OLD KENT

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

SEC. 59. The following sections are taken from and contain all that can be deciphered by me, and is worthy of note, in the second part of Liber A. Court Proceedings of Kent County:

WHEREAS by exercise of the Chiefe MAGISTRACY, and Administration of the Government, over England, Scotland, Ireland, and Dominions thereunto beelonginge, doth now reside in his Highness the LORD PROTECTOR; assisted with a COUNCIL; IN whose name all writs, process, Commitions, Grants or orders are to runne; AND from whom all MAGISTRACY, and powers, in the three Kingdoms, or Nation aforesaid, and the DOMINIONS therof, is to be derived;

AND this PROVINCE of MARYLAND, by lawfull power from the supreme AUTHORITIE of the Commonwealth of England, formerly and since from the LORD PROTECTOR, and COUNSELL, now beeinge COMMITTED, to the honorable Richard Bennett, Esq, and Colonell Wm. Claiborne, is subscribed to the present GOVERNMENT OF ENGLAND, and established therein, by a COMMITION GRAUNTED in the name fo his HIGHNESS, the LORD PROTECTOR, unto Capt. Wm. Fuller, Mr. Ritch. Preston, Mr. Wm. Durand, Mr. Edwd. Loyd, Capt. Jno. Smith, Mr. Leo. Strong, Mr.——— Lawson, Mr. Jno. Hatch, Mr. Wm. Parker, Mr. Ritch. Wells, and Mr. Ritch. Ewen, for the orderinge, directinge and Governinge, all the AFFAYRS OF MARYLAND:

THEREFORE the sayd Capt. Wm. Fuller, and the rest of the Commitioners, present at a Court houlden at PROVIDENCE, the 28th Day of februari 1654, ACCORDANCE to order of this Court in Pursuance, of the Discharge of that trust, which is Committed to them, for the more eassie and speedy ADMINISTRATION of JUSTICE, Conservation of the peace, prevention of insurrections and disturbances which may arise, and for the suppressinge of the same HAVE in the name of the LORD PROTECTOR, and doe by these presents nominate, and appoint Mr. Phillip Connier Chiefe Commander, of the County of Kent, within the PROVINCE OF MARYLAND, GIVINGE and Grauntinge, in the name of his Highness, the LORD PROTECTOR of England, etc., unto the sayd Phillip Conier, Power and Authorite, in the sayd COUNTIE ,to COMMAUND all persons therin, in all things relatinge necessarily to the defence therof, from the INSURRECTIONS of INDIANS, and attempts of any persons whatsoever, unlawfully made, against the peace and libertie of the people, as also to Commaund them, in that which concerns the due ADMINISTRATION of JUSTICE and RIGHT, the Execution of Lawes, upon delinquents and the lawfull and necessary use of the MILITIA.

REQUIRINGE the people of the sayd Countie to bee subject to all his lawfull Commands, AND also wee doe by these presents Nominate and appoint Mr. Joseph Wickes, Mr. Tho. Ringgold, Mr. Thomas Hynson, Mr. Jno. Russell, Mr. Henry Morgan, Mr. Wm. Eliot and Mr. Henry Carline, to bee Commitioners for the sayd County of Kent ASSISTANT to the sayd Mr. Philip Conier (who is hereby appointed PRESIDENT of the Commition) for the Conservation of the peace, Administration of Justice, and right EXECUTINGE of JUDGEMENT to all persons indiferently, in all Causes, of which they shall bee allowed Capable to have Cognizance, and for the present as they have formerly done, untill further order bee published, AND that any foure of the sayd Commitioners whereof Mr. Philip Conier, or Mr. Joseph Wickes, or Mr. Tho. Ringgold, or Mr. Tho. Hinson, to bee all ways one, shall have power to Keepe Courts, at such times and in such places as to them shall seem Convenient and necessary, AND that all writs, proces, warrants, supenas, etc., which concerne the County Court, shall bee signed by the sayd Mr. Philip Conier, but in his absence by Mr. Joseph Wickes, and upon extraordinarie or sudden occation, which endangers the Saftie of the County, preventinge or supressinge of any dangerous action, the nearest Commissioners shall have power to give out a warrant directed to the Sheriffe or Constable and in case of Extremitie depute one to serve the same, 'AND lastly the sayd Mr. Philip Conier, and the sayd Commissioners are Required to Cause the Clerk of theire Court to transcribe the Court prosedings and to deliver them to the Secretarie of the Province, every six Months, at the GENERALL PROVINCIALL COURT.

GIVEN at Providence under my hand this first day of March 1654.

WILL FULLER,
WILLIAM DURAND.

Copia vera testis
Me Clar. Coms. Kent.
Tho. Hill. Liber A. Fol. 97.

SEC. 59. A. Mr. Philip Conier, Commander of Kent, is a very interesting personage in the history of our County. We first met with him on the 18th day of April 1647 when he was appointed, one of the Commissioners of Kent County, by a Roman Catholic Governor; and he was not a Roman Catholic.

When the commission for the Government of Kent County was re-organized, 11th Dec. 1648, by Gov. Greene, "for special reasons him thereunto moving," (see sec. 2. C.), Mr. Conner, alone, with Capt. Vaughan, was retained upon the bench. Again, on the 31st July, 1652, when all the other Commissioners were ousted by Bennet, Lloyd, Marsh and Strong, the Puritan Commissioners, he was retained, and placed at the head of the new Commission, with such gentlemen as Mr. Thomas Ringgold and Major Joseph Wickes, who were of the elite of the Province. And now we find him, though he was not a Puritan, sought out and chosen, by the minions of Oliver Cromwell, to be the COMMANDER OF KENT, in order to give the prestige and dignity of respectability to the administration of their rule, among the gentlemen of Kent County. It was fortunate for the tranquility of the Province that such gentlemen were placed at the head of affairs; for the atmosphere of Kent county was not, then, and it not now, wholesome to political fanatics or hypocrites in religion. The native loyalty to truth and honor, of the people, would have put to shame the appointment of Commissioners of less personal worth and standing than the gentleman, named; who, like a shield of burnished gold, cast off, without absorption, the malignant rays of puritanism. I have, before, remarked that the Puritans made no lodgment, among, and effected no social change in the people of Kent. As they were, then, and are now, so, may they ever be, unchanged yet ever advancing in virtue and intelligence; preserving the primitive purity of their manners, and holding fast to the faith and traditions of our fathers.

SEC. 59, B. At this day it is impossible to name with absolute accuracy and certainty the generations of the descendants of Mr. Philip Connier. A portrait of Isabella Conner, a near descendant, is still extant, in the possession of Mr. Albert Constable of Elkton, Md., and represents her as a very handsome lady.

Isabella Conner married John Bordley, and survived him. John Bordley had two brothers William and Arthur Bordley. They were the sons of Thomas Bordley and Ann Miller, who were married 21st of February 1731. Thomas Bordley was born 22d Oct. 1704, and was the son of Rev. Stephen Bordley married, 14th Oct. 1700, Ann Hynson, and was buried at St. Paul's 25th August 1709. He was the successor of Rev. Lawrence Vanderbush and was succeeded by Rev. Alexander Williamson, 10th May 1711.

Iabella Conner was a great heiress, and esteemed it no hardship to surrender the "Fancy Farm" in Kent Co., Md., which was left her by her first husband, John Bordley, "during her widowhood." She married, a second time, on the 1st day of September 1761, William Stevenson, son of William and Francina Stevenson.

Mrs. Isabella Conner Stevenson died the 29th day of Septemebr 1782, aged 47 years, and her husband, William Stevenson, died the 23d day of October 1786, aged, also, 47 years, and were both buried at Chestertown, Md. They left the following children, viz:

James Stevenson, born 17th August, 1766, at Bath, Somersetshire, England, baptized at the Abbey Church.

Isabella Stevenson, born 6th July, 1769, in Bristol, Angland. Baptized at St. Stephen's.

Ariana Stevenson, born 19th Sept. 1770. Baptized at St. Stephen's.

Mary Stevenson, born 17th February, 1772. Baptized at St. Stephen's.

William Stevenson, born 17th June, 1774.

John Conner Stevenson, born 11th November 1775.

James Stevenson, son of William and Isabella Conner Stevenson, married Miss———Miller, died in 1805, and left children, viz: Charles Stevenson and Isabella Stevenson, who married Mr. Burgess and left children.

Isabella Stevenson, daughter of William and Isabella Conner Stevenson, married John Constable of Chestertown, Kent county, Md., and left children.

Albert Constable, son of John and Isabella Stevenson Constable, married Hannah Archer, daughter of John and Ann Stump Archer of Harford County, Md.

Isabella Stevenson Constable, daughter of Albert and Hannah Archer Constable, married, 7th Nov., 1861, Mr. Samuel E. Gittings of Baltimore county, Md.

Albert Sonstable, son of Albert and Hannah Archer Constable, married, 12th June 1866, Miss Elizabeth Black Groome, daughter of Col. John C. and Mrs. Elizabeth Black Groome of Elkton, Cecil Co., Md.

Elizabeth Constable, daughter of John and Isabella Stevenson Constable married Mr. John W. Walker ,of Chestertown, Kent county, Md.

William Stevenson Walker, son of John W. and Elizabeth Constable Walker, married, 27th Dec. 1855, Miss Mary Rebecca Ricaud, daughter of the late Hon. James B. and Mrs. A. E. F. G. Ricaud, of Chestertown, Md.

The Ricaud Family of which Hon. James B. Ricaud was a member, has been identified with St. Pauls Parish since the year 1699. The present Register of the Parish, Charles Gordon Ricaud, Esq., is a son of the late Dr. Lawrence Ricaud and Mrs. Caroline Gordon Ricaud. John W. Walker was the son of John Walker, of Scotland, and his wife Christiana Grahame, also a native of Scotland.

Mr. George L. L. Davis, in The Day-Star, p. 222, alludes to Mr. William Conyer, now residing in Chestertown, as "probably a descendant" of Mr. Philip Conner.

SEC. 59. B. Major Joseph Wickes was a gentleman of birth, breeding, refinement, and culture. Made his first apearance to us, "on ye 12th January, 1651," O. S., in an elevated position, upon the Bench of Kent County Court. In this honorable position he remained by successive appointments and, on the 1st of July 1656, he appeared as the presiding Judge of the Court. A few years after, when the affairs of the Province had been brought to the verge of ruin, by the Puritans, he was chosen a Burgess to represent Kent county, in the Assembly which was begun and held at St. Leonard's, on the 27th April, 1658 It would be interesting to know, how he bore himself, in that famous assembly. Of one thing we are sure,—that his conduct was consistent with his usual deportment, for again, on the 25th day of July 1678, he appears as the residing Justice of Kent County Court.

I find no mention of his holding an office of emolument, but he worthily filled positions of great trust and responsibility. Independent of the marked ability which distinguished him, his chief and noticable characteristics were constitutional purity and dignity of character, amiability of disposition and discerning generosity.

One of the Justices of Kent county, by the weight of his personal worth, he added lustre to the office,—to that office, concerning which, my lord Coke says, that, "the whole world hath not the like, if it be duly executed." He was one of the WORTHIES of Kent county.

The year of the arrival of Major Joseph Wickes, on Kent Island, is ascertained by the following entry, dated July 13th 1658, in "Liber A. For Transcribing Old Records," Fol. 40:

"Joseph Wickes doth enter a Caveat of Land for 15 Servants or Rights, due to him vizt: Joseph Wickes, John Meconnichin, William Davies in the year 1650,—John Morgan, Edward Tarant, in the year 1654,—Anne Gold & a Negro, in the year 55,—Mrs. Wickes and her two Children, in the year 56,—John Longthorne, Richard Huson and Elizabeth Ellis, in the year 57, & Francis & Thomas Brookes, in the year 56. These Rights are Entered to be taken up, on the Eastern Neck against the Upper part of Kent."

The above is a very interesting entry. It discloses the fact, that, Mistress Marie Hartwell was a widow, with two children, when she married Maj. Wickes, and that Major Joseph Wickes as the first slave-owner in Kent county, Maryland. We can have no doubt that he was an exceptionally, kind master to his slaves; for his servant Edward Tarant, in his Will, left to Major Joseph Wickes one hogshead of tobacco, "for his tender care of me in my sickness."

Of the sad and untimely fate of Anne Gold, I will speak hereafter. I cannot do it here. When we read the recital of such violence, wrong and outrage as she was the victim of, at the hands of one of Cromwell's unclean spirits, we are tempted to exclaim, in the language of the Philanthropist: "Would that every Puritan had been born with a mill-stone about his neck, and cast into the sea—into the midst of the sea, into the midst of the great sea,—the immortal sea, of brim-stone and hell-fire; where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched."

In connection with a deposition, made by Major Joseph Wickes, on the 11th of Oct. 1656, it is stated, that, he was, then, "aged 36 years or thereabouts."

SEC. 59. C. It appears, that, Major Joseph Wickes, with his family and servants, came to Kent county, Maryland, in the year 1650, and was then in the 30th year of his age. On the 19th day of July 1656, he married Mrs. Marie Hartwell, and, on the 18th day of August 1656, his son Joseph, by a previous marriage, died.

The earliest descendant of Major Joseph Wickes, ofw hom I have found any record or detailed information, was a grandson: Samuel Wickes, son of Joseph Wickes, signer of the Addres of Protestants of Kent County, November 1689, who was the son of Major Joseph Wickes.

Samuel Wickes married Frances Wilmer 13th January 1705. He died in 1732, and, in his Will, mentions "his loving wife Frances," and the following children, viz: Samuel, Benjamin, Simon, (died 1737) Joseph, Lambert, Martha, Rebecca, and Ann Wickes. Frances Wilmer Wickes died in 1756.

SaSmuel Wickes, son of Samuel and Frances Wilmer Wickes, died in 1767. In his Will, dated 25th Febraury 1761, he mentions his "dear loving wife Mary," and the following children, viz: Samuel, Lambert, Richard, Joseph, (who died 1784) Martha, Mary and Sarah Wickes, and Francis Dunn.

Samuel Wickes, son of Samuel and Mary Wickes, married Ann Kennard, and left the following children, viz: William, Maria, Sally and Lambert Wickes.

William Wickes, son of Samuel and Ann Kennard Wickes, married Milcah Page, and had children, viz: William Henry, James Page, Augusta and Antoinette Wickes. William Wickes married, a second time, Ann Spencer.

Lambert Wickes, son of Samuel and Ann Kennard Wickes, married Alethea Ireland, and had children, viz: Emeline L. Wickes, who married David Davis, and Louisa Maria Wickes, who married Peregrine Wethered, and left children viz: Lewin Wethered and Ann Elizabeth Wethered.

Benjamin Wickes, son of Samuel and Frances Wilmer Wickes, married Susanna Ringgold (daughter of William Ringgold, who was the son of James Ringgold and his wife Mary Vaughan, who was the daughter of Capt. Robert Vaughan, the Commander of Kent from 1647 to 1652), and had children, viz: Joseph, Samuel, Benjamin and Martha Wickes.

Joseph Wickes, son of Benjamin and Susannah Ringgold Wickes, married Miss Dunn, ofPoplar Neck, died in 1786. His Will is dated 21st Nov. 1783, and its codicil 24th Dec'r. 1785. In them he mentions the following children, viz: Joseph, Simon, Frances (who married Mr. Peregrine Cooper, and had two children, Peregrine and Willamina, who married William Maxwell, and left two children, Frances and James Henry Maxwell). and Ann Wickes, who married Mr. Brown and left the following children, viz: Joseph, William, James, John, Thomas, Rebecca and Ann Brown.

Joseph Wickes, son of Joseph Wickes and Miss Dunn, married Miss Mary Piner. He died in 1822, aged 63 years. Mrs. Mary Piner Wickes died in 1823, aged 59 years. They had the following children, viz: Joseph Wickes, Thomas Wickes, Simon Alexander Wickes and Sarah Piner Wickes, who died in 1844.

Col. Joseph Wickes, son of Joseph and Mary Piner Wickes, married Miss Elizabeth Caroline Chambers, daughter of General Benjamin Chambers. He died in 1864, in the 76th year of his age; she departed this life in 1872 aged 72 years. Their children were, as follows, viz: Mary Elizabeth Wickes, Benjamin Chambers Wickes, Joseph A. Wickes, Hester H. Van Bibber Wickes, Ezekiel Chambers Wickes, Peregrine Lethbury Wickes, and Sarah Augusta Wickes.

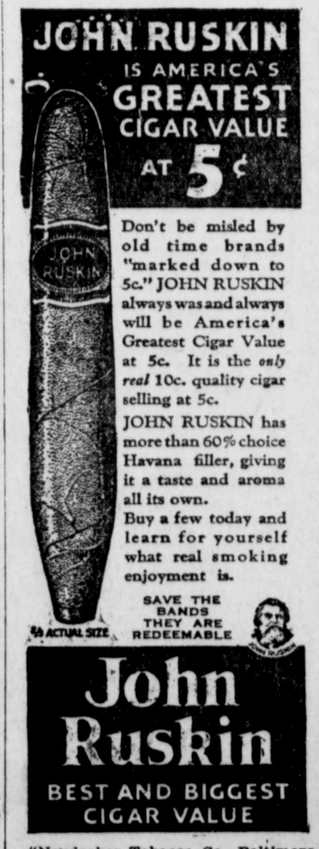
Hon. Joseph A. Wickes, son of Col. Joseph and Mrs. Elizabeth Caroline Chambers Wickes, is now (28th June 1875,) one of the Judges of the second Judicial Circuit of Maryland, which is composed of the counties of Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Kent and Cecil.

Simon Wickes, son of Joseph and Mrs. Dunn Wickes, married Miss Mary Freeman, died in 1815 and left children, viz: Mary Wickes, Hannah Wickes (who married Mr. Benjamin Houston, who was the father of Dr. Benjamin F. Houston, now residing in Chestertown, Md.,) and Simon Wickes.

Simon Wickes, son of Simon and Mrs. Mary Freeman Wickes, married Miss Elizabeth Blake. He died in 1848, and left the following children, viz: Mary Henrietta Wickes, Simon Wickes, Charles Henry Wickes, William Nicols Earle Wickes, Isaac Freeman Wickes, Ann Rebecca Wickes, Elizabeth Wickes and Thomas Stockton Wickes.

Samuel Wickes, son of Benjamin and Susanna Ringgold Wickes had two daughters, viz: Martha and Mary Wickes.

Benjamin Wickes, son of Benjamin and Susanna Ringgold Wickes had children, viz: Joseph, Benjamin, John, Samuel and Susannah Wickes. Susannah Wickes married, 23rd August, 1765, William Houston, and left children, viz: Hon. James Houston, Judge of the United State District Court for Maryland (who married Augusta Chambers, daughter of Gen'l. Benjamin Chambers), and Benjamin Houston who married Hannah Wickes, daughter of Simon Wickes. (18.)

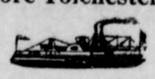


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Daily and Sunday 8.30 a. m., 2.00 p. m. and 7.30 p. m.
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(Eastern Shore)
Effective June 20, 1933
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Daily and Sunday, 8.45 a. m. and 2.15 p. m.
Leaves Tolchester, Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10.45 a. m., 5.15 p. m.
Sat. and Sun. 10.45 a. m., 7.30 p. m.
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

JOHN SCHAUBER

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 8th day of January, 1934, otherwise they may by law be excluded from all benefit of said deceased's personal estate.

All persons indebted to this estate must settle at once.

Given under our hands this 6th day of July, 1933.

MARY A. SCHAUBER,
RICHARD F. SCHAUBER,
jy8. Administrators.



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References—First National Bank. All commercial agencies.

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