over 70 years of age, (the oldest of the name, that I ever heard of, and the only Jeffersonian Democrat of the family) and the latter when he was 19 or 20 years of age. Walter Hanson Stone, oldest son of Samuel, married Rachel Muncaster, the oldest child and daughter of his father's neighbor, James Muncaster, before he was 21 years old, (a runaway match) and whose present representative and descendant is James Muncaster Brown, a millionaire and partner in the great banking firm of "Brown Brothers & Co.," New York. He died on his hereditary place Paynton Manor, at the early age of 27, leaving two daughters, Ann, born 1788, and Sarah S., born in 1790. Ann Stone, the oldest, married in 1805, Capt. John Taylor, of St. Marys county, and died in 1815, aged only 27, leaving three children, to wit: Walter Hanson Stone, the oldest, (named after his grandfather Walter Hanson Stone), Sarah Ann, and John Arthur Taylor, who before the late civil war, was a wealthy planter and Physician in Louisiana. All now living and married, but once each, and having had families, numbering altogether thirty children, 17 sons and 13 daughters. Sarah S. Stone (second daughter of Walter Hanson) married Doctor W. Dunnington in June, 1812, and died in May, 1830, childless. Sarah Stone, the only daughter of Samuel Stone, the second husband of the daughter of Walter Hanson, married John Briscoe, some where about the year 1793, and after surviving her husband, about 20 years, died, leaving five children, to wit: Samuel, John, Williiam, (married to his pretty cousin Elizabeth Mitchell) Walter Hanson Stone (named after his uncle, and Janet, the two first having died many years ago, but the two last Walter Hanson Stone (married) and Janet (a maiden) are both still living, now old people over 70 years of age, being grandchildren, and the only surviving of them of the daughter of Walter Hanson, the son of Samuel, the son of John Hanson the ancestor before mentioned.

Of the descendants of the other two sons of Samuel Hanson, the son of John, the ancester in Charles county, to wit: John Hanson, of Mulberry Grove, and Samuel Hanson, of Green Hill, and including Walter Hanson's also, I have no detailed positive knowledge; but they were very numerous, and many of them leading, wealthy, and influential men. The fact is, that, for more than one hundred years, there was no family so wealthy, prominent, and powerful, in Charles county, and their relatives and descendants in the State, as the Hansons, hardly excepting the Stones, including the first proprietary Governor, after Leonard Calvert, and descendants, with whom the Hansons were nearly allied by marriage and consanguinity. The ancient records in the Clerk's and Register's offices, still show, that the principal offices of the county, within that period, Judges of Courts, Clerks of ditto, Registers of Wills, High Sheriffs, Inspectors, &c., were held and filled by members of that remarkable family, besides the State Chancellor, members of Congress, and Judge of Baltimore City Court before mentioned.

From having been the most, they are now the least numerous of the old families, still residing in the county. There was a Samuel Hanson, a near neighbor of my father, who was a brave officer of the old Maryland Line of the Revolutionary War. He married Margery McConchie, his relative, and died leaving an only son, Robert Winder Hanson, who died in 1853, and left two sons, Earnest and Alban, now married and living upon their old farm, a part of Paynton Manor of the Stones. There was another Samuel Hanson. (Samuel appearing to have been a favorite name in the family) likewise a brave Revolutionary officer of the same old Maryland Line, who left an only son named Josias H. Hanson, whom as my cousin "Si" I knew very well. He lived, the last thirty years of his life, in Washington and Baltimore, and died in or near the latter city, leaving an only son, whose name I do not now remember, but when I saw him, he was a wounded Confederate soldier, in a hospital in Richmond, Va. I knew two other Hansons of the same family, Thomas H., who married a daughter of Col. William Dent Beall, a distinguished Revolutionary officer (Maryland Line,) who died in Fredricksburg, Va., leaving many children, and Isaac Hanson, who was Clerk in one of the Departments all his manhood life, and died there, an old man, leaving a family. I also knew another family of Hansons, but do not know from what branch they descended, or the name of their father. They were William, the oldest, Francis B., Chloe Ann, and Jane. Neither of the males married, both are now dead, the younger was an Episcopal clergyman of good talents and very high character, who died in Baltimore in the early part of the present year. Of the females, Jane, the youngest, married Joseph Young, and died many years ago, and Chloe Ann, the oldest, married Henry A. Stone, and is still living, a fine old lady 72 or 73 years of age.

I wish I knew more than I have here related of this fine, and by no means undistinguished race, in which I feel a personal as well as a public interest, as I am connected with them by blood, and with the Stone family also, as is indicated by my name, which I herewith subscribe in full as

Very truly your friend and relative,
WALTER HANSON STONE TAYLOR,
Late second Military Auditor of the
(15) Confederate States

GALENA

Misses Dorothy and Pearl Fogwell are spending this week with Rev. and Mrs. Henry Caldwell at Felton, Del.

Mr. Lewis Cruickshank, of Philadelphia, Pa., is visiting his sister, Mrs. J. E. Ireland.

Miss Selma Scotton returned home on Monday after spending a month with her sister, Mrs. Harry Smith, in Salisbury, Md. Mrs. Smith and son, Harry, returned with her to spend awhile with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Scotton.

Master Brooks Watson, of Chesapeake City, Md., is spending the summer months, with his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blount.

Mr. Thomas Roe, of Dover, Del., spent a few days last week, with his daughter, Mrs. William Starr.

Quite a few in town attended the funeral of Mr. Thomas Caldwell, of Cecilton, Md., last Sunday afternoon, Mr. Caldwell was formerly of near Galena.

Mr. Jack Newnam, of Wilmington, Del., spent last week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Newnam.

The Willing Workers Sunday School Class held its monthly meeting last Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Jarvis near Locust Grove, Md.

Miss Eva McCauley, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. Eva McCauley.

Mrs. William Ottey, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent a few days last week with her niece, Mrs. Heston Coxe.

Mr. William Johnson, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent last week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson.

Miss Mary Carroll Smith, of N. J. C., N. Y., spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. Catherine Smith.

Miss Ethelie Prettyman, of Baltimore spent last week end with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. A. P. Prettyman.

Mrs. Katherine Hyland returned home last Friday after spending a month with friends in Dover, Del.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Vermillion, Mr. and Mrs. Youse and son, of Washington, D. C., spent last week with the formers aunt, Mrs. Linda Walls.

Changed Her Name

Mandy could not write, and indorsed her checks with a big X, but on this occasion made a circle on the back of the check.

"Whats the big idea, Mandy?" asked the teller. "Why don't you make a cross, as usual?"

"Ah done got married yesterday, boss, and I'se changed my name."

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